



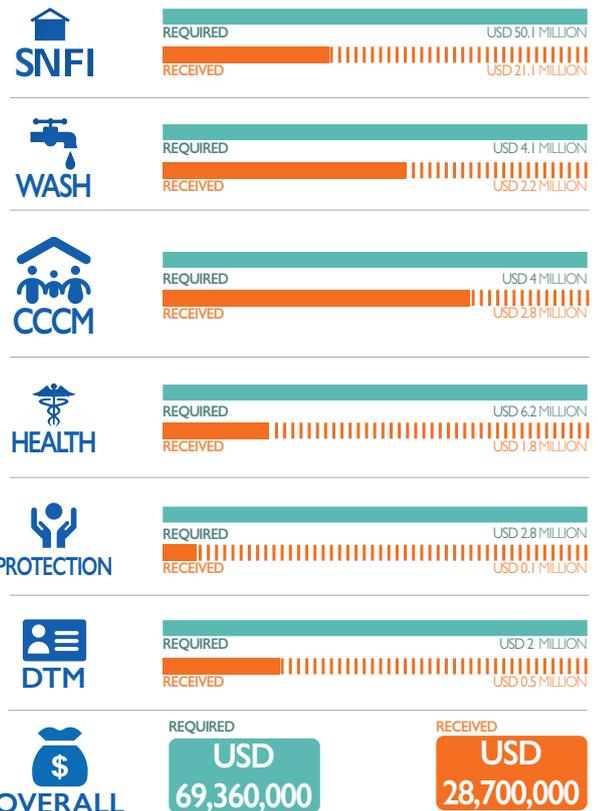
IOM delivers clean and safe water in an IDP site in Shire, Tigray Region. Photo: IOM/Kaye Viray

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The result of the armed conflict that erupted in November 2020 in the Tigray Regional State (TRS) of Ethiopia is a tense and volatile humanitarian situation, with a rise in protection concerns, including gender-based violence (GBV) that is particularly alarming. Nearly 2 million people are displaced internally within TRS and beyond in the neighbouring regional states of Amhara and Afar according to IOM’s Emergency Site Assessment (ESA) Round 6. The situation took a significant turn in late June 2021, with the Ethiopian federal government declaring a unilateral ceasefire on 28 June and abruptly suspending nearly eight months of military operations.

While humanitarian organizations are challenged to respond to the increasing humanitarian needs due to the ongoing armed confrontations owing to the reported rejection of the ceasefire, a shortage of basic supplies and services have been reported across TRS. The crisis in northern Ethiopia comes at a time when Ethiopia is still grappling with a dire humanitarian situation caused by internal displacement, continued mass repatriations from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, desert locust infestation resulting in food insecurity, and all this within the context of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS





IOM is providing medical assistance through its mobile health and nutrition teams in northern Ethiopia. Photo: IOM/Kaye Viray

Without humanitarian access and a significant increase in the availability of funding, there is great concern about the delivery of life-saving assistance, including water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), food, and essential medicines. For instance, although the need is enormous, IOM had to scale down its life-saving support for WASH due to a lack of resources.

In this volatile and fluid situation, the posture of IOM – along with the rest of the UN – is to stay and deliver at scale. IOM is committed to continuing to assist people in need in northern Ethiopia with significant scale-up of programming and provision of senior-level staffing to do so. Following an Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) system-wide response scale up, IOM is bringing in a minimum of 16 additional seasoned senior personnel, the majority on one-year deployments, to lead the response and navigate the extremely sensitive challenges of operating in this complex and volatile context. The planning for this response continues, even as resource constraints continue to be a huge challenge.

IOM CAPACITY TO RESPOND

Since its office opened in Ethiopia in 1995, IOM has been contributing to the efforts of the Government of Ethiopia (GOE) to effectively manage migration through a wide variety of projects and programmes. Today, IOM's presence in Ethiopia includes its Special Liaison Office in Addis Ababa, 13 Sub-Offices across the country covering all Regional States, 5 Migration Response Centres (MRCs) along key migratory routes, 3 Migration Health Assessment Clinics (MHACs), and 3 Transit Centres for returning migrants and departing refugees.

To respond at-scale to the unfolding crisis in northern Ethiopia, IOM is currently planning to initiate operations from satellite hubs in Sheraro and Aksum/Adwa in TRS to reach into hard-to-reach/isolated areas with significant needs.

