

HIGHLIGHTS

- Ethiopia registers 116,769 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 93,890 recoveries, and 1,806 deaths as of 13 December

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

US\$1.44 billion

Total COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 revised requirements

US\$1.06 billion

Non-COVID-19 requirements

US\$374.2 million

COVID-19 requirements

People targeted	
Non-COVID-19	8.1 million
COVID-19	7.8 million



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COVID-19 - Ethiopia updates

1.7 million samples tested, 116,769 cases and 1,806 deaths registered

As of 13 December, Ethiopia counts 116,769 COVID-19 cases nationwide, with 93,890 recoveries and 1,806 deaths. Some 314 patients in the intensive care unit. Ethiopia is still the fourth country with the highest number of COVID-19 cases in Africa, next to south Africa, Morocco and Egypt. An average 10 per cent positivity rate reported in recent weeks indicates an increase in community transmission. Testing capacity has significantly decreased since October where testing is now targeting high-risk groups. Addis Ababa continues to account for the highest percentage of the caseload (55 per cent), followed by Oromia, Tigray and Amhara regions. Overall, the country conducted over 1.7 million sample tests so far.

The Ministry of Health said (10 December) it is highly concerned with the increasing spread of COVID-19 pandemic mainly due to negligence in taking preventive measures against the virus and has called on the public and stakeholders to pay due attention to preventing the disease. The practice of wearing mask has declined from 62.6 to 52.6 percent in Addis Ababa, from 33.9 to 30.6 percent in Gondar and Bahir Dar, from 13.9 to 1.5 percent in Semera between October and November. The number of severe COVID-19 cases has also increased nationwide, leading to scarcity of essential medical equipment like ventilators, particularly in Addis Ababa.

Tigray Humanitarian Situation Update

Multi-agency needs assessment in Afar-Tigray boarder areas

The UN in Ethiopia and the Federal Government of Ethiopia signed an agreement guaranteeing unimpeded, sustained and secure access for humanitarian personnel and services to areas under the control of the Federal Government in Tigray and bordering areas of Afar and Amhara regions. On 2 December, an inter-agency assessment mission deployed to districts along the Afar -Tigray border. Preliminary findings indicate that some 4,580 persons of Afar and Tigrian origin have been displaced in Berhale (200), Dalol (3,130), and Konnuba (1,250) *woredas* as a result of the war in Tigray. Although there is normalcy observed in visited areas, however, the lack of communication, banking services, electricity,

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- Multi-agency assessment ongoing in Tigray and bordering areas of Afar region to identify needs and gaps in the region.

fuel supply has severely affected the economic and social life of the populations. There is a lack of drugs and water supply as well as health professionals (most of whom were from Tigray region) in all health facilities in all the visited *woredas*. There is still available foodstuff and other essential supplies like sugar, salt, oil in most towns and villages, but the prices have increased by between 35-50 per cent depending on the distance. A merchant said, “I used to pay only 6,000 birr to transport 50, 000 quintals of merchandise to Konnuba *woredas* from across the border but I am now paying 40,000 for the same quantity from Semera.”

Two other humanitarian assessment missions which left Addis on 6 December to visit Alamata and Mehoni areas (southern Tigray) as well as Dansheha, Humera, and Shire (western Tigray) were postponed because UNDSS led Security Risk Assessment mission to assess road and security concerns was not successful. Ethiopia’s government admitted federal troops fired at and detained United Nations workers in the conflict-hit Tigray region, blaming the team for trying to reach areas where “they were not supposed to go.”



Figure 1 Inter-agency mission members discussing with affected communities in the Afar-Tigray border. Photo Credit: OCHA Ethiopia

The Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the United Nations Ethiopia signed an “Agreement for an enhanced coordination mechanism for Humanitarian access in Ethiopia’s Tigray-Region” on the 29 November 2020. The Humanitarian Information Sharing Mechanism (HISM) is a coordination mechanism between OCHA/WFP, Log cluster and the Ministry of Peace (MoP), through the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC), that is set up temporarily to facilitate access, movements, safety and security of the humanitarian assets, personnel and activities in Tigray region, including the border areas where there may be people-in-need. OCHA/WFP Log cluster serves as the interlocutor between humanitarian organizations and the focal point (s) assigned by the Ministry of Peace. This mechanism is without prejudice to the responsibility of the Government of Ethiopia to uphold their obligations under national and international laws.

