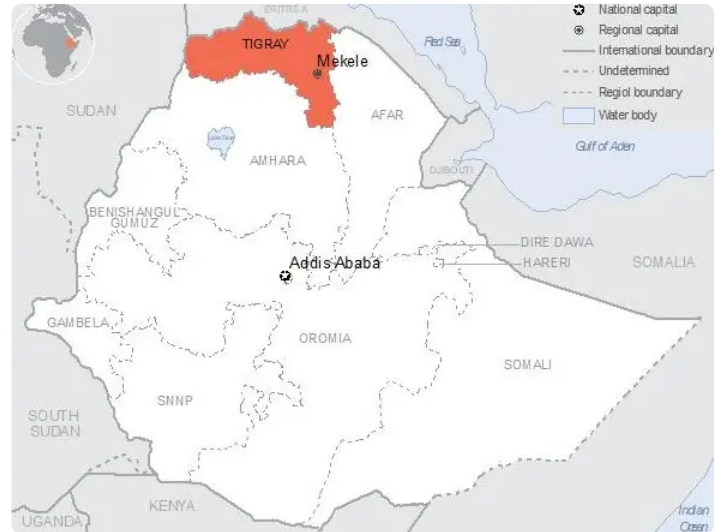


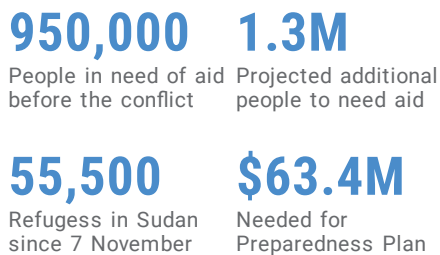
HIGHLIGHTS (7 Jan 2021)

- The security situation in Tigray remains volatile with a gradual improvement in some areas in the Eastern and Western Zones, although insecurity & bureaucratic constraints remain.
- The two joint Government-humanitarian partners' assessment missions that deployed on 20 December are completed.
- Both missions have witnessed a dire humanitarian situation with poor access to services and limited livelihoods.
- According to both assessment missions, food supplies are very limited, widespread looting is reported and insecurity is high.
- OCHA continues to closely work with Government counterparts to streamline the cargo/assessment clearance mechanism, and enable a quicker process (within 48 hours).

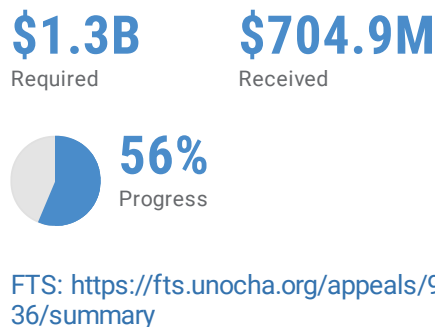


The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. © OCHA

KEY FIGURES



FUNDING (2020)



CONTACTS

Saviano Abreu
Communications Team Leader,
Regional Office for Southern & Eastern Africa
deabreuisidoro@un.org

Alexandra de Sousa
Deputy Head of Office, OCHA Ethiopia
desousa@un.org

BACKGROUND (7 Jan 2021)

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Humanitarian workers have been able to access areas that were so far inaccessible, particularly in cities. However, localized fighting and insecurity continues, with fighting reported in rural areas and in the peripheries of Mekelle, Shiraro and Shire among other locations, as of last week. Access to most parts of North Western, Eastern and Central Tigray remains constrained due to the ongoing insecurity and bureaucratic hurdles. Two of the four refugees camps in the region (Hitsats

and Shimmelba) are still not accessible.

OCHA and the Logistics Cluster continue to closely work with the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) and the Ministry of Peace (MoP) to streamline the assessment and cargo clearance mechanism, enabling a 48 hour clearance process, and ensuring safe and secure access to Tigray and bordering areas in Amhara and Afar Regions. As of 4 January, 61 per cent of cargo and mission requests have been cleared, but the clearance process took between 5 to 10 days. In some cases, partners could not travel to Tigray due to additional bureaucratic constraints at region/local levels, despite clearance received from federal authorities.



