

SITUATION UPDATE



International Medical team members conduct an MVD risk-awareness session at Jinka Market.

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 30, 14 MVD cases had been confirmed, with nine deaths and five recoveries. Ethiopia declared the end of the Marburg virus disease outbreak on January 25, after 42 days with no new confirmed cases.

International Medical Corps Response

On January 26, International Medical Corps attended an event marking the end of the MVD outbreak, where the MoH, the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI) and the South Ethiopia Regional Health Bureau (RHB) recognized the efforts of our team in the MVD response. The support we provided included case management, infection prevention and control, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPPS), surveillance and contact tracing, and risk communication and community engagement. We also helped health facilities in the affected areas ensure the continuation of essential services.

International Medical Corps has supported the screening of 9,376 people across five health facilities, including Arba Minch Hospital, Balla Health Center (HC), Beneta HC, Jinka Hospital and Millennium HC. Among these, 176 clients presented with fever ($\geq 37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ or history of fever), while 9,199 non-MVD cases were identified and managed, following routine clinical protocols.

Throughout the MVD response, International Medical Corps donated pharmaceuticals and essential medical equipment to five HFs—Balla HC, Beneta HC, Koybe Primary Hospital, Lemo Gento HC and Millennium HC—including antibiotics, analgesics, sets for gynecological procedure kits for delivery and episiotomy, and phenobarbital. We also have donated critical personal protective equipment and medical supplies, including coveralls, to Gazer Primary Hospital and Jinka General Hospital, addressing gaps in essential medical supplies across the facilities and significantly enhancing their capacity to provide quality healthcare.

FAST FACTS

- On November 14, the Ministry of Health in Ethiopia confirmed an outbreak of Marburg virus disease (MVD) in Jinka.
- As of January 30, there have been 14 confirmed cases, along with nine deaths and five recoveries.
- Ethiopia declared the end of the Marburg virus disease outbreak on January 25, after 42 days with no new confirmed cases.

OUR FOOTPRINT

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

OUR RESPONSE

- At an event marking the end of the MVD outbreak, International Medical Corps was recognized by the Ministry of Health for our partnership during the national MVD response.
- International Medical Corps has supported the screening of 9,376 people, leading to identification and management of 9,199 non-MVD cases.
- We donated pharmaceuticals and essential medical equipment to address identified gaps.
- We have provided MHPPS services and awareness activities to 117 people at Jinka General Hospital and Arba Minch General Hospital.

We have finalized the construction of pre-triage screening areas at Millennium HC, as well as the maintenance work for pre-triage screening at Jinka Marburg Treatment Center. At Beneta HC, we have completed the excavation of pit latrines and solid waste pits.

Throughout the outbreak, International Medical Corps has provided psychosocial-related sessions to frontline workers, to support them in their MVD response and preparation work. International Medical Corps has delivered the Problem Management Plus session—which provides a brief, low-intensity psychological intervention designed to help adults with anxiety, depression and stress, particularly in communities affected by adversity or crisis—to eight frontline emergency workers at Jinka General Hospital. We conducted biopsychosocial assessments for six frontline hygienists, to help with the self-identification of mental health conditions, and have provided individual counselling to five emergency frontline workers and psychological first-aid and psychosocial services to eight emergency frontline workers at Jinka General Hospital. International Medical Corps has also provided MHPSS awareness activities for 117 individuals at Jinka General Hospital and 103 individuals at Arba Minch General Hospital.

We have begun to verify and reach out to people in need of WASH non-food items, planning to reach 50 households. We have conducted a risk awareness session in Gazer town, delivering MoH-approved MVD messaging, including information on MVD symptoms, routes of transmission and prevention. Our market-day social mobilization campaign successfully reached approximately 50,000 people. Audio messaging in three languages has further increased the spread of this messaging, with the audio-mounted mobile van and printed materials reaching almost 5,900 people.

As we transition to the critical 90-day surveillance period, International Medical Corps will continue to collaborate closely with MoH, EPHI and the South Ethiopia RHB in support of post-outbreak preparedness efforts.