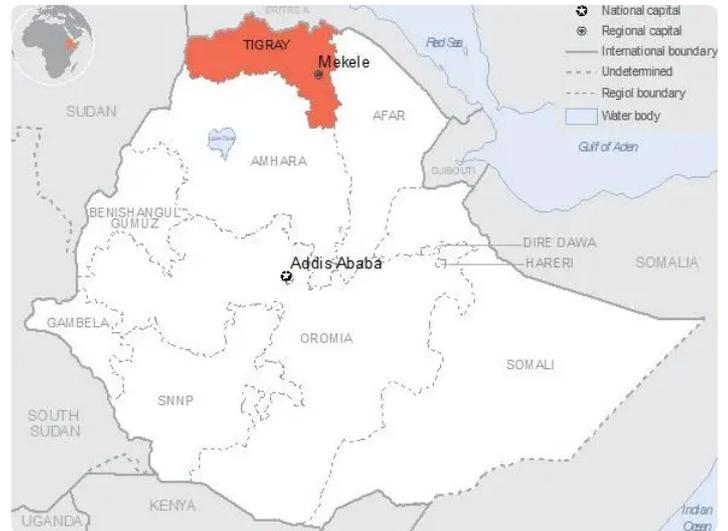


### HIGHLIGHTS (7 Dec 2020)

- One month on since the start of the conflict in Tigray, the humanitarian situation continues to critically deteriorate.
- Dire shortages of the most basic supplies, including food, water, fuel and cash affect the whole region, leading to a looming humanitarian catastrophe.
- With access to water, sanitation & health services seriously disrupted, humanitarians warned about the heightened risk of water-borne & vector-borne diseases, as well as COVID-19.
- The conflict continues to force people from their homes, with thousands internally displaced and nearly 50,000 seeking refuge in Sudan.
- The UN and the Federal Government signed an agreement that seeks to enable access for humanitarians to areas under the control of the Federal Government in Tigray, Amhara and Afar.



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. © OCHA

### KEY FIGURES

**850,000** People in need of aid before the conflict

**1.1M** Projected additional people to need aid

**48,992** Refugees in Sudan since 7 November

**\$75.6M** Needed for Preparedness Plan

### FUNDING (2020)

**\$1.3B** Required

**\$690.9M** Received



FTS: <https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/936/summary>

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### BACKGROUND (7 Dec 2020)

#### SITUATION OVERVIEW

The humanitarian situation in Tigray continues to deteriorate rapidly, one month on since the conflict began in early November. Although verification of the full extent of the crisis is still challenging due to telecommunication blackouts and lack of access, humanitarians on the ground have reported critical shortages of the most basic commodities, including food

and water, affecting the whole region, the refugee camps and aid workers living in Tigray. Humanitarian needs have reportedly further increased following the recent clashes in the capital Mekelle.

The situation in the refugee camps is reportedly dire, and [UNHCR](#) is appealing to the Federal authorities in Ethiopia for urgent access in order to reach Eritrean refugees who are in desperate need of humanitarian assistance and services, as the camps have run out of food supplies. Partners have called for the immediate reinstatement of cash transfers and access to fuel and food distributions across Tigray and health commodities, particularly in Mekelle.

Humanitarian actors have warned of a risk of water-and vector borne diseases due to the lack of access to clean water and sanitation services, majority of which were reportedly destroyed during the conflict. Health partners have raised concerns over the possibility of a surge in COVID-19 infections in the affected areas, which was already reporting a high caseload prior to the conflict. As people flee in large numbers, there are fears that the risk of transmission will increase, including to areas of displacement as people live in crowded places with lack of access to health care and prevention measures. Routine medical and health services, including testing and risk communication and sensitization campaigns for prevention and treatment of COVID-19 remain interrupted in the region since the start of the conflict.

Health care facilities in Tigray region need support to care for the wounded, and hospitals are also running out of drugs and supplies for routine medical issues.

The conflict continues to push people from their homes, and at least 950,154 people have reportedly been displaced within Tigray region and into Sudan since the conflict started, according to an assessment conducted by the Tigray regional sector bureaus (WASH, Health, Agriculture, BOLSA,) and the NGO REST. The internally displaced people are sheltering in schools and with host communities. Food, non-food items, health services, WASH, mass psychosocial support are some of the identified priority needs.

Ethio Telecom [clarified](#) that telecommunications services have been fully resumed in Alamata, and partially resumed in areas such as Dansha, Turkan, Humera, Shiraro, Maytsebri and May Kadra but many areas remain disconnected and inaccessible.

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## ANALYSIS (7 Dec 2020)

### CROSS-BORDER IMPACT

Humanitarian actors in Ethiopia and across the border in Djibouti, Eritrea and Sudan remain concerned over the humanitarian situation in Tigray, that is currently affecting operations in neighbouring countries.

### SUDAN

The conflict continues to forcibly displace people into Sudan, where humanitarians are reporting complex logistical and operational challenges in the response. Nearly 50,000 people, 45 per cent of whom are children, are now seeking refuge in eastern Sudan. Although [UNHCR](#) reported a decline in the average daily arrivals from about 2,000 people per day to about 700 people between 1 and 2 December, the number of people crossing the border started to increase again over the last days.

