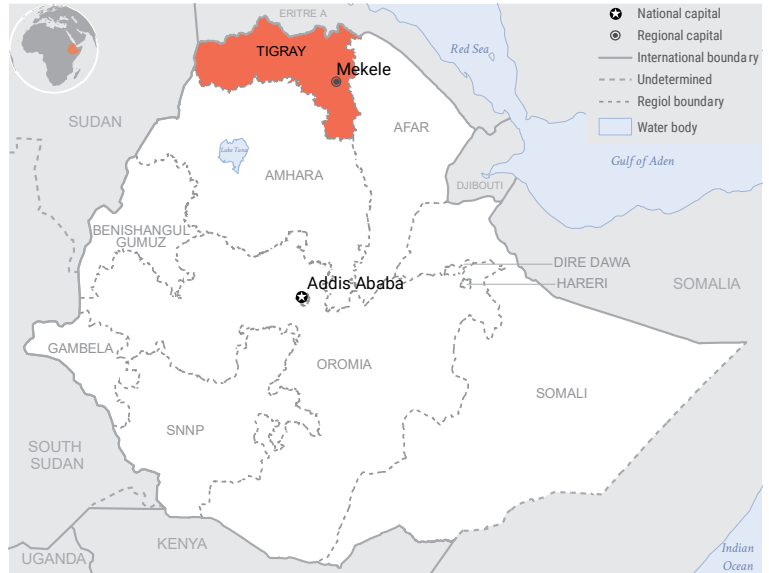


This report is produced by OCHA Ethiopia and covers the period from 12 November to 17 November 2020. The next report will be issued on Friday, 20 November.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The humanitarian impact of the ongoing conflict between federal and Tigray regional forces is increasing as the days progress. Several thousands of people are reported displaced in Tigray fleeing conflict.
- Similarly, Ethiopians crossing the border to Sudan is increasing. The displaced population is mainly crossing through three border entry points at a daily average arrival rate of 4000. More than 27,000 people have so far fled to Sudan.
- The protection of populations impacted by the conflict remains an overarching humanitarian concern. In addition to safety, ensuring civilian access to vital goods and services is a priority to humanitarian partners.
- Humanitarian partners finalized a Preparedness Plan aiming to target 1.98 million people with multi-sector assistance in Tigray, Afar and Amhara regions. The priority outstanding funding requirements to facilitate the minimum preparedness activities to response to the projected needs between November 2020 and January 2021 is US\$ 75.7 million.



Tigray region, Ethiopia. Source: CSA, OCHA.

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

600,000

Relief food beneficiaries

1M

PSNP clients

100,000

Internally displaced persons

5,000

Returns

96,000

Refugees

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The humanitarian impact of the ongoing conflict between federal and Tigray regional forces is increasing as the days progress. Several hundreds of people are reported displaced in Tigray fleeing conflict. The displaced population has reportedly moved towards Shire and other locations further inland. The Regional Early Warning Directorate and the local NGO REST are currently on location conducting an assessment to estimate the magnitude of the displacement and the extent of humanitarian needs. Results of the assessment will be made public in due course. More displacements are expected.

Similarly, there are reports of people in southern Tigray crossing into Amhara region, as well as people in areas in Amhara bordering Tigray moving further inland away from conflict zones.

On international cross-border movement, Ethiopians crossing the border to Sudan is increasing. The displaced population is mainly crossing through three border entry points at a daily average arrival rate of 4000, including in Hamdayet (over 15,700 people), Lugdi (over 9,500 people) and Abderafi (at least 98 people). As of the time of publication, there were more

than 27,000 asylum seekers in Sudan since 10 November, surpassing the UNHCR projection of 20,000 asylum seekers expected to cross in Sudan in one month. The high influx is rapidly overwhelming the response capacity on the ground. The priority needs include shelter, food and water and relocation to safe areas away from the borders. Given the rapidly deteriorating situation UNHCR has decided to declare a Level 2” emergency.

UNHCR Ethiopia has cautioned against fake news/erroneous reporting about the current refugee situation and operation in Tigray mainly on social media and has so far issued two statements. The latest statement reads “we are aware of media reports that UNHCR staff in Ethiopia were arrested and vehicles confiscated in Tigray. These are false. All of our personnel and vehicles in Tigray are accounted for. We urge those using social media to share information responsibly and from corroborated sources only.”

Recent updates from Tigray indicated that significant shortage of cash resulting from bank closure for the past days has impacted households, especially the most vulnerable ones. Phone and internet remain cut, basic services such as health care and clean water, as well as basic commodity supplies such as food and medicine remain interrupted.

