HIGHLIGHTS (26 Jan 2021)

- The security in Tigray remains unstable and unpredictable. The situation is particularly volatile in rural areas where large numbers of people are believed to have fled.

- The Logistics Cluster reached Shire, for the first time since the conflict started, with 40 metric tons of food items.

- Partners on the ground are receiving reports indicating rising hunger, as the conflict exacerbated the lean season and desert locust infestation.

- Due to the conflict, farmers have missed the harvest season and with regional trade blocked, the local markets have or are nearing collapsing.

- There is an alarming increase in reports of sexual violations and abuses in Tigray Region, including rape cases.

KEY FIGURES

| People in need of aid before the conflict | 950,000 |
| Projected additional people to need aid | 1.3M |
| Refugees in Sudan since 7 November | 60,200 |
| Unmet requirements for the Response Plan | $40.3M |

FUNDING (2020)

| Required | $1.3B |
| Received | $704.9M |
| Progress | 56% |

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BACKGROUND (26 Jan 2021)

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The security situation in Tigray Region remains unstable and unpredictable. Fighting continues to be reported mainly in Central, Eastern, North Western, South and South Eastern parts of the region. The situation is particularly volatile in rural areas where large numbers of people are believed to have fled. According to field reports, movements outside main roads are highly insecure. Incidents of ambushes and hit-and-run attacks also abound, including on humanitarian partners’ vehicles. Humanitarian assets have also been forcefully misappropriated, including the vandalism of two refugee camps.
in North Western Tigray.

The access constraints due to the ongoing insecurity continue to challenge the urgent scale-up of humanitarian assistance and prevent the population from accessing life-saving support. Although movements of cargo carrying humanitarian commodities have been increasingly allowed to move into the Region, most of the critical staff that are needed to scale up the response and distribute and monitor its distribution have not been able to access the Region. Despite the progress in granting clearance for cargo movements, critical humanitarian staff deployment submitted to the federal Government have not been granted and are pending clearance for several weeks. At least 74 technical staff are awaiting Government clearance to deploy to Tigray. The overall lengthy cargo/personnel movement clearance process is another impediment, which the Government and partners are closely working to address and ensure the implementation of the agreed clearance timeline of 48 hours.

In addition to hampered physical access into many parts of Tigray, mobile network communications remain cut-off in most parts of the Region, affecting response operations and access to vital information, including on COVID-19. Electricity, banking, telephone and public transportation services are slowly being restored but are highly limited and remain accessible only in major towns. On 19 January, electricity was restored in Adigrat, Adwa and Aksum Towns, while phone services were restored in Adigrat. Electricity, telephone, banks (but with a very low money withdrawal cap) have already been restored in south and western Zones and Mekelle Town. Internet connection remains switched off, severely affecting operations of partners. Public transport is functioning along the Alamata-Shire-Adigrat road.

Overall, the humanitarian situation remains extremely concerning with each passing day without or with limited access to food, nutrition supplements, healthcare and other basic services and commodities. Partners on the ground are receiving reports indicating rising hunger, as the conflict exacerbated an already fragile context marked by COVID-19, desert locust and the ongoing lean season. Farmers have missed the harvest season and, with no trade in and out of the region, the markets have or are nearing full collapse. Accordingly, malnutrition is likely to have increased significantly.

According to the Tigray Water Resource Management Bureau, the Gereb Geba clean water dam project is not operational making it difficult to provide clean water in the Region. The lack of WASH service is increasingly concerning amidst reports of water-borne diseases and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Although still unconfirmed, reports of a cholera outbreak began to emerge from Adwa Town, Central Zone. The Regional Health Bureau has dispatched a team to the area to assess the situation. Meanwhile, the health system has nearly fully collapsed. An undetermined number of health centres have been vandalized and unpaid health workers have left their posts. WHO estimates that only 22 per cent of health facilities are functional. Some 78 per cent of the hospitals in the Region are not accessible.

Of particular concern in recent days are the alarming increase in reports of sexual violence and abuses in Tigray Region, including rape cases. Most of the victims claim that the attack was perpetrated by “men in uniform”, including sometimes in exchange for basic commodities. Reports of forced displacement and forced return/refoulement were also received. Verification of these allegations, and the gaging of the full scale of the problem is significantly hampered by the restricted access and the collapse of the health system. The lack of basic medical supplies has so far limited or made impossible to provision of health and post-trauma interventions to the victims. In addition to protection and SGBV services, food and other basic humanitarian assistance, there is a critical need to scale up psychological support to especially children who have suffered trauma.

ANALYSIS (26 Jan 2021)
CROSS-BORDER IMPACT

Between 7 November and 25 January, the Sudanese Government Commissioner for Refugees (CoR) and UNHCR registered 60,224 refugees fleeing the armed conflict in Tigray Region. Given that Um Raquba, where refugees from Hamdayet, Abdrafi, and Village 8 have been relocated, has reached full capacity, an additional camp has been opened in Tunaydbah area of Gedaref state. This new camp has the capacity to accommodate 24,000 refugees, according to UNHCR.

