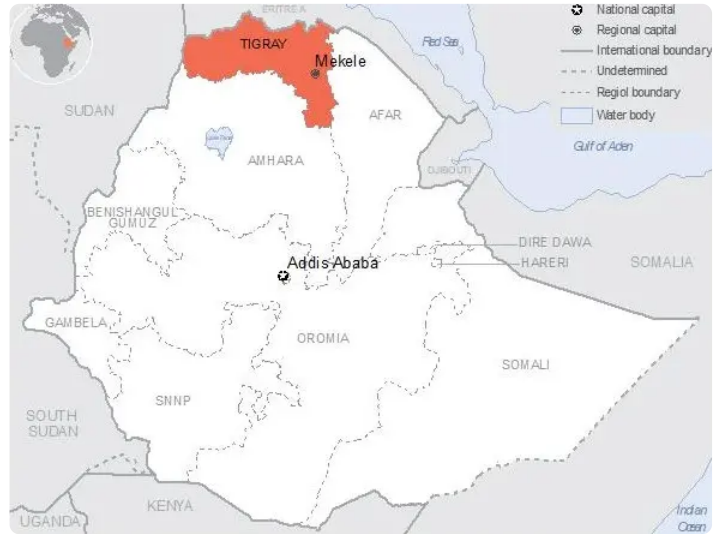


HIGHLIGHTS (29 Dec 2020)

- Localized fighting and insecurity reportedly continues in Tigray region while arrests of leadership of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) are ongoing.
- The Southern Tigray mission has concluded as planned, without any incident. The assessment report is currently being compiled.
- Clusters are reporting current and planned activities in Tigray, Amhara and Afar Regions.
- Resource mobilization to scale up preparedness and response is ongoing as per the updated Humanitarian Response Plan for northern Ethiopia.
- The Sudanese Government and humanitarian partners are scaling up life-saving assistance to the 53,302 refugees, as of 23 December.



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

950,000

People in need of aid before the conflict

1.3M

Projected additional people to need aid

53,300

Refugees in Sudan since 7 November

\$63.4M

Needed for Preparedness Plan

FUNDING (2020)

\$1.3B

Required

\$696M

Received



56%
Progress

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

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BACKGROUND (29 Dec 2020)

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The federal Government military operation in Tigray Region that started on 4 November was officially declared over by the Government on 28 November after capturing the capital city, Mekelle. However, arrests of the leadership of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) are ongoing. As a result, localized fighting and insecurity reportedly continues, with fighting reported in Enda Baguna (south of Shire), Korem and Mahbere Tsige (west of Mekelle) last week.

Updates from the two assessment missions in Tigray that deployed on 20 December indicate that the Southern Tigray mission has concluded as planned, without any incident. The assessment report is currently being compiled. Preliminary findings from Chirchir district in Alamata revealed that half of the displaced people have returned to their homes. Life in Alamata is gradually returning to normalcy with the resumption of some basic services, including electricity and telecommunication. People however reported that they still do not feel safe.

Meanwhile, led by the Incident Command Post team (the Ministry of Peace, National Disaster Risk Management Commission, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Water and the Ministry of Women and Children), the Western Tigray mission conducted a rapid assessment in Dansha on 22 December. The team travelled on to Humera but received additional requests for permission papers from local authorities. After fulfilling the additional requirements, with the help of the Ministry of Peace, the team proceeded to Humera on 28 December and will go onwards to assess the situation in Shiraro and Shire.

OCHA has put in place an information sharing/clearance mechanism that involves the Logistics Cluster, NDRMC and the Ministry of Peace (MoP) to ensure safe and secure access to Tigray and bordering areas in Amhara and Afar Regions. As of 28 December, 22 requests were submitted (10 for assessment/response missions and 12 for cargo), of which 10 were given clearance to proceed (four assessment/response missions and seven cargo, while two were cancelled). Of the three assessment missions granted clearance, one is completed, one is ongoing and one is pending. Similarly, of the seven cargo requests cleared, only two have reached Tigray. Discussions are ongoing discussion with NDRMC and MoP to further streamline the clearance process and make it faster.

