

HIGHLIGHTS

- Following reports of widespread conflict related sexual violence (CRSV) since the onset of the crisis in Tigray Region, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is scaling up its response to meet the needs.
- Priorities in the planned response scale up include: GBV interventions, expanding operations of Safe Houses, expanding SRH interventions, MHPSS interventions, and PSEA interventions.



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UNFPA scaling up response amid widespread reports of conflict related sexual violence

Following reports of widespread conflict related sexual violence (CRSV) since the onset of the crisis in Tigray Region, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is scaling up its response to meet the needs of survivors. Initially targeting 112,200 women, girls, boys and men over a 6-months period in Tigray, Amhara and Afar Regions (Preparedness and Response Plan - December 2020), UNFPA re-assessed the Preparedness and Response Plan (April 2021), considering the pressing and rising needs of the affected population across Tigray, Afar and Amhara.



Figure 1 One Stop Center in Mekelle. Photo Credit: UNFPA

The planned activities are tailored to restore pre-crisis capacity in SRH-MH, GBV, MHPSS and PSEA (see footnote¹ for acronyms) through Government-led health facilities and humanitarian partners to avoid a dramatic toll in maternal and newborn mortality and morbidity and respond holistically to the increasing conflict related sexual violence ongoing across the Region.

Of the prioritized GBV activities for example, are the expansion of Women and Girls' Safe Spaces (WGSS)², expanding support to

¹ Sexual and reproductive health-maternal health (SRH-MH), gender-based violence (GBV), mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and prevention from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA)

² Women and Girls' Safe Spaces (WGSS) are formal and informal places where women and girls feel physically and emotionally safe. In the present context, the term 'safe' refers to the absence of trauma, excessive stress, violence (or fear of violence), or abuse. The key objectives of WGSS are to provide an area where women and girls can: 1) Socialize and re-build their social networks; 2) Receive social support; 3) Acquire contextually relevant skills; 4) Access safe and non-stigmatizing multi-sectorial

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- The Early Warning Department of the National Disaster Risk Management Commission released the second issue of the National Flood Alert amid reports of average to above average Belg/spring season rainfall.
- Localized rains and the overflowing of rivers in the highlands has caused flooding in Somali Region, which caused seven deaths, displaced 890 people and affected over 500 households.
- So far, flooding due to heavy rains left some 27,000 persons displaced in Afar Region, and 11,200 households in Somali Region.
- Mitigation measures should be taken as more flooding is anticipated due to favourable weather conditions in May. Landslide and flash floods are also expected to occur in some areas during the upcoming *Kiremt*/summer rainy season (June-September).

One-Stop Centers (OSC)³ linked to Women and Girls' Safe Spaces in Tigray Region, expanding operations of Safe Houses⁴ for comprehensive care and protection to CRSV survivors across the Region.

At present, priority activities are being reviewed considering the recent upsurge of IDPs across the region and the dramatic effects of a variety of aggravating factors such as the socio-economic impact of conflict, acute food insecurity, and potential disease outbreaks, among other stressors. To date, an estimated 379,014 people have been reached with medical supplies and commodities through the UNFPA-led response.

Taskforce releases National Flood Alert #2

The Early Warning Department of the National Disaster Risk Management Commission released the second issue of the National Flood Alert listing additional areas at risk of flooding and landslides, while several parts of the country continue to receive average to above average Belg/spring season rainfall since April. The first alert, released on 26 April, was prepared based on the National Meteorology Agency (NMA) forecast for the Belg season and provided information on the projected weather condition, including list of areas at risk of flooding to guide mitigation, preparedness and response measures.

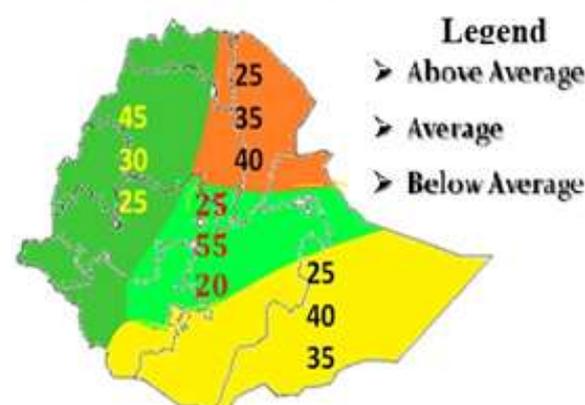
NMA's assessment of weather conditions between 1 and 30 April and regional reports of rainfall performance revealed overflows of rivers due to heavy rainfall that caused flooding in several locations across the country. More specifically, above normal rainfall was registered in Dolomana, Jimma, Addis Ababa, Dedesa, Gimbi, Metahara, Gololcha, Arjo, Begi, Adelle, Gelemso, Sawla, Hosaena, Arbaminch, Jinka, Maji, Welayta, Hawassa, Kombolcha, Debremarkos, Ambamariam, Fagnido, Jigjiga, and Kebridahar.

