

# North Ethiopia Emergency Response

September 2021

A **humanitarian and protection emergency** has been underway in and around Ethiopia's Tigray region since armed conflict broke out in early November 2020.

Over **two million people** have been forced to flee their homes within the Tigray region and beyond. **Refugees** hosted in the region have been **similarly affected** by the violence.

UNHCR is doing its utmost to protect those forcibly displaced by **scaling up** its presence, providing **protection and assistance** to them while ensuring **access to basic services**.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

**96,000**

Eritrean Refugees in Ethiopia\*

*\* 60,000 were known to be collecting food rations in the camps or benefitting from the Out of Camp Policy in Tigray at the onset of the crisis.*

**2.1 million**

Ethiopian Internally Displaced People in Ethiopia's Tigray Region

## STAFFING

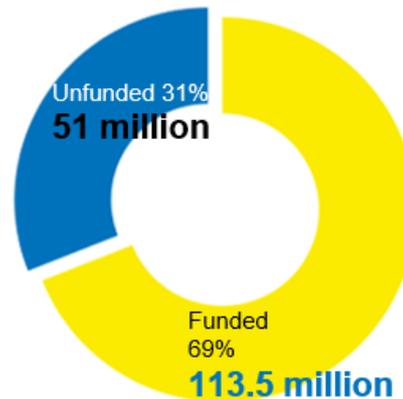
**52** international staff

**85** national staff

## FUNDING (AS OF 24 AUGUST 2021)

**US\$ 164.5 M**

requested for the Ethiopia Emergency Situation (Tigray) for Ethiopia and Sudan



## OVERVIEW

The humanitarian situation across the Tigray Region remains deeply concerning for refugees, the internally displaced and host communities.

Civilians have endured nearly ten months of conflict with extremely limited basic services and assistance available, leading to a significant escalation in humanitarian needs with ongoing new displacements.

UNHCR has boosted its response, setting up new field offices across the region to be closer to those forced to flee. However, UNHCR and partners continue to face challenges such as shortage of fuel and cash, and absence of electricity that are negatively impacting our ability to deliver assistance.



*The community of internally displaced people in Abi Adi, where UNHCR recently opened a new office, discusses challenges and pressing needs with UNHCR teams on the ground. © UNHCR/Fahmida Karim*

## Main Activities

In close collaboration with government authorities, UN Agencies, partner organizations, civil society and faith-based organizations, UNHCR undertakes the following activities:



### Scale-up of capacity

**UNHCR has scaled up its presence in Ethiopia's Tigray, Amhara and Afar regions** as access has slightly improved over the past month. In addition to the existing offices in Mekelle, Shire, Semera and Debark, **UNHCR has opened five new field units** across the region (Abi Adi, Adigrat, Maychew, Sheraro and Axum). However, as conflict persists, many areas remain out of reach for our teams - hindering access to those in desperate need.



### Protection monitoring and technical support for the enrolment of internally displaced people

**UNHCR, with the Ethiopian Agency for Refugees and Returnees Affairs (ARRA), continues to track and locate registered refugees**, who have been displaced from refugee camps to other locations due to the conflict, through biometric verification. **Protection monitoring** in sites hosting internally displaced people is implemented on an ongoing basis to provide an overall analysis of the protection situation as well as inform planning and protection-oriented programming. UNHCR is also providing technical and material support to the Tigray regional authorities for the **implementation of the enrolment of internally displaced people**. The enrolment data will ensure that assistance and support to internally displaced people are not duplicated and persons with specific needs can be better supported.



### Protection interventions in areas of displacement

UNHCR runs **a network of 57 protection desks** for identification of persons with specific needs, referral to relevant services, provision of information and counselling on access to essential services. Where security and access allow, UNHCR has staff on the ground to provide **support to survivors of gender-based violence**, including referrals to medical care, psychosocial support, counselling, and legal assistance. Information and outreach campaigns are being ramped up so that survivors know how and where to seek support. Dignity kits are being distributed, and safe spaces have been set up. UNHCR is also working with partners to establish **child friendly spaces** and **family tracing processes** for unaccompanied and separated children.



