

Syria



Syria has faced a protracted crisis since 2011.

At least 16.5 million of the country's 23 million people need urgent humanitarian assistance. Syria also has one of the highest rates of internally displaced persons (IDPs) globally. Recent conflict has further exacerbated displacement, with 1.1 million people—predominantly women and children—forced to flee and facing significantly increased humanitarian needs, particularly in health, nutrition, protection, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

International Medical Corps has maintained a robust operational presence in Syria since 2008, and is currently active in 12 of the country's 14 governorates, including Aleppo, Damascus, Dara'a, Deir ez-Zor, Hama, Hassakeh, Homs, Idleb, Latakia, Raqqah, Rural Damascus and Tartous. We provide essential health and multi-sectoral services, supporting 14 hospitals, 21 primary healthcare centers (PHCCs), 23 mobile medical units (MMUs), five specialized healthcare facilities, seven protection centers, two mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) centers, two family centers and two community centers.



In 2024, International Medical Corps' team in Syria:



provided healthcare services to more than **1.6 million** people



conducted nutritional screenings for more than **230,000**



delivered MHPSS services to almost **44,000**



offered protection services to about **69,000**



supported close to **120,000** with WASH services

International Medical Corps provides integrated services, including health, nutrition, physical therapy rehabilitation, MHPSS, child protection (CP), prevention and treatment of violence against women and girls (VAWG), and WASH services. We have 745 staff members supporting more than 1,400 healthcare workers in public health facilities.



HEALTHCARE

The longstanding conflict has severely damaged Syria's healthcare infrastructure, including hospitals and clinics. The remaining health facilities struggle with severe shortages of supplies, equipment and qualified personnel.

Through our PHCCs, MMUs and specialized healthcare facilities, we provide free and comprehensive primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare services, including such specialized care as obstetric, neonatal and pediatric care; physiotherapy; capacity building; and referrals to partner hospitals.

In addition to routine care, we strengthen the healthcare infrastructure by providing essential medical equipment and supplies, including critical donations to public hospitals and support for operating theaters. We have installed 32 solar-powered systems at various facilities, improving service delivery and ensuring a sustainable source of electricity for continued operations.

Following the mass displacement resulting from the recent escalation, International Medical Corps deployed 23 MMUs to provide a comprehensive range of primary healthcare services, including prenatal and postnatal care to support safe pregnancies, childbirth and maternal health. Our teams also facilitate patient referrals through ambulance services to hospitals such as Raqqa National Hospital, Tabqa Maternity Hospital in the northeast and Al Zahrawi Hospital in the northwest.



NUTRITION

The ongoing conflict has significantly exacerbated poverty levels in Syria, making it increasingly difficult for people to afford basic necessities and raising malnutrition levels across the country.

International Medical Corps is dedicated to preventing and treating malnutrition, with a particular focus on children under 5, pregnant and lactating women (PLWs), and adolescents. We conduct nutritional screening at 26 facilities across Aleppo, Damascus, Dara'a, Hama, Homs, Idleb, Latakia and Rural Damascus governorates. In addition, we provide treatment through targeted supplementary-feeding programs and community-based management of malnutrition clinics, offering nutritional supplements to children and PLWs suffering from severe and moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). In 2024, we admitted and treated 2,870 PLWs and children for MAM.

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

An estimated 12.5 million Syrians need MHPSS services. The prolonged crisis has led to high levels of psychological distress and VAWG, and disrupted social structures.

In response to these challenges, International Medical Corps integrates MHPSS into its comprehensive healthcare services. We prioritize the prevention and treatment of mental health and psychosocial issues, addressing the specific needs of the affected people. Our interventions include case management, individual and group counseling, psychological first aid (PFA), psychiatric consultations and psychotherapy. Additionally, we provide structured psychotherapy groups for people suffering from chronic illnesses and referrals to specialized care when needed.



We also focus on building resilience through community outreach and awareness activities. We distribute dignity kits, offer parental-skills training and create safe spaces for women and children. These safe spaces offer a supportive environment where people can access critical psychological support and engage in group activities that promote healing and social cohesion.



PROTECTION

Because women and children—who make up a significant portion of the displaced population in Syria—are more at risk of violence, exploitation and abuse, we provide specialized services in CP and prevention and treatment of VAWG, deeply interlinking and integrating them with our health and MHPSS services.

Our CP services help children who are at risk or are survivors of violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation, child marriage and child labor, or are at risk of being separated or unaccompanied. We provide case-management services, individual counselling, parenting-skills sessions, psychosocial support, youth-empowerment projects, PFA and safe spaces.

Because women and girls are particularly susceptible to violence in conflict settings, we provide them with awareness sessions, safe spaces, case-management services and psychosocial support, and help them engage in emotional support groups and recreational activities, such as parenting-skills sessions, youth-empowerment projects, and social and behavioral change programs.

In 2024, we reached 14,235 children with protection services and close to 40,000 people with VAWG-related services.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

The prolonged conflict and economic crisis have severely damaged Syria's water systems and left many communities without access to safe and reliable water sources. The growing number of IDPs residing in temporary shelters and camps has worsened the situation, creating overcrowded and unhygienic conditions. These factors have contributed to frequent outbreaks of cholera and other waterborne diseases, adding further strain to an already fragile healthcare system.

Our WASH program focuses on providing reliable access to clean water, improving sanitation and promoting safe hygiene practices across refugee camps, communities, schools and health facilities.

TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

International Medical Corps conducts training for frontline health and protection workers, helping build self-reliance among people. In 2024, we provided training to more than 5,000 people, including in maternal, newborn and reproductive health; general health and clinical management; prevention and treatment of VAWG; CP; MHPSS; WASH and infection prevention and control; and nutrition and food security.



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A pre-eminent first responder since 1984, International Medical Corps delivers emergency medical and related services to those affected by conflict, disaster and disease, no matter where they are, no matter what the conditions. We also train people in their communities, providing them with the skills they need to recover, chart their own path to self-reliance and become effective first responders themselves.

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COUNTRY CONTACT: Bogdan Dumitru, Senior Director, Middle East & Europe; and Acting Country Director, Southern and Central Syria
bdumitru@InternationalMedicalCorps.org

Dr. Dimitrios Mognie, Country Director, Northern Syria
dmognie@internationalmedicalcorps.org

HEADQUARTERS CONTACT: Elsona Agolli, Director, International Programs, Middle East & Europe
eagolli@InternationalMedicalCorps.org.uk

International Medical Corps is headquartered in Los Angeles, CA, and has offices in Washington, DC; London, UK; and Split, Croatia.

For contact information, visit InternationalMedicalCorps.org/contact.