

Ethiopia – Tigray Crisis

JULY 30, 2021

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

6 MILLION Estimated Population of Tigray GoE – 2017	5.2 MILLION People in Tigray Requiring Humanitarian Assistance UN – May 2021	2 MILLION People Displaced by the Crisis Within Tigray UN – May 2020	46,500 Refugees from Tigray Arriving in Eastern Sudan Since November UNHCR – June 2021
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- On June 28, following escalated clashes with TPLF-aligned forces, the GoE declared a unilateral ceasefire and withdrew ENDF elements from northern Ethiopia’s Tigray Region. Since then, impediments to humanitarian access into Tigray have resulted in a de facto blockade of the region, with relief actors unable to move critical humanitarian cargo into the region.
- Essential services such as banking, electricity, and telecommunications in Tigray also remain obstructed.
- On July 30, the USG announced \$149 million in additional funding to respond to the crisis; the USG continues to lead advocacy efforts to increase humanitarian access and scale up the response.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Tigray Crisis Response in FY 2021 and FY 2020	USAID/BHA ^{1,2}	\$551,997,281
	State/PRM ³	\$41,345,000 ⁴
	Total	\$593,342,281⁵

¹ USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)
² 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.
³ U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM). In addition, State/PRM provided \$43,288,900 toward the Tigray response in the region, bringing the total U.S. Government (USG) funding to nearly \$637 million.
⁴ Funding in this fact sheet includes assistance to refugees residing in Tigray, which is also reported in the USG Ethiopia fact sheet as part of the Ethiopia Complex Emergency.
⁵ This total includes \$326,361 in FY 2020 supplemental funding through USAID/BHA for coronavirus disease (COVID-19) preparedness and response activities.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

USG Announces \$149 Million in New Humanitarian Funding for Tigray

On July 30, the USG announced more than \$149 million in additional humanitarian funding to respond to the critical needs of populations affected by the crisis in Tigray, comprising nearly \$105.4 million from USAID/BHA and approximately \$43.7 million in State/PRM funding, including regional support. This assistance will address food insecurity and wasting—the deadliest form of malnutrition—by providing more than 172,000 metric tons (MT) of food, sufficient to feed 5 million people for nearly two months. The new funding also includes dedicated support for protection services, including case management for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV); training for social workers, medical staff, and community case workers; and safe spaces and psychosocial support for children affected by the crisis. Finally, the assistance will enable USAID/BHA and State/PRM partners to program additional health and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) support, critically needed to repair damaged or destroyed facilities and infrastructure and restore critical services.

USG humanitarian partners are operating under dire conditions in Tigray; significantly limited banking services have constricted the amount of cash available in the region, while access to electricity, fuel, and telecommunications equipment remains severely constrained. Fuel shortages are impeding aid organizations' ability to deliver humanitarian assistance and also affecting hospitals and water systems that rely on fuel-run generators for water and power needs. In spite of these challenges, USG partners are working to deliver humanitarian assistance to vulnerable people in Tigray; USAID/BHA partners have reached an estimated 4.8 million people with emergency food assistance to date. The USG continues to coordinate with other donors and relief actors to advocate for the unimpeded, principled, and sustained delivery of humanitarian assistance in Tigray.

The USG supports 22 partner organizations actively providing humanitarian assistance to populations affected by the crisis in Tigray in Ethiopia and neighboring countries. USG assistance for the crisis totals nearly \$637 million since November 2020, including more than \$593 million for dedicated support in Tigray and nearby regions of Ethiopia, as well as more than \$43 million in neighboring countries, making the USG the largest humanitarian donor to the response.

Humanitarian Access to Tigray Blocked, Critical Services Cut Off

Following intensified hostilities in Tigray in late June, the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) declared a unilateral ceasefire on June 28 and Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF) elements withdrew from the region, with Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF)-aligned forces gaining control over much of the region. Withdrawing ENDF soldiers forcibly entered UN World Food Program (WFP) and UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) offices in Tigray's regional capital city of Mekele and dismantled telecommunications equipment belonging to the UN agencies, eliminating two critical sources of internet access for humanitarian actors in the city, according to the UN. The office breaches and destruction of telecommunications equipment have severely limited communication and coordination capabilities of humanitarian actors and inhibited their ability to ensure the safety and security of relief personnel in Tigray and monitor the evolving humanitarian situation within the region. Since ENDF troops departed Tigray, banking, electricity, mobile internet, and phone services have remained largely cut off.

