

Ethiopia – Northern Ethiopia Crisis

APRIL 26, 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

**2.5
MILLION**

People Displaced Across Northern Ethiopia

IOM – February 2022

48,600

Refugees From Northern Ethiopia in Eastern Sudan

UNHCR – March 2022

- The first humanitarian convoys since December 2021 arrived in Tigray in early April. However, ground access to Tigray remains tenuous, and sustained transport of aid by road is urgently needed.
- Displacement in eastern Amhara has increased sharply since January amid continued insecurity along the border with Tigray.
- Conflict-driven staple food price increases and persistent administrative impediments to access highlight the need for assistance to scale up across northern Ethiopia.
- USAID/BHA announced an additional \$313 million in FY 2022 funding to respond to humanitarian needs in northern Ethiopia on April 21.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the Northern Ethiopia Crisis Response in FY 2022

USAID/BHA¹ \$312,799,161²

State/PRM³ \$26,300,000⁴

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

Total \$339,099,161

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

² Total value of food assistance and associated costs adjusted from estimated to actual values.

³ U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM).

⁴ Funding in this fact sheet includes assistance to refugees residing in Tigray, which is also reported in the U.S. Government (USG) Ethiopia fact sheet as part of the Ethiopia Complex Emergency.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Convoys Reach Tigray, but Sustained Access Urgently Needed

Intermittent humanitarian ground access to northern Ethiopia's Tigray Region resumed following a Government of Ethiopia (GoE) declaration of a humanitarian truce on March 24. The first humanitarian convoy to reach Tigray since mid-December arrived from Afar Region's capital city of Semera on April 1. This convoy was one of five total to reach Tigray's capital city of Mekele as of April 26. The five convoys included three containing food assistance from USAID/BHA partners the UN World Food Program (WFP) and the Catholic Relief Services (CRS)-led Joint Emergency Operation (JEOP)—as well as other relief items—and two from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The successful delivery of assistance by truck follows sustained efforts to secure safe access through Afar, including areas occupied by Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF)-aligned forces.

The first JEOP and WFP convoy arrived in Tigray between April 1 and 2 with one fuel tanker and 20 trucks carrying approximately 670 metric tons (MT) of food assistance; the second JEOP and WFP convoy, which reached Tigray on April 15, contained 50 trucks—including three fuel tankers—carrying approximately 1,000 MT of food assistance and 700 MT of other supplies, according to the Logistics Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian logistics activities, comprising UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders. Another convoy of 74 trucks, including six fuel tankers, arrived in Tigray on April 25 carrying nearly 2,000 MT of food assistance. Two ICRC convoys have also reached Tigray in April, including a six-truck convoy carrying food, medicine, and water treatment supplies that arrived in Mekele on April 2 and a 10-truck convoy carrying food, health, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) supplies that reached Tigray on April 14, according to media reports. Additionally, the USAID/BHA-supported UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) continues to transport nutrition, medical, shelter, and other supplies to Tigray by air, with a total of more than 610 MT of goods transported since December 10, including 100 MT between April 4 and 8, the Logistics Cluster reports.

Despite these positive developments, the present flow of assistance into Tigray remains insufficient. Ground access remains intermittent and precarious, with convoy movement in April significantly below the 500 trucks per week that the UN estimates are required to meet the critical needs of populations in Tigray. Air transport alone is unable to meet these needs, as each flight can only transport between 5 and 13 MT of cargo, compared with the approximately 40 MT that can be transported in a single truck.

Active fighting in parts of Afar, particularly in Zone 2 has also hindered the humanitarian response within the region in 2022, with significant displacement and humanitarian needs reported in January and February. However, the UN reports that no clashes were reported in March after the declaration of the humanitarian truce on March 24, and humanitarian access has significantly improved in recent weeks, allowing convoys carrying food and other assistance to reach communities in Zone 2 and Zone 4.

USAID/BHA Provides \$313 Million for Emergency Response

On April 21, USAID/BHA announced nearly \$313 million in new FY 2022 humanitarian funding to support emergency response activities across Afar, Amhara, and Tigray regions, and on April 26, State/PRM announced \$26.3 million in new FY 2022 funding that will support protection and multi-sectoral assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) affected by the ongoing conflict. This brings the total humanitarian funding provided by the USG since the start of the crisis to nearly \$976 million, including more than \$885 million provided through USAID/BHA and more than \$90 million provided through State/PRM. The newly announced USAID/BHA funding is expected to support

emergency food and nutrition assistance to meet the needs of nearly 7 million people; strengthen community health facilities and mobile health teams to combat the spread of infectious diseases; provide humanitarian protection services, such as support for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), psychosocial services, and child protection activities; and bolster logistical support to deliver aid in remote and hard-to-reach areas.

