HIGHLIGHTS (28 May 2021)

- Humanitarian needs continue to be grave, exceeding to current capacities.

- While some areas were accessible, others remain hard to reach due to movement restrictions and ongoing conflict.

- An alarming cases of acute malnutrition among children has been reported.

- Only about 2 per cent of the targeted 720,000 school children have access to learning opportunities.

- About US$200 million is needed to respond to humanitarian needs until the end of July.

KEY FIGURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People in need</th>
<th>People targeted</th>
<th>Refugees in Sudan since 7 November</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.2M</td>
<td>5.2M</td>
<td>63,110</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

FUNDING

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Requirements (May - December)</th>
<th>Outstanding gap (May - July)</th>
<th>Outstanding gap (May - December)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$853M</td>
<td>$197M</td>
<td>$502M</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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BACKGROUND (28 May 2021)

Disclaimer

This report is prepared by OCHA Ethiopia with the support of Cluster Coordinators. The data/information collected covers the period from 15 to 21 May. In some cases, access and communication constraints mean that updates for the period are delayed. The next issue, covering the period from 21 to 28 May, will be issued on 03 June 2021.

BACKGROUND (28 May 2021)

Situation Overview
Humanitarian access in Tigray remains extremely fluid and volatile. While some areas were accessible, others remain hard to reach due to movement restrictions and ongoing conflict. In the areas accessed, the humanitarian situation is observed to be dire.

Food insecurity is particularly alarming with a high risk of mass severe acute malnutrition looming in the next few months if not addressed immediately. During the reporting period, nearly 11,000 children under the age of five were screened for acute malnutrition of whom about 2000 (nearly 18 per cent) were identified as moderately malnourished, and about 500 children (4.5 per cent) were identified as severely malnourished.

On 15 May, a joint OCHA, WFP and International Rescue Committee (IRC) visited Zana Town in North-Western Zone, which until recently was inaccessible, to assess the humanitarian situation. Shortages of food, dysfunctional water system, lack of electricity and lack of health services (except for an INGO mobile clinic services once a week) were reported. The town has not yet been reached with basic provision of aid, including food.

On 20 May, OCHA conducted an assessment mission to Abi Adi Town, also in the Central Zone, where approximately 40,000 IDPs currently live. While access and security situation in the town have improved recently, the presence of protection actors and services is urgently needed as under-age girls are reportedly facing intimidation, sexual violence and abuse. A few INGO partners based in Abi Adi, since the start of the conflict, are providing limited food, nutrition, non-food items, water, sanitation and hygiene, protection, and health services.

In Shire and surrounding areas in North Western Zone, access is becoming increasingly challenging where heavy fighting was reported on 16 May. The movement of humanitarian partners from Mekelle to Shire via Abi Adi was blocked on that day. Similarly, the road from Mekelle to Shire via Adigrat remains unpredictable with Ethiopian Forces at Agulae checkpoint requesting proof of permission from partners to pass through. There is no access into or out of Hawzen town in Eastern Zone.

Several partners reported shortages of fuel, severely affecting the humanitarian operations including ambulances, water trucks, water pumps, generators and food dispatching and distribution. In North-Western Zone, for instance, petrol stations closed and some fuel is being found in the black market at higher prices and with low quality. Suppliers are unwilling to transport fuel to Shire without proper military escort or security guarantees along the main roads. A number of partners have reportedly halted their vehicles movement and limited their operations as a result. In Mekelle, the fuel supply is declining due difficulties transporting it from neighbouring Afar region due to recent insecurity there.

Acts of sexual and other forms of gender-based violence continue to be reported. The reported cases greatly underestimate the actual cases as underreporting is widespread due to a combination of factors, including fear of stigmatization and/or retaliation, limited access to trusted service providers, and widespread impunity for perpetrators. In a statement issued on 21 May, Ethiopian attorney general’s office said that the military prosecutors have convicted three soldiers of rape, one soldier of killing civilians and pressed charges against 28 others suspected of killing civilians in Tigray region. In addition, 25 other soldiers are charged with acts of sexual violence and rape.
While humanitarian partners are gradually scaling up response, the humanitarian needs continue to be grave, urgent and exceeding current capacities due to a combination of insecurity, access constraints, and lack of funding. Unpredictable (and lack in some places) of communications is further hindering humanitarian operations and the flow of information on the humanitarian situation.

