UNFPA ETHIOPIA

UNFPA ETHIOPIA RESPONSE TO THE NORTHERN ETHIOPIA CRISIS

Situation Report

1 to 15 September 2021

Background

Three months after the official declaration of a unilateral ceasefire by the Federal Government on June 28, the withdrawal of the Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF) and the control of most of the Tigray Region by the Tigray Peoples Liberation Front (TPLF), the situation in Tigray still remains dire while the spiraling of the conflict into the neighboring Afar and Amhara regions is rapidly worsening the humanitarian situation. According to Afar regional authorities, more than 140,000 people were displaced in the region by the end of August. In Amhara Region, the Disaster Risk Management Office reports that over 233,000 people were recently displaced in Dessie and Kombolcha in South Wello Zone. Despite an increasing deterioration of the humanitarian situation, little assistance is still available to address the basic needs of conflict-affected populations in both regions, mainly due to limited presence of humanitarian partners, restricted or no access to some areas controlled by armed forces, insecurity and lack of resources. According to OCHA, there is an urgent need to scale up the response, including the strengthening of coordination and operational presence on the ground, and technical and financial support[1] to the regional authorities leading the response.

Source: UNFPA Ethiopia

In Tigray, the situation remains unpredictable although access within the region is viable and secure in nearly 75%[2] of the region, with the exception of the North-Western Zone, Southern Zone and Western Zone bordering Eritrea. According to OCHA, partners continue to report constraints to deliver humanitarian response, particularly due to shortages of cash (0.2% current capacity), fuel (12% capacity) and supplies (3% of capacity) to deliver assistance to the **5.2 million[3] people targeted across the region.** Operational constraints have led to the **suspension of activities such as food distributions, vaccinations for cholera, management of acute malnutrition or livestock feed activities while others remain partially active** on the Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items (ESNFI), WASH, Child Protection and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM). Humanitarian partners and the Federal Government are in negotiations to facilitate the movement of supplies and personnel to urgently scale-up humanitarian response across Northern Ethiopia.

[1] Ethiopia - Tigray Region Humanitarian Updated Situation Report (September 16, 2021): https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/ethiopia-northern-ethiopia-humanitarian-update-situation-report-16-sept-2021

[2] Ethiopia - Tigray Region Humanitarian Updated Situation Report (August 26, 2021): https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/ethiopia-tigray-region-humanitarian-update-situation-report-26-august-2021

[3] 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-%205%20Aug%202021.pdf

Situation Overview

7,062,000 total population in Tigray[4]

5,200,000 people in need in Tigray[5]

5,200,000 million targeted

The ongoing hostilities that have spiralled into the neighboring Afar and Amhara regions have been prompting new displacements. The Amhara Regional Health Bureau reports a total of 1.6 million IDPs in need of aid due to ongoing hostilities and climate-related shocks. According to Afar Regional Disaster Prevention, Preparedness, and Food Security Coordinator office (DPFSPCO), there are an estimated 326,000 individuals displaced as a result of the conflicts in Tigray and Afar/Issa borders and weather-related disasters such as floods and droughts. Humanitarian actors' capacity and presence in both regions to deliver aid remains limited within the government-led scale up efforts due to active confrontations, insecurity, access constraints and lack of funds to secure supplies to the humanitarian response. I In Tigray, the ongoing internal displacements are mainly from Western zone, roughly 70% to Northwestern zone, 26% to Central zone, 3% to Mekelle and 2% to Eastern zone[6].

Across Northern Ethiopia, there are an estimated **3.8 million people in need of accessing health care** while the health facilities' capacity remains largely overstretched to provide services due to extensive damage and destruction of infrastructure and medical equipment, shortages of medical supplies and lack of health personnel. 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 **Afar region** while in **Amhara** the health service has been interrupted across 12 hospitals and 119 health posts in areas bordering with Tigray. Assessments from the **Tigray** Regional Health Bureau and humanitarian partners on the ground highlight that out of the 200 assessed health facilities in the region only 96 (48%) are providing Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV (PMTCT) and 114 (57%) are providing delivery services, further compromising access to maternal and reproductive health services in the region. As reported by OCHA, more than 116 priority health facilities[7] are in need of health care supplies and partners' support across the region. In every emergency - conflict or natural disaster - the risk of violence, exploitation and abuse is

