



# UNFPA ETHIOPIA HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

## SITUATION REPORT - OCTOBER 2023

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

The humanitarian needs in Ethiopia continue to be high and mostly caused by the combined effects of intercommunal violence, disease outbreaks, conflicts, and climate change. Over **20 million people are estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance**, including **4.5 internally displaced persons (IDPs)**. Food security continues to be a major concern across the country amid the ongoing pause in food response, high malnutrition rates and recent reports of drought-like conditions in the northern regions. With almost 916,000 refugees and asylum seekers living there, Ethiopia is also the third-largest host nation in Africa. Of those in need of help, women and children make up half, and individuals with disabilities make up 17%.

An estimated **5 million people are reportedly affected by drought-like conditions** in Amhara and Tigray regions. According to reports, crop failure has left an estimated 3.5 million people in Amhara in need due to agricultural infestation, and the disruption of farming activities by ongoing hostilities [1]. In Afar, high malnutrition rates are reported with over 130K pregnant and lactating women in dire need of assistance. Similarly, **heavy rainfalls, floods, and landslides** in Somali, Oromia and Southern Ethiopia have affected over half a million people, with immense damage to livelihoods and infrastructure, including health facilities. Resources and capacities are still limited; therefore, ongoing response in flood-affected areas is not meeting the scale of demands for lifesaving assistance. The combination of these shocks and epidemics like measles, cholera, and malaria is making impacted communities—including internally displaced people (IDPs) and returnees—even more vulnerable.

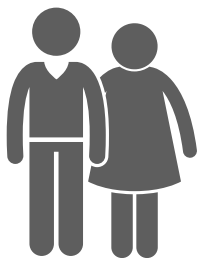
In **Amhara Region**, the humanitarian situation merges previously existing needs due to the conflict in the north of the country, with drought in some parts of the region, disease outbreaks, a great incidence of malnutrition and the influx of returnees and refugees from Sudan. In **Tigray**, more than 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 [2]. In **Afar**, desert locusts continue to pose a risk to great livelihood loss amid a pause in food assistance and increasing malnutrition levels.

**Active hostilities and a volatile situation continue** to impact several areas - East and West Gojam, North and South Wello, North Shewa, Central and South Gondar zones - **in Amhara Region**. The unstable situation hinders the expansion of humanitarian operations to difficult-to-reach areas by restricting relief workers and convoys movement and access, especially to rural areas.

Since the onset of the **Sudan crisis** in April, over 89,400 arrivals, including refugees, asylum seekers, Ethiopian returnees, and third-country nationals have entered Ethiopia, mainly through main border points of entry (PoE) at the Metema and Kurmuk towns in the regions of Amhara and Benishangul Gumuz, respectively. In Metema PoE, pregnant mothers are accessing health services, including sexual and reproductive health, emergency obstetric care and psychosocial first aid [3].

## PROGRAMME UPDATES

### SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH



# 79,290

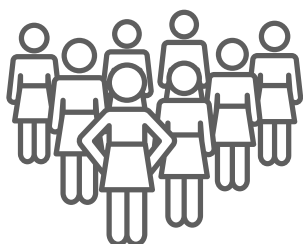
Individuals reached with sexual and reproductive health services and information affected regions of Ethiopia

(October 2023)

#### • Key Achievements

- **10,585 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 deployed midwives and health extension workers (HEWs) through multiple strategic partnerships.
- **773 deliveries assisted** by a UNFPA-supported skilled birth attendants or midwives in health facilities across affected regions.
- **3,246 pregnant and lactating mothers screened** and provided with food and nutrition supplements across affected regions.
- **65,459 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)



# 63,716

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

(October 2023)

#### • Key Achievements

- **63,716 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.
- **611 women and girls** –SNNP, Somali and Tigray Regions – **reached with Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)** and outreach activities outside of WGFS by social workers and outreach teams.
- **5,106 dignity kits, and sanitary pads distributed** to support the menstrual and personal hygiene need of vulnerable women and girls in partnership with Maedot, and Food for the Hungry (FHE) in Tigray Region (1,183) and with World Vision Ethiopia in Afar Region (3,923).
- **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 interventions within the humanitarian, development, peace nexus.
- UNFPA, as the lead agency of the GBV AOR, and in partnership with the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs, to organized a five-day workshop for federal and regional actors working on GBV prevention and response.** The overall objective of the workshop was to review the GBV SOPs by regional level multisectoral state actors working in prevention and response interventions, share information on SOP development processes, and advocate with the regional actors to adapt the GBV SOPs by considering their local context.
- 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 in 2024.

### LOGISTICS & OPERATIONS



## 64.3 Metric Tons

Of customized dignity kits, and medical equipment dispatched to Afar, Amhara, B/Gumuz, Gambela, Somali, Sidama and Tigray regions expecting to equip **68 health facilities** to provide sexual and reproductive health services.

(October 2023)

- 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 Tigray's Regional Health Bureau in Mekelle on October 5, 2023. (c) UNFPA Ethiopia. [\[Read more\]](#)

## PROGRAMME UPDATES

### COMMUNICATIONS & ADVOCACY

- Documented the field mission of UNFPA Humanitarian Division and Management Service Directors to **SRH and GBV integrated interventions in Tigray Region**.
- Supported the launching of the **2022 Annual Report of the Global Joint Programme to eliminate Female Genital Mutilation** in the presence of a senior official of the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs of Ethiopia, the members of the Steering Committee of the Joint Programme and the members of the national alliances to end FGM and child marriage in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- Highlighted the **visit of the Steering Committee of UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme** on Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation to Ethiopia.



[\[Read more\]](#)

### DONOR MINUTES

“One thing that impressed us was how the effort is being institutionalized in the government structures across different levels down to the community level in a strong way to yield very good results,”

Susanna Janson Landin, Senior Advisor on Health & SRHR for the Swedish International Development Agency, during the visit of the Steering Committee of UNICEF-UNFPA Joint Programme to eliminate Female Genital Mutilation.

### FROM THE FIELD

**"They saved our lives. Both me and my baby are doing well"**

says Adanech, 26, a mother of five from Gelana Woreda, in UNFPA-supported Gelana Primary Hospital in the Oromia Region.

[\[Read more\]](#)



## 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:

AECID  
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation  
BPRM  
Canada  
Denmark  
Ireland  
Italy  
Japan  
KOICA  
Norway  
Sweden  
USAID  
World Bank / UNOPS

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



UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA)

UNECA Compound, Congo Building, 5th Floor  
Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)  
<http://ethiopia.unfpa.org>

For more information:

**Koffi Kouame**  
UNFPA Country Representative  
[kouame@unfpa.org](mailto:kouame@unfpa.org)