



**UNFPA ETHIOPIA RESPONSE TO THE NORTHERN ETHIOPIA CRISIS**  
**Situation Report**  
1 to 15 October 2021

## Background



Source: UNFPA Ethiopia

After almost one year of conflict, the political dynamics across 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 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<sup>1</sup> in Tigray and the rest from Amhara and Afar regions). Approximately 3 million people are estimated to be displaced as a result of the conflict across Northern Ethiopia: 2.1 million people in Tigray region, 789,035 in Amhara region (North Gondar, Central Gondar, South Wollo, South Gondar, and Awi zones) and 323,000 in Afar (zones 2 and 4), according to regional authorities.

In Tigray, humanitarian partners have significantly reduced or even suspended response programs due to the lack of fuel, cash and supplies. The delivery of humanitarian cargo into the region remains severely restricted. Active hostilities have been reported along the borders between the Tigray and Amhara and Afar regions prompting displacement, disrupting livelihoods and increasing food insecurity. Humanitarian partners are scaling up the response and strengthening coordination mechanisms on the ground in support of regional authority-led responses while humanitarian access remains restricted in some areas due to conflict.

<sup>1</sup> Ethiopia - Tigray Region Humanitarian Updated Situation Report (October 14, 2021):

<https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/ethiopia-northern-ethiopia-humanitarian-update-situation-report-14-oct-2021>

## 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 remains unpredictable and volatile while the situation continues to deteriorate with the expansion of hostilities into the neighboring Afar and Amhara regions. In addition to the 2.1 million people displaced within Tigray, there is a rapid increase of displacements across the regional boundaries in the neighboring Afar and Amhara regions. According to the Amhara Disaster Risk Management Center (DRMC) an estimated 1.7 million IDPs are in need of humanitarian assistance, with nearly 800,000 people newly displaced as result of the spill over of hostilities into the region. The largest number of IDPs in Amhara region are found in Dessie town (350,000), 190,739 in Wolkait–Tegede, 62,559 in North Gondar and 69,510 in South Gondar. In Afar region, 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 region, conflicts between Afar and Issa communities (along the borders of the Afar and Somali regions) and weather-related disasters.

In Tigray, 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 health personnel. According to OCHA, medical supplies continue to be restricted from going into Tigray region, resulting in an alarming deterioration of the health situation in the region while health partners' capacity for essential activities is largely hampered. There are growing concerns on potential disease outbreaks due to the lack of vaccinations and access to treatment for non-communicable diseases and maternal and child health services. As reported by **Amhara region** DRMC, ongoing hostilities in the region have caused an extensive damage on the health system structure with nearly 810 health facilities affected and 25 ambulances looted in the region. In **Afar region**, as reported by the DPFSPCO, 49 health facilities have been partially or totally destroyed amid ongoing hostilities in areas bordering with Tigray region.

As conflict spills across Northern Ethiopia, the protection needs - particularly for gender-based violence, exploitation and abuse - continue to be prioritized by humanitarian partners on the ground. Across Tigray region, 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

<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>

### Situation Report\_ 1 to 15 October 2021

of September 30, 2021. According to OCHA, 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 while the distribution of dignity kits to women and girls is partially active due to the current restrictions on stock and fuel replenishment. In Amhara and Afar regions, the mapping of information on GBV prevention and response activities is still ongoing across areas bordering with Tigray region.

Despite the operational challenges UNFPA maintains its commitment to scale up the provision of services to meet the current and emerging humanitarian needs across Northern Ethiopia. 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 Region

- **7,514 internally displaced persons supported with family planning methods, 79 pregnant women provided with clean and safe delivery kits and 1,754 individuals reached with GBV/SRH outreach community awareness sessions from 11-15 October through the 2 Mobile Health Units deployed in partnership with Marie Stopes International (MSI) at IDP sites in Mekelle and Adigrat, Tigray region. Mobile health services were suspended from 1-10 October due to the shortage of fuel.**
- **Distributed 99 SRH Kits - 81 SHR Kits to MSI and 18 SRH Kits to IOM - to support the provision of sexual and reproductive health services at the Health Clinic in Sabacare IDP site (IOM) and through Mobile Health Teams (MSI) in Mekelle and Adigrat, Tigray region.**
- **Oversaw the ongoing recruitment of 34 midwives and 20 Health Extension workers (HEWs) in partnership with Ethiopian Midwives Association (EMwA) to be deployed in 22 health facilities across Tigray region.**
- **Discussed with WHO the inclusion of sexual and reproductive health activities in the upcoming polio and measles vaccination campaign in Tigray region.**

