

Syria



Now in its ninth year with no end in sight, the war in Syria remains one of the world's largest, most complex humanitarian catastrophes.

Relentless fighting has killed 500,000 people, according to estimates, and caused nearly half the country's pre-war population of 21 million to flee their homes, either displaced inside Syria or as refugees outside the country. International Medical Corps has operated inside Syria since 2008, first supporting Iraqi refugees and vulnerable local populations. We later expanded our work to respond to the needs of those caught up elsewhere in the conflict.



More than 13 million Syrians are in need of humanitarian assistance today

The widespread and intense nature of the violence has led to one of the largest population movements since World War II, with more than 6 million people displaced inside Syria and 5.6 million fleeing their homeland for refuge in neighboring countries and beyond. In many areas, reliable and uninterrupted humanitarian access remains a significant challenge.

On the frontlines, International Medical Corps has been helping those displaced in and around Damascus since the start of the conflict. Simultaneously, we continue to support tens of thousands of the 5.6 million Syrians who have sought refuge in neighboring countries, including Lebanon, Iraq and Jordan. In addition, when the door briefly opened for refugees to enter Europe, International Medical Corps was there to assist them as they landed on Greek island beaches following oft-perilous journeys across the Mediterranean.



With operations based in Damascus, in 2018 International Medical Corps has:

- ▶ Performed 254,242 primary healthcare consultations, including 42,548 (16.7%) of those for children below 5 years of age
- ▶ Screened 15,778 children for malnutrition
- ▶ Provided more than 500 people with specialized mental health and psychosocial support
- ▶ Reached 9,812 people with psychosocial activities
- ▶ Provided emergency relief supplies to almost 90,000 people

In 2018 International Medical Corps trained 2,619 local health workers in mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) as well as protection services, strengthening the area's capacity for resilience.



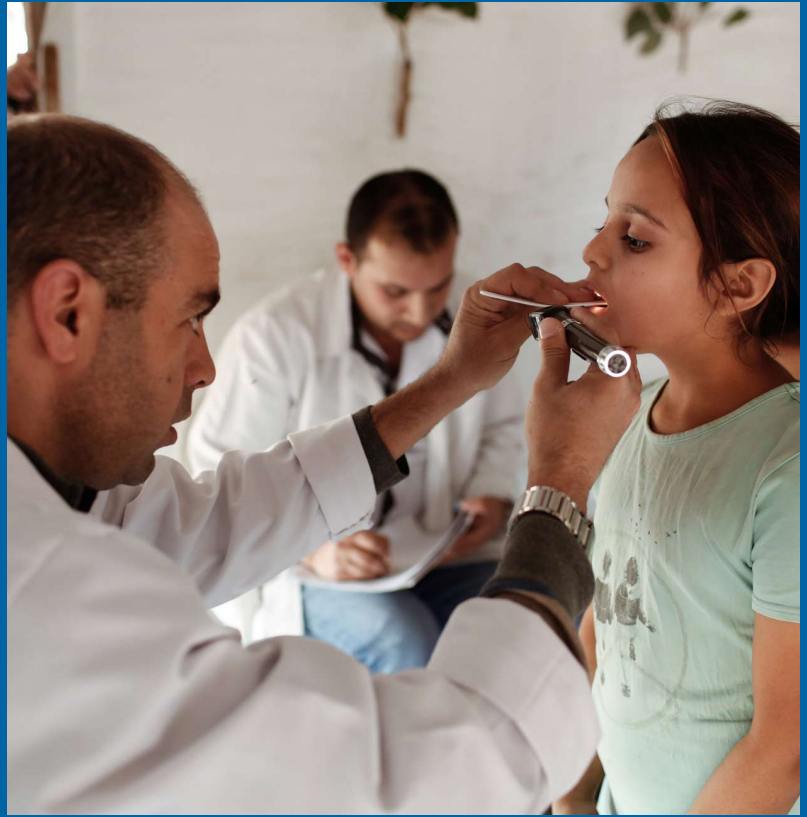
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Our teams respond to ongoing emergencies and to the enormous needs of families fleeing Syria's widespread violence, providing them with increased access to primary healthcare services. International Medical Corps regularly distributes relief supplies to tens of thousands of people, including medical aids for people suffering from physical disabilities (such as wheelchairs, walkers, air mattresses and toilet chairs) and hygiene items (such as soap, shampoo and diapers).

HEALTH CARE

The war has taken a tremendous toll on Syria's healthcare system, damaging and destroying hospitals and clinics, and causing countless doctors and nurses to flee the country. Health facilities that are still functioning struggle with limited supplies and equipment, as well as shortages of qualified staff, who can be overburdened and unable to deal with the surge in caseloads when nearly clinics are damaged.

