

22 million USD

Requested in Ethiopia under IOM Flash appeal for the Northern Ethiopia Crisis

7 million USD

Appealed by IOM in Sudan under the Inter-Agency Refugee Emergency Response Plan

50,158 individuals

have fled Northern Ethiopia and entered to Sudan through Gedaref and Blue Nile states as of 13 December 2020.



IDPs wait at the hand washing station before an IOM NFI distribution in Gondar, Ethiopia © IOM 2020

SITUATION OVERVIEW

After conflict broke out in Ethiopia's Tigray Regional State between the Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF) and forces linked to the Tigray Regional Security Forces (TRSF) on 4 November 2020, fighting escalated throughout Tigray and beyond, with reports of fire in neighboring Asmara Regional State and into Eritrea. This conflict, coupled with pre-existing humanitarian needs and the COVID-19 pandemic context in northern Ethiopia, has created a concerning, volatile humanitarian situation, as numerous civilians have been displaced within Tigray, into other Ethiopian Regional States, and into neighboring states of Sudan. Limited humanitarian access and telecommunications blackouts have hampered humanitarian response and comprehensive needs assessments, but preliminary reports show that the situation is extremely concerning for displaced populations in Tigray. There is some cause for optimism, as telecommunications and electricity networks are being restored and airspace is slowly opening up.

In Ethiopia, reports indicate a lack of basic supplies, infrastructure, and services, including drinking water, food, fuel, and medical services. In addition, telecommunications and banking restrictions have hindered markets and heightened prices of essential goods. This situation has heightened vulnerabilities among populations within Tigray who have not received humanitarian assistance since the conflict broke out. Populations are also fleeing into neighboring Afar and Amhara

Regional States and although precise figures are unavailable, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reports that nearly 64,000 people have been registered as internally displaced as of 15 December 2020. Many are taking shelter with host community relatives, creating additional pressure on limited resources.

In Sudan, 50,158 individuals have fled Tigray and entered the Sudanese states of Kassala, Gedaref, and Blue Nile as of 13 December, according to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR). About 45 per cent of these refugees are children under the age of 18 and 43 percent overall are women. The largest camp, Um Rakuba, is reaching capacity, even as Ethiopians fleeing the conflict continue to arrive daily. High needs exist in the areas of food and nutrition, water, and health and sanitation services. Transmission of COVID-19 and other diseases is also a significant concern.

IOM is present in northern Ethiopia and eastern Sudan, and has been collaborating with other UN agencies on preparedness, initial response, and coordination activities, including through the Inter-Agency Refugee Emergency Response Plan for Ethiopian refugees in Sudan. IOM Ethiopia has also released a [Flash Appeal for the Northern Ethiopia Crisis](#), appealing for USD 22 million for the period of November 2020 - January 2021 in line with the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group's Humanitarian Preparedness Plan.

CONTACTS

IOM RESPONSE



SITE MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

IOM Ethiopia is supporting the Site Management Support (SMS) working group and the Government of Ethiopia's National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) to assess existing displacement sites and potential sites for relocation in Afar and Amhara, with technical assistance for site planning and to relocate internally displaced persons (IDPs) currently housed in crowded sites with limited access to services, with service mapping and the identification of community leader representatives in all accessible displacement sites, and by ordering emergency response materials for future site improvements in collective centers.



NFI kits ready for distribution to IDPs in Gondar, Ethiopia © IOM 2020



HEALTH

In Ethiopia, IOM is in the process of setting up a mobile clinic for IDPs in Debak, which will be staffed by IOM personnel and a Government designated health worker. IOM is also participating in coordination meetings to identify affected populations' health needs and gaps in existing medical supplies and services in northern Ethiopia.

As a part of its hygiene awareness promotion in Um Rakuba, IOM Sudan is mainstreaming COVID-19 awareness messaging into its sessions and implementing these activities in line with COVID-19 rules and regulations. The mission is also participating in health sector coordination meetings.



WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH)

In Ethiopia, IOM and the municipal water utility office have implemented 8m³ water trucking to provide water access to IDPs in the Kebero Meda site in Gondar, beginning on 14 December. This activity will continue until the site's connection