



IOM FLASH APPEAL NORTHERN ETHIOPIA CRISIS

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SITUATION OVERVIEW

Military operations led by the Ethiopian Federal Defence against forces linked to the Tigray Regional Security Forces (TRSF) have been underway since November 4th, 2020 following a reported attack on the Ethiopian Northern Command federal forces based in Tigrayan regional state. Weeks into the conflict the situation escalated beyond the Tigray Regional State, with shelling of airports reported in Bahir Dar and Gondar in the Amhara Region, and installations in the Eritrean capital of Asmara. The result has been a tense and volatile humanitarian situation, with thousands of people reportedly displaced internally within the Tigray Regional State and beyond into the neighbouring regional states of Amhara and Afar.

While humanitarian organizations are still not able to access the region to carry out assessments and respond to the increasing humanitarian needs due to the ongoing armed confrontations, shortage of basic supplies and services have been reported across the Tigray Region at a time when Ethiopia is grappling with a dire humanitarian situation caused by internal displacement, the desert locust infestation resulting in food insecurity, and all of this in the COVID-19 pandemic context. Without unconditional humanitarian access, there is great concern about the delivery of the most basic services, including water, food and essential medicines.

With daunting challenges ahead, IOM is scaling up its preparedness operations in country in order to increase its readiness to provide humanitarian and protection assistance to the affected populations and their host communities in Northern Ethiopia. This plan is in line with the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) Humanitarian Preparedness Plan for the period of November 2020 to January 2021, which estimates a total caseload of 1.98 million in the worst-case scenario of the escalating humanitarian crisis.

IOM FLASH APPEAL (USD) (November 2020 - January 2021)

	Shelter and Non-Food Items	12M
	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)	4M
	Site Management Support (SMS)	1.5M
	Displacement Tracking	0,5M
	Health	2 M
	Transition and Recovery	2 M
TOTAL		22 M



Forecast Based Appeal: IOM Preparedness and Early Action

“In the majority of emergencies, external support can take days and in some cases weeks to arrive. Therefore, it is vital that there is a plan in place, based on the available in-country capacity, to deal with the initial phase of an emergency.”

Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Emergency Preparedness Guidelines, 2015

This forecast based flash appeal aims to mobilize the financial resources required for early action based on the humanitarian preparedness strategic planning process initiated by the Ethiopian humanitarian country team (EHCT) in mid-November. It is based on an analysis of humanitarian and protection concerns and other serious risks related to the crisis in Northern Ethiopia.

The overall objective is to mitigate the impact of the ongoing conflict, reduce human suffering and material losses of the affected population. The activities included in this appeal are in line with the humanitarian preparedness response plan developed by the EHCT and consider existing capacities, across sectors, available in country. They can be implemented before humanitarian access is granted, in anticipation of joint need assessments.

The planning figures used in this plan are conservative in comparison to HCT anticipated scenario of:



This intervention is designed to primarily ensure the most pressing humanitarian needs are met and foundation for recovery laid out until additional information on vulnerabilities, access to services, numbers and locations of affected populations are available to further inform the response. COVID-19 prevention and mitigation activities have also been considered when planning the preparedness programming included under this appeal.

The proposed plan has taken account of all possible scenarios to be specific on the set of activities. Irrespective of the access or the needs assessment results, these preparedness activities will contribute to effective and timely delivery of assistance as well as capacity building of the existing coordination and response systems in terms of supply and technical expertise.

IOM CAPACITY TO RESPOND

IOM Ethiopia is headquartered in Addis Ababa, with a strong geographical presence throughout the country with sub-offices in six regions: Benishangul-Gumuz (Assosa), Somali (Jigjiga and Dolo Ado), Gambella (Gambella), Oromia (Moyale, Bule Hora, Nekempt), Afar (Semera), Tigray (Shire), Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (Hawassa), and Dire Dawa City. IOM Ethiopia has more than 700 staff members, of whom more than 100 are working within the Emergency and Post-Crisis (EPC) program across the country, including a grants-based program called the Rapid Response Fund, which through small grants funds INGOs and local NGOs.