High Displacement Persists Amid Increased Movement to Eastern Amhara

Northern Ethiopia continues to experience high levels of internal displacement, with approximately 1.8 million people displaced in Tigray, 462,000 displaced in Amhara, and 175,000 displaced in Afar, the UN reports. Displacement has been particularly widespread across eastern Amhara's North Wello, Wag Hamra, and North Gondar zones since January. The increase in displacement follows heightened insecurity along the Amhara–Tigray border, which has driven some residents from Tigray to seek assistance in Amhara, the UN reports. Amhara regional authorities are registering newly displaced persons in Wag Hamra's Sekota *woreda*, or district, and have registered 58,000 IDPs in North Wello's Kobo town as of April 14, according to the UN. In response to the IDP surge and corresponding food, health, nutrition, shelter, and WASH needs, Amhara regional authorities are relocating IDPs in Kobo town to North Wello's Jarra IDP site; regional authorities are also relocating IDPs who fled to Sekota *woreda* to Wolleh site in South Wello. As of April 14, Amhara regional authorities have relocated approximately 20,000 IDPs to Jarra and Wolleh sites. Both IDP sites lack sufficient shelter and basic services to support a significant increase in their populations. As a result of these limitations at the new IDP sites, humanitarian actors are advocating for regional authorities to delay the relocation of larger numbers of people to Jarra and Wolleh to ensure that adequate shelter and other essential services are prepared to support new arrivals.

Food Prices Rise in Northern Ethiopia, Highlighting Need for Assistance

Prices for staple food items have increased across conflict-affected northern Ethiopia, driven by a rise in both the cost of fuel and imports, a disruption to normal trade routes, and increased demand for products in areas with higher IDP populations, the UN reports. In Afar, prices for rice are 80 percent higher than in corresponding markets in South Wello's Dessie town in Amhara; in Tigray, rice prices are 166 percent higher than those recorded in Dessie. In Sekota, wages for unskilled labor are 33 percent lower than those recorded in Dessie, driven by a lack of demand in the market and an increase in the workforce due to the large population of IDPs hosted in the *woreda*.

Constraints on humanitarian supplies exacerbate these trends as they put pressure on the market to meet needs, the UN reports. Since mid-October 2021, WFP partners have assisted more than 1.3 million people in Tigray—only 20 percent of the planned beneficiary total—with food assistance as of April 6. WFP partners have assisted more than 235,000 people in Afar between the last week of February and April 10, just 37 percent of the 626,000 people they plan to reach.

USAID Delivers 250 MT of Critical Relief Supplies to IOM

On March 9, the USG provided more than 250 MT of humanitarian supplies to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to support response efforts in northern Ethiopia. The supplies—which include blankets, hygiene supplies, and shelter supplies—will enable the UN agency to provide emergency support for an estimated 75,000 conflict-affected Ethiopians across Afar and Amhara regions. IOM continues to provide multi-sector assistance across northern Ethiopia, reaching 429,000 people in January alone, including 317,000 people in Tigray, 89,000 people in Amhara, and 22,000 people in Afar. The UN agency carried out hygiene promotion activities that reached more than 58,000 people and health awareness-raising sessions that reached nearly 30,000 people during January. Additionally, IOM

provided safe drinking water to nearly 41,000 people and relief items to more than 25,000 people in January.

KEY FIGURES



5.1 Million

Crisis-affected people reached with food assistance in northern Ethiopia under ongoing rounds of distribution as of April 8



101,000

Children treated for SAM 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 CRS-led JEOP consortium of NGOs, as well as WFP, which operates with the support of 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 and WFP reached nearly 1.3 million people with approximately 22,000 MT of food assistance since early December amid severe operational constraints, having curtailed operations due to supply shortages. Previously, the JEOP had reached approximately 2.5 million people across Tigray with food rations between June and November 2021. The JEOP and WFP have provided emergency food assistance to an estimated 3.6 million people in Amhara and 200,000 people in Afar under the current round of distributions.

