

Tigray Situation Update

30 July 2021



UNHCR has put up “No-Gun signs” in all IDP sites in Shire, and more are planned for other locations in Tigray region. © UNHCR/Lana Chouhfeh.

Background and key developments

On 4 November 2020, military confrontations between federal and regional forces in Ethiopia’s Tigray region, which borders both Sudan and Eritrea, led the Government to declare a State of Emergency. Eight months into the conflict, and despite the announcement of an official end to the law enforcement operation declared in late November, the overall security and access situation remain complex and fluid, hindering effective delivery of humanitarian assistance to the most affected populations in Central, Southern-Eastern, Eastern, North-Western and Southern Zones. On 28 June, the Ethiopia National Defense Forces (ENDF) withdrew from Mekelle city, the capital of Tigray region and later announced a unilateral ceasefire. Tigray region is now under the control and administration of the new Tigray authorities. On 13 July, a new offensive was launched two weeks after the ceasefire as Tigray forces said they have seized Alamata, the main town in southern Tigray. The frontline has reportedly shifted to south of Mai Tsebri and around Adi Arkay, with active conflict ongoing. Of particular concern are the two Eritrean refugee camps of Mai Aini and Adi Harush and the safety and wellbeing of refugees. Access to the two camps has been impeded for over two weeks, with services

grinding to a halt and the necessity to move refugees out of harms way as soon as possible. As the volatile situation continues across the region with high uncertainty, the humanitarian response in the region remains to be challenged by a lack of access to provide adequate assistance, disrupted supply chains, and limited communication services.

Displacement figures

Ethiopia is home to 150,021 registered Eritrean refugees across the country. Before the conflict erupted in the Tigray region in November 2020, UNHCR has registered 95,929 Eritrean refugees in Tigray and 54,183 in Afar with a small population of 7,800 living outside of camp settings under the Out of Camp Policy (OCP). At the outset of the crisis, UNHCR confirmed 59,759 refugees as the baseline for the refugee population known to be in Tigray.

According to [IOM Emergency Site Assessment \(ESA\) report](#), the conflict in Tigray has displaced some estimated 1.9 million people in Tigray region.

Operational response

Refugee response



POPULATION DISPLACEMENT

Mai Aini and Adi Harush camps

- Since the relocation of refugees who had fled Shimelba and Hitsats started in late January 2021, 7,738 refugees have been relocated to Mai Aini and Adi Harush refugee camps as of the end of June, which included a very small number of those benefitting from the Out of Camp Policy. Prior to the outbreak of the Tigray crisis on 4 November 2020, a small population of refugees lived outside of camp settings under the Out of Camp Policy (OCP). As of July 2021, approximately 5,730 OCP refugees reside in Tigray.
- As of 30 July, 97 refugees are currently in emergency accommodation in Dabat town, comprising of refugees who independently fled the camps of Mai Aini and Adi Harush and made their way to Debark and Adi Arkay, where they were then transported to Dabat.

Addis Ababa

- The joint identification exercise of Shimelba and Hitsats refugees who self-relocated to Addis Ababa, conducted by ARRA, the government refugee Agency, and UNHCR and ARRA teams have verified 6,694 individuals as at 28 June. The majority have expressed their wish to have temporary residence in Addis Ababa.

Alemwach refugee camp

- Amhara National Regional State handed over about 91.2 hectares of land for the establishment of the Alemwach Refugee Camp, in Dabat, North Gondar, Amhara region. The camp, that will host Eritrean refugees, will be managed by UNHCR in

partnership with ARRA, the Ethiopian Agency for Refugees and Returnees Affairs. An initial UNHCR/ARRA site planning mission to Alemwach camp was undertaken in the first week of July, primarily to conduct a detailed assessment, including site layout mapping in order to expedite construction and enhance preparedness of the site to receive refugees considering ongoing insecurity in the Tigray region. UNHCR partners are currently fully engaged in advancing the implementation of construction projects as well as hygiene and sanitation works in all planned sites in Alemwach. Concurrent to this, emergency accommodation and other services have been put in place in Dabat town adjacent to the camp site to be able to move refugees as quickly as possible when security allows.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) response