Clusters are reporting current and planned activities in Tigray as well as in affected areas in neighboring Amhara and Afar Regions (see full detail under the Humanitarian Operational Response section below). Resource mobilization to scale up response is ongoing as per the updated [Humanitarian Response Plan for northern Ethiopia](#) released last week. The Plan targets 2.3 million people estimated to be needing humanitarian assistance as a result of the conflict, in Tigray, Amhara and Afar (50.4 per cent children, 26 per cent women and 17.6 per cent disabled).

ANALYSIS (29 Dec 2020)

CROSS-BORDER IMPACT

Between 4 November and 23 December, the Sudanese Government Commissioner for Refugees (CoR) and UNHCR registered 53,302 Ethiopian refugees fleeing conflict in Tigray region. New arrivals have set up temporary shelters in the market area in Hamdayet (37,041 people), while others have set up shelters in nearby villages, hosted in communities or living in the pre-existing housing units in Village 8 (14,557 at Lugdi, 1,002 at Abdrafi, and 431 in Blue Nile border points). Some 20,572 refugees from Hamdayet, Abdrafi, and Village 8 have so far been relocated to Um Raquba. The latter has reaching full capacity. As a result, additional communal shelters and tents are planned to be set up in Um Raquba and to establish a new site in Tunaydbah with an estimated capacity of 20,000 people. The refugees continue to voice their preference to stay near the border area to return to Ethiopia the moment security allows. Sudanese authorities have communicated that the relocation from the border area is a matter of priority.



Ethiopian refugees, fleeing clashes in Tigray region, cross the border into Hamdayet, Sudan, over the Tekeze river. Photo: © UNHCR/Hazim Elhag

The Sudanese Government and humanitarian partners are scaling 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 giving to persons with specific needs (PSN). Safe space to raise protection concerns, and referral systems to identified protection issues have also been established. The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) is operating two primary schools in Village 8. The schools operate in two shifts, using an informal curriculum. Despite the efforts to meet all identified needs, several gaps remain. According to UNHCR, "there is urgent need to improve and extend nutrition and food assistance services to all sites. Current meal provided (hot meal and dry food) cannot meet the increasing needs. Overuse of the water stations led to the damage of one water source. As a result, local authorities have reduced UNHCR's water trucking capacity to one water tank (out of two previously) to be refilled four times per day. This is adding additional strain on refugees in Village 8 and alternatives to water trucking needs to be found and implemented immediately. Limited access to latrines and waste management, as well as shortages of health staff and medical supplies have also been reported. Refugees are asking for support with Family Tracing and Reunification."

EMERGENCY RESPONSE (29 Dec 2020)

HUMANITARIAN PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Food

- As of 20 December, NDRMC distributed 5600MT of relief food (rice, wheat flour, pasta, corn soya blend, vegetable oil and biscuits) benefiting 332,000 conflict-affected people in Tigray (Western, North Western, Southern, South Eastern zones) and Amhara (North Gonder zone) Regions.
- NDRMC is currently working with WFP to transport 15000MT of wheat from Djibouti port to Mekelle warehouse.
- A convoy of 18 trucks delivered some 250MT of corn soya blend, grains, pulses and vegetable oil to local humanitarian partners for distribution to 13,000 Eritrean refugees in Mai Ayni camp. Additional 240MT of food were delivered to Adi Harush refugee camps to benefit 12,170 refugees. Ethiopia's Agency for Refugees and Returnee Affairs (ARRA), WFP and UNHCR jointly monitored the delivery and distribution of the one month's worth supplies. The refugees had received two months' worth of relief food in mid-October.
- The INGO Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is finalizing distribution plans for Rounds 6 and 7 relief food rations in Tigray to some 209,000 people across 12 districts and Mekelle City. The distribution will be conducted by the local NGO REST.

