



*International Medical Corps' CTC in Geligu.*

The cholera outbreak in Qwara woreda has raised significant public health concerns, prompting a coordinated response from International Medical Corps and other international NGOs. In February 2025, teams travelled to Gendu Wuha town and Geligu town in Qwara, Amhara region, to inform and collaborate with community leaders and local authorities, including the woreda health office, the Public Health Emergency Management team and the woreda water bureau on their intervention strategies to respond to the outbreak.

The Quara woreda experiences recurrent cholera outbreaks, with the first episode beginning on July 15, 2023, when cholera cases were reported from the Bermil St. George Holy Water site in the Quara district of the West Gondar zone in Amhara. The outbreak affected 60 woredas across 16 zones, leading to 4,983 cases and 90 deaths—a 1.81% case fatality rate (CFR). A new outbreak of cholera emerged at Bermil on January 3. As of February 18, 270 cases and five deaths had been reported, with all cases either originating from Bermil or having a travel history from there.

By the first week of January 2025, 181 cases had been recorded at the Bermil cholera treatment center (CTC), with a CFR of 4.5%. This escalation highlights the urgent need for effective interventions and community engagement to control the spread of cholera and mitigate its impact on affected populations.

## **International Medical Corps Response**

Since February 12, International Medical Corps has been working with local health authorities in Quara woreda to address the cholera outbreak, focusing on enhancing medical capacity and infrastructure at the Bermil and Geligu CTCs.

We have so far trained 40 medical staff in cholera case management and infection prevention, and provided bedside coaching to support the professional development of healthcare workers. The cholera kits we have provided have significantly strengthened treatment capabilities. Other improvements at the Bermil CTC include upgraded hospitalization areas and the construction of triage, observation and staff facilities, to enhance patient care.

Both CTCs prioritize water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) measures by implementing practices such as chlorine-solution preparation and by providing personal protective equipment to safeguard staff and patients. We are helping to establish proper waste-segregation practices to maintain hygiene standards and are constructing critical facilities, including emergency latrines. International Medical Corps has deployed healthcare workers in coordination with the zonal and woreda health offices to ensure 24/7 case management, supported by surge teams that include medical personnel and a WASH engineer.

### **FAST FACTS**

- A cholera outbreak in West Gondar Zone of Amhara, that began on July 15, 2023, impacted 60 woredas (districts) across 16 zones.
- As of August 29, 2023, there had been 4,983 reported cases and 90 fatalities, resulting in a case fatality rate (CFR) of 1.81%.
- A resurgence of the outbreak in January 2025 has led to an additional 270 cases and five deaths by February 18, for a CFR of 4.5%.

### **OUR FOOTPRINT**

- Since 2003, International Medical Corps has been providing health, nutrition, mental and psychosocial support, maternal and newborn health, food security and livelihoods, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services in Ethiopia.

### **OUR RESPONSE**

- Since February 12, International Medical Corps has been collaborating with zonal health offices and local authorities to combat cholera in Quara woreda by providing health and WASH interventions at two cholera treatment centers (CTCs): the Bermil CTC and Geligu CTC.

International Medical Corps has also partnered with the Ethiopia Red Cross Society to deploy an emergency water-treatment kit, with ongoing installations to provide safe drinking water as a stop-gap measure. Additionally, International Medical Corps has established observation zones and is increasing patient capacity through the installation of tents at the Geligu CTC. We also are providing comprehensive training for healthcare workers, to enhance cholera management responses.