[UNHCR](#) and partners in Sudan have [warned](#) about the urgent need for additional refugee settlement sites, as the Um Rakuba camp in Gedaref State, now with about 10,500 people, has surpassed its maximum capacity of 10,000 people. The relocation from bordercontinues to be hampered by logistics and distances, limiting the number of people being transferred. [Media reports](#) highlight the 'resourceful doctors' among Tigrayan refugees who fled to Sudan and are now striving to assist their fellow refugees with medical consultations.

Humanitarian actors have reported that hundreds of refugees remain close to the border and are worried about the destruction of their crops, which were due for harvest. This is likely to impact food security in the area in the coming months. UNHCR and partners continue to scale up relief efforts together with Sudan's Commission on Refugees and local authorities amidst complex logistical challenges.

The UN and our partners have finalized their refugee response plan [Inter-Agency Refugee Emergency Response Plan - Refugee Influx from Ethiopia] seeking US\$147 million to help a projected 100,000 refugees between November and June 2021. UNHCR continues to call for international assistance for the thousands of refugees who have arrived in eastern Sudan amid a vulnerable humanitarian situation characterized by food insecurity and economic hardships.

The Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SHF) has allocated an initial \$425,000 to the most immediate health, water, sanitation and hygiene needs of people hosted in Um Raquba Camp, Gedaref, and is working on additional allocations to be announced over the coming days.

UNHCR has [activated](#) the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism for the Sudan response.

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## EMERGENCY RESPONSE (7 Dec 2020)

### HUMANITARIAN PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

The United Nations in Ethiopia and the Federal Government signed an agreement that seeks to enable humanitarians to have unimpeded, sustained and secure access for humanitarian personnel and services to areas controlled by the Federal Government in Tigray, and the bordering areas of Amhara and Afar regions. Following the agreement with the Federal Government, humanitarians continue to call on all parties to the conflict to allow unconditional, free and safe access to the whole region,

Meanwhile, humanitarians continue to work on the operation details of the agreement signed, while security assessments are carried out. Different teams are now on the ground in Afar and in different regions of Tigray to assess the security situation, before the humanitarian assessment missions start. At the same time, the UN and humanitarian partners in Ethiopia will continue to engage with the Federal Government of Ethiopia and all parties to the conflict to ensure that humanitarian action in Tigray, Amhara and Afar regions is strictly based on needs, and carried out in compliance with the globally-agreed principles of humanity, impartiality, independence and neutrality and reaches all areas where people are in need of humanitarian assistance. This includes working to ensure that people impacted by the conflict are assisted without distinction of any kind other than the urgency of their needs.

In addition, OCHA and partner organizations have pre-deployed personnel to key locations in Afar and Amhara to support coordination, as well as the assessment and response missions in Tigray. The Logistics Cluster is preparing to facilitate the movement of cargo humanitarian assistance and personnel once safe access is secured. Partners are in the process of identifying warehouses particularly in border areas where there are currently no major security concerns and also setting up warehouses and hubs in big towns neighboring Tigray such as Gondar and Kombolcha.

ICRC is providing medical assistance and support for family tracing in accessible areas. The team has reportedly delivered medical supplies to health care facilities in the north of Amhara and first aid supplies to but many urgent needs remain.

On the Federal Government response, the districts have reportedly been instructed to distribute food and non-food items (NFI) from existing stocks. According to the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC), at least ETB 87 million (nearly US\$ 2.2 million) worth of food and NFIs have reportedly been dispatched to displacement and reception areas, from the NDRMC, the INGO consortium (JEOP) and the regional Government stocks.

### COORDINATION (7 Dec 2020)

#### REGULAR MEETINGS

The National Disaster Risk Management Commission has established four Incident Command Posts in north-west Ethiopia: three in western Tigray and one in Gondar Town (Ahmara Region) to facilitate and coordinate humanitarian assistance responses and ensure function of Water, Hygiene and Sanitation services for the affected people.

The Emergency Coordination Centers in Tigray, Amhara and Afar are conducting regular coordination meetings to strengthen preparedness. Response is also being coordinated with local available resources, where possible. The ECC in Tigray has finalized the operational plan. ICRC, WASH, and the Health bureau have started responding with the available resources but are calling for urgent mobilization of resources to avert malnutrition, impact of COVID-19 pandemic, and waterborne diseases, including cholera.

UNHCR and partners in Shire continue to coordinate protection delivery to the refugee camps although humanitarian presence greatly depends on the evolving security situation.

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### TRENDS (7 Dec 2020)

#### FUNDING UPDATE

Resource mobilization around the Humanitarian Preparedness Plan (HRP) is ongoing, while partners are moving forward with its implementation with available resources. The \$96.9 million HRP, targeting nearly 2 million people in Tigray, Amhara and Afar with life-saving assistance, between November 2020 and January 2021 is only 20 per cent funded (21.9 million), leaving a gap of \$75.6 million, as at 30 November. The targeted population includes the existing humanitarian caseload of 850,000 people and an additional 1.1 million people expected to need assistance as a result of the conflict. While additional in-house capacities can be mobilized, regional and international support is required, both in terms of technical and financial support to ensure effective and timely humanitarian assistance to the evolving humanitarian context in northern Ethiopia.

IOM launched [a flash appeal](#) of US\$22 million to contribute to collective preparedness efforts ahead of the humanitarian response to the situation in northern Ethiopia.

[Switzerland's Federal Department of Foreign Affairs](#) allocated CHF 2 million (about US\$2.2 million) to support humanitarian operations in the Tigray region, while calling for strict compliance with international humanitarian law, rapid and unimpeded access for humanitarian aid, de-escalation of violence and return to dialogue.

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