

ETHIOPIA

COVID-19 FACT SHEET

APRIL-MAY 2020



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.



CONFLICT AFFECTED AND NON-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES



- The ICRC, in partnership with the ERCS, donated infection prevention and control materials as well as other essential items to **17** COVID-19 treatment centers set up in Amhara, Oromia, Addis Ababa, Dire Dawa, Somali and Harari regions. **2,500** mattresses, **2,500** bed sheets, and **20,000** bars of soaps and disinfectants were among the products supplied to the centers.



- With an objective of helping internally displaced people (IDPs) to cover their immediate needs, the ICRC provided **4,000** Birr to **250** families each benefitting **1,500** people living in Debrak (Amhara Region). It also gave **2,000-4,000** Birr to **295** families each in Gambella Region benefitting **1,125** people.



- 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.



PEOPLE WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES (PWDs)



- 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.

Alemayehu Takele/ICRC






- The ICRC, also funded the production of two tv and **10** radio spots aimed at raising public awareness on the virus by ERCS which are being aired by the media outlets.
- 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.

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 Cover photo: Alemayehu Takele/ICRC
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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.



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