



# Ethiopia – Northern Ethiopia Crisis

**NOVEMBER 30, 2021** 

#### SITUATION AT A GLANCE

6.5-7

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

USAID - October 202 I

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

UN - November 2021

**MILLION** 

People Displaced by the Crisis Across Northern Ethiopia

IOM - August 2021

50,159

Refugees From Northern Ethiopia in Fastern Sudan

UNHCR - October 2021

- TPLF-aligned forces advanced further into Afar and Amhara regions in late October, prompting the GoE to declare a state of emergency on November 2 and resulting in a wave of arrests of individuals suspected of supporting the TPLF, including UN and INGO staff.
- UNHAS flights to Mekele resumed more than one month after GoE airstrikes forced UNHAS to suspend flights to Tigray, while the first humanitarian convoy to enter Tigray since October 18 reached Mekele on November 25. However, the GoE's de facto blockade of Tigray continues to hinder humanitarian operations.
- With USAID/BHA support, food partners are expanding assistance to conflict-affected households in Amhara's Dessie and Kombolcha towns, aiming to reach an additional 450,000 individuals despite operational constraints.



## **TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING**

For the Northern Ethiopia Crisis Response in FYs 2020–2021

USAID/BHA<sup>1,2</sup> \$560,592,662 State/PRM<sup>3</sup> \$56,795,000<sup>4</sup>

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 7.

**Total** \$617,387,6625

<sup>1</sup> USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM). In addition, State/PRM provided \$45,388,900 toward the northern Ethiopia response in the Horn of Africa region, bringing the total U.S. Government (USG) funding to nearly \$663 million. A portion of this funding is also reported in the USG Sudan fact sheet.

Funding in this fact sheet includes assistance to refugees residing in Tigray, which is also reported in the USG Ethiopia fact sheet as part of the Ethiopia Complex Emergency.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>This total includes \$326,361 in FY 2020 supplemental funding through USAID/BHA for coronavirus disease (COVID-19) preparedness and response activities.

## **KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

## GoE Declares National State of Emergency Due to Continued Hostilities, Authorities Detain Humanitarian Staff

Renewed clashes between Government of Ethiopia (GoE)-aligned forces—including the Ethiopia National Defense Force (ENDF)—and Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF)-aligned elements have expanded further into Afar and Amhara regions in recent weeks, with hostilities generating significant population displacement, increasing humanitarian needs, and reducing humanitarian access, according to the UN. TPLF-aligned forces seized control of South Wello Zone's Dessie and Kombolcha towns—key relief hubs with humanitarian offices, food warehouses, and a fuel depot—in Amhara between October 30 and 31, international media report. In subsequent days, TPLF-aligned elements continued advancing southward through Amhara toward Ethiopia's capital city of Addis Ababa and eastward through Afar toward Mile town, located 40 miles southwest of the regional capital city of Semera, a critical humanitarian logistics hub. During the advance, continued clashes between ENDF- and TPLF-aligned elements limited humanitarian access and prompted pauses in relief programming in both regions. In response to the expansion of the conflict, the GoE declared a national state of emergency (SoE) on November 2, establishing the authority to impose sweeping security measures nationwide, including prohibitions on material and moral support to the TPLF and its affiliates.

Following the SoE announcement, the GoE had arrested and detained at least 1,000 individuals across Ethiopia—largely of ethnic Tigrayan origin—as of November 16, including nearly 20 staff members from several UN agencies in Addis Ababa, according to the UN. In addition, regional authorities arrested more than 70 UN-contracted and international non-governmental organization (INGO)-contracted drivers in Semera between November 3 and 10. INGO staff members have also been targeted under the SoE, international media report. Authorities had released all of the drivers from detention in Semera as of November 18, while the GoE had released all but five of the detained UN staff members in Addis Ababa following direct UN advocacy, according to the UN. Deteriorating security conditions and concerns of targeting by GoE authorities have prompted many relief organizations to relocate some staff to neighboring countries. However, humanitarian organizations—including USG partners—remain committed to providing life-saving assistance to people in need across northern Ethiopia, and activities continue where resources and access allow. In addition, through ongoing diplomatic engagements with parties to the conflict, UN leaders continue to advocate respect for humanitarian principles, unimpeded humanitarian access, and protection of civilians in all conflict-affected areas of northern Ethiopia.