### Creating humanitarian space for delivery of protection and assistance to displaced people

**UNHCR and its partners manage 50 sites and collective centres** hosting internally displaced people across the Tigray region. In addition, as co-lead of the CCCM Cluster, UNHCR supports community led site maintenance activities. UNHCR also manages, together with ARRA, four Eritrean refugee camps in Tigray and Afar regions and continues to support refugees relocated from Mai Aini and Adi Harush camps.



### Providing emergency shelter and direct humanitarian assistance to meet basic needs

To date, **UNHCR has implemented over 940 shelter and settlements related projects** comprising of emergency shelters, communal shelters, completion of unfinished buildings and communal facilities in the Tigray region and beyond. Despite the ongoing access challenges hindering the arrival of humanitarian supplies to Ethiopia's Tigray region, UNHCR has provided **basic relief items to 30,000 households** (150,000 individuals) in the Tigray, Amhara and Afar regions, including blankets, buckets, soap, kitchen sets and mosquito nets. UNHCR has established a new warehouse in Mekelle to have enough storage capacity for items received for the emergency response.



### Relocation

**UNHCR's priority remains to facilitate the relocation of refugees out of the conflict areas** as soon as possible. To that end, UNHCR is setting up a new camp, Alemwach, which will be able to host some 25,000 refugees. UNHCR, as a member of the Relocation Task Force, **has supported to date the relocation of 5,000 internally displaced people currently sheltered in schools** to alternative locations across the Tigray Region. In Mekelle, relocation to Sabacare 4 has started by humanitarian actors and the site will be able to host up to 19,000 individuals. In addition, UNHCR is **working with partners on a Return and Settlement plan** to enable internally displaced people to make an informed and voluntary decision and support their return, as the security situation improves in some areas.



### Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

**UNHCR conducts awareness raising sessions on PSEA** with internally displaced people, refugees, partners and government officials **through training and distribution of information, education and communication materials** in English and Tigrinya languages. UNHCR is working with partners to establish and run complaints and feedback mechanisms – including community-based - to prevent and end sexual exploitation and abuse, including through protection desks and protection monitoring.



### Working with the Communities

**Community-based protection mechanisms are being strengthened** through the engagement of the existing community support structures of leaders, trained social workers, women support groups and youth groups. As a matter of Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP), regular consultations with those internally displaced, the collection of information about their situation as well as feedback regarding assistance and protection services are in place. As such, UNHCR participates in weekly meetings with IDP leadership structures.

## Working with partners

**UNHCR works with 14 government, international and national implementing partners** to respond to the most pressing needs of refugees and others displaced by the Tigray conflict. These include ANE, AHA, AHADA, ARRA, DEC, EDUKANS, EECMY, DICAC, IHS, IMC, IRC, NRC, RADO, NRDEP.

As part of the IDP coordination structure, **UNHCR leads the Protection Cluster** and has recently set up sub-regional Protection Clusters in Sheraro, Axum, Adigrat, Abi Adi and Maychew. UNHCR also coordinates the humanitarian response by co-leading the CCCM Cluster and the Inter Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) on behalf of OCHA in remote field locations. UNHCR also supports Inter-Agency Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) missions to monitor humanitarian action, conduct multisector assessments, and distribute essential household items in areas that were not accessible over the past eight months.

## Financial Information

The total recorded contributions for the Ethiopia Emergency amount to **107.8 million USD**. UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.

UNHCR Ethiopia would like to express its gratitude particularly to the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), EU ECHO, Italy, Japan, Norway, and the United States of America, alongside situation level funding from Finland, France, Luxembourg, and from Private donors.



UNHCR Regional  
Appeal – Tigray  
Emergency

### ■ OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS <sup>4</sup> | USD

United States of America 169.5 million | Private donors Australia 6 million | Canada 5.8 million | Sweden 3.5 million | Denmark 2.9 million | Switzerland 2 million

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