In addition to the previously reported deaths of four humanitarian workers, the international NGO ZOA has confirmed that one of its staff was killed in Hitsats refugee camp, which brings the number of aid workers reported to have been killed in Tigray to at least five. Looting of humanitarian supplies and equipment continues to be reported in some areas, including in Kuiha and Lachi. Humanitarian partners continue to engage with the Government for the unrestricted and safe passage of humanitarian personnel and supplies to all parts of Tigray Region.

The two joint Government-humanitarian partners' needs assessment missions that deployed in Tigray on 20 December are completed. While the Southern Tigray mission visited Alamata, Enderta, Mehoni and Mekelle from 20 to 28 December, the Western Tigray mission visited Dansha and Humera from 20 to 30 December, but could not proceed to Shiraro and Shire as planned.

Both assessment missions have witnessed a dire humanitarian situation with poor access to services and limited livelihoods. According to the [Southern Tigray mission findings](#), life in Alamata, Mehoni and Mekelle is gradually returning to normalcy with the resumption of some basic services, including electricity and telecommunication. The majority of the displaced people have returned or are in the process of returning to their homes. However, most of their belongings have, however, been looted or destroyed during the conflict. Besides the looting of private properties, they also observed a massive damage and /or vandalization of public health centers, and absence of health workers. Additionally, regional authorities estimate at least 90,000 people have been displaced as result of the conflict, of whom 7,554 people are living in collective sites, including schools. Meanwhile, the Western Tigray mission saw that nearly half of the population visited are living in vulnerable conditions, with important gaps of food and nutrition as harvests did not take place and the region has been in full lockdown since early November. As tensions in Dansha, Humera and May Kadra remain and the area is still challenged by the communications blackout, there is a generalized feeling of insecurity and trauma that will require urgent psychological support. In spite of this difficult context, the situation appears to be evolving towards a slow resumption of socio-economic activities.

According to both assessment missions, food supplies are very limited, and only locally produced food items are available and at increasing prices making basic goods unaffordable. Food, protection/security, shelter, NFIs, health, nutrition and WASH are the priority needs identified. Infrastructure needs to urgently be restored as many buildings, including schools, hospitals and administration offices have been looted and damaged. Health facilities outside of major cities are non-functional and those in the major cities are partially working with limited to no stock of supplies and absence of health workers. Additional partners have also conducted independent assessment missions in the locations visited by the Western and Southern missions, as well as in Adigrat, Adwa and Axum, in North-East Tigray.

The Tigray Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) meeting that convened on 1 January discussed humanitarian needs based on assessment findings. The ECC highlighted that more than 4.5 million people in the region need emergency food assistance, including 2.2 million IDPs. Since the conflict erupted in early November only 77,000 people, mostly in Mekelle and its surroundings, and 25,000 refugees in two camps (Mai Ayni and Adi Harush) received food support from partners. Protection concerns abound, including reports of gender-based violence. some 300 motorized water sources are

dysfunctional and majority of the crane lifts are reported to be looted. Only 5 out of 40 hospitals in Tigray are physically accessible, while four additional hospitals are reachable through mobile network. Apart from those in Mekelle, the remaining hospitals are looted and many reportedly destroyed, which, in addition to the insecure environment and non-payment of salaries, has halted basic health services and displaced staff. Overall, health care services are accessible in 22 per cent of the woredas in the region.

The interruption of COVID-19 surveillance and control activities for over a month in the region, coupled with mass displacements and overcrowded conditions in displacement setting is feared to have facilitated massive community transmission of the pandemic. Limited prevention activities have started, including the distribution of 1,200 COVID-19 prevention and hygiene promotion leaflets and PPE materials, provision of health education and organization of a sanitation campaign by IRC in IDP sites in Shire. Additional COVID-19 specific responses are planned by Action Against Hunger. Prior to the conflict (as of 31 October), the region counted 6,610 COVID-19 cases.

To date, 222,413 internally displaced people (45,522 households) have been recorded in Tigray Region, including 141,830 IDPs (28,022 households) in North Western Zone and 80,583 IDPs (17,500 households) in Central Zone, according to the latest DTM findings.

ANALYSIS (8 Jan 2021)

CROSS-BORDER IMPACT

Between 4 November and 31 December, the Sudanese Government Commissioner for Refugees (CoR) and UNHCR registered 55,506 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](#).

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.