Currently, there are 20,572 refugees sheltered in Um Rakuba camp and 10,999 in Tunaydbah camp. As of 13 January, four COVID-19 cases have been confirmed in the Um Rakouba refugee camp. The State Ministry of Health (SMoH), WHO and COR are leading the COVID-19 response with support from UNHCR and additional partners in the camp. COVID-19 prevention is also streamlined across all activities and COVID-19 specific measures and activities are being implemented.

The Sudanese Government and humanitarian partners continue to scale up life-saving assistance to the refugees, including hot meals to the new arrivals. Health and WASH services as well as dry food rations are also being offered to the refugees, with priority given to persons with specific needs (PSN). Safe space to raise protection concerns, and referral systems to identified protection issues have also been established.

VISUAL (7 Jan 2021)
HUMANITARIAN PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

The humanitarian community is ready to boost response operations with new surge support arrived in-country and enhanced logistic capacity. A large number of humanitarian staff are waiting in Addis Ababa, ready to move into Tigray to resume assistance distribution and coordination. Some partners (particularly INGO staff) arrived in Mekelle and are getting clearance for further travel outside Mekelle. Teams of the World Vision and Catholic Relief Services INGOs are in the process of deploying to Shire. According to partners, Shire is also accessible through Southern Tigray by following the Alamata-Mehoni-Mekelle-Adigrat-Adwa-Aksum-Shire route.

RESPONSE BY CLUSTER

(26 Jan 2021)
Despite the challenging security environment, the Government and partners continue to deliver assistance, albeit limited by access constraints.

**EMERGENCY SHELTER & NON-FOOD ITEMS** • The sub-national cluster coordination is activated, and the first meeting will be held on 26 January. • The Shelter response is gradually increasing with the improvement of the access situation. INGOs are assigned as focal points per zone to coordinate the response at the woreda level, which helps to avoid duplication and strengthen coordination. • BoLSA is tasked to do registration across the region. The registration in Mekele is expected to be completed today.

**FOOD SECURITY** • As of 25 January, JEOP/REST has served 121,496 beneficiaries in Mekele city and 2,000 beneficiaries in Kilte Awlaelo (Wukro town). • JEOP/REST visited Shire town and is now working with the local administration to begin food distributions in the coming week for up to 131,456 beneficiaries. JEOP/REST will be expanding into additional woredas in the coming week. • Since mid-January 2021, NDRMC has distributed 2,063 MT food to 137,533 beneficiaries who are living in Southern, South Eastern, Central, Eastern, North Western and Western woredas of the region. As of the 25th of January, the NDRMC has distributed a total 13,568 MT food to about 900,000 people in various locations in Tigray region.

**HEALTH** • Three first-line responders - ICRC (in Mekelle), MSF-E (in South Tigray), MSF-H (in West Tigray) and WHO (in Mekelle) - amongst others are supporting trauma care and essential health services. • AAH has set up an emergency response team and is planning to deploy two Mobile Health and Nutrition Teams (MHNT) in Saharti Samre and Tanqua Abergele woredas. • IMC has provided NFIs to 1,500 HHs in Setit Humera, Maykadra, Ketema Nigus/Tsegede and Adi Remit/Wolkayit, and is planning to deploy a MHNT. • WVI has purchased lifesaving emergency health supplies which are now ready for distribution to Alatama Hospital and nearby health centers. • CRS has prepositioned essential health kits (both medicine and equipment) in Mekele. • WHO is supporting the Tigray Regional Health Bureau to provide surveillance in the region and strengthen capacity for outbreak investigating and response. WHO supported the Tigray RHB to investigate a suspected cholera outbreak in Adwa. • Assessment of health facilities by WHO teams continues on the ground with the teams covering Adiabat, Adwa, Azumi and Shire this week.

**NUTRITION** • The Sub-national Nutrition Cluster has been activated in Mekelle and MANTF meetings take place on a weekly basis jointly with RHB in Mekelle. • Humanitarian Nutrition partners are mobilized, and interventions mapped (ENCU 4W), 26 staff required for the Nutrition emergency response already deployed in Tigray (out of the estimated 135 required). • Humanitarian nutrition partners have set-up their emergency teams and operations to deliver life-saving acute malnutrition treatment services notably through MHNT in about 20 of the most affected and accessible woredas in a phased approach. • UNICEF delivered the supplies and equipment to Tigray and border areas of Afar and Amhara hosting IDPs for the treatment of SAM. • WFP has 943 MT of Specialized Nutritious Foods (SNFs) prepositioned in Mekelle that were meant for 2 months of targeted supplementary feeding program (for MAM treatment) that have been repurposed for immediate implementation of blanket supplementary feeding in about 15 accessible woredas in the coming weeks (3-month support in a phased approach). • WHO is dispatching SAM kits (for the management of SAM cases with medical complications at hospital level).

