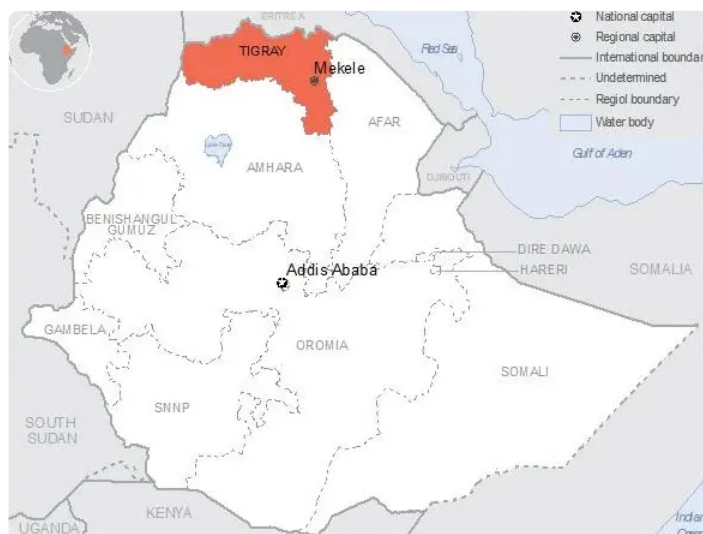


### HIGHLIGHTS (23 Dec 2020)

- Tigray Region's security situation remains volatile with reports of localized fighting between federal forces and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF).
- The Ethiopian Government has reported dispatching relief commodities to IDPs and refugees in Tigray Region.
- The first convoy with international aid arrived in Mekelle on 12 December, carrying drugs and supplies from the ICRC and the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS).
- WFP also delivered food for 35,000 refugees in Adi Harush and Mai Ayni camps on 21 December.
- Humanitarian partners have updated the Humanitarian Response Plan for Northern Ethiopia. The plan seeks \$116.5 million to address the immediate needs of about 2.3 million people.



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

### KEY FIGURES

**950,000**

People in need of aid before the conflict

**1.3M**

Projected additional people to need aid

**52,500**

Refugees in Sudan since 7 November

**\$63.4M**

Needed for Preparedness Plan

### FUNDING (2020)

**\$1.3B**

Required

**\$695.1M**

Received



**56%**  
Progress

FTS: <https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/936/summary>

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### BACKGROUND (23 Dec 2020)

#### SITUATION OVERVIEW

The security situation in areas recently affected by conflict in northern Ethiopia remains volatile with reports of localized fighting between federal forces and the Tigray People's Liberation Front, and affiliated militias on both sides. Humanitarian access is still limited, with the most affected people having received no assistance for the sixth week since the conflict

broke out. However, the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) has reported ongoing food assistance in parts of Tigray last week. At the same time, the first convoy of international aid organized by Ethiopian authorities, the Ethiopian Red Cross and ICRC arrived in Mekelle City on 12 December.

Similarly, on 20 December, the Director of the Agency for Refugees and Returnees Affair (ARRA) stated that emergency food supplies and other relief commodities were distributed to Eritrean refugees in Adi-Harush and Mai-Ayini camps in Tigray. The agency also informed that some 460 Eritrean refugees were so far safely returned from Addis Ababa back to the refugee camps in Tigray. IOM has called on States to ensure the protection of all civilians, including migrants and refugees in line with International Law and its Conventions, including the Principle of Non-Refoulement. In addition, ARRA stated that it is working to prevent irregular migration as the area is one of the major routes for human traffickers.

Meanwhile, two inter-agency assessment teams entered Tigray on 21 December following an official approval from the federal Government on Saturday, 19 December. One team is destined to Shire and another to Mekelle. The assessment is expected to be completed in one week. Humanitarians expect dire humanitarian situation in visited areas.

Humanitarian organizations continue to engage with the Government of Ethiopia and all relevant interlocutors for the safe passage of humanitarian personnel and supplies to all parts of Tigray Region and to reach people who need assistance in accordance with the globally agreed principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence.

