It has been 15 months since the start of the conflict between the Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF). The security situation in northern Ethiopia remains fluid. On December 24, the ENDF halted the advance of its troops at the borders with Tigray, having regained all towns and cities taken by the TPLF in Afar and Amhara Regions.

Recently, internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Dessie and Debreberhan returned to their original locations. Due to the recent violence in Abala, in the Afar Region 50 kms east of Mekelle, more than 52,000 IDPs have fled to Semera and the surrounding sites.

This expansion of fighting has displaced an additional estimated 2.2 million IDPs in Amhara and 376,500 IDPs in Afar. 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 were destroyed, and equipment and supplies looted.

The emergency response effort in Tigray continues to be hampered by the disruption and suspension of electricity, telephone and internet networks, and banking services, as well as fuel shortages and logistical challenges in transporting critical supplies, including essential drugs. As a result, medicines and medical supplies are in extremely short supply in Tigray.

**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. International Medical Corps operates 23 mobile medical units (MMUs) in the regions, with nine in Tigray/Shire, 11 in Amhara and three in Afar. Our programs are operating in areas that are hosting 620,000 people located across 39 IDP sites. In the past two weeks, we have provided 12,013 outpatient consultations, screened 2,317 people and served 586 MHPSS clients. The MMUs provide a range of services, including outpatient consultations, nutrition screenings, perinatal consultations, family planning services and health education.
Due to the recent escalation in the conflict International Medical Corps has had to constantly relocate its MMUs to ensure the safety of the teams and continued service to IDPs. Accordingly, we have redeployed the two teams in Debreberhan to Dessie and Chifra as the IDPs have returned to their original location.

The withdrawal of some humanitarian organizations from Shire has created huge gaps in healthcare delivery. International Medical Corps continues providing emergency healthcare services in Embadanso, one of the biggest camps, with 140,000 IDPs. Host communities are also accessing our services due to a lack of healthcare in the region, which has created an additional demand on our teams and stocks.

Since the beginning of our response, International Medical Corps MMUs have provided 210,300 outpatient consultations, with 119,910 in Shire, Tigray; 66,878 in Dansha (in Wolkait, Tsegede and Kafta Humera); 18,932 in Amhara; and 4,580 in Afar. We have begun providing services in Chifra (in the Afar region) over the last two weeks.

Our MMUs have screened 129,183 children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women (PLWs) for malnutrition. Of the children and PLWs screened, 51,022 were in Tigray, 59,489 were in Dansha, 11,809 were in Amhara and 6,863 were in Afar. The proxy prevalence of moderate acute malnutrition for children under 5 and PLWs is 10.4% and 29.6%, respectively, while the prevalence of severe acute malnutrition remained the same, at 2.6%. Over the past two weeks, International Medical Corps’ emergency response teams in Afar/Semera, Gondar and Shire provided 12,013 consultations and screened 3,133 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 reached more than 13,863 people through hygiene promotion, covering such topics as handwashing, proper use of latrines, safe household-water handling and COVID-19 prevention. International Medical Corps teams also are delivering clean water via trucks daily, providing 240 cubic meters in the last two weeks. The total amount of water delivered to date is 11,286 cubic meters. Since the beginning of our intervention, we have reached 122,152 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 and relevant government authorities to obtain airfreight approval. However, some supplies are still stuck in transit to Tigray due to various security and operational constraints. To maintain medical services despite these supply-chain constraints, International Medical Corps is exploring options to procure drugs from the Ethiopian Pharmaceutical Supply Agency and other quality-assured local vendors. In the meantime, the Regional Health Bureau has contributed medicines, and Suhul Hospital has provided pediatric formulations, for use by the Stabilization Center at Sheraro, supported by International Medical Corps.