

# Ethiopia – Tigray Crisis

SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<p><b>6</b> MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Population of Tigray</p> <p><i>GoE – 2017</i></p>	<p><b>5.2</b> MILLION</p> <p>People in Tigray Requiring Humanitarian Assistance</p> <p><i>UN – May 2021</i></p>	<p><b>2.1</b> MILLION</p> <p>People Displaced by the Crisis Across Northern Ethiopia</p> <p><i>IOM – August 2021</i></p>	<p><b>48,500</b></p> <p>Refugees from Tigray Arriving in Eastern Sudan Since November 2020</p> <p><i>UNHCR – September 2021</i></p>
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- Following the expansion of hostilities from Ethiopia’s Tigray Region to neighboring Afar and Amhara regions, humanitarian needs across northern Ethiopia continue to increase rapidly.
- Less than 10 percent of the number of trucks of humanitarian cargo needed to sustain life-saving relief operations have arrived in Tigray since July, as medicines and fuel are blocked from entering the region and cash needed to sustain the response is heavily restricted, the UN reports.



<b>TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING</b> For the Tigray Crisis Response in FY 2021 and FY 2020	USAID/BHA <sup>1,2</sup>	\$560,592,662
	State/PRM <sup>3</sup>	\$56,795,000 <sup>4</sup>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$617,387,662<sup>5</sup></b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

<sup>2</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>3</sup> U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM). In addition, State/PRM provided \$45,388,900 toward the Tigray response in the Horn of Africa region, bringing the total U.S. Government (USG) funding to nearly \$663 million.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> This total includes \$326,361 in FY 2020 supplemental funding through USAID/BHA for coronavirus disease (COVID-19) preparedness and response activities.

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### **Crisis, Insecurity Expand to Afar and Amhara; USAID Scales Up Assistance**

Almost 11 months since the outbreak of hostilities in Tigray, the expansion of conflict into neighboring Afar and Amhara has increased displacement and diminished food security and livelihood opportunities for conflict-affected populations in the two regions.

The humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate in Amhara due to the ongoing conflict between Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF)- and Ethiopia National Defense Forces (ENDF)-aligned elements in areas near the Tigray regional border. While needs assessments were still ongoing amid active conflict, at least 290,000 people were displaced as of late August, due to the recent conflict along the Amhara–Tigray border, according to Amhara regional authorities. Moreover, more than 140,000 people were displaced from seven *woredas*, or districts, in Afar from late June through late August, Afar regional authorities report.

Despite challenges, including a limited presence of humanitarian partners prior to the conflict, limited or no access to areas due to insecurity, and lack of resources, humanitarian actors—including USG partners—continue to scale up response efforts and support response activities led by regional authorities in Afar and Amhara. In Amhara, USAID/BHA humanitarian partners are providing multi-sector assistance, including emergency food, health, nutrition, and protection support, across conflict-affected areas of the region. Furthermore, in mid-September, the USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) staff traveled to Amhara with a high-level delegation of humanitarian representatives to support the reactivation of the regional Emergency Coordination Center, which is intended to strengthen the humanitarian response to internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other conflict-affected populations in Amhara.

### **Humanitarian Access to Tigray Remains Limited**

Since Government of Ethiopia (GoE) ENDF withdrew from Tigray following the GoE's declaration of a unilateral ceasefire on June 28, banking, electricity, mobile internet, and phone services have remained largely cut off. Fuel supply in the region is low and limited banking services, along with GoE restrictions on the movement of fuel and cash into Tigray, are significantly limiting humanitarian operations. In spite of these challenges, USG partners are using remaining cash and fuel reserves to deliver humanitarian assistance to vulnerable people in Tigray and scaling up assistance to newly crisis-affected populations in Afar and Amhara.

Access into Tigray remains a challenge, with only one of the four overland routes into Tigray currently available to humanitarian convoys. Additionally, trucks carrying humanitarian commodities along the route, which passes from Afar's regional capital city of Semera to Tigray's regional capital city of Mekele, have faced significant bureaucratic delays, harassment, and insecurity, impeding stable access to Tigray. The current amount of humanitarian commodities transported to the region by convoy remains insufficient to meet large-scale needs in Tigray, despite convoy approvals and overall travel security conditions showing improvement in September, compared to July and August. The UN estimates a requirement of 100 trucks transporting life-saving commodities into Tigray per day to sustain humanitarian operations. While nearly 100 trucks arrived in Tigray between September 18 and 24, these trucks represent less than 20 percent of the trucks required during the same period. Similarly, the estimated 600 trucks that have reached Tigray since July 1 represent less than 10 percent of the trucks required to sustain humanitarian operations.

