Climatic shocks, conflict, insecurity and disease outbreaks coupled with chronic economic challenges continue to exacerbate humanitarian needs in Ethiopia. According to the Global Humanitarian Overview for 2023, more than 26 million people in Ethiopia are estimated to require humanitarian assistance, including nearly 20 million affected by climate shocks alone in the eastern and southern regions.

In northern Ethiopia, following the signing of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement on 2 November 2022, humanitarian partners continue to scale-up response and access more previously inaccessible areas across Afar, Amhara and Tigray regions. In Tigray, improvements in the operational environment have allowed the dispatch of humanitarian supplies via four corridors through Afar and Amhara regions although some pockets areas in Central, Eastern and Western zones in the region remain hard-to-reach. Commercial flights, electricity, telecommunication and banking services are gradually being restored in several locations across the region. In Amhara, North Shewa, South Wello and West Gojjam zones continue to receive hundreds of thousands of IDPs[1] following reported fighting in bordering areas with Oromia region, aggravating an already deteriorated humanitarian situation in the region. In Afar, despite the scale up of humanitarian operations, the response remains inadequate in return areas, particularly around sheltering, basic services and health services. In Oromia Region, conflict and a fluid security situation continue to drive internal displacement while humanitarian access to people in need remains severely constrained.

In eastern and southern Ethiopia, communities continue to suffer the impacts of climate-related shocks, particularly the severe drought affecting the livelihoods of nearly 17 million pastoralists and agro-pastoralists. The reduced availability of food, water and pasture have triggered internal displacement and deepened food insecurity, exacerbating protection risks. The drought is also causing a health crisis due to increased malnutrition rates and disease outbreaks while access to health services has decreased. To that effect, the cholera outbreak in parts of Oromia and Somali regions is still not contained with communities increasingly becoming exposed to illness. The drought will continue to drive high humanitarian needs in 2023, with a high likelihood of a sixth failed rainy season in March-May 2023. Humanitarian assistance has continued although it is not commensurate with the magnitude of needs across the region.

**SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH**

**PROGRAMME UPDATES**

**5,418**

Individuals reached with family planning services in crisis-affected regions (January 2023)

**33**

Health facilities supported in SRH service provision in Amhara, Tigray and Somali regions (January 2023)

- **Key Achievements**

  - **49,233 conflict-affected individuals** – in Afar, Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, Somali and Tigray regions – reached with sexual and reproductive health services, including maternal and newborn services, by deployed midwives and health extension workers (HEWs) through multiple partnerships.

  - **3,040 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) screened for acute malnutrition** and provided with iron and folic acid supplements in Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, Somali and Tigray regions.

  - **3,548 individuals** - 3,065 females, 483 males, and 30 persons with disability (PWD) - in Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, Somali and Tigray – reached with integrated GBV/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 through multiple strategic partnerships.
**Key Achievements**

- **5,874 women and girls** reached with gender-based violence multi-sectoral services and referrals through 28 Women and Girls’ Friendly Spaces (WGFS), 10 One-Stop Centers and 10 Safe Houses.

- **1,690 women and girls** – Afar, Amhara, Oromia and Tigray Regions – reached with Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) and outreach activities outside of WGFS.

- **3,000 dignity kits** with menstrual and personal hygiene items distributed to vulnerable women and girls in partnership with Organization for Welfare and Development in Action (OWDA) in Afar Region.

- **Provided multipurpose cash support to GBV survivors** in partnership with World Vision Ethiopia and Food for the Hungry International in Amhara and Tigray regions.
Continued to participate in various humanitarian coordination platforms, including the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) and Health and Protection Clusters. It also continues to lead the GBV sub-cluster and SRH Working Groups at the national and sub-national levels.

Mobilized a total of USD 21.4 million within the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus programming from World Bank, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Irish Aid, Italy, Norway, Japan and USAID for the first quarter of 2023. Resource mobilization efforts from Canada, Spain and other donors are in the pipeline. The resources will be largely used to scale up humanitarian interventions.

Provided, as the SRH TWG co-lead, technical support was provided for the revision of the GBV/SV health package training road map for partners engagement developed based on findings from the clinical management of rape training provision.

Finalized, as the GBV AoR lead at the national level, finalized the recruitment of a consultant to co-lead and liaise with the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs (MoWSA) on the implementation of the GBV Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), including an inception workshop to onboard all actors.

Scaled up coordination capacity with the deployment of GBV AoR coordinators to Shire and Mekelle in Tigray, Bahir Dar (Amhara) and Semera (Afar). In addition, a detailed GBV Service mapping was concluded in Shire, Sheraro, Adwa, Adigrat and Axum in the Tigray Region reaching 19 Health Facilities and 4 One Stop Centres to assess the scope of CMR and SRH services, data management capacity, personnel and supplies availability.

UNFPA has:

- Distributed 3,000 Dignity Kits to women and girls of reproductive age in Afar region (January 2023)
- Dispatched 32.4 metric tons of Inter-Agency Reproductive Health (IARH) Kits and assorted medical devices to be distributed to conflict-affected women and girls in Amhara, Afar and Somali regions.
- Finalized the installation of 23 solar street lights to support SRH service provision in health facilities across Amhara and Afar regions.
- Followed up on the upcoming recruitment of national and international staff to scale up UNFPA’s humanitarian response as well as the procurement of assorted medical equipment and supplies from several donors to expand SRH-GBV-MHPSS service provision for conflict-affected populations in Afar, Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, and Tigray regions.

PROGRAMME UPDATES

COORDINATION & PARTNERSHIPS

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LOGISTICS & OPERATIONS

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PROGRAMME UPDATES

COMMUNICATIONS & ADVOCACY

- Follow up on the several activities organized as part of UNFPA’s 50th Anniversary in Ethiopia with relevant partners and stakeholders during 2023.
- Supported an event on the close-out of a radio serial drama and launching of a book in partnership with Population Media Center on women and girls’ empowerment, gender-based violence, harmful practices and sexual and reproductive health and rights.

DONOR MINUTES

“In 2022, an approximate 10,000 women suffered from obstetric fistula in Ethiopia. Today, I visited the Hamlin Fistula Center with Ms. Suzanne Mandong, UNFPA Representative. Danish cooperation is supporting UNFPA Ethiopia on ending obstetric fistula in the country”

says H.E. Ms. Kira Smith Sindbjerg, Ambassador of Denmark to Ethiopia

EVENTS

“Media is a very important stakeholder in addressing a wide range of social, cultural, economic, and political factors that perpetuate gender-based violence and Harmful Practices. UNFPA partnered with the media based on a strong belief that the media can play a crucial role in changing the minds of decision makers by ensuring the stories of voiceless women and girls are heard

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

UNFPA National Humanitarian Response Plan (2023)

Funding Required: 45,000,000 USD
Funding Received: 21,400,000 USD

Our Donors:
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Canada
- Denmark
- Ireland
- Italy
- Japan
- Norway
- Sweden
- USAID
- World Bank / UNOPS

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