Climate shocks, conflicts, insecurity and disease outbreaks have rendered an estimated 25.9 million people across Ethiopia to be in humanitarian need. The declining economy is not helping matters. According to the IOM DTM [1], 4.51 million people have been identified as IDPs across the 9 regions in the country[1] as of February 2022. The main causes of displacement were conflict (81%), drought (9%), social tensions (4%), and other weather-related factors.

After four consecutive failed rainy seasons, the humanitarian situation continues to worsen in the eastern and southern parts of the country with more than 8 million pastoralists and agro-pastoralists in Somali (3.5 million), Oromia (3.4 million), SNNP (1 million) and South-West (more than 15,000 people) regions currently affected by the drought[2]. While humanitarian partners continue to scale up operations, at least 286,000 people are estimated to be displaced across 26 most affected zones[3]. Security concerns and violence have impeded access to people in need in some drought-affected areas, such as Guji and West Guji zones in Oromia region and Konso zone (SNNPR). As per recent weather forecasts, the situation is expected to worsen and expand to new geographic areas in the North-East of the country further increasing needs in scale and scope.

In northern Ethiopia, the situation remains calm but volatile, particularly in some areas of Northern Eastern Amhara and Zone 2 in Afar. Since March 24, 2022, with the announcement by the Federal Government of a “humanitarian truce”, humanitarian partners continue to scale up the flow of humanitarian assistance for more than 9.4 million affected people across the three regions. Despite all the efforts, the operational environment remains constrained by the lack of basic services and functioning markets, as well as the inability to bring sufficient supplies, fuel and cash to Tigray, and limited access to people in hard-to-reach areas across Afar and Amhara regions. In Amhara and Afar regions, regional authorities have started a multi-sectoral response to relocate internally displaced populations although the current overall relocation response is not commensurate to the increasing needs of people in need across northern Ethiopia.

[3] Ibid.
**Sexual and Reproductive Health**

**22,550** women reached with SRH services across northern Ethiopia (May 2022)

**1 Ambulance**

Handed over to Afar Regional Health Bureau to support Chifra Health Center in the Afar region (May 2022)

Northern Ethiopia Response

- 22,550 conflict-affected individuals reached with sexual and reproductive health services by deployed midwives and clinical mentors in partnership with the Ethiopian Midwives Association (EMwA), Marie Stopes International (MSI), and Maedot in Afar, Amhara, and Tigray regions.

- An ambulance, emergency reproductive and dignity kits – procured with the support of the Danish MFA – were handed over to Chifra Health Center in Afar on May 11, 2022.

- 20,900 individuals reached with SRH awareness creation sessions on STI/HIV prevention and risk mitigation, family planning, birth preparedness, and personal hygiene management by health extension workers deployed across health facilities in Afar (1,456), Amhara (4,919) and Tigray (14,525) in partnership with EMwA, MSI, Amhara Women Association (AWA) and the Organization for Social Services, Health and Development (OSSHD).

- Distributed 94 Inter-agency RH kits, 7,973 COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), and assorted medical supplies - 60 delivery beds, 40 Vacuum extractors, and 20 Non-pneumatic Anti-shock Garment (NASG), among others - to support the provision of maternal and reproductive health services across crisis-affected regions in Ethiopia.

National Response

- 8,081 conflict-affected persons from Benishangul Gumuz reached with reproductive and midwifery services by five deployed midwives in partnership with the Ethiopian Midwives Association (EMwA).

- Followed up on additional procurement request of nearly 1,000 IARH Kits, 9 ambulances, and assorted medical equipment from several donors to expand SRH-GBV-MHPSS service provision for conflict-affected populations across Afar, Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, Somali and Tigray regions.
PROGRAMME UPDATES

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

19,950 individuals reached with GBV prevention and risk mitigation awareness-raising activities (May 2022)

37,735 Dignity Kits distributed to conflict-affected women and girls in Tigray region (May 2022)

Northern Ethiopia Response

- **19,950 conflict-affected people reached with GBV prevention and risk mitigation awareness-raising sessions** and sensitization activities in partnership with OSSHD, Amhara Women Association, Maternity Foundation, MSI, Food for the Hungry International (FHI), and EMwA.