Furthermore, armed actors damaged or destroyed three bridges along key roads into Tigray's North Western Zone during the week of June 28, severing primary supply routes into Tigray and impeding relief actors' efforts to transport food and other critical relief commodities to areas with populations already facing Catastrophe—IPC 5—levels of acute food insecurity, according to the UN and a June

2021 IPC report.⁶ Additional key portions of these and other humanitarian routes overland into Tigray are inaccessible due to insecurity and blockages by armed actors. Road access to Tigray remains almost entirely restricted as of July 30, with only one route through Afar Region into Tigray potentially available to humanitarian convoys, significantly inhibiting the ability of humanitarian organizations to transport life-saving food and relief supplies into the region, the UN reports.

On July 12, the first major humanitarian convoy since late June reached Mekele, with 50 trucks delivering approximately 900 metric tons (MT) of food, along with fuel and other emergency supplies, according to WFP. However, on July 18, a second humanitarian convoy en route to Tigray from Afar's regional capital of Semera was attacked and partially looted by unidentified armed actors approximately 36 miles outside of the city, resulting in the temporary suspension of cargo movement along the sole land route into Tigray. As of July 30, three additional convoys with nearly 240 vehicles total had received required regional and federal permissions and departed Semera for Mekele; however, supplies in the convoys are sufficient to cover only a fraction of humanitarian needs, according to the UN. Meanwhile, food and relief supplies in Tigray are rapidly depleting, while limited cash and fuel availability have already forced relief actors to scale down operations significantly. WFP had estimated in early July that 100 trucks must move into Tigray each day to meet critical humanitarian needs.

While movement within Tigray was restricted prior to the escalation of violence in late June, humanitarian actors did not face significant constraints on personnel or supply entry into the region and commercial air access to Tigray was safe and reliable. The suspension of commercial air travel following the GoE declaration of a unilateral ceasefire in late June has resulted in the need for UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) flights to the region to facilitate the movements of humanitarian staff; the first UNHAS passenger flight travelled from Ethiopia's capital city of Addis Ababa to Mekele on July 22. UNHAS plans to conduct twice-weekly round-trip flights to Tigray, but has thus far faced delays due to extensive searches and uneven restrictions.

The USG continues to call on relevant authorities to grant required permissions for convoys transporting life-saving humanitarian aid to enter Tigray, noting that current restrictions on critical humanitarian supplies and enabling services amount to a de facto blockade of the region.

Eritrean Refugees At Risk as Violence Increases

Approximately 24,000 Eritrean refugees in Mai Aini and Adi Harush camps in North Western Zone near May Tsebri town are cut off from humanitarian assistance; the UN lost access to the two camps in mid-July due to increased insecurity in the area, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The last food distributions conducted in the camps occurred in late June, sufficient to meet food needs for one month, and refugees in the camps lack access to medical services or adequate clean drinking water.

Eritrean refugees in Mai Aini and Adi Harush are being subjected to increased violence and insecurity as a result of their nationality, according to UNHCR, with the UN agency citing credible reports of at least two Eritrean refugee deaths, as well as abductions, arrests, beatings, detentions, gunfire, and looting in and around the camps.

⁶ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a multi-partner initiative that developed a standardized scale to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries and time, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5—for acute food insecurity. A Famine—IPC 5—classification applies to a wider geographical location, while the term classification of Catastrophe—also IPC 5—refers to a household. A household in Catastrophe has an extreme lack of food at the household level even with full employment of coping strategies. Famine is determined when more than 20 percent of households in an area are experiencing Catastrophe, when global acute malnutrition levels exceed 30 percent, and when the crude mortality rate exceeds two people per 10,000 persons per day.

KEY FIGURES



4.8 Million

People in Tigray reached with USG emergency food assistance via the JEOP and WFP to date



251,000

Children screened for wasting by UNICEF since February



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MHNTs operating in Tigray with USAID/BHA support

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

In response to acute food needs across Tigray, USAID/BHA is supporting the Catholic Relief Services (CRS)-led Joint Emergency Operation (JEOP), as well as WFP and other humanitarian partners, to provide emergency food assistance—including commodities such as U.S.-sourced cereals, pulses, and vegetable oil—to vulnerable people in the region. Combined, the JEOP and WFP had reached nearly 4.8 million people across Mekele and five of Tigray's six zones with food rations from late 2020 to mid-July 2021. The JEOP caseload in Tigray includes clients of the Productive Safety Net Program, a GoE social protection program targeting food-insecure households.