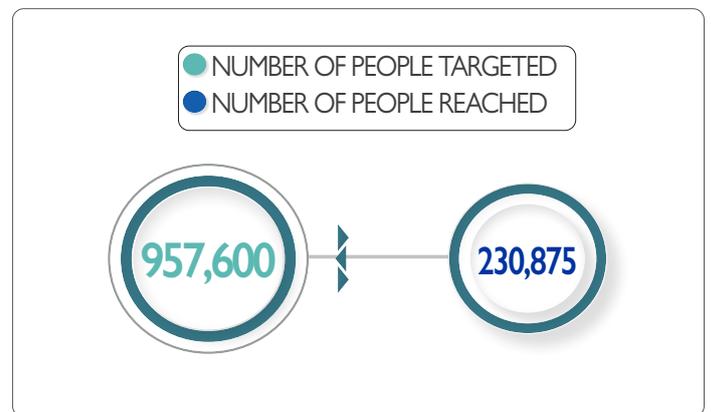
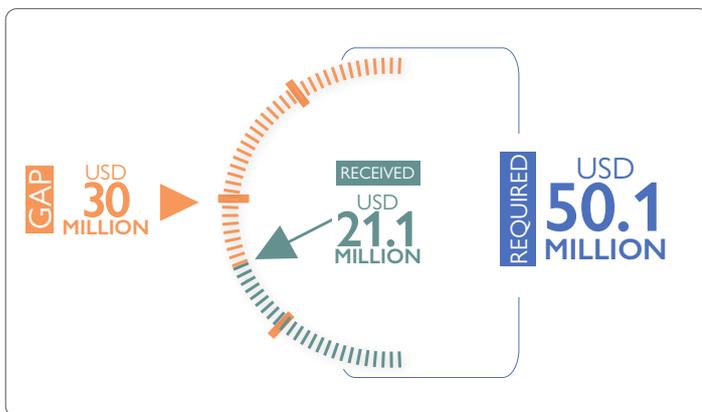
IOM has more than 900 personnel across Ethiopia, of whom a large majority are working in emergency and post-crisis programming, including a grants-based programme called the Rapid Response Fund (RRF), which through small grants and timely procurement, supports local and international NGOs.

IOM has been a leader in emergency and post-crisis assistance in Ethiopia for decades and continues to provide impartial and accountable services for displacement-affected and at-risk communities nationwide. IOM is leading the national Shelter/Non-Food Items (SNFIs) and sub-national SNFIs Clusters in Shire and Mekelle in TRS and co-leading the national Camp Coordination & Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster and sub-national CCCM Clusters in Shire and Mekelle in TRS. IOM is also co-leading the sub-national Health Cluster in Gondar and set up the mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) Working Groups in Shire and Mekelle. IOM is thus a key agency and standing member of the Ethiopian Humanitarian Country Team (EHCT). IOM Ethiopia has a dedicated Migration Health Department, providing comprehensive health services to migrants and vulnerable populations across Ethiopia. Overall, IOM has established a nimble staffing structure, with the ability to deploy seasoned technical experts to locations in crisis, as has been demonstrated in northern Ethiopia in accessible areas as soon as it was feasible to respond.



IOM and partners are building shelters in Sabacare 4 IDP site in Mekelle, Tigray Region. Photo: IOM/Kaye Viray

NFI SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (SNFIs)



DIRECT ASSISTANCE

Based on previous displacement trends, it is expected that conflict-affected populations in Tigray will have settled in precarious situations that provide minimal protection, privacy, safety and comfort and have left all personal belongings behind. To ensure a timely and efficient response, IOM will scale up its procurement of sufficient core relief items, including NFIs and emergency shelter kits. Additionally, IOM will strengthen existing partnerships with financial service providers (FSPs) such as the Ethiopian Postal Service and banks for cash delivery mechanisms, and to assess if these modalities are feasible for use in the crisis-affected areas.

IOM will continue to provide direct lifesaving assistance based on identified needs, including distribution of NFIs and emergency shelter kits and cash-for-rent assistance. All distributions will take into account the local context, specific needs and vulnerabilities of beneficiaries, mainstreaming protection concerns and gender considerations, while integrating COVID-19 mitigation measures. Based on distribution coverage and number of distributions, IOM will conduct post distribution monitoring (PDM). PDM will be conducted one month after each distribution, this will give time for beneficiaries to react on the provided items quality and quantity, and other project related questions.