## UNHAS Flights and Humanitarian Convoys Reach Tigray After One Month Without Access

A UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) flight successfully traveled between Addis Ababa and Tigray Region's capital city of Mekele during the week of November 22, marking the first successful UNHAS flight to Tigray since insecurity related to GoE airstrikes prompted the suspension of UNHAS flights to Mekele on October 22. Resumed flights to Mekele have enabled humanitarian organizations to begin transporting a limited amount of operational cash and rotating staff in and out of Tigray. While the flight represents progress in resuming the movement of critical staff and relief supplies to the region, the GoE must continue to facilitate flight approvals and provide assurances for the safety of flights as insecurity persists, and access by air alone is insufficient to transport the required cash and supplies to respond to humanitarian needs in the region.

Meanwhile, a Logistics Cluster-led convoy of nearly 40 trucks carrying humanitarian supplies, including emergency food assistance, departed Semera and reached Mekele on November 26, more than one

month after the last humanitarian convoy entered Tigray on October 18, international media report.<sup>6</sup> A second convoy with approximately 40 trucks arrived in Mekele on November 27, the UN World Food Program (WFP) reports. However, humanitarian access to Tigray by road remains limited, with the GoE's de facto blockade of the region continuing to significantly hinder the delivery of life-saving assistance. Since mid-October, GoE-imposed access impediments have prevented UN-coordinated humanitarian convoys from transporting supplies along the route between Semera and Mekele, the only viable option for reaching Tigray by road. More than 300 trucks carrying humanitarian commodities remained in Semera awaiting GoE approvals to enter Tigray as of November 26. Furthermore, trucks carrying fuel needed for the humanitarian response have not entered Tigray since early August due to the movement restrictions along the Semera–Mekele road. Even with continuous access, at least 500 trucks with essential supplies, food, and fuel must enter Tigray each week to meet humanitarian needs, according to the UN.

## Expansion of Conflict Drives Food Insecurity in Northern Ethiopia

While food insecurity conditions remain critical in Tigray, the expansion of the conflict has increased the number of people in need of emergency food assistance in Afar and Amhara. Up to 3 million people are expected to face Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity in Amhara through January 2022, an increase of approximately 500,000 people from previous projections, according to USAID analysis. Heightened conflict has driven widespread displacement and disrupted livelihoods and markets in the region, reducing access to food and humanitarian assistance, particularly in northeastern Amhara, where many people have not received assistance for four months. Furthermore, food insecurity conditions are likely to worsen in northeastern Amhara if conflict continues to disrupt agriculture and market activities and reduce access to humanitarian assistance. In Afar, between 500,000 and 750,000 people continue to require emergency food assistance through January, as livestock losses limit access to food and income and market disruptions reduce access to food. While relief actors have been able to distribute food assistance in some areas of Afar, households in worst-affected areas continue to face Emergency—IPC 4—or worse levels of acute food insecurity. The most urgent food assistance needs remain concentrated in Tigray, where an estimated 3.5 to 4.5 million people require emergency food assistance, according to USAID analysis.

Despite the high level of emergency food assistance needs across northern Ethiopia, the proportion of individuals receiving assistance compared to the population in need remains extremely low due to GoE-imposed access restrictions. While relief actors typically distribute food assistance every six weeks, access constraints have resulted in distribution delays, forcing households in conflict-affected areas to stretch rations for extended periods of time. Relief actors in Tigray have relied on the arrival of trucks carrying humanitarian food commodities from Semera since available humanitarian food supplies were depleted in August, leaving only 10,000 metric tons (MT) of food assistance in Tigray—sufficient to provide only one month of food supplies to approximately 10 percent of Tigray's population in need. Furthermore, the GoE's de facto blockade has prevented relief actors from moving cash and fuel into Tigray to facilitate the distribution of food assistance within the region; the UN reports that the number of people receiving food assistance in Tigray decreased from 112,000 to 10,000 people between the first and second weeks of November due to challenges in distributing available supplies.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> The coordinating body for humanitarian logistics activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> 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.