In terms of emergency and postcrisis assistance in Ethiopia, IOM has been having a leading role for decades and continues to provide impartial and accountable services for displacement affected and at-risk communities nationwide in the areas of shelter and NFI, health, site management services, protection and WASH. IOM is also a key agency and standing member of the Ethiopian Humanitarian Country Team (EHCT) and the Government of Ethiopia's (GoE) National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) preparedness and response efforts. As the Shelter/NFI (S/NFI) Cluster lead agency, co-chaired with the GoE/NDRMC, IOM is a member of the Disaster Risk Management Technical Working Group (DRMTWG), the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG), and the National Flood Task Force (NFTF). IOM has been a pioneer of durable solutions within the country and is co-chair of the Federal Durable Solutions Working Group (DSWGs) and several Regional DSWGs. For the COVID-19 response, IOM has been collaborating with the Emergency Coordination Cell (ECC) under NDRMC and its regional branches, and the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) under the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI), which are in charge of spearheading the national COVID-19 response.





1. Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI) Pipeline

On top of the existing humanitarian needs that Ethiopia was facing, the global COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted humanitarian service delivery in the last year, warranting a robust and coordinated response through the establishment of a Shelter and NFI Pipeline. With the current crisis in the Northern area of the country, it is vital to support humanitarian partners in their delivery of humanitarian assistance in affected areas.

Emergency shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI) kits have been identified as urgent needs by ES/NFI Cluster partners' due to the lack of available stocks to allow a timely response to better access. Therefore, in the preparedness phase of this response, IOM will focus on **procurement and pre-positioning of 25,000 Non-Food Items and 10,000 Emergency shelter kits** in order to ensure that vulnerable populations have increased access to services and supplies through enhanced coordination and the provision of key humanitarian supplies by humanitarian actors as soon as access is granted. In addition, communal shelter materials such as corrugated galvanized iron sheets (CGI) and nails will also be procured and pre-positioned. When possible, items will be procured from local suppliers. Additionally, IOM will continue to conduct **quick market assessments for availability** of local materials in locations close by to the affected population. As soon as access is granted, IOM Core Pipeline will support partner responses in high priority locations where needs are identified.

2. Shelter and Non-Food Items Assistance

The humanitarian situation in Tigray region remains highly tense and volatile with fighting between Federal and Tigray regional forces moving towards densely populated areas and displacing thousands of people in the area. Based on previous displacement trends, it is expected that the affected population settle with simple structures using local materials that provide minimal protection, privacy, safety and comfort and leaving all personal belonging behind. In order to ensure a timely and efficient response, IOM will start procuring sufficient **core relief items including NFIs and shelter materials** until access to Tigray Region is allowed. Additionally, IOM will strengthen existing partnerships with cash delivery mechanisms such as the Ethiopian Postal Service and banks to identify if the modality would be feasible for use in this new area.

As soon as access is granted, IOM will aim to provide direct lifesaving assistance based on the needs identified. This will include the distribution of NFI and emergency shelter kits, the set-up of communal shelters and cash for rent assistance. All distributions will take into account the local context and specific needs and vulnerabilities of beneficiaries, mainstreaming protection concerns and gender considerations, and will have COVID 19 mitigation measures in place. In the unlikely event that the number of people affected in the area is lower than the estimated projections by the clusters, IOM will redirect the assistance to meet the needs of other affected displaced populations in Ethiopia.

3. Shelter and NFI Cluster Coordination

The Emergency Shelter/NFI Cluster is critical to ensuring timely responses, coordination, and cost-effectiveness in Ethiopia. Establishing ES/NFI sub-cluster presence in Tigray will be necessary to allow appropriate and effective coordination with the Emergency Operational Cell as well as UN agencies, international and national NGOs, and local partners. The sub-national cluster will also ensure appropriate advocacy on behalf of the affected population as well as produce relevant sector products such as 5Ws, 4Ws, situation reports and response dashboards. As such, in the next three months, IOM will **establish the sub-cluster team** to be deployed in a location converging area of displacement in the Northern regions of the country. The team will consist of a sub-national coordinator and an Information Management (IM) Officer.

Funding required

\$12,000,000

Shelter/NFI Pipeline:

\$8,000,000

Shelter/NFI Assistance:

\$3,800,000

Shelter/NFI Cluster coordination:

\$200,000



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Access to a water supply is extremely limited in many parts of Tigray due to poor rainfall in the Deyr rainy season, with some Woredas already reporting water trucking needs prior to the conflict. With the expected additional caseload due to the displacement and potential conflict damage to water supplies, as part of IOM's Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) preparedness activities, IOM will focus on procuring the necessary hardware in order to be able to start water trucking, identifying suitable suppliers for this activity and kickstarting the contractual arrangements.

