Northern Ethiopia Humanitarian Update
Situation Report #31
June 21, 2022

SITUATION UPDATE

Conflict has not been reported in the border towns of the Amhara and Afar regions since early April, when the Ethiopian government declared cessation of hostilities. 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 the conflict. In addition, recent resumption of World Food Program (WFP) truck convoys into Tigray, with food, nutrition and WASH supplies, as well as fuel, are a welcome relief. However, 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, GBV, MHPSS and WASH services to internally displaced persons in the Afar, Amhara and Tigray regions. We operate 22 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 the Dansha, Tigray, region. 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 17,491 outpatient consultations, screened 6,074 people and served 914 MHPSS clients.

International Medical Corps also continues to provide emergency healthcare services in Embadanso, Tigray region, one of the largest camps, with 140,000 IDPs, while providing services to host communities. The increased needs around healthcare and lack of health facilities have created additional demand for our services and supplies.

Since the beginning of our response, International Medical Corps MMUs have provided 360,781 outpatient consultations, with 189,045 in Shire, Tigray; 87,249 in Dansha (in Wolkait, Tegede and Kafta Humera); 48,397 in Amhara; and 36,090 in

FAST FACTS

- International Medical Corps is operating 22 mobile medical units (MMUs) that have provided services to more than 600,000 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 past two weeks, International Medical Corps received 25 boxes of medicines and medical equipment from the WHO-Mekelle hub. These will be used to support our mobile medical teams’ response in Tigray.

An International Medical Corps Mobile Medical Unit team provides health education at Setitu, Kafta Humera woreda, in Amhara region.
Afar. Over the last months, as a result of the influx of IDPs from locations where conflict has escalated, we have begun providing services in Semera and Chifra, in the Afar region.

Our MMUs have screened 223,169 children aged under 5 and pregnant and lactating women (PLWs) for acute malnutrition. Of the children and PLWs screened, 82,737 were in Dansha, 74,748 were in Tigray, 23,141 were in Amhara and 42,543 were in Afar. The proxy prevalence of moderate acute malnutrition for children under 5 and PLWs is 12.3% and 28.3%, respectively, while the prevalence of severe acute malnutrition remained the same, at 2.8%. Over the past two weeks, International Medical Corps’ emergency response teams in Semera (Afar region), Gondar (Amhara) and Shire (Tigray) provided 17,491 healthcare consultations and screened 6,074 children under 5 and PLWs for malnutrition.

International Medical Corps also has been providing WASH services in Axum, Shiraro and Shire woredas in Tigray. In the past two weeks, we reached more than 4,449 people through hygiene promotion sessions covering such topics as handwashing, proper use of latrines, safe household-water handling and prevention of COVID-19. We are delivering clean water via trucks daily, with 13,196 cubic meters delivered so far. Since the beginning of our intervention, we have reached 144,849 people with WASH activities.

In response to the region’s lack of supplies and logistical hurdles, International Medical Corps’ teams are working closely with UN clusters and relevant authorities to obtain air-freight approval as needed. In mid-May, we received 25 boxes of medicines and medical equipment from the WHO-Mekelle hub, which we are using to support our mobile medical teams’ operations in Tigray for a month. With the increased frequency of road convoys into Tigray, we have been able to deliver assorted WASH supplies procured in Addis Ababa, as well as 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 for a comprehensive response.

Despite the many supply-chain constraints faced by our teams, International Medical Corps is exploring all options to continue procurement and transportation of drugs to our MMUs and supported health facilities, in an ongoing effort to maintain medical services and continuity of healthcare.