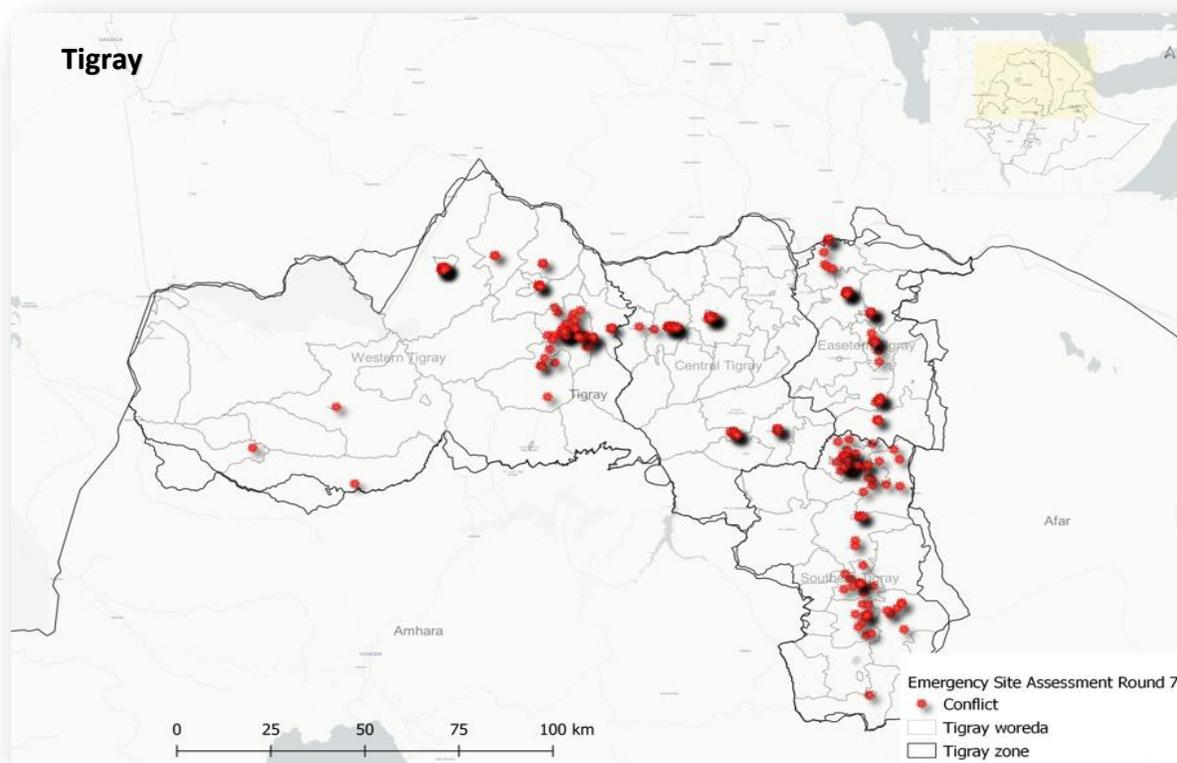




UNFPA ETHIOPIA RESPONSE TO THE NORTHERN ETHIOPIA CRISIS  
**Situation Report**  
16 to 30 September 2021

## Background



Map #1 Tigray - Source: UNFPA Ethiopia based on IOM

The political dynamics across the conflict engulfed Northern Ethiopia changed dramatically on June 28 following the unilateral declaration of ceasefire by the Federal Government with the subsequent withdrawal of the Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF) and the regaining of control of most areas of Tigray region by the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF). In July, the conflict spiraled into the neighboring regions of Afar and Amhara prompting mass displacement and a dire humanitarian situation leaving an estimated [7 million people in need across the three regions](#) (5.2 million in Tigray and the rest from Amhara and Afar regions).

Since the eruption of the conflict almost one year ago, close to 2.1 million people are estimated to be displaced by the conflict in Tigray scattered across the region's main cities. In Amhara, the regional Disaster Risk Management Center (DRMC) estimates that the number of newly displaced people from North Wollo, Waghmra and North Gondar zones is 789,035 while the Afar regional authorities estimate that 140,000 people have been displaced from Zone 4. Despite a worsening humanitarian situation, little assistance is still available to address the basic needs of conflict-affected populations in the Amhara and Afar regions, mainly due to limited presence of aid partners, restricted access to some areas, insecurity - due to ongoing hostilities - and lack of resources. Meanwhile, humanitarian operations are lagging behind or have been suspended in Tigray due to various impediments to move humanitarian supplies into the region and shortages of cash and fuel to deliver assistance to the targeted **5.2 million<sup>1</sup> people**.

