

SITUATION UPDATE



For preparedness, International Medical Corps is supporting the setup of Marburg treatment unit tents in Arba Minch.

On November 12, the Ethiopian Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI) reported suspected cases of viral hemorrhagic fever in the town of Jinka, in South Ethiopia Regional State. On November 14, following molecular testing conducted by the National Reference Laboratory at the EPHI, the MoH confirmed that the suspected cases were Marburg virus disease (MVD). As of December 17, 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 are supporting the design and construction of a Marburg transition unit (MTU), which began this week and will include 10 beds (six for suspected cases and four for confirmed cases). Our teams supported the demarcation of high- and low-risk zones in Arba Minch, completed on December 17. International Medical Corps also is supporting the construction of the triage, personal protective equipment (PPE) dressing areas, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities at the MTU, which should be finalized next week.

In coordination with the national EPHI, International Medical Corps has facilitated the transportation of PPE to Arba Minch General Hospital, which arrived on December 18. In coordination with the Arba Minch Zonal Health Department, International Medical Corps will next week begin providing case management, infection prevention and control (IPC), mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), community-based surveillance, active case finding, and risk communication and community engagement activities in Arba Minch.

Organized by the World Health Organization and in collaboration with the Regional Health Bureau (RHB) and regional EPHI, the International Medical Corps' MHPSS Manager conducted training on basic psychosocial skills integrated with MVD case management for 38 healthcare workers (HCWs) from five health facilities near Desenech, South Ethiopia Regional State. International Medical Corps also is delivering a five-day self-care, burnout and stress management training to 35 HCWs from national and regional emergency operation centers, including staff from the MoH, EPHI and RHB, in Arba Minch.

FAST FACTS

- On November 14, the Ministry of Health in Ethiopia confirmed an outbreak of Marburg virus disease in Jinka.
- As of December 17, there are 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 are supporting the design and construction of a 10-bed Marburg transition unit in Arba Minch to manage cases.
- In collaboration with the Ethiopian Public Health Institute, we have facilitated the delivery of personal protective equipment to Arba Minch General Hospital.
- We conducted training in basic psychosocial skills integrated with MVD case management for 38 healthcare workers from five health facilities in South Ethiopia Regional State.

Following an official request from EPHI for technical and operational support for MVD preparedness and response in South Ethiopia Regional State and the Sidama region, International Medical Corps will be providing support for surveillance and contact tracing, case management, IPC, WASH, facility readiness and screening at points of entry. We also will provide rapid targeted capacity-building training to frontline healthcare workers, as well as MHPSS services and support for the continuation of essential services.