

Ethiopia – Northern Ethiopia Crisis

JUNE 3, 2022

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

**7-8
MILLION**

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

USAID – April 2022

**9.4
MILLION**

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

UN – May 2022

**2.5
MILLION**

People Displaced Across Northern Ethiopia

IOM – February 2022

48,600

Refugees From Northern Ethiopia in Eastern Sudan

UNHCR – March 2022

- Although road access to Tigray steadily improved in May, access constraints continue to inhibit humanitarian assistance efforts. Additionally, severe shortages of fuel and operational cash have hindered relief actors' ability to distribute aid within Tigray.
- Insecurity continues to generate displacement to and within northern and eastern Amhara.
- As access to conflict-affected areas of Afar improves, a recent assessment identified significant needs in previously unreachable communities.
- Food assistance needs in northern Ethiopia will likely reach record highs between June and September, driven by the conflict and ongoing nationwide drought. Agricultural inputs are urgently needed in Tigray as the June-to-August *mehar* planting season begins.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the Northern Ethiopia Crisis Response in FY 2022

USAID/BHA¹ \$351,375,012²

State/PRM³ \$26,300,000⁴

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

Total \$377,675,012

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

Challenges Persist as Access to Tigray Gradually Improves

Although humanitarian access to Ethiopia's Tigray Region via Afar Region continues to steadily improve, the quantity of supplies arriving in Tigray remains insufficient to meet humanitarian needs, while severe shortages of fuel continue to hinder the distribution of supplies and humanitarian operations within the region. Following the Government of Ethiopia (GoE)'s declaration of a humanitarian truce in northern Ethiopia on March 24, relief actors had delivered more than 32,800 metric tons (MT) of humanitarian supplies to Tigray as of May 27 using 875 trucks organized by the Logistics Cluster, the coordinating body for humanitarian logistics activities, comprising UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders. The USAID/BHA-supported UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) also continues to transport relief commodities to Tigray's capital city of Mekele via regular cargo flights. Relief actors, including USAID/BHA partners, are distributing newly arrived assistance across Tigray, having dispatched food assistance to more than 55 *woredas*, or districts, and reached nearly 500,000 people with food assistance regionwide since March 24, according to the UN.

Despite these encouraging signs, the quantity of relief commodities reaching Tigray remains below the levels needed to effectively respond to humanitarian needs, according to the UN. Humanitarian organizations in Tigray have very limited access to fuel, hindering their ability to dispatch assistance to households in need at scale across the region. Relief actors estimate that 53,000 gallons of fuel per week are required to sustain the humanitarian response, while only 170,000 gallons of fuel for humanitarian use have arrived in the region since March 24, representing 32 percent of the fuel needed to sustain operations during that period. No fuel has reached the region via humanitarian convoys since May 20, though three fuel tankers were recently approved to travel to Tigray and departed Semera on June 3. The UN reports that Mekele's Ayder Hospital—the largest referral hospital in Tigray, serving more than 300,000 patients—is at risk of closure due to a lack of fuel, having already halted the operation of 70 percent of its vehicles.

Relief actors in Tigray also lack access to sufficient cash to pay salaries for health care workers and other staff, pay rent on facilities, compensate service providers, and otherwise support the implementation of humanitarian programs, according to the UN. The GoE has cut off banking services in Tigray since November 2020 and has enforced strict limits on the amounts of cash that relief actors can transport on UNHAS flights into Mekele.

Displacement Increases Along Amhara–Tigray Border

Continued insecurity along Amhara's border with Tigray, as well as severe shortages of food and other resources in Tigray, have continued to drive displacement to and within northern and eastern Amhara in recent weeks, relief actors report. Authorities estimate that Wag Hamra Zone alone hosts more than 88,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs), including 12,000 in Sekota town as of May 27. The UN reports that approximately 7,700 people were displaced from North Shewa, North Wello, and Wag Hamra zones to Sekota between May 17 and 23, exacerbating humanitarian needs in the area. In response, regional authorities are facilitating the relocation of IDPs to new sites in North Wello's Jarra town, Habru *woreda*, and at Turk site near South Wello Zone's Jari town, Thehulederie *woreda*. As of May 27, the UN estimated that 23,000 IDPs had been relocated from North Wello's Kobo town, located along the border with Tigray, to Jarra. USAID/BHA continues to advocate with authorities to ensure any relocations occur in a safe, voluntary, informed, and dignified manner. Although relief actors—including USAID/BHA partners—have begun providing assistance at both sites, they continued to report

significant unmet needs among residents of Jarra and Turk.

