

Ethiopia – Northern Ethiopia Crisis

FEBRUARY 24, 2023

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

7–7.5
MILLION

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

USAID – October 2021

12.1
MILLION

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

UN – July 2022

2.4
MILLION

People Displaced Across Northern Ethiopia

IOM – July 2022

57,406

Refugees From Northern Ethiopia in Eastern Sudan

UNHCR – November 2022

- Humanitarian access to northern Ethiopia’s Afar, Amhara, and Tigray regions continues to improve since the signing of the CoHA in November 2022, enabling relief actors to scale up assistance activities and deliver nearly 153,000 MT of life-saving commodities as of mid-February.
- Widespread acute food insecurity will likely persist in conflict-affected areas of northern Ethiopia through May, with communities in Tigray and Afar’s Zone 4 expected to face Emergency—IPC 4—outcomes, according to FEWS NET.
- The GoE and other stakeholders have sustained efforts to restore services to northern Ethiopia, including commercial flights and banking services.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

USAID/BHA¹

\$230,860,678

For the Northern Ethiopia Crisis Response in FY 2023

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

Total \$230,860,678

¹ USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Increasing Humanitarian Access Across Northern Ethiopia Facilitates Expansion of Assistance

Humanitarian access to conflict-affected areas of northern Ethiopia continues to gradually expand following the signing of the cessation of hostilities agreement (CoHA), allowing relief organizations to expand assistance activities despite the sustained presence of armed elements and resultant insecurity in some areas. Relief actors delivered nearly 153,000 metric tons (MT) of humanitarian cargo—including in-kind food aid, shelter materials, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) supplies—to Tigray between November 15, 2022 and February 14, 2023, according to the Logistics Cluster, the coordinating body for humanitarian logistics activities comprising UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders. During the same period, humanitarian partners also transported more than 1.1 million liters of fuel for humanitarian use into Tigray. The improvements in access and increased availability of supplies enabled relief actors to reach more than 3.8 million people in Tigray with an estimated 67,000 MT of food assistance between mid-November 2022 and January 26, 2023, the UN reports.

Relief actors transported approximately 80 percent of commodities to Tigray via the Semera–Mekele route through Afar, the most accessible humanitarian corridor to Tigray as of mid-February, the UN reports. Difficult terrain and infrastructural damage to a bridge on Tigray’s Tekeze River continue to limit relief actors’ utilization of the Gondar–Shire corridor, while other routes remain partially inaccessible due to persisting geopolitical constraints and insecurity.

Despite overall improvements in access, some areas of northern Ethiopia remain difficult for relief actors to reach, including *woredas*, or districts, along the Eritrea–Ethiopia border and areas of northeastern Amhara. Insecurity—largely related to the continued presence of armed actors—continues to impede humanitarian operations and jeopardize the safety of aid workers and civilians in these areas, according to the UN.

Diminished Livelihoods and Poor Harvests Contribute to Persistent Crisis and Emergency Levels of Acute Food Insecurity Through May

Populations across conflict-affected areas of northern Ethiopia will likely continue facing Crisis—IPC 3—and Emergency levels of acute food insecurity through May due to the compounding effects of conflict and poor harvest outcomes, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) projects.² The past two years of conflict resulted in widespread damage to critical infrastructure, livelihoods, and local markets, exacerbating levels of food insecurity and malnutrition across the region. While increased humanitarian access and assistance may mitigate food consumption deficits, scarce outcomes during the October-to-January *meher* harvest and fragile macroeconomic conditions continue to challenge food-insecure households’ access to food and purchasing power, according to FEWS NET. Moreover, the presence of explosive remnants of war in some areas, including along the Afar–Tigray border, remains a threat to market functioning—by limiting the movement of goods—and safe population movements. As a result, Emergency levels of acute food insecurity will persist throughout communities in Tigray and Afar’s Zone 4 in the coming months, while populations in other areas of Afar and eastern Amhara will likely experience Stressed!—IPC 2!—and Crisis!—IPC 3!—outcomes, FEWS NET reports.

² 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. An “!” indicates that the phase classification would likely be worse without current or planned humanitarian assistance.

Commercial Flights and Other Critical Services Resume in Tigray

The Government of Ethiopia (GoE) and other actors have maintained efforts to restore critical services to northern Ethiopia in accordance with the CoHA. Ethiopian Airlines resumed commercial flights to Tigray’s capital city of Mekele and Shire town on December 28, 2022, and January 2, 2023, respectively, amid improvements in the security situation and increased demand. Meanwhile, commercial banks continue to expand services across the region, including cash deposits and withdrawals. On February 4, the GoE announced plans to transfer more than \$93 million to banking institutions in Tigray to facilitate the restoration of services. The Commercial Bank of Ethiopia—the country’s largest private banking institution—subsequently reported resuming full services at nearly 50 banks in Mekele and surrounding urban areas on February 7. Humanitarian actors anticipate that improved banking services will reduce the region’s overall need for assistance, as increased access to cash will help some community members, including internally displaced persons (IDPs), meet their basic needs.