Meanwhile, there are reports of military buildup on both sides of the border between Ethiopia and Sudan, around the disputed Fashaga area. This is likely to affect people living in the disputed areas that may be trapped in a potential cross fire, in addition to the security of the refugees, especially in Um Raquba camp, that is at risk.



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

EMERGENCY RESPONSE (7 Jan 2021)

HUMANITARIAN PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Food

- As of 20 December, NDRMC distributed 5,600MT 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 15,000MT of wheat from Djibouti port to Mekelle warehouse.
- Some 25,000 refugees in Adi Harush and Mai Ayni camps received food assistance as of end December. This includes 18 WFP trucks that delivered 250MT of corn soya blend, grains, pulses and vegetable oil to local humanitarian partners for distribution to 13,000 refugees in Mai Ayni camp; and additional 240MT of food delivered to Adi Harush refugee camp 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.
- In Mehoni, the local community provided 200 kgs of wheat flour for Government workers in the energy, water, and health sectors as well as made blanket food distribution for the community in the area. In 15 Kebeles of Alamata, some 3000 people in each Kebele received 15kgs of wheat flour from the Government. The Government and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) distributed two rounds of targeted food distributions in Dansha, Humera and May Kadra for a total combined quantity of 1,097,37MT.

Agriculture

- The Cluster is providing animal feed to 6,416 households in the host communities in Dalifage, Dewe and Mile in Zones 1 and 5, Afar Region; and animal health support (5,638 households) and agricultural tools (2,400 households) in Asayita, Chifra, Dubti and Mile in Zone 1.
- In addition, unconditional cash transfer was made to 3,725 households in the host community in Berhale and Dalol in Zone 2 (Afar).
- Response activities will be completed by 31 January 2020.

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

Overall, 4,031 households received NFIs and 1,000 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 2,456 IDP households in Mai Tsebri, Dansha, Humera, Maikadra, Adi Arkai, Tselemt, Beyda, Janamora, Dabat and Debarke; and partial kits are dispatched from NDRMC warehouse for 3,343 households.
- The Ethiopian Red Cross distributed NFI kits to 400 households in Mekelle (Tigray), while ICRC distributed NFI kits to 250 IDP households in Mai Kadra as well as 560 IDP households in Abdurafi (Amhara). IRC is currently distributing full ES/NFI and dignity kits to 1,400 households in Adi Arekay (Tigray). In addition, IOM is currently distributing NFI kits to 479 IDP households in Central Gonder and Gonder Town (Amhara), while CARE is distributing NFI kits to 900 IDP households in Debarke and Mai Tsebri (Amhara) and dignity kits to 1,000 IDP households in Debarke, Gonder Town (Amhara) and Maitsebri (Tigray). World Vision International (WVI) provided ES/NFI kits to 300 households in Debarke and Chercher (Amhara). Additional kits are currently being distributed by NRC to 3,000 households in Yallo, Megale and Aba'ala (Afar).
- To date, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) provided NFI kits for 200 IDP households in Dansha and an additional 200 IDPs in Baeker, and plans to provide NFIs for 2,400 households in Humera, May Kadra and Tselemt IDP camps. CRS also supported 302 IDPs in Central Gonder and Gonder Town (Amhara) with shelter construction, while IOM constructed 13 communal shelters for IDPs in Gonder and Dabat Towns.

- Additional ES/NFI kits are pre-positioned and ready for distribution once security allows. CRS, Concern Worldwide, GOAL, WVI, SCI, NRC, IOM, RRF and IRC are planning to reach 46,400 households through ES/NFI kits and cash interventions.

