

Ethiopia – Northern Ethiopia Crisis

SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

**7-7.5
MILLION**

 People Facing Severe
 Acute Food
 Insecurity in Afar,
 Amhara, and Tigray

USAID – October 2021
**9.4
MILLION**

 People Targeted for
 Humanitarian
 Assistance in Afar,
 Amhara, and Tigray

UN – January 2022
**2.4
MILLION**

 People Displaced
 Across Northern
 Ethiopia

IOM – July 2022
57,500

 Refugees From
 Northern Ethiopia in
 Eastern Sudan

UNHCR – September 2022

- Fighting between the ENDF and TPLF-aligned forces re-emerged in northern Ethiopia's Afar, Amhara, and Tigray regions in late August, breaking a five-month truce which began on March 24. The clashes have resulted in civilian casualties, damage and destruction of property, and widespread displacement.
- Following a period of increased access due to the truce, the renewed hostilities in northern Ethiopia have disrupted humanitarian access and service delivery.
- With USAID/BHA support, the JEOP and WFP are providing in-kind food assistance to conflict-affected populations across Afar, Amhara, and Tigray to respond to widespread food insecurity.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the Northern Ethiopia Crisis Response in FY 2022

 USAID/BHA¹ \$697,165,168

 State/PRM² \$116,400,000³
Total \$813,565,168
For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 7.
¹ USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

² U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM).

³ Funding in this fact sheet includes assistance to refugees residing in Tigray, which is also reported in the U.S. Government (USG) Horn of Africa fact sheet as part of the Horn of Africa Complex Emergency. This total does not include assistance to Ethiopian refugees in neighboring countries.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Renewed Conflict in August Generates Displacement and Elevated Humanitarian Needs Across Northern Ethiopia

Fighting between the Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) and Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF)-aligned forces reignited in northern Ethiopia's Afar, Amhara, and Tigray regions on August 24, ending five months of relative peace following the declaration of a humanitarian truce on March 24, international media report. Clashes initially broke out along the border between Amhara's North Wello Zone and Tigray's Southern Zone, with additional fighting erupting in Afar's Zone 2 and Zone 4, Amhara's North Gondar and Wag Hamra zones, and throughout Tigray. Fighting remained ongoing as of September 30.

The renewed violence has resulted in civilian casualties and destruction of property and left more than 300,000 people displaced in conflict-affected areas as of September 30, with large populations sheltering in open areas, magnifying risks to their health and protection, according to the Shelter Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian shelter activities, comprising UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders. Furthermore, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees have experienced secondary displacement in some conflict-affected areas. For example, fighting near North Wello's Jarra IDP site in late August caused more than 30,000 IDPs to flee for their safety, however, they were turned back from a new site near Chifra in Zone 4 of Afar, the UN reports. By the time the IDPs returned to Jarra, parts of the site's infrastructure were looted, damaged, or destroyed.

In response to the widespread displacement, regional authorities designated North Wello's Mersa town as a scale-up location to accommodate the increased number of IDPs, with at least 12,000 newly displaced people taking refuge in the town as of September 19, according to the UN. Mersa lacks critical supplies and services, such as food assistance and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities; in response, a mobile health and nutrition team (MHNT) was dispatched to Mersa to support IDP needs in the town, the UN reports. Additionally, a joint UN assessment in Mersa on September 7 identified priority needs, including food and shelter assistance, as well as gender-based violence (GBV) support services, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports. Meanwhile, in Tigray, relief actors had mobilized shelter supplies for 23,000 newly displaced households in Tigray's capital city of Mekele and North Western Zone's Shire town as of September 19.

Renewed Fighting Limits Access, Challenges Humanitarian Operations

Prior to the resumption of hostilities on August 24, humanitarian access in northern Ethiopia had been improving since a ceasefire was established in March. Five humanitarian convoys totaling more than 540 trucks and nearly 30 fuel tankers arrived in Mekele in August, representing more than 21,000 metric tons (MT) of humanitarian cargo and approximately 360,000 gallons of fuel, the Logistics Cluster reports. Additionally, UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) flights transported more than 45 MT of cargo, as well as humanitarian personnel, to Mekele. Despite the increased access, assistance levels prior to August 24 were not sufficient to create widespread improvements in food security, the UN reports.