- **3,600 women and girls reached with services and referrals** to multi-sectoral services through 11 Women and Girls’ Friendly Spaces operational across northern Ethiopia.

- **Supported 8,338 displaced individuals with individual and group counseling** and Psychological First Aid at IDP camps in partnership with Food for the Hungry International, Maedot, Amhara Women Association, OSSHD, and World Vision Ethiopia.

- **Signed an additional work plan for expansion of GBV response activities** in North Shewa and Oromo Special zone in the Amhara Region funded by the Embassy of Japan.

GBV orientation session by UNFPA’s partner, OSSHD, to displaced women and girls at Mayweini internally displaced camp (IDP) in Mekelle, Tigray. After the orientation, women, and girls received a UNFPA Dignity Kit for menstrual health management and GBV prevention and risk mitigation. In May 2022, more than 37,735 Dignity Kits were distributed across multiple locations in Tigray with the financial support of CERF and UNDP.

Photo by: (c) UNFPA Ethiopia
UNFPA ETHIOPIA HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE
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PROGRAMME UPDATES

COORDINATION & PARTNERSHIPS

UNFPA has:

- Continued to participate in various humanitarian coordination platforms, including Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), and Health and Protection Clusters. We also continued to lead GBV sub-cluster and SRH Working Groups at the national and sub-national levels.
- Signed a top-up grant of $600,000 USD with UN CERF for humanitarian response in drought-affected areas of the country. We are following-up on additional resource mobilization opportunities with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
- By the end of May, nearly $6 million USD had been earmarked for 21 Implementing Partners (IPs) operating across northern Ethiopia and other crisis-affected regions with a target to allocate nearly $10 million by end of the year.
- Supported the Ministry of Health and the Health Sector Working Group on the national assessment on the impact of conflict and on recovery and rehabilitation planning through the deployment of professional and technical capacity.
- Signed agreement with Organization for Welfare and Development in Action (OWDA) to expand the GBV response in drought situations from 2 to 4 zones in the Somali region.
- Concluded the separation between the CP/GBV AoR at the national level for further strengthening of both coordination mechanisms and technical guidance on the multiple response environments across the country.

LOGISTICS & OPERATIONS

- Transferred nearly 12 million ETB into Tigray to sustain critical humanitarian response interventions across the region.
- As part of the Human Resource Plan (2022), followed up on the strengthening of professional capacities for humanitarian response across Afar, Amhara regions, and CO level through direct recruitment and standby partners.
- Increased cash flow operations, professional capacity, and logistic dispatching due to the easing of administrative measures by the Federal Government and the improvement of security conditions across northern Ethiopia.

DONOR MINUTES

“Enhancing health services, outreach and building capacity of health teams will make a great difference for women and children in Afar region. The ambulance services will contribute to supporting the development of an inclusive and robust medical health system in the region”

Dr. H.E. Alexander Skommer Larsen, Deputy Head of Mission of Denmark to Ethiopia, during the official ceremony on May 11, 2022.

[Read more]
PROGRAMME UPDATES

COMMUNICATIONS & ADVOCACY

- Conducted a field mission to Debark and Debra Tabor (Amhara) to document the SRH efforts of MSIE Mobile Units at IDP sites supported by Norway and Denmark MFA.
- 22 communication officers/focal points trained on UNFPA communication and field visibility requirements for development and humanitarian implementing partners on May 31, 2022.
- Followed up on the development of on-site visibility materials for USAID, UNDP, Japan, and Irish Aid projects, including the production of the facilitator flip chart for community outreach and awareness-raising activities across Ethiopia's emergency-affected regions.

INTERNATIONAL DAY TO END OBSTETRIC FISTULA

"Across Ethiopia, UNFPA is working with partners to support efforts to end fistula by 2030 by building the capacity of midwives to deliver emergency obstetric care and deploying them to facilities where there are staff shortages [...]"

FROM THE FIELD

"Of all the droughts I have experienced in my life, this is the worst. There is no water or pasture anywhere you go. I don’t know how we are going to survive" - Ms. Barkhado, 60, is among millions of people in Ethiopia who have been displaced by the region’s worst drought in four decades.

[Read the full story here]
Delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person’s potential is fulfilled