IOM and partners are building shelters in Sabacare 4 IDP site in Mekelle, Tigray Region. Photo: IOM/Kaye Viray

PIPELINE FOR RAPID RESPONSE

IOM has established a SNFI Pipeline to support humanitarian partners in the delivery of humanitarian assistance in affected areas. IOM's Rapid Response Fund (RRF) team will continue to work with national and international NGOs to distribute NFIs and emergency shelter kits to households across conflict affected areas. With the current crisis, it is vital to support humanitarian partners in their delivery of humanitarian assistance in affected areas. The SNFI pipeline includes lifesaving WASH materials, household items and items to build and repair shelters.

SNFIs have been identified as an urgent need by the IOM led Shelter and NFI Cluster partners due to a lack of available stocks to respond to increasing needs. Therefore, IOM will continue to prioritize procurement and pre-positioning of NFIs and emergency shelter kits 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 supporting sustainable and dignified return such as corrugated galvanized iron sheets (CGI), tool kits, and umbrella nails will also be procured and pre-positioned. To the greatest extent possible, items will be procured from local suppliers and IOM

is increasing the size of its procurement teams in Mekelle and Shire. This builds on pre-existing teams in Addis Ababa, the regional hub of Nairobi, and broader global procurement capacity. Additionally, IOM will continue to conduct quick market assessments for availability of local materials in locations closer to the affected populations. As soon as access is granted, the IOM pipeline will support partner responses in high priority locations where needs are identified.

CLUSTER COORDINATION

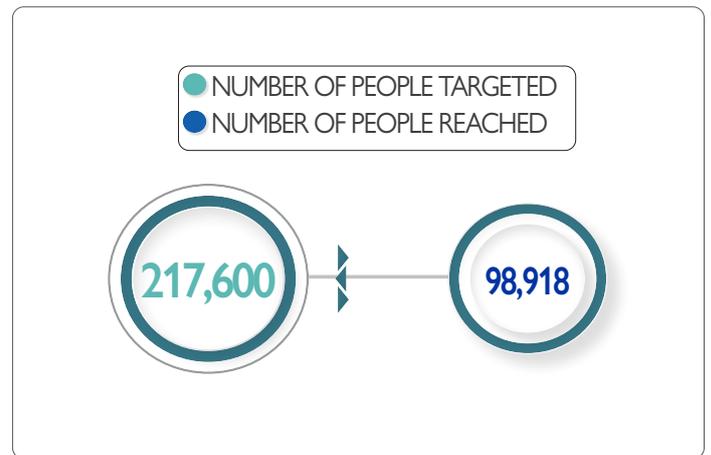
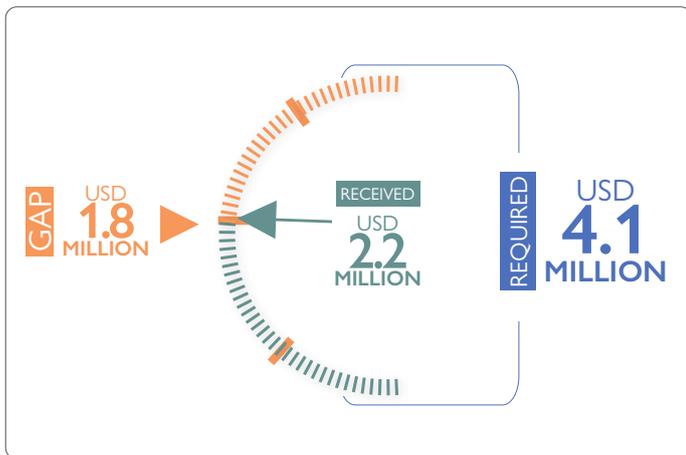
IOM has been leading the Shelter and NFI Cluster in Ethiopia for over a decade and has established two Shelter and NFI sub-clusters in Tigray to facilitate appropriate and effective coordination and timely responses. Establishing the two sub-national clusters in Mekelle and Shire was necessary to allow for appropriate and effective coordination with the Emergency Operational Cell as well as UN agencies, international and national NGOs, and local partners. IOM recognizes that it is critical to increase the seniority of coordination staff and the organization's information management capacity on the ground. The sub-national clusters will also ensure appropriate advocacy on behalf of the affected populations as well as produce relevant sector products such as 5W (Who does What Where When & for Whom), situation reports, and response dashboards.