Since the resumption of fighting, humanitarian access and operating conditions have become increasingly difficult, hindering response activities—such as food distribution—and exacerbating fuel and relief commodity shortages in affected communities. Shortages have been driven by a Government of Ethiopia (GoE)-imposed suspension of UNHAS flights since August 24, road blockades into the region, and clashes near major roadways into Tigray, which have prevented any humanitarian movements in or out of Tigray by air or road, the UN reports. The humanitarian fuel shortages in Tigray can also be traced to the TPLF's theft on August 24 of more than 150,000 gallons of UN World Food Program (WFP) fuel being stored in Tigray. Additionally,

access issues in conflict-affected areas of northern Ethiopia have restricted relief actors' ability to support newly displaced people. For example, UNHCR reports that regional authorities in Shire advised humanitarian agencies to suspend all movements to the displacement sites in the area due to the worsening security situation.

The volatile situation has also increased safety risks for relief actors. Notably, an unidentified explosive damaged a WFP truck traveling through Tigray's Zana *woreda*, or district, on September 25. While no life-threatening injuries were reported as a result of the incident, it highlights the elevated risk humanitarian actors are currently facing in Tigray and across northern Ethiopia. Humanitarian actors also report incidents of armed actors commandeering trucks carrying relief commodities and other risks to their safety.

Elevated Food Insecurity Persists Throughout Afar, Amhara, and Tigray

High levels of food insecurity persist throughout northern Ethiopia, with more than 13 million people estimated to require food assistance across Afar, Amhara, and Tigray as of late July, WFP reports. USAID analysis projects that some households are experiencing Catastrophe—IPC 5—levels of acute food insecurity in pockets of Afar, Amhara, and Tigray.⁵ In conflict-affected areas of Afar and Amhara, Emergency—IPC 4—and Crisis—IPC 3—food security conditions are projected through early 2023, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). Meanwhile, in Tigray 5.3 million people are estimated to be severely food-insecure according to UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), with widespread Emergency—IPC 4—levels of acute food insecurity projected in Central, Eastern, North Western, and South Eastern zones through 2023, FEWS NET reports. Furthermore, an August assessment by WFP found that an estimated 90 percent of households in the region were food-insecure and approximately 20 percent of the population in Tigray had resorted to negative coping strategies, such as reducing portions or number of meals consumed per day.

Access to food in the three regions has been heavily constrained by limited food stocks, abnormally high food prices, and conflict-related disruptions to local livelihoods, which have led to a sharp decline in income for many households. Disruptions to agriculture have been particularly damaging, as prior to the conflict approximately 80 percent of the population in northern Ethiopia relied on agriculture as their primary source of food and income, according to the Group of 20's Agricultural Market Information System.

Afar Authorities Relocate More Than 8,000 IDPs and Refugees

In Afar, regional authorities facilitated the relocation of more than 6,000 IDPs from Afar's capital city of Semera to Afar's Abala town in Zone 2 between August 16 and September 5. Semera's IDP site has been effectively closed as of September 5, the UN reports, completing a government-led relocation process that began in May. Relocations were intended to allow populations from areas along Afar's border with Tigray to return to their areas of origin. However, since many communities in Afar continue to be heavily affected by the ongoing conflict—particularly those in Zone 2 and Zone 4, where fighting was heaviest following the resurgence of conflict in late-August—relief actors were providing assistance to relocated IDPs, including supporting health services and water infrastructure in Abala, as of September 19. Additionally, approximately 80 percent of Eritrean refugees who were residing in Serdo refugee site in Zone 1, or an estimated 2,400 people, had been relocated to Zone 2's Berhale refugee site as of late July, most of whom cited difficult living conditions at Serdo and improved livelihood opportunities in Berhale as their primary reasons for wanting to relocate. Meanwhile, due to conflict and seasonal flooding, new displacements continue to be reported in Afar as of September 30.

⁵ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a multi-partner initiative that developed a standardized scale to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries and time, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5—for acute food insecurity.

