

## SITUATION UPDATE



*Community members learn about proper hygiene and other health practices at a workshop organized by International Medical Corps in Aksum town.*

The security situation in the border towns of the Amhara and Afar regions has been static since early April. 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 (23%) health facilities are functional, including two hospitals and 31 health centers. In Amhara, more than 500 health facilities and 1,706 health posts need to be rehabilitated, renovated and supported with equipment and supplies to be operational.

Despite these 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 International Medical Corps to deliver medicines and medical supplies to the most vulnerable communities affected by the conflict. In addition, World Food Programme (WFP) truck convoys into Tigray containing food, nutrition and WASH supplies have continued, supplementing relief efforts and providing much-needed supplies. However, the lack of fuel remains a pressing issue, as it hinders our ability to scale up our response. The upcoming rainy season will exacerbate the fuel-shortage issue, as mitigation measures will be harder to implement. International Medical Corps will continue to send in more supplies over the coming weeks to support people in need.

### 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 20 MMUs in the regions (four in Afar, two in Amhara, five in Tigray and nine in West Tigray) and provide 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 region. Our programs are operating in areas that are hosting 595,000 people located across 26 sites for internally displaced persons (IDPs). In the past two weeks, we have provided 10,938 outpatient consultations, screened 3,349 people for disease and served 360 MHPSS clients.

International Medical Corps also continues to provide emergency healthcare services in Embadanso—one of the largest camps in the Tigray region, with 140,000 IDPs, while also providing services to host communities. Increased needs around healthcare and a lack of health facilities have created additional demand for our services and supplies. The onset of the rainy season has resulted in flash flooding, as well as increased malaria and dysentery cases in some locations.

Since the beginning of our response, International Medical Corps MMUs have provided 402,158 outpatient consultations, with 215,850 in Shire, Tigray; 92,305 in Dansha (in Wolkait, Tegede and Kafta Humera); 55,363 in Amhara (Dabat, Debarke and Kombolcha); and 38,640 in Afar.

### FAST FACTS

- International Medical Corps is operating 20 mobile medical units (MMUs) that have provided services to more than 600,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) settled in 26 IDP sites, as well as to 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.
- During the reporting period, International Medical Corps conducted an obstetric screening campaign in which the team treated 60 women in Shire and nine women in Adwa for serious obstetric issues, such as fistulae and pelvic organ prolapse, and referred 22 of the cases to Mekelle.

Our MMUs have screened 237,955 children aged under 5 and pregnant and lactating women (PLWs) for acute malnutrition. Of the children and PLWs screened, 84,346 were in Dansha, 85,721 were in Tigray, 24,494 were in Amhara and 43,394 were in Afar. The proxy prevalence of moderate acute malnutrition for children under 5 and PLWs is 12% and 28.49% respectively, while the prevalence of severe acute malnutrition is 2.7%. Over the past two weeks, International Medical Corps' emergency response teams in Semera (Afar region), North Gondar (Amhara) and Shire (Tigray) provided 10,938 healthcare consultations and screened 3,349 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 24,718 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 14,958 cubic meters delivered so far. Since the beginning of our intervention, we have reached 204,877 people with WASH activities.

In response to the region's supplies and logistical hurdles, International Medical Corps is working closely with UN clusters and relevant authorities to obtain air-freight approval and road convoy space allocation as needed. During the first week of July, International Medical Corps received 114 cartons of ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) from UNICEF in Mekelle, which we will use to support our nutrition response in Tigray for two weeks. In addition, our team sent 1.4 metric tons of medicines and medical supplies, which had been airlifted from Addis Ababa, to Mekelle last week. With the increased frequency of road convoys into Tigray, we have been able to deliver assorted WASH supplies procured in Addis Ababa, including soap and other WASH-related non-food items. We also are keeping our teams in Afar and northern Amhara supported and supplied with essential items for a comprehensive response.

International Medical Corps continues to explore 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.