

Northern Ethiopia Update

25 October 2021



The recently opened UNHCR office in Sheraro distributed mosquito nets, sleeping mats, laundry soap, kitchen sets, blankets and buckets to 8,000 newly internally displaced people who arrived from areas where the conflict remains active as well as to other families in need. ©UNHCR / Silva Alkebeh

Background and key developments

As the Tigray conflict approaches its first anniversary the overall security and access situation remains complex and fluid. New internal displacement occurs on a day-to-day basis. Both, intra-regional new displacements as well as displacements from Afar and Amhara regions have been reported. Intra-regional displacements have been tracked with an emphasis on displacements from north-western and western zones.

On 29 July, UNHCR called on all parties involved in the conflict for a 30-day cessation of hostilities to secure safe passage for relocation of Eritrean refugees, but this has not materialized to date. Meanwhile, UNHCR and ARRA have developed a relocation plan, which is ready to be implemented. They are setting up a new camp in the vicinity of Dabat (Alemwach camp), in the Amhara region, to host some 25,000 refugees from the Mai Aini and Adi Harush camps. In the meantime, until that camp is set up, 230 refugees are accommodated in interim emergency communal shelters in Dabat town, with electricity and water connected. Relocated refugees have received basic relief supplies.

UNHCR also scaled up its presence in Mai Aini and Adi Harush refugee camps by deploying staff that will, among others, run the protection reception desks, monitor field activities, respond to inquiries about the relocation from these camps, and prepare lists of refugees willing to be relocated to ease the movement.

Displacement figures

Prior to the outbreak of the Tigray crisis on 4 November 2020, the total refugee population registered in Tigray (95,929) and Afar (54,183) was 150,012, with the majority in camps, and a small population of 7,800 living outside of camp settings under the Out of Camp Policy (OCP). At the outset of the crisis, UNHCR confirmed 59,759 refugees as the baseline for the refugee population known to be in Tigray, based primarily on those who had collected food in the camps.

According to regional authorities, the conflict has displaced some 2.1 million people in Tigray region, 800,000 people in Amhara region and 140,000 in Afar region.

Operational response

Refugee response

Mai Aini and Adi Harush camps

WFP food distributions started on 23 September. This is the second round of food distributions since UNHCR, and other agencies gained access to the camps in July. The first round has taken place from 5-12 August. As of 25 September, a total of 15,940 refugees (9,500 in Mai-Aini and 6,440 in Adi-Harush) have collected food, out of 24,000 targeted refugees.

The food situation is desperate in the camps with refugees reportedly selling all household items to purchase food. The support of all relevant stakeholders is urgently required to ensure an uninterrupted food supply for refugees. This is in recognition of the ongoing activities for the relocation of those refugees who voluntarily wish to move but still require food in the interim, as well as for those who may wish to remain in the camps for a longer period of time and require ongoing service delivery from humanitarian actors.

UNHCR continues to prioritize resumption of life-saving services for refugees in Mai Aini and Adi Harush camps. With UNHCR's support, IRC was able to transport the required fuel supply from Shire town to the camps and resume water services in the two camps as of 20 September.

Barahle and Aysaita camps

- In Afar, food distribution for the 21,000 refugees in Barhale camp was completed by ARRA at the beginning of September, covering the month of August. Due to the volatile security situation around the camp, the area remains inaccessible to UNHCR based on UNDSS security assessment.
- The UNHCR Protection team in Semera met with the committee of Eritrean refugees who have been relocated from Tigray to Afar region last August and are hosted near Aysaita camp in ARRA's office. This was adopted as a temporary measure for this specific caseload, who were not able to be safely integrated with other refugees in Aysaita due to protection issues associated with their ethnicity. UNHCR is consulting refugees on possible options, including relocation to Dabat in the Amhara region where the new Alemwach camp is being set up.

Alemwach refugee camp and Dabat

- Construction works at Alemwach refugee site have been expedited with the return of the heavy machinery from Gondar to Dabat, following a brief halt of activities. Three communal hangers and six communal kitchens are almost completed on site.
- WASH activities in Dabat continue to take place with the provision of potable water to persons of concern, hand washing awareness campaign, solid waste disposal, disinfection of communal latrines and distribution of body soap and washing basins. Disinfection of three water reservoirs for the host community in Dabat town was also completed.