KEY FIGURES



7.1 Million

Crisis-affected people reached with food assistance in northern Ethiopia in 2022 to date



101,000

Children treated for severe wasting in northern Ethiopia by UNICEF during 2021

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

In response to acute food needs across northern Ethiopia, USAID/BHA is supporting the Catholic Relief Services (CRS)-led Joint Emergency Operation (JEOP) consortium of NGOs, as well as WFP, which operates with the support of other implementing partners, to provide emergency food assistance—including U.S.-sourced cereals, pulses, and vegetable oil—to vulnerable populations in Afar, Amhara, and Tigray. WFP completed a round of assistance in Afar and Amhara in August, reaching more than 526,000 people in Afar and nearly 678,000 people in Amhara with in-kind food assistance between June and August. WFP's most recent rounds of assistance for both Afar and Amhara commenced in August, aiming to reach 654,000 people in Afar and 676,000 people in Amhara with in-kind food assistance. In Tigray, the JEOP consortium and WFP completed rounds of food assistance in early September, reaching more than 5.9 million people in 2022 as of late September, amid severe operational constraints.

NUTRITION

USAID/BHA supports 11 partners in their efforts to prevent and treat malnutrition across conflict-affected areas of northern Ethiopia. Using a community-based approach, USAID/BHA partners promote recommended infant and young child feeding practices through one-on-one counseling and group education sessions to improve nutrition outcomes. The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other USAID/BHA partners are also working to strengthen fixed-location health facilities and support MHNTs, providing essential medical services to IDPs and host community members across northern Ethiopia. In Afar and Amhara, UNICEF and USAID/BHA NGO partners are also providing specialized treatment for malnutrition in children ages five years and younger. UNICEF and its partners screened more than 14,000 children ages five years and younger for malnutrition in Amhara during July, identifying approximately 200 cases of severe wasting—the deadliest form of malnutrition—and 1,000 cases of moderate wasting. Meanwhile, in Afar, the UN agency screened more than 8,000 children for malnutrition, identifying an estimated 1,100 cases of severe wasting and nearly 4,000 cases of moderate wasting during the month. Also in July, USAID/BHA provided more than 1,300 cartons of ready-to-use therapeutic food to increase access to nutrition treatment supplies in Amhara.



456,000

IDPs in Afar, Amhara, and Tigray reached with medical consultations since November 2020

HEALTH

The USG supports 13 partners providing critical health care services in northern Ethiopia through community health facilities and mobile health units. USAID/BHA partners have supported integrated MHNTs throughout Afar, Amhara, and Tigray, which provide critically needed health and nutrition services to remote and hard-to-reach areas, though the number of MHNTs active in Tigray has been reduced significantly since late 2021 due to lack of supplies and fuel. MHNTs serve an essential function in areas where most health facilities have been damaged and where ongoing insecurity continues to impede crisis-affected populations’ access to health services. USAID/BHA partner International Medical Corps (IMC) has provided outpatient consultation to nearly 456,000 IDPs across Afar, Amhara, and Tigray through the operation of 22 MHNTs from the beginning of the response in November 2020 to late September 2022. With State/PRM support, an implementing partner has distributed essential medicines and other medical supplies to violence-affected health facilities in Afar, northern Amhara, and Tigray. Additionally, State/PRM supports UNHCR to provide health assistance to refugees in Tigray, including those sheltering in North Western Zone’s Adi Harush and Mai Aini refugee sites.



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USG-supported partners providing dedicated protection services in Afar, Amhara, and Tigray

PROTECTION

In response to protection needs resulting from the crisis in northern Ethiopia, the USG supports 16 partner organizations conducting protection programs as humanitarian access and security conditions permit. Partners are expanding GBV case management support, training social workers and community-based case workers, providing dignity kits—which contain items to address the specific needs of women and girls—to GBV survivors, and establishing child-friendly spaces, among other activities. In addition, State/PRM supports UNHCR and another implementing partner to provide protection and other multi-sector assistance to crisis-affected refugees and IDPs. With State/PRM support, UNHCR has scaled up protection services in Adi Harush and Mai Ani refugee sites.