PROTECTION

- Community police structures set up and supported by CCCM are ensuring the safety and security of IDP sites. UNHCR-led Protection cluster continued to advocate for the preservation of the principles of the civilian and humanitarian character of IDP sites and installed 60 “No-gun sign” banners at IDP sites under Shire’s AoR in North-western and Central Zones of Tigray region.
- UNHCR has established 40 protection desks in IDP sites in Shire (18) and Mekelle (22). IDPs are provided with information on any protection issues, including relocation to established IDP sites, and also have access to counselling and referrals to other service providers for specific assistance.
- UNHCR through its partner Innovative Humanitarian Solutions (IHS) have identified, referred, or assisted more than 9,000 vulnerable and unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) in Shire’s AoR: Axum, Adwa, Sheraro, Endabaguna, Adi Daero and Adi Hageray). There is an urgent need for expanded child protection services in the region, especially the North-western part of Tigray. Many children were separated from their families and/or were unaccompanied by adults during displacement according to various reports.
- UNHCR Protection teams have scaled up training for partners on Code of Conduct, Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP), and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention and response. UNHCR through its regular protection monitoring desks established across IDP sites in Shire town has identified more than 45 cases of SGBV survivors and referred them to other service providers. UNHCR’s SGBV focal person is closely following up on these cases. UNHCR is also planning to support them with dignity kits.
- According to OCHA, between 9 April and 15 July 2021, at least GBV 155 cases were reported in Shire’s main hospital among women and girls between the ages of 8 and 66. Majority of the cases were reported in the past two weeks, due to the survivors’ reported perception of increased safety and better access following the change in the political administration in Tigray. Many additional cases continue to be reported including in humanitarian spaces across Shire’s AoR, albeit current partners’ capacity is insufficient to address them all. The Protection Cluster continues to work on and advocate for, among others, an urgent scale up of SGBV response including through capacity building activities, additional resources for safe places, updating the SGBV referral pathways, etc.



SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRI)

- Following the forced eviction of IDPs from Axum University's Shire Campus by the authorities on 12 June 2021 UNHCR and humanitarian partners responded to avert negative impacts on the safety and dignity of the IDPs. Most of the IDPs self-relocated to the new Five Angels IDP site. This site, one of the two official sites established in the region, is now operational and UNHCR, is coordinating the humanitarian response in this site.
- UNHCR has established and/or revived community structures in all IDP sites, restructured IDP community representatives and facilitated the formation of security committee representatives from each IDP site. The community structures in IDP sites in Shire have received trainings and benefitted from material support including stationery and megaphones.
- To date, UNHCR and partners have distributed core relief items (CRIs) to more than 14,431 IDP households in Tigray, thus reaching approximately 71,473 individuals. Out of this, 2,750 individuals (500 families) (individuals (500 families) with specific needs (PSNs) have been assisted in Shire during July. UNHCR has prepositioned CRIs for 1,480 IDP families, approximately 7,000 individuals in Shire, Zana and Endabaguna. The Tigray operation is also expecting the dispatch of CRIs that would cover some 8,000 and 5000 families in Shire and Mekelle's AoRs respectively

Issues and Operational challenges

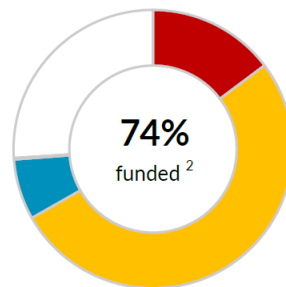
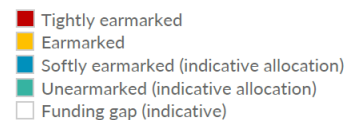
- As of the third week of July, while access within Tigray was allowed, the road between Afar and the Tigray region, via Semera - the capital of the Afar region - remains restricted due to security reasons. This prevents food stocks, fuel and other humanitarian goods from entering Tigray. On 22 July, UNHAS flight made their first flight with passengers to Mekelle.
- The limitations on telecommunication is a major operational challenge. There is no phone network and limited VSATs are operational in the Tigray region. UNHCR provides internet access to UN agencies, NGOs (partners and non- partners) at its offices. Scarcity of fuel and cash continues to impact many humanitarian programmes being effectively delivered, and without the ability to bring in supplies UNHCR and other agencies will be unable to operate imminently.

