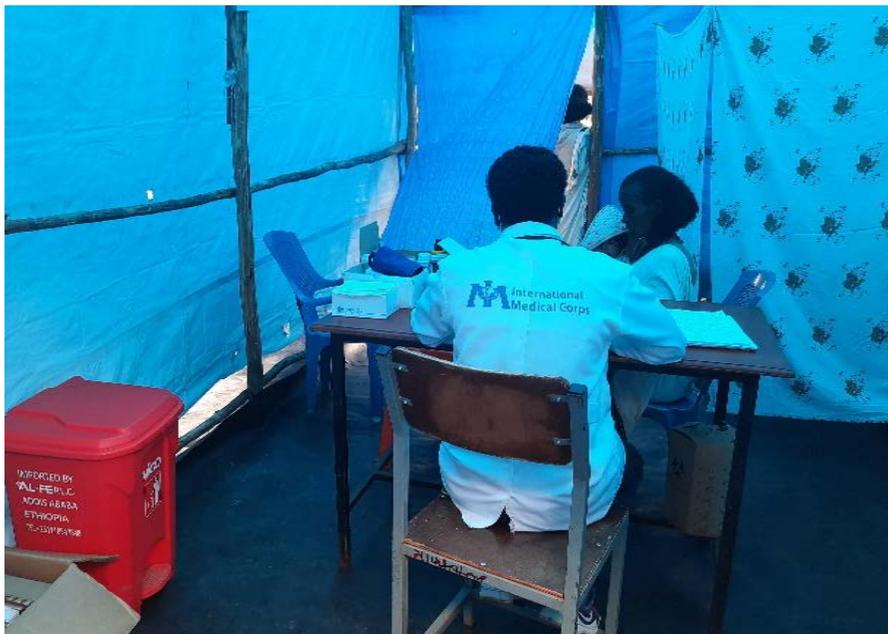


SITUATION UPDATE



An International Medical Corps staff member provides routine essential healthcare services at an IDP site in Shire, Tigray.

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 worsen. 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 Amhara and Afar 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.

The emergency response efforts in Tigray continue to be hampered by the disruption and suspension of electricity, telephone and internet networks, banking services, fuel shortages and logistical challenges in transporting critical supplies, including essential drugs. Medical supplies are in extremely short supply in Tigray. From October 6–12, 211 trucks entered Tigray to bring medical supplies and nutrition supplies to the population. However, there is still a backlog of more than 2,500 metric tons of aid supplies waiting to be transported. 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. Still, all teams remain operational in Afar, 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 deployed surge teams in Mekele to participate in coordination and cluster meetings.

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. In the past two weeks, International Medical Corps started providing emergency lifesaving health and nutrition services in Chena (in Northern Gondar), where civilian casualties were recently reported.
- 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 137,549 consultations and screened more than 92,835 children and pregnant women for acute malnutrition in the Afar, Amhara and Tigray regions.

Over the past two weeks, International Medical Corps' emergency response teams in Afar/Semera, Gondar and Shire provided 15,246 consultations, and screened 14,387 children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) for malnutrition.

Thus far, International Medical Corps MHNTs have provided 137,549 outpatient consultations. Out of the total consultations, 85,767 were in Shire, Tigray; 43,324 were in Dansha (Wolkait, Tsegede and Kafta Humera); 5,284 were in Amhara; and 3,174 were in Afar.

Similarly, our MHNTs have screened 92,835 children under 5 and PLWs for malnutrition. Out of the total 92,835 children and PLWs screened, 38,500 were in Tigray, 45,867 were in Dansha, 3,073 were in Amhara and 5,395 were in Afar. As a result, the proxy prevalence of moderate acute malnutrition for children under 5 and PLWs is 11.6% and 30.3%, respectively, while the prevalence of severe acute malnutrition is 2.8%.

International Medical Corps also has been providing WASH services in Axum, Shiraro and Shire woredas. In the past two weeks, we have reached more than 9,887 people through hygiene-promotion activities, covering handwashing, proper use of latrines, safe household-water handling and COVID-19 prevention. In the same period, International Medical Corps teams delivered more than 242 cubic meters of safe water—which staff monitored and chlorinated daily—in trucks to the sites, bringing the total delivered to date to 9,967 cubic meters. Since the beginning of our intervention, we have reached 69,552 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 efforts to process the necessary permits to transport vital drugs, along with communication and IT equipment. Despite these efforts, fuel supplies in Tigray have reached critically low levels and compelled us to reduce our fleet in Shire, despite the fact that 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.