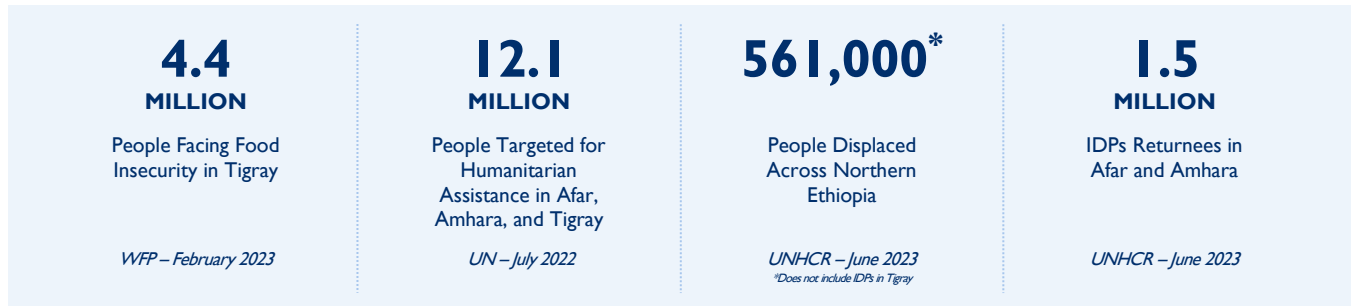


Ethiopia – Northern Ethiopia Crisis

JULY 28, 2023

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- The identification of widespread diversion of food assistance in Ethiopia prompted a countrywide pause of USG-funded food assistance—expanding an ongoing pause of USG food assistance in northern Ethiopia’s Tigray Region.
- Continuing cholera, dengue, and measles outbreaks adversely affect at-risk populations across northern Ethiopia, exacerbating health needs.
- Food insecurity remains a significant concern in Tigray as the lean season between June and September may increase food consumption gaps.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING		USAID/BHA ¹	\$230,860,678
For the Northern Ethiopia Crisis Response in FY 2023		State/PRM ²	\$26,500,000
		Total	\$257,360,678

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

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

² U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Identification of Widespread Food Diversion Prompts Countrywide Expansion of USG Food Assistance Pause

The U.S. Government (USG), in cooperation with implementing partners, enacted a countrywide pause in USG-funded food assistance on June 7—expanding the ongoing pause in northern Ethiopia’s Tigray Region—following findings of widespread food aid diversion throughout Ethiopia. The USG had previously paused in-kind food assistance in Tigray after USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) confirmed the diversion of USAID-funded wheat commodities in the region in late March and early April. The diversion of life-saving food assistance in Ethiopia threatens at-risk populations amid high levels of food insecurity following years of conflict and climatic shocks. USAID/BHA continues to support the provision of non-food assistance to populations in need across northern Ethiopia’s Afar, Amhara, and Tigray regions amid an ongoing USAID Office of the Inspector General investigation of the allegations.

In efforts to resume USG-funded food assistance in Ethiopia, USG and Government of Ethiopia (GoE) officials continue to discuss reforms to Ethiopia’s food assistance system to ensure that aid reaches intended beneficiaries across the country. USG and GoE officials, in coordination with humanitarian partners, have made steps towards strengthening risk management measures—including the increased use of third-party monitoring—and hope to resume USG-funded food assistance as soon as possible.

Cholera, Dengue, and Measles Outbreaks in Northern Ethiopia

UN health partners reported approximately 2,200 suspected cholera cases in nine zones in Amhara as of July 21. The cholera outbreak may have originated from the Bermil Saint George holy water site in Amhara’s West Gondar Zone, where on average 10,000 to 15,000 people visit per week, potentially enabling rapid spread, the UN reports. In addition, populations in Amhara remain at elevated risk of cholera due to a large influx of refugees and returnees from Sudan and internally displaced persons (IDPs) from other parts of Ethiopia living in crowded IDP sites with limited water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities. In response to rising cholera cases, humanitarian actors, including USAID/BHA partners, continue to engage with development partners to improve water supply systems, particularly in *woredas*, or districts, where populations rely on untreated river or pond water, according to the UN.

Additionally, a measles outbreak continues to affect vulnerable populations in Amhara, with health actors reporting at least 460 new cases during the week of June 19, bringing the total number of measles cases in the region to nearly 4,600 since January, according to the GoE Ministry of Health and the UN. In addition, health actors reported active outbreaks—defined as three or more measles cases reported within one month—in four additional *woredas* in Amhara during the same period. IDP populations in Amhara remain at particularly high risk of contracting measles due to crowded living conditions, with health actors recording 165 measles cases in Woinshet and China IDP camps in Amhara’s Debre Berhan *Woreda* as of June 29, the UN reports. UN actors completed a measles vaccination campaign from June 24 to 29 in six IDP camps in Debre Berhan to protect at-risk IDP populations. Additionally, USAID/BHA partner the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) had provided 56,000 mothers and caregivers with vaccination information as of late May.

