

SITUATION UPDATE



International Medical Corps WASH staff facilitates solid waste collection and disposal activities using donkey carts from IDP sites and the host community in Sheraro town.

FAST FACTS

- International Medical Corps is operating 22 mobile medical units (MMUs) that have reached more than 1 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) settled in 37 IDP sites, as well as affected host communities, 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 airlifted 4.1 metric tons of medicines and medical supplies and 2.4 tons of mixed flour and assorted WASH items into Tigray.

Since early April, when the Ethiopian government declared cessation of hostilities, conflict has not been reported in the border towns of the Amhara and Afar regions. Nevertheless, more than 3.9 million people in Tigray and more than 10 million people in Amhara have been affected by war, and need health services and interventions. In Afar, only 94 of 414 health facilities (22%) are functional, including two hospitals and 31 health centers. In Amhara, more than 500 health facilities and 1,706 health posts have been affected and need to be rehabilitated, renovated and supported with equipment and supplies to be operational.

Despite the continuing challenges, International Medical Corps has continued to offer services and support to those affected by the conflict. Recently there have been increased humanitarian flights to Tigray, which has enabled International Medical Corps to deliver medicines and medical supplies to the most vulnerable communities affected by this conflict. In addition, recent resumption of World Food Programme (WFP) truck convoys into Tigray, with food, nutrition, WASH supplies and fuel, are a welcome relief. Critical needs remain after a fourth consecutive failed rainy season. 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 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Afar, Amhara and Tigray regions. We operate 22 mobile medical units (MMUs) in the regions (nine in Tigray/Shire, eight in Amhara and five in Afar), providing a range of services, including outpatient consultations, nutrition screenings, perinatal consultations, family planning services and health education. We also operate one surge team consisting of two medical officers in Dansha. 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 12,064 outpatient consultations, screened 5,237 people and served 886 MHPSS clients.

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 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 323,108 outpatient consultations, with 175,113 in Shire, Tigray; 83,999 in Dansha (in Wolkait, Tsegede and Kafta Humera); 43,940 in Amhara; and 20,056 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 181,070 children aged under 5 and pregnant and lactating women (PLWs) for acute malnutrition. Of the children and PLWs screened, 81,751 were in Dansha, 70,296 were in Tigray, 21,600 were in Amhara and 7,423 were in Afar. The proxy prevalence of moderate acute malnutrition for children under 5 and PLWs is 11.1% and 27.5%, respectively, while the prevalence of severe acute malnutrition remained the same, at 2.3%. Over the past two weeks, International Medical Corps' emergency response teams in Afar/Semera, Gondar and Shire provided 12,064 consultations and screened 5,237 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 4,620 people through hygiene promotion, covering topics such as handwashing, proper use of latrines, safe household-water handling and prevention of COVID-19. We are delivering clean water via trucks daily, with 12,663 cubic meters delivered so far. Since the beginning of our intervention, we have reached 140,400 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. We recently succeeded in transporting 2.4 tons of mixed flour by air into Tigray, to help address nutritional needs. With the recent resumption of road convoys to Tigray, we have been able to deliver assorted WASH supplies, including hand pumps that had been delayed since October 2021. We also are keeping our teams in Afar and northern Amhara supported and supplied with essentials, to ensure a comprehensive response. Despite the many supply-chain constraints faced by our teams, International Medical Corps is exploring all options to procure and transport drugs to our MMUs and supported health facilities, in an ongoing effort to maintain medical services and continuity of healthcare.