[4] Tigray in Ethiopia: https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/15481/ET

[5] 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

[6] WFP Tigray - Conflict Affected Areas Update #1 (September 3, 2021): https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Tigray%20-%20Conflict%20Affected%20Areas%20-%20Update%20%231%2C%20Research%2C%20Assessment%20and%20Monitoring%20%28Ethiopia%20CO%20and%20RBN%29%20-%20Issued%2023%20September%202021.pdf

[7] Ethiopia - Tigray Region Humanitarian Update Situation Report (September 16, 2021): https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/ethiopia-northern-ethiopia-humanitarian-update-situation-report-16-sept-2021

heightened, particularly for women and girls. Across Tigray, there are 816,000 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 205,000 people as of August, 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 not yet available at cluster level as assessments on the increasing protection needs of new displacements are still ongoing across areas of the regions bordering with Tigray.

UNFPA is scaling up response in the areas of Amhara and Afar regions bordering with Tigray region in light of recent new conflict-induced displacements. 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[8]*:*

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

- **190 internally displaced persons supported with sexual and reproductive health services through the 2 Mobile Health Units deployed in partnership with Marie Stopes International (MSI)** for outreach community SRH/GBV service provision at IDP sites in Mekelle and Adigrat, Tigray region. Recruitment of 2 additional Mobile Teams with community health mobilizers is ongoing.
- **Distributed 7 SRH Kits – Maedot (6) and MSI (1) –** to serve an estimated 16,000 conflict-affected people with life-saving sexual and reproductive health services in Mekelle, Tigray.
- **Finalized the registration of candidates for recruitment of 34 midwives and 20 Health Extension workers (HEWs) in partnership with the Ethiopian Midwives Association (EMwA)** to be deployed in 22 health facilities across Tigray in consultation with the Regional Health Bureau.

[8] Based on Minimum Essential Service Package (MISP) calculator: https://iawg.net/resources/misp-calculator

- **Developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) via Mums for Mums with the Regional Bureau of Women Affairs** on the small-scale production of reusable menstrual pads and COVID-19 masks as part of an income-generating project for GBV survivors in Tigray region.
- **Conducted a field mission to Shire for technical guidance and follow up** on project implementation with IPs as well as to assess the sexual and reproductive health service provision at government-led health facilities in the area.

Amhara

- **Developed a Work Plan with Marie Stopes International (MSI) in consultation with the Bureau of Health for rapid-deployment of 3 Mobile Health Teams** – consisting of a midwife, clinical nurse, MHPSS and coordinator - to provide integrated Maternal Health, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) and Sexual and Reproductive services in recent conflict-affected areas - Debark and Dessie, among others - bordering with Tigray region. Staff recruitment is currently underway.
- **Organized the distribution of 112 SRH Kits to benefit 161,230 emergency-affected populations in partnership with Amhara Regional Health Bureau to 7 Hospitals and 8 Health Centers** in North Gondar, South Wollo, North Shoa and Oromo special zones.
- **1,097 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) in Wolkayt (223), Dabat (170) and Debark (704) woredas in Amhara region.

Afar

- Supported as the Afar GBV AoR lead the development of a **multi-sectoral Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan** to address the GBV needs of recent conflict-affected areas bordering with Tigray region.
- **3,252 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 (1,382), Teru-Digdiga (536) and Aba'ala districts (1,334) in Afar region.

Official launch of the new UNFPA-supported income-generating project for 200 GBV survivors in collaboration with Mums for Mums in Mekelle, Tigray. Photo by © UNFPA Ethiopia.

