

SITUATION UPDATE



International Medical Corps is supporting the design and construction of additional tents at the Marburg treatment unit in Arba Minch for preparedness.

Following reports on November 12 of suspected cases of viral hemorrhagic fever in the town of Jinka, in South Ethiopia Regional State, the Ethiopian Ministry of Health (MoH) confirmed on November 14 that the suspected cases were Marburg virus disease (MVD). As of December 21, 14 MVD cases had been confirmed, along with nine deaths and five recoveries.

International Medical Corps Response

International Medical Corps is currently in Arba Minch, where we have supported the installation of six tents (four for suspected cases and two for confirmed cases), as well as the construction of triage and personal protection equipment (PPE) dressing areas for the Marburg treatment unit (MTU), to help prepare in the event of cases. We have also helped construct fencing of the red and green zones, are finalizing the construction of the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) pharmacy and logistics stores, and are supporting the clearance of the waste management area, working with the Zonal Health Department and Arba Minch city administration.

We have delivered a four-day training session on self-care, burnout and stress management was successfully delivered to 35 healthcare workers (HCWs) from the emergency operations center, including staff from the MoH, national and regional chapters of the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI), and regional health bureaus (RHBs). We also have provided the first round of a three-day integrated training program to 35 HCWs in Arba Minch on case management, infection prevention and control (IPC), and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). Following a formal request from the Sidama Regional Public Health Institute, International Medical Corps will assess priorities among HCWs and, if required, provide training in the coming weeks on psychosocial support and stress coping skills to 60 deployed HCWs and support staff working at the Marburg isolation centers.

Over the next week, International Medical Corps will:

- support the finalization of the Arba Minch MTU set-up by constructing the latrine, medical room and staff areas (including latrines and shower), setting the concrete floor for the tents (triage, PPE dressing areas and morgue), establishing the unidirectional flow to streamline the layout of the MTU, and constructing the incinerator, ash pit, burn pit and laundry areas;

FAST FACTS

- On November 14, the Ministry of Health in Ethiopia confirmed an outbreak of Marburg virus disease in Jinka.
- As of December 21, there were 14 confirmed cases, along with nine deaths and five recoveries.

OUR FOOTPRINT

- Since 2003, International Medical Corps has provided services related to emergencies, health, nutrition, mental and psychosocial support, and water, sanitation and hygiene in Ethiopia.

OUR RESPONSE

- For preparedness, we have supported the installation of six tents in Arba Minch (four for suspected cases and two for confirmed cases) for the Marburg treatment unit. We have also supported the construction of triage and personal protective equipment dressing areas.
- We provided a four-day training session on self-care, burnout and stress management to 35 healthcare workers (HCWs) from the Emergency Operation Center.
- We have provided the first round of integrated training to 35 HCWs in Arba Minch on case management, infection prevention and control, and mental health and psychosocial support.

- provide second and third rounds of training in case management, IPC and MHPSS, working with the MoH, EPHI and RHB;
- deploy one WASH engineer and one procurement officer to Jinka to provide WASH support to the MTU there;
- conduct a half day of training in risk communication and community engagement to influential leaders—including religious leaders, youth and media—in Arba Minch; and
- deploy rapid response teams (RRTs)—including two medical doctors, four IPC nurses, four triage nurses and one mental health officer—to Arba Minch and Jinka for case management, IPC and MHPSS training, to support Marburg preparedness and response in both locations.