In a press release issued on 15 May, US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, expressed grave concerns over blocking of humanitarian access to parts of the Tigray Region, calling on the Ethiopian Government to immediately facilitate full and unhindered access for humanitarian actors to all parts of the region.

**VISUAL (13 Apr 2021)**

**Humanitarian Access in Tigray**

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**EMERGENCY RESPONSE  (28 May 2021)**

**Humanitarian Preparedness and Response**
There are currently [as of 27 May] 392 UN staff supporting the humanitarian response (94 international and 170 national staff in Mekelle and 22 international and 106 national staff in Shire), an increase from 227 a week earlier. Similarly, NGO partners have significantly scaled-up with 32 NGOs currently responding in Tigray (up from 17 pre-crisis). Additional staff continue to be deployed to support the response. With at least 1,141 additional national staff and 108 international staff deployed, the total NGO staff in Tigray is approximately 1,850. There are 54 partners (Government, UN, NGO) operating across the region.

Nearly half a million people were reached with food assistance during the week, bringing the total number of people reached since the start of round 1 of food distribution for 2021 (27 March-19 May) to more than 2.2 million people out of the targeted 5.2 million people. Some 14,184 children had access to learning opportunities across IDP sites and host communities in Mekelle, Shire and the South-Eastern Zone, an increase from 11,071 children a week earlier. This, however, remains very low and only about 2 per cent of the targeted 720,000 children have access to temporary learning opportunities.

The Regional Health Bureau and Health Cluster partners are currently operating over 55 mobile health and nutrition teams (MHNT) in 57 Woredas, compared to 26 MHNTs covering 39 Woredas a week earlier. At “Sabacare-4” relocation IDP site in Mekelle, which will accommodate 19,000 people, all 3,310 planned shelters were constructed, of which 2,877 are fully completed and the remaining are near completion.

Meanwhile, Eritrean refugees who fled Hitsats and Shimelba refugee camps in the north are being relocated from Shire to Adi Harush and Mai Aini camps by UNHCR at a rate of over 200 refugees per month. Upon arrival, they are provided with emergency shelter, food and core relief Items. Essential services have been re-established and primary schools have reopened in the refugee camps in Tigray.

FEATURE (28 May 2021)

High Level Visits

UK Special Envoy for Famine Prevention and Humanitarian Affairs, Nick Dyer, accompanied by a delegation from the British Embassy in Ethiopia, visited Tigray on 20 May. The delegation discussed food security situation in the region with several humanitarian partners and the Interim Regional Government. On 21 May, the joint Ethiopian Human Rights Commission and OHCHR mission investigating human rights abuses in Tigray visited the region. They were briefed on the humanitarian situation, challenges in delivering assistance, and key protection and human rights concerns.

CLUSTER STATUS (28 May 2021)

Agriculture

Needs

- Persistent crisis and massive rural to urban displacement has resulted in a reduction in household access to food and income. Cluster partners will target 1.25 million people (250,000 farm households) with emergency seed pack and fertilizer in 40 accessible Woredas (Central, Eastern, Southern, South Eastern and North West) until the end of the year.
• About 40,542 quintals (a quintal equals 100kg) of fertilizer was distributed to agricultural cooperative unions, for further distribution to farmers.

• Improved maize seed was distributed to 1,250 farming households (6,250 people).

• Some 1,561 quintals of local sorghum seed was distributed to more than 9,000 farming households (45,000 people) across six Woredas: Kola Tembien and Keyhetekli (Central Zone), Seharti and Samre (South Eastern Zone), Geralta and Bizet (Eastern Zone).

**Gaps**

• Insufficient supply of good quality seeds.

• Delay in the distribution of chemical fertilizer and Azmera season seeds.

• Delay in land preparation due to lack of access of farmers to their lands.

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**CLUSTER STATUS (28 May 2021)**

**Camp Coordination and Camp Management**

**Needs**

• The Cluster plans to support or establish 30 IDP sites across Tigray, which is expected to host more than 720,000 IDPs.

**Response**

• Machinery has been deployed to Shire for site preparation.

• The Government is conducting road grading, compaction, and drainage excavation at "Sabacare-4" IDP relocation site in Mekelle.

• Three more partners have been identified to support the CCCM activities.

**Gaps**

• Resource mobilization for IDP sites outside Mekelle and Shire.

• Looting of construction materials in “Sabacare-4”.