IOM delivers clean and safe water in an IDP site in Shire, Tigray Region. Photo: IOM/Kaye Viray



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)



Access to a safe water supply is extremely limited in many parts of northern Ethiopia due to poor rainfall. With damage to water supplies and sanitation infrastructure due to the conflict, as well as increased needs of conflict-affected displaced populations, IOM will continue to lead WASH activities in many internally displaced persons (IDPs) sites, including distribution of hygiene kits, water trucking, construction and rehabilitation of water points, emergency latrines, and handwashing stations, establishment of community-based water or sanitation management committees, and conducting hygiene promotion activities through contextualized campaigns and mobilization of gender-balanced hygiene promoters.

It is unacceptable that, as of today, adequate water supply at the collective centres (schools) is not ensured and that there is open defecation at multiple sites even though these sites have been occupied for over half a year.

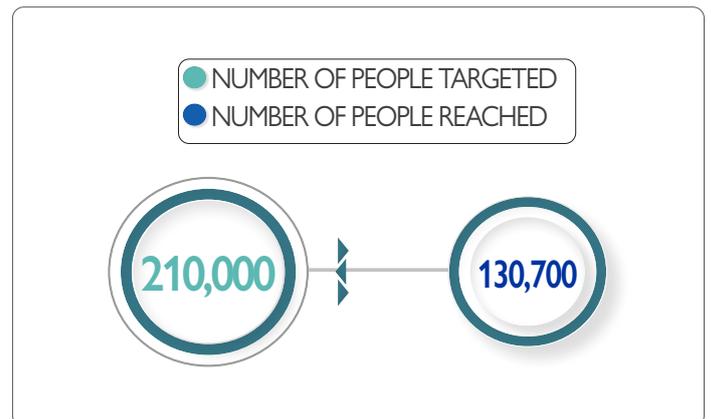
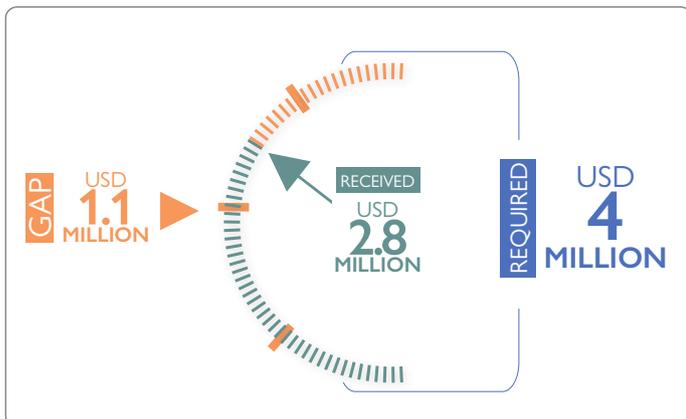
The provision of handwashing facilities and awareness raising needs to be increased as essential COVID-19 pandemic mitigation measures. IOM will also improve WASH infrastructure at border points of entry to provide for the basic needs of stranded migrants and vulnerable returnees in northern Ethiopia.



IOM and partners are building shelters in an IDP site in Shire, Tigray Region. Photo: IOM/Kaye Viray



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)



DIRECT ASSISTANCE

IOM will continue to improve living conditions for displaced people in sites through site planning and development, maintenance, and upgrades, including partitioning of communal spaces, and constructing communal infrastructure such as kitchens and distribution points in displacement sites across northern Ethiopia. To ensure safe access to basic services, IOM will provide site and/or area level coordination and information management, community participation and self-governance activities, including COVID-19 Risk Communication, running of a Community Feedback Mechanism, and capacity building of CCCM stakeholders, including local authorities and NGOs. Capacity Building uses the Global Cluster's Basic CCCM three-day training package, which, in addition to site set-up and management, includes a strong focus on protection, GBV and durable solutions.