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, some of the 15 second-line responders (AAH, CRS, IMO, GOAL, ICRC, IMC, MSF-H, MSF-E, MCMDO, PIE, UNFPA, UNICEF, WVI, WHO) have started responding where possible and others are on standby to start/scale-up response where security allows. Wold Vision has mobilized around US\$1.5 million in funding and \$40,000 worth of medication and other health supplies ready for distribution in Alamata Hospital and two health centers. Some 1,500 dignity kits will be distributed in Chercher, Gonder, Raya Azebo districts. Save the Children has secured \$500,000 to deploy mobile health teams in central and eastern Tigray.
- 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 3 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 7,000 patients for 3 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 3 months and treat 300 trauma cases). WHO has also prepositioned supplies for the Tigray Regional Health Bureau.
- UNICEF supplied emergency drug kits through ERCS, IRC and MSF-H. UNICEF dispatched additional health kits and PPEs to Mekelle, and has established partnership with IRC to deliver health services in West Tigray. A similar partnership with IMC for East Tigray and Afar is in progress.
- IRC was able to access IDP sites in Shire where they distributed 1,200 COVID-19 prevention and hygiene promotion leaflets, provided health education, conducted a sanitation campaign and distributed PPE material. Additional COVID-19 specific responses are planned by Action Against Hunger. Meanwhile, Plan International is responding through Mobile Health and Nutrition Teams in Amhara and Afar.
- In Mekelle, 90 per cent of health workers have returned to work. They had abandoned their posts due to insecurity and non-payment of salaries as well as lack of essential supplies and budget to treat patients. The majority of health staff in Adigrat, Axum, Dansha and Humera, however, are residing in Mekelle and are unable to return to their homes and work because of persisting insecurity. **Nutrition**
- A rapid health and nutrition assessment team from Concern Worldwide (CWW) reached Mai Tsebri (Tigray) on 28 December, and proceeded to Mai Aini and Adi Harush refugee camps on 29 December. The team also took a donation of CMAM supplies from UNICEF to ARRA and UNHCR, (including 6 cartons of F-75, 3 cartons of F-100 and 261 cartons of RUTF). The INGO CWW plans to support the management of severe malnutrition if the nutrition service in the camps is not functional. In addition, CWW conducted a needs assessment in Adi Arakay and Debark Woredas in North Gonder Zone (Amhara). Results will be shared in due course.
- MCMDO and IMC are set to implement a mobile health and nutrition intervention in selected Woredas of Tigray. Both partners reported delays in getting access approval. Similarly, UNICEF, AAH, CWW, GOAL, IRC are starting emergency nutrition response (notably through MHNT) in various areas in Tigray.

- Plan International is starting a nutrition response in Megale and Koneba. Save the Children will also scale up its nutrition response in Dalol, while UNICEF, through its Emergency Nutrition Officers, will strengthen support to nutrition services delivery, including MUAC screening activities.
- UNICEF dispatched emergency supplies, including 620 cartons of High Energy Biscuits (HEB) to Mekelle and nutrition supplies (for SAM treatment for the first quarter of 2021) to the interim Regional Health Bureau. There is an ongoing discussion to support the Regional Health Bureau's distribution plan.
- WFP reported having an equivalent of two months of Specialized Nutritious Foods (SNF) for the Targeted Supplementary Feeding program (TSFP, MAM management) in 18 selected Woredas, including trucks on standby to transport from Mekelle to FDC/health facilities. No TSFP activities could however be resumed at time of reporting.
- The Regional Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit's (ENCU) Nutrition Coordinator and Information Management Officer are supporting the Regional ECC; while UNICEF is deploying the ENCU Deputy Team Leader to Mekele to further strengthen nutrition coordination mechanisms.
- Nutrition partners (UNICEF, GOAL, and Regional ENCU colleagues in Afar) contributed to the MIRA exercises in Afar and Tigray, and results were shared to stakeholders.

Logistics

- The Logistics Cluster has facilitated access to dedicated fleets to support the humanitarian community. There are currently dedicated trucks stationed in Gonder and Kombolcha for the immediate transport of cargo into Tigray as access permits. Additional dedicated capacity can be made to partners upon request.
- As of 1 January, the Cluster has facilitated the transport and storage of 4 MT of cargo on behalf of partners to Gonder to be delivered to Shire. On Friday 1 January, the first Logistics Cluster convoy carrying 35 MT of cargo on behalf of 5 partners arrived in Mekelle.
- The Cluster has made available a 2400m² storage capacity for partners to position their stocks in Gonder. In Semera, the Cluster is setting up two mobile storage units with a capacity of 640m² for partners to position their stocks. Similarly in Kombolcha, the Cluster has made available a 900m² storage capacity for partners to position their stocks in Kombolcha. Additional human resource capacity will be deployed to strengthen logistics coordination in these areas.