OCHA’s managed Ethiopia Humanitarian Fund has allocated \$12 million from its emergency reserve envelope to allow identified UN and NGO partners to scale up their operations to respond to the most immediate needs of hundreds of thousands of people impacted by the conflict in Tigray. The latest report on the humanitarian situation in Tigray is available here: <https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/ethiopia/>

These assessment missions attempt to identify additional needs. The conflict in Tigray is taking place in a context where more than 800,000 people were already in urgent need of assistance and protection, including nearly 96,000 Eritrean refugees and nearly 600,000 people relying on food aid to survive. Since the conflict broke on 4 November, some 45,000 people sought refuge in the neighboring Sudan and many more were displaced internally.

On 6 December the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) and its regional government counterpart bureau in Tigray started dispatching relief food to people displaced by the recent conflict in northern and western Tigray. The food was dispatched from Warta and Kombolcha warehouses. According to regional authorities, between 30,000 to 50,000 people were displaced by the conflict and require multi-sector assistance.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Ethiopia Humanitarian Country Team released Guiding Principles to guide the humanitarian operations in Tigray, and border areas of Afar and Amhara regions.
- About 12.9 million people or 24 per cent of 54 million people analysed will likely face high levels of acute food insecurity between January and June 2021.
- An Integrated Food Insecurity Phase Classification (IPC) report revealed that more than 8.6 million people in Ethiopia are facing high levels of acute food insecurity between October and December 2020.
- Recent inter-communal conflict in Konso zone as well as Amaro, Derashe, and Ale districts of the SNNP regional state has left more than 120,000 people displaced, seeking immediate humanitarian assistance and lasting solutions

On 30 November, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed reiterated to members of Parliament that rehabilitating Tigray region is the Federal Government's next critical focus and called upon the UN and the international community to work together towards this end, including returning refugees from Sudan. The Prime Minister's speech to parliament is available here: <https://bit.ly/36z8t6V>

EHCT released guiding principle to guide humanitarian operations in Tigray

The Ethiopia Humanitarian Country Team (EHCT) released a guiding principle policy to guide the humanitarian operations in Tigray, and border areas of Afar and Amhara regions. The guiding principles policy is available in English, Amharic and Tigrigna here: <https://bit.ly/33CLrtX>

About 12.9M people to face high levels of acute food insecurity between January and June 2021

A joint Food and Agricultural Agency and Government Integrated Food Insecurity Phase Classification (IPC) report containing *belg* update and *meher* analysis for the period October 2020 to September 2021 revealed that more than 8.6 million people in Ethiopia are facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) between October and December 2020. About 12.9 million people or 24 per cent of 54 million people analysed will likely face high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) between January and June 2021 according to the report.

A combined impact of COVID-19, conflict, desert locusts and economic decline were found to be the drivers for the 8.6 million people to face high levels of acute food insecurity. Of these, around 7.2 million people are classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and 1.4 million people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), despite ongoing Humanitarian Food Assistance (HFA). While lockdown and other measures put in place to prevent the COVID-19 spread had a negative impact on food availability and access, around 1.2 million people have been displaced due to conflict. Desert locusts also continue to pose a serious risk of damage to both pasture and crops. The IPC alert is available here: <https://we.tl/t-uJehm1Kfuz>.

More than 120,000 people remain displaced in Konso, Derashe and Ale, SNNP Region

An inter-communal conflict in Konso zone as well as Amaro, Ale, Burji, and Derashe districts of the SNNP regional state since November 2020 left more than 157,300 people displaced. They are displaced in Konso (95,400 IDPs) and surrounding special *woredas*/areas of Derashe (21,800), Segen (20,300), Amaro (12,300) and Ale (7,500), and seek immediate humanitarian assistance and lasting solutions. From the total 157,300 people displaced, close to 32,000 people have returned to their areas of origin in Konso. The continuing conflict between Konso and surrounding areas owes to the dismantle of the former Segen Hizboch zone of SNNP Region into Konso zone and Alle, Derashe, and Burji special *woredas*, where special *woredas* are demanding the zonal status given to Konso. Although the conflict between Konso, Ale and Derashe groups has largely subsided last week and the situation is relatively calm in the last few days, a recent addition of an estimated 10,000 IDPs from Derashe special *woreda* (Gato 1 town) increased the number of IDPs in Konso zone to be more than 95,000 and brought the number of IDPs in Derashe *woreda* down to an estimated 22,000. The IDPs went from Segen Town to different safe areas in Derashe special *woreda* and surrounding places. The IDPs in Konso reside in six sites, in crowded settings with increased risk to COVID-19.

