

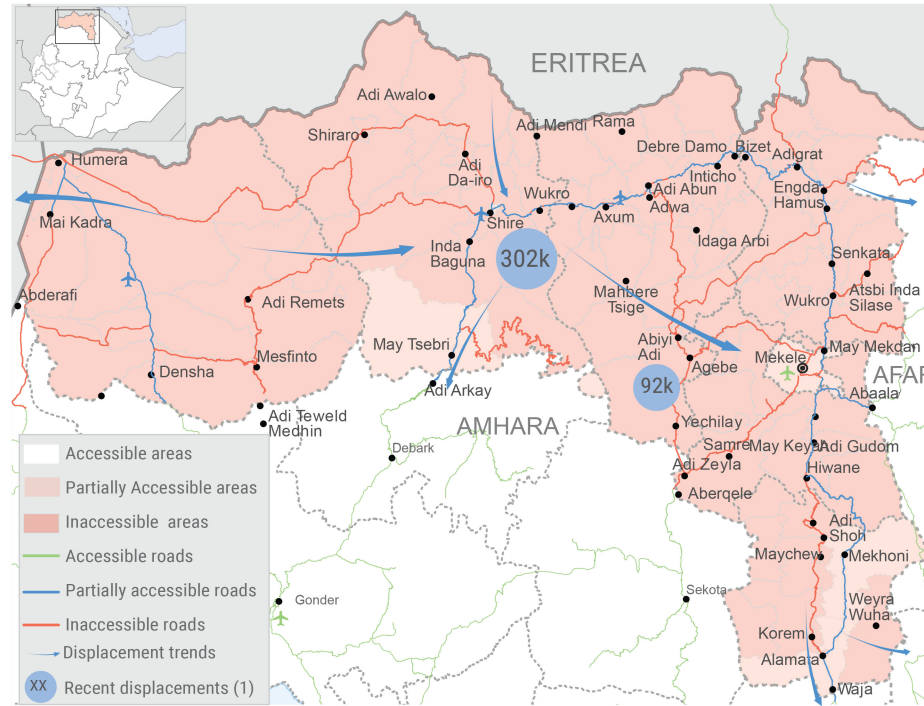


The humanitarian situation throughout Tigray is reportedly dire, with prevailing insecurity and violence impacting the civilian population, forced displacement, and widespread looting of public infrastructure and private property. **Safe an unimpeded humanitarian access to people in need remains an issue nearly three months after the start of the conflict**, with few partners operational on the ground and very limited assistance provided.

The security situation remains volatile, with active hostilities reported in all regions. These include, shelling, armed confrontations, ambushes, and hit-and-run attacks by parties to the conflict. Partners have received witness accounts of major human rights violations, inter alia indiscriminate killings, abductions, sexual violence, forced recruitment, and forced displacement on ethnic grounds. The Ethiopia Human Rights Commission has denounced the limited access to media and human rights groups. The lack of protection partners on the ground is hindering the expansion of protection services and the investigation of the alleged violations.

Active hostilities continue to be reported in Western, North-Western, Central, East and South-East Tigray zone. Meanwhile, clashes along the Sudan-Ethiopia border have prompted an acceleration of efforts to relocate Ethiopian refugees in Sudan away from the border (UNHCR). The outflow of asylum seekers to Sudan continues, though the number of daily arrivals has reduced. The refugee camps of 'Shimelba' and 'Hitsats' camps (North Western) have been reportedly vandalized, and remain inaccessible to partners. By early January, an inter-agency mission reached the refugee camps of 'Mai Aini' and 'Aidi Harush' (North Western). Refugees noted that service provision had completely ceased since the start of the conflict, and expressed concerns for their safety and security.

In **South and South-East** zones, the situation in Mekelle and Alamata towns has recently improved with the restoration of water and electricity. Insecurity remains an issue, with police absent in the streets and a reported rise in criminality. Thousands of people have moved to Mekelle in search of safety and assistance and are being hosted with relatives, and at least eight collective sites hosting an estimated 50,000 of IDPs.



4 million ⁽²⁾
People in need of food aid

495,000 ⁽¹⁾
People internally displaced

57,000
New Ethiopian Refugees in Sudan since November 2020

6
Number of humanitarian workers killed

Number of people displaced in the region ⁽¹⁾

Zone	IDPs
Central	110,056
Eastern	20,210
Mekelle	28,371
North Western	310,744
South Eastern	2,638
Southern	16,922
Western	6,853

The interim administrator of **Central zone** has reported an alarming situation, with food, NFIs, and livelihoods looted or destroyed. In **North-Western**, the situation in Shire is critical, with an estimated 46,000 IDPs in collective sites in Shire, and at least 4,000 Eritrean refugees, and very limited assistance provided. In **Western**, reports indicate widespread violence, looting, and forced displacement of ethnic Tigrayns out of the zone, either to Sudan or to North-Western.

There is a **total disruption of essential services**, including access to electricity and water, while **communications are cut off through the region** (except Mekelle). Thousands of civil servants have vacated their posts/not been paid for months, including local officials, health workers, teachers, etc. An estimated 1.3 million children remain out-of-school as a result of the conflict. **The health system has reportedly collapsed.** The Regional Health Bureau has announced is only able to physically access 5 out of 40 hospitals in the region. Some health workers lost their lives, some fled to their home villages/over 600 to Mekelle. Dozens of health centres and supplies - including ambulances - have been looted.

Access to food is a major concern. The main commercial supply routes to the region have been cut off since November, and the harvest season impacted. Food availability in local markets is limited, plus raising inflation. The banking system is non-operational (with the exception of Mekelle), which is preventing the population from withdrawing cash to sustain themselves. Pre-crisis malnutrition in Tigray was already on the rise due to chronic food insecurity and desert locust infestation. Partners are concerned about an increase of wasting among children, including by those already suffering stunting. **Access for partners to repair water and sanitation systems** is urgently needed in order to prevent the spread of water-borne diseases. **COVID-19** activities re reportedly halted.

Six aid workers have been killed since the start of the conflict, dozens remain unaccounted for. The conflict has impacted the safety national aid workers, particularly from Tigray. Partners have denounced the looting of their compounds, warehouses, and vehicles by parties to the conflict. **The communications blackout is impacting the safety of aid workers** and the scale up of relief operations.

(1) : Numbers from IOM/DTM

(2) : The 4 million PIN is an estimation that includes 2.9M relief beneficiaries from the food cluster, plus PSNP and Refugees beneficiaries. The IDP figures are used by the food cluster.