In Afar Region, some 27,400 persons have been displaced by flooding due to heavy rain and winds in Gulina, Ewa, and Beyalo, Dulecha, Harunka, and Mile *Woredas*. Livestock death was also reported. In SNNP Region, hailstorm damaged crops in Chama Hembecho and Afama Mino Kebeles of Boloso Sore *Woreda* in Wolayta Zone and some 250 hectares of land has been flooded in Abela Abaya *Woreda*. Some 11,200 households have been

The National Meteorology Agency's forecast for 2021 Belg/spring season

- Average to above average rainfall in the western half of the country.
- Average rainfall in the eastern, central and southern highlands of the country.
- Average to below average rainfall in the north eastern, southern and south eastern parts of the country.

Belg 2021 Tercile probability climate Outlook



GBV response services (psychosocial, legal, medical); 5) Receive information on issues relating to women's rights, health and rights.

³ **One-Stop Centers** provide multi-sectoral case management for survivors, including health, welfare, counselling, and legal services in **one** location. They are linked as well to the police through referral pathways.

⁴ **Safe Houses** are shelters where women and girls who experience GBV can find comprehensive care and treatment, including case management, treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STI) and HIV, legal and psychosocial counseling, alongside resilience-building and life-skills trainings. Providing a safe space where survivors can receive holistic help is vital in the protection of their health and dignity. Their healing and recovery are at the forefront of the key objectives to be able for them to integrate back into their communities.

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- Access to all people in need in Tigray remains a challenge due to insecurity, but aid workers are closely working with Government authorities to overcome obstacles to reach previously inaccessible areas.
- An inter-agency humanitarian convoy on 28-29 April to Samre *Woreda* delivered emergency food aid, nutrition supplies and NFIs, as well as organized a mobile health clinic at Samre Hospital.
- Interviewed individuals at Samre Hospital raised concerns over the shortage of medical supplies or lack thereof, particularly affecting people with chronic diseases such as HIV and diabetics. Prior to the conflict, Tigray was amongst the regions with the highest HIV prevalence in Ethiopia. Women can no longer access reproductive health services in the hospital.
- The United Nations, through the central emergency response fund (CERF) and the country-based pooled fund (EHF), has released US\$65 million to scale up the humanitarian response in the country.

displaced and 8,019 households affected by flooding due to heavy *Gu* rains in Shabelle, Jarar, Dolo, Afder, Fafan, and Korahe Zones of Somali Region. The flooding also resulted in the death of 7,069 sheep and goats, 17 camels, 609 cows and damaged 4,049 hectares of cropland. Nine people were also reportedly killed in Dire Dawa City following the collapse of a wall due to heavy rains on 2 May 2021.

The second Flood Alert forecasted that the Wollega Zones, Jimma and Ilu Aba Bora Zones of Oromia Region; all Zones in Benishangul Gumuz Region; North Wello, South Wello, West Gojam, and Bahir Dar Zuria Zones of Amhara Region; all Zones of SNNP Region as well as Sidam Region will receive normal to above normal rains during the month of May. Meanwhile, normal rainfall is expected in Shewa, East and West Harage, Arsi, Bale, Borena, and Guji Zones of Oromia Region; East Gojam, North and South Gonder, Wag Hemra, Avi Zones of Amhara Region; Zones 3, 4, and 5 of Afar Region; South and West Tigray Region; parts of northern and eastern parts of Somali Region; as well as in Addis Ababa. Mitigation measures should be taken as more flooding is anticipated due to favourable weather conditions in May. Landslide and flash floods are also expected to occur in some areas during the upcoming *Kiremt*/summer rainy season (June-September).

Multi-agency convoy delivering critical assistance to hard-to-reach areas in Tigray

Access to all people in need in Tigray remains a challenge due to insecurity, but aid workers are working to overcome obstacles to reach previously inaccessible areas. Accordingly, on 28 and 29 April, an OCHA-led inter-agency humanitarian convoy managed to reach Samre and Saharti *Woredas* in South Eastern Zone. This was the first time since early March that humanitarian partners were able to access these areas, impacting an estimated 125,000 people. The convoy delivered emergency food aid, nutrition supplies and NFIs, as well as organized a mobile health clinic at Samre Hospital. The mission discussed with the interim *Woreda* authorities to better understand the level of humanitarian needs and challenges.

Amongst the many needs identified is the lack of medical personnel and supplies. Interviewed individuals at Samre Hospital raised concerns over the shortage of medical supplies or lack thereof, particularly affecting people with chronic diseases such as HIV and diabetics. Prior to the conflict, Tigray was amongst the regions with the highest HIV prevalence in Ethiopia. Women can no longer access reproductive health services in the hospital. There were about 140 staff working in the hospital before the conflict, today, there is only one remaining doctor. Established in 2015, Samre Hospital used to provide service to more than half a million people.

Similarly on 4 May, a convoy transporting essential relief supplies managed to reach Gijet Town in Saharti *Woreda*. On 5 May, another OCHA-led joint convoy reached Yechila Town, in Abergele *Woreda* in Central Zone. Thus far, only limited assistance, including food aid has been delivered to the zone as it had been inaccessible since the beginning of the conflict due to insecurity.