<sup>1</sup> 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-%202021%20Aug%202021.pdf>

Situation Overview



7,062,000 total population in Tigray<sup>2</sup>

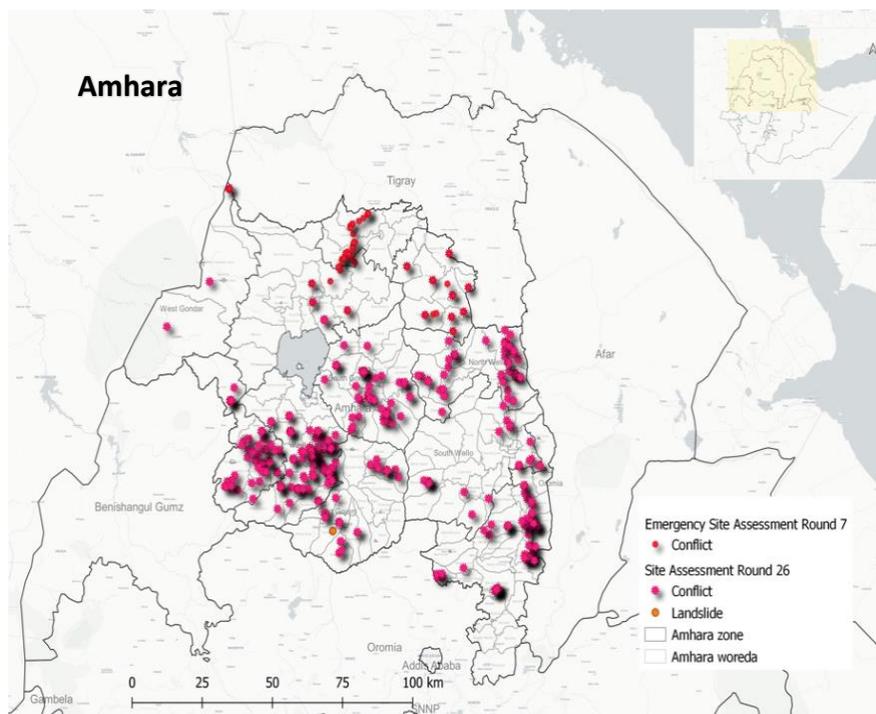


5,200,000 people in need in Tigray<sup>3</sup>



5,200,000 million targeted

The overall humanitarian situation in Northern Ethiopia continues to deteriorate following the spiralling of hostilities into the neighboring Afar and Amhara regions increasing humanitarian needs and internal displacements. In addition to the 2.1 million who are currently displaced across Tigray (*see map #1*), there is a steady increase of displacements across the regional boundaries and within the regions of Afar and Amhara. The Amhara Disaster Risk Management Center (DRMC) reports a total of 1.7 million IDPs - 51% women and 40% children - in need of aid due to ongoing hostilities and climate-related shocks (*see map #2*). The largest number of IDPs in Amhara are found in Desse town (350,000), 190,739 in Wolkait-Tegede, 62,559 in North Gondar and 69,510 in South Gondar. In Afar, the Regional Disaster Prevention, Preparedness, and Food Security Coordinator office (DPFSPCO), estimates that over 326,000 individuals have been displaced as a result of the conflicts in Tigray, conflicts between Afar and Issa communities (along the borders of the Afar and Somali regions) and weather-related disasters (*see map #3*).



