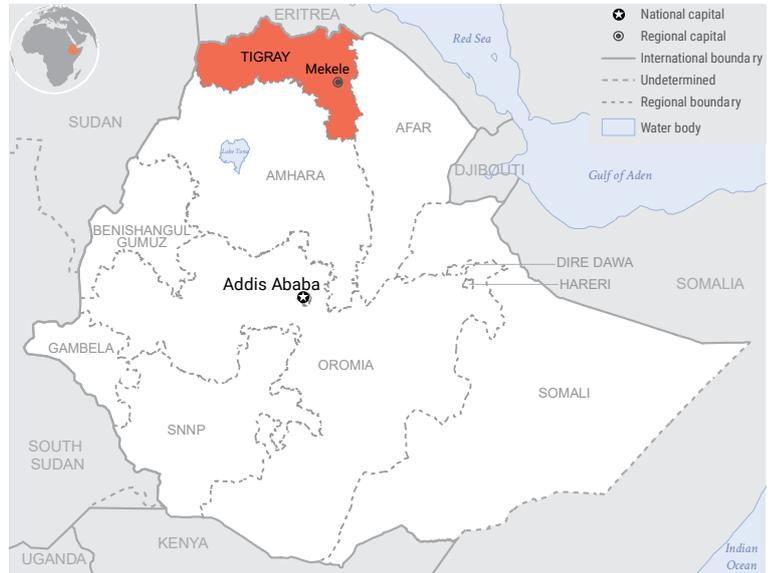


This report is produced by OCHA Ethiopia and covers the period from 7 November to 11 November 2020. The next report will be issued in due course.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Telephone lines remain cut making information flow and corroboration of media reports very difficult for the humanitarian community, as well as to monitor population movement and additional humanitarian needs.
- With no relief access to Tigray, food, health and other emergency supplies have no way to make it into the region making prepositioning/re-stocking impossible.
- There is increasing concern for the protection of civilians against hostilities. Civilians caught in the cross-fire always pay the price, especially children, women, elders and the disabled.
- According to UNHCR Sudan, several thousand Ethiopian asylum seekers have crossed the Sudanese border through two border entry points in Gedaref State since 9 November.
- The UN and its partner organizations are committed to staying and delivering humanitarian assistance. A costed humanitarian response plan for Tigray region is currently being finalized under the coordination of UNOCHA.



Tigray region, Ethiopia. Source: CSA, OCHA.

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

600,000

Relief food beneficiaries

1M

PSNP clients

100,000

Internally displaced persons

96,000

Refugees

SITUATION OVERVIEW

With the fighting between Ethiopian federal forces (EDF) and Tigray regional security forces coming into its first week, reports of casualties are being heard through various media outlets. Telephone lines are still cut making information flow and corroboration of media reports very difficult for the humanitarian community, as well as to monitor population movement and additional humanitarian needs. Meanwhile, banks are reportedly closed, and transport is not allowed to and from Tigray as a result of which shortages of basic commodities are reportedly appearing, impacting the most vulnerable first and the most. International partners

With reports of increasing casualties, concern is rising for the protection of civilians against hostilities. Civilians caught in the cross-fire always pay the price, especially children, women, elders and the disabled, and are of paramount importance to protect. Humanitarian partners ask federal and regional authorities to facilitate humanitarian access to reach people in need in areas under their respective control.

According to UNHCR Sudan, at least 3,400 Ethiopian asylum seekers have crossed the Sudanese border through two border entry points in Gedaref State since 9 November. Sudanese authorities are reportedly screening the asylum seekers



Military confrontations 3-7 November. Source: ACLED.

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

for onward relocation to a reception center in Shagrab camp in Kassala State; 1,700 people have so far been screened and registered. No armed individual will be allowed to cross into Sudan, according to authorities. UNHCR is mobilizing resources to address the life-saving needs of the new arrivals, and identification of a new refugee site is amongst the priorities. UNHCR has a working scenario of up to 20,000 asylum seekers expected in one month, and up to 100,000 asylum seekers expected in one year.

Meanwhile, the Tigray Regional President has publicly appealed to the African Union Chairman, Cyril Ramaphosa, to mediate the conflict; however, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has been unresponsive to all offers of mediation, including from the AU and IGAD, claiming that “this is an internal affair aimed at ensuring the rule of law.”

Humanitarian concerns

In addition to concerns over disrupted humanitarian assistances to the more than 2 million people who currently need some type of assistance in Tigray region (food insecure, internally displaced, refugees), there is rising concern over the inability to assess additional humanitarian needs that are likely to spike. There are already reports of population movement from Humara/Sheraro into Shire Town fleeing fighting in the area. Similarly, there are reports of population movement from southern Tigray region to Amhara region where people who lived in Alamata are fleeing to Amhara region. Details are not known yet.

More specifically on refugees, humanitarian partners are concerned by the impact of the ongoing conflict on the humanitarian situation and the protection of the over 96,000 Eritrean refugees in Tigray. Amidst general movement restrictions, UNHCR currently has permission from zonal authorities to move to reach refugee camps. But this is conducted within the limiting context, including the communication blackout and fluid security situation. So far, the provision of basic services are operational and the refugees have access to basic services in the camps, including food, water and sanitation, shelter, healthcare and education.

There is an overall concern over the protection of civilians. In addition to women, elders and the disabled, children are always the most vulnerable in an emergency, and the existing child protection risks are likely to be exacerbated by the ongoing hostilities. The risk of children being separated from their parents/caregivers exposing them to abuse and exploitation; children being forced out of school again; and children being deprived of their liberties is very high amidst the conflict.

Concerns over the damage the desert locust might be currently causing unabated, the likelihood of deepened food insecurity and the spread of COVID-19 pandemic are also high. With road closed, food, health and other emergency supplies have currently no way to make it into Tigray making repositioning/re-stocking impossible.

