

# Ethiopia – Northern Ethiopia Crisis

JULY 1, 2022

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Lack of fuel continues to constrain the humanitarian response across northern Ethiopia. In Tigray, relief actors have been unable to dispatch the necessary amount of aid from warehouses in the region’s capital city of Mekele to areas of the region with acute needs. Moreover, concerns over fuel resulted in the closure of Mekele’s airport from June 22 to June 30.
- Despite a decline in active fighting in northern Ethiopia since early 2022, conflict-related displacement continues to occur across Afar, Amhara, and Tigray.
- Conflict-related damage to health, nutrition, and WASH infrastructure and services, as well as inadequate rainfall and lack of access to food, have led to heightened levels of wasting in Afar in recent months.



<b>TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING</b> For the Northern Ethiopia Crisis Response in FY 2022	USAID/BHA <sup>1</sup>	\$589,957,775 <sup>2</sup>
	State/PRM <sup>3</sup>	\$26,300,000 <sup>4</sup>
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$616,257,775</b>

*For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 7.*

<sup>1</sup> USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)  
<sup>2</sup> Total value of food assistance and associated costs adjusted from estimated to actual values.  
<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM).  
<sup>4</sup> Funding in this fact sheet includes assistance to refugees residing in Tigray, which is also reported in the U.S. Government (USG) Ethiopia fact sheet as part of the Ethiopia Complex Emergency.

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### Lack of Fuel Complicates Recent Progress in Tigray

A countrywide fuel shortage compounding restrictions on fuel transport into Tigray continues to inhibit relief actors' ability to provide life-saving humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations in Tigray Region. Although nearly 3,000 trucks carrying more than 120,000 metric tons (MT) of multi-sector assistance arrived in Tigray's capital city of Mekele between April 1 and June 21, relief actors currently lack sufficient fuel to dispatch commodities from warehouses in the capital to areas of the region experiencing the most urgent needs. While the UN estimates that approximately 2 million liters of fuel are required for humanitarian operations in Tigray on a monthly basis, only 23 tankers carrying 990,000 liters of fuel arrived in Mekele via overland convoys between April and mid-June. These estimated fuel needs recently increased from 1.3 million liters of fuel a month to support efforts by USAID/BHA partner the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to supply farmers in Tigray with agricultural inputs—mainly fertilizer and seeds—to participate in the ongoing June-to-August *meher* planting season. As of June 22, FAO and its implementing partners were working to deliver more than 60,000 MT of fertilizer and seeds available to farmers in Tigray.

Moreover, regional authorities in Tigray closed Mekele's airport between June 22 and June 30, citing inadequate fuel to support airport operations, international media reports. The airport closure has resulted in the temporary suspension of both cargo and passenger flights operated by the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) during that period. UNHAS flights are also the only option humanitarian organizations have for staff travel to and the transport of cash necessary to sustain operations into the region while commercial banking remains closed. Relief actors are subsequently working with regional authorities to ensure the airport remains open long-term to support the humanitarian response.

### Displacement Continues Despite Decline in Active Conflict

Conflict-related displacement persists in northern Ethiopia, particularly in Tigray, despite a decline in active fighting in the area since early 2022. Between June 11 and 17, conflict led to the primary or secondary displacement of nearly 11,500 people across Afar, Amhara, and Tigray regions, with a majority of new displacement occurring in Tigray's North Western and Western zones, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). IOM continues to report heightened needs for emergency food and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance among displaced populations across northern Ethiopia. Although some internally displaced persons (IDPs) have begun returning to their areas of origin in recent weeks amid improved security conditions, the UN notes that recent returnees continue to face protection risks and limited access to food and basic services in many areas, particularly due to widespread damage to critical infrastructure during the conflict.