Map #2 Amhara - Source: UNFPA Ethiopia based on IOM DTM- Round 7

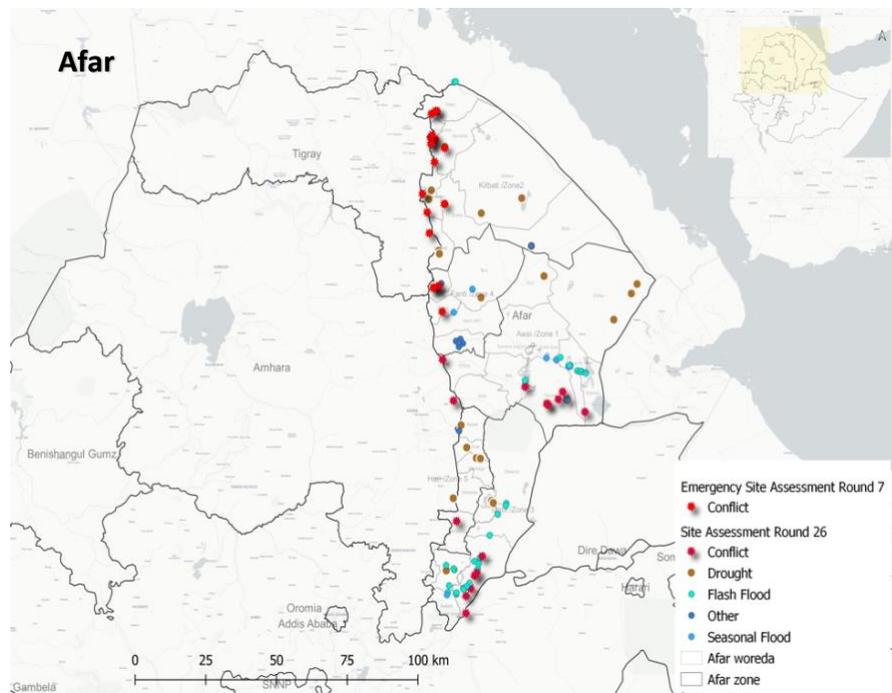
<sup>2</sup> Tigray in Ethiopia: [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/15481/ET](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/15481/ET)

<sup>3</sup> Ethiopia - Tigray Region Humanitarian Update Situation Report (June 3, 2021): <https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/ethiopia-tigray-region-humanitarian-update-situation-report-3-june-2021>

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Across Northern Ethiopia, an estimated **3.8 million people need to access health care** while the health facilities' capacity remains largely overstretched due to extensive damage and destruction of infrastructure and medical equipment, shortages of medical supplies and shortage of health personnel. According to **Amhara** DRMC, 14 hospitals, 153 Health Centers, 643 Health Posts and 23 ambulances were damaged in total with an additional 25 ambulances looted in 37 districts as a result of the ongoing hostilities in the region. In **Afar**, as reported by the DPFSPCO, 38 Health Posts, 10 Health Centers and 1 Hospital have been destroyed and looted as a result of the spillover of conflict into the region. Ongoing hostilities have induced the mass displacement of health service providers with an estimated 7,628 health personnel reported to be displaced from North Wollo, Waghmra and North Gondar zones (Amhara region). In **Tigray**, the health situation is of particular concern due to the lack of medicines and medical equipment while partners' capacity to sustain services is severely constrained due to the reduced flow of medical supplies, fuel and cash into the region.

The risk of violence, exploitation and abuse is heightened during crises, particularly for women and girls. Across Tigray, the GBV Area of Responsibility estimates that there are 1 million people in need of protection services with 536,000 people targeted for at least one type of gender-based violence prevention and response activities - including GBV psychosocial support services, dignity kits, GBV awareness raising or capacity building of GBV front-line responders - from which partners have reached 407,000 people as of September 2021. Despite the operational challenges, GBV risk-mitigation, prevention and response activities as well as the provision of Psychosocial First Aid (PFA) or mental health and psychosocial support remain active across the region. In Amhara and Afar regions, information of GBV prevention and response activities is yet not available at cluster level as assessments on the increasing protection needs of new displacements are still ongoing across areas bordering with Tigray region.



UNFPA continues to scale up the provision of services across Northern Ethiopia, including recently conflict-affected 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 presence in Mekelle and Shire (Tigray Region), Semera (Afar Region) and Bahir Dar (Amhara Region) with International and National Surge Capacity Specialists supporting the Northern Ethiopia Response.

## UNFPA'S RESPONSE

### Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)

Of the people in need<sup>4</sup>:



**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)

#### Tigray

- **128 internally displaced persons supported with sexual and reproductive health services and 1,300 reached with GBV/SRH outreach community awareness sessions through the 2 Mobile Health Units deployed in partnership with Marie Stopes International (MSI) at IDP sites in Mekelle and Adigrat, Tigray region. Recruitment of 2 additional Mobile Teams with community health mobilizers is ongoing.**
- **Established the Selection Committee** composed of UNFPA, Ethiopian Midwives Association (EMWA) and the Regional Health Bureau **for the selection of 34 midwives and 20 Health Extension workers (HEWs)** to be deployed in 22 health facilities across Tigray.
- **Consulted WHO and other humanitarian partners on the ground on the establishment of the SRH Technical Working Group in Shire (Tigray)** to strengthen and expand access to quality sexual and reproductive health services for conflict-affected populations in the area.
- **Participated in the Operational Peer Review (OPR) mission to Axum for technical support on focus group discussions at IDP sites and a site visit to St. Mary's Hospital** to assess the current situation of health service provision to conflict-affected populations in the area.