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

**Amhara Region**

- **Distributed 92 SRH kits in partnership with the Amhara Regional Health Bureau to 15 Health Facilities (7 Hospitals and 8 Health Centers)** located in four zones (South Wollo, Oromo Special zone, North Shoa and North Gondar zones) to serve 161,230 emergency-affected populations with maternal and sexual and reproductive health services.
- **7,663 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.

**Afar Region**

- **Distributed 30 SHR Kits - 1A, 2A&B, KIT 4, 5, 6A, 7 and 8 -** to Digdina Health Center (20 Kits) and Chifra Health Center (10 Kits) in the conflict-affected Fanti Rasu zone, Afar region.
- **1,006 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 (286), Teru-Digdiga (426) and Aba'ala districts (292) in Afar region.

**AT A GLANCE**

**MIDWIFERY SERVICE PROVISION**

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

REGION	PARTNER	SERVICE PROVIDED	FROM 1 - 15 OCT	GRAND TOTAL (SINCE MAR, 2021)
AFAR	ERCS	# 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)	*	11
		# clinical management of rape visits completed within 72 hr. of assault	*	3
		# of ANC outpatients visits, including PMTCT	*	727
		<b>Total Afar</b>	*	<b>3,721</b>
AMHARA	ERCS	# deliveries attended to by skilled provider	*	256
		# outpatients for post-natal care (PNC) within 42 hr.	*	297
		# outpatients for antenatal care consultations (ANC)	*	1,511
		# outpatient visits for family planning (male and female)	*	1,302
		# visits for STI/HIV counseling, screening, testing or other treatment	*	1,340
		# of referrals for higher level of obstetric care/emergency (mother/newborn)	*	82
		# of clinical management of rape visits completed within 72 hours of assaults	*	12
		# of ANC outpatients visits, including PMTCT	*	440

## Situation Report\_ 1 to 15 October 2021

		Total Amhara	*	5,240
TIGRAY	ERCS	# deliveries attended to by skilled provider	*	1,690
		# outpatients for post-natal care (PNC) within 42 hr.	*	1,615
		# outpatients for antenatal care consultations (ANC)	*	6,813
		# outpatient visits for family planning (male and female)	*	5,872
		# visits for STI/HIV counseling, screening, testing or other treatment	*	6,422
		# referrals for higher level of obstetric care/emergency (mother/newborn)	*	228
		# clinical management of rape visits completed within 72 hr. of assault	*	103
		# of ANC outpatients visits, including PMTCT	*	981
	MSI	# clinical management of rape visits completed within 72 hr. of assault	*	1
		# deliveries attended to by skilled provider	*	2
		# outpatient visits for family planning (male and female)	194	358
		# visits for STI/HIV counseling, screening, testing or other treatment	31	45
	SAVE THE CHILDREN	# clinical management of rape visits completed within 72 hr. of assault	*	15
		# deliveries attended to by skilled provider	*	62
		# outpatients for post-natal care (PNC) within 42 hr.	*	357
		# outpatients for antenatal care consultations (ANC)	*	2,935
		# outpatient visits for family planning (male and female)	*	3,093
		# referrals for higher level of obstetric care/emergency (mother/newborn)	*	39
	UNHCR	# visits for STI/HIV counseling, screening, testing or other treatment	*	180
			*	834
		<b>Total Tigray</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>31,645</b>
		<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>40,606</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 (GBV)

### Tigray Region

- **3,844 individuals reached with GBV prevention and risk mitigation awareness raising sessions and sensitization activities**, including referral linkage to health care services in 6 Women Community Centers and 2 Women and Girls' Friendly Spaces (Mekele) and in Shire IDP camps in partnership with OSSHD (1,048), ERCS (919), Food for the Hungry (123) and Marie Stopes International (1,754).
- **Trained 40 health service providers on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and GBV in emergencies** in partnership with OSSHD in Mekelle, Tigray.
- **Distributed 1,023 dignity kits** to women of reproductive age in IDP camps at Mekelle in partnership with OSSHD (750) and Food for the Hungry (273) in Shire, Tigray.