### USAID/BHA-Supported Food Assistance Expands to Dessie and Kombolcha

With USAID/BHA support and in coordination with WFP, the Catholic Relief Services (CRS)-led Joint Emergency Operation (JEOP) has expanded food assistance to conflict-affected households in Amhara, where an estimated 5 million people face acute food insecurity. On November 23, the JEOP and WFP began providing food assistance in Amhara's Dessie and Kombolcha towns, aiming to reach more than 450,000 people over the next two weeks. The distribution of emergency food assistance started in Dessie on November 24, according to WFP. Meanwhile, the JEOP and WFP continue to respond to humanitarian needs in other areas of Amhara, with the JEOP planning to provide assistance to 2.6 million people in North Wello, South Gondar, Wag Hamra, and West Gojam zones, and WFP aiming to reach 650,000 people in North Gondar Zone, according to the UN. Additionally, WFP aims to support 182,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in North Gondar, and relief actors are providing food assistance in North Shewa Zone's Debre Birhan town, where tens of thousands of IDPs displaced from North Wello, South Wello, and Wag Hamra have recently arrived.

#### **KEY FIGURES**

## **U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE**



Crisis-affected people in Tigray reached with JEOP emergency food assistance from May to November

#### **FOOD SECURITY**

In response to acute food needs across northern Ethiopia, USAID/BHA is supporting the CRS-led JEOP, as well as WFP and other humanitarian partners, to provide emergency food assistance—including commodities such as U.S.-sourced cereals, pulses, and vegetable oil—to vulnerable populations in Afar, Amhara, and Tigray. In Tigray, the JEOP reached approximately 2.4 million people across Mekele and five of Tigray's six zones with food rations between May and November, despite significant operational challenges. In Amhara, the JEOP expanded its caseload in response to rising needs, reaching more than 266,400 people with food assistance from early August to mid-October and an additional 22,000 people since mid-October amid insecurity and access constraints. Meanwhile, WFP delivered emergency food assistance to nearly 300,000 individuals affected by the crisis in Afar and Amhara since early October.



Children screened for wasting in Tigray by UNICEF from February to November

#### **NUTRITION**

With approximately \$24 million in FY 2021 funding, USAID/BHA supports 10 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. Additionally, USAID/BHA partner the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) is distributing nutrition commodities—including High Energy Biscuits and ready-to-use therapeutic foods—to crisis-affected populations in Tigray. UNICEF and other partners are also working to strengthen fixed-location health facilities and operating mobile health and nutrition teams (MHNTs), screening more than 1.3 million children for acute malnutrition and admitting more than 41,000 children with severe wasting—a life-threatening form of malnutrition—for treatment between February and November. In Afar and Amhara, UNICEF and USAID/BHA

NGO partners are providing specialized treatment for malnutrition in children ages five years and younger and conducting infant and young child feeding counseling at community levels.

