

# Ethiopia – Northern Ethiopia Crisis

SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Armed clashes across Amhara Region between the ENDF and members of the Fano militia had resulted in the deaths of at least 183 people as of August 29 and continued to threaten civilian safety in September.
- A cholera outbreak—that resulted in nearly 25,000 cases countrywide between January 1 and September 30—continues to adversely affect populations across Ethiopia.
- USAID/BHA transitioned its DART and RMT structure to geographic teams on September 1 as the acute crisis in northern Ethiopia has abated while needs persist countrywide. USAID/BHA staff continue to coordinate and monitor humanitarian response efforts from offices in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and Washington, D.C.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING		
For the Northern Ethiopia Crisis Response in FY 2023	USAID/BHA <sup>1</sup>	\$351,848,407
	State/PRM <sup>2</sup>	\$26,500,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$378,348,407</b>

*For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 6*

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

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

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### **Conflict in Amhara Results in Civilian Casualties, Prompts Partial Humanitarian Activity Suspensions**

Armed clashes between the Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) and members of the Fano militia—a group associated with members of the Amhara ethnic group—escalated across Amhara during the week of July 31, prompting the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) to declare a six-month state of emergency in the region on August 4. Ongoing violence had resulted in the deaths of 183 people, injury to dozens of other individuals, and the mass arrests and detentions of more than 1,000 people throughout the region as of August 29, according to the UN. Hostilities between the ENDF and the Fano militia—including clashes in Central Gondar Zone’s Gondar town on September 24—continued to threaten the safety of civilians and humanitarian actors in September, ACLED and international media report. The hostilities have disrupted some populations’ access to basic services, humanitarian assistance, and markets and interrupted the June–August *meher* planting season in the region, likely resulting in a below-average harvest and adversely affecting the food security of populations in parts of Amhara, according to the UN.

In response to the violence, multiple humanitarian organizations partially suspended activities in the region in early August, as road closures and the limited availability of cash and fuel supplies impeded humanitarian access and operations. The humanitarian operating environment remained constrained, and the GoE’s restrictions on internet and mobile data remained in place throughout Amhara as of late September, according to the UN and international media. Despite ongoing insecurity, humanitarian operations had gradually resumed in major population centers where violence continued to subside as of September 7, the UN reports. For example, USAID/BHA partner the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) is providing essential health services, medical consultations, and routine vaccinations via mobile health and nutrition teams (MHNTs). State/PRM partners have also resumed providing assistance to refugees at Amhara’s Alemwach refugee site. USAID/BHA staff continue to assess the situation and work with partners to ensure continued humanitarian access to people in need throughout the region.

### **Cholera Outbreaks Continue to Emerge in Afar and Amhara Regions**

New outbreaks of cholera in Afar and Amhara regions since early August raised the 2023 countrywide cholera case total to nearly 25,000 cases as of September 30, the UN reports. This is a substantial increase from 12,000 cases documented as of early July, according to the UN. Furthermore, humanitarian actors expect an increase in the number of cases in the coming weeks due to limited access to potable water and cholera treatment supplies in the regions. Overall, the spread of cholera led to 327 deaths across seven regions and one administrative city in Ethiopia from September 2022 to September 2023 in Ethiopia’s longest cholera outbreak on record, the UN reports. In Amhara, health actors recorded at least 225 new cases of cholera resulting in seven deaths in early September at the Kumer site hosting refugees and asylum-seekers from Sudan, while a cholera outbreak in Afar’s zones 3 and 4 resulted in nearly 150 confirmed cases and three deaths between August 10 and 28. In response to the increased number of cholera cases, humanitarian actors deployed rapid response teams, established cholera treatment centers, and opened water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities in affected areas during September, the UN reports.

### **Nearly 1.6 Million People Remain Displaced in Northern Ethiopia**

Approximately 1.6 million people remain displaced across northern Ethiopia’s Afar, Amhara, and Tigray regions, according to an assessment by USAID/BHA partner the International Organization for Migration

(IOM) during June. The assessment—which involved data collection at nearly 3,400 sites across the country—found that conflict prompted the displacement of more than 66 percent of all internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ethiopia, while drought prompted the displacement of approximately 18 percent of IDPs. Tigray continues to host the highest number of IDPs primarily displaced by conflict nationwide, with more than 1 million people displaced as of June, according to IOM’s assessment. Long-term displacement remains a challenge for populations in northern Ethiopia, as nearly 40 percent of IDPs in Tigray had been displaced for more than three years. In the majority of assessed sites, IDPs reported food, health, protection, relief items, shelter, and WASH assistance as priority needs. USAID/BHA partners continue providing life-saving assistance—including health, nutrition, shelter, and WASH assistance—to IDP and returnee populations across northern Ethiopia.

Approximately 2.9 million IDPs have returned to Afar, Amhara, and Tigray between November 2022 and June 2023, accounting for more than 88 percent of Ethiopia’s total returnee population during the period, according to IOM. The continuation of IDP returns in northern Ethiopia indicates a decrease in violence and hostilities across the region since the GoE and Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF) signed the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) on November 2, 2022.