Ethiopia Emergency Situation Funding Update

(As of 27 July 2021)

The UNHCR Regional Appeal for the Ethiopia Emergency Situation (Tigray) highlights the needs of approximately \$99 million for Ethiopia and Sudan. The overall appeal is currently 73% funded. UNHCR Ethiopia would like to express its thanks to funding received for Ethiopia from all donors, particularly the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), ECHO, Japan, Norway, and the United States of America (USA), alongside situation level funding from Finland, France, Luxembourg, and other Private donors.


FUNDING UPDATE | 2021
\$99.0 million

 UNHCR's financial requirements 2021 ¹

74%
 funded ²

**ETHIOPIA
EMERGENCY**

as of 27 July 2021

CONTRIBUTIONS ³ | USD

	■ Unearmarked	■ Softly earmarked	■ Earmarked	■ Tightly earmarked	Total
United States of America	-	-	19,130,000	-	19,130,000
European Union	-	-	-	3,789,384	3,789,384
Finland	-	2,389,486	-	-	2,389,486
Norway	-	-	1,219,066	-	1,219,066
Japan	-	-	-	1,100,000	1,100,000
UNO-Fluechtlingshilfe	-	866,882	-	-	866,882
United Kingdom	-	-	810,811	-	810,811
Italy	-	-	-	586,166	586,166
CERF	-	-	-	500,000	500,000
Education Cannot Wait	-	-	-	500,000	500,000
Médecins Sans Frontières	-	-	-	365,625	365,625
France	-	351,700	-	-	351,700
Novo Nordisk Foundation	-	327,004	-	-	327,004
United Kingdom for UNHCR	-	315,472	-	-	315,472
Luxembourg	-	305,998	-	-	305,998
Australia for UNHCR	-	248,720	-	-	248,720
Private donors Canada	-	185,054	-	-	185,054
Latter-day Saints Charities	-	-	-	172,200	172,200
UNHCR Insamlingsstiftelse	-	149,459	-	-	149,459
Liechtenstein	-	110,375	-	-	110,375
Private donors USA	-	100,000	-	-	100,000
Other private donors	-	287,745	-	-	287,745
Sub-total	-	5,637,896	21,159,877	7,013,376	33,811,149
Indicative allocation of funds and adjustments ⁶	135,103	1,337,827	30,364,666	7,576,919	39,414,515
Total	135,103	6,975,723	51,524,543	14,590,294	73,225,664

Methodology: Unearmarked funding is allocated and reallocated multiple times during the year to allow UNHCR to fund prioritised activities. This funding update includes an indicative allocation of funds so as to accurately represent the resources available for the situation. The contributions earmarked for the Ethiopia Emergency shown above are combined with an indicative allocation of the softly earmarked and unearmarked contributions listed below. This allocation respects different levels of earmarking. Adjustments relate to programme support costs and carry-over.

■ OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS ⁴ | 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

