



An International Medical Corps staff member discusses the Arba Minch Marburg treatment unit with authority representatives.

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 20, 14 MVD cases had been confirmed, with nine deaths and five recoveries. As of January 21, it has been 38 days since the last reported case of MVD.

International Medical Corps Response

On January 15, the Arba Minch Marburg treatment Unit (MTU) was inaugurated. The event was led by Agune Ashole Alto, the Director of the South Ethiopia Public Health Institute (PHI) and representatives from the MoH, the Arba Minch Mayor's Office, the Arba Minch General Hospital, the City Health Administration and the Zonal Health Department. The PHI Director emphasized the vital role of the MTU as a regional training hub and a national resource to prepare healthcare workers across the country. International Medical Corps was also recognized as a key partner in the MVD response and for our role in supporting preparedness efforts in South Ethiopia.

On January 17, International Medical Corps deployed eight infection prevention and control (IPC) nurses and four triage nurses to enhance IPC and surveillance activities at eight health facilities: Balla Health Center, Beneta Health Center, Bitemal Health Center, Gazer Primary Hospital, Jinka Marburg Treatment Center, Koybe Primary Hospital, Lemo Gento Health Center and Millennium Health Center. In addition, we have assigned a specialized team—including one mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) officer, two IPC nurses and one triage nurse—to the Arba Minch MTU and Arba Minch General Hospital. Their responsibilities include providing psychosocial support to healthcare workers, patients and affected community members, enhancing IPC practices and strengthening pre-triage screening processes to more effectively manage and continue surveillance.

An IPC assessment at the Millennium Health Center in Jinka revealed significant gaps in IPC and water, sanitation and hygiene practices, including a lack of handwashing facilities in key areas such as outpatient, pre-triage and latrine zones. It also identified shortages of essential supplies, such as soap, hand sanitizer and alcohol-based hand rub, along with the absence of IPC materials, such as color-coded buckets. To address these gaps, International Medical Corps has provided IPC supplies—including mops, color-coded dustbins, heavy-duty gloves and coveralls—to Gazer Primary Hospital, Jinka

FAST FACTS

- On November 14, the Ministry of Health in Ethiopia confirmed an outbreak of Marburg virus disease (MVD) in Jinka.
- As of January 20, there have been 14 confirmed cases, along with nine deaths and five recoveries.
- As of January 21, it has been 38 days since the last reported case of MVD.

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

- We have deployed a team of eight infection prevention and control (IPC) nurses and four triage nurses to enhance IPC and surveillance activities at key health facilities.
- We have carried out hygiene-promotion activities for 238 people attending Millennium Health Center.
- International Medical Corps and Africa Humanitarian Action have provided comprehensive MVD case management, MHPSS and IPC training to 42 healthcare workers from Malle woreda.

Marburg Treatment Center and Millennium Health Center. We have also provided essential pharmaceuticals for health services at Millennium Health Center.

International Medical Corps also carried out hygiene promotion activities benefitting 238 people attending Millennium Health Center, including MoH-recommended MVD messaging, handwashing demonstrations in the pre-triage area and hygiene education sessions in patient waiting areas. Working with Africa Humanitarian Action, we also provided comprehensive MVD case management, MHPSS and IPC training to 42 healthcare workers from Malle woreda.

As of January 21, it has been 38 days since the last reported case of MVD. An urgent need for intensified surveillance efforts as part of the 90-day surveillance period continues, including screening at healthcare facilities, within the communities and at points of entry, as well as enhancing risk communication and community engagement. International Medical Corps will continue to work alongside the MoH and the South Ethiopia Regional Health Bureau, including the PHI, as part of these initiatives.