#### Amhara

- **An official ceremony was organized to distribute 112 SRH Kits to benefit 396,000 emergency-affected populations in partnership with Amhara Regional Health Bureau targeting 28 Health facilities** in North Gondar, South Wollo, North Shoa and Oromo special zones. The ceremony was attended by the State Minister of Health, Dr. Dereje Duguma, and regional authorities at WFP warehouse in Kombolcha, Amhara region.
- **1,363 people reached through house-to-house visits on SRH and COVID 19 prevention measures** in partnership with the Amhara branch of Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) at Wolkayt, Dabat and Debark woredas in Amhara region.
- **Provided technical guidance to the Regional Health Bureau and the Amhara Public Health Institute (APHI) in the development of three-month Emergency Response Plan** for the provision of critical health services - including maternal health and SRH- to conflict-affected areas with Tigray.

#### Afar

- **An official ceremony was organized to distribute 33 SRH Kits to benefit 49,200 conflict-**

<sup>4</sup> Based on Minimum Essential Service Package (MISP) calculator: <https://iawg.net/resources/misp-calculator>

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**affected populations** in partnership with Afar Regional Health Bureau to 3 Health facilities in areas bordering with Tigray region.

- Developed as the Afar GBV AoR lead a **multi-sectoral Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan** to address the GBV needs of recent conflict-affected areas bordering with Tigray region.
- **2,928 people reached with critical information on SRH/GBV service availability** through community group discussions and house-to-house awareness raising visits by 27 ERCS - community volunteers deployed at IDP sites in Chifra (667), Teru-Digdiga (365) and Aba'ala districts (1,896) in Afar region.

## AT A GLANCE

## MIDWIFERY SERVICE PROVISION

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

REGION	SERVICE PROVIDED	FROM 16 - 30 SEPT.	GRAND TOTAL (SINCE MAR, 2021)
AFAR	# deliveries attended to by skilled provider	*	339
	# outpatients for post-natal care (PNC) within 42 hr.	*	353
	# outpatients for antenatal care consultations (ANC)	*	827
	# outpatient visits for family planning (male and female)	*	602
	# visits for STI/HIV counseling, screening, testing or other treatment	*	859
	# referrals for higher level of obstetric care/emergency (mother/newborn)	*	163
	# clinical management of rape visits completed within 72 hr. of assault	*	3
	# of ANC outpatients visits, including PMTCT	*	727
	<b>TOTAL AFAR</b>	*	<b>3,873</b>
AMHARA	# deliveries attended to by skilled provider	51	256
	# outpatients for post-natal care (PNC) within 42 hr.	57	297
	# outpatients for antenatal care consultations (ANC)	160	1511
	# outpatient visits for family planning (male and female)	90	1302
	# visits for STI/HIV counseling, screening, testing or other treatment	111	1340
	# of referrals for higher level of obstetric care/emergency (mother/newborn)	8	82
	# of clinical management of rape visits completed within 72 hours of assaults	0	12
	# of ANC outpatients visits, including PMTCT	11	440
	<b>TOTAL AMHARA</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>5,240</b>
TIGRAY	# deliveries attended to by skilled provider	70	1,752
	# outpatients for post-natal care (PNC) within 42 hr.	38	1,768
	# outpatients for antenatal care consultations (ANC)	89	8,549
	# outpatient visits for family planning (male and female)	68	7,603
	# visits for STI/HIV counseling, screening, testing or other treatment	72	6,531

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# referrals for higher level of obstetric care/emergency (mother/newborn)	13	261
# clinical management of rape visits completed within 72 hr. of assault	0	115
# of ANC outpatients visits, including PMTCT	10	981
<b>TOTAL TIGRAY</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>27,560</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>848</b>	<b>36,673</b>

*\*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)

### Tigray

- **1,531 individuals reached with GBV awareness raising sessions and sensitization activities**, including referral linkage to health care services, in partnership with Ethiopian Red Cross Society (334), Food for the Hungry (554), and OSSHD (642) across IDP sites in Tigray.
- **Trained 49 professionals in protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA)** and the establishment of community-based complaint mechanisms **in partnership with Food for the Hungry (36) in Shire and Maedot (13)** in Mekelle, Tigray.
- **Trained 20 front-line health service providers in clinical management of rape** in partnership with Food for the Hungry in Shire, Tigray.

