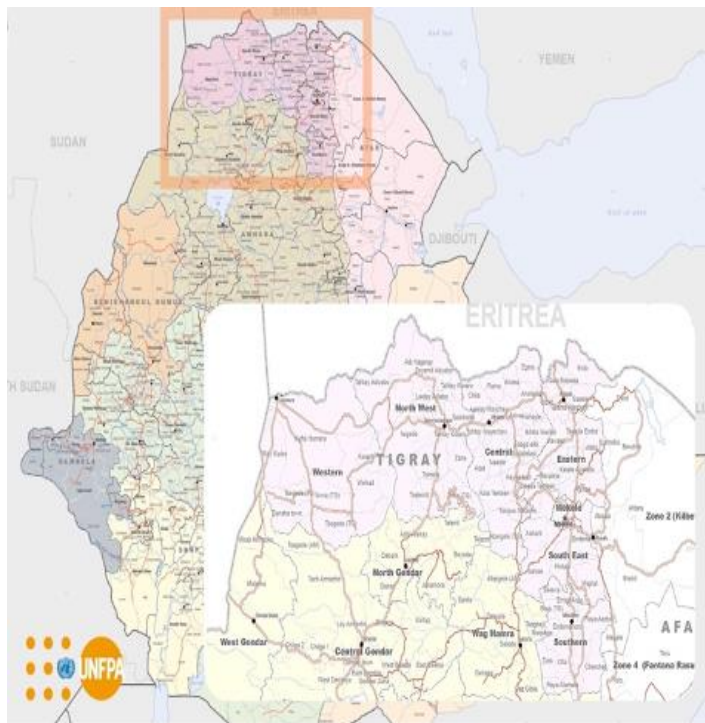




UNFPA ETHIOPIA RESPONSE TO THE TIGRAY CRISIS
Situation Report
1-15 March 2021

Background

On 4 November 2020, clashes erupted between the military and regional forces in the Tigray region of northern Ethiopia. The federal government declared a state of emergency for six months, and a large-scale humanitarian crisis emerged with a surge of internally displaced persons and movement of refugees into neighboring countries. Despite the announcement of an official end to military operations at the end of November 2020, there has been continued conflict across the region and insecurity particularly in Tigray, Afar and Amhara regions with significant impact on the safety and protection of civilians. After several months of restricted movement due to insecurity and on-going clashes, particularly in remote rural areas, unfettered access was granted by the Federal Government on 3 March to humanitarian actors to operate in the area. Total numbers of internally displaced people in the region are still difficult to confirm as humanitarian need-assessments are still being undertaken by Cluster-led UN partners. Incidents of violence and general insecurity continue to pose a threat to local populations, women and girls are particularly vulnerable and exposed to sexual violence, exploitation, unwanted pregnancy, increased maternal mortality, when deprived from access to critical health care.



Source: UNFPA Ethiopia based on OCHA/Maps & Infoanalytics.

Situation Overview

Following the opening of humanitarian access by the Federal Government to support the scale-up of the response in Tigray, humanitarian partners are working urgently to provide immediate lifesaving services to those most in need. With increased access particularly to rural areas and reporting, the number of people in need is expected to rise significantly in the coming weeks. While basic services remain interrupted across much of Tigray, humanitarian access in hard-to-reach rural areas, off the main roads, remains challenging because of the fluid security situation. Persistent confrontations and lack of humanitarian assistance in rural areas - where 80% of the population lived prior to the crisis¹



**5,700,000 total
population in Tigray¹**

¹ Ethiopia - Tigray Region Humanitarian Update Situation Report (February 12, 2021):

<https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/ethiopia-tigray-region-humanitarian-update-situation-report-12-february-2021>

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- continue to drive displacements across the region, with up to 1,500² people arriving daily to Shire from Western Tigray. According to the [2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview](#) issued on March 5, from the 4.5 million people currently estimated to be in need, 3.5 million are in accessible and partially accessible areas. While the focus of the response is on Tigray, it is well known that over the past months the neighboring regions of Amhara and Afar have been experiencing the overspill effects of internal displacement and a pressing humanitarian situation due to intercommunal conflict. The entire north is subject to a host of crises, including drought, agricultural infestation, and potential for disease outbreak. All of this amid the COVID-19 pandemic, with another wave of confirmed cases hitting the country - a 10% increase compared to the previous reporting period.³ The total confirmed cases⁴ for the three northern regions affected by the humanitarian situation is Tigray (6,662), Amhara (7,364) and Afar (1,948).



