UNFPA ETHIOPIA RESPONSE TO THE TIGRAY CRISIS

Situation Report

1 to 15 August 2021

Background

Since the declaration of the unilateral ceasefire by the Federal Government on June 28, the withdrawal of the Ethiopian Defense Forces and the control of most parts of Tigray by the Tigray Peoples Liberation Front (TPLF), the situation in Northern Ethiopia continues to be highly unpredictable and volatile. While Tigray remains the epicenter of the crisis, the movement of the conflict into neighboring Afar and Amhara regions continues to drive mass displacement and increased humanitarian needs around bordering areas with Tigray. Although the scale and magnitude of newly internal displacement is still not fully captured due to active confrontations in the area, **regional authorities report more than 150,000 internally displaced people[1] (IDPs) in Amhara region, and nearly 76,500[2] IDPs in Afar** in urgent need of humanitarian aid.

Humanitarian access within the Tigray region improved considerably - 75% of the needy population is now fully accessible, according to OCHA - while movements of relief supplies into the region continue to be severely restricted to only one available road through the Afar region, with extensive delays in clearance processes and insecurity. Ongoing supply disruptions, lack of stocks, cash, banking services, commercial cargo flights, fuel, and telecommunications continue to impact humanitarian actors' capacity to sustain operations and respond to the **current and emerging needs of 5.2 million[3] people in need across the region.**

Source: UNFPA Ethiopia

Situation Overview

In Northern Ethiopia, the **humanitarian situation continues to worsen** as armed clashes have spilled over into the neighboring Afar and Amhara regions, driving mass displacement and increasing humanitarian needs across the region. According to OCHA, there are an estimated **150,000 displaced people[4] in volatile and conflict-prone areas in Amhara**, with regional authorities claiming more than 1.3 IDPs in need of aid

[1] Ethiopia - Tigray Region Humanitarian Update Situation Report (August 19, 2021): https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/ethiopia-tigray-region-humanitarian-update-situation-report-19-august-2021

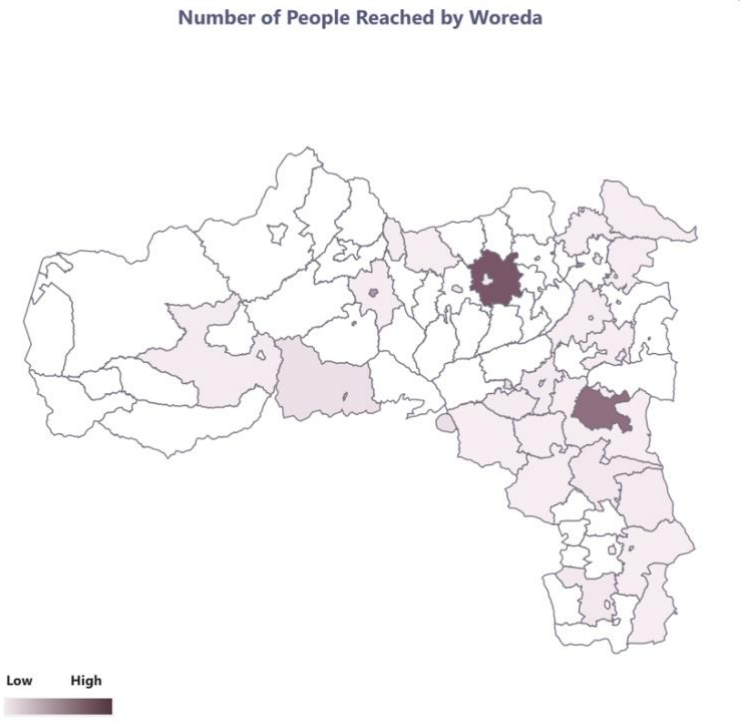
[2] Ibid.