### Amhara Region

- **Distributed 1,250 dignity kits** to women (1,166) and girls (84) internally displaced in West-Armacho woreda in West Gondar zone in partnership with Amhara Women Association (AWA).
- **7,663 individuals reached through door-to-door awareness raising sessions on GBV prevention and risk mitigation** measures at schools and market places in partnership with Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) at Wolkait, Debarke and Dabat town, Amhara region.

### Afar Region

- **Distributed 2,000 dignity kits** for women of reproductive age in 6 kebeles - Handido, Buri, Angalile, Asoba, Bonta and Galcha - in Haruka districts of Hari zone by the Afar Pastoralist Development Association (APDA).
- **Provided technical guidance to the Regional BOWCA** for the adoption and contextualization of the national Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Semera Women and Girls' Safe House.



Ms. Valerie Browning, Founder of Afar Pastoralist Development Association (APDA) and UNFPA Partner during a community awareness session and dignity kits distribution to adolescent girls in Mille, Afar Region. Photo by ©UNFPA Ethiopia / Paula Seijo.

## Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

### Tigray Region

- **Supported 335 internally displaced adults and 532 children with Psychological First Aid (PFA)** and social service referrals in 5 IDP sites - Kestatee Berhan, Kisanet, Adi Haki, Alene and Ethio-China - in Mekelle (Tigray) through 234 trained PFA providers from OSSHD and trained community-based counsellors from Tigray Regional Health Bureau.

## Logistics and Operations

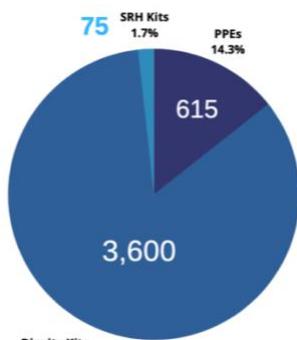
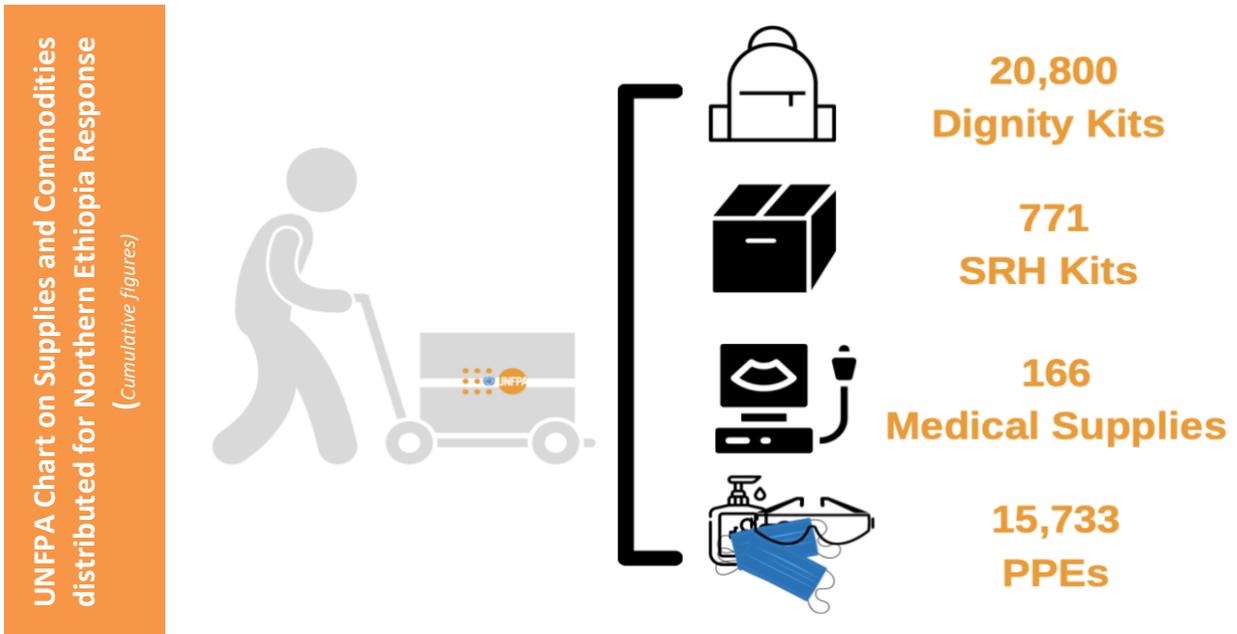