Out-of-camps refugees in Tigray

- UNHCR verified some 2,000 registered refugees in out-of-camp locations in the Tigray region who reside among the host communities mostly in Mekelle, Shire, Sheraro and Adigrat. Out of the overall refugee population who resided in the former camps of Hitsats and Shimelba, 7,643 remain unaccounted for. Due to the lack of access to basic assistance and protection services, refugees residing outside of camps face increasingly difficulties to meet their basic needs, such as access to shelter, water and food.
- UNHCR, in collaboration with ARRA, will continue and to upscale the verification (through biometrics) of registered refugees in the Tigray region to establish how many of the still unaccounted for refugees maybe traced. In order to ensure that refugees come forward for verification, UNHCR will use the refugee community to communicate and to encourage people to come forward for verification. The biometric verification of registered refugees will be a continuous exercise and areas outside Mekelle and Shire will be targeted with mobile verification missions.

Addis Ababa

- Since 4 August, UNHCR has started a documentation exercise for Eritrean refugees who self-relocated to Addis Ababa from the former Shimelba and Hitsats camps. Taking place at the office of the Organisation for Women in Self Employment (WISE) ARRA and UNHCR went on with the documentation exercise after 13 September following the completion of the first phase (4 August – 8 September).
- As of 1 October, UNHCR reached out to a total of 8,136 households that represent a total family size of 13,149 individuals. 10,100 individuals (all over 14 years old) of the total received a new refugee ID card valid for three years (*this does not include refugees who already have an 'out-of-camp' status in Addis Ababa). Of those who received new refugee ID cards, 4,975 individuals have at least one specific need.
- UNHCR Ethiopia has planned a one-off cash assistance for eligible refugees while the documentation exercise remains ongoing.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) response



PROTECTION

- The Relocation Task Force led by CCCM and Protection clusters relocated 5,098 individuals from four schools to Sebacare 4 IDP site in Mekelle. UNHCR protection team and partners assisted with the identification, registration, and referral of 20 unaccompanied and separated children and 89 persons with specific needs. Door-to-door vulnerability and NFI needs assessments were conducted among 415 households. Solar lights were distributed to 354 households as well as dignity kits. A Protection Desk has been set up with the presence of 2 social workers from partner IHS, conducting protection counselling, needs assessment and overall information

sharing and referrals. Protection team and partners identified places to establish Child and Women Friendly Spaces.

- 9,815 households (19,801 individuals) have been enrolled by the Bureau of Labour and Social Affairs (BoLSA) and Tigray Statistics Agency (TSA) through the support of Enrolment Working Group in 26 sites in Mekelle. According to the preliminary findings, the enrolled population contains 920 individuals with specific needs (37%) and more than 64% are willing to return to their areas of origin. BoLSA will deploy enumerators out of Mekelle to continue the exercise in the coming days. BoLSA/TSA also completed the enrolment in all IDP Sites in Shire, the findings are not yet shared with UNHCR.
- BoLSA and UNHCR organized an IDP Return workshop with 75 IDP representatives including women and youth from 26 sites in Mekelle to hear their views on returns and durable solutions. The Head of BoLSA stressed the importance to respect the ethics and standards of international principles, safety being the most important one and to ensure that returns will only be undertaken in safe areas. Following presentation from BoLSA/UNHCR and IOM on the draft operational plan for IDP return and the outcome of the IDP intention survey conducted recently, IDPs raised their priority needs. Safety and security are their utmost priority to return and they also mentioned that they need material assistance (transport, food, CRIs, clothes, cash, agricultural materials) and services (medical care, support to unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to return.