NUTRITION

With nearly \$24 million in FY 2021 funding, USAID/BHA supports 10 partners in their efforts to prevent and treat malnutrition across Tigray. 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 manage wasting. Additionally, with FY 2020 funding, USAID/BHA partner UNICEF is distributing nutrition commodities—including High Energy Biscuits and ready-to-use therapeutic foods—to crisis-affected populations in Tigray. UNICEF and other partners are working to strengthen fixed-location health facilities and operating mobile health and nutrition teams (MHNTs), screening more than 251,000 children for wasting and admitting more than 7,100 children with severe wasting—a life-threatening form of malnutrition—for treatment between February and May.

HEALTH

The USG supports 13 partners providing critical health care services in Tigray through community health facilities and mobile health units. Nine USAID/BHA partners are supporting more than 50 integrated MHNTs throughout the region, which provide critically needed health and nutrition services to remote and hard-to-reach areas. MHNTs serve an essential function in a region where the majority of health facilities have been damaged and looted and where ongoing insecurity continues to impede crisis-affected populations' access to health services. Additionally, partners are providing urgently required medical supplies, pharmaceuticals, and personal protective equipment throughout the region, and are supporting the operations and rehabilitation of more than 300 health facilities. To mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on populations in Tigray, USAID/BHA partners are training local health care workers in infection prevention and control methods and strengthening community health coordination. With State/PRM support, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has distributed essential medicines and other medical supplies to violence-affected health facilities in Tigray, as well as in northern

Amhara Region, and has also supported people displaced by the crisis in Tigray. Additionally, State/PRM supports UNHCR to provide health assistance to refugees in Tigray, including those sheltering in Adi Harush and Mai Aini camps.



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USG-supported partners providing dedicated protection services

PROTECTION

In response to protection needs resulting from the crisis in Tigray, the USG supports 12 partner organizations conducting protection programs as humanitarian access and security conditions permit. Partners are expanding GBV case management support in the region, 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. For example, Plan USA is scaling up its protection services in North Western Zone’s Shire town, South Eastern Zone’s Enderta town, Central Zones’s Adwa and Axum towns, and Mekele to facilitate psychosocial support and recreational activities in five child-friendly spaces for 9,000 children and adolescents, provide comprehensive child protection case management services, and distribute dignity kits for 7,500 adolescent girls. In addition, State/PRM supports ICRC and UNHCR to provide protection and other multi-sector assistance to crisis-affected refugees and IDPs.



1,500

Rolls of heavy-duty plastic sheeting airlifted by USAID/BHA in coordination with IOM to Ethiopia to support needs in Tigray

SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

With more than \$14 million in FY 2021 dedicated to shelter and settlements assistance, USAID/BHA supports crisis-affected populations in Tigray through implementing partners CRS, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Samaritan’s Purse, and World Vision, as well as the IOM Rapid Response Fund. USAID/BHA, in coordination with IOM, airlifted 1,500 rolls of heavy-duty plastic sheeting to Ethiopia in April, sufficient to support the shelter needs of more than 18,000 crisis-affected individuals. 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.



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IDP sites in Mekele reached by FHI 360 with WASH assistance

WASH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM partners are distributing WASH supplies and other relief commodities to crisis-affected and displaced populations in Tigray, 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 in IDP sites and health facilities. USAID/BHA partner FHI 360 is providing latrine cleaning materials and conducting hygiene promotion trainings at IDP sites in Eastern Zone’s Adigrat town and in Mekele, and conducting water trucking at three sites in Mekele.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Following weeks of escalating tensions between regional and federal authorities, clashes erupted between the TPLF and the ENDF in several locations across Tigray on November 4, 2020. Although the GoE declared victory 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.
- Security conditions remain volatile, with active conflict continuing to endanger populations in affected areas of Tigray and neighboring regions, including displacing individuals within Ethiopia and into adjacent areas of eastern Sudan.
- On November 17, 2020, Michael A. Raynor—U.S. Ambassador to Ethiopia until January 2021—redeclared a disaster for Ethiopia for FY 2021 due to the continued humanitarian needs resulting from the complex emergency—including the conflict in Tigray—and the impact of ongoing climate, conflict, food insecurity, and health shocks on vulnerable populations. Separately, on October 16, 2020, Ambassador Raynor redeclared a disaster for Ethiopia due to the sustained widespread impacts of desert locust infestations in the country.
- On March 1, 2021, USAID activated a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to lead USG humanitarian response efforts to the crisis in Tigray. USAID also stood up a Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team to support the DART.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE TIGRAY CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2021^{1,2}