These recent reports show the promise of improved access and underscore the urgency of additional funding to support people who were previously unreachable. See full response update on Tigray in the latest Tigray Situation Report: <https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/ethiopia/>



Figure 2 Samre Hospital devoid of medical supplies. Photo Credit: OCHA/Jordi

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- The United Nations, through the central emergency response fund (CERF) and the country-based pooled fund (EHF), has released US\$65 million to scale up the humanitarian response in the country.
- An Inter - Agency Mission conducted on 3-6 May in North Shewa and Oromo Special Zones of Amhara Region identified that at least 358,000 people displaced due to conflict are in dire need of food, ES/NFIs, WASH and healthcare services.
- The entire population in Ataye Town was displaced and the town is burned down.

UN releases US\$65 million for humanitarian response in Ethiopia

The United Nations, through the central emergency response fund (CERF) and the country-based pooled fund (EHF), has released US\$65 million to scale up the humanitarian response in the country. Of the total allocation, \$40 million will be dedicated to the aid operation in Tigray, including provision of emergency shelter, clean water, health care, emergency telecommunications and survivor centered response to the conflict-related sexual violence. The remaining \$25 million will fund humanitarian operations in the rest of the country, including to respond to drought in the Somali and Oromia Regions. Amongst the planned activities is the provision of water in drought-affected communities, rehabilitation of water systems, treatment of children with severe acute malnutrition, and prepositioning of life-saving supplies in drought-risk areas.

Although efforts are being made to scale up the humanitarian response in areas affected by natural and man-made disasters across the country, they remain insufficient to meet the needs of all affected people.

At least 358,000 IDPs in North Shewa and Oromo Special Zones need urgent assistance

An inter - agency mission conducted on 3-6 May in North Shewa and Oromo Special Zones of Amhara Region identified at least 358,000 people displaced due to conflict and in dire need of food, shelter, non-food items, water, and healthcare services. While 90 per cent of the IDPs live in host communities, those in collective sites are living in extremely poor conditions with protection concerns and need for psychosocial support. In Ataye Town, which was the epicenter of armed attacks and destruction, the entire population in the town was displaced and the town is burned down.

The 253,000 IDPs in North Shewa Zone are sheltered in Mehal Meda site of Efrata *Woreda* (25,000), Ber Gibi site of Gidem /Ataye *Woreda* (95,000), Mekoy site of Amsokia *Woreda* (10,000), Shoa Robit (23,000), and Debre Berhan (100,000). In Oromo Special Zone, IDPs are located in Artuma Fursi (50,127), Jile Temuga (51,350), Kemissie Ketema (2,570) Dewa Cheffa (871).

While the security situation is improving in the conflict hotspots, the IDPs in Debre Berhan, Shoa Robit and Mahale Meda expressed fear and anxiety about returning to their homes mentioning that they have been repeatedly attacked and their loved ones killed and injured (some mentioned that six attacks have occurred over the last past few years).

Surviving conflict and drought, the story of Halima

Somali Region currently hosts an estimated 800,000 people displaced (IDPs) as a result of conflict (56 per cent), drought (32 per cent), seasonal and flash floods (7 per cent) as well as landslides. The Somali Regional Government developed a Durable Solution Plan for the IDPs in the region, prioritizing the resettlement/return/ integration of IDPs in the Qoloji IDP site. Halima is one these IDPs and lives in the arid Dalsan IDP site along with more than 3,000 other IDPs.

Halima is a single mother of seven children (two daughters and five sons) living in Dalsan IDP site of Lehelyu'ob *Woreda* in Dollo Zone. Dalsan IDP site is located 75 kilometres to the northwest of Warder Town. Halima and her family were displaced from Godey *Woreda* of Shebelle Zone on January 16, 2019 following the eruption of an inter-communal conflict. She lost her siblings and all her assets, including farm, motors, and house. She currently lives in the Dalsan IDP site; a stranger to the community, weather, and way of living.

Before displacement, her livelihood depended on irrigated farming and livestock. Her farms used to provide stable livelihoods as it yields twice a year. "The farm harvest was more than

enough to send my children to school. Now I am displaced here at the Dalsan IDP site lacking access to water, schools, markets, health services. We have become like fish that live without water," Halima said.

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- Halima is a single mother of seven children living in Dalsan IDP site of Lehelyu'ob *Woreda* in family were displaced from Godey *Woreda* of Shebelle Zone on January 16, 2019 following the eruption of an inter-communal conflict.
- Although members of the host community support Halima with some shoats, her survival mainly depends on the relief food assistance she receives.



Figure 3 Halima Farah, Dalsan IDP site, Somali Region. Photo Credit: OCHA/Ahmed

Although members of the host community support Halima with some shoats, her survival mainly depends on the relief food assistance she receives. "The food ration is not enough to feed our family. It is common for us to have one meal per day. Blessed are those who support us. Without their help, our situation would even get worse," Halima said with tears in her eyes.

Dalsan Site is the only food distribution point supported by the World Food Programme. The Norwegian Refugee Council also provides multipurpose cash support, which Halima uses to buy basic kitchen utensils.

Halima expressed her hope to integrate in the community so that she accesses basic services such as water, education, health, and income livelihoods.

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