[3] Ethiopia - Tigray Region Humanitarian Updated Situation Report (August 5, 2021): https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Situation%20Report%20-%20Ethiopia%20-%20Tigray%20Region%20Humanitarian%20Update%20-%205%20Aug%202021.pdf

[4] Ethiopia - Tigray Region Humanitarian Update Situation Report (August 5, 2021): https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/ethiopia-tigray-region-humanitarian-update-situation-report-05-august-2021

due to ongoing hostilities and climate-related shocks. **In Afar, nearly 76,500[5] people are reported to be displaced** by the expansion of the conflict into four woredas of Zone 4 (Fantana Rasu), while access remains curtailed due to the fluid security situation. The spillover effect of the conflict into both regions continues to affect civilians with increased food insecurity, increased displacement and disruption of livelihoods. According to UNICEF, the rates of malnutrition among pregnant and breastfeeding women are consistently above 40 %, threatening the lives of newborn babies and their mothers. Meanwhile in Tigray, **the disruption of banking services and cash, shortages of fuel, the suspension of commercial cargo flights and communications is further contributing to the slowing down of humanitarian operations.** The short supply of fuel is having a major impact on partner's capacity to deliver life-saving assistance, including operating generators for water services, health facilities, transport and distributions of aid and staff across the region or access to electricity and communication.

Since the conflict began in November 2020, more than **2 million people have been internally displaced**[6] in Tigray with up to **5.2 million people estimated to be in need** of emergency humanitarian aid. Over the course of the conflict, the health system has been seriously degraded and disrupted in terms of infrastructure, availability of medical supplies and human resources, with **less than half of the referral hospitals in the Tigray region now operational**[7]. Recent assessments show that out of 200 assessed health facilities only 96 (48%) are providing Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) and 114 (57%) delivery services. While GBV services are slightly increasing across the region, they are still insufficient to ensure that minimum standards are in place to prevent and respond to gender-based violence amid the humanitarian crisis. According to the GBV Area of Responsibility (AoR) Dashboard, **from May to August 2021, GBV partners have reached a total of 205,000 people out of the 816,000 people targeted with at least one type of GBV response service**, as follows: 42,589 people (39% of the target) with GBV psychosocial support services, 34,638 women and girls (11% of the target) have received dignity kits, 127,279 people (23% of the target) have been reached with GBV prevention including awareness raising activities, and a total of 566 (4%) of frontline responders have received capacity building training across the region. Despite increasing protection concerns, the operational presence remains extremely limited (see map) in South Eastern, Southern, Northwestern and Western



Source: GBV AoR Dashboard 1

[5] IOM-Displacement Tracking Matrix 6 (June 24, 2021): https://dtm.iom.int/reports/ethiopia-—-emergency-site-assessment-6-3-—-24-may-2021

[6] Ibid.

[7] Ibid.

Tigray further compromising access to comprehensive GBV response services to vulnerable women and girls in those conflict-affected areas.

In view of the current expansion of the conflict into the neighboring regions, UNFPA is assessing the scale-up response in the bordering areas in Amhara and Afar regions. UNFPA's Preparedness and Response Plan for the northern Ethiopia crisis focuses on preventing and responding to gender-based violence and bridging protection, gender equality and MHPSS, while building back capacity on sexual and reproductive health and rights in the conflict-affected regions in Northern Ethiopia. UNFPA has operational presence in Mekelle and Shire (Tigray Region), Semera (Afar Region) and Bahir Dar (Amhara Region) with on-site and remote International and National Surge Capacity Specialists supporting the Northern region (Tigray, Afar and Amhara) Response.