In the next three months, IOM will also aim to procure **WASH NFI items, including technical equipment needed for water provision and excreta management activities** (e.g., storage water tanks for trucking, emergency tap stands, handpumps, water testing kits, water treatment products, and construction tools such as shovels and handsaw, among others). The items will be then pre-positioned in relevant locations in order to have immediate dispatch once access is available to affected regions. In order to increase its rapid response capacity, IOM will also focus on identifying suitable staff who could be deployed to affected regions once access is granted. Potential contractors from the region that are willing to work and have access to the affected areas will be also assessed, so that activities can be commenced as soon as access permits.

Once the situation is such that the humanitarian community has access to the Tigray Region, IOM will focus on life-saving interventions and its response activities will be adapted to the identified needs and will include, but will not be limited to, distribution of hygiene kits, including Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) kit components, water trucking, water point rehabilitation and/or construction, repair, rehabilitation and construction of emergency latrine and handwashing stations, establishment of community-based water or sanitation management committees, and hygiene promotion activities through contextualized campaigns and mobilization of gender-balanced local hygiene promoters. Provision of handwashing facilities will be also essential under COVID-19 pandemic. During the response phase, IOM will also ensure to improve the WASH infrastructure of the country's Points of Entry to provide for the basic needs of stranded migrants and vulnerable migrant returnees in the region.

Funding required

\$4,000,000



SITE MANAGEMENT SUPPORT (SMS)

Currently available data indicates that many IDPs are sheltering in collective centres, thus substantial physical upgrades/installations will be needed, such as partitioning of communal spaces, for COVID-19 mitigation and prevention purposes. Construction of other communal infrastructure, such as kitchens and distribution points, is also expected to be needed. IOM's preparedness activities will therefore include:

1. **Prepositioning of Site planning materials**, including key materials required for the abovementioned site upgrades are eucalyptus poles, nails and plastic sheeting. With emergency funding, IOM will pre-order and pre-position relevant items in coordination with IOM Shelter team. Additionally, IOM will conduct a market assessment to identify the closest functional markets with ready supplies of eucalyptus poles.
2. **Site Management Support Working Group coordination in affected areas**: Supporting the ongoing efforts of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and considering its role as co-lead of the SMS working group with UNHCR, IOM will establish one roving coordination team composed of one sub-national coordinator and information management officer, focusing on the Northern Ethiopia situation, which will travel in other affected areas as access allow. Coordination activities can already be implemented in Amhara where displaced population has started to gather in collective sites. This will ensure that appropriate technical guidance on site planning, camp management and community participation is available.

Funding required

\$1,500,000



Upon gaining of access to locations of displacement, IOM will initiate site planning and improvements (including site identification to prepare for displacement in relevant areas, partitioning of communal living spaces, installation of communal facilities such as kitchens, distribution points in existing sites, etc.), conduct safety risk audits to identify and mitigate protection and safety risks, including GBV as well as ensure adequate community participation.



DISPLACEMENT TRACKING

To improve the information upon which the humanitarian response is conducted, multi-sectoral data collection regarding population, needs, priority gaps in service provision will be needed to inform decision-making and implementation of programming. IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)'s existing network of key informants and knowledge of displacement trends in country allows for rapid expansion of activities in areas of concern. Proposed actions will focus on increasing field presence and capacity to implement Emergency Tracking Tools and support the humanitarian community with humanitarian needs overview and prioritization. While access remain constrained, IOM proposes to implement the following activities:

1. **Site Assessment round.** IOM will expand its operational capacities as well as will increase the frequency of needs monitoring to track internal displacement from Tigray region to Amhara and Afar regions. The initial scope of this exercise will cover internal displacement in the neighboring 5 zones of Amhara region and 2 zones of Afar region.
2. **Event Tracking Tool (ETT)** will strengthened by increasing the number of enumerators available to conduct remote data collection in locations where conducting assessments in person is not possible (due to the shutdown of internet and mobile services). While it is currently possible to collect data remotely for the neighboring woredas in Amhara, the scope of the ETT can evolve on a bi-weekly basis according to access development.
3. **Dissemination of data** on internal displacements to partners to support relief operations.

