

SITUATION UPDATE



An International Medical Corps clinic at the IDPs site in Shire town

After more than nine months of conflict between the Ethiopian National Defense Force and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), the security situation in the Tigray region of Ethiopia continues to worsen.

Recently, the conflict expanded from Tigray to Amhara and Afar, creating an additional displacement of more than 610,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs). In addition, recent fighting close to International Medical Corps' operation areas in the Amhara region compelled us to suspend our interventions temporarily. However, after about one week, we were able to resume operations.

Sustained uncertainty has led to disruptions in delivering humanitarian assistance across the region. Recently, a humanitarian convoy consisting of 104 trucks arrived in Tigray, providing much-needed humanitarian supplies.¹ The Ethiopian government is developing an amended directive for the transportation of humanitarian goods to Tigray; once released, this is expected to ease aid delivery into the region. In Sudan, more than 63,000 refugees have arrived from Ethiopia since the start of the conflict. Wind and rain recently destroyed hundreds of tents, including a pharmacy, medical structures and family dwellings, forcing aid workers and refugees to consolidate shelters amid the pandemic.² The humanitarian community continues to respond to the refugees' growing health, nutrition, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) needs in Sudan.

International Medical Corps Response

Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, International Medical Corps is providing vital nutrition, health, gender-based violence (GBV) and WASH services to IDPs in the Tigray, Amhara and Afar regions. We currently have nineteen MHNTs providing a range of services, including outpatient consultations, nutrition screening, perinatal consultations, family planning and health education. In addition, International Medical Corps' emergency response teams in Shire, Gondar and Afar/Semera continue to provide technical assistance, logistical support, representation and grant oversight. The emergency response

FAST FACTS

- In Ethiopia, International Medical Corps scaled up its interventions by deploying three additional mobile health and nutrition teams (MHNTs).
- International Medical Corps now has 19 MHNTs providing integrated lifesaving health, nutrition, MHPSS, WASH and GBV services in the Tigray, Amhara and Afar regions.
- Nine MHNTs have carried out **65,878** consultations in Tigray and screened **30,496** children and pregnant women for acute malnutrition since April.
- International Medical Corps took part in a UNOCHA-led multi-agency, multisectoral needs assessment, which highlighted that there are more than 100,000 IDPs in South Wello, Amhara region. Significant gaps identified included food, non-food items, WASH and health. International Medical Corps has scaled up to start responding to these needs by deploying an MHNT.

¹ <https://twitter.com/swomamo/status/1434492736212701186>

² <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Situation%20Report%20-%20Sudan%20-%202019%20Aug%202021.pdf>

team continues to help look for opportunities to ensure that we serve people in the most timely and effective ways possible. In response to the reported expansion of the conflict to neighboring regions and the departure of INGOs, International Medical Corps has deployed three additional MHNTs. These new teams will address the needs of IDPs across multiple cities in the region, reaching close to 600,000 people settled in 32 IDP sites across three conflict-affected regional states.

During the last two weeks, our MHNTs reached more than 17,900 people through outpatient consultations, bringing the total number to more than 103,700 served in the Tigray, Amhara and Afar region. Teams also have carried out more than 11,000 acute malnutrition screenings for children under 5, and more than 2,300 screenings for pregnant and lactating women.

International Medical Corps also has been conducting WASH activities in Axum, Shiraro and Shire woredas. Between August 16 and September 15, we reached 6,180 people through hygiene-promotion activities covering handwashing, proper use of latrines, safe household-water handling and COVID-19 prevention. In the last two weeks, International Medical Corps teams have delivered more than 2,600 cubic meters of safe water—which staff monitored and chlorinated daily—in trucks to the sites.

Since the beginning of the conflict, International Medical Corps also has delivered health and nutrition services in Humera, Tsegede and Wolkayit woredas. Since the resumption of activities in Kafta Humera in the last two weeks, the teams have provided 4,011 outpatient consultations, screened 5,786 pregnant and lactating women and children under 5 for malnutrition, and provided mental health counseling to 92 people. These new activities bring the total in Kafta Humera to 35,722 outpatient consultations, 29,600 malnutrition screenings and 1,302 counseling sessions.

Sudan

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

In addition, International Medical Corps 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 future needs.



An International Medical Corps staff member conducts nutrition screening at a clinic in Shire.



An International Medical Corps staff member conducts an focus group discussion with IDPs in Shire, Ethiopia.