UNFPA'S RESPONSE

Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)

Of the people in need[8]*:*

1,300,000 are women of reproductive age

117,846 are currently pregnant women

13,094 expected births per month

624,000 are adolescent girls (10-19)

- **Distributed 42 IARH Kits, 48 medical supplies - bed screens, anti-shock garments, midwifery kits, solar panels, doppler fetal hearts, among others - and 4,220 PPEs** in partnership with Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) to 7 health centers and hospitals in Mekelle (2), Adigrat (1), Adwa (1), Axum (1) and Shire (2). Among the medical supplies distributed, 2 Emergency Referral SRH Kits 11A y 11B - 63 boxes - were handed over to the Suhul Hospital in Shire, Tigray.
- **Started the recruitment process of medical personnel - midwives, nurses, clinical officers, among others - to be deployed on two (2) Mobile Health Teams** in partnership with Marie Stopes International to provide maternal and reproductive health care - including GBV referral services - to conflict-affected women and girls at IPD sites in Mekelle and Adigrat in the Tigray region.
- **Finalized the selection of 200 conflict-affected women to be part of an income-generating project** in partnership with Mums for Mums for the production of standardized reusable menstrual hygiene products in Tigray region. As part of the project, the participants have been initially trained in prevention and control of STI/AIDS/STI and reproductive health and rights.
- **Led in collaboration with Medical Teams International (MTI) a situational analysis** on sexual and reproductive health services availability and accessibility for conflict-affected populations at 29 IDP sites in Mekelle, Tigray.
- **Provided technical assistance through a three-day training on sexual and reproductive**

[8] Based on Minimum Essential Service Package (MISP) calculator: https://iawg.net/resources/misp-calculator

health and gender-based violence in emergencies for Kebele Committees and anti-harmful traditional practices leaders organized by Plan International Ethiopia in Chagni town, Amhara region.

AT A GLANCE

MIDWIFERY SERVICE PROVISION

(*Cumulative numbers per reporting period and since March 2021)

REGION	SERVICE PROVIDED	FROM 1 - 15 AUGUST	GRAND TOTAL (SINCE MARCH 2021)
AFAR	# deliveries attended to by skilled provider	18	339
	# outpatients for post-natal care (PNC) within 42 hr.	16	353
	# outpatients for antenatal care consultations (ANC)	83	827
	# outpatient visits for family planning (male and female)	22	602
	# visits for STI/HIV counseling, screening, testing or other treatment	220	859
	# referrals for higher level of obstetric care/emergency (mother/newborn)	11	163
	# clinical management of rape visits completed within 72 hr. of assault	0	1
	# of ANC outpatients visits, including PMTCT	89	727
	TOTAL AFAR	459	3,821
AMHARA	# deliveries attended to by skilled provider	4	199
	# outpatients for post-natal care (PNC) within 42 hr.	7	195
	# outpatients for antenatal care consultations (ANC)	55	1,200
	# outpatient visits for family planning (male and female)	35	1,073
	# visits for STI/HIV counseling, screening, testing or other treatment	28	1,074
	# of referrals for higher level of obstetric care/emergency (mother/newborn)	0	64
	# of clinical management of rape visits completed within 72 hours of assaults	0	12
	# of ANC outpatients visits, including PMTCT	35	412
	TOTAL AMHARA	164	4,229
TIGRAY	# deliveries attended to by skilled provider	14	1,284
	# outpatients for post-natal care (PNC) within 42 hr.	16	1,216
	# outpatients for antenatal care consultations (ANC)	63	5,262
	# outpatient visits for family planning (male and female)	67	4,683
	# visits for STI/HIV counseling, screening, testing or other treatment	71	3,283
	# referrals for higher level of obstetric care/emergency (mother/newborn)	0	130
	# clinical management of rape visits completed within 72 hr. of assault	0	41
	# of ANC outpatients visits, including PMTCT	14	875
	TOTAL TIGRAY	245	16,774
	GRAND TOTAL	868	24,824

**Note:Due to a persistent communication blackout within Tigray, the reporting of midwifery services is inconsistent and challenging over time.*

Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV)