Humanitarian concerns

The protection of populations impacted by the conflict remains an overarching humanitarian concern. In addition to safety of aid workers, ensuring safety and access of civilians to vital goods and services is a priority for humanitarian partners. Free and uninterrupted access to commercial supplies need to be guaranteed.

Health systems that have been dealing with public health concerns, including COVID-19 need to be supported to continue contact tracing, testing and treatment.

Movement restrictions due to insecurity, lack of fuel and communication blackout continue to affect assessment of needs and the delivery of humanitarian supplies to humanitarian aid beneficiaries. Restocking warehouses with humanitarian supplies in Tigray region remains impossible.

Access to the four refugee camps in Tigray, namely Adi Harush, Hitsats, Mai-Aini and Shimelba, hosting 96,000 Eritrean refugees remains possible, with basic services still functioning. However, due to security concerns the number of staff servicing the camps have been reduced, with day field missions only. Concerns remain for the approximately 6,500 refugees in Shimelba camp, in closest proximity to the conflict. To date movements out of the camp have not been seen, but the situation remains fluid.

Overall, the UN and humanitarian partners call for full access to reach people in need; ability to conduct needs assessments; to allow safe passage for civilians in search of safety and assistance; and to guarantee the security of humanitarian workers.

HUMANITARIAN PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

The UN and its partner organizations remain committed to staying and delivering humanitarian assistance to people in need wherever they are, while also ensuring the safety of their aid workers. As of 17 November, 133 non-essential UN and NGO staffs and more than 200 foreign nationals were relocated from Tigray through Afar region. There are about 800 humanitarian personnel working in the region, including UN, national and international NGOs.

UNHCR Ethiopia is leading a daily inter-agency coordination cell in Shire to discuss the evolving situation, which involves both refugee issues and the emerging IDP situation.

According to UNHCR Sudan, “Humanitarian agencies continue to distribute relief items including blankets and sleeping mats. The World Food Programme is providing food and high protein biscuits. Hot meals are being provided by Muslim Aid.”

On 12 November, the Tigray Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) held its first meeting since the conflict erupted. The meeting was chaired by the Bureau of Agriculture and OCHA. Meeting participants, representatives from sector bureaus and humanitarian partners, agreed to hold physical meetings twice a week to discuss humanitarian situation and coordinated response. Partners decided to map available stock, updated respective contingency plans and start implementing it. An information desk will be established for partners to access information in the midst of the communication blackout.

Inter-cluster coordination platforms were also established in Afar and Amhara to specifically coordinate the crisis in Tigray region as well as assist IDPs fleeing from the conflict. In Amhara, UN Bahir Dar team deployed for a joint road assessment mission to Woldia-Raya Kobo districts in Amhara, which are located at the border with Tigray region. The mission, which deployed on 13 November was forced to abort the assessment and return to Bahir Dar the next day following the reporting rocket attack in Bahir Dar and Gondar. Some 900 IDPs have reportedly arrived in Woldia from Alamata (Tigray) and Raya Kobo. They are sheltered in a school, few kilometers from Woldia. The school can accommodate up to 2,000 people. More IDPs are expected in the area in the coming days. Local authorities in Woldia have so far provided some blankets, biscuits and flour to the IDPs.

At Addis Ababa level, humanitarian partners finalized a Humanitarian Preparedness Plan projected to target 1.98 million people with multi-sector assistance in Tigray, Afar and Amhara regions. The 1.98 million target includes existing humanitarian caseload and additional 1.1 million people expected to need assistance as a result of the conflict.

The total 'top priority' funding requirements to facilitate the minimum preparedness activities to response to the projected needs between November 2020 and January 2021 is US\$ 96.9 million. Considering available resources, the outstanding requirements is \$75.7 million (see breakdown in the table below). Protection mainstreaming will be promoted across all sectors by incorporating protection principles in humanitarian assistance and promoting access, safety and dignity in humanitarian assistance. 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.

Below is the sector breakdown of the Preparedness Plan requirements per sector.

Sector	Total requirement (US\$ Millions)	Outstanding requirements (gap) (US\$ Millions)
Education	2.9	2.9
ES/NFI	18.5	15.3
Food	36.9	26.6
Health	9.8	8.7
Logistics	5.0	4.5
Nutrition	8.5	3.1
Protection	2.6	2.1
WaSH	12.8	12.5
Total	\$ 96.9 M	\$ 75.7 M

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society and ICRC Hotlines for people looking for missing relatives:

ERCS Hotline: +251 11 552 7110

ICRC Hotline: +251 94 312 2207