AT A GLANCE

MIDWIFERY SERVICE PROVISION

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

REGION	SERVICE PROVIDED	FROM 1 - 15 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
	TOTAL AFAR	*	3,873
AMHARA	# deliveries attended to by skilled provider	20	215
	# outpatients for post-natal care (PNC) within 42 hr.	10	250
	# outpatients for antenatal care consultations (ANC)	45	1390
	# outpatient visits for family planning (male and female)	42	1234
	# visits for STI/HIV counseling, screening, testing or other treatment	54	1258
	# of referrals for higher level of obstetric care/emergency (mother/newborn)	5	77
	# of clinical management of rape visits completed within 72 hours of assaults	0	12
	# of ANC outpatients visits, including PMTCT	4	434
	TOTAL AMHARA	180	4,870
TIGRAY	# deliveries attended to by skilled provider	27	1,724
	# outpatients for post-natal care (PNC) within 42 hr.	24	1,742
	# outpatients for antenatal care consultations (ANC)	109	8,460
	# outpatient visits for family planning (male and female)	214	7,558
	# visits for STI/HIV counseling, screening, testing or other treatment	59	6,480
	# referrals for higher level of obstetric care/emergency (mother/newborn)	0	261
	# clinical management of rape visits completed within 72 hr. of assault	1	115
	# of ANC outpatients visits, including PMTCT	7	974
	TOTAL TIGRAY	441	27,314
	GRAND TOTAL	621	36,057

**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

- **2,482 individuals reached with GBV awareness raising sessions and sensitization activities,** including referral linkage to health care services, in partnership with Ethiopian Red Cross Society (223), Food for the Hungry (223), and Marie Stopes International (1,550) across IDP sites in Tigray.
- **Trained 23 international and national aid staff on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA)** and the establishment of community-based complaint mechanisms in Mekelle, Tigray.

Amhara

- **430 people reached with house-to-house awareness raising visits and group discussion on GBV risk-mitigation and response by ERCS volunteers and health extension workers (HEWs) in Amhara region.**

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.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

Tigray

- **Supported a total of 4,386 internally displaced persons and host communities 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 region, in partnership with OSSHD. Out of the 4,386 people reached, 980 were provided with access to basic counseling and 3,406 women and girls with critical information on SRH/GBV and MHPSS service availability by the 234 trained PFA providers from OSSHD and trained community-based counsellors from Tigray Regional Health Bureau.
- **Provided technical assistance and follow up** for the establishment of 2 Women and Girls' Friendly Spaces (WGFS) in partnership with OSSHD in Shire, Tigray region.
- **Completed the validation and data processing of the MHPSS 4Ws mapping exercise** among GBV Actors with MHPSS program components in Tigray Region.

Women attending a sensitization session on SRH, GBV and Psychosocial First Aid (PFA) at a Women and Girls' Friendly Space (WGFS) at an IDP site in Mekelle, Tigray. Photo by © UNFPA Ethiopia.

UNFPA Capacity Building for Northern Ethiopia Response (*Cumulative numbers)

GBV & PSEA

94 GBV service providers trained on GBViE

957 Humanitarian Actors trained in Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

200 GBV survivors supported with income-generating activities and life-skills training

SRHR

108 Service providers trained on Clinical Management of Rape (CMR)

64 Service providers trained on Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP)

111 Service providers trained on BeMONC and management of miscarriage

220 People trained on SRHR in emergencies and HIV/STIs

MHPSS

59 Service providers trained on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

57 Service providers trained on Psychosocial First Aid (PFA)

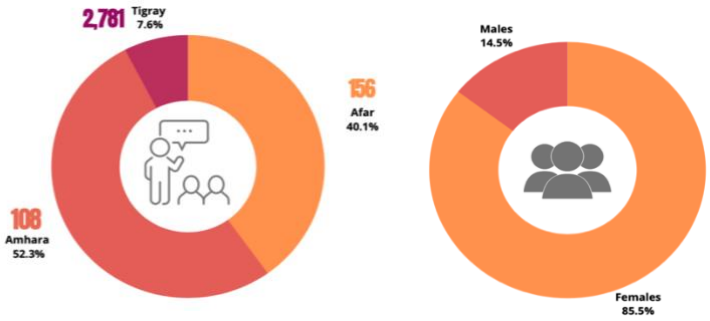
1354 community facilitators, health extension workers, volunteers, among other professionals trained in psychosocial support and referrals