Investment in DTM preparedness activities will allow to support joint humanitarian needs assessment and response in affected areas already accessible (Amhara & Afra) and others immediately as access improves. Additional resources will support staffing, transportation, mobile communications and data collection equipment.

Funding required

\$500,000



HEALTH

Health has been identified as a key priority by all humanitarian actors, including access to lifesaving primary and secondary health care services, vaccination, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services, as well as basic commodity supplies such as safe motherhood and reproductive health, nutrition and essential medicine. Although, Tigray region's health system was stable with a functional network of health facilities, and good health indicators, the ongoing conflict is severely disrupting supply of essential medicines, medical supplies and nutritional supplements, as well as undermines efforts made so far to contain the spread of COVID-19 such as contact tracing, infection prevention and control, testing and case management.

The overall risk of outbreak of diseases in the conflict areas is very high. According to epidemiological bulletin week 40 to 43, Tigray region's top six reportable diseases were as follows: Malaria (15,639), Dysentery (2,978), typhoid (1,553), scabies (1,932) with four suspected meningitis cases. Two Measles cases were also recorded. Malnutrition remains disproportionately high in Tigray region with 820 cases being recorded in epidemiological week 40 to 43.

Funding required

\$2,000,000



The Health Cluster's Tigray response plan has outlined specific areas that will require partners' support to ensure that urgent emergency health assistance is provided in an effective and timely manner. The proposed preparedness health activities will be conducted accordingly and focus on:

- ◆ **Procurement of essential medical supplies** to support lifesaving primary health services including Protective Personal Equipment (PPE);
- ◆ **Capacity building** through trainings of health staff identified to be deployed once access is granted. The trainings will include refresher material and scenarios on outbreak response, mass vaccination and provision of lifesaving health services including maternal child health
- ◆ Development and translation of **Information Education Communication (IEC) materials** into local languages. The IEC and health promotion material will focus on outbreak disease prevention including for COVID-19, Cholera and other diarrheal diseases, Measles and Polio;
- ◆ Provision of technical support to SMS and Shelter teams on integration of public health and **COVID-19 mitigation measures** in displacement sites;
- ◆ **Mapping of health facility functionality** in coordination with the Health Cluster and partners for identification of potential facilities for rehabilitation or additional support. The focus will initially be on neighbouring regions like Afar and Amhara regions;
- ◆ In locations receiving IDPs in accessible areas surrounding Tigray, where there are no functional health facilities or capacity is limited, IOM will deploy **mobile health and nutrition teams (MHNT)**. The service package will include treatment of common diseases and screening for malnutrition, mental health and psychosocial support, vaccination for children under five, minimum initial services package for emergency reproductive health, health promotion/ education and response to disease outbreaks. MHNTs will include incorporate COVID-D-19 response in its MHNT package.

These activities will be key to implement an effective humanitarian response once conditions allow, supporting the rapid re-establishment and continuation of functioning health facilities in areas affected by the conflict as well as the development and strengthening of referral pathways, including for Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and mental health cases.



TRANSITION AND RECOVERY

Following the current wave of displacements in and around Tigray region, the inception of transition and early recovery activities using a community stabilization approach will be critical. The destruction of key infrastructure as well as the loss of source of livelihoods for most of the population will impact their recovery and will significantly reduce their coping mechanisms. In recognizing the importance of programming across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, and in coordination with regional authorities, partner agencies, and the civil society, IOM seeks to link humanitarian assistance to stability and eventual recovery, using development-principled interventions from the onset of a crisis. In particular, during the current phase IOM will undertake the following activities:

- ◆ **Coordination:** identify and deploy a technical expert to support coordination with relevant partners, including UNDP and other NGOs with activities in the area and ensure streamlined approach to early recovery.
- ◆ **Analysis and planning:** IOM will work with partners, and IDPs that can be accessed to undertake scenario analysis. This analysis can identify the critical issues that affected communities were already facing prior to the conflict and may have been exacerbated.

