

## SITUATION UPDATE



*An International Medical Corps Mobile Health and Nutrition Team (MHNT) Midwifery Officer provides nutritional assessment services to a 28-year-old woman in her third trimester in her new shelter in Kelawulo Kebele, Tahtay Adiyabo woreda.*

More than 3.9 million people in Tigray and more than 10 million people in Amhara have been affected by events in the regions, 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. With the cessation of flights and road convoys to Tigray since August 26, International Medical Corps has a contingency plan in place to guide our field teams. We will focus on continuing to provide lifesaving activities and ensuring that resources last as long as possible.

On Thursday October 13, the situation within Tigray became very fluid, with our staff continuing to provide services while monitoring the situation. On Monday, October 17, International Medical Corps decided to suspend all services in the Tigray region and request that staff hibernate while our teams continued assessments and examined measures to ensure the safety of staff and beneficiaries. We are continuing to complete this analysis with updates from our field teams and will resume services as soon as possible. In the meantime, our teams are pre-positioning supplies in multiple locations, which will enable them to scale up a response as needed within the region when it is once again safe to do so.

### 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 (including five in Afar, seven in Amhara, five in Tigray and five in West Tigray) 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 region. Our programs are operating in areas that are hosting 800,000 people located across 26 sites for IDPs. In the past two weeks, we have provided 10,083 outpatient consultations, screened 36,146 people for disease and provided 472 people with MHPSS services.

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 providing services to host communities. Increased needs around

#### FAST FACTS

- International Medical Corps is operating 22 mobile medical units (MMUs) that have provided services to more than 810,000 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.
- Services were suspended on Monday October 17, due to concerns about the escalation of the situation in Tigray.

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 474,775 outpatient consultations, with 238,429 in Shire, Tigray; 127,529 in Dansha (in Kafta, Tegede and Wolkait humeras); 59,533 in Amhara (Dabat, Debark and Kombolcha); and 49,284 in Afar.

Our MMUs have screened 314,923 children aged under 5 and pregnant and lactating women (PLWs) for acute malnutrition. Of the children and PLWs screened, 87,290 were in Dansha, 138,015 were in Tigray, 33,111 were in Amhara and 56,507 were in Afar. The proxy prevalence of moderate acute malnutrition for children under 5 and PLWs is 13.9% and 35.5% respectively, while the prevalence of severe acute malnutrition is 2.2%. Over the past two weeks, International Medical Corps' emergency response teams in North Gondar (Amhara), Semera (Afar region) and Shire (Tigray) provided 10,083 healthcare consultations and screened 36,146 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 33,530 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 17,319 cubic meters delivered so far. Since the beginning of our intervention, we have reached 261,642 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 once road and air links resume. In the meantime, 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 the procurement and transportation of drugs to our MMUs and supported health facilities, in an ongoing effort to maintain medical services and a continuity of healthcare.