

ETHIOPIA

COVID-19 FACT SHEET



The ICRC delegation in Ethiopia has rapidly adapted to the evolving reality of the outbreak of the coronavirus in the country and is stepping up its response to the crisis integrating COVID-19 as an important new parameter in its operations. In response to the crisis, the ICRC has been supplying infection prevention and control items and other essential products to vulnerable people in particular, including detainees, conflict affected people and people with physical disabilities. It has reached 31 places of detention with infection prevention and control items to help them reduce infection among detainees In partnership with the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS), the ICRC also supported communities and health institutions with essential items. Together with ERCS, it has also strived in passing COVID-19 prevention messages to the public by using different media outlets.







PLACES OF DETENTION

- With an aim to reduce the risk of coronavirus infection in prisons, the ICRC distributed over 89,000 bars of soaps, 229 hand washing stations, and other infection-prevention assistance to 31 places of detention accommodating over 44,000 detainees in Oromia, Amhara, Tigray, Somali, Southern Ethiopia, Gambella and Benishangul-Gumuz, Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa regions.
- The ICRC also provided technical guidance on prevention, risk communication and case management to detention authorities in 31 places of detention located in Amhara, Tigray, Oromia, Somali, Gambella, Benishangul-Gumuz, and Southern Ethiopia regions.





- The ICRC engaged with detention authorities regarding maintaining family links between detainees and their relatives in spite of CoVID-related restrictions and started providing mobile phones and airtime for detainees to call their loved ones.
- Some 1,000 posters with COVID-19 prevention messages in Amharic, Afan Oromo and Somali languages were distributed to 30 places of detention.









SEPARATED FAMILIES

- The ICRC, together with ERCS, supplied essential items consisting sandals and other supplies to 1,610 Ethiopian returnees from Saudi Arabia staying at an isolation center established at Addis Ababa Science and Technology University. Free phone calls were also offered to 460 of these returnees, including for 340 unaccompanied children, enabling them to call their loved ones.
- Precautionary measures were set up for refugees to be able to safely maintain contact with their families: awareness raising sessions on COVID-19 were organized for refugees visiting Red Cross tukuls in five refugee camps in Benishangul-Gumuz and one reception center in Tigray.
 Fifteen hand washing stations were installed in eleven refugee camps in Benishangul Gumuz and Gambella.















HEALTH

- The ICRC provided personal protective equipment (PPE), consisting of aprons, boots, gloves and liquid soap and hand washing stands, to health centers in Tuluguled, Meyumuluke, Husse and Chinaksen districts in Somali region.
- In response to emergency situation arising from the return of 500 Ethiopians from Sudan, the ICRC supplied PPEs (eye glasses, heavy duty gloves, protective aprons, masks, boots and soaps) handwashing stands and other essential items to Genduhuwa Zonal Health Department in Amahara Region. The assistance will be used by a quarantine center established at a high school in Gendeweha where the returnees will get the service.
- The ICRC also supported 14 isolation centers and four primary health care facilities with PPEs to be
 used by health professionals working in the centers to ensure safe infection prevention and control
 measures in compliance with the national clinical management of COVID-19 outbreak.
- Moreover, hygienic items were given to three primary healthcare facilities in Dembi Dollo (Oromia) and two primary health care and one primary hospital in West Gondar. This will benefit 4,620 people attending the clinic and hospital per month.
- The ICRC technically and financially supported the Ethiopian Public Health Institute and the
 Ministry of Health (MoH) in organizing training on safe and dignified management of the dead due
 to CoVID-19. Four sessions of training of trainers were conducted, for over 70 participants from
 from Addis Ababa and different regions. The participants will cascade what they acquired from the
 training to health care workers, mortuary staff and other pertinent persons.

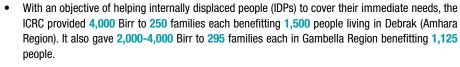














 To cover the increased costs of agricultural inputs and services (because of coronavirus outbreak), financial assistance ranging from 1,000 Birr to 1,400 Birr were handed over to each 12,350 IDPs in Chinaksen, Babile, Tuliguled, Yaso and Haro Limu districts). This benefited 74,000 family members.



Handing over of infection prevention items and other essential products to National COVID-19 Prevention Taskforce, Addis Ababa, 2020.







In response to COVID-19-induced emergency, the ICRC is carrying out preventive measures in nine partner physical rehabilitation centers (PRCs) in Oromia, Amhara, Harari, Southern Ethiopia, Benishangul-Gumuz and Somali regions. The PRCs were provided with hand washing stands and hygienic items. This will allow the PRCs to continue functioning and offering physical rehabilitation services in a safe mode to up to 50 PWDs per month each on average.



Inclusive communication about appropriate attitudes and behaviors addressed to persons with disabilities together with the Federation of the Ethiopian National Associations of Persons with Disabilities (FENAPD) through TV and radio spots aired at national and regional media in four major local languages. Moreover, 2,000 posters with COVID-19 prevention messages (published in three major local languages), targeting people with physical disabilities, were distributed among nine PRCs.



The ICRC participated in the MoH / FENAPD accessibility audit of 12 quarantine and isolation centers in Addis Ababa in order to prepare the places and staffs to receive persons with disabilities.



It also supports six PRCs in the manufacture of locally made face shields for medical staffs of hospitals and isolation centers.



PREVENTION/COMMUNICATION



The ICRC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ethiopian Police University College to work towards disseminating information pertaining to the role of the police during COVID-19 and public awareness raising on the virus using the police media outlets. The objective is to highlight issues related mainly to health, arrest and detention, use of force, respect and protection of health care, and humanitarian access during the COVID-19-induced State of Emergency.



Some 16,950 gloves, 4,186 masks, 200 liters of hand sanitizer and 50 megaphones were supplied to the EPUC as part of the MoU.



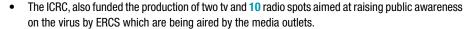
One digital banner and two videos (produced in three local languages) as well as 10 messages on prevention of the virus were posted on social media.





EPUC Deputy Commissioner General, Mesfin Abebe (left) receiving donated items from Head of ICRC delegation in Ethiopia, Julien Lerisson (right), Sendafa, Oromia, 2020.







The HoD and Communication Department Head gave interviews to different broadcast media emphasizing on ICRC's multi-sectoral responses to the coronavirus outbreak in Ethiopia.



COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL SOCIETY



- The ICRC shifted most of the 2020 budget (over 2.7 million Birr) it was supposed to provide to ERCS for operational activities to be used by the Society to its response of COVID-19 outbreak.
- Spraying of disinfectants on Red Cross ambulances, vehicles and public transportation vehicles were also carried out.

The ICRC helps people around the world affected

by armed conflict and other situations of violence,

doing everything it can to protect their dignity and relieve their suffering, often with its Red Cross and

Red Crescent partners. The organization also seeks

to prevent hardship by promoting and strengthening

humanitarian law and championing Universal

humanitarian principles.



ICRC Delegation

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