

Following the expansion of the conflict into Amhara region, UNHCR has started to scale up its response to the internal displacement situation in the region under the leadership of the Principal Emergency Coordinator. This scale up includes the increase of staffing and presence in the region, with the main coordination hub in Bahir Dar and three response teams established for Bahir Dar, Gondar and Dessie, as well as strengthened coordination and partnerships. UNHCR activated the Protection Cluster in the region in October and supports the coordination of the Camp Management and Camp Coordination (CCCM) as well as the Emergency Shelter/Non-Food Item (ES/NFI) Clusters together with partners.

**Strengthened coordination and expanding partnerships**

- UNHCR activated the Protection Cluster for the Amhara region in mid-October and coordinates closely with the Bureau for Women and Children and Social Affairs (BoWCSA). Currently, the Cluster has 10 partners. The Cluster focuses on strategy development, expansion of partner presence to enhance operational capacity, and capacity building. UNHCR also supports the coordination of the CCCM and ES/NFI Clusters.
- UNHCR is expanding its partner network, notably for CRI and shelter distributions, protection activities as well as on CCCM. UNHCR is currently in the process of concluding the partnerships.

**Increased staffing and presence**

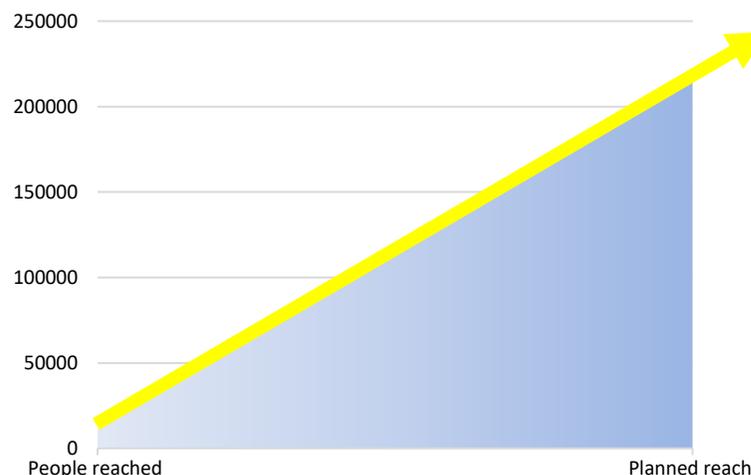
- A total of 38 staff are currently deployed to the Amhara region to support UNHCR's response scale up.
- UNHCR established its main coordination hub in the regional capital, Bahir Dar, led by the Principal Emergency Coordinator.
- Three response teams in Bahir Dar, Gondar and Dessie have been established to lead the multi-sectoral response in the respective operational areas.

**By October 2021, about 1 million people were newly internally displaced due to the expanding conflict. Among them are children, women, older people and persons with specific needs. The majority of those displaced live with the communities, while less than 10 per cent reportedly live in IDP sites, including public buildings, such as schools.**

While the humanitarian response was initially centred in Gondar zone, with the expansion of the conflict causing large-scale displacements in other parts of the region, the humanitarian response will now need to reach people in need across the vast region. Related to the ongoing conflict, humanitarian access to parts of the region, notably Wag Hamra zone, Dessie, Kombolcha and North Wello, remains constraint.

So far, UNHCR has assisted 1,797 families comprised of 4,628 individuals with core relief items (CRIs) in Debark, and has started the distribution of 5,000 CRI kits in Dessie and Kombolcha. Due to the unfolding conflict, the distribution had to be temporarily suspended with only 220 families supported thus far. UNHCR aims to resume this distribution as soon as the security situation permits. Currently, UNHCR supports over 1,000 displaced families living in schools in Debark with core relief and emergency shelter. UNHCR also started to build up its protection response, aiming at the establishment of 14 protection desks used as a flexible response modality to provide information and counselling, identify needs and make referrals to available protection services.

**Amhara scale up: Planned reach by end of 2021**



**Ongoing and planned scale up: November and December 2021**

**In the remainder of 2021, UNHCR is determined to further scale up its response with the aim to reach over 200,000 people in need with protection services, core relief items and shelter support by the end of the year.**

**Key activities planned for November and December include:**

- Conduct Rapid Protection Assessments in new areas of displacement and participate in inter-agency missions.
- In coordination with the clusters, distribute 30,000 CRI kits for 150,000 internally displaced people and the most vulnerable members of the host community in South Gondar, Debre Birhan, North Gondar (Debark and Dabat), West Gojjam and East Gojjam as well as South Wello (Dessie and Kombolcha).
- Establish up to 14 protection desks in selected zones and capacitate social workers to provide counselling, identification of specific and protection needs and to make referrals from these desks.
- Support IDPs hosted in schools with 7,500 emergency shelter kits where possible, in support of a safe and dignified relocation. Implement cash based interventions for targeted IDPs
- Strengthen community representation structures and support in the delivery of CCCM activities.
- Expand the overall protection response with additional partners coming on board.