

SITUATION UPDATE



Distribution of non-food items by a member of the International Medical Corps WASH team at the Adiwenfito IDP site in Shire.

It has been roughly one year since the start of the conflict between the Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), and 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 seven zones in the Amhara region (North Gondar, South Gondar, Wag Hemra, North Wollo and South Wollo, North Shewa and Oromia special zone) and two zones in Afar (Zone 1 and Zone 4). Recently, the conflict has spread even further, to Central Gondar, Bahir Dar, Gondar City and West Gondar zones.

Most recently, there has been an influx of an estimated 145,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Dessie and from other locations in South Wollo, toward Debre Berhan, capital of the North Shewa Zone. These numbers are increasing every day and we are continuing to monitor movement in to other zones. The IDP needs are acute, with lifesaving health, nutrition and WASH interventions needed. So far, the security situation in Debre Berhan is stable but unpredictable.

This expansion of fighting has created an additional estimated 2.2 million IDPs in Amhara and 376,500 IDPs in Afar, respectively. It has rendered 1,436 health facilities nonfunctional in the Amhara and Afar regions, including 271 health centers, 1,146 health posts and 23 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, fuel shortages and logistical challenges in transporting critical supplies, including essential drugs. As a result, medical supplies are in extremely short supply in Tigray, and the situation is dire.

International Medical Corps Response

International Medical Corps is providing vital nutrition, health, gender-based violence (GBV), mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services to IDPs in the Afar, Amhara and Tigray regions. In the past two weeks, International Medical Corps operations scaled up to 23 mobile medical units (MMUs), with nine in Tigray/Shire, 11 in Amhara and three in Afar. Our programs have been operating in areas that contain 680,000 people, located in 37 IDP sites, providing 8,767 outpatient consultations, screening 5,913 people and serving 257 MHPSS clients. The MMUs are providing a range of services, including outpatient consultations, nutrition screenings, perinatal consultations, family-planning services and health education.

FAST FACTS

- International Medical Corps is operating 23 mobile medical units (MMUs), which have reached 1,059,463 internally displaced persons (IDPs) settled in 37 IDP sites in the Afar, Amhara and Tigray regions.
- International Medical Corps' MMUs are providing integrated health, nutrition, gender-based violence (GBV), mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services.
- Two MMUs deployed last week to Debre Berhan are now providing health and nutrition services to four IDP sites.

This week, the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) has resumed flights to Tigray. International Medical Corps successfully sent personnel and cash to the area, and will continue to do so as needed and with approval from the authorities.

The recent escalation in the conflict has meant that International Medical Corps has had to constantly move its MMUs to ensure the safety of the teams and the IDPs. Accordingly, our teams in Chifra (in the Afar region) and Dessie (in the Amhara region) are still suspended due to the conflict and we continue to assess the situation daily. All other teams remain operational in Amhara and Tigray, and are supporting communities as needed. Due to the influx of IDPs to Debre Berhan, 130 kms from Addis, we have deployed two MMUs using available staff relocated from Chifra and Dessie.

The withdrawal of some humanitarian organizations from Shire has created huge gaps in healthcare delivery. International Medical Corps continues providing emergency healthcare services in one of the biggest IDP camps (Embadanso, with 140,000 IDPs); host communities also are accessing our services, due to a lack of healthcare in the region. This has created an additional burden on our teams and our stocks, and we continue to work through the logistical challenges to keep our teams as fully supplied as possible.

Since the beginning of our response, International Medical Corps MMUs have provided 171,059 outpatient consultations, with 101,555 in Shire, Tigray; 56,116 in Dansha (in Wolkait, Tsegede and Kafta Humera); 10,214 in Amhara; and 3,174 in Afar. There have been no activities in Chifra (in the Afar region) over the last six weeks.

During the same period, our MMUs have screened 111,701 children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women (PLWs) for malnutrition. Of the children and PLWs screened, 45,716 were in Tigray, 53,303 were in Dansha, 7,315 were in Amhara and 5,395 were in Afar. The proxy prevalence of moderate acute malnutrition for children under 5 and PLWs is 9.99% and 30.99%, respectively, while the prevalence of severe acute malnutrition is 2.55%. Over the past two weeks, International Medical Corps' emergency response teams in Afar/Semera, Gondar and Shire provided 8,767 consultations and screened 5,913 children under 5 and PLWs for malnutrition.

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 9,875 people through hygiene-promotion activities, covering handwashing, proper use of latrines, safe household-water handling and COVID-19 prevention. International Medical Corps teams also are delivering clean water—monitoring, chlorinating and providing water via trucks daily, for a total of 270 cubic meters in the last two weeks. The total amount of water delivered to date is 10,432 cubic meters. Since the beginning of our intervention, we have reached 97,990 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 logistics team will continue to process the necessary permits to transport vital drugs, communication 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 but we hope to scale up over the coming weeks.