4,500,000 people in need in Tigray²



2,300,000 million targeted¹

Access to life-saving health services by the affected-populations remains challenging as the preliminary assessments suggest that 78% of health facilities are non-functional or partially functional, with just 1% of them offering comprehensive Clinical Management of Rape (CMR) services. While accurate data on Tigray is still in process, estimated figures speak that about 5,099 pregnant women will experience complications, along with 6,700 newborns and 782 stillbirths if no access to emergency obstetric care is made available in the next months⁵. Of particular concern are also the reports on widespread gender-based violence, particularly in remote and inaccessible rural areas. Most survivors reported that the attacks were perpetrated by “men in uniform,” and the most vulnerable have been sexually exploited in exchange for basic commodities⁶. Although gender-based violence is largely underreported, at least 22,500 survivors of sexual violence are estimated to seek clinical management of rape services⁷.

UNFPA is scaling up the response with its approach to prevent and respond to gender-based violence, which bridges protection, gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights in Tigray, Afar and Amhara regions. The gender-based violence area of responsibility (GBV AoR) sub-cluster, led by UNFPA, presented for final approval the *Joint Plan on Sexual Violence across the Protection and Health Cluster* to the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) to provide integrated management of medical and mental health and psychosocial care (MH-PSS) for those that seek support for rape. The response is being tailored to address the general interruption of services with the establishment of safe spaces for women and girls (WGSS) and One-Stop Centers (OSC) to provide a holistic response to crisis-affected populations.

² Ethiopia - Tigray Region Humanitarian Update Situation Report (March 13, 2021): <https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/ethiopia>

³ Ethiopian Public Health Service Institute Weekly Bulletin #44 (March 7, 2021): https://www.ephi.gov.et/images/novel_coronavirus/EPHI_PHEOC_COVID-19_Weekly_Bulletin_44_English_03072021.pdf

⁴ United Nations Ethiopia - Covid 19 Update #293 (March 8, 2021).

⁵ Based on Minimum Essential Service Package (MISP) calculator: <https://iawg.net/resources/misp-calculator>

⁶ Ethiopia - Tigray Region Humanitarian Update Situation Report (February 12, 2021): <https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/ethiopia-tigray-region-humanitarian-update-situation-report-12-february-2021>

⁷ Based on Minimum Essential Service Package (MISP) calculator: <https://iawg.net/resources/misp-calculator>

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UNFPA has humanitarian response presence in Addis Ababa, and in Tigray, Amhara and Afar regional offices to oversee activities and response in our thematic areas - SRHR, GBV, MHPSS and PSEA.

UNFPA'S RESPONSE

Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)

Of the people in need⁸:



1,125,000 are women of reproductive age



101,982 are currently pregnant women



11,331 expected births per month



540,000 are adolescent girls (10-19)



450,000 women of reproductive age who use modern contraceptives

- During the reporting period, UNFPA distributed 3 Emergency Reproductive Health kits (serving 150 adults and 30 children per kit) through MSF-Holland Mobile Clinics to IDP sites in Shire.
- UNFPA conducted a field mission in Mekele-Tigray, in collaboration with UN agencies, international and local NGOs, sector bureaus and service delivery points to identify critical gaps to strengthen the SRH and GBV services in the region.
- Ten (10) midwives and a midwife coordinator were trained and deployed through the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) / Amhara Public Health Institute (APHI) / UNFPA partnership to provide SRH and maternal health care to conflict-affected areas of Afar and Amhara regions. Four (4) were deployed to health facilities in North Gondar Zone while two (2) were deployed in health facilities in North Wollo zone in the Amhara Region. The remaining four (4) midwives and their coordinator were deployed to Afar by ERCS.
- Provided technical support to the Regional Health Bureau (RHB) in integrating obstetric and new born care, and GBV services in the costed implementation plan in Afar.
- Participated in the Multi-Agency joint assessment with OCHA, IOM and other UN agencies on the Western Tigray zone that yielded relevant findings about the scope of SRH and GBV needs and services available at health facilities.
- Continued collaboration with IOM on the identification and planning of establishing WGSS's in each of the IDP sites in Tigray.
- International surge SRH Specialist has been deployed to Mekele and is providing technical assistance on SRH programs' implementation and engaging in different sub-national coordination forums.

