

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 19, 2013 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- International Medical Corps will immediately scale up health care and training programs to support Syrian refugees seeking humanitarian services in neighboring Turkey, thanks to a \$750,000 award from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation.

"The Hilton Foundation's extremely generous support will allow us to increase much-needed relief for Syrian refugees who have fled the violence into Turkey, with lifesaving health services, essential supplies and training programs," said

Nancy A. Aossey

, President & CEO of International Medical Corps. "As the conflict in Syria

intensifies, a growing number of families will seek safety and shelter in Turkey

, putting further strain on the country's health care system. Thanks to the Hilton Foundation's extraordinary compassion for, and commitment to, vulnerable communities worldwide, this timely award will help us rapidly expand to meet these increasing humanitarian needs."

"Our foundation believes that the humanitarian needs of the Syrian refugees cannot be ignored," said Edmund J. Cain, Vice President, Grant Programs at the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. "Highly vulnerable women, children and elderly people are facing unspeakable suffering and cannot be abandoned—no matter how appalled we may all be by the conflict that has caused this crisis. The burden should also not be left to neighboring countries like Turkey to bear. We, therefore, hope others in philanthropy and the donor community will also lend their support."

The UN Refugee Agency has registered nearly 435,000 Syrians in Turkey, the majority of them under the age of 18. With the Hilton Foundation's support, International Medical Corps will focus on:

- Improving access to essential health care services for Syrian refugees in four urban areas

of southern Turkey

- Strengthening primary health care services through the provision of medical equipment, essential medicines and clean delivery kits
- Expanding services to include maternal and newborn health, management of chronic diseases, mental health, nutrition and hygiene education
- Providing training for health personnel on primary health care delivery
- Engaging community leaders and local Turkish health care providers in identifying the most vulnerable Syrians
- Distributing critical supplies including hygiene kits, clothing, blankets, mattresses, kitchen sets and school supplies

International Medical Corps began operations in the Middle East in 2003, as one of the first international NGOs to enter Iraq following the start of the war. Since then, it has expanded its presence in the region, including launching operations in Syria starting in 2007.

About International Medical Corps *Since its inception nearly 30 years ago, International Medical Corps' mission has been consistent: relieve the suffering of those impacted by war, natural disaster, and disease, by delivering vital health care services and sustainable development projects that focus on training. This approach of helping people help themselves is critical to returning devastated populations to self-reliance. For more information visit*

www.InternationalMedicalCorps.org

Also see us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#)

About the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation *The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation was created in 1944 by international business pioneer Conrad N. Hilton, who founded Hilton Hotels and left his fortune to help the world's disadvantaged and vulnerable people. The Foundation currently conducts strategic initiatives in six priority areas: providing safe water, ending chronic homelessness, preventing substance abuse, helping children*

affected by HIV and AIDS, supporting transition-age youth in foster care, and extending Conrad Hilton's support for the work of Catholic Sisters. Following selection by an independent international jury, the Foundation annually awards the \$1.5 million Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize to a nonprofit organization doing extraordinary work to reduce human suffering. From its inception, the Foundation has awarded more than \$1 billion in grants, distributing \$83 million in the U.S. and around the world in 2012. The Foundation's current assets are in excess of \$2.2 billion. For more information, please visit www.hiltonfoundation.org

SOURCE International Medical Corps

RELATED LINKS <http://www.internationalmedicalcorps.org/>