**2,000 Dignity Kits distributed to OSSHD and Amhara Women Association (AWA) for conflict-affected women in Tigray and Amhara**

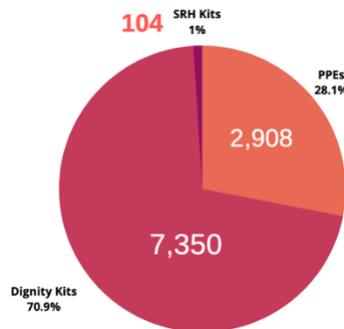


**111 Sexual and Reproductive Health Kits dispatched to Marie Stopes International (MSI) and Afar Regional Health Bureau**

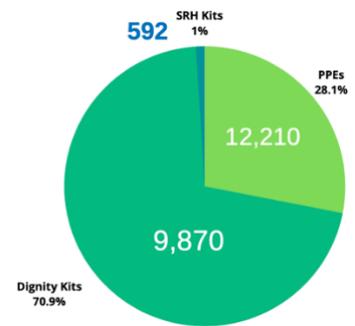
- **Follow up on access clearance into Tigray for 5 trucks from Semera loaded with 10,000 blankets and sheets and 20,000 bars of soap** to be distributed across IDP camps in Tigray region.



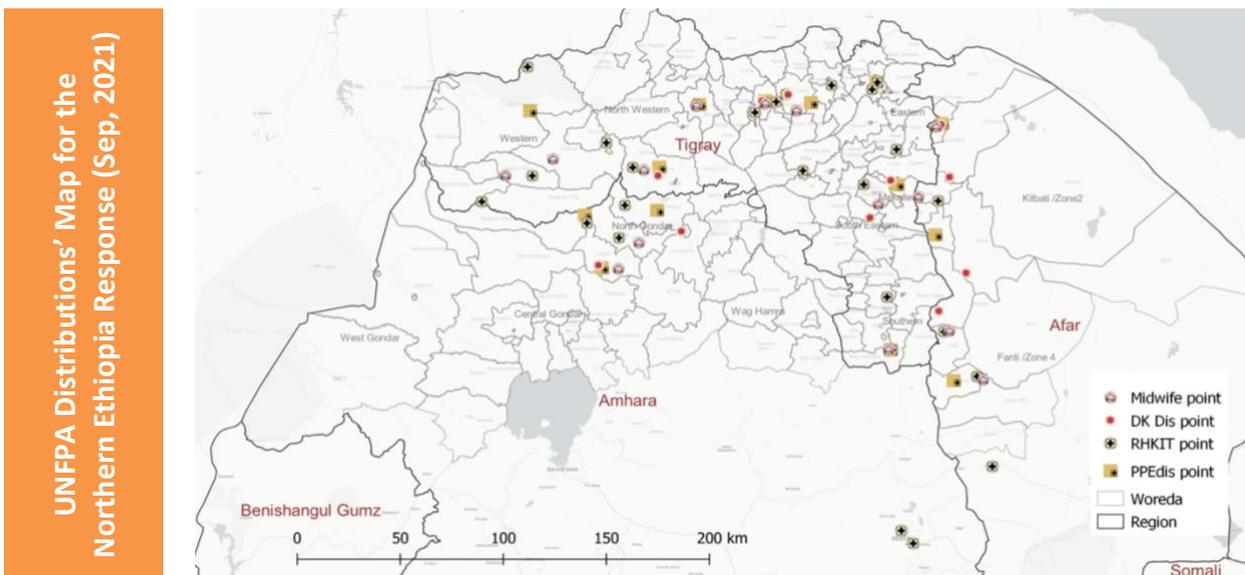
**Afar**



**Amhara**



**Tigray**



#### Coordination and Partnerships

UNFPA has:

- Revised the Human Resource Plan for needs-based allocation of technical staff across the Northern Ethiopia Response.
- Reviewed the Implementing Partner Management System to readjust project's implementation and financial expenditure within the current operational and security challenges across the Northern Ethiopia Response.
- Developed monitoring and reporting tools for activities being implemented across the Northern Ethiopia Response.

#### GBV AoR Coordination

UNFPA as the lead agency for GBV AoR coordination:

- Deployed a GBV AoR Information Management Officer (IOM) for the Northern Ethiopia Response.
- Completed the GBV AoR 5Ws Matrix Dashboard capturing GBV partner presence, performance and service provision according to the Humanitarian Response Plan from January to October, 2021 for Tigray region.
- Technical support to conduct an Inter-Agency Rapid Gender Analysis (IRGA) with an initial desk review on available secondary completed and a Training of Trainers (TOT) planned to be conducted ahead of primary data collection.

#### Communications

- Provided coverage to the [official handover of sexual and reproductive health kits](#) and other commodities to Regional Health Bureaus of Amhara and Afar regions to serve recent conflict-affected populations.
- Published a [story of a fistula survivor fulfilling her dream to become a mother](#) thanks to the support of the Barbara May Maternity Hospital run by UNFPA's partner, the Afar Pastoralist Development Association (APDA), in Mille, Afar Region.
- Coordinated the development of a community flipchart for awareness raising activities on GBV/SRH/MHPSS/PSEA under USAID budget and follow up on the agenda of upcoming events and advocacy campaigns.

*Fatuma at the Barbara May Maternity Hospital in Mille (Afar) where she remains in observation and waiting for a c-section to deliver her baby. Photo by @UNFPAEthiopia / Paula Seijo.*



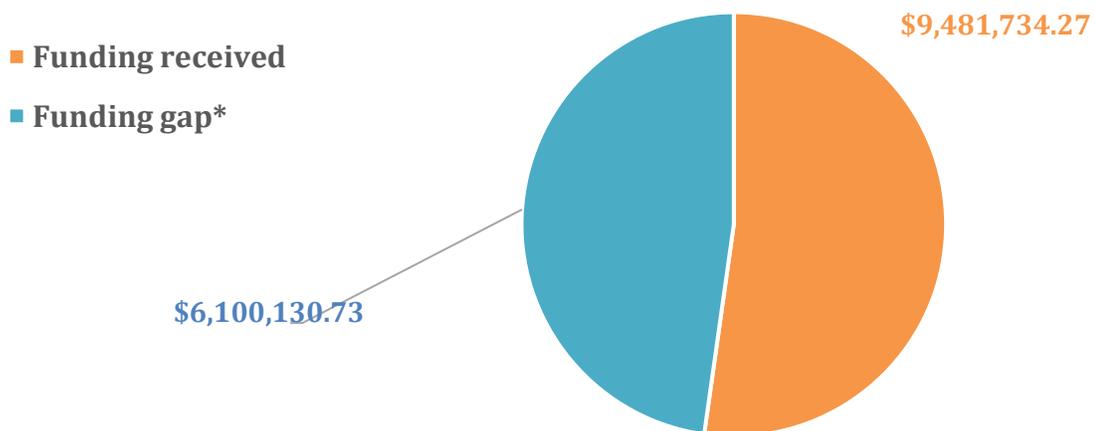
## UNFPA'S RESPONSE

### Resource Mobilization

Special thanks to the major donors supporting @UNFPAEthiopia 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:

- **Esperance Fundira**  
*Officer in Charge*  
[fundira@unfpa.org](mailto:fundira@unfpa.org)
- **Sarah Masale**  
*Deputy Representative*  
[masale@unfpa.org](mailto:masale@unfpa.org)