PARTNERS

Ethiopian Midwife Association (EMwA)
Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS)
Regional Bureau of Women Affairs (Tigray)
Food for the Hungry (FHI)
GBV AoR
Mums for Mums
OSSHD
Save the Children
UNFPA

Region & Gender

3,045 total service providers and professionals trained by UNFPA for Northern Ethiopia Response

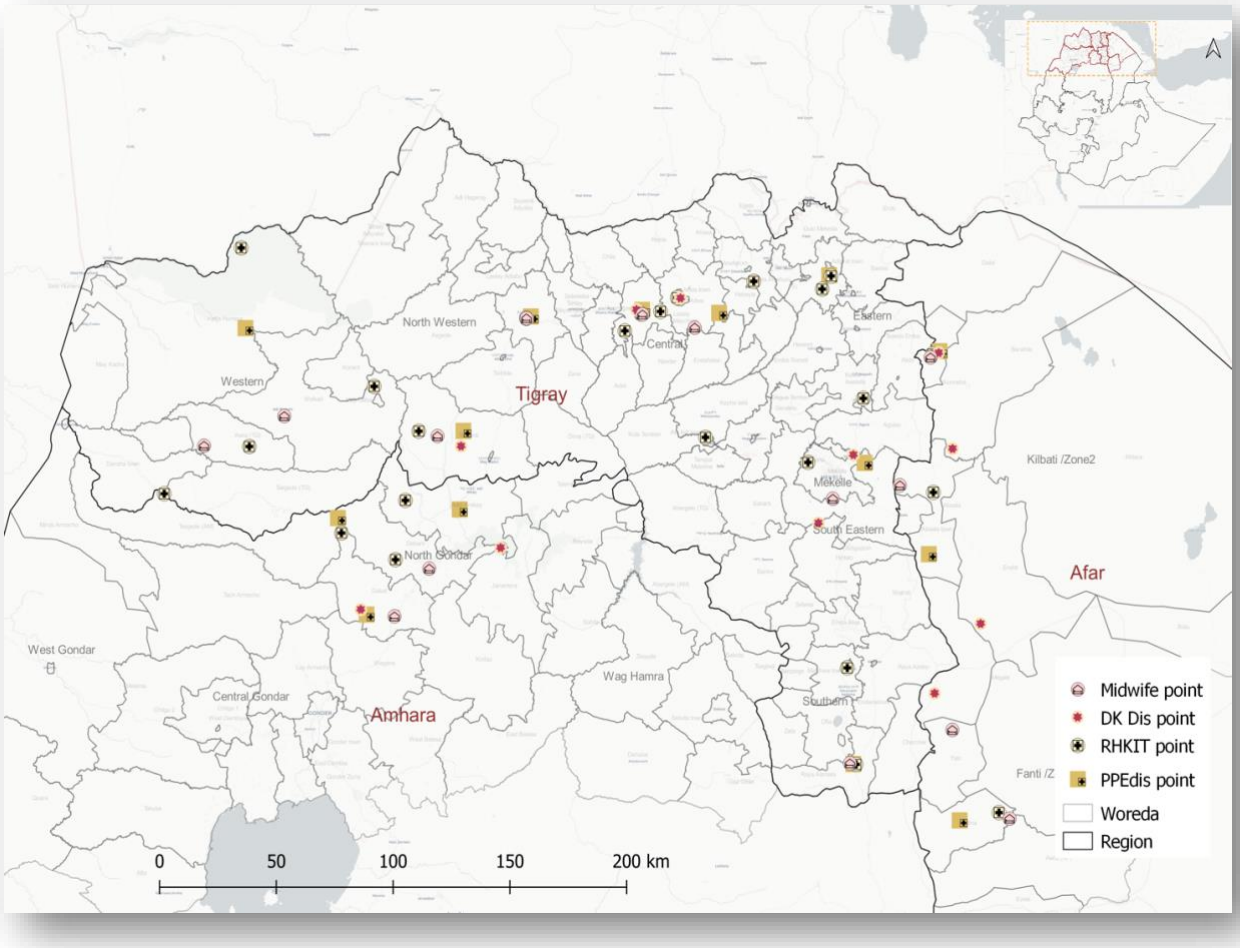


Logistics and Operations

5,873 Dignity Kits dispatched to IOM to be distributed in IDP camps in Mekelle and Shire, Tigray

- **Distributed 7 SRH Kits - Kits 1A, 2A, 4, 5, 6A, 8, 9 - and medical equipment** to health facilities and IDP camps in partnership with MAEDOT in Mekelle, Tigray region.
- **5,873 Dignity Kits were dispatched to IOM** for distribution to the IDP camps in Mekelle and Shire, Tigray region.
- Request submitted to UNFPA for the procurement of 11,000 Dignity Kits from PSB.