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, for which funding is being mobilized. Currently, child protection and gender-based violence programs are ongoing in Afar and Amhara.
- 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

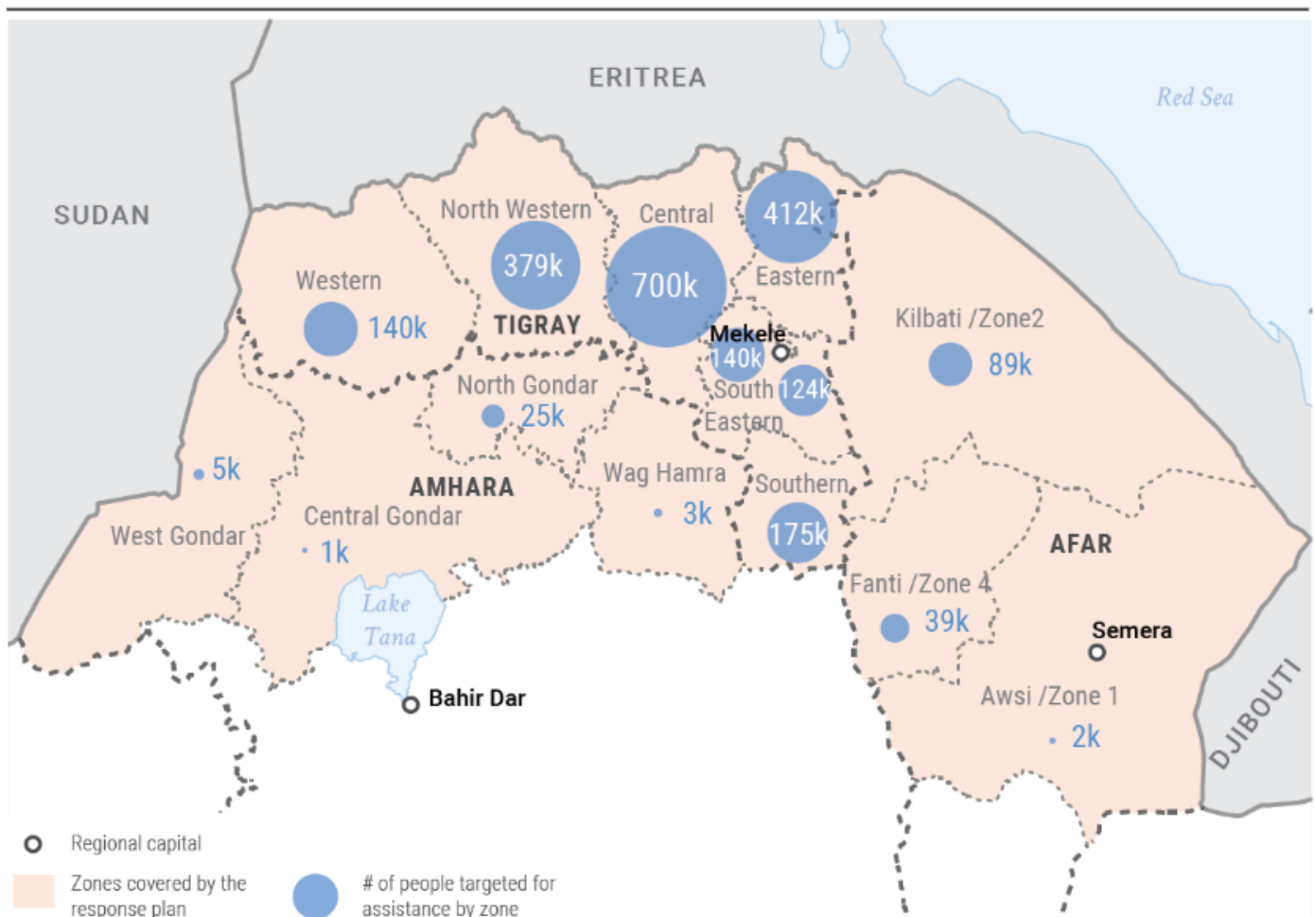
- Fuel for generator was provided for 2,000 households in Western Tigray (Dansha, Humera, MaiKadra, Tegede). IRC distributed MHM kits to 2,000 people (refugees) in/around Mai Ayni, Adi Harush, Shimelba and Hitsats (Tigray). Water service utilities were able to resume in Dansha, Humera and May Kadra (Tigray) with the fuel subsidies provided by Care Ethiopia and Catholic Relief Services (CRS). At least 5,280 liters were provided. Water is however still rationed for both the IDPs and the host communities. WASH NFIs were provided to Alamata Hospital (body soap, liquid and handwashing soaps, bleach, powder soap and face mask) via World Vision, benefitting 25,000 people. Similarly, through World Vision, WASH NFI support in Alamata Town benefitted 10,500 people.