### **Desert Locusts Infest Agricultural Products in Afar and Tigray**

An expanding desert locust invasion threatened agricultural land across northern Ethiopia as swarms appeared in Afar, eastern Amhara, and eastern Tigray during August, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the GoE Ministry of Agriculture. As of August 2, locusts had damaged nearly 3,700 acres of cropland and approximately 11,800 acres of pastureland across all five of Afar’s zones. Regional authorities had surveyed more than 151,000 acres of land for damage as of the same date and reported that approximately 7,700 acres still contained locusts; Afar’s Zone I was the area most widely affected by the invasion within the region, with locust-related damage found in seven of its eight woredas, or districts. In Tigray, locusts had negatively affected more than 80 percent of agricultural production in parts of Eastern, South Eastern, and Southern zones as of August 13, according to local GoE officials. FAO and GoE authorities in Afar and Tigray continue to coordinate control and survey operations to limit damage resulting from the locust invasion; however, the lack of appropriate vehicles and pesticide-spraying equipment is hindering efforts to control the spread, FAO reports.

### **USAID/BHA Transitions Northern Ethiopia Crisis DART/RMT**

USAID/BHA transitioned the operations of its Ethiopia-based Northern Ethiopia Crisis Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) and Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team (RMT) to geographic teams in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and Washington, D.C., on September 1. This transition recognizes that while the acute northern Ethiopia specific crisis has abated, there are ongoing humanitarian needs across the country. Through these geographic teams, USAID/BHA humanitarian experts will continue to assess ongoing needs, provide humanitarian assistance in northern Ethiopia, and coordinate with key stakeholders to ensure the continuity of the humanitarian response.

Since 2021, USAID/BHA’s DART and RMT have responded to urgent humanitarian needs resulting from conflict and complex humanitarian emergencies in northern Ethiopia. The U.S. Government (USG) has provided more than \$1.8 billion in humanitarian funding for the northern Ethiopia crisis since FY 2020, reaching millions of people with critical assistance across Afar, Amhara, and Tigray. Throughout the DART–RMT’s activation, USAID/BHA has partnered with more than 30 international and local nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and UN agencies to provide life-saving agriculture, food, health, livelihood, nutrition, protection, shelter, and WASH assistance, while offering humanitarian coordination

and logistics support to bolster overall relief efforts. The USG remains the largest donor of humanitarian assistance for communities across northern Ethiopia—with more than \$378 million in humanitarian aid during FY 2023—and continues to support partners responding to the crisis in the region and throughout the country.

## KEY FIGURES



16

USAID/BHA partners delivering nutrition services in northern Ethiopia



18

USG partners providing health services to populations in northern Ethiopia



17

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

## U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

### NUTRITION

In FY 2023, USAID/BHA continues to support 16 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. 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. State/PRM also supports partners providing nutrition services to refugee populations in Afar and Amhara.

### HEALTH

The USG supports 18 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. 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. During July, USAID/BHA partner UNICEF provided nearly 276,000 medical consultations for women and children across Afar, Amhara, and Tigray. With State/PRM support, an implementing partner distributed essential medicines and other medical supplies to violence-affected health facilities in Afar, northern Amhara, and Tigray. Additionally, State/PRM supports the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to provide health assistance to refugees in northern Ethiopia, including those sheltering in Alemwach refugee site in Amhara's North Gondar Zone.

### PROTECTION

In response to protection needs resulting from the crisis in northern Ethiopia, the USG supports 17 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 GBV survivors with dignity kits containing items to address the specific needs of

women and girls, 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 at the Alemwach refugee site.



9

USG partners providing shelter and settlements support in Northern Ethiopia

## SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

In FY 2023, USAID/BHA continues to support crisis-affected populations with emergency shelter assistance in Afar, Amhara, and Tigray through eight implementing partners. With USAID/BHA funding, IOM reached 1,000 displaced households in Tigray’s Southern Zone with emergency relief supplies between January and March through a Rapid Response Fund partner. 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 across northern Ethiopia.



29,000

IDPs in Amhara and Tigray accessed safe sanitation facilities during July

## WASH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM are supporting 20 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 sanitation facilities, mainly through latrine construction and repairs, for more than 29,000 IDPs in Amhara and Tigray during July alone.



1,200 MT

Of humanitarian cargo transported to Tigray during July

## 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 USG support, the UN World Food Program (WFP) is providing critical coordination and logistics services—including transportation and storage of life-saving commodities—to the humanitarian community through the Logistics Cluster, the coordinating body for humanitarian logistics activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders. During July, the Logistics Cluster supported the transportation of nearly 1,200 metric tons of essential humanitarian cargo to Tigray. The cluster also coordinates overland convoys that transport relief items to communities in need in Afar and Amhara.