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

- CCCM and Protection Clusters conducted several field missions to Abi Adi to identify relocation sites with the Mayor who presented the Relocation Plan in Mekelle to the Relocation Task Force with UNHCR's support.
- A joint CCCM assessment mission was organized to the IDP sites of Digdiga and Gura'a in Afar to carry out a joint preliminary assessment of the two sites and distribute NFIs to 1,250 households. UNHCR has activated the CCCM cluster in Afar.
- UNHCR CCCM and Shelter teams completed the site profiling for seven sites in Mekelle, three sites in Adigrat and three sites in Edaga Hamus, south-east of Adigrat.
- Preliminary findings of the CCCM assessment conducted in the two IDP sites in Mai Tsebri on 15 September indicated that almost 90 percent of the 30,946 IDPs recorded by local authorities live with host communities, while only 3,200 are regularly residing at the two IDP sites. UNHCR recommended short-term interventions to address the crucial needs (food, shelter and access to health services), including immediate setting up of emergency shelters, provision of uninterrupted water supply and distribution of CRIs to the 3,200 IDPs currently residing in the sites.



SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

- On 24 September, UNHCR and partner Innovative Humanitarian Solutions (IHS) completed a two-day distribution of NFIs to approximately 8,000 individuals residing in 14 IDP sites in Sheraro. Distributions prioritized single mothers, pregnant women, persons with disabilities, unaccompanied and separated children and new arrivals from Ethio-Eritrea disputed lands and western and north western zones. NFIs included blankets, sleeping mats, hygiene items, kitchen sets and mosquito nets. Due to lack of fuel and cash, the exercise was carried out at UNHCR premises with the support of IDP leaders and volunteers from the local community.
- As part of the preparations for the recommencements of schools at the end of September, 380 shelters have been completed in Sebacare 4 in Mekelle.
- NFI distribution were carried out at IDP sites in Adigrat for 631 households through partner HIS, 712 households and host community in Maichew through partner EECMY. Partner RaDO distributed diapers and clothing to 14 PWDs under the age of 15 in Abi

Adi and 119 households received NFIs, mainly elderly persons with critical conditions and lactating mothers.

- UNHCR and partner IHS distributed 400 NFI sets to vulnerable IDP families whose houses were burnt down during the conflict in Zana woreda in the north western zone.



GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

- UNHCR facilitated workshops on the basics of international protection, GBV and CP in emergencies attended by 43 participants in Abi Adi, 50 participants in Mekelle and 32 participants in Shire from BoLSA, woreda representatives, health officials and partner agencies. Participants strengthened their knowledge and skills for the prevention and response to GBV cases, referral pathway, disclosure of GBV cases among non GBV actors and child protection principles. Among the action points agreed upon, social workers from partners IHS and EECMY will work with community members to form Protection and Child Protection/ GBV committees.
- 2,658 dignity kits have been distributed in Adigrat and 300 dignity kits were given to the Hospital and two health centers in Maichew.



CHILD PROTECTION (CP)

- The UNHCR Protection Team conducted protection workshops and trainings in Mekelle, Maichew and Abi Adi, targeting 80 members from Government bodies, humanitarian actors and partners. Trainings focused on general Protection, GBV and PSEA Child Protection in Emergencies (definition of child protection, the risks that children face in forced displacement and the interventions required to respond to these risks, family tracing and reunification).
- As part of the enrollment process, the UNHCR Protection Team met with IDP leaders to reiterate the importance of families enrolling and relocating together as units to avoid separations that could result in more persons with specific needs particularly children that may be left unaccompanied.
- The Child Protection Team organized a joint mission to Abi Adi with the Protection team. During the mission the team oriented BoLSA and partners Action Against Hunger and GOAL Ethiopia on the Family Tracing and Reunification SoPs and the Best Interests principle.

