

SITUATION UPDATE



An International Medical Corps counselor educates community members about MHPSS programming at the Midre Genet IDP site, Shire town, Ethiopia.

FAST FACTS

- In Ethiopia, International Medical Corps' 16 mobile health and nutrition teams (MHNTs) in Tigray have carried out 54,092 consultations and screened 49,261 children and pregnant women for acute malnutrition.
- International Medical Corps will continue expanding its response in Tigray and surrounding regions in the coming days to address rising needs. We plan to deploy three additional MHNTs next week.
- International Medical Corps is expanding beyond Afar and Amhara with MHNTs to support the increase in internally displaced persons (IDPs).

After more than nine months of conflict between the Ethiopian National Defense Force and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), the security situation in the Tigray region of Ethiopia continues to worsen. Lately, the conflict has expanded from Tigray to Amhara and Afar, displacing more than 500,000 people.

Sustained uncertainty has led to disruptions in delivering humanitarian assistance across the region. To meet the daily humanitarian needs of more than 5 million people, 100 trucks carrying food and lifesaving supplies need to arrive in Tigray every single day. As of August 19, a total of roughly 320 trucks had arrived over the course of the conflict, less than 7% of what is required.¹ Access remains a challenge, with most roads remaining blocked. Humanitarian partners responding to growing needs have reached 4.2 million people with food assistance and protection—but considerable support is still needed.²

In Sudan, more than 63,000 refugees have arrived from Ethiopia since the start of the conflict. Wind and rain destroyed hundreds of tents, including a pharmacy, medical structures and family dwellings, forcing aid workers and refugees to consolidate shelters amid the pandemic.³ The humanitarian community continues to respond to the growing needs of refugees' health, nutrition, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) needs in Sudan.

International Medical Corps Response

Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, International Medical Corps has been providing vital nutrition, health, gender-based violence (GBV) and WASH services to IDPs in Adwa, Axum, Chifra, Dabark, Dansha, Dessie, Shire and Shiraro,. In addition, International Medical Corps has deployed an emergency response team to increase the capacity and provide further technical

¹ <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/us-aid-chief-says-emergency-food-ethiopia-tigray-run-out-this-week-2021-08-20/>

² <https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/ethiopia/>

³ <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Situation%20Report%20-%20Sudan%20-%202019%20Aug%202021.pdf>

assistance, logistical support and grant oversight. The emergency response team also will help look for opportunities to ensure that we are serving people in the most timely and effective ways possible.

We currently have 16 mobile health and nutrition teams providing various services, including outpatient consultations, nutrition screening, perinatal consultations, family-planning services and health education. During the last two weeks, the MHNTs reached 13,614 people through outpatient consultations, bringing the total number to 85,803 served in Dansha and Shire. Teams also have carried out 4,872 acute malnutrition screenings for children under 5, and 1,149 screenings for pregnant and lactating women.

International Medical Corps also has been delivering WASH services in Axum, Shiraro and Shire woredas. Between August 16 and 24, we reached 5,318 people through hygiene promotion activities, covering handwashing, proper use of latrines, safe household-water handling and COVID-19 prevention. Over the past two weeks, International Medical Corps teams delivered 968 cubic meters of safe water—which staff monitored and chlorinated daily—in trucks to the sites.

Since the beginning of the conflict, International Medical Corps also has delivered a wide range of health and nutrition services in Humera, Tsegede and Wolkayit woredas. After a period of suspension, activities resumed in Kafta Humera. In the last two weeks, the teams have provided 2,379 outpatient consultations, bringing the total to 31,711 consultations; provided malnutrition screening to 1,961 pregnant and lactating women and children under 5, bringing the total screened to 23,814; and provided mental health counseling to 118, bringing the total to 1,118 people helped.

Sudan

International Medical Corps has been providing vital services in the Hamdeyet refugee camp to prevent the spread of COVID-19. These services have included delivering nearly 10,000 items to avoid the spread of the virus, such as masks, soap, jerry cans and handwashing stations. In addition, the teams have trained community leaders and mobilizers on how to screen people for COVID-19. These trained community leaders have subsequently referred more than 1,000 people for COVID-19 testing. International Medical Corps staff has trained 25 community health volunteers to deliver COVID-19 awareness-raising activities that have reached more than 2,500 people.

International Medical Corps also has provided support in the Tunaydbah refugee camp, including conducting screening for acute malnutrition, delivering 100,000 medical masks to community health facilities and providing education about COVID-19.

We are continuing to explore ways in which we can provide humanitarian services in the region.