

SITUATION UPDATE



International Medical Corps staff members provide education on household-water handling at an IDP site in Sheraro Town

Nearly one year into the conflict between the Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), the security situation in northern Ethiopia continues to deteriorate. Since the withdrawal of the ENDF from Tigray in June 2021, the conflict has expanded to five zones in the Amhara region (North Gondar, South Gondar, Wag Hemra, North Wollo and South Wollo) and two zones in Afar (Zone 1 and Zone 4). This expansion of fighting has created an additional 1.2 million IDPs and rendered 1,436 health facilities nonfunctional in the Afar and Amhara regions, including 271 health centers, 1,143 health posts and 22 hospitals. Out of the affected health facilities, 163 health centers, 642 health posts and 14 hospitals have been destroyed and looted of equipment and supplies. With the recent increase in violence, we can expect this number to increase over the coming days.

The emergency response effort in Tigray continues to be hampered by the disruption and suspension of electricity, telephone and internet networks, banking services and fuel shortages, as well as logistical challenges in transporting critical supplies, including essential drugs. As a result, medical supplies are in extremely short supply in Tigray. The shortage of trucks and fuel has created a backlog of more than 2,500 metric tons of aid supplies waiting to be transported. In addition, a recent escalation in the conflict has meant that International Medical Corps has had to move its MHNTs to ensure the safety of the teams and the IDPs. Accordingly, our teams in Chifra (Afar region) and Dessie (Amhara region) have suspended their activities due to the conflict. All other teams remain operational in Amhara and Tigray, and are supporting communities as needed.

International Medical Corps Response

Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, International Medical Corps is providing vital nutrition, health, GBV, MHPSS and WASH services to internally displaced people in the Afar, Amhara and Tigray regions. We currently have 21 MHNTs providing various services, including outpatient consultations, nutrition screenings, perinatal consultations, family-planning services and health education. In addition, International Medical Corps has a team in Mekele that is participating in coordination and cluster meetings.

Over the past two weeks, International Medical Corps' emergency response teams in Afar/Semera, Gondar and Shire provided 21,808 consultations and screened 15,145 children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) for malnutrition.

FAST FACTS

- In Ethiopia, International Medical Corps is operating 21 mobile health and nutrition teams (MHNTs), which have reached 678,130 internally displaced persons (IDPs) settled in more than 32 IDP sites in the Afar, Amhara and Tigray regions.
- International Medical Corps' 21 MHNTs are providing integrated health, nutrition, gender-based violence (GBV), mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services in the Afar, Amhara and Tigray regions.
- Our teams have carried out more than 153,752 consultations and screened more than 100,735 children and pregnant women for acute malnutrition in the Afar, Amhara and Tigray regions.

International Medical Corps MHNTs have so far provided 153,752 outpatient consultations. Out of the total consultations, 92,563 were in Shire, Tigray; 50,209 were in Dansha (Kafta Humera, Tsegede and Wolkait); 7,806 were in Amhara; and 3,174 were in Afar (because of escalating violence, there were no activities in Chifra, Afar, over the last two weeks, so there are no changes from the previous report).

Similarly, our MHNTs have screened 100,735 children under 5 and PLWs for malnutrition. Out of this total, 49,542 were in Dansha, 41,787 were in Tigray, 5,395 were in Afar and 3,981 were in Amhara. The proxy prevalence of moderate acute malnutrition for children under 5 and PLWs is 10.1% and 29.7%, respectively, while the prevalence of severe acute malnutrition is 2.7%.

International Medical Corps also has been providing WASH services in Axum, Shiraro and Shire woredas. In the past two weeks, we have reached almost 9,000 people through hygiene-promotion activities, covering handwashing, proper use of latrines, safe household-water handling and COVID-19 prevention. In the same period, due to a lack of available fuel, International Medical Corps teams could not deliver clean water. Before the suspension of water trucking activities, staff monitored, chlorinated and provided water via trucks daily. The total amount of water delivered to date is 9,967 cubic meters. Since the beginning of our intervention, we have reached 78,540 people with WASH activities.

In response to the region's lack of supplies and logistical hurdles, International Medical Corps' logistics team is working closely with the UN Logistics Cluster. Through these collaborations, the team has successfully delivered 80 metric tons of WASH supplies. The logs team will continue to process the necessary permits to transport vital drugs, as well as communications and IT equipment. Despite these efforts, fuel supplies in Tigray have reached critically low levels, compelling us to reduce our fleet in Shire to provide lifesaving services only. Only 10 fuel trucks have been granted access to Tigray since October 11. In general, transporting goods to Tigray remains challenging: transporters are hesitant to dispatch trucks to Tigray, as many trucks that transported items to the region have not returned.

Sudan

International Medical Corps has provided vital services in the Hamdeyet refugee camp to prevent the spread of COVID-19, including delivery of nearly 10,000 items—such as masks, soap, jerry cans and handwashing stations—to prevent the spread of the virus. In addition, the teams have trained community leaders and mobilizers on how to screen people for COVID-19. These trained community leaders have subsequently referred more than 1,000 people for COVID-19 testing. International Medical Corps staff also have trained 25 community health volunteers (CHVs) to deliver COVID-19 awareness-raising activities; these CHVs have reached more than 2,500 people.

International Medical Corps also has provided support in the Tunaydbah refugee camp, including conducting screening for acute malnutrition, delivering 100,000 medical masks to community health facilities and providing education about COVID-19.

Though International Medical Corps has now stopped providing services in the camps, we continue to monitor the situation for any future gaps in services that we can help provide.