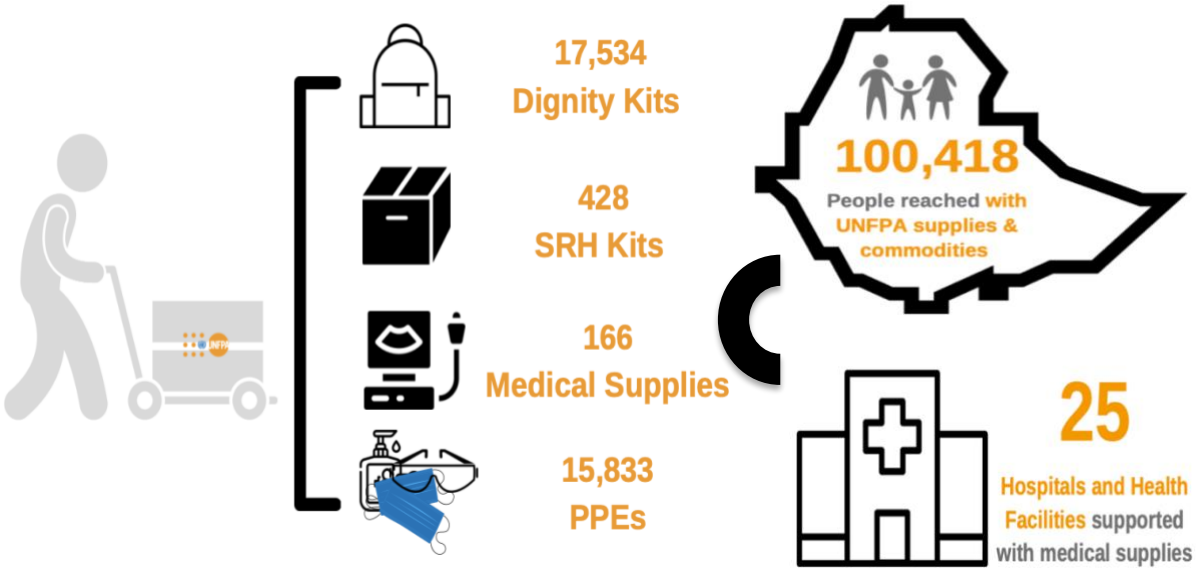
- **660 women and girls reached with SRH/GBV risk mitigation and awareness sessions** conducted by Organization for Social Services, Health and Development (OSSHD) in 2 UNFPA Women and Girls' Friendly Spaces (WGFS) and 5 IDP camps in Mekelle, Tigray.
- **1,055 conflict-affected persons reached with GBV risk mitigation and awareness raising information** delivered door-to-door in partnership with Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) in Tigray-bordering areas with Amhara and Afar regions.
- **Distributed 4,210 Dignity Kits to vulnerable women and girls living in IDP sites** in Amhara - in partnership with Amhara Women Association (AWA) - and through Food for the Hungry (FHI) in Tigray regions. In Amhara, 2500 DKs were distributed in Dabat and Debark woredas and the remaining 1,710 were distributed in Shire, Tigray.
- **Co-facilitated an Inter-Agency accountability to affected populations training** for 33 aid workers organized by UNOCHA and with the collaboration of UNHCR and OSSHD in Mekelle, Tigray.
- **Coordinated the delivery of 4 tents for the establishment of Women and Girls' Friendly Spaces (WGFS)** with Food for the Hungry (FHI) to start the provision of comprehensive services on sexual and reproductive health, gender-based violence prevention and response and psychosocial counseling at IDP sites in Shire, Tigray.