**PROTECTION** • UNHCR, the recipient of CERF funding on behalf of the protection cluster, is finalizing partnership agreements for the implementation of prioritized activities in Tigray, Amhara and Afar including protection monitoring, CP, GBV, support to persons with disabilities, elderly persons and MHPSS services. Activities are planned to start early February with partnership with NRC, IRC, CVT, EECMY, HIS. • Following the activation of the sub national protection cluster in Tigray, Sub-national CP/GBV AoRs have been re-activated in Amhara, Afar and Tigray and have started convening coordination meetings with partners to ensure effective and coordinated CP and GBV response. • Protection cluster/AoRs are engaged with IM actors (iMMAP, REACH and IOM/DTM) to scale up IM and analyses capacity and define key context-based and operational protection indicators to inform the sectoral and inter-sectoral protection analysis. • During the reporting period, the CP/GBV AoR partners (including UNICEF, NRC, IRC, UNFPA, BoWCY, and BoLSA) have reached total 2,136 women, girls, and boys with child protection case management (22) and psychosocial support (58) services, and with dignity kits (2,056).
provided by UNICEF. • The 2,056 dignity kits have been distributed in Mekelle, Adi-Arkay and Zarima woredas, and in IDP sites in North Gondar, Central Gondar and West Gondar Zones, by UNICEF in collaboration with the Bureau of Women, Children and Youth (BoWCY) and the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC). • In Mekelle, referral linkage between One Stop Centre (where GBV survivors receive lifesaving medical treatment) and safe shelter have been re-established to ensure GBV survivors can access the safe shelter/rehabilitation shelter if they wish after receiving medical treatment. • UNFPA handed over dignity kits to Federal Ministry of Health to be delivered to women and girls in the Tigray region who are in much need of menstrual hygiene supplies. • GBV partners will provide dignity kits to affected women and girls, provide mental health and psycho-social support, conduct GBV awareness raising activities and update and map GBV services to (re)establish referral pathways.

WASH • Water trucking has started in Mekelle and its surroundings. • A 2 billion birr (approximately US$ 50,703) budget has been identified to rehabilitate damaged WASH facilities.

LOGISTICS • Movements of humanitarian cargo inside Tigray is improving substantially. • Last week, four of the submitted cargo requests have been cleared to be dispatched. These include 5MT of nutrition and health supplies to refugee camps in Mai-tsebri (Concern Worldwide), 37 MT of health, nutrition, WASH and protection items to Shire (UNICEF), 230 MT of food supplies to refugee camps in Mai-tsebri (WFP), and 35MT of mixed supplies and 11,000 liters of fuel to Mekelle (Logistics Cluster). • An additional convoy of food assistance managed by WFP has also reached Tigray with another round of food for 25,000 refugees located in the previously inaccessible Adi Harush and Mai Ayni camps.

COORDINATION (26 Jan 2021)

REGULAR MEETINGS

The Tigray Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) meeting is convening weekly in Mekelle. The National Disaster Risk Management Commission has deployed senior staff to support the initial set up of coordination mechanisms. On 18 January, the Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator and a OCHA team were also deployed to Mekelle to support partners coordination and the ECC.

The United Nations and partners continue to engage at the highest levels with the Government of Ethiopia to coordinate operational details and advocate for access for humanitarian workers and supplies to respond to people affected by the conflict in Tigray.

The NDRMC is establishing Incident Command Posts in Dansha/Gonder, Alamata, Humera and Shire.

UNHCR and partners on the ground in Shire Town are making efforts to coordinate response to refugees as much as the security situation allows.

TRENDS (15 Jan 2021)

FUNDING UPDATE

Humanitarian partners have updated the Humanitarian Response Plan for Northern Ethiopia. The plan seeks US$116.5 million to address the immediate needs of an estimated 2.3 million people (1.3 million new caseloads due to the conflict and over 950,000 existing caseload, including refugees).
Humanitarian partners have quickly mobilized funding, including $29.6 million new contributions received from the Central Emergency Response Fund – CERF ($13 million), the Ethiopia Humanitarian Fund - EHF ($12 million), Ireland ($2.4 million) and Switzerland ($2.2 million). An additional $23.5 million was sourced through re-allocation of existing resources. The outstanding funding gap stands at $40.3 million. The plan is for the duration until 31 January 2021.

The IOM [flash appeal](https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/ethiopia) requires $22 million to contribute to collective preparedness efforts ahead of the humanitarian response to the conflict in Tigray.

The UNHCR [Regional Refugee Preparedness and Response Plan for the Ethiopia Situation](https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/ethiopia) (Tigray) requires $155.7 million to address the needs of 115,000 projected refugees by June 2021.

**VISUAL (15 Jan 2021)**

**Funding Update**

![Funding Update](https://reports.unocha.org/en/images/et/ethiopia-funding-update-20210115.png)

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**Allocation by donor (in million US$)**

- ECHO: 23.1
- CERF: 13.0
- EHF: 12.0
- Ireland: 2.4
- Switzerland: 2.2
- Re-allocation of existing resources: 23.5