Relief Actors Respond to Impact of Conflict in Afar

Humanitarian access to conflict-affected areas of Afar, particularly in Zone 2 near the Afar–Tigray border, has improved since early 2022, when clashes between Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF)-aligned forces and GoE and Afar regional security forces led to widespread displacement and humanitarian needs. Humanitarian actors have noted urgent assistance needs in newly-accessible areas. Between May 13 and 14, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) carried out an assessment of conditions in Zone 2’s Abala, Berahile, Dalol, Erebti, and Konaba towns that found widespread looting, destruction, and lack of basic services and access to livelihood opportunities, including severe damage and looting of the main health centers of Abala, Berahile, Erebti, and Konaba. USAID/BHA partners and other relief actors are working with Afar regional authorities to provide food, nutrition, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), and other urgently needed assistance in Zone 2 and other conflict-affected areas. Relief actors provided water trucking to 90,000 people across Afar between May 3 and 9 alone, according to the UN.

Food Security Remains Precarious as Planting Season Begins

Food assistance needs in northern Ethiopia will likely reach record high levels during the June-to-September season, driven by the lasting effects of the conflict in Tigray and neighboring Afar and Amhara and by the ongoing drought in the Horn of Africa, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). At least 20 percent of the population currently in Tigray is projected to experience Emergency—IPC 4—or worse levels of acute food insecurity through at least September, with Crisis—IPC 3—and Emergency conditions also prevalent throughout much of Afar and Amhara.⁶ Some households are likely to experience Catastrophe—IPC 5—conditions across northern Ethiopia, particularly in Tigray. Household purchasing power is the primary constraint to food access in Tigray and in hard-to-reach areas of Afar and Amhara due to increased staple food prices, the death of livestock or distress selling of livestock assets at reduced prices, limited income from milk sales, and the loss of cash income from agricultural labor, FEWS NET reports. In addition to the continued effects of the conflict in northern Ethiopia, parts of Afar and Amhara experienced record low levels of rainfall in May, which FEWS NET projects will drive poor June-to-July *belg* harvests and will limit June-to-August *meher* planting seasons in affected areas.

In Tigray, severe shortages of agricultural inputs—particularly fertilizer—threaten to exacerbate already-intense levels of food insecurity as the *meher* planting season begins. The UN estimates that 60,000 MT of fertilizer is required ahead of the *meher* season, which accounts for approximately 70 to 80 percent of the region’s annual agricultural production; as of May 27, none had arrived in the region, and relief actors face significant obstacles in procuring the necessary fertilizer and transporting it to and within Tigray despite recent improvements in access. Additionally, the UN reports that 50,000 MT of improved crop seeds, 1,500 MT of vegetable seeds, 10,500 gallons of pesticides, and 9,000 gallons of fungicides are required to support the *meher* season. The UN World Food Program (WFP) estimated in January that 4.6 million people in Tigray, or 83 percent of the region’s population, required emergency food assistance, and relief actors warn that a poor planting season would likely lead to a poor October-to-January *meher* harvest, leading to a further deterioration of food security conditions in late 2022 and early 2023.

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



6.8 Million

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



\$29 Million

In dedicated USAID/BHA nutrition support

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 distributes assistance in partnership with other humanitarian partners, to provide emergency food assistance—including commodities such as U.S.-sourced cereals, pulses, and vegetable oil—to affected populations in Afar, Amhara, and Tigray. In Tigray, the JEOP and WFP have reached more than 1.1 million people with food assistance in 2022 to date amid severe operational constraints, following constrained humanitarian access and subsequent supply shortages in late 2021. However, this is just a fraction of the total people in need of food assistance in Tigray, and this level of assistance has not been achieved at the frequency required. 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 also provided emergency food assistance to an estimated 849,000 people in Amhara and 480,000 people in Afar since the latest round of distributions began in these regions in March.