Looking at the regional dynamics, increased population flow into Sudan, and possibly Eritrea will likely further stretch the refugee response operation in the region.

HUMANITARIAN PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

The UN and its partner organizations are committed to staying and delivering humanitarian assistance. Below are some of the stocks and capacity available to respond in Tigray per cluster/sub-cluster. The needs and capacities will be more detailed once the costed humanitarian response plan for Tigray region, and areas in Afar and Amhara in proximity of Tigray region, which is currently being finalized under the coordination of UNOCHA, will soon be released.

Protection

- The priority for the Protection Cluster is to find a way to conduct rapid protection needs assessment and (remote) protection incident monitoring to inform advocacy to convey the importance of protection of civilians and the respect of international humanitarian law by all parties.

Gender-based Violence (GBV)

- Priority activities include ensuring that health facilities are/remain functional to treat sexual violence survivors, provision of basic psychosocial first aid and mental health support, and provision of dignity kits to prevent women and girls from resorting to negative coping mechanisms. Partner have prepositioned some 5000 dignity kits in Addis Ababa, while no dignity kits have yet been identified in Tigray region. There is some level of capacity to redeploy GBV capacity from other parts of the region to hotspot areas.

Child Protection

- Priority activities include early identification and safe referrals of child protection cases and children at risk, including family tracing for unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), basic PFA/PSS to assist children, parents, families and communities to cope with crises and to reinforce or regain healthy psychosocial behaviors and resilience in the face of challenging and deteriorating circumstances. Provision of dignity kits and other NFIs are also part of the planned response package. Although limited, child protection partners with ongoing development and refugee programs in the region can re-allocate some resources towards more critical needs as a result of the ongoing hostilities. Additional child protection partners need to be mobilized to ensure timely response should the situation rapidly deteriorate.

Refugee response

- UNHCR is updating its contingency plans together with Governments and inter-agency partners, both for inside Ethiopia and in collaboration with UNHCR offices in surrounding countries, to put in place preparedness measures to respond to possibly secondary movement of refugees and IDPs as the situation evolves.

Food/cash

- NDRMC has enough resources to address current needs (to 300,000 people) until January 2021, while JEOP needs to re-stock the warehouse in Tigray by December to ensure continued assistance, including for Round 6.
- Additional beneficiaries due to new displacements in HRP food beneficiary *woredas* will likely be assisted through the NDRMC and JEOP pipelines.
- Displacements in urban areas where food operator are not present will deepen food insecurity and create a response challenge.

- Cash transfers are not feasible in the current situation, as a result the fate of some 76,000 cash transfer beneficiaries is concerning. These had only received transfers for Rounds 1 and 2 and are meant to receive in-kind rations for round 5. In addition, there are 1 million PSNP clients not able to receive their regular cash transfers.
- WFP provides relief food for the entire refugee caseload, which is then distributed by the Agency of Refugees and Returnee Affairs (ARRA). UNHCR is currently finalizing an updated contingency plan.

Humanitarian food stock in Tigray

- As of 25 October, there was 433MT of food at various REST/JEOP food distribution points.
- As of 2 November, there was 13,488MT of wheat, 121MT of vegetable oil, 71MT of Pplses at Mekelle CRS JEP PDP.
- An estimated 13,000MT of food was scheduled to arrive in Mekelle CRS PDP this November.

WASH

- The majority of the WaSH response activities in the region are implemented by the Regional Water Bureau and UNICEF, with the exception of a couple of hygiene interventions that are carried out by the INGO Save the Children in Axum and Mekelle.
- Recent assessment conducted in the region revealed that 42 water trucks are needed to deliver safe water in 18 woredas targeting 200,000 people at a cost of \$502,500.
- At least 10,000 IDPs living with host communities in the region don't have access to the minimum standard of 7.5 l/p/d.
- SWAN prepositioned WaSH/NFI for 500 HHs in Dessie (Amhara region).
- UNICEF prepositioned WaSH supplies in Tigray for 5000 people). It has capacity to dispatch resources for an additional 13,000 people.

Health

- Following reports of high number of casualties referred from Tigray and being treated in northern Amhara region, the Health Cluster deployed a professional to Bahir Dar to support with monitoring and information management. ICRC and MSF Holland are currently supporting the emergency medical services, while ICRC deployed four ambulances through the Ethiopian Red Cross Society to support the transport of casualties to hospitals.
- 1 trauma kit prepositioned with WHO/Regional Health Bureau (RHB) in Mekelle, to treat 100 casualties.
- 10 IEHK basic and 1 IEHK supp. modules prepositioned with WHO/RHB in Mekelle, to reach 10,000 IDPs.
- 5 trauma kits are in stock in Adama warehouse to treat 500 casualties, and 5 trauma kits are under procurement (not for Tigray only)
- 50 IEHK basic module are in stock in Adama warehouse to reach 50,000 IDPs (not Tigray only), while additional 100 are being procured (not for Tigray only)
- SWAN is on standby to support needs in Tigray region once access is granted to the region.

[To reach 300,000 IDP, 300 IEHK basic and other types of module is required to reach 300,000 IDPs, while 30 trauma kits are required to treat 3000 casualties.]

ES/NFI

- In the two emergency response mechanisms, RRF/IOM and SWAN together have 12,000 ESNFI kits. In addition, IOM has a total of 19,000 kits. But there are no supplies stoked in Tigray, some stocks are in Desse (500 kits).
- Limited resources for cash for ES/NFIs with SWAN and IOM/RRF (conditional on banks and markets).
- There are no ongoing ES/NFI projects in the region.

Nutrition

- Nutrition supplies for the fourth quarter were dispatched to the region.