CLUSTER COORDINATION

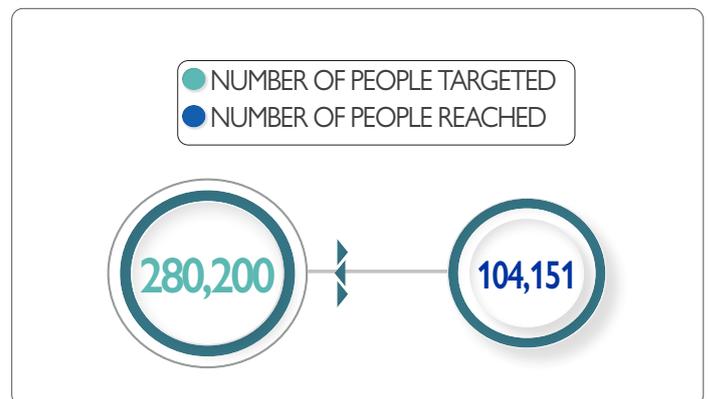
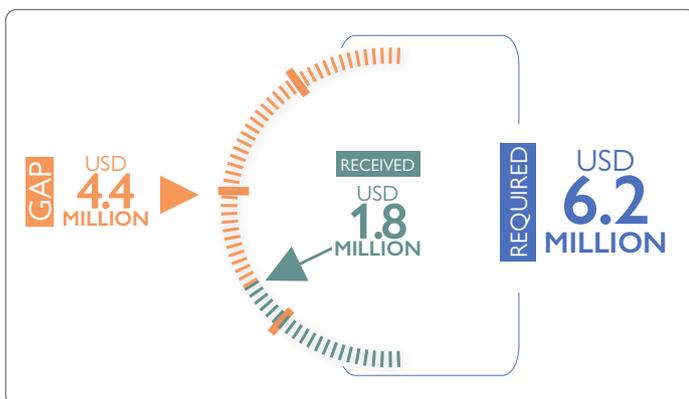
IOM has been co-leading the CCCM cluster in Ethiopia and has established two CCCM sub-clusters in Tigray to facilitate appropriate and effective coordination and timely responses for people displaced in sites and to ensure coverage across TRS. Establishing a sub-cluster presence in Tigray was necessary to allow for 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 populations as well as produce relevant sector products such as 5W (Who does What Where When & for Whom), situation reports, and response dashboards.



IOM established a medical health clinic in an IDP site in Shire, Tigray Region. Photo IOM/ Kaye Viray



HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)



IOM has been enhancing access to healthcare services, including mental health and psychosocial support services in northern Ethiopia since the escalation of the conflict in late 2020 and scaled up its response across the region from early 2021, covering 17 Internally Displaced Sites in Mekelle (10), Shire (1), Gonder (2) and Adwa (4). With additional funding, IOM Health aims to target populations in the harder-to-reach areas across TRS and will require additional qualified staff deployed, and essential medical equipment and vehicles to ensure quality of service provision across these health facilities. IOM will continue to respond through Mobile Health and Nutrition Teams (MHNTs) and Psychosocial Mobile Teams (PMTs) that provide services using a mobile approach. Additional static health facilities will be constructed in displacement and relocation sites to complement the mobile health services.

The MHNTs with MHPSS staff will provide primary health care consultations, basic Sexual and Reproductive Health

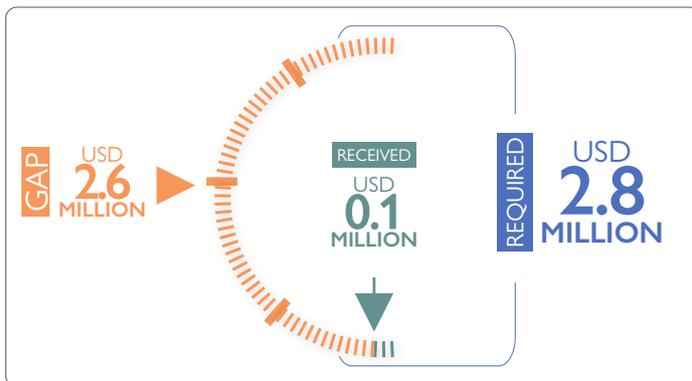
(SRH) services, including GBV related health services, psychosocial services, screening and referral management for severe malnutrition among children, as well as health promotion, including COVID-19 Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE). Health surveillance and MHPSS teams will also be deployed to border Points of Entry (POEs) to provide health screening and psychosocial support for migrants and vulnerable population, in collaboration with regional health bureaus.

In addition, Regional Health Bureaus will be supported with COVID-19 vaccination in crisis affected areas, capacity building of health workers on outbreak preparedness and response, including cholera, measles, malaria upsurges emerging due to diverse weather conditions, and capacity building of mental health personnel on the Mental Health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP) Humanitarian Intervention Guide (HIG) and psychosocial support mainstreaming.