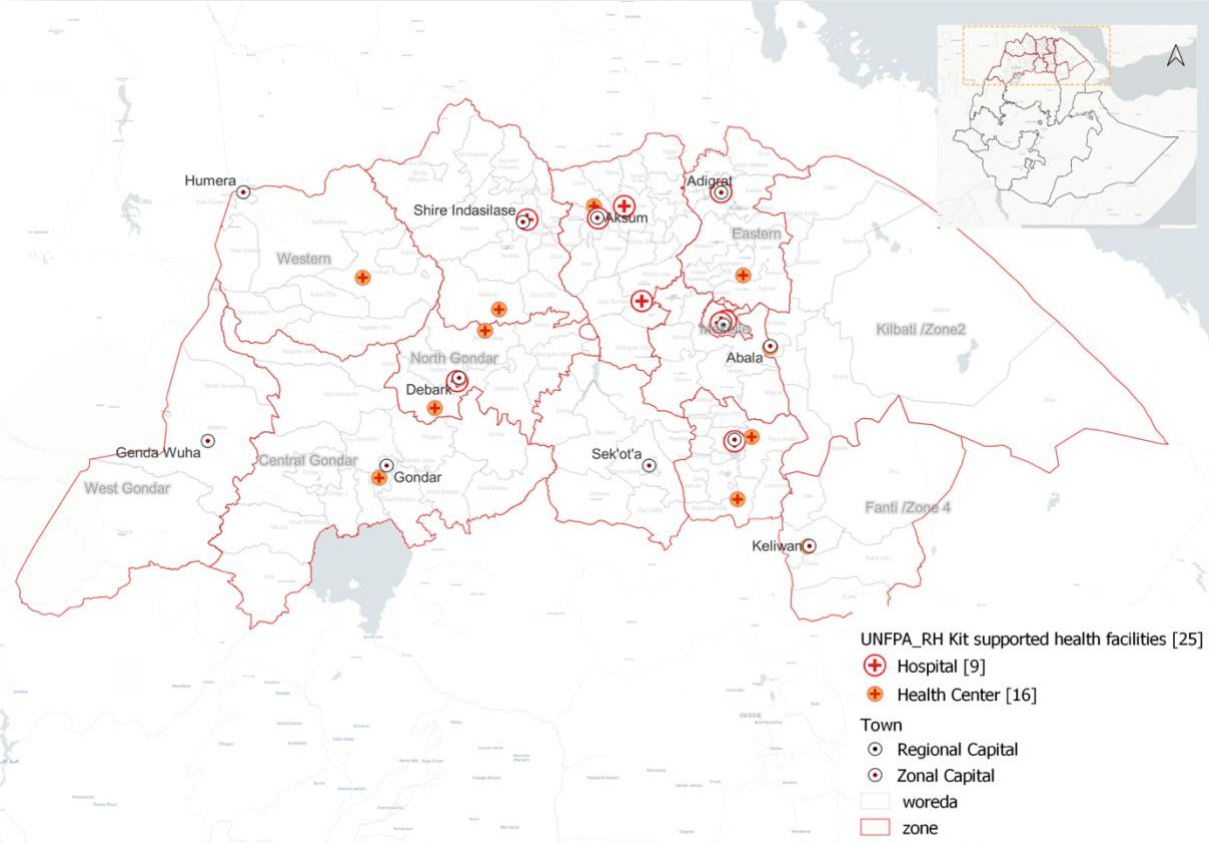
Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

- **Supported a total of 1,887 internally displaced persons and host communities with Psychological First Aid (PFA) and social service referrals** by the 234 trained PFA providers from OSSHD in 17 IDP sites in Mekelle, Tigray. Out of the 1,887 people reached, 642 were provided with access to basic counseling at two (2) Women and Girls' Friendly Spaces (WGFS) and 8 Women and Girls' Community Centers in Mekelle, Tigray.

UNFPA Supplies & Commodities for Northern Ethiopia Response

(*Cumulative numbers)





Logistics and Operations

42 IARH Kits distributed to 7 health facilities and hospitals in Tigray Region

- **Delivered 4 tents donated by WHO** to Food for the Hungry and OSSHD to establish Women and Girls' Friendly Spaces in Shire and Mekelle.
- **Distributed 42 IARH Kits,** 48 medical supplies and PPEs through the Ethiopian Red Cross to 7 health facilities and hospitals in Tigray Region.
- **Developed the UNFPA Security and Contingency Plan** to guarantee the safety and security of personnel responding to the Northern Ethiopia Crisis.

