



International Medical Corps is supporting the design and construction of additional tents at the Marburg treatment unit in Arba Minch, to assist with 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 January 8, 14 MVD cases had been confirmed, with nine deaths and five recoveries.

International Medical Corps Response

To assist with preparedness, on January 8 International Medical Corps completed four rounds of training in case management, infection prevention and control, and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) for 186 healthcare workers from Arba Minch General Hospital, Dr. Amenu Primary Hospital, Dilifana Primary Hospital, and Shecha and Woze Health Centers, as well as for medical interns from Arba Minch University Hospital.

We deployed a team of two doctors, four nurses, two sanitation and health-promotion officers and one MHPSS officer to Jinka on January 3 and are now supporting MVD case management at the Jinka Marburg treatment center (MTC), working with colleagues from the Regional Health Bureau and the Regional Public Health Institute. We have embedded two sanitation and health-promotion officers within the existing regional risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) team to support their activities. We plan to deploy an additional team of nine nurses, three MHPSS officers and one RCCE expert to Jinka on January 10 to provide case-management support and reinforce pre-triage screening at the MTC, two primary hospitals and four health centers.

Our teams have completed the construction of a temporary pre-triage screening area at Arba Minch General Hospital and, to assist with preparedness, have supported the creation of staff rosters and attendance sheets for screening and case management at the Arba Minch Marburg treatment unit (MTU). International Medical Corps also has completed the construction of 14 latrines and 14 showers, as well as separate staff latrines and changing facilities. We have built a comprehensive solid-waste management system—including degradable, non-degradable, ash and sharps waste pits—that is nearing completion. We have installed a steel-structured elevated water storage tank, ready to be connected to the water supply, that will provide a reliable source of water for the MTU and essential services at Arba Minch General Hospital. In addition, we have paved walkways with aggregate and finalized the construction of the laundry unit at the MTU.

FAST FACTS

- On November 14, the Ministry of Health in Ethiopia confirmed an outbreak of Marburg virus disease (MVD) in Jinka.
- As of January 8, there have been 14 confirmed cases, along with nine deaths and five recoveries.

OUR FOOTPRINT

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

OUR RESPONSE

- To assist with preparedness, we have completed four rounds of training for 186 healthcare workers in Arba Minch covering case management, infection prevention and control, and MHPSS.
- We deployed a team of two doctors, four nurses, two sanitation and health promotion officers and one MHPSS officer to Jinka on January 3 and are now supporting the Jinka Marburg treatment center, working with colleagues from the Regional Health Bureau and the Regional Public Health Institute.
- We will be deploying an additional team of nine nurses, three MHPSS officers and one risk-communication and community-engagement expert to Jinka on January 10 to support case management.

In Jinka, we are excavating two latrine blocks at Millennium Health Center, and completed the excavation of the waste pit (biodegradable and non-biodegradable). Furthermore, we have supported creation of staff rosters and attendance sheets for the MTC there.

In continuing our response and preparedness support at both Jinka and Arba Minch, in the coming week International Medical Corps will:

- install the electrical system for the Arba Minch MTU;
- support the installation of the water pipeline connection for Arba Minch MTU;
- finalize the fencing of the solid-waste pit at Arba Minch MTU;
- provide food support for patients and staff at Jinka MTC;
- assess and improve the existing pre-triage area based on findings at Jinka MTC;
- support the construction of a pre-triage screening area at Benata and Baala health centers, Malle woreda; and
- address the flooding damage at Jinka MTC, constructing new latrines for staff and suspected cases, and assessing solutions to prevent further rainwater flooding the wards.