⁸ Based on Minimum Essential Service Package (MISP) calculator: <https://iawg.net/resources/misp-calculator>

THE EMERGENCY REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH KITS AND DIGNITY KITS DISTRIBUTED TO DATE ARE TO COVER SERVICES FOR AN ESTIMATED:⁹

- 17,469 women and girls received a dignity kit
- 3,600 deliveries at the community level
- 500 adult and 130 child clinical management of rape treatments
- 630 facility-based deliveries
- 585 treatments for management of miscarriage
- 5,625 women seeking oral and injectable contraception for three months
- 540 women seeking IUD placement
- 14 facilities for assisted delivery

Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV)

Of the people targeted:



11,500 estimated people are expected to seek services for SGBV¹⁰

- 7100 Dignity Kits have been prepositioned by the Logistic Cluster to the conflict-affected regions.
- Service request issued to preposition 3,600 Dignity Kits to Afar and 3,500 Dignity Kits to Mekele, Tigray. The dignity kits will be distributed in conflict-bordering districts of Afar and in 6 districts of Tigray (Mekele, Shire, Axum, Adigrat, Adwa and Abi-Adi).
- UNFPA secured \$1.5 million from CERF to implement GBV in emergency program in conflict affected areas in Tigray and Amhara regions.
- Recruitment of human resources (MHPSS and GBV) through the CERF has started to be posted in Tigray and Amhara.
- Reports were generated on the mapping of GBV services and partners in five woredas of North Gondar and Awi zones.
- Interagency Standing Committee (IASC)-GBV case management guidelines for social workers has been translated to Amharic and Afan Oromo languages and provided to GBV partners.

QAJEEFAMA DEGGARSA QINDAA'AA
MIIDHAA KOORNIYAA BU'UREEFFATEE
DHAABBILEE IDIL ADDUNYAAN QOPHAA'E

2017

BAKKA RAKKON NAMOOMAA JIRUTTI
NAMOOTTA MKB'N MUDATEEF KUNUUSAAFI
DEGGARSA QINDAA'AA TAASISUU

- JILDIE TOKKOFFAA

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2017

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⁹ Inter-agency Reproductive Health Kits for Crisis Situations: https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/RH%20kits%20manual_EN_0.pdf

¹⁰ Based on Minimum Essential Service Package (MISP) calculator: <https://iawg.net/resources/misp-calculator>

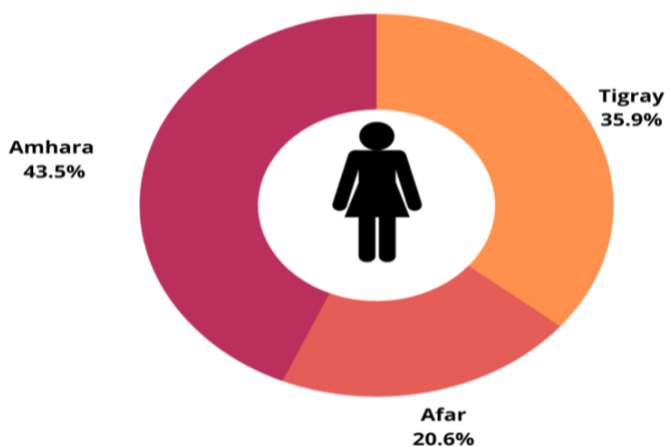
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- The Regional Bureau of Women and Children Affairs supported in adopting GBV incident classification and data collection tools in Afar region.
- SGBV survivors identified and linked to appropriate services, along with the establishment of a GBV focal point at Dubti Hospital-OSC for remote-service provision in Afar region.
- Continued support and follow-up on service provision and expansion of activities at the Safe Space in Mekele, Tigray. Since January 2021 to date, 30 GBV survivors received comprehensive care at the UNFPA's supported OSC. In 2020, a total of 125 GBV survivors were provided with holistic assistance and care.
- Due to the crisis, many organizations are seriously compromised by the violence, looting and significant internal displacement and do not have the capacity to carry out activities as planned prior to the conflict. CERF project's implementation has become a challenge as the previously identified partners has been seriously compromised in the crisis.
- International Surge GBV Specialist has been deployed to Mekele and is providing technical support to the sub-national GBV programme implementation and coordination response in Tigray.

AT A GLANCE

To date:

Dignity Kits distributed per Region



17,469 Dignity Kits distributed to vulnerable women and girls in Tigray, Afar and Amhara regions.

