

## SITUATION UPDATE



*An International Medical Corps team member delivers basic psychosocial skills training to an audience of 30 frontline healthcare workers.*

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 15, 14 MVD cases had been confirmed, along with nine deaths and five recoveries.

### International Medical Corps Response

International Medical Corps continues to collaborate closely with regional Incident Management System (IMS) leadership, and regional and national EPHIs, attending regular coordination meetings in Jinka.

We have so far conducted risk communication and community engagement training for 35 participants as well as a three-day psychosocial skills training session for 30 frontline healthcare workers, and will be providing basic psychosocial training for frontline healthcare workers following an official request from the national EPHI. We have also received requests from the Regional Health Bureau and EPHI for training in case management and infection prevention and control (IPC), and will be conducting those sessions for healthcare workers in Jinka, South Omo, Gedo Zone and Arba Minch over the next three weeks.

International Medical Corps also providing training in community-based surveillance, active case finding and contact tracing training for 35 participants, in accordance with IMS priorities. An International Medical Corps team member is attending a "training of trainers" IPC session organized by Ohio State University and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, together with national EPHI staff in Walayta Sodo, to help standardize the MoH's IPC training manual.

International Medical Corps team members conducted IPC and water, sanitation and hygiene assessments at Jinka Hospital, including its Marburg Treatment Center (MTC) and the Millennium Health Center, on December 9. Working with the IMS, International Medical Corps will provide IPC materials, including personal protective equipment, and food to patients and staff at the MTC. We will also assist with providing access to safe water, improving waste management and enhancing sanitation facilities at the MTC.

#### FAST FACTS

- On November 14, the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Ethiopia confirmed an outbreak of Marburg virus disease in Jinka.
- As of December 15, 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

- We have so far provided risk communication and community engagement training to 35 participants and a three-day psychological skills training session to 30 frontline healthcare workers.
- For preparedness, a site in Arba Minch has been designated for a new isolation center, with 12 beds for suspected cases and two beds for confirmed cases. We are supporting the MoH with the construction and standardization of this site.

In communication with the Southern Ethiopia Regional IMS, International Medical Corps conducted an assessment of the Arba Minch isolation center on December 15, accompanied by national EPHI team members and staff from the Zonal Health Department. Following the assessment, for preparedness, the Zonal Health Department has designated a new site for an isolation center that will accommodate 12 beds for suspected cases and two beds for confirmed cases, helping to enhance preparedness. Construction of the MTC, which International Medical Corps will support, should begin this week.