• Substantial improvement to most of the proposed relocation sites is required, including technical infrastructure, roads, drainage and lighting.
Education

Needs

- As outlined in the Northern Ethiopia Response Plan, Education Cluster partners aim to target 720,000 children to resume learning through the end of the year, including an estimated 216,000 children over the next three months.
- To date, only about 2 per cent of the targeted 720,000 children have access to temporary learning opportunities.
- There is need to provide snacks such as high-energy biscuits for children at the temporary learning spaces in order to maintain children's energy to concentrate and as an incentive for children to attend school.

Response

- Some 14,184 children engaged in learning opportunities across IDP sites and host communities in Mekelle, Shire and the South-Eastern Zone. This is an increase from 11,071 children a week earlier.
- To date, some 158 teachers and facilitators have been trained in accelerated learning programs (ALP) and early childhood education in Mekelle, Shire, and Adigrat. World Vision has completed the training of reading camp facilitators in Enderta, South-Eastern Zone. At reading camps, teachers and facilitators are enhancing literacy skills of children with reading materials, one-on-one reading guidance and capacity building for parents and caregivers to continue to foster children's literacy skills at home.
- A joint Education and Protection clusters position paper was completed, outlining key principles once schools reopen to advocate for education as a protective mechanism for all children and to guide partners on the necessary joint steps needed to support school reopening when school communities deem it viable to resume education.

Gaps

- No update since last reporting period.

CLUSTER STATUS (28 May 2021)

Emergency Shelter & Non-Food Items

Needs

- ES/NFI Cluster partners organized a rapid assessment mission to Alaje, Maichew, Nek-Sege, Mokoni, Raya-Azebo and Raya-Chercher Woredas in Southern Zone, where displacement from surrounding Woredas has continued since the start of the conflict. IDPs are completely dependent on host community support.

Response

- To date, 386,000 people (only 13 per cent of the targeted 3 million people) were reached with ES/NFI. With completed, ongoing, and planned distributions, the cluster could reach a total of 729,745 people (25 per cent of the target).
• All 3,310 planned shelters were constructed in “Sabacare-4” site in Mekelle, of which 2,877 are fully completed.

Gaps

• There is lack of Government coordination structure in several Woredas.
• IDPs are selling their NFIs to meet their food needs due to delays in food distribution.
• Enhanced pre-positioning of ES/NFIs for Southern Zone.
• Cash-based response as much as possible.
• Strengthened cluster coordination in Southern Zone.

CLUSTER STATUS (28 May 2021)

Food

Needs

• Food Cluster partners seek to reach all the 5.2 million people in need of food assistance across the region with six rounds of food ration in 2021. Each round of relief food assistance consists of a standard food basket of 15 kgs of cereals, 1.5 kgs of pulses, and 0.45 liter of vegetable oil per person.

Response

• From 27 March to 19 May (since the start of round 1 food distribution of 2021), the three main food operators assisted 2,238,482 people with 38,672 metric tons (MT) of food in 58 Woredas across Mekelle, Eastern, Western, Central, North-Western, Southern and South-Eastern Zones.
• From 13 to 19 May, the food operators distributed 8,693 MT of food to 495,066 people.
• From 27 March to 19 May 2021, the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) distributed 1,906 MT of food to 89,099 people in Ofla, Zata, and Raya Alamata Woredas of the Southern Zone and 18,986 people in Maykadra and Humera Woredas in the Western Zone.
• From 27 March to 19 May 2021, World Food Program (WFP) distributed 14,326MT of food to 840,336 people.
• The Joint Emergency Operation Program (JEOP) distributed 92 per cent of the allocated 66,736 MT of food to 1,816,353 people targeted in round 6/7 with double rations, which started in October 2020.
• From 27 March to 19 May, JEOP has assisted 1,290,061 people for the first round of assistance for 2021.

Gaps

• Delays with completing the list of targeted people in some accessible Woredas due to lack of documentation among the affected population and poor or non-existing local Government structure particularly in rural areas. This continues to delay the launch of planned food distributions.
• Access and security challenges to reach affected populations. Nine Woredas were not accessible during the reporting period.
- Delays with humanitarian cargo movement due to military checkpoints on main routes.
- Delays with dispatching and distributing of food due to fuel shortage.

**CLUSTER STATUS** (28 May 2021)

**Health**

**Needs**
- Cluster partners will target 2.3 million people with health assistance and services this year.
- Lack of ambulances and restrictions on their movements.
- Lack of health care services particularly for IDPs.
- According to official estimates, some 70 per cent of Regional Health Bureau health care workers are not currently working in the health care system due to security and access restrictions.
- Only 16 out of 40 hospitals in Tigray are fully functioning and five hospitals are partially functioning, according to the Regional Health Bureau (RHB).
- Some 1,228 cases of sexual and gender-based violence were reported since February, according to the RHB.