OCHA together with the Logistic Cluster, agreed with the Ministry of Peace (MoP) and the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) on an Humanitarian Information Sharing Mechanism (HISM). The HISM 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 and the Logistics Cluster serve as the interlocutors between humanitarian organizations and the focal points assigned by NDRMC. This mechanism is without prejudice to Ethiopia's responsibility to uphold its obligations under national and international laws.

## ANALYSIS (23 Dec 2020)

### CROSS-BORDER IMPACT

Humanitarian actors in countries sharing border with northern Ethiopia remain concerned by the humanitarian situation in Tigray, with Sudan being the worst affected by the crisis.

According to the Sudanese Government Commissioner for Refugees (CoR) and UNHCR, new refugee arrivals from Ethiopia continue to cross the border into Sudan, albeit with a gradually reducing rate reaching 184 persons on 18 December compared to more than 4,000 per day at the peak of the conflict in early November. Overall, there are 52,500 registered refugees. UNHCR and partners have joined with the Government to provide life-saving assistance, including hot meals and dry food rations and other relief commodities to the refugees. COVID-19 surveillance and prevention measures are also put in place, including temperature screening at entry points and distribution of masks and soaps. There are no suspected cases so far.

Meanwhile, the Sudanese Organisation for Research and Development (SORD) and UNFPA have opened a sexual and reproductive health clinic in Village 8. Water, hygiene and sanitation and health services are extremely limited in all transit centres, as well as in Um Raquba settlement, where UNHCR



*An Ethiopian refugee collects blankets and mattresses at Hamdayet reception centre in Sudan. Since the violence began in early-November 2020 in Tigray, more than 52,500 people have fled into Sudan in search of safety, overwhelming the current capacity to provide aid. Photo: © UNHCR/Olivier Jobard*

has relocated some 14,603 refugees from Hamdayet, 1,012 from Abdrafi, 2,502 from Village 8, and 224 from Shagarab, to ensure safety away from the border with Sudan. The latest [UNHCR report](#) stated that “while refugees prefer to stay close to the border, authorities have communicated that the relocation from the area is a matter of priority. Ethiopian refugees in Sudan have expressed a desire to return home and rebuild their lives, but only when they can be assured of their safety and security, according to UNHCR. Often, after registration, refugees move away from the transit centre to be better positioned in case they can return to Ethiopia.”

The Refugee Working Group in East Sudan remains the main coordination forum for the emergency response, while the Refugee Consultation Forum provides coordination at the national level. On 22 December, UNHCR released a [Regional Refugee Preparedness and Response Plan for the Ethiopia Situation](#) (Tigray) covering the period November 2020 – June 2021. The Plan requires \$155.7 million to address the needs of 115,000 projected refugees by June 2021.

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE (23 Dec 2020)

### HUMANITARIAN PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Humanitarians in Ethiopia continue to mobilize resources and personnel, and prepare to scale up the assistance in Tigray and neighbouring Amhara and Tigray Regions.

The Ethiopian Government stated that the Government dispatched relief food and other humanitarian commodities to the Tigray region, including 44 truckloads of food assistance to Shire Town, 30 truckload of food supplies and three truckload of medical supplies to Mekelle. The federal Ministry of Health also delivered medical supplies to Mekelle's health facilities. This followed an earlier directive by the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) to dispatch emergency food assistance for people displaced in Western and Northern Tigray areas. The food is reportedly being mobilized from the Woreta and Kombolcha main warehouses.

Similarly, on 20 December, the Director of the Agency for Refugees and Returnees Affair (ARRA) stated that emergency food supplies and other relief commodities were distributed to Eritrean refugees in Adi-Harush and Mai-Ayini camps in Tigray, hosting 70 per cent of the refugee caseload in the region. The agency also informed that some 460 Eritrean refugees were so far safely returned from Addis Ababa back to the refugee camps in Tigray.

The first international aid to arrive in Mekelle since fighting erupted in Tigray more than one month ago, reached Mekelle on 12 December. The convoy carrying medicines and relief supplies from the [International Committee of the Red Cross](#) (ICRC) and the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS), was organized in coordination with the Ethiopian authorities. The supplies, which are enough to treat 400 trauma patients in Mekelle City, will be donated to Ayder Hospital, the regional Health Bureau, and the ERCS Pharmacy in Mekelle. Health-care facilities in the City have become paralyzed after supplies of drugs and basics like surgical gloves ran out. In addition, ICRC's team in Mekelle has been working on getting the hospital fuel to run its generator and water. The Red Cross convoy also brought blankets, tarpaulins, kitchen sets, clothes, soap and jerrycans that can help about 1,000 families forced from their homes by the fighting and equipment to improve access to water and sanitation.