## 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 of 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. The truce was subsequently broken on August 24, when fighting resumed throughout Afar, Amhara, and Tigray. On November 2, GoE and TPLF officials signed the CoHA—as well as a follow-up agreement on November 12—outlining steps for establishing unfettered humanitarian access to Tigray by air and road.
- Security conditions in northern Ethiopia have improved following the November 2 CoHA and November 12 follow-up agreement, allowing for the resumption of robust humanitarian assistance operations across Afar, Amhara, and Tigray. However, armed group activity continues to restrict access in some areas.
- On October 28, 2022, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires Tracey Ann Jacobson renewed the declaration of humanitarian need for Ethiopia for FY 2023 due to the continued humanitarian needs resulting from the complex emergency—including the armed conflict in northern Ethiopia—and the impact of climatic shocks, such as the ongoing drought, on vulnerable populations across the country.
- On March 1, 2021, USAID activated a DART to lead USG humanitarian response efforts to the crisis in northern Ethiopia. USAID also stood up a Washington, D.C.-based RMT to support the DART. Following more than 30 months of activation, USAID/BHA transitioned humanitarian activities from the Northern Ethiopia Crisis DART and RMT to regional teams in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and Washington, D.C., on September 1.

## USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE NORTHERN ETHIOPIA CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2023<sup>1,2</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
Action Against Hunger (AAH/USA)	Agriculture, Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food, Health, Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA), Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Amhara, Tigray	\$19,800,000
American Refugee Committee (ARC)	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$2,600,000
CARE	Agriculture, Health, MPCA, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Afar	\$11,000,000
Center for Victims of Torture (CVT)	Protection	Tigray	\$2,600,000
Concern Worldwide	Agriculture, Health, Nutrition, WASH	Amhara, Tigray	\$3,400,000
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Food Assistance—U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Amhara, Tigray	\$161,998,078
	Shelters and Settlements, WASH	Tigray	\$4,000,000
Development for Peace Organization (DPO)	Shelter and Settlements	Amhara, Tigray	\$499,999
FAO	Agriculture	Tigray	\$6,500,000

FHI 360	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$8,500,000
Fayyaa Integrated Development Organization (FIDO)	WASH	Afar	\$500,000
GOAL	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$2,000,000
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Health, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Amhara, Tigray	\$5,500,000
iMMAP	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA); Humanitarian Policy, Studies, Analysis, or Applications	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$750,000
IOM	HCIMA, Health, MPCA, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$11,500,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Amhara, Tigray	\$6,000,000
Medical Teams International (MTI)	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Afar	\$2,000,000
Mercy Corps	Agriculture, MPCA, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Afar	\$4,500,000
Organization for Rehabilitation and Development in Amhara (ORDA)	Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Amhara	\$500,000
Plan USA	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$7,700,000
Samaritan's Purse	Health, Nutrition, Protection, Shelters and Settlements, WASH	Amhara, Tigray	\$3,000,000
Save the Children Federation (SCF)	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$2,500,000
UNICEF	Nutrition—U.S. In Kind Specialized Nutrition Products	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$8,417,090
	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$12,400,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$1,000,000
UN World Food Program (WFP)	Food Assistance—U.S. In Kind Food Aid, Nutrition	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$47,896,308
UN World Health Organization (WHO)	Health, HCIMA	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$1,600,000
World Vision	Agriculture, Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$7,600,000
ZOA	Agriculture, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Amhara, Tigray	\$3,000,000
	Program Support		\$2,586,933
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$351,848,407</b>

#### STATE/PRM

Implementing Partner	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$26,500,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$26,500,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE NORTHERN ETHIOPIA RESPONSE IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$378,348,407</b>

#### USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE NORTHERN ETHIOPIA CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2022

<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>	<b>\$697,165,168</b>
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>	<b>\$116,400,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE NORTHERN ETHIOPIA RESPONSE IN FY 2022</b>	<b>\$813,565,168</b>

#### USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE NORTHERN ETHIOPIA CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2021

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

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

<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>	<b>\$99,200,908</b>
--------------------------------	---------------------

<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>	<b>\$7,325,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE NORTHERN ETHIOPIA RESPONSE IN FY 2020<sup>3, 4, 5</sup></b>	<b>\$106,525,908</b>

**USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE NORTHERN ETHIOPIA CRISIS RESPONSE IN FYs 2020-2023**

<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>	<b>\$1,621,624,732</b>
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>	<b>\$207,345,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE NORTHERN ETHIOPIA RESPONSE IN FYs 2020–2023<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>\$1,828,969,732</b>

<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 September 30, 2023.

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

<sup>3</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>4</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.

<sup>5</sup> Funding in this fact sheet includes assistance to refugees residing in Tigray, some of which is also reported in the USAID/BHA Horn of Africa fact sheet as part of the Ethiopia Complex Emergency.

<sup>6</sup> 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 (ARPA) Migration and Refugee Assistance funding and \$3,100,000 in FY 2022 ARPA supplemental funding to respond to COVID-19.

## **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)