NUTRITION

With approximately \$29 million in FY 2022 funding, USAID/BHA supports 11 partners in their efforts to prevent and treat acute 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 nutritional outcomes. USAID/BHA partner the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other partners are also working to strengthen fixed-location health facilities and are operating mobile health and nutrition teams (MHNTs), providing treatment for severe acute malnutrition (SAM) to children ages five years and younger and nutrition services to IDPs and conflict-affected communities in Afar. In Afar and Amhara, UNICEF and USAID/BHA NGO partners are providing specialized treatment for acute malnutrition in children ages five years and younger and conducting infant and young child feeding counseling at the community level, screening an average of nearly 2,000 children every week in Amhara since January. In Amhara's North Gondar, North Wello, and Wag Hamra zones, a UNICEF malnutrition screening campaign found rates of moderate wasting—a serious form of malnutrition—as high as 22 to 33 percent, well above the UN World Health Organization (WHO)'s emergency threshold of 15 percent; UNICEF subsequently deployed MHNTs to the affected areas to intervene. USAID/BHA, in partnership with UNICEF, has provided more than 10,000 cartons of ready-to-use therapeutic food in Tigray since March 22. This provided 236 previously hard-to-reach health facilities in Tigray with enough stock to last through the end of June.



590,000

IDPs in Afar, Amhara, and Tigray reached by MHNTs between March and April 2022

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 continue to support 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. With support from USAID/BHA and other donors, International Medical Corps (IMC) has reached more than 323,000 people through the operation of 22 MHNTs since April 2021, operating across 21 IDP sites in Afar, Amhara, and Tigray and in host communities. Additionally, 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. State/PRM also supports the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to provide health assistance to Eritrean refugees in Tigray, including those sheltering in Adi Harush and Mai Aini camps.



13

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 13 partner organizations conducting protection programs as humanitarian access and security conditions permit. Partners are expanding gender-based violence (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 \$12 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 Concern, CRS, GOAL, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Mercy Corps, Samaritan's Purse, Save the Children (SCF), World Vision, and ZOA. As of May 20, through the USAID/BHA-supported Rapid Response Fund, IOM

reached more than 300 crisis-affected households with emergency shelter assistance and provided 5,000 individuals with life-saving relief commodities in Amhara’s South Wello Zone between February and April. Partners are also distributing relief commodity kits—which include bed mats, blankets, and wash basins—to recently displaced individuals, among other activities across northern Ethiopia. In addition, State/PRM supports UNHCR to provide shelter assistance to refugees and IDPs across northern Ethiopia.

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 and sanitation facilities in IDP sites and health facilities. USAID/BHA partner UNICEF provided safe drinking water through water trucking to more than 180,000 people in Afar, Amhara, and Tigray during April. Meanwhile, with USAID/BHA support, UNICEF provided access to basic sanitation facilities to approximately 128,800 people in northern Ethiopia during the same month.



180,000

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

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 air and ground transportation and storage of life-saving commodities, to the humanitarian community through the Logistics Cluster.



\$33.5 Million

In dedicated USAID/BHA logistics support

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, 2021. 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 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.
- 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.

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 (MPCA), Nutrition, WASH	Amhara, Tigray	\$3,000,000
Alight	Protection, WASH	Tigray	\$1,500,000
CARE	Agriculture, Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS)	Amhara, Tigray	\$4,000,763
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
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	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA)	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$999,674

IOM	Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$7,000,000
Mercy Corps	Agriculture, MPCA, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Afar	\$3,051,000
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
Samaritan's Purse	Health, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Amhara, Tigray	\$5,491,527
Save the Children	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	\$95,528,476
World Vision	Health, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$2,800,000
ZOA	Agriculture, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Amhara, Tigray	\$3,200,000
	Program Support and Logistics		\$2,575,778
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$351,375,012
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			\$377,675,012

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	\$530,530,249

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	\$1,014,731,169
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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)