ICRC teams are also in North Amhara and West Tigray, where they distribute relief items to displaced families and assess the humanitarian needs caused by the fighting. The ICRC has so far provided medicines and medical supplies to seven health-care facilities in Amhara that have received patients injured in fighting. In addition to medical supplies, the ICRC is working with hospitals to support the long-term physical rehabilitation needs of people who suffered amputations because of weapon-related injuries. The ICRC has an overall budget of CHF 27 million in Ethiopia, of which CHF 10 million has not been funded. Meanwhile, following the clearance received from the federal Government of Ethiopia on Saturday 19

December, two joint UN-NGO assessment teams departed to Tigray Region on 20 December. One team is destined to Shire, another to Mekelle. Both teams are led by OCHA and DSS, and will join an NDRMC-led technical team on the ground. The assessment is expected to be completed in one week.

WFP managed to deliver food for 35,000 refugees in Adi Harush and Mai Ayni camps on 21 December. Distribution is ongoing with support from ARRA. Government security support for the convoy was anticipated beyond Mai Tsebri but was ultimately not required. Meanwhile, the convoy to Hitsats and Shimelba refugee camps has returned due to insecurity.

There are growing concerns regarding the potential loss of the harvest inside Tigray, which was due to start when the conflict began. According to WFP, this could have major implications for food insecurity in the region, which had already been impacted by desert locusts and is in its annual lean season.

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) coordinates private resource response to displaced people along the Amhara-Tigray border, in partnership with the Catholic Diocese partners in the areas. Similarly, IOM has provided emergency shelter and non-food items, including blankets and jerry cans to IDPs from Tigray in northern Amhara Region. IOM also [reported](#) that "it has begun to deliver water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services, site management support and emergency health assistance. Needs assessments have been carried out in ten accessible districts in Afar and Amhara regions where IDPs are currently hosted."

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## COORDINATION (23 Dec 2020)

### REGULAR MEETINGS

The United Nations and partners continue to engage at the highest levels with the Government of Ethiopia to work out operational details, including security conditions, to guarantee access for humanitarian workers and supplies to respond to people affected by the conflict in Tigray.

The Government's National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) established four Incident Command Posts in north-west Ethiopia, including three in western Tigray Region and one in Gondar Town of Amhara Region, to coordinate humanitarian response to people affected by the conflict.

The Emergency Coordination Centres in Tigray, Amhara, and Afar Regions also conduct regular coordination meetings with humanitarian partners and regional bureau technical team. OCHA and humanitarian partners have pre-deployed personnel to key locations in Afar and Amhara to support coordination, as well as possible assessment and response missions in Tigray.

UNHCR and partners in Shire Town continue to coordinate protection delivery to the refugee camps, although humanitarian presence greatly depends on the evolving security situation.

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## TRENDS (23 Dec 2020)

### FUNDING UPDATE

Humanitarian partners in Ethiopia have updated the Humanitarian Response Plan for Northern Ethiopia. The plan seeks US\$116.5 million to address the immediate needs of an estimated 2.3 million people (1.3 million new caseloads due to the conflict and over 950,000 existing caseload, including refugees). The outstanding funding gap stands at \$63.4 million. The plan is for the duration until 31 January 2021.

On 27 November, IOM launched a [flash appeal](#) of \$22 million to contribute to collective preparedness efforts ahead of the humanitarian response to the conflict in Tigray.

On 22 December, UNHCR released a [Regional Refugee Preparedness and Response Plan for the Ethiopia Situation](#) (Tigray) covering the period November 2020 – June 2021. The Plan requires \$155.7 million to address the needs of 115,000 projected refugees by June 2021.

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*OCHA coordinates the global emergency response to save lives and protect people in humanitarian crises. We advocate for effective and principled humanitarian action by all, for all.*

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