

SITUATION UPDATE



International Medical Corps staff distribute soap to people in Tigray.

FAST FACTS

- International Medical Corps is operating 23 mobile medical units (MMUs) that have reached more than 951,860 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.
- In the last weeks International Medical Corps has managed to airlift 4.1 tons of medicines and medical supplies into Tigray to be able to upscale our response in the region.

It has been more than a year since the start of the conflict in northern Ethiopia. The situation in some parts of Northern Afar and North Amhara remains dynamic, and due to the recent conflict in Abala, Berhale, Erbeti and in the Afar region, more than 600,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) have fled to Semera and surrounding sites.

Due to the evolving situation, there are an estimated 2.2 million IDPs in Afar, Amhara and Tigray. The conflict 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, with equipment and supplies looted.

Despite the continuing challenges, International Medical Corps has continued to offer services and support to those affected by the conflict. There recently have been increased humanitarian flights to Tigray, which has enabled us to deliver medicines and medical supplies to the most vulnerable communities affected by this conflict. Given that needs in the region remain critical, International Medical Corps will continue to send in more supplies over the coming weeks as we work to resume our full response.

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. We operate 23 mobile medical units (MMUs) in the regions, with nine in Tigray/Shire, eight in Amhara and five in Afar. Our programs are operating in areas that are hosting 620,000 people located across 37 IDP sites. In the past two weeks, we have provided 16,629 outpatient consultations, screened 6,811 people and served 534 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 the IDPs. Accordingly, we have redeployed one of our teams from Chifra to Semera to work with our other teams that were relocated from Abala and Berhale to support our response in Semera and Serdo.

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

Since the beginning of our response, International Medical Corps MMUs have provided 274,222 outpatient consultations, with 152,614 in Shire, Tigray; 79,664 in Dansha (in Wolkait, Tsegede and Kafta Humera); 36,330 in Amhara; and 5,614 in

Afar. We have begun providing services in Semera and Chifra (in the Afar region) over the last month, as a result of the influx of IDPs from locations where conflict has escalated.

Our MMUs have screened 165,109 children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women (PLWs) for acute malnutrition. Of the children and PLWs screened, 79,283 were in Dansha, 62,629 were in Tigray, 19,071 were in Amhara and 4,126 were in Afar. The proxy prevalence of moderate acute malnutrition for children under 5 and PLWs is 10.54% and 26.7%, respectively, while the prevalence of severe acute malnutrition remained the same, at 2.2%. Over the past two weeks, International Medical Corps' emergency response teams in Afar/Semera, Gondar and Shire provided 16,629 consultations and screened 6,811 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 3,771 people through hygiene promotion, covering topics such as handwashing, proper use of latrines, safe household-water handling and prevention of COVID-19. We resumed water trucking services on March 14–16, distributing 390 cubic meters of water, and have been delivering clean water via trucks daily. The total amount of water delivered to date is 12,213 cubic meters. Since the beginning of our intervention, we have reached 135,780 people with WASH activities.

In response to the region's lack of supplies, and to logistical hurdles, International Medical Corps' team is working closely with UN Clusters and relevant authorities to obtain air-freight approval. International Medical Corps has been able to effectively support and resupply our teams in many surrounding areas. With the recent resumption of road convoys to Tigray, we expect that we will be able to facilitate delivery of supplies, which have been delayed in transit, via road to Tigray. Despite these supply-chain constraints, International Medical Corps is exploring all options to procure and transport drugs to its MMUs and supported health facilities, to maintain medical services and continuity of healthcare.