**Response**
- The Regional Health Bureau (RHB) and Health Cluster partners are currently operating over 55 mobile health and nutrition teams (MHNT) in 57 Woredas, compared to 26 MHNTs covering 39 Woredas a week earlier.
- As a result of reduced health care work force in many areas, Save the Children International has established displaced provider program (DPP) to assist volunteer displaced healthcare workers to provide essential, life-saving health services to other displaced people.
- A multi-sector Cholera Task Team has been established by the RHB and WHO to support the ongoing Cholera Preparedness Plans and preparation for the oral cholera vaccination campaign.
- The health emergency hotline continues to operate 24 hours/day across the entire region.

**Gaps**
- 24 hour access to health care in most areas is not available due to security concerns.
- Lack of resources to scale up interventions.
- Lack of essential medical supplies for all partners.
- Appropriate visa extensions for NGO partners to enable continuation of staff and projects.
- Interrupted communications.
- Lack of surveillance coverage and reporting due to access constraints and interrupted communications.
CLUSTER STATUS (28 May 2021)

Logistics

Needs
- Insufficient logistics hubs and storage capacity.
- Access and transport constraints to deliver aid.

Response
- From 20 December 2020, the Logistics Cluster partners facilitated the transport of over 2,691 MT of humanitarian cargo on behalf of its partners along the main routes into Tigray, primarily Gondar – Mai Tsebri – Shire routes.
- From 15-21 May, the Logistics Cluster facilitated the transport of 150 MT of shelter, WASH, protection, health and NFIs cargo to Tigray on behalf of five partners.
- Two field logistics coordinators were hired and deployed in Mekelle and Shire to support partners.
- Approximately 1000 sqm of storage space is available to partners in Mekelle serving seven partners.
- Approximately 560 sqm of storage space is available to partners in Shire serving two UN agencies.
- Some 67 Mobile Storage Units were purchased to support storage needs of partners.

Gaps
- Ongoing insecurity is the main challenge of the response.

CLUSTER STATUS (28 May 2021)

Nutrition

Needs
- Some 1,402,720 children under five years of age and pregnant and lactating women affected by acute malnutrition will be targeted for nutrition until the end of the year.

Response
- During the reporting period, 10,957 children under the age of five were screened for acute malnutrition of whom 1,965 children (17.9 per cent) were moderately malnourished (MAM) and 489 (4.5 per cent) were severely malnourished (SAM).
- Some 1,522 out of 3,906 pregnant and breastfeeding mothers screened were found to be moderately malnourished.
For the prevention of childhood malnutrition, 3,734 pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers received maternal, infant, and young child feeding counselling (IYFC).

Some 753 children aged two to five years received Albendazole (anti-worm medication).

UNICEF nutrition officers visited 27 health facilities and seven IDP sites in seven zones, including Mekelle special zone, South Eastern, Southern, Eastern, Central, and North Western to train health workers, monitor quality service, and support nutrition supply distribution. Some 40 health workers received case management training of acute malnutrition and IYCF counselling during the visits.

Nutrition Cluster partners conducted monitoring and supportive supervision visits to nutrition services in Mekelle. Facilities visited include a stabilization center supported by World Vision, an Outpatient Therapeutic Feeding Program (OTP) in Laketit 11 Primary Hospital, and a therapeutic supplementary feeding program (TSFP) supported by the INGO Concern and blanket supplementary feeding program (BSFP) services at Elala School IDP site.

Gaps

- During the monitoring and supervision visits made during the week to nutrition services in Mekelle mentioned above, one lacked TSFP and another two lacked WASH facilities.
- There is shortage of supplies like ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF), Vitamin A, and Albendazole for children under-5 in Eastern Zone due access restrictions.
- Delayed response in Southern, South-Eastern, Eastern, Central and North-Western and Western Zones due to access restrictions.
- Some frontline staff are not trained on maternal, infant and young child feeding programming.

CLUSTER STATUS (28 May 2021)

Protection

Needs

- UNHCR-funded partner Innovative Humanitarian Solutions (IHS) continue to conduct protection assessment, counselling and protection referral at IDP sites in Mekelle, Shire and Axum.
- Some 4,652 people with special needs, including persons living with disability, children with incontinence and elderly persons, were identified in the region.