10,100

People reached with IOM shelter assistance in Afar and Amhara during June

SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

USAID/BHA supports crisis-affected populations with emergency shelter assistance in Afar, Amhara, and Tigray through 10 implementing partners. With USAID/BHA funding, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reached more than 5,400 crisis-affected individuals across four IDP sites in Amhara and nearly 4,700 IDPs across seven IDP sites in Afar with emergency shelter assistance and life-saving relief commodities during June. Partners are also distributing relief commodity kits—which include bed mats, blankets, and wash basins—to recently displaced individuals. In addition, State/PRM supports UNHCR to provide shelter assistance to refugees and IDPs in Tigray.



130,000

People in Afar, Amhara, and Tigray reached with safe drinking water during July

WASH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM are supporting 14 partners to distribute WASH supplies and other relief commodities to crisis-affected and displaced populations in northern Ethiopia, as well as delivering equipment to support the rehabilitation of WASH infrastructure damaged during the crisis, constructing or rehabilitating water supply systems, and providing handwashing facilities and sanitation services in IDP sites and health facilities. USAID/BHA partner UNICEF provided safe drinking water through water trucking services to more than 130,000 people in Afar, Amhara, and Tigray during July. Moreover, UNICEF conducted hygiene promotion and community engagement sessions on WASH-related diseases to an estimated 46,000 people in IDP camps in Mekele and Tigray's Central, Eastern, and North Western zones throughout July.



\$35 Million

In dedicated USAID/BHA logistics support

LOGISTICS SUPPORT AND RELIEF COMMODITIES

USAID/BHA and State/PRM partners are providing essential logistics support for the humanitarian response in Afar, Amhara, and Tigray. With USAID/BHA support, WFP is providing critical coordination and logistics services—including transportation and storage of life-saving commodities—to the humanitarian community through the Logistics Cluster. Between July 2021 and August 2022, the Logistics Cluster transported an estimated 1,000 MT of humanitarian supplies to Tigray on UNHAS cargo flights. As of the end of September, flights to Tigray were on hold due to the resumption of active fighting.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Following weeks of escalating tensions between regional and federal authorities, clashes erupted between the TPLF and the ENDF in several locations across Tigray on November 4, 2020. Although the GoE declared victory on November 28, clashes continued. After a sharp escalation in fighting in late June 2021, the GoE declared a unilateral ceasefire, ENDF elements withdrew from Tigray, and the TPLF gained control of much of the region as the conflict expanded to neighboring Afar and Amhara. On November 2, 2021, the GoE declared a nationwide state of emergency in response to renewed and spreading hostilities; the Ethiopian parliament voted to lift the state of emergency on February 14, 2022. ENDF elements regained control of parts Afar and Amhara following the withdrawal of TPLF elements on December 20. On March 24, the GoE declared, and the TPLF agreed to, a humanitarian truce. The truce was subsequently broken on August 24, when fighting resumed throughout Afar, Amhara, and Tigray.
- Security conditions remain volatile, with conflict continuing to threaten populations in affected areas of Afar, Amhara, and Tigray, including displacing individuals within Ethiopia and into adjacent areas of eastern Sudan.
- On November 18, 2021, then-U.S. Ambassador to Ethiopia Geeta Pasi redeclared a disaster for Ethiopia for FY 2022 due to the continued humanitarian needs resulting from the complex emergency—including the entrenched armed conflict in northern Ethiopia—and the impact of climate, conflict, food insecurity, and health shocks on vulnerable populations across the country.
- On March 1, 2021, USAID activated a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to lead USG humanitarian response efforts to the crisis in northern Ethiopia. USAID also stood up a Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team to support the DART.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE NORTHERN ETHIOPIA RESPONSE IN FY 2022¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
Action Against Hunger (AAH)	Health, Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA), Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Amhara, Tigray	\$3,000,000
Alight	Protection, WASH	Tigray	\$1,500,000
CARE	Agriculture, Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$5,515,435
The Center for Victims of Torture (CVT)	Protection	Tigray	\$2,500,000
Concern Worldwide	Health, Nutrition, Shelter and Settlements	Amhara, Tigray	\$864,449
CRS	Food Assistance—251,730 MT of U.S. In Kind Food Aid	Amhara, Tigray	\$265,668,053
	Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Tigray	\$4,000,000
FAO	Agriculture	Tigray	\$32,000,000
FHI 360	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$7,500,000