Community representatives are being trained on their duties in an IDP sites in Mekelle, Tigray Region. Photo IOM/ Kaye Viray

PROTECTION



Protection is a critical cross-cutting thematic area for IOM, given high levels of internal displacement and vulnerable returnee migrants, as well as the proliferation of ethnic clashes and conflict. IOM incorporates protection considerations into its humanitarian and other responses and works to strengthen the protection responses to vulnerable returnee migrants at Points of Entry. In this regard, IOM will support:

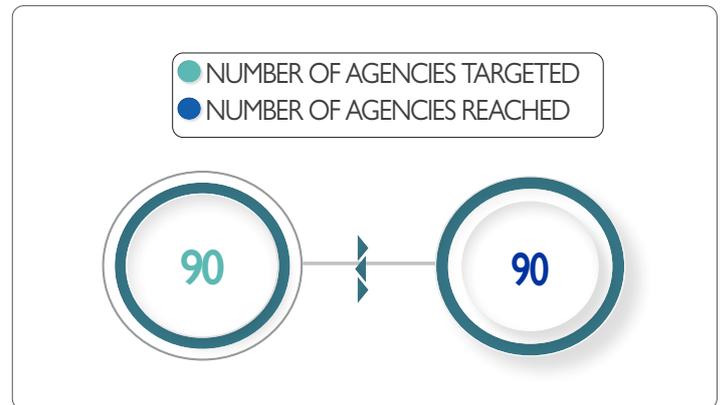
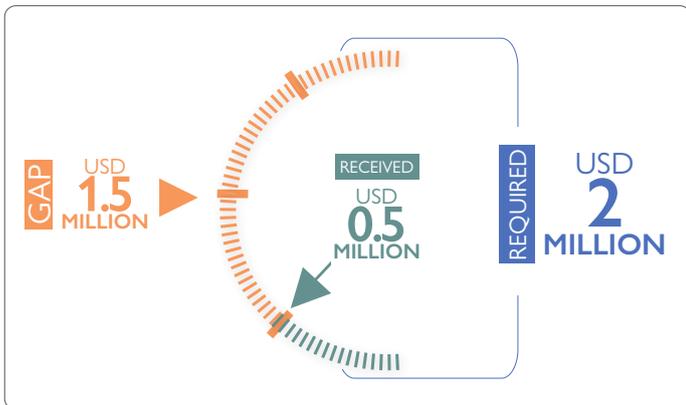
- Protection mainstreaming and GBV risk mitigation in all of IOM’s response.
- Provision of protection assistance to IDPs, returnees, and other vulnerable migrants, including family tracing and reunification, MHPSS services or referrals to other specialized actors.
- Training of IOM staff, key stakeholders, volunteers, secondees, and partners on key protection issues such as child protection, counter-trafficking and smuggling, GBV risk mitigation, MHPSS and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA).
- Provision of cash and voucher assistance to vulnerable persons with heightened vulnerabilities (e.g., IDPs, returnees) to achieve protection outcomes.
- Protection monitoring, particularly on aspects of child protection, GBV, PSEA and rights-based approaches, to inform IOM’s programming and mainstreaming protection.



IOM is carrying out DTM assessments in northern Ethiopia. Photo IOM/ Kaye Viray



DISPLACEMENT ANALYSIS



IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) assessments are used by all humanitarian partners for planning purposes. IOM has published six Emergency Site Assessment (ESA) reports and datasets on the northern Ethiopia crisis between November 2020 and June 2021. In each round, ESA identifies the number of IDPs and households displaced due to the crisis across sites in Tigray, Amhara, and Afar regions that IOM has managed to reach.

data collection in locations where conducting assessments in person is not possible (due to the shutdown of internet and mobile services). The scope of the ETT will evolve on a weekly basis as access fluctuates. In anticipation of significant returns in Tigray, IOM plans to also initiate household level intention surveys and a shortened Village Assessment Survey to track their access to livelihoods and services, and monitor reintegration.

IOM will expand its operational capacities and increase the frequency of needs monitoring to track internal displacement from TRS to other regions as well as increasing capacity to monitor returns and assessing overall stability in particular areas. The Event Tracking Tool (ETT) will be strengthened by increasing the number of enumerators to conduct remote

Investment in DTM activities will allow support of joint humanitarian needs assessment and response in affected areas. Additional resources will support staffing, transportation, mobile communications, and data collection equipment.



FUNDING

FUNDING GAP

TARGETED



\$29,023,000



\$1,880,000



\$1,157,000



\$4,427,000



\$2,683,000



\$1,490,000



FUNDING GAP
\$40,660,000

REACHED
565,223

TARGETED
1,707,000

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