In Afar, a dengue fever outbreak remains active with more than 6,000 suspected cases recorded since the start of the outbreak on April 4, according to the UN. Health actors in Afar’s Logia and Mile towns have reported nine deaths associated with the dengue outbreak between April 4 and May 9, according to

the UN World Health Organization (WHO). Regional health officials in Afar—in collaboration with humanitarian health partners—are coordinating dengue response activities, including case management and training for health workers, WHO reports.

Food Insecurity Persists During Lean Season in Tigray

The prevalence of acute food insecurity in Tigray is expected to worsen through September, with some populations likely to face Emergency—IPC 4—conditions, according to USAID analysis.³ Many food-insecure families in areas of eastern Tigray were already facing reduced purchasing power and resorting to negative coping strategies—such as begging or consuming atypical wild foods—as of May. The upcoming peak of the lean season, which occurs during Tigray’s June-to-September rainy season, may exacerbate food consumption gaps and worsen households’ ability to meet their food needs. Moreover, the high likelihood of El Niño climate conditions and resultant low rainfall between June and September may contribute to a third consecutive poor harvest season in Tigray, further impeding households’ ability to rebuild economic assets and improve coping capacity post-conflict. Furthermore, the Government of the Russian Federation (GoRF) suspended its participation in the Black Sea Grain Initiative (BSGI) on July 17. The BSGI—an agreement launched by the GoRF, the Government of Ukraine, the Government of Türkiye, and the UN in July 2022—facilitated the safe export of agricultural goods from Ukraine’s ports on the Black Sea to world markets and countries facing food insecurity, including Ethiopia.

Heavy Rains Threaten Increased Displacement in Afar and Amhara

Heavy rainfall and subsequent flooding in Afar during the July-to-September rainy season has negatively affected more than 300,000 people across the region, the UN reports. As of early July, flooding had hindered the operations of dozens of health facilities and schools, as well as more than 20 water sources in the region, limiting the ability of communities to access education, primary healthcare, and safe drinking water, the UN reports. Additionally, flooding likely exacerbated the spread of ongoing communicable disease outbreaks in the region, including cholera, dengue fever, and measles, the UN reports. Approximately 487,000 people in Amhara continued to reside in areas at risk of flooding as of July 11, with approximately 29,000 people likely to be displaced during the June-to-September rainy season, according to the UN. To meet the elevated needs of host communities and tens of thousands of IDPs in Afar and Amhara, humanitarian actors delivered emergency shelter and WASH support, including through water trucking and the provision of emergency relief items as of June 29. Additionally, the 2023 UN Joint Government and Humanitarian Partners Flood Contingency Plan for the July-to-September rainy season aims to guide humanitarian preparedness, including through the prepositioning of emergency relief commodities and mitigation efforts for the protection of and response to increased displacement during the upcoming rainy season across flood-prone areas in Afar, Amhara, Tigray, and other regions in Ethiopia.

³ 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.

KEY FIGURES



\$4.6 Million

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



810,000

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



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

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

NUTRITION

With approximately \$4.6 million in FY 2023 funding, 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 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 non-governmental organization (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 17 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 March, USAID/BHA partner International Medical Corps (IMC) provided more than 13,000 outpatient consultations across Amhara and Tigray and offered education on the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) to more than 35,000 people. With State/PRM support, 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.

PROTECTION

In response to protection needs resulting from the crisis in northern Ethiopia, the USG supports 15 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 23 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 seven implementing partners. With USAID/BHA funding, the International Organization for Migration (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.



98,000

People in Tigray reached with safe drinking water during May

WASH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM are supporting 19 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 drinking water through water trucking services to more than 98,000 people in Tigray during May alone.



228,000 MT

Of humanitarian cargo transported to Tigray between mid-November 2022 and April 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 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. Between November 2022 and early April 2023, the Logistics Cluster supported the transportation of more than 228,000 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 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 Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (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	Protection	Tigray	\$1,600,000
Concern	Health, Nutrition	Amhara, Tigray	\$1,400,000
Catholic Relief Services (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	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (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)	HCIMA	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$1,000,000
WHO	HCIMA, Health	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$800,000
World Vision	Health, Nutrition, WASH	Afar, Amhara	\$2,000,000
	Program Support		\$500,914
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$230,860,678
STATE/PRM			
Implementing Partner	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$26,500,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$26,500,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE NORTHERN ETHIOPIA RESPONSE IN FY 2023²			\$257,360,678

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 5}			\$106,525,908

TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE NORTHERN ETHIOPIA RESPONSE IN FYs 2020–2023⁶			\$1,684,182,003
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¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of July 28, 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 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.

⁶ In FY 2022, State/PRM provided \$116,400,000 toward the northern Ethiopia response in the Horn of Africa region, bringing the total State/PRM funding for FY 2021-FY 2023 to nearly \$200 million. A portion of this funding is also reported in the USG Sudan and USG Horn of Africa fact sheets.

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)