In coordination with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), International Medical Corps currently supports three static primary healthcare clinics, three mobile medical units and two mobile medical clinics, which are staffed with additional technical personnel. All these facilities provide vital primary healthcare services to Syrian families, including preventive and curative care for communicable and non-communicable diseases, mother and child health, reproductive health services, individual and group health education sessions, and early child development programming. We also provide financial support for those affected by life- and disability-threatening conditions through referrals to contracted private hospitals and follow-up services.



MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

The war has exposed Syrian families to extreme levels of violence. They have lost loved ones, livelihoods and homes. To help Syrians cope with emotional distress and trauma, International Medical Corps integrates MHPSS into our healthcare services. Our Jaramana Recreational Activity Center (RAC), in Rural Damascus Governorate, and a mobile MHPSS/protection team offer a wide range of recreational and educational activities to provide psychosocial support to children and families. This support includes programs specifically designed to engage youth, as well as a rehabilitation program for children with development delays and disorders.

International Medical Corps includes protection principles in all of our programs, delivering focused gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response programs to address specific protection needs in Syria and to provide care and support for survivors. We provide case management in healthcare clinics, and conduct awareness and information campaigns in open communities, displacement shelters and at the Jaramana RAC. In addition, in collaboration with accredited institutions, International Medical Corps offers vocational training and business startup kits to vulnerable displaced and local populations, helping to help build resilience and restore livelihoods.

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE

International Medical Corps runs hygiene promotion campaigns in displacement shelters, schools, and communities in an effort to prevent disease outbreaks and keep vulnerable families healthy. We also distribute hygiene kits and other basic materials to help people stay clean and healthy. In addition, International Medical Corps has developed a training manual on hygiene education concepts and developed Information, Education, and Communication materials and tools tailored to the Syrian context, which other relief organizations inside Syria have adopted. We recently updated the materials to include tools specifically addressing the needs of children. International Medical Corps has also trained more than 400 SARC volunteers and 25 international aid workers on hygiene promotion.

CAPACITY BUILDING

International Medical Corps is the lead organization in Syria providing capacity building for frontline health workers delivering mental health and psychosocial services; child protection services; GBV prevention and response; and hygiene promotion. Since 2015 and in collaboration with UNHCR, International Medical Corps has conducted various technical trainings and capacity-building activities targeting over 3,000 Syrian responders. These trainings directly support our mission to foster self-reliance amongst populations affected by war and disaster.

SYRIAN REFUGEE RESPONSE IN JORDAN

In Jordan's Azraq refugee camp, home to nearly 38,000 Syrian refugees, International Medical Corps provides medical care in three primary healthcare clinics and a hospital camp, which provide an average of more than 10,000 and 6,600 consultations per month, respectively. International Medical Corps recently began providing primary healthcare and emergency care services in Zataari camp through one primary healthcare clinic and one emergency room that is open around the clock.

We offer MHPSS at both International Medical Corps and Ministry of Health facilities. A multidisciplinary team comprising psychiatrists, psychologists, mental health nurses and case managers provides mental health services and psychosocial activities. We engage children and youth with mental health concerns in structured activities to relieve their concerns and improve their psychological and social well-being. In addition, International Medical Corps runs a safe space for women and girls in Azraq camp where protection measures are in place to help prevent GBV.

SYRIAN REFUGEE RESPONSE IN LEBANON

International Medical Corps provides a comprehensive package of essential services in Lebanon, home to nearly 1.5 million Syrian refugees. We support a network of more than 50 primary healthcare centers throughout the country that offers a wide range of curative and preventive healthcare through routine physical examinations, pediatric check-ups, growth monitoring, immunization and reproductive health services, including maternal health and family planning.

We integrate mental health services into primary healthcare in a culturally sensitive manner to improve access among Syrian refugees and residents of the local Lebanese host community. Mental health case management teams, consisting of social workers, psychotherapists and psychiatrists, work with local partners to ensure that services are available for those in need of psychiatric, psychological and social support. At the community level, case managers play a key role in raising awareness of the importance of mental health and in providing information about available support services.



SYRIAN REFUGEE RESPONSE IN TURKEY

In partnership with local organizations, International Medical Corps supports primary healthcare centers in Turkey to increase Syrian refugees' access to medical services. The facilities offer free primary healthcare (including pediatric clinics), reproductive and maternal healthcare, and mental health and psychosocial support. We also work to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in Turkey by providing case management for existing cases, offering mental health support for survivors and helping to empower Syrian women through training and skills-building activities.



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A pre-eminent first responder for 35 years, International Medical Corps provides emergency relief to those struck by disaster, no matter where they are, no matter what the conditions, working with them to recover, rebuild and, through training, gain the skills and tools required to achieve self-reliance.

November 2019

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