Due to the reduced tension, the Government's emergency response has relatively increased compared to the initial phase of the conflict. An additional 195.3 tons of grain (maize/wheat), 25.2 tons of supplementary food and 160 plastic sheets are being distributed to the IDPs. Shelter/NFI, especially blankets and household utensils remain the priority gap. The Government's emergency support continues to be provided to IDPs in Derashe, including at least 130 tons of maize, 1,518 jerrycans and 151 plastic sheets. The Government is distributing 111.9 tons of wheat to 7,470 regular relief beneficiaries in Ale *woreda*. No other

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- The Ethiopia 2020 humanitarian appeal is 63 per cent funded, including \$187 million Government allocation

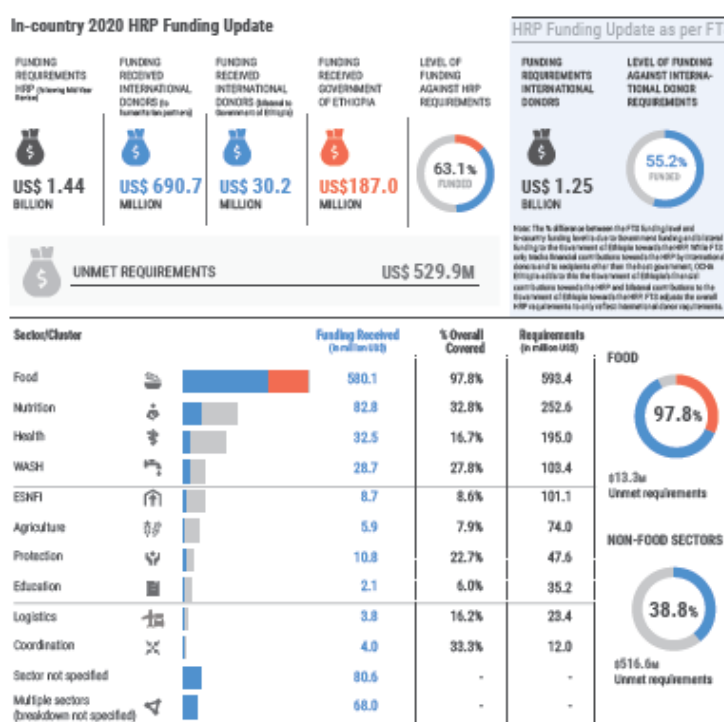
assistance is being delivered to IDPs in Ale where major response gaps include food, plastic sheet and blankets due to lack of resources. Overall, humanitarian assistances to the conflict IDPs in all areas is at 40-50 per-cent of the needs and insufficient.

HRP Funding Update as of 6 December 2020

The Ethiopia 2020 humanitarian appeal is 63 per cent funded, including \$187 million (13 per cent) Government allocation. Without urgent additional funding, needs will deepen, and women, children, the elderly, people with disabilities, and displaced people will be forced to resort to negative coping mechanisms, which will exacerbate their situation. Multiple clusters are facing pipeline breaks, which will have dire consequences for people in need of assistance and protection.

Meanwhile, resource mobilization around the Humanitarian Preparedness Plan (HRP) in response to the conflict in Tigray region is ongoing, while partners are moving forward with its implementation with available resources. The \$96.9 million plan targeting nearly 2 million people in Tigray, Amhara and Afar with life-saving assistance between November 2020 and January 2021 is only 20 per cent funded (\$21.9 million), leaving a gap of \$75.6 million, as of 11 December. The targeted population includes the existing humanitarian caseload of 850,000 people and an additional 1.1 million people projected to need emergency assistance as a result of the conflict. While additional in-house capacities is been mobilized, regional and international support is required, both in terms of technical and financial support to ensure effective and timely humanitarian assistance to the evolving humanitarian context in northern Ethiopia.

The Humanitarian Preparedness Pan and the annual Ethiopian Humanitarian Response Plan will be merged in 2021.



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