



# UNFPA ETHIOPIA HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

## SITUATION REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2023

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

The combined effects of intercommunal violence, disease outbreaks, conflicts, and climate change continue to be the primary causes of Ethiopia's high level of humanitarian needs, which are further compounded by the effects of the global economic recession. **Over 20 million people are estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance, including 4.5 internally displaced persons (IDPs) [1].** Ethiopia is also the third largest refugee hosting country in Africa, home to over 916,000 refugees and asylum seekers. Women and children constitute half of all those in need of assistance while 17 percent are people with disabilities.

**Drought-like conditions coupled with desert locust infestation persist in Afar, Amhara, Somali and Tigray regions** with a severe impact on households' livelihoods and food security while a spike in malnutrition rates is reported in parts of Afar and Amhara regions. Similarly, **the effects of floods in Afar, Gambela, Oromia, Somali and the southern parts of the country** in food security conditions is expected to worsen, with the Flood Contingency Plan forecasting nearly 1.5 million people to be in need of food assistance due to the kiremt rainy season (October-December). The confluence of these shocks with disease outbreaks, such as cholera, malaria, and measles, is further exacerbating the vulnerability of affected communities, including internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees.

In **Amhara Region**, the humanitarian situation merges previously existing needs due to the conflict in the north of the country, with drought in some parts of the region, disease outbreaks, a great incidence of malnutrition and the influx of returnees and refugees from Sudan. In **Tigray**, more than one million IDPs and 1.5 million returnees are in need of assistance while drought and widespread food insecurity continue to have a severe impact on communities. In **Afar**, desert locusts continue to pose a risk to great livelihood loss amid a pause in food assistance and increasing malnutrition levels.

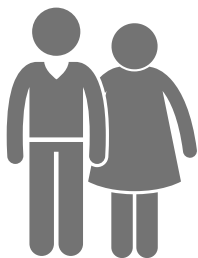
In the past two years, there have been displacements in the two **Oromia** zones of West Guji and Guji due to a surge in local unrest. Most recently, 89,096 people were reportedly displaced among four woredas in Guji, bringing the total number of IDPs hosted in the zone to 148,459 [2]. An estimated 124,932 IDPs are also hosted in West Guji with limited assistance due to security constraints [3].

Since April 2023, **over 83,700 individuals, of which 38,013 are Ethiopian nationals, and 38,400 are refugees and asylum-seekers have entered Ethiopia from Sudan [4].** Gaps in the humanitarian response have also reportedly forced arrivals to return to Sudan, although numbers have yet to be established. Currently, over 6,000 people are residing in the open-air at the Metema entry point in Amhara Region. **Protection risks are reported to be high for women and girls** due to the lack of food, water and proper sheltering options.

[1] [2] [3] [4] OCHA Ethiopia Situation Report (October 9, 2023)

## PROGRAMME UPDATES

### SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH



# 119,305

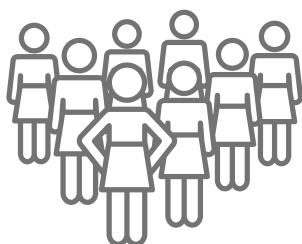
Individuals reached with sexual and reproductive health services and information affected regions of Ethiopia

(September 2023)

#### • Key Achievements

- **18,737 conflict-affected individuals** – in Afar, Amhara, B/Gumuz, SNNP, Somali and Tigray regions – **reached with sexual and reproductive health services**, including maternal and newborn services, by 212 deployed midwives, 96 health extension workers (HEWs) and 13 Maternal Health and Nutrition Teams (MHNTs) through multiple strategic partnerships.
- **710 deliveries assisted** by a UNFPA-supported skilled birth attendants or midwives in health facilities across affected regions.
- **3,894 pregnant and lactating mothers screened** and provided with food and nutrition supplements across affected regions.
- **89,088 affected individuals 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 IDP sites and health facilities in Afar, Amhara, B/Gumuz, SNNP, Somali and Tigray regions.

### GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)



# 64,945

Women and girls reached with comprehensive GBV services and information in affected regions

(September 2023)

#### • Key Achievements

- **66,216 women and girls reached with gender-based violence multi-sectoral services** and referrals through 40 UNFPA-supported Women and Girls' Friendly Spaces (WGFS), 30 One-Stop Centers and 10 Safe Houses.
- **2,462 women and girls** –SNNP, Somali and Tigray Regions – **reached with Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)** and outreach activities outside of WGFS by 96 social workers and outreach teams.
- **63 frontline service providers trained** in Clinical Management of Rape (CMR) and GBV in Emergencies in Tigray Region.
- **4,073 dignity kits, and sanitary pads distributed** to support the menstrual and personal hygiene need of vulnerable women and girls in partnership with Maedot, Women Association of Tigray (WAT), International Medical Corps (IMC), Food for the Hungry Ethiopia (FHE), and World Vision in Tigray 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.

## PROGRAMME UPDATES

### COORDINATION & PARTNERSHIPS

UNFPA has:

- 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 30 million within the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus** programming from World Bank, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, BPRM, Irish Aid, Italy, Norway, Japan and USAID for 2023. Resource mobilization efforts from Canada, Spain and other donors are ongoing. The resources will be largely used to scale up humanitarian interventions in affected regions.
- As the lead agency of the GBV AOR**, discuss GBV response indicators, priorities and estimated People in Need (PIN) for 2024 at the Protection Cluster 2024 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO)/Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) workshop held in Adama, Ethiopia.
- As the co-lead of the SRH TWG**, discuss with partners on ways of strengthening SRH response for emergency populations, particularly in light of the recent IDP influxes, to ensure the continuum of SRH service provision countrywide.

### LOGISTICS & OPERATIONS



# 69

**Metric tons of dignity kits and medical supplies distributed to Afar, Amhara, B/Gumuz, SNNP, Oromia and Tigray regions aiming to benefit 28,146 women and girls with personal hygiene items and 25 health facilities.**

*(September 2023)*

- Procured and cleared 7 high-spec ambulances** to support the referral health system of conflict-affected areas of Afar, Amhara and Oromia regions.
- 40 UNFPA and partner professionals trained in Supply Chain Management** in Tigray Region.
- Followed up on new national and international recruitments as well as on the procurement of additional IARH Kits and assorted medical equipment and supplies to scale up UNFPA's humanitarian response in crisis-affected populations across the country.



Official hand-over of medical supplies and equipment to the Regional Health Bureau of Tigray Region. (c) UNFPA Ethiopia. [\[Read more\]](#)

## PROGRAMME UPDATES

### COMMUNICATIONS & ADVOCACY

- UNFPA, jointly with the Ministry of Planning and Development, commemorated the **World Population Day 2023** "Unleashing the power of gender equality: Uplifting the voices of women and girls to unlock our world's infinite possibilities". The event was attended by high government officials, representatives from UN agencies, diplomats, and civil society organizations.
- Showcased the efforts to strengthen Tigray's health system capacity by **distributing vital medical supplies and equipment** in the region.
- **Organized the hand-over of five high-spec ambulances** - purchased with funding from Sweden and another donor - to the Regional Health Bureaus of Afar and Oromia regions.



[\[Read more\]](#)

### DONOR MINUTES

“Sweden and UNFPA have a long-standing and good cooperation in Ethiopia. Sweden alongside UNFPA responds to the national priorities by the Government of Ethiopia. What we see here today is the ambulances being handed over to Oromia and Afar Regional Health Bureaus, to help provide lifesaving services” - **H.E. Hans Henric Lundquist, Ambassador of Sweden in Ethiopia.**

### FROM THE FIELD

**"I was desperate to work, to support myself and my children,"**

says Saba, a survivor at the UNFPA-supported safe house in Tigray, after receiving the seed capital to start her business.

[\[Read more\]](#)



## RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

2023

**UNFPA National Humanitarian Response Plan (2023)\***  
*(\*revised as of July 2023)*

**Funding Required: 48,200,085 USD**

**Funding Received: 30,003,643 USD**

### Our Donors:

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