Additionally, the GoE continues to block commercial supplies and some critical humanitarian supplies, such as medicines, from entering Tigray, resulting in severe shortages of essential commodities and medical supplies in markets and health facilities. The effects of the shortages of commercial goods and resultant price increases are compounded by vulnerable households' significantly reduced purchasing power due to loss of livelihoods, including non-payment of salaries for civil servants, further limiting peoples' ability to afford basic necessities.

The GoE continues to block fuel moving into Tigray, with no tankers reaching the region since July 29. In Mekele, as of September 17, humanitarian fuel stocks allocated by the UN World Food Program (WFP) to other UN agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were depleted; humanitarian organizations are rapidly depleting remaining reserves. Moreover, regional authorities have reportedly stopped supplying NGOs and UN agencies with fuel due to shortages within Tigray. Additional fuel is urgently needed in Tigray; as of September 1, the UN reported that relief organizations in the region had only 12 percent of the fuel required to continue humanitarian operations.

Many of the trucks contracted by WFP and other agencies to transport humanitarian aid into Tigray have remained in Tigray after arrival, limiting the number of trucks available for future convoys and further hampering transport capacity into the region. Surveyed contracted drivers cited security concerns due to enduring harassment, intimidation, and theft on the route between Semera and Mekele as key reasons for their reluctance to depart Tigray, the UN and NGO partners report.

The USG continues to call on relevant authorities to facilitate the flow of life-saving humanitarian aid to Tigray, noting that current restrictions on critical humanitarian supplies and enabling services amount to a de facto blockade of the region. Additionally, the USAID DART continues to advocate for UN leadership in Ethiopia to increase engagement with the GoE on responding to worsening humanitarian conditions, reducing impediments to the transport of aid into Tigray, and removing other bureaucratic obstacles to providing life-saving assistance.

### **Food Needs Continue to Rise in Northern Ethiopia**

The UN reports that though there have been no recent, comprehensive nutrition surveys conducted in Tigray, an estimated 1.4 million children younger than five years of age and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) are likely in need of treatment for acute malnutrition. Furthermore, a localized survey found nearly 50 percent of screened PLW were acutely malnourished, increasing the risks of maternal death during childbirth as well as the delivery of low birthweight babies—who are much more vulnerable post-birth than non-low birth weight infants—according to a statement from the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) released in late July. Given the lack of recent, representative data on food and nutrition conditions in the region, USAID is urging humanitarian actors to collect additional data on nutrition and food insecurity, but due to constraints on cash, fuel, and communications inside Tigray, many efforts at increased assessment and analysis are delayed. However, of the nearly 90 percent of surveyed IDP households in Tigray who indicated a preference to return to their places of origin during a recent survey conducted by the UN, an estimated 95 percent cited food availability as the primary concern and impediment to return. The limited data that is available underscores the need for life-saving food and nutrition commodities in Tigray to support children, IDPs, PLW, and other conflict-affected individuals. In addition, nearly 1.5 million people in Afar and Amhara are experiencing acute food insecurity conditions, with food needs exacerbated by the ongoing violence in northern Ethiopia, according to UNICEF.

## KEY FIGURES



**1.1 Million**

People in Tigray reached with USG emergency food assistance from August 20 to September 27



**510,000**

Children screened for wasting by UNICEF from February to July



**53**

MHNTs in Tigray supported by USAID/BHA

## 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), 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 populations. In Tigray, the JEOP and WFP reached nearly 1.1 million people across Mekele and five of Tigray's six zones with food rations from August 20 to September 27. The JEOP caseload in Tigray includes clients of the Productive Safety Net Program, a GoE social protection program targeting food-insecure households. USAID/BHA partners are also actively expanding programming to meet emergent needs of conflict-affected people in Afar and Amhara.

### NUTRITION

With nearly \$24 million in FY 2021 funding, 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. Additionally, 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 510,000 children for acute malnutrition and admitting nearly 12,300 children with severe wasting—a life-threatening form of malnutrition—for treatment between February and July.