Response

- To date, UNHCR-funded partner Rehabilitation and Development Organization (RDO) assisted 864 People Living with Disabilities in Shire, Mai Tsebri, Axum, Adwa and Abi Adi, including non-food items and 304 women with dignity kits. In addition, it distributed 45 pairs of elbow crutch, 14 white canes and 16 pair of auxiliary crutches in Shire IDP sites.
- IHS conducted a rapid assessment at IDP site hosting an ethnic minority group in Sheraro, North Western Zone. It noted the need for support to the community who have not been reached with any assistance to date, including protection.
IHS and UNHCR distributed 1000 core relief items kits in Axum to people with chronic illness, children with disabilities, orphans, children-headed households, and large families.

IHS constructed three child-friendly spaces at Elala Primary School, Gereb – Tsedo, and Momona IDP sites in Mekelle.

Partners Imagine One Day, IOM, Save the Children and Center for Victims of Torture have scaled up their child protection activities, including kinship and care arrangement, family tracing and reunification, and mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS) in Shire, Adwa, Axum, Adigrat, Mekelle and May Tsebri.

Gaps

- Lack of enhanced Family Tracing and Reunification coordination among relevant protection partners.
- Lack of private spaces for MHPSS.

CLUSTER STATUS (28 May 2021)

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Needs

- No updates since last reporting period.

Response

- Some 96 latrine stances are completed at "Sabacare 4" new IDPs relocation site in Mekelle.
- Some 124 water trucks are being distribute at IDP sites and host communities in different locations benefiting 633,339 people.
- 51 shallow wells were maintained, and extension work of 2600 meter of pipeline conducted in Wukro, in Eastern Zone during the last two weeks benefiting 10,340 people.
- Some 11,018 strips of household water treatment provided to host community in Gerealta Woreda, in Eastern Zone, benefiting 4,872 people.
- Three motorized borehole were maintained in Rama, Central Zone, from 10- 21 May, beneficiating 16, 096 people. Pipeline maintenance was conducted in Mekelle in the last two weeks benefiting 34,746 people.
- Ten water tanks were installed in different IDP sites in Eastern Zone and in Mekelle in the last two weeks benefiting 27,692 people.
- Some 1,232 hygiene kits were distributed in Mekelle IDP Sites (Libanos collage, Daero primary school and Muse primary school) benefiting 6,814 people.

Gaps

- Lack of fuel in Shire.
- Limited water trucking in Hawzen, in Eastern Zone, due to security constraints.
Limited response in urban centers due to looting and destruction of water utility offices.

COORDINATION  (28 May 2021)

Regular Meetings

The Inter-Cluster Coordination Groups (ICCG) have been activated in Mekelle and Shire and are holding regular meetings. However, Tigray UN-led clusters have very varied levels of capacity. Only five clusters (50%) in Mekelle and 2 clusters (20%) in Shire have dedicated cluster coordinators based at the duty stations. Although some clusters fill this gap through surge and double-hatting staff, dedicated coordinators posted in Mekelle and Shire is essential. Only 50% of the clusters in Mekelle have a dedicated Information Management Officer (IMO) and no cluster has dedicated IM capacity in Shire. Given the scale of the crisis and the need for coordination and information management, all clusters urgently require dedicated full-time coordinators and IMOs. The Interim Administration-led Tigray Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) continues to meet weekly with all clusters and with the humanitarian community.

The humanitarian community is now decentralizing the coordination structure further from Mekelle and Shire. A decentralized area-based coordination is being set up in eight locations including Maichew, Abi-Adi, Adigrat, Axum and Shiraro, with eight OCHA staff deployed in these locations to set-up an area-based coordination, covering the whole region. The ICCG is also setting up a rapid assessment, response and monitoring mechanism to facilitate integrated response and enhanced monitoring of the humanitarian situation. Logistics Cluster will facilitate the movement of relief supplies and coordinate joint humanitarian convoys.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE  (28 May 2021)

Funding Update

On 14 May, humanitarian partners have finalized a Northern Ethiopia Response Plan requesting US$853 million to address the multi-sector needs of 5.2 million people. Despite agencies’ reallocation of funds and new funding received, the humanitarian response is facing a significant funding gap of $502 million until the end of the year and $197 million until the end of July. Work is underway to further identify how much of the funding received prior to the development of this Response Plan (from November 2020 to end April 2021) fed into activities laid out in the Plan.