IGAD | Ireland | Luxembourg | Netherlands | Norway | Private donors

■ UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS ⁵ | USD

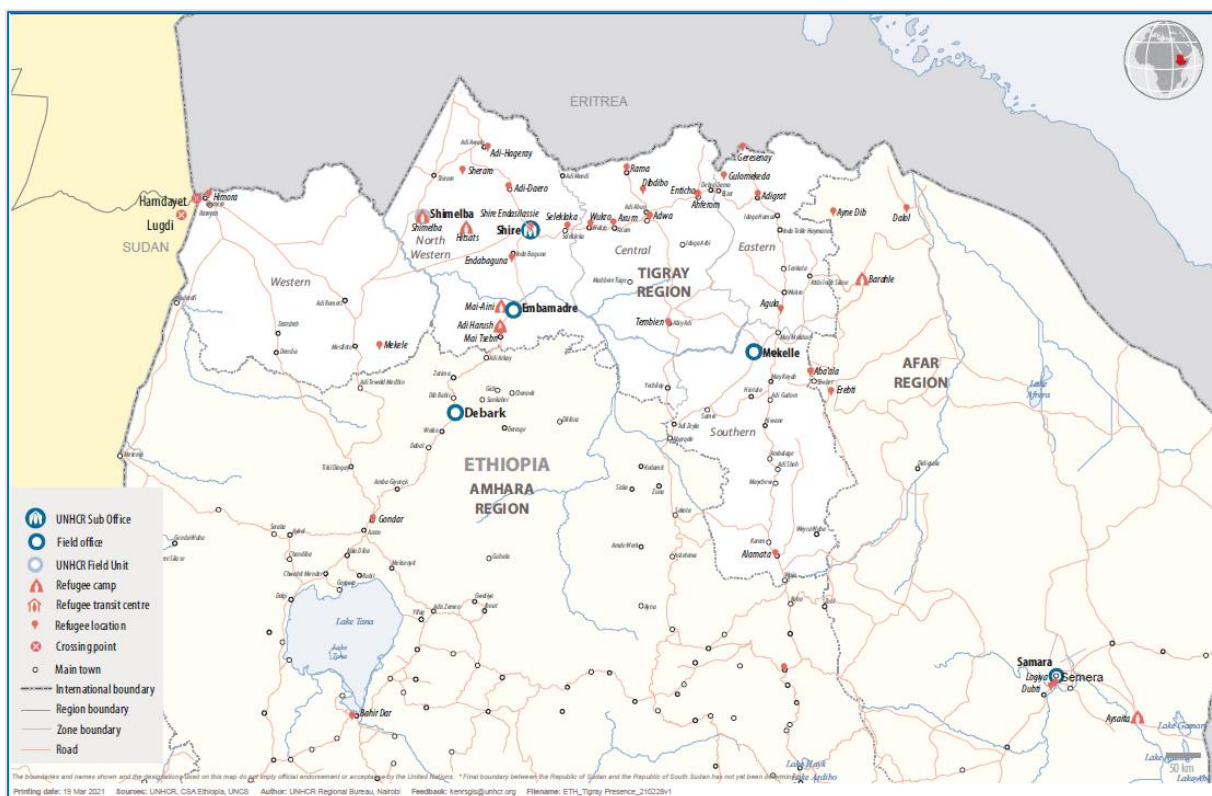
Norway 80 million | Sweden 66.9 million | Private donors Spain 42.6 million | Netherlands 36.1 million | Denmark 34.6 million | Germany 26 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 21.5 million | France 20 million | Private donors Japan 17.6 million | Switzerland 16.4 million | Ireland 12.5 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Italy 10.7 million | Private donors Sweden 10.6 million | Private donors Italy 10.4 million

Algeria | Armenia | Australia | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Cyprus | Estonia | Finland | Holy See | Iceland | Liechtenstein | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Portugal | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Singapore | South Africa | Thailand | Turkey | Uruguay | Private donors

Notes:

1. The financial requirements of the Ethiopia Emergency include requirements in Ethiopia and Sudan.
2. The percentage funded (74%) and total funding amount (\$73,225,664) are indicative based on the methodology described above. This leaves an indicative funding gap of \$25,765,892 representing 26% of the financial requirements.
3. Contributions to the Ethiopia Emergency are shown by the earmarking modality as defined in the Grand Bargain.
4. Due to their earmarking at a related region, sub-region, country or theme, the other softly earmarked contributions listed are those which can potentially be used for the Ethiopia Emergency. Where a donor has contributed \$2 million or more, the total amount of the contribution is shown.
5. Contributed without restrictions on its use, unearmarked funding allows UNHCR critical flexibility in how best to reach refugees and other populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk. Where a donor has contributed \$10 million or more, the total amount of the contribution is shown.
6. Includes an adjustment for generous contributions from Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom that were received and acknowledged in 2020, but that can be used in 2021, thereby increasing the funds available to the Ethiopia Emergency Situation in 2021.

Ethiopia operation: UNHCR presence in Tigray



In Tigray region, UNHCR has Sub-Offices in Shire as well as in Mekelle, where the Agency is scaling up its presence to meet the current protection and humanitarian needs of refugees and IDPs. UNHCR has also utilized its operational hub in Debarke and significant operational presence in Mai Tsebri to support the services in Mai Aini and Adi Harush refugee camps. While UNHCR in Shire builds up capacity to facilitate provision of assistance to IDPs in Tigray and Amhara regions. UNHCR has also deployed additional staff to Tigray region to scale up its operations in response to the escalating humanitarian needs in the region. There are currently some 131 UNHCR staff in the Tigray operation.

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LINKS

[Ethiopia Data Portal](#)

[Ethiopia Situation – Tigray Emergency Situational Page](#)

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