### HEALTH

The USG supports 13 partners providing critical health care services in northern Ethiopia through community health facilities and mobile health units. USAID/BHA partners are supporting more than 50 integrated MHNTs throughout Tigray, as well as six MHNTs in Afar and Amhara, which provide critically needed health and nutrition services to remote and hard-to-reach areas, although many are currently not able to operate due to cash, fuel, and medicine shortages in Tigray. MHNTs serve an essential function in areas 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. For instance, as of mid-September, MHNTs operating in Tigray's North Western Zone, with support from USAID/BHA partner Samaritan's Purse, had provided IDPs with more than 35,000 medical consultations. 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, and has also supported people displaced by the crisis in Tigray. 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.



**12**

USG-supported partners providing dedicated protection services

## PROTECTION

In response to protection needs resulting from the crisis in northern Ethiopia, the USG supports 12 partner organizations conducting protection programs as humanitarian access and security conditions permit. Partners are expanding gender-based violence (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, in late August, USAID/BHA partner UN Population Fund (UNFPA) distributed 550 dignity kits to conflict-affected women across four IDP sites in Mekele and supported more than 4,300 IDPs and host community members with mental health and psychosocial support. 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 \$17 million in FY 2021 dedicated to shelter and settlements assistance, USAID/BHA supports crisis-affected populations in Afar, Amhara, and 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. To date, in 2021 USAID/BHA partner IOM has reached nearly 43,400 individuals with emergency shelter assistance, and provided more than 54,000 individuals with life-saving relief commodities. 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.



**280,000**

People in Mekele reached by UNICEF water trucking

## WASH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM partners are distributing water, sanitation, and hygiene (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 in IDP sites and health facilities. USAID/BHA partner UNICEF supported nearly 10,800 people in Eastern Zone's Abi Adi town in Tigray in July through water trucking and distribution of household water treatment chemicals, and more than 280,000 people continue to have access to safe drinking water in host communities in IDP sites in Mekele, due to water trucking facilitated with UNICEF support.



## **LOGISTICS SUPPORT AND RELIEF COMMODITIES**

USAID/BHA and State/PRM partners are supporting essential logistics support for the humanitarian response in Tigray and neighboring Afar and Amhara. With USAID/BHA support, WFP is providing critical coordination and logistics services, including transportation and storage, to the humanitarian community through the Logistics Cluster, the coordinating body for humanitarian logistics activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders.

### **CONTEXT IN BRIEF**

- Following weeks of escalating tensions between regional and federal authorities, clashes erupted between 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 as the conflict expanded to neighboring Afar and Amhara regions.
- 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 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 <sup>1,2</sup>**

<b>IMPLEMENTING PARTNER</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
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, Amhara Region	\$800,000
CRS	Food Assistance—328,820 Metric Tons (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
Danish Refugee Council	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA)	Tigray-wide	\$339,996
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	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Central, North Western zones, Afar, Amhara regions	\$4,000,000
iMMAP	HCIMA	Tigray-wide	\$87,480
IOM	Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Tigray-wide, Afar Region	\$9,535,860
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	North Western Zone	\$4,860,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Tigray-wide	\$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	Food Assistance—132 MT of Local, Regional, and International Procurement (LRIP)	Tigray-wide	\$516,506
	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Tigray-wide, Afar, Amhara regions	\$9,893,876
UN Development Program (UNDP)	HCIMA	Tigray-wide	\$1,475,153
UNFPA	Health, Protection	Tigray-wide	\$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 LRIP	North Western, Southern zones, Afar, Amhara regions	\$100,000,000
	Nutrition, Logistics Support	Tigray-wide, Afar, Amhara regions	
World Vision	Health, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Mekele, Eastern, North Western, South Eastern zones	\$5,131,897
ZOA	WASH, Shelter and Settlements	Eastern, Southern, North Western zones	\$2,700,000
	Airlifted Relief Commodities		\$2,333,933
	Program Support		\$1,554,980
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$461,391,754</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
ICRC	Multi-Sector Assistance	Tigray-wide	\$14,340,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Tigray-wide	\$42,455,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$56,795,000</b>

## USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE TIGRAY CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2020

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
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
IRC	Protection, WASH	North Western Zone	\$604,492
	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
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$99,200,908</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE TIGRAY CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2020<sup>3</sup></b>			<b>\$99,200,908</b>

## TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE TIGRAY CRISIS RESPONSE IN FYs 2020–2021

\$617,387,662

<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 September 30, 2021.

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

<sup>3</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.

## 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)