

SITUATION UPDATE



International Medical Corps' WASH team distributes soap at ARRA, Adiwenfito and Agriculture IDPs sites, Shire town.

It has been more than 16 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. The government has announced efforts to end the conflict and initiate national reconciliation. However, due to the recent conflict in Abala, Berhale, Erbeti and Yalo in the Afar region, more than 600,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) have fled to Semera and the surrounding sites.

The expansion of fighting has displaced an additional estimated 2.2 million IDPs in Amhara and 603,000 IDPs in Afar. It has rendered 2,343 health facilities non-functional in the Amhara and Afar regions, including 453 health centers, 1,850 health posts and 40 hospitals. Out of the affected health facilities, 163 health centers, 642 health posts and 14 hospitals have been destroyed, and equipment and supplies looted.

The emergency response effort in Tigray continues to face challenges due to the disruption of electricity, telephone and internet networks and banking services, as well as fuel scarcity and the resulting logistical challenges in transporting critical supplies, including essential drugs. Recent humanitarian flights into Tigray, which have delivered medicines and medical supplies, have been helpful in addressing some of the current shortages in the region.

International Medical Corps Response

International Medical Corps continues to provide 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 15,108 outpatient consultations, screened 13,183 people and served 522 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 nature of 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 one of our teams from Chifra to Semera, to work together with our other teams that were relocated from Abala and Berhale to support our response in Semera.

International Medical Corps also continues providing emergency healthcare services in Embadanso, one of the biggest camps, with 140,000 IDPs. In addition, our teams provide services to host communities, given the increased demand for healthcare and lack of health facilities, which has created an additional demand on our services and supplies.

Since the beginning of our response, International Medical Corps MMUs have provided 233,171 outpatient consultations, with 131,033 in Shire, Tigray; 71,499 in Dansha (in Wolkait, Tsegede and Kafta Humera); 23,681 in Amhara; and 6,958 in

FAST FACTS

- International Medical Corps is operating 23 mobile medical units (MMUs), which have reached more than 804,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) settled in 39 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.
- Medical and logistics teams have continued to provide services despite unpredictable security conditions and supply-chain constraints.

Afar. We have begun providing services in Semera and Chifra (in the Afar region) over the last two weeks, as a result of the influx of IDPs from the locations with security escalations.

Our MMUs have screened 146,510 children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women (PLWs) for acute malnutrition. Of the children and PLWs screened, 56,681 were in Tigray, 69,050 were in Dansha, 14,189 were in Amhara and 6,980 were in Afar. The proxy prevalence of moderate acute malnutrition for children under 5 and PLWs is 9.7% and 28.2%, respectively, while the prevalence of severe acute malnutrition remained the same, at 2.4%. Over the past two weeks, International Medical Corps' emergency response teams in Afar/Semera, Gondar and Shire provided 15,108 consultations and screened 13,183 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 7,169 people through hygiene promotion, covering such topics as handwashing, proper use of latrines, safe household-water handling and COVID-19 prevention. Though International Medical Corps teams had been delivering clean water via trucks daily, we have had to suspend this activity due to lack of fuel. The total amount of water delivered to date is 11,823 cubic meters. Since the beginning of our intervention, we have reached 129,321 people with WASH activities.

In response to the region's lack of supplies, and to logistical hurdles, International Medical Corps' logistics team is working closely with the UN Logistics Cluster and relevant authorities to obtain air-freight 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 all options to procure and transport drugs to relevant MMUs and health facilities.