

SITUATION UPDATE



People arrive to register at International Medical Corps' hygiene and dignity kit distribution point in Al-Malihah al-Gharbiyah.

Repeated disputes and the continued presence of armed groups have kept conditions volatile and prone to escalation, even with the ceasefire in place. Armed clashes continue to be reported in the city of As-Sweida and rural areas, while additional clashes have occurred along the As-Sweida–Dara'a border.

One month into the escalation, nearly 192,000 people have been displaced across As-Sweida, Damascus, Dara'a and Rural Damascus. The violence has disrupted essential services, halted school exams, and exposed children to heightened protection risks, including psychological distress, child labor and violence. Overcrowded shelters and weak infrastructure in host communities are driving increased risks of violence against women and girls (VAWG), while most of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) remain outside formal sites, facing insecure housing and eviction threats. As of August 13, 22 hotels in Sayyeda Zeinab in Rural Damascus were hosting more than 4,100 IDPs from As-Sweida.

International Medical Corps Response

International Medical Corps continues to respond to the situation in As-Sweida Governorate, coordinating with the Directorate of Health (DoH) in As-Sweida and Dara'a, and the national Ministry of Health (MoH). Through this coordinated approach, we have been able to enhance health services and provide targeted support to vulnerable populations.

We are providing essential mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and health services—including internal medicine, pediatrics and gynecology, as well as basic laboratory testing, screening for diseases, and critical medicines and supplies—through three dedicated mobile medical teams (MMTs) strategically located in Dara'a Governorate. Our static facility in Busra Al Sham, Dara'a Governorate, is fundamental to our response—here, patients receive referrals for specialized care not available from the MMTs. Additionally, the static clinic deploys a healthcare team providing critical services to the IDPs residing in nearby shelters. Since July 19, we have provided 1,490 consultations, including 550 by internists, 333 by gynecologists and 607 by pediatricians, benefiting 1,387 people.

FAST FACTS

- One month into the escalation of conflict, nearly 192,000 people have been displaced across As-Sweida, Damascus, Dara'a and Rural Damascus.
- Two recent incidents targeting humanitarian workers underscore the need for protection to ensure the delivery of essential services.

OUR FOOTPRINT

- International Medical Corps has operated in Syria since 2008, providing healthcare, nutrition, mental health, child protection, prevention and treatment of violence against women and girls, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services across 12 governorates, with a team of 745 staff.
- Last year, International Medical Corps reached more than 1.6 million people with healthcare services, conducted nutritional screenings for 236,439, provided WASH services to 119,528, and provided mental health support for 43,861.

OUR RESPONSE

- International Medical Corps is providing essential mental health and psychosocial support and health services, including internal medicine, pediatrics and gynecology, as well as basic laboratory testing, screening for diseases, and critical medicines and supplies.
- International Medical Corps has so far provided 1,490 health consultations, including 550 by internists, 333 by gynecologists and 607 by pediatricians, benefiting 1,387 people.

International Medical Corps is coordinating with the MoH to expand our response with three additional MMTs—one located in Dara'a Governorate, supporting people along the As-Sweida–Dara'a border, and two located in As-Sweida Governorate once access is available. Through these additional MMTs, we will enhance the capacity of available services for IDPs, as there is an increased demand for services in areas with a high IDP population.

We will provide medications, medical equipment and trauma care-related supplies to health facilities in As-Sweida and Dara'a, as well as consumables, blood bags, refrigerators, testing kits and general supplies. We have identified these items in close coordination with the DoH and health facilities to ensure essential items are procured and readily available.

In response to the increased risks of communicable and water-borne diseases and to promote hygiene efforts, International Medical Corps has provided health education and awareness sessions. To enhance these efforts, we have distributed hygiene kits containing essential items that will support a family of five, including hand sanitizers, toothbrushes and toothpaste, soap bars, shampoos and washing powder. We have also provided dignity kits to women, comprising undergarments and socks, feminine hygiene products, a towel and a rechargeable flashlight, aimed at restoring their comfort and dignity during a crisis. Additionally, as a result of the increased protection needs for women and children, we have provided awareness sessions on topics covering VAWG and child protection.

We continue to enhance our support to meet the developing needs of the communities in As-Sweida and Dara'a through regular communication with the MoH, DoH, sector working groups, and other actors and partners supporting the response. In addition to the increase in MMTs, International Medical Corps will also be providing additional support to two hospitals and three primary healthcare centres (PHCCs) in As-Sweida to ensure continued health-system strengthening.



People register for hygiene and dignity kits at a school in Dara'a City.

International Medical Corps in Syria

International Medical Corps has been a key provider of humanitarian assistance in Syria since 2008. We deliver integrated programs providing healthcare, nutrition, MHPSS, child protection, prevention and treatment of VAWG, and WASH services across 12 of the country's 14 governorates, including Aleppo, Damascus, Dara'a, Deir ez-Zor, Hama, Hassakeh, Homs, Idleb, Latakia, Raqqqa, Rural Damascus and Tartous.

Through collaboration with the MoH and DoH, International Medical Corps has helped strengthen Syria's healthcare system by improving the functionality of public health facilities, including 14 hospitals, 21 PHCCs, 23 mobile medical units and five specialized healthcare facilities. Our 745 staff members support more than 1,400 healthcare workers providing care at these facilities.

In 2024, we provided healthcare services to more than 1.6 million people, including nutritional screenings for 236,439 people, WASH assistance for 119,528 and MHPSS services for 43,861.