- Tigray - 6,269 DKs
- Afar - 3,600 DKs
- Amhara - 3,600 DKs

Logistics and Distributions



7100 dignity kits transported to conflict-affected regions



3 emergency reproductive health kits distributed

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During the reporting period:

- A control inventory tool in Excel was created and being updated weekly to monitor stock availability in the Adama, Gondar and Kombolcha warehouses.
- A new 1,333 Dignity Kits' shipment arrived at the WFP Adama Warehouse.
- A Surge Logistics Specialist and an Admin Associate confirmed to join the ETH CO - Logistic and Operations Team to support and oversee the distribution of commodities and kits to the beneficiaries.

Coordination and Partnerships

UNFPA as the lead agency for GBV AoR coordination:

- Presented the *Joint Action Plan to address Sexual Violence in Tigray Region* - together with Health Cluster, NFI, Protection Cluster and CP AoR - to the Inter Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG).
- Presented the GBV Pocket Guide to ICCG to promote its usage among GBV partners and other clusters in the emergency response.
- Developed CP/GBV AoR Tigray Response Dashboard.
- Updated the Amhara GBV referral pathway with the latest information of partner's planned and ongoing activities.
- Participated in an introductory meeting with CP AoR's MHPSS Rapid Response Team to discuss MHPSS needs and gaps, particularly in Tigray region, and proposed MHPSS Strategy.

UNFPA is:

- Partnering with the Ethiopia Midwifery Association and Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) to coordinate the deployment of additional midwives to the affected areas.
- Contributing to the Government of Ethiopia recovery planning, overseen by the Ministry of Finance, alongside other Ministry representatives, UN agencies, INGOs, and donors. A mission is being planned to Tigray to assess current status and needs, and to formulate costing and strategy for early recovery.
- Exploring potential IPs for comprehensive SRHiE and GBViE in conflict-affected areas of Tigray.
- Participating and contributing to Protection Sector, Health Sector, Information Management, Child Protection and GBV AoR, Logistic cluster, PSEA-AAP Network and Emergency Coordination Center meetings at national and sub-national levels.

Communications

- Communication team participated on a field mission to Afar region.
- The following story was produced
 - Ensuring safe deliveries in humanitarian settings in Afar region
- Social media posts and special content on the website were produced in commemoration of International Women's Day, 2021.



Kadiga Mohammed receiving antenatal check-up at the Health Center in Afar Region.
Photo by UNFPA Ethiopia.

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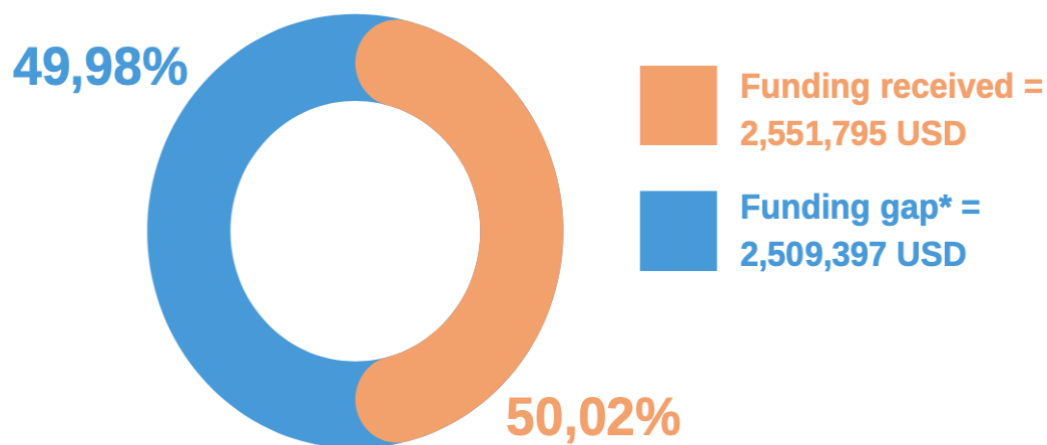
- [Celebrate women leaders on the frontlines of Covid-19 response and beyond](#)
- International Communication Specialist (Surge) deployed to support and strengthen visibility on UNFPA's response to the Tigray's crisis.

UNFPA'S RESPONSE

Resource Mobilization

UNFPA secured 1,500,539 USD in CERF funds to implement the GBV in emergencies program for the conflict affected population in Tigray's crisis.

Funding Required: 5,021,192 USD



*Funding Gap for the initial 6-month UNFPA's Humanitarian Preparedness and Response Plan.

** Note that the required budget is being reviewed based on the increased people in need and assessments on the ground.



Delivering a world where **every pregnancy is wanted,**
every childbirth is safe and every young person's
potential is fulfilled



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