NUTRITION

With approximately \$37.1 million in FY 2022 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. USAID/BHA partner the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other partners are also working to strengthen fixed-location health facilities and operating mobile health and nutrition teams (MHNTs), providing medical consultations to approximately 6,000 IDPs and host community members in Afar during February. 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, screening nearly 2 million children in Amhara between December and January. They also identified nearly 22,000 cases of severe acute malnutrition, though UNICEF was only able to provide treatment to 22 percent of those children due largely to a lack of nutrition supplies. In February, USAID/BHA provided 940 MT of ready-to-use therapeutic food to increase access to supplies. Additionally, UNICEF nutrition teams screened more than 217,000 children and 66,000 pregnant and lactating women for acute malnutrition during February.



914,000

IDPs in Afar, Amhara, and Tigray reached by MHNTs since November 2020

HEALTH

The USG supports 12 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 due to lack of supplies and fuel. MHNTs serve an essential function in areas where most health facilities have been damaged and looted and where ongoing insecurity continues to impede crisis-affected populations’ access to health services. USAID/BHA partner International Medical Corps (IMC) has reached more than 914,400 IDPs across Afar, Amhara, and Tigray through the operation of more than 20 MHNTs since the beginning of the response. With State/PRM support, an implementing partner 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 Adi Harush and Mai Aini camps.



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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 11 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 Tigray’s Mai Ani and Adi Harush refugee sites, as well as in Amhara’s Dabat town, where the UN agency is working with regional authorities to develop a new camp to host crisis-affected refugees.



33,600

People reached with IOM shelter assistance in northern Ethiopia during January

SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

With more than \$10.5 million in FY 2022 funding dedicated to shelter and settlements assistance, USAID/BHA supports crisis-affected populations in Afar, Amhara, and Tigray through implementing partners CRS, IOM, Samaritan’s Purse, and World Vision. As of February 23, through the RRF, IOM had reached more than 33,600 crisis-affected individuals across northern Ethiopia with emergency shelter assistance and provided 21,000 individuals in Afar and Amhara with life-saving relief commodities during January. 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.



229,000

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

WASH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM partners are distributing 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 to more than 229,000 people in Afar, Amhara, and Tigray during February. Meanwhile, with USAID/BHA support, IMC transported approximately 80 MT of WASH supplies through Logistics Cluster-led convoys to Tigray from July to December 2021 and reached an estimated 7,200 people with hygiene promotion activities during the first half of February.



**\$33.8
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 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 Ethiopia National Defense Forces (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.
- 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 USAID 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 2022¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
Action Against Hunger (AAH)	Health, Multipurpose Cash Assistance, Nutrition, WASH	Amhara, Tigray	\$3,000,000
CARE	Agriculture, Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS)	Amhara, Tigray	\$2,000,000
The Center for Victims of Torture (CVT)	Protection	Tigray	\$2,500,000
Concern	Health, Nutrition, Shelter and Settlements	Amhara, Tigray	\$864,449
CRS	Food Assistance – 163,380 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Amhara, Tigray	\$132,213,346
	Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Tigray	\$4,000,000
GOAL	Health, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Afar, Tigray	\$3,000,000
IMC	Health, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$5,500,000
iMMAP	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA)	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$999,674
IOM	Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$7,000,000

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$2,000,000
Organization for Rehabilitation and Development in Amhara (ORDA)	WASH	Amhara	\$500,000
Plan USA	Protection	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$1,650,000
Save the Children (SCF)	Health, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$6,000,000
UNICEF	Nutrition—940 MT of U.S. In-Kind Specialized Nutrition Products	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$6,999,999
WFP	Food Assistance—16,291 MT of local, regional, and international procurement (LRIP), Logistics, Nutrition	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$30,000,000
	Logistics	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$18,500,000
	Food Assistance—55,240 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Aid, Nutrition	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$81,028,476
World Vision	Health, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$2,800,000
	Program Support and Logistics		\$2,243,217
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$312,799,161
STATE/PRM			
Implementing Partner	Multi-Sector Assistance	Tigray	\$6,400,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Tigray	\$19,900,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$26,300,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE NORTHERN ETHIOPIA RESPONSE IN FY 2022²			\$339,099,161

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE NORTHERN ETHIOPIA CRISIS 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 2021²	\$530,205,249

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE NORTHERN ETHIOPIA CRISIS 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^{3,4}	\$106,525,908

TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE NORTHERN ETHIOPIA RESPONSE IN FY 2020-2022⁵	\$975,830,318
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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 April 26, 2022.

² Estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

⁵ This total includes \$326,361 in FY 2020 supplemental funding through USAID/BHA for 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.

⁶ In FY 2021, 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 for FY 2021-FY 2022 to more than \$915 million. 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)