### Amhara

- **3 GBV Counselors and 4 GBV case workers started operating in partnership with ERCS** to provide services in 4 woredas - Chagni/Guangua, West Armachiho, Dabat and Debark - from Awi, North Gondar and West Gondar zones.
- **Conducted a GBViE service and partners mapping in Dessie town** - South Wollo zone - to assess partners' presence, capacity and service provision challenges and gaps in the area.
- **Updated the GBV referral pathways** from the conflict-affected West Armachiho, Debark and Dabat woredas in West and North Gondar zones.
- **Provided technical assistance to the Amhara Bureau of Women, Children and Social Affairs** for the development of a three-month Emergency Response Plan from Oct, 1<sup>st</sup> to Dec, 31<sup>st</sup> with key GBV interventions - Dignity Kits and Clinical Management of Rape (CMR) kits distributions and capacity building on GBViE and CMR - to health service providers operating in conflict-affected areas.

### Afar

- **Provided remote coaching and technical assistance to 27 community health volunteers from Afar branch of Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS)** operating in Chifra and Digdiga IDP sites on GBV case management to facilitate timely and effective GBV referral services for GBV survivors in the region.
- **Organized UNFPA Representative's field mission to Afar** to handover humanitarian supplies to regional authorities, inaugurate the Girls' Club at Semera Girls' Boarding School, discuss with other UN agencies and humanitarian partners on the ground and progress monitoring with Implementing Partners in the region.

## Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

### Tigray

- **Supported a total of 1,761 internally displaced persons - 859 adults and 902 children - with Psychological First Aid (PFA) and social service referrals** in 2 Women and Girls' Friendly Spaces (WGFS) and 8 Women and Girls' Community Centers in Mekelle (Tigray) through 234 trained PFA providers from OSSHD and trained community-based counsellors from Tigray Regional Health Bureau.
- **Provided technical assistance and follow up** to the work plan of potential implementing partners for MHPSS service provision in Shire, Tigray region.
- **Coordinated with the WHO Working Group and UNHCR activities for the International Mental Health Day** in Mekelle, Tigray.

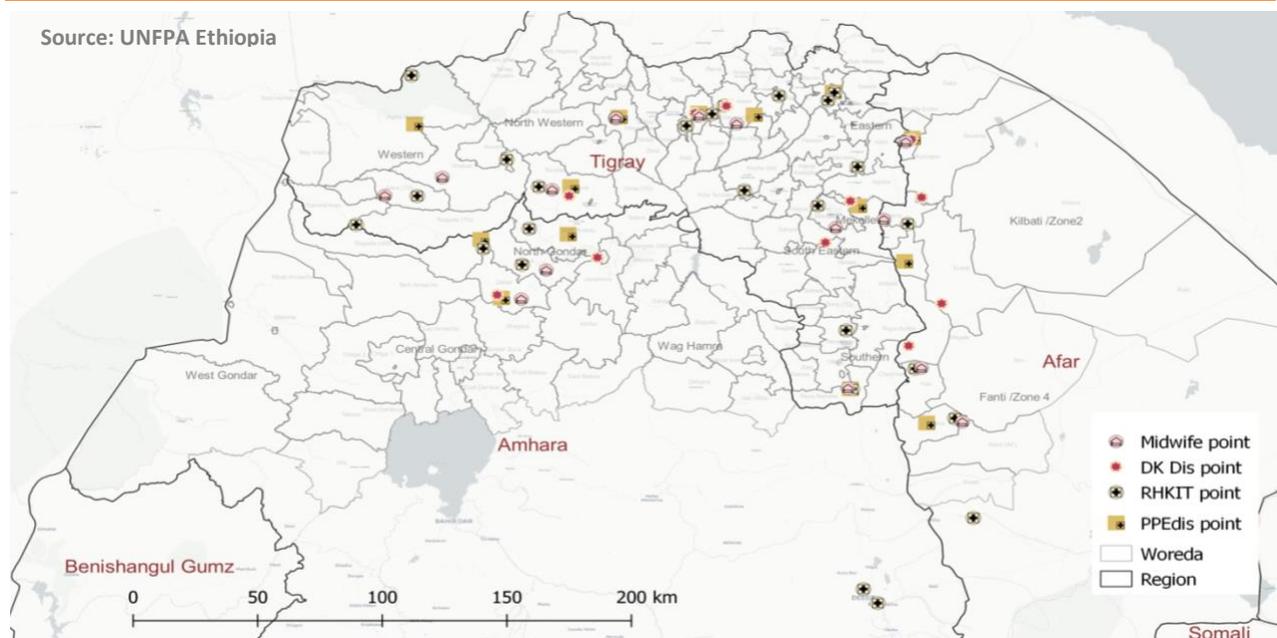
## Logistics and Operations



**2,966 Dignity Kits dispatched to IOM to be distributed in IDP camps in Mekelle and Shire, Tigray**

- **Dispatched 2,966 Dignity Kits to IOM** to be distributed to vulnerable women and girls at IDP camps in Mekelle and Shire, Tigray region.