GOAL	Health, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$4,000,000
IMC	Health, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$5,500,000
iMMAP	HCIMA	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$999,674
IMPACT Initiatives	HCIMA	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$500,000
IOM	Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$7,000,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Amhara, Tigray	\$4,000,000
Mercy Corps	Agriculture, MPCA, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Afar	\$3,051,000
Organization for Rehabilitation and Development in Amhara (ORDA)	WASH	Amhara	\$500,000
Plan USA	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$5,049,999
Samaritan's Purse	Health, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Amhara, Tigray	\$5,491,527
Save the Children Federation (SCF)	Health, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$6,000,000
UN Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD)	Logistics Support	Countrywide	\$248,359
UNICEF	Nutrition—940 MT of U.S. In Kind Specialized Nutrition Products	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$5,445,199
	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH,	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$26,928,188
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practice (DRRPP), ERMS, HCIMA	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
UN Population Fund (UNFPA)	Health, Protection	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$950,000
UN World Health Organization (WHO)	Health, HCIMA	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$2,499,355
WFP	Food Assistance—24,460 MT of U.S. In Kind Food Aid	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$118,200,662
	Food Assistance—Local, Regional, and International Procurement; Nutrition	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$129,500,000
	Logistics	Addis Ababa, Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$33,500,000
World Vision	Health, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$5,800,000
ZOA	Agriculture, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Amhara, Tigray	\$3,200,000
	Logistics Support	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$1,506,490
	Program Support	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$1,746,778
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$697,165,168
STATE/PRM			
CVT	Protection	Amhara, Tigray	\$2,000,000
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	Health, Nutrition, Protection	Amhara, Tigray	\$2,000,000
Implementing Partner	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$27,400,000

IRC	Health, Protection	Tigray	\$1,400,000
UNHAS	Logistics Support	Countrywide	\$2,700,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$80,900,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$116,400,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE NORTHERN ETHIOPIA RESPONSE IN FY 2022			\$813,565,168

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE NORTHERN ETHIOPIA RESPONSE IN FY 2021

TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$473,410,249
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$57,120,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE NORTHERN ETHIOPIA RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$530,530,249

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE NORTHERN ETHIOPIA RESPONSE IN FY 2020

TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$99,200,908
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$7,325,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE NORTHERN ETHIOPIA RESPONSE IN FY 2020^{2,3}			\$106,525,908

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE NORTHERN ETHIOPIA RESPONSE IN FYS 2020-2022

TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE NORTHERN ETHIOPIA RESPONSE IN FY 2020-2022^{4,5}			\$1,450,621,325
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¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 30, 2022.

² USAID/BHA FY 2020 funding includes emergency food assistance from the former Office of Food for Peace and non-food humanitarian assistance from the former Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance.

³ This total represents funding previously reported on the USG Ethiopia FY 2020 Fact Sheet #4 and East Africa FY 2020 Development & Disaster Risk Reduction Fact Sheet, both dated September 30, 2020. This funding was redirected to address new humanitarian needs stemming from the conflict in Tigray.

⁴ This total includes \$326,361 in FY 2020 supplemental funding through USAID/BHA for coronavirus disease (COVID-19) preparedness and response activities and \$2,425,000 in FY 2020 COVID-19 supplemental funding through State/PRM. This total also includes \$3,310,000 from State/PRM in FY 2021 American Rescue Plan Act Migration and Refugee Assistance funding to respond to COVID-19.

⁵ In FY 2021, State/PRM provided \$45,388,900 toward the northern Ethiopia response in the Horn of Africa region, bringing the total USG funding for FYs 2020- 2022 to nearly \$1.5 billion. A portion of this funding is also reported in the USG Sudan fact sheet.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [interaction.org](https://www.interaction.org).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [cidi.org](https://www.cidi.org)
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://www.reliefweb.int).

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)