- **Coordinated the distribution plans of additional SRH Kits and medical supplies** to health facilities across Tigray in collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MoH) and WFP-Logistics Cluster.

Coordination and Partnerships

UNFPA:

- Completed the procurement requests for SRH and GBV supplies and their distribution plans to cover UNFPA/ IP programming for mobile clinics, health centers and government-led health facilities across the Northern Ethiopia Response.
- Supported the Country Office to review and clear TORs for scale up of the Northern Ethiopia Response.
- Planned the process for streamlining staff movements in and out of Tigray to ensure the full roll out of operations and implementation across the region.
- Coordinated 5 resource-mobilization opportunities - with UKAid, USAID, UNDP, Japan and Global Affairs Canada (GAC) - for the scale up of the Northern Ethiopia Response.

Save the Children's staff testing an autoclave for general medical sterilization donated by UNFPA to 56 health facilities across Tigray. Photo by © UNFPA

GBV AoR Coordination

UNFPA as the lead agency for GBV AoR coordination:

- Developed and released the Tigray GBV AoR 5W Dashboard (August 2021) providing a snapshot on the GBV Response with progresses against the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) targets and indicators, gaps and geographical areas and GBV interventions per partners across the region.

Communications

- Published a human-interest story showcasing the rise of forced marriages and other harmful traditional practices among conflict-affected women and girls in SNNP region.

- Developed a design layout for the Menstrual Health Management Booklet of the Norwegian Church Aid (NCB) and the support of UN CERF to be distributed in targeted areas of Amhara Region.

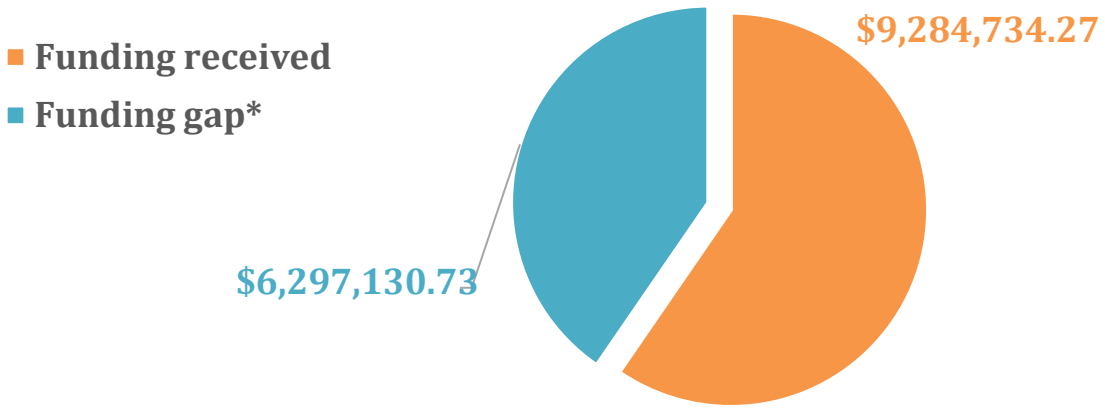
UNFPA'S RESPONSE

Resource Mobilization

Special thanks to the major donors supporting @UNFPAEthiopia Response to the Tigray Crisis:

CERF 2020 - 1,500,539 USD | **Emergency Fund** - 1,343,032 USD | **Danish MFA** - 1,600,000 USD
CERF 2021 - 2,500,003 USD | **USAID** - 1,637,527.00 USD | **Iceland** - 250,000 USD
Ethiopia Humanitarian Fund (EHF) - 449,633.27 USD | **Friends of UNFPA** - 4,000

Funding required: 15,581,865 USD



Delivering a world where **every pregnancy** is **wanted**, **every childbirth** is **safe** and **every young person's potential** is **fulfilled**

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