## UNFPA Distributions' Map for the Northern Ethiopia Response (Sep, 2021)



#### Coordination and Partnerships

UNFPA has:

- Follow up on PSEA Network commitments - jointly with UN Women - on the Inter-Agency Community-Based Complaint Mechanism and awareness raising campaign with aid partners operating in Tigray.
- Follow up on projects' implementation status, operational and security challenges and emergency response budget for the Northern Ethiopia Response.

#### GBV AoR Coordination

UNFPA as the lead agency for GBV AoR coordination:

- Shared - jointly with UNHCR - the site-specific referral pathway for Shire among GBV partners in Tigray region.
- Discussed and shared with humanitarian partners the GBV Area of Responsibility Terms of Reference (TOR) describing the scope, goal and main functions of the sub-working group for the Northern Ethiopia Response.

#### Communications

- Updated the [Briefing Note on UNFPA's Response to the Northern Ethiopia Crisis](#) as of September 2021 for UNFPA RO/HQ.
- Participated in a 6-day field mission with UNFPA Representative to provide communication support in the [official handover ceremonies of medical supplies and commodities to regional authorities of Amhara and Afar regions](#).
- Coordinated the production of content of information and educational materials for the Northern Ethiopia Response and follow up on the agenda of upcoming events and advocacy campaigns.



*Afar Pastoralist Development Association (APDA) facilitator explaining to a group of women of reproductive age the use of all the items of the UNFPA Dignity Kit in Mille, Afar region.  
©UNFPAEthiopia/PaulaSeijo.*

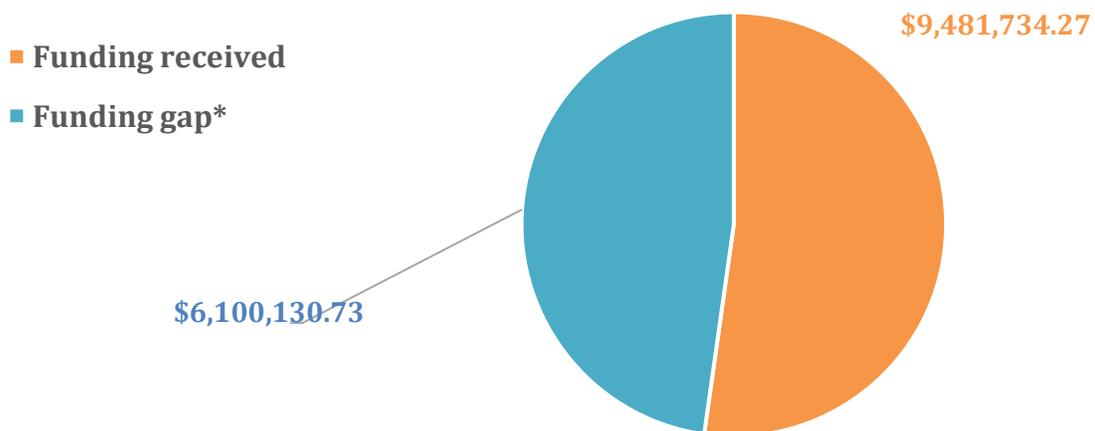
## UNFPA'S RESPONSE

### Resource Mobilization

Special thanks to the major donors supporting @UNFPA Ethiopia Response to the Northern Ethiopia 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 | **Ethiopia Humanitarian Fund (EHF)** - 449,633.27 USD | **Iceland** - 250,000 USD | **Sweden** - 197,000 USD | **Friends of UNFPA** - 4,000 USD

**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



**UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND**  
UNECA Compound, Congo Building, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Tel: 251-1-511-980  
<http://ethiopia.unfpa.org>

For further information:

- **Dennia Gayle**  
Representative  
[gayle@unfpa.org](mailto:gayle@unfpa.org)
- **Sarah Masale**  
Deputy Representative  
[masale@unfpa.org](mailto:masale@unfpa.org)