Funding required

\$2,000,000

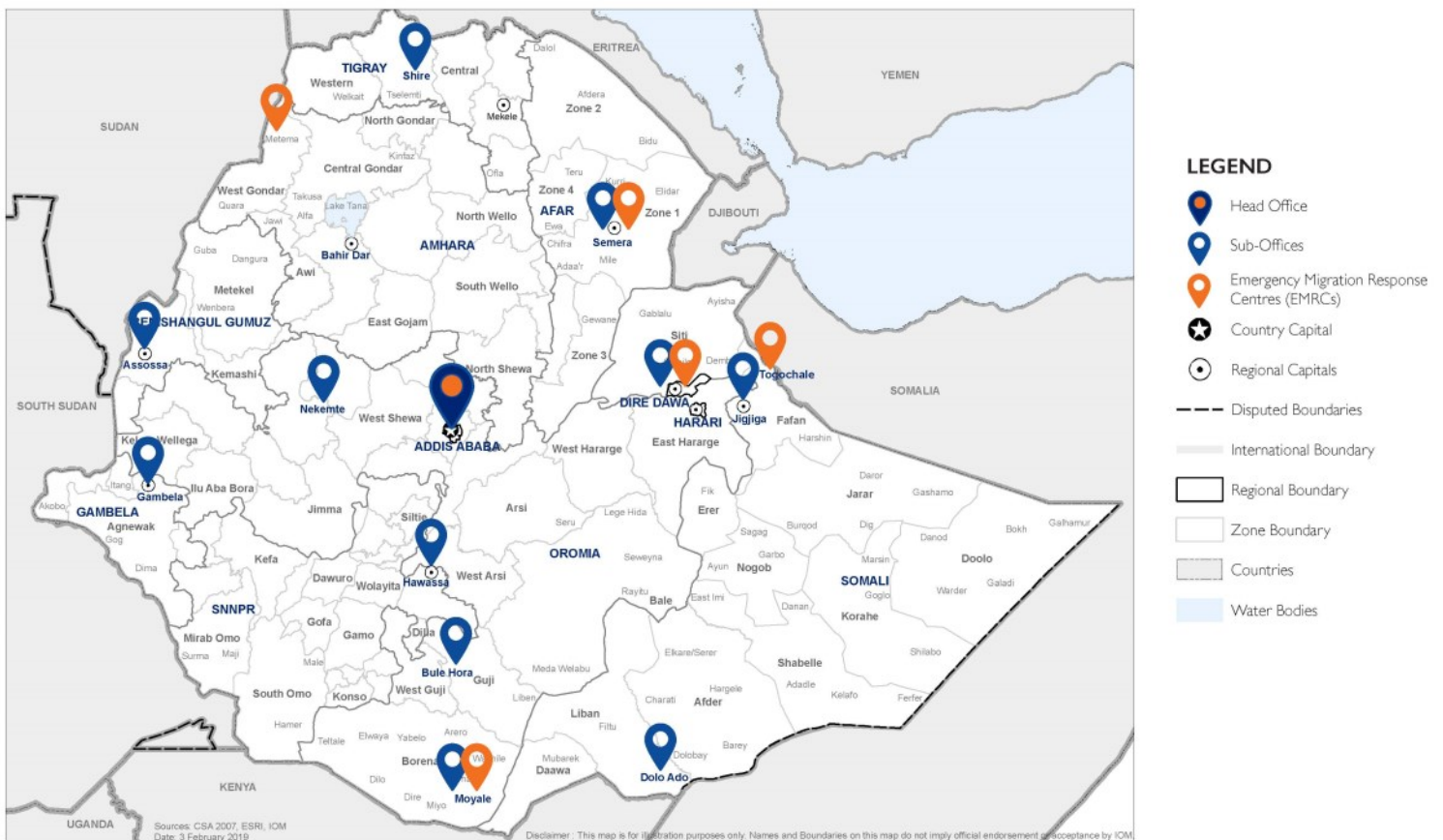


- ◆ **Livelihood:** Preliminary analysis indicates that most people who have been affected are farmers. IOM will begin stockpiling agricultural inputs to provide to farmers once access is granted, this includes seeds, basic tools, storage capacities, marketing, and training in financial management.

The preparation can be actioned once the intervention is required irrespective of access to Tigray region. Displaced population in the neighbouring regions, like Amhara, Afar, and Benishangul Gumuz will be prioritised and the principle of conflict sensitivity taken into account to minimize any unintentional harm to the intended and indirect beneficiaries. These preparatory actions will allow IOM to immediately provide livelihood support, through a conflict sensitive approach once access is granted. The results of the proposed analysis and planning will help to inform community stabilization activities, including re-establishing social networks that may have been impacted by the conflict, creating the environment for dialogue, social cohesion, and peacebuilding as well as establishing peace committees in the areas of displacement.



IOM Presence in Ethiopia 2020



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