Agriculture

- The cluster provided animal feed to 6416 households in the host communities in Dalifage, Dewe and Mile in Zones 1 and 5, Afar Region; and provided health support (5638 households) and agricultural tools (2400 households) in Asayita, Chifra, Dubti and Mile in Zone 1.
- In addition, unconditional cash transfer was made to 3725 households in the host community in Berhale and Dalol in Zone 2.
- Response activities will be completed by 31 January 2020.

Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Item (ES-NFI)

Overall, at least 4031 households received NFIs and 1000 households received dignity kits from Government and partners since the start of the humanitarian response operation in northern Ethiopia, as follows:

- NDRMC has also distributed partial NFI kits to some 2456 IDP households in Mai Tsebri, Dansha, Humera, Maikadra, Adi Arkai, Tselemt, Beyda, Janamora, Dabat and Debarke. Additional partial kits are dispatched from NDRMC warehouse for 3343 households.
- The Ethiopian Red Cross distributed NFI kits to 400 households in Mekelle, Tigray, while ICRC distributed NFI kits to 250 IDP households in May Kadra. In addition, IOM is currently distributing NFI kits to 175 IDP households in Central Gonder and Gonder Town (Amhara), while CARE is distributing NFI kits to 750 IDP households in Debarke and Maitsebri (Amhara) and dignity kits to 1000 IDP households in Debarke, Gonder Town and Maitsebri.
- Additional SH/NFI kits are pre-positioned and ready for distribution once security allows.
- Catholic Relief Services (CRS) supported 302 IDPs in Central Gonder and Gonder Town (Amhara) with shelter construction, while IOM constructed communal shelters for IDPs in Gonder and Dabat Towns. Both activities were conducted in mid-December.

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.
- Meanwhile, 15 second-line responders (AAH, CRS, IMO, GOAL, ICRC, IMC, MSF-H, MSF-E, MCMDO, PIE, UNFPA, UNICEF, WVI, WHO) are on standby to start/scale-up response once security allows.
- The federal Ministry of Health has dispatched six Mobile Health Teams to Mekelle, while WHO has dispatched emergency health supplies to Tigray able to treat more than 10,000 patients for three months.
- Between 14 and 21 December, WHO delivered health supplies for trauma and other emergencies through health partners, including MSF-S (supplies to treat 38,000 patients for three months and provide 400 trauma treatments to be delivered to health facilities in southern Tigray and the outskirts of Mekelle); EPHI/MoH (supplies to treat 7000 patients for three months and trauma supplies for 300 treatments to be delivered to health facilities in and around Mekelle); and through Save the Children (supplies to treat 38,000 patients for three months and treat 300 trauma cases).

Nutrition

- The cluster is planning to conduct nutrition assessment once security allows, and strengthen nutrition response coordination.
- Identification, referral and treatment of acute malnutrition will also be scaled up (previous figures indicated that the cluster reaches about 1,200 severe acute malnutrition cases in a month across Tigray region, and about 52,000 moderately malnourished children and pregnant and lactating women benefited targeted supplementary feeding in 18 selected districts.
- Nutrition key messaging will be mainstreamed in COVID-19 risk communication and community engagement activities.

Logistics

- The Logistics Cluster has established hubs in Gonder and Kombolcha (Ahmara Region) and Semera (Afar Region) for humanitarian cargo. Logistics officers and convoy leaders will be deployed to the three hubs.
- Additional storage space were also identified for partners in the warehouses in Adama (3900 m²), Kombolcha (900 m²) and Gonder (2400 m²), and a dedicated fleet of five trucks are availed for use by partners .