UNFPA Distributions' Map for the Northern Ethiopia Response



Coordination and Partnerships

- UNFPA as co-chair of PSEA Network jointly with UN Women presented the Inter-Agency Community-Based Complaint Mechanism to aid partners from the Tigray PSEA Network to ensure consistency amongst agencies to handle SEA complaints and referral of cases.

GBV AoR Coordination

UNFPA as the lead agency for GBV AoR coordination:

- Developed a service mapping tool to avoid duplication of activities among GBV partners in Tigray region.
- Discussed with GBV partners on the formation of a Services Mapping Task Team and GBV AoR Strategic Advisory Group to provide technical guidance and specialized expertise to respond to the complexities of today's protection challenges in mixed situations and across humanitarian, development and peace frameworks.
- Joined a small team to review the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) key response on GBV - Dignity Kits, awareness raising activities, Psychosocial First Aid (PFA) and referrals.

Communications

- Developed a Communication Plan for the UNFPA Humanitarian Response Plan (2021-2022)
- Submitted a Briefing Note on UNFPA's Response to the Northern Ethiopia Crisis for the Ministries of Peace, Health and Women of Ethiopia.
- Developed messages to be delivered by Ms. Dennia Gayle, UNFPA Representative, for the online UN PSEA Assistance Protocol Training held on Sep 2nd, 2021.

"In every crisis, the needs of women and girls are often overlooked forcing them to bear the brunt of limited access to health care and basic services. As UNFPA we remain committed to save and protect the lives of women and girls across Northern Ethiopia while building back the capacity of health and protection facilities to deliver life-saving GBV, maternal care, sexual and reproductive services and psychosocial support to leave no one behind."

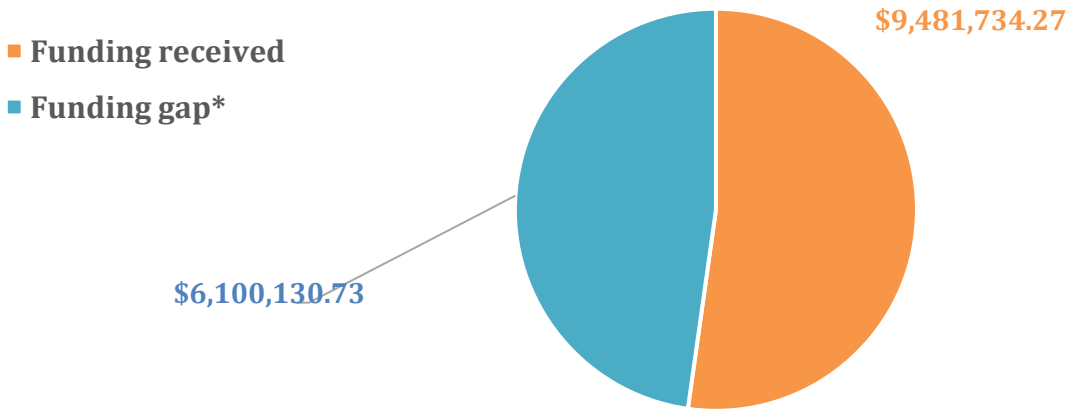
Ms. Dennia Gayle
UNFPA Ethiopia Country Representative

Resource Mobilization

Special thanks to the major donors supporting @UNFPAEthiopia Response to the Tigray 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, 5th Floor
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Tel: 251-1-511-980
http://ethiopia.unfpa.org

For further information:

- **Dennia Gayle**
Representative
gayle@unfpa.org
- **Sarah Masale**
Deputy Representative
masale@unfpa.org