KEY FIGURES



3.8 Million

People in Tigray reached with emergency food aid between mid-November 2022 and mid-January 2023 with USAID/BHA support



\$4.6 Million

In dedicated USAID/BHA funding for nutrition services during FY 2023 as of mid-February

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

In response to acute food needs across northern Ethiopia, USAID/BHA is supporting the Joint Emergency Operation (JEOP)—a consortium of NGOs led by Catholic Relief Services (CRS)—and the UN World Food Program (WFP) to provide emergency food assistance to vulnerable populations in Afar, Amhara, and Tigray. WFP scaled up its food distributions across the region since the implementation of the CoHA, reaching nearly 570,000 people in Afar; an estimated 664,000 people in Amhara; and more than 535,000 people in Tigray with in-kind food assistance between December 2022 and early February 2023. Meanwhile, the CRS-led JEOP provided an estimated 51,000 MT of food to more than 3 million people in Tigray during its second round of distribution between early October 2022 and February 8, 2023.

NUTRITION

With approximately \$4.6 million in FY 2023 funding, USAID/BHA continues to support 13 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. The UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and other USAID/BHA partners are also working to strengthen fixed-location health facilities and support mobile health and nutrition teams (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 providing specialized treatment for malnutrition in children ages five years and younger, while USAID/BHA partner WFP provided targeted supplementary feeding assistance to more than 155,000 children and pregnant and lactating women across the two regions during January and February. U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) also supports partners

providing nutrition services to refugees in Afar and Amhara.



810,000

IDPs in Afar, Amhara, and Tigray reached with medical consultations since November 2020

HEALTH

The USG supports 14 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. USAID/BHA partner International Medical Corps (IMC) has provided outpatient consultation to nearly 810,000 IDPs across 26 IDP sites in Afar, Amhara, and Tigray through the operation of 22 MHNTs from the beginning of the response in November 2020 to mid-February 2023. With support from State/PRM, an implementing partner has 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.



16

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 16 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 at the Alemwach refugee site.



\$4.2 Million

In dedicated USAID/BHA funding for shelter and settlements support during FY 2023 as of mid-February

SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

With \$4.2 million in FY 2023 funding, USAID/BHA continues to support crisis-affected populations with emergency shelter assistance in Afar, Amhara, and Tigray through nine implementing partners. With USAID/BHA funding, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) provided relief commodities to more than 33,000 individuals who had recently returned to their area of origin in Amhara during October. 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.



101,000

People provided with essential WASH supplies during October

WASH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM are supporting 17 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 WASH commodities, such as hygiene products and water cans, to more than 101,000 people in Afar, Amhara, and Tigray during October. Moreover, UNICEF provided water trucking services to an estimated 190,000 conflict-affected people in the three regions throughout the same period.



153,000 MT

Of humanitarian cargo transported to Tigray between mid-November 2022 and mid-February 2023

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 transportation and storage of life-saving commodities—to the humanitarian community through the Logistics Cluster. Between the signing of the CoHA in November 2022 and mid-February 2023, the Logistics Cluster supported the transportation of nearly 153,000 MT of essential humanitarian cargo and more than 1.1 million liters of fuel for humanitarian use to Tigray.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Following weeks of escalating tensions between regional and federal authorities, clashes erupted between the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) and the Ethiopian National Defense Force (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. 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 Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to lead USG 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.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE NORTHERN ETHIOPIA CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2023¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
Center for Victims of Torture (CVT)	Protection	Tigray	\$1,600,000
Concern Worldwide	Health, Nutrition	Amhara, Tigray	\$1,400,000
CRS	Food Assistance—U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$200,009,764
	Shelters and Settlements, WASH	Afar	\$2,500,000
GOAL	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$2,000,000
IMC	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Amhara, Tigray	\$3,000,000
iMMAP	HCIMA	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$750,000
IOM	Shelters and Settlements	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$3,000,000
Medical Teams International (MTI)	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Afar	\$2,000,000
Samaritan’s Purse	Health, Nutrition, Protection, Shelters and Settlements, WASH	Amhara, Tigray	\$3,000,000
UNICEF	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$7,300,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA)	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$1,000,000
UN World Health Organization (WHO)	HCIMA, Health	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$800,000
World Vision	Health, Nutrition, WASH	Afar, Amhara	\$2,000,000
	Program Support		\$500,914
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE NORTHERN ETHIOPIA RESPONSE IN FY 2023²			\$230,860,678

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

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

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 2021	\$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 FYs 2020-2023^{5,6}	\$1,681,482,003
---	------------------------

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of February 24, 2023.

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 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 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 USG funding for FYs 2020-2022 to nearly \$1.5 billion. 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)

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.