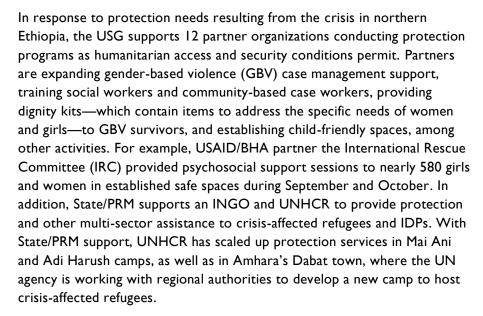


MHNTs in Afar, Amhara, and Tigray supported by USAID/BHA

#### **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 are supporting more than 50 integrated MHNTs throughout Tigray, as well as more than 25 MHNTs in Afar and Amhara, which provide critically needed health and nutrition services to remote and hard-to-reach areas. MHNTs serve an essential function in areas where the majority of health facilities have been damaged and looted and where ongoing insecurity continues to impede crisis-affected populations' access to health services. Additionally, partners are providing urgently required medical supplies, pharmaceuticals, and personal protective equipment throughout Tigray, and have supported the operation and rehabilitation of more than 300 health facilities. To mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on populations in Tigray, USAID/BHA partners are training local health care workers in infection prevention and control methods and strengthening community health coordination. With State/PRM support, an INGO has distributed essential medicines and other medical supplies to violence-affected health facilities in Tigray, as well as in Afar and northern Amhara. Additionally, State/PRM supports the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to provide health assistance to refugees in Tigray, including those sheltering in North Western Zone's Adi Harush and Mai Aini camps.

## PROTECTION





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



Rolls of heavy-duty plastic sheeting airlifted by USAID/BHA in coordination with IOM to Ethiopia to support needs in Tigray



People in Afar and Tigray reached by UNICEF water trucking



In dedicated USAID/BHA logistics support

#### SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

With more than \$17 million in FY 2021 funding dedicated to shelter and settlements assistance, USAID/BHA supports crisis-affected populations in Afar, Amhara, and Tigray through implementing partners CRS, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Samaritan's Purse, and World Vision, as well as the IOM-managed Rapid Response Fund (RRF). As of November 21, through the RRF, USAID/BHA partner IOM had reached nearly 92,000 crisis-affected individuals with emergency shelter assistance, and provided more than 196,000 individuals with life-saving relief commodities since the start of the conflict. Partners are also distributing relief commodity kits—which include bed mats, blankets, and wash basins—to recently displaced individuals, among other activities. In addition, State/PRM supports UNHCR to provide shelter assistance to refugees and IDPs in Tigray.

#### **WASH**

USAID/BHA and State/PRM partners are distributing water, sanitation, and hygiene (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 in IDP sites and health facilities. USAID/BHA partner UNICEF provided safe drinking water through water trucking to nearly 94,700 people in Tigray and 104,000 people in Afar during October, and reached nearly 53,400 people in Afar, Amhara, and Tigray with critical WASH supplies. Meanwhile, with USAID/BHA support, the International Medical Corps (IMC) transported approximately 80 MT of WASH supplies through Logistics Cluster-led convoys to Tigray from July to October.

#### LOGISTICS SUPPORT AND RELIEF COMMODITIES

USAID/BHA and State/PRM partners are supporting 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 critical transportation and storage of life-saving commodities, to the humanitarian community through the Logistics Cluster.

#### **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 six-month nationwide SoE in response to renewed and spreading hostilities.
- Security conditions remain volatile, with active conflict continuing to endanger 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, 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 I, 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 CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 20211,2

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT		
USAID/BHA					
American Refugee Committee (ARC)	Protection	Tigray–Mekele, Eastern, Central, North Western	\$1,500,000		
CARE	Agriculture	Tigray—Eastern, South Eastern, Southern	\$9,175,461		
CONCERN	Health, Nutrition	Amhara–South Wello; Tigray–South Eastern	\$800,000		
CRS	Food Assistance–328,820 MT of U.S. In Kind Food Aid	Amhara–North Gondar, North Wello, South Gondar, South Wello, Wag Hamra; Tigray–Mekele, Central, Eastern, South Eastern, Southern	\$276,863,088		
	Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Tigray–Central, Eastern, Mekele	\$5,000,000		
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA)	Tigray-wide	\$339,996		
FHI 360	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Amhara–South Wello; Tigray–Central, Eastern, North Western, Mekele	\$5,999,048		
GOAL	Health, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Afar–Zone 4; Tigray–Mekele, Central, Eastern, South Eastern	\$3,000,000		
IMC	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Afar—Zone I; Amhara—North Gondar, South Wello; Tigray—Central, North Western	\$4,000,000		
iMMAP	HCIMA	Tigray-wide	\$87,480		
IOM	Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Afar–Zone I, Zone 4; Amhara–North Gondar, South Wello; Tigray-wide	\$9,535,860		
IRC	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Tigray–North Western	\$4,860,000		

