

SITUATION UPDATE



An International Medical Corps pediatric nurse takes a height measurement to monitor a child's health in Dar'a.

Though a ceasefire remains in place, the security situation in southern Syria remains fragile and armed clashes continue to be reported in the city of As-Sweida and rural areas. Ongoing political and security developments threaten to undermine the ceasefire and a risk of conflict remains. Humanitarian access is open, although some restrictions and disruptions persist.

Three months into the escalation of the conflict in the south, there are more than 187,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) across the region—primarily within As-Sweida (113,900), Dar'a (60,200) and Rural Damascus (11,700). There are also new reports of returnee movement, with 10,400 IDPs returning to communities, primarily the Salkhad and As Sweida districts.

Overcrowding in shelters is driving health concerns caused by poor sanitation and heightened risks of communicable diseases. Children and women have been particularly affected, with rising psychosocial distress, risk of violence and inadequate child protection services. Food insecurity is worsening, with limited availability of essential goods and sharply rising prices. As winter approaches, it is expected that insufficient protection against freezing temperatures will drive respiratory and cold-related illnesses, particularly among children, elderly persons and those with chronic conditions, while compounding broader health and protection risks.

International Medical Corps Response

Since the escalation of conflict, International Medical Corps has been the first medical actor to provide direct health services inside As-Sweida governorate, while also reaching communities in Dar'a governorate along the As-Sweida/Dar'a border. We are delivering essential health and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services—including internal medicine, pediatrics, gynecology, basic laboratory testing and disease screening, as well as providing critical medicines and supplies—through three dedicated mobile medical teams (MMTs): one based in Dar'a and two in As-Sweida. A fourth MMT, which will be based in Dar'a, is in the final stages of activation and will begin operations in the coming weeks. These teams are crucial in expanding service capacity and easing the pressure on already overstretched health facilities.

FAST FACTS

- There are more than 187,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) across southern Syria—primarily within As-Sweida (113,900), Dar'a (60,200) and Rural Damascus (11,700).
- 10,400 IDPs have returned to their communities, primarily returning to the Salkhad and As Sweida districts.
- Overcrowding, poor sanitation, food insecurity and rising prices heighten health and protection risks, especially for women and children, with winter set to worsen conditions.

OUR FOOTPRINT

- International Medical Corps has operated in Syria since 2008, providing healthcare, nutrition, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), child protection, services related to 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 MHPSS services for 43,861.

OUR RESPONSE

- International Medical Corps has so far provided 3,794 health consultations, including 1,265 by internists, 856 by gynecologists and 1,763 by pediatricians, benefiting 3,039 people.
- International Medical Corps has provided protection and MHPSS services for 105 people, including 81 awareness sessions and 24 mental health case management sessions.
- International Medical Corps distributed 2,605 hygiene kits and 1,170 dignity kits to collective shelters, informal settlements and host communities affected by displacement from As-Sweida.

We also support a static facility in Busra Al Sham, Dar'a governorate, that plays a fundamental role by receiving patients referred for specialized care that cannot be provided by the MMTs.

Since July 19, International Medical Corps has provided 3,794 health consultations, including 1,265 by internists, 856 by gynecologists and 1,763 by pediatricians, reaching 3,039 people. Alongside this, we have delivered protection and MHPSS services to 105 people, including 81 awareness sessions and 24 mental health case management sessions. In response to heightened risks of communicable and waterborne diseases, we have distributed 2,605 hygiene kits—each containing items to support a family of five, such as hand sanitizers, toothbrushes and toothpaste, soap, shampoo and washing powder. We also distributed dignity kits to women, which included undergarments and socks, feminine hygiene products, a towel and a rechargeable flashlight.



An International Medical Corps gynecologist and nurse provide essential health checks in As-Sweida

International Medical Corps is further supporting health service delivery in As-Sweida and Dar'a through targeted donations of medicines, supplies and equipment, in close coordination with the governorates' Directorate of Health (DoH) and local health facilities. In mid-September, we delivered medications and medical consumables to the DoH central warehouse for onward distribution to facilities. To increase capacity and strengthen secondary healthcare, we are providing consumables (including surgical sutures, catheters and IV cannulas) and equipment such as defibrillators, portable ECG machines, mobile X-rays and ventilators, as well as essential medications, to Sweida National Hospital and Salkhad Hospital. We also are procuring medical and non-medical supplies—including laboratory equipment, lab consumables, medical devices, furniture, and IT equipment—for three primary healthcare centers (PHCCs) in As-Sweida.

To further reinforce blood-safety services, International Medical Corps will deliver blood bags, refrigerators, testing kits and other essential supplies to blood banks in both As-Sweida and Dar'a, working closely with the DoH and health facilities to ensure that essential items are readily available and that health services remain responsive to the urgent and evolving needs of the population.

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, services related to violence against women and girls, and water, sanitation and hygiene (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 national Ministry of Health and governorate-level directorates of health, International Medical Corps has helped strengthen Syria's healthcare system by improving the functionality of public health facilities, including 14 hospitals, 21 PHCCs, 23 MMTs 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.