Issues and Operational challenges

- The limited movement of cash into Tigray continues to hinder humanitarian operations. Currently, the only way to move agency cash into Tigray is via UNHAS flights with an ETB 2 million (USD 50,000) ceiling per agency per entry into Tigray that remains constraining. UNHCR is trying to support its partners in following the processes outlined for clearance and authorization of cash to be moved to Tigray.
- No fuel tankers have entered Tigray since August due to lack of clearance by respective authorities (last fuel tanker entered Tigray on 2 August). On 17 September the remaining one fuel tanker in Mekelle was emptied, while regional authorities in Tigray stated they would no longer be providing fuel to UN/NGOs due to shortages. UN Agencies and partners are relying on what fuel reserves they have remaining and all have reduced their operations. Lack of fuel directly impacts the ability of agencies to properly respond to the needs of persons of concern in the field as it both impacts transport and access to internet/communications. Though electricity is available in major towns, it remains unreliable, and generators are still essential.
- . Protection monitoring in various IDP sites reveal critical food shortages with some deaths caused by malnutrition. The majority of the population including the IDPs are

suffering from shortage of food, malnutrition, GBV, trauma and no/limited access to basic services such as water, health, education, shelter and livelihoods.

- The corridor from Debarq to Mai Tsebri where there are two camps is still not accessible as it is closed. Discussions on how to move the food for distribution in the camps are ongoing, as the food needs to be moved from WFP’s warehouse in Gondar, through Semera into Mekelle and then all the way to Shire. In addition, the bridge that links Shire and Mai Tseberi was recently fixed allowing trucks to travel.

Ethiopia Emergency Situation Funding Update

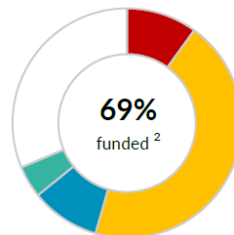
(As of 12 October 2021)

On 10 August, UNHCR appealed for US\$ 164.5 million to assist 96,000 Eritrean refugees and 650,000 internally displaced people in Ethiopia’s Tigray region and up to 120,000 Ethiopian refugees in eastern Sudan. Some US\$101.3 million, or 61% of the Appeal, will help provide essential aid such as shelter, domestic items and protection, including support for survivors of gender-based violence, inside Tigray. The overall appeal for both countries is currently 69% funded. UNHCR Ethiopia would like to express its – gratitude, for the funding received for its Ethiopia operation, to all donors, particularly the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), EU ECHO, Italy Japan, Norway, and the United States of America, alongside situation level funding from Finland, France, Luxembourg, and from Private donors.



\$164.5 million

UNHCR’s financial requirements 2021 ¹



FUNDING UPDATE | 2021

**ETHIOPIA
EMERGENCY**

as of 12 October 2021

- Tightly earmarked
- Earmarked
- Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)
- Unearmarked (indicative allocation)
- Funding gap (indicative)

CONTRIBUTIONS ³ | USD

	■ Unearmarked	■ Softly earmarked	■ Earmarked	■ Tightly earmarked	Total
United States of America	-	-	19,130,000	-	19,130,000
European Union	-	-	-	3,789,384	3,789,384
Finland	-	2,389,486	-	-	2,389,486
UNO-Fluechtlingshilfe	-	1,153,278	-	298,329	1,451,607
Italy	-	-	-	1,379,723	1,379,723
Japan	-	181,159	-	1,100,000	1,281,159
Country-Based Pooled Funds	-	-	-	1,280,000	1,280,000
Norway	-	-	1,219,066	-	1,219,066
United Kingdom	-	-	810,811	-	810,811
CERF	-	-	-	500,000	500,000
Education Cannot Wait	-	-	-	500,000	500,000
Médecins Sans Frontières	-	-	-	365,625	365,625
France	-	351,700	-	-	351,700
Novo Nordisk Foundation	-	327,004	-	-	327,004
United Kingdom for UNHCR	-	315,472	-	-	315,472
Luxembourg	-	305,998	-	-	305,998
Australia for UNHCR	-	297,062	-	-	297,062
Private donors Canada	-	223,345	-	-	223,345
UNHCR Insamlingsstiftelse	-	200,007	-	-	200,007
Latter-day Saints Charities	-	-	-	172,200	172,200
Liechtenstein	-	110,375	-	-	110,375
Private donors USA	-	100,000	-	-	100,000
Other private donors	-	380,661	-	5,326	385,987
Sub-total	-	6,335,548	21,159,877	9,390,587	36,886,012
Indicative allocation of funds and adjustments ⁶	11,324,087	5,044,925	51,942,701	7,845,644	76,157,357
Total	11,324,087	11,380,473	73,102,578	17,236,231	113,043,369

Methodology: Unearmarked funding is allocated and reallocated multiple times during the year to allow UNHCR to fund prioritised activities. This funding update includes an indicative allocation of funds so as to accurately represent the resources available for the situation. The contributions earmarked for the Ethiopia Emergency shown above are combined with an indicative allocation of the softly earmarked and unearmarked contributions listed below. This allocation respects different levels of earmarking. Adjustments relate to programme support costs and carry-over.

■ OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS ⁴ | USD

United States of America 169.5 million | Private donors Australia 8.4 million | Canada 5.8 million | Sweden 3.5 million | Denmark 2.9 million | Switzerland 2 million | Private donors Germany 2 million

IGAD | Ireland | Japan | Luxembourg | Netherlands | Norway | Private donors

■ UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS ⁵ | USD

Norway 80 million | Sweden 66.9 million | Private donors Spain 55.7 million | Netherlands 36.1 million | Denmark 34.6 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 28.5 million | United Kingdom 28.4 million | Germany 26 million | Japan 23.4 million | Private donors Japan 20.7 million | France 20.2 million | Switzerland 16.4 million | Private donors Italy 14 million | Ireland 12.5 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Private donors Sweden 11.9 million | Italy 10.7 million

Algeria | Armenia | Australia | Austria | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Cyprus | Estonia | Finland | Holy See | Iceland | Liechtenstein | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | Morocco | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Portugal | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Singapore | South Africa | Thailand | Turkey | Uruguay | Private donors

Notes:

- The financial requirements of the Ethiopia Emergency include requirements in Ethiopia and Sudan.
- The percentage funded (69%) and total funding amount (\$113,043,369) are indicative based on the methodology described above. This leaves an indicative funding gap of \$51,450,779 representing 31% of the financial requirements.
- Contributions to the Ethiopia Emergency are shown by the earmarking modality as defined in the Grand Bargain.
- Due to their earmarking at a related region, sub-region, country or theme, the other softly earmarked contributions listed are those which can potentially be used for the Ethiopia Emergency. Where a donor has contributed \$2 million or more, the total amount of the contribution is shown.
- Contributed without restrictions on its use, unearmarked funding allows UNHCR critical flexibility in how best to reach refugees and other populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk. Where a donor has contributed \$10 million or more, the total amount of the contribution is shown.
- Includes an adjustment for generous contributions from Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom that were received and acknowledged in 2020, but that can be used in 2021, thereby increasing the funds available to the Ethiopia Emergency Situation in 2021.

Ethiopia operation: UNHCR presence in Tigray



ETHIOPIA
 UNHCR Operational Overview
 as of October 2021

In



The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. * Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan; and between Ethiopia and Somalia has not yet been determined.
 Printing date: 05 Oct 2021 Sources: UNHCR, UNCS, CSA Ethiopia Author: ethiadm@unhcr.org

Tigray region, UNHCR has Sub-Offices in Shire and Mekelle, where the Agency is scaling up its presence to meet the current protection and humanitarian needs of refugees and IDPs. To strengthen the response and be closed to those in need, UNHCR has scaled up its presence by opening five new field units in Tigray (namely, Abi-Adi, Adigrat, Maichew, Sheraro and Axum) to further strengthen its response in the region and beyond, in addition to UNHCR Sub-Offices of Mekelle, Shire, and Field Offices of Semera in Afar and Debark in Amhara. Furthermore, UNHCR appointed new 24 staff for newly created positions, including one DI position, Principal Emergency Situation Coordinator, three P5 positions of Senior Protection Cluster Adviser, Senior Operational Coordinator and Senior Supply Coordinator, to continue the scale-up of UNHCR’s response to the Tigray situation and to ensure continuity between emergency deployments and longer-term staff. Newly appointed staff members are expected to arrive in the next coming weeks and the final organigram of the Tigray operation will be shared in the coming days.

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LINKS

[Ethiopia Data Portal](#)

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