- WASH NFI supplies have been prepositioned for 5,000 IDPs and host community households in Amhara Region North Gonder Zone in Telemit Woreda, North Gonder Zone, Amhara Region and Berhale Woreda, Zone 2, Afar Region.
- NRC implemented emergency WASH activities (water supply, sanitation and hygiene activities) benefiting 30,000 Individuals (IDPs/host/refugees) in Tigray (North Western Zone), Amhara (Gonder, Adiarkay), Afar (Yalo, Megale, Aba'ala).
- Water treatment chemicals were distributed to 120 households in Adiarkay Woreda in North Gonder Zone, Amhara.
- WASH NFIs were distributed via SWAN to 1,000 displaced households in Yallo, Megale and Aba'ala Woredas in Afar Region.
- 3,000 dignity kits, 50,000 sachets of WTC, construction materials for 372 emergency latrines and roto tanks and bladders (for the ongoing water trucking) is ongoing. The IOM-run water trucking service will benefit 350 displaced households in Amhara.

VISUAL (7 Jan 2021)

NUMBER OF PEOPLE TARGETED FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE BY ZONE



COORDINATION (7 Jan 2021)

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 NDRMC is establishing Incident Command Posts in Dansha/Gonder, Alamata, Humera and Shire. The Emergency Coordination Centre in Mekelle has been established and held their first meeting on 1 January to coordinate humanitarian response to people affected by the conflict, as the first convoys of humanitarian commodities arrived in Mekelle.

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 (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.

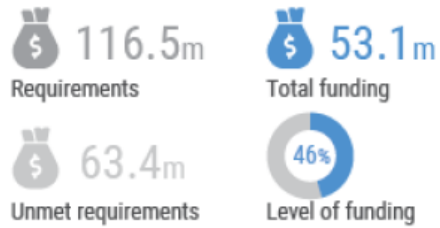
The UNHCR [Regional Refugee Preparedness and Response Plan for the Ethiopia Situation](#) (Tigray) requires \$155.7 million to address the needs of 115,000 projected refugees by June 2021.

VISUAL (29 Dec 2020)

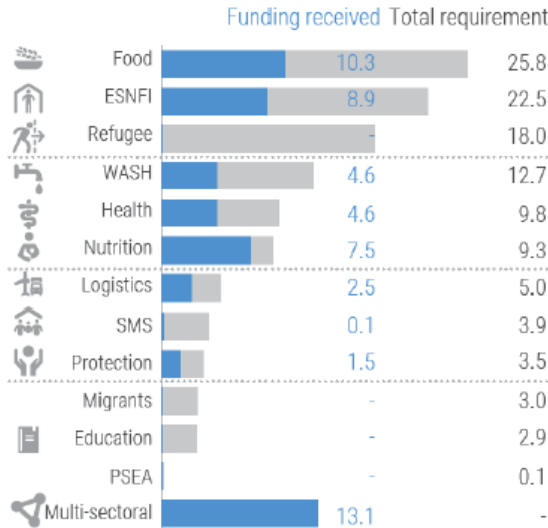
Tigray humanitarian response plan

Funding situation

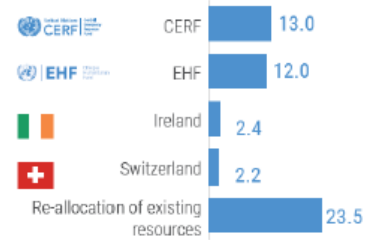
FUNDING REQUIREMENTS (in million US\$)



Funding requirements by sector (in million US\$)



Allocation by donor (in million US\$)



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ETHIOPIA - TIGRAY REGION HUMANITARIAN UPDATE

Situation Report

Last updated: 6 Jan 2021