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Tigray-wide	\$1,300,000
Plan USA	Protection	Tigray–Mekele, Central, North Western, South Eastern	\$1,800,000
Relief Society of Tigray (REST)	Food Assistance-Transportation	Tigray—Central, Eastern, South Eastern, Southern	\$570,000
Samaritan's Purse	Health, Nutrition, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Tigray–North Western	\$5,000,000
Save the Children Federation (SFC)	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Tigray—Central, Eastern, North Western, Mekele	\$5,000,000
UNICEF	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Afar-wide, Amhara-wide, Tigray-wide	\$10,410,382
UN Development Program (UNDP)/UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS)	HCIMA	Tigray-wide	\$1,475,153
UN Population Fund (UNFPA)	Health, Protection	Tigray-wide	\$1,637,521
UN World Health Organization (WHO)	Health, HCIMA	Afar-Zone 1, Zone 2, Zone 3; Amhara- wide, Tigray-wide	\$1,316,955
WFP	Food Assistance–91,049 MT of Local, Regional, and International Procurement (LRIP)	Afar–Zone I, Zone 2, Zone 4; Amhara–North Gondar; Tigray–North Western, Southern	\$73,000000
	Nutrition, Logistics Support	Afar-wide, Amhara-wide, Tigray-wide	\$27,000000
World Vision	Health, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Afar-Zone I, Zone 4; Amhara-North Wello, South Wello; Tigray-Mekele, Eastern, North Western, South Eastern	\$5,131,897
ZOA	WASH, Shelter and Settlements	Tigray–Eastern, Southern, North Western	\$2,700,000
	Airlifted Relief Commodities		\$2,333,933
	Program Support		\$1,554,980
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDI	NG		\$461,391,754
	STATE/PRM		
Implementing Partner	Multi-Sector Assistance	Northern Ethiopia	\$14,340,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Afar-wide, Amhara-wide, Tigray-wide	\$42,455,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDI	NG		\$56,795,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARI	AN FUNDING FOR THE NORTHERN ET	THIOPIA CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY	\$518,186,754

## USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE NORTHERN ETHIOPIA CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2020

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT			
USAID/BHA						
CRS	Food Assistance–Cash Transfers, 33,690 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Tigray-Mekele, Eastern, North Western	\$68,000,000			
	Health, WASH	Tigray-wide	\$215,250			
Ethiopian Red Cross Society	Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Tigray-Western	\$695,341			
iMMAP	HCIMA	Tigray-Mekele, North Western	\$218,112			
IOM	Shelter and Settlements	Tigray–Mekele, Central, North Western	\$1,118,911			
IRC	Protection, WASH	Tigray–North Western	\$604,492			
	Food Assistance–1,159 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Tigray-Mekele, Eastern, South Eastern	\$2,019,312			
Pathfinder International	Health	Tigray–North Western, Western	\$111,111			
REST	Agriculture, Food Assistance–51,770 MT of U.S. In Kind Food Aid, Health, Nutrition, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Tigray—Central, Eastern, South Eastern, Southern	\$17,838,987			
UNICEF	Nutrition	Tigray-wide	\$379,392			
WFP	Food Assistance-LRIP	Tigray-North Western	\$8,000,000			

\$99,200,908

## TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE NORTHERN ETHIOPIA CRISIS RESPONSE IN FYS 2020–2021

\$617,387,662

#### **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.
- 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:
  - o USAID Center for International Disaster Information: cidi.org
  - o Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at reliefweb.int.

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of October 12, 2021.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> 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.