Protection

- The cluster is preparing to respond to some 307,000 people as part of the Response Plan in Tigray, Amhara and Afar Regions until February 2021.
- Cluster members activated the Protection sub-Cluster in Tigray Region to coordinate protection interventions. Mapping of protection partners in the Region is finalized and priority activities identified.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- Water treatment chemicals were distributed to 120 households in Adiarkay district, North Gonder zone, while fuel for generator was provided in Western Zone, Tigray Region, benefitting 2,000 households in Dansha, Humera, Maikadra and Tegede.
 - Emergency WASH support by NRC reached 30,000 IDPs/Host communities/refugees in Tigray (North Western Zone), Amhara (Adkey, Gonder) and Afar (Ab'ala, Magale, Yalo) Regions.
 - WASH NFI supplies are pre-positioned for 5,000 IDP and host community households in Telemti District, Gonder Zone in Amhara Region and Berhale District in Zone 2, Afar Region.
 - Additional WASH interventions, including water supply, WASH kits, latrine construction, handwashing station construction and a hygiene promotion campaign are expected to reach another 25,000 people.
-

COORDINATION (29 Dec 2020)

REGULAR MEETINGS

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

OCHA has put in place an information sharing/clearance mechanism that involves the Logistics Cluster, NDRMC and the Ministry of Peace (MoP) to ensure safe and secure access to Tigray and bordering areas in Amhara and Afar Regions.

The Government's National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) is establishing Incident Command Posts in Dansha/Gonder, Alamata, Humera and Shire as well as an Emergency Coordination Center in Mekelle to coordinate humanitarian response to people affected by the conflict.

Regular inter-cluster coordination meetings are taking place to discuss needs and coordinate response.

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

TRENDS (29 Dec 2020)

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 \$63.4 million. The plan is for the duration until 31 January 2021.

The IOM [flash appeal](#) requires \$22 million to contribute to collective preparedness efforts ahead of the humanitarian response to the conflict in Tigray.

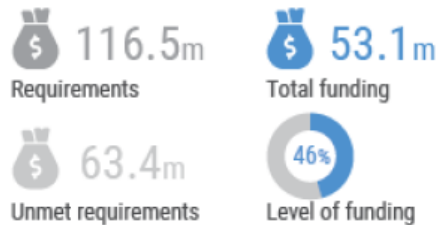
The UNHCR [Regional Refugee Preparedness and Response Plan for the Ethiopia Situation](#) (Tigray) requires \$155.7 million to address the needs of 115,000 projected refugees by June 2021.

VISUAL (29 Dec 2020)

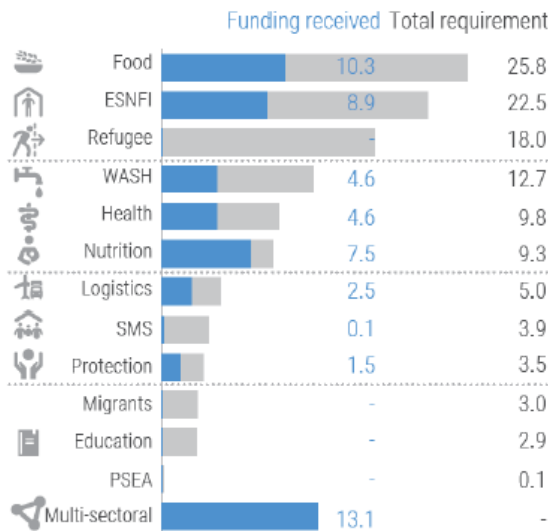
Tigray humanitarian response plan

Funding situation

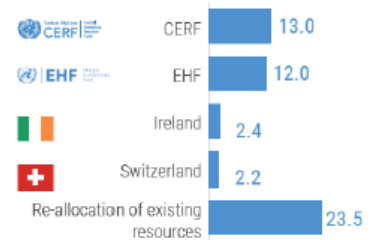
FUNDING REQUIREMENTS (in million US\$)



Funding requirements by sector (in million US\$)



Allocation by donor (in million US\$)





OCHA

ETHIOPIA - TIGRAY REGION HUMANITARIAN UPDATE

Situation Report

Last updated: 28 Dec 2020

OCHA coordinates the global emergency response to save lives and protect people in humanitarian crises. We advocate for effective and principled humanitarian action by all, for all.

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