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
American Refugee Committee (ARC)	Protection	Mekele, Eastern, Central, North Western zones	\$1,500,000
CARE	Agriculture	Eastern, South Eastern, Southern zones	\$9,175,461
CONCERN	Health, Nutrition	South Eastern Zone	\$800,000
CRS	Food Assistance—328,820 MT of U.S. In Kind Food Aid	Mekele, Central, Eastern, North Western, South Eastern, Southern zones	\$276,863,088
	Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Central, Eastern zones	\$5,000,000
FHI 360	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Central, Eastern, North Western zones	\$5,999,048
GOAL	Health, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Mekele, Central, Eastern, South Eastern zones; Afar Region	\$3,000,000
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Central, North Western zones	\$4,000,000
iMMAP	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA)	Tigray-wide	\$87,480
IOM	Shelter and Settlements	Tigray-wide	\$8,000,000
IRC	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	North Western Zone	\$4,860,000
OCHA	HCIMA	Mekele, North Western Zone	\$1,300,000
Plan USA	Protection	Mekele, Central, North Western, South Eastern zones	\$1,800,000
Relief Society of Tigray (REST)	Food Assistance—Transportation	Mekele, Central, Eastern, North Western, South Eastern, Southern zones	\$570,000
Samaritan's Purse	Health, Nutrition, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	North Western Zone	\$5,000,000
Save the Children Federation (SCF)	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Central, Eastern, North Western zones	\$5,000,000

UNICEF	Health Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Tigray-wide, Afar, Amhara regions	\$9,893,876
UN Population Fund (UNFPA)	Health, Protection	Mekele, Central, Eastern, North Western, Southern zones	\$1,637,521
UN World Health Organization (WHO)	Health, HCIMA	Tigray-wide, Afar, Amhara regions	\$1,316,955
WFP	Food Assistance—91,049 MT of Local, Regional, and International Procurement (LRIP)	North Western, Southern zones	\$100,000,000
	Nutrition, Logistics Support	Tigray-wide	
World Vision	Health, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Mekele, Eastern, North Western, South Eastern zones	\$5,131,897
	Airlifted Relief Commodities		\$1,103,766
	Program Support		\$757,281
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$452,796,373
STATE/PRM			
ICRC	Multi-Sector Assistance	Tigray-wide	\$8,740,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Tigray-wide	\$32,605,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$41,345,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE TIGRAY CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$494,141,373

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE TIGRAY CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2020

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
CRS	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, 33,690 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Mekele, Eastern, North Western zones	\$68,000,000
	Health, WASH	Tigray-wide	\$215,250
Ethiopian Red Cross Society	Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Western Zone	\$695,341
iMMAP	HCIMA	Mekele, North Western zones	\$218,112
IOM	Shelter and Settlements	Mekele, Central, North Western zones	\$1,118,911
	Protection, WASH	North Western Zone	\$604,492
IRC	Food Assistance—1,159 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	East, Mekele, South Eastern zones	\$2,019,312
Pathfinder International	Health	North Western, Western zones	\$111,111
REST	Agriculture, Food Assistance—51,770 MT of U.S. In Kind Food Aid, Health, Nutrition, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Central, Eastern, South Eastern, Southern zones	\$17,838,987
UNICEF	Nutrition	Tigray-wide	\$379,392
WFP	Food Assistance—LRIP	North Western Zone	\$8,000,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$99,200,908
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE TIGRAY CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2020³			\$99,200,908
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE TIGRAY CRISIS RESPONSE IN FYs 2020–2021			\$593,342,281

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of July 30, 2021.

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

³ 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.

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)