### Conflict and Drought Contribute to Heightened Malnutrition in Afar

Poor agricultural production and livestock conditions linked to insufficient rainfall during the February-to-June *belg* rainy season, coupled with conflict-related destruction and looting of critical health and WASH infrastructure, has led to a lack of access to food and heightened rates of wasting in Afar in recent months, the UN reports. As of May 2022, all 33 of Afar's *woredas*, or districts, had been negatively impacted by drought. In addition, the number of children requiring treatment for severe wasting—a life-threatening form of malnutrition—was more than 30 percent above five-year average levels at the regional level in March, while admissions to supplemental feeding programs were nearly 30 percent above average levels as of April. Displaced populations continue to be among the worst-affected by growing wasting rates, with relief actors recording rates of global acute malnutrition among children at the region's Afdera, Harsuma, Guyah and Dirma IDP sites that exceeded the 15 percent emergency

threshold. Admissions for supplemental feeding programs in the region also increased by nearly 30 percent above five-year average levels as of May. The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) has scaled up nutrition interventions across the region and recently reopened ten stabilization centers near Afar's capital city of Semera to respond to the uptick in severe wasting cases.

## KEY FIGURES



**2.7 Million**

Crisis-affected people reached with food assistance by in northern Ethiopia in May



**101,000**

Children treated for severe acute malnutrition in northern Ethiopia by UNICEF during 2021

## U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

### FOOD SECURITY

In response to acute food needs across northern Ethiopia, USAID/BHA is supporting the Catholic Relief Services (CRS)-led Joint Emergency Operation (JEOP) consortium of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), as well as the UN World Food Program (WFP), which operates with the support of other humanitarian partners, to provide emergency food assistance—including commodities such as U.S.-sourced cereals, pulses, and vegetable oil—to vulnerable populations in Afar, Amhara, and Tigray. WFP completed its most recent round of assistance in Afar and Amhara in mid-May, reaching more than 630,000 people in Afar and an estimated 650,000 people in Amhara with in-kind food assistance. WFP's most recent round of assistance for both Afar and Amhara commenced in mid-June and plans to again reach more than 630,000 people in Afar and an estimated 650,000 people in Amhara with in-kind food assistance. In Tigray, the JEOP consortium and WFP have reached more than 3.5 million people with food assistance in 2022 to date amid severe operational constraints, having curtailed operations due to supply shortages in late 2021.

### NUTRITION

USAID/BHA supports 10 partners in their efforts to prevent and treat malnutrition across conflict-affected areas of northern Ethiopia. Using a community-based approach, USAID/BHA partners promote recommended infant and young child feeding practices through one-on-one counseling and group education sessions to improve nutrition outcomes. UNICEF and other USAID/BHA partners are also working to strengthen fixed-location health facilities and support 30 mobile health and nutrition teams (MHNTs), providing essential medical services to approximately 48,000 IDPs and host community members across northern Ethiopia during April. In Afar and Amhara, UNICEF and USAID/BHA NGO partners are providing specialized treatment for malnutrition in children ages five years and younger and conducting infant and young child feeding counseling at community levels, in May screening nearly 191,000 children in Tigray and identifying nearly 21,000 cases of moderate acute malnutrition and nearly 4,000 cases of severe wasting during the month. Also in May, USAID/BHA provided more than 2,600 cartons of ready-to-use therapeutic food to increase access to supplies in Tigray. Additionally, UNICEF nutrition teams screened more than 930,000 children, finding an estimated 12,400 cases of severe wasting, in Amhara during the month.



**360,000**

IDPs in Afar, Amhara, and Tigray reached with medical consultations since November 2020

## HEALTH

The USG supports 12 partners providing critical health care services in northern Ethiopia through community health facilities and mobile health units. USAID/BHA partners have supported integrated MHNTs throughout Afar, Amhara, and Tigray, which provide critically needed health and nutrition services to remote and hard-to-reach areas, though the number of MHNTs active in Tigray has been reduced significantly due to lack of supplies and fuel. MHNTs serve an essential function in areas where most health facilities have been damaged and looted and where ongoing insecurity continues to impede crisis-affected populations' access to health services. USAID/BHA partner International Medical Corps (IMC) has provided outpatient consultation to more than 360,000 IDPs across Afar, Amhara, and Tigray through the operation of more than 22 MHNTs since the beginning of the response. With State/PRM support, an implementing partner has distributed essential medicines and other medical supplies to violence-affected health facilities in Tigray, as well as in Afar and northern Amhara. Additionally, State/PRM supports the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to provide health assistance to refugees in Tigray, including those sheltering in Adi Harush and Mai Aini camps.



**11**

USG-supported partners providing dedicated protection services in Afar, Amhara, and Tigray

## PROTECTION

In response to protection needs resulting from the crisis in northern Ethiopia, the USG supports 11 partner organizations conducting protection programs as humanitarian access and security conditions permit. Partners are expanding gender-based violence (GBV) case management support, training social workers and community-based case workers, providing dignity kits—which contain items to address the specific needs of women and girls—to GBV survivors, and establishing child-friendly spaces, among other activities. In addition, State/PRM supports UNHCR and another implementing partner to provide protection and other multi-sector assistance to crisis-affected refugees and IDPs. With State/PRM support, UNHCR has scaled up protection services in Tigray's Mai Ani and Adi Harush refugee sites, as well as in Amhara's Dabat town, where the UN agency is working with regional authorities to develop a new camp to host crisis-affected refugees.



**43,000**

People reached with IOM shelter assistance across seven sites in Afar during May

## SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

USAID/BHA supports crisis-affected populations in Afar, Amhara, and Tigray through implementing partners CRS, IOM, Samaritan's Purse, and World Vision. IOM had reached more than 14,000 crisis-affected individuals across four IDP sites in Amhara and nearly 43,000 IDPs across seven IDP sites in Afar with emergency shelter assistance and life-saving relief commodities during May. Partners are also distributing relief commodity kits—which include bed mats, blankets, and wash basins—to recently displaced individuals, among other activities. In addition, State/PRM supports UNHCR

to provide shelter assistance to refugees and IDPs in Tigray.



**187,000**

People in Afar, Amhara, and Tigray reached with safe drinking water during May

## **WASH**

USAID/BHA and State/PRM partners are distributing WASH supplies and other relief commodities to crisis-affected and displaced populations in northern Ethiopia, as well as delivering equipment to support the rehabilitation of WASH infrastructure damaged during the crisis, constructing or rehabilitating water supply systems, and providing handwashing facilities and sanitation services in IDP sites and health facilities. USAID/BHA partner UNICEF provided safe drinking water through water trucking to an estimated 187,000 people in Afar, Amhara, and Tigray during May. Moreover, with USAID/BHA support, UNICEF conducted hygiene promotion and community engagement sessions on WASH-related diseases to an estimated 22,000 people in IDP camps in Mekele and Tigray's Central, Eastern, and North Western zones throughout May.



**\$34.7  
Million**

In dedicated USAID/BHA logistics support

## **LOGISTICS SUPPORT AND RELIEF COMMODITIES**

USAID/BHA and State/PRM partners are providing essential logistics support for the humanitarian response in Afar, Amhara, and Tigray. With USAID/BHA support, WFP is providing critical coordination and logistics services, including critical transportation and storage of life-saving commodities, to the humanitarian community through the Logistics Cluster, the coordinating body for humanitarian logistics activities comprising UN agencies and NGOs. Since December 2021, the Logistic Cluster has transported an estimated 785 MT of humanitarian supplies to Tigray on UNHAS cargo flights.

## CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Following weeks of escalating tensions between regional and federal authorities, clashes erupted between the Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF) and the Ethiopia National Defense Forces (ENDF) in several locations across Tigray on November 4, 2020. Although the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) declared victory on November 28, clashes continued. After a sharp escalation in fighting in late June 2021, the GoE declared a unilateral ceasefire, ENDF elements withdrew from Tigray, and the TPLF gained control of much of the region as the conflict expanded to neighboring Afar and Amhara. On November 2, 2021, the GoE declared a nationwide state of emergency in response to renewed and spreading hostilities; the Ethiopian parliament voted to lift the state of emergency on February 14, 2022. ENDF elements regained control of parts Afar and Amhara following the withdrawal of TPLF elements on December 20. On March 24, the GoE declared, and the TPLF agreed to, a humanitarian truce.
- Security conditions remain volatile, with conflict continuing to threaten populations in affected areas of Afar, Amhara, and Tigray, including displacing individuals within Ethiopia and into adjacent areas of eastern Sudan.
- On November 18, 2021, then-U.S. Ambassador to Ethiopia Geeta Pasi redeclared a disaster for Ethiopia for FY 2022 due to the continued humanitarian needs resulting from the complex emergency—including the entrenched armed conflict in northern Ethiopia—and the impact of climate, conflict, food insecurity, and health shocks on vulnerable populations across the country.
- On March 1, 2021, USAID activated a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to lead USAID humanitarian response efforts to the crisis in northern Ethiopia. USAID also stood up a Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team to support the DART.

### USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE NORTHERN ETHIOPIA CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2022<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
Action Against Hunger (AAH)	Health, Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA), Nutrition, WASH	Amhara, Tigray	\$3,000,000
Alight	Protection, WASH	Tigray	\$1,500,000
CARE	Agriculture, Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS)	Amhara, Tigray	\$4,000,763
The Center for Victims of Torture (CVT)	Protection	Tigray	\$2,500,000
Concern	Health, Nutrition, Shelter and Settlements	Amhara, Tigray	\$864,449
CRS	Food Assistance – 163,380 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Amhara, Tigray	\$329,787,609
	Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Tigray	\$4,000,000
FAO	Agriculture	Tigray	\$32,000,000
FHI 360	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$7,500,000
GOAL	Health, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$4,000,000

IMC	Health, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$5,500,000
iMMAP	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA)	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$999,674
IOM	Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$7,000,000
IRC	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Amhara, Tigray	\$4,000,000
Mercy Corps	Agriculture, MPCA, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Afar	\$3,051,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$2,000,000
Organization for Rehabilitation and Development in Amhara (ORDA)	WASH	Amhara	\$500,000
Plan USA	Protection	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$5,049,999
Samaritan's Purse	Health, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Amhara, Tigray	\$5,491,527
Save the Children (SCF)	Health, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$6,000,000
UNICEF	Nutrition—940 MT of U.S. In-Kind Specialized Nutrition Products	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$6,999,999
WFP	Food Assistance—16,291 MT of local, regional, and international procurement (LRIP), Logistics, Nutrition	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$30,000,000
	Logistics	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$18,500,000
	Food Assistance—55,240 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Aid, Nutrition	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$95,528,476
World Vision	Health, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$2,800,000
ZOA	Agriculture, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Amhara, Tigray	\$3,200,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$589,957,775</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
Implementing Partner	Multi-Sector Assistance	Tigray	\$6,400,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Tigray	\$19,900,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$26,300,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE NORTHERN ETHIOPIA RESPONSE IN FY 2022<sup>2</sup></b>			<b>\$616,257,775</b>
<b>USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE NORTHERN ETHIOPIA CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2021</b>			
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$473,410,249</b>
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$57,120,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE NORTHERN ETHIOPIA RESPONSE IN FY 2021<sup>2</sup></b>			<b>\$530,530,249</b>
<b>USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE NORTHERN ETHIOPIA CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2020</b>			
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$99,200,908</b>
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$7,325,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE NORTHERN ETHIOPIA RESPONSE IN FY 2020<sup>3,4</sup></b>			<b>\$106,525,908</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE NORTHERN ETHIOPIA RESPONSE IN FY 2020-2022<sup>5</sup></b>			<b>\$1,253,313,932</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of April 26, 2022.

<sup>2</sup> Estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

<sup>3</sup> USAID/BHA FY 2020 funding includes emergency food assistance from the former Office of Food for Peace and non-food humanitarian assistance from the former Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance.

<sup>4</sup> This total represents funding previously reported on the USG Ethiopia FY 2020 Fact Sheet #4 and East Africa FY 2020 Development & Disaster Risk Reduction Fact Sheet, both dated September 30, 2020. This funding was redirected to address new humanitarian needs stemming from the conflict in Tigray.

<sup>5</sup> This total includes \$326,361 in FY 2020 supplemental funding through USAID/BHA for COVID-19 preparedness and response activities and \$2,425,000 in FY 2020 COVID-19 supplemental funding through State/PRM. This total also includes \$3,310,000 from State/PRM in FY 2021 American Rescue Plan Act Migration and Refugee Assistance funding to respond to COVID-19.

<sup>6</sup> In FY 2021, State/PRM provided \$45,388,900 toward the northern Ethiopia response in the Horn of Africa region, bringing the total U.S. Government (USG) funding for FY 2021-FY 2022 to more than \$915 million. A portion of this funding is also reported in the USG Sudan fact sheet.

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## PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [interaction.org](https://www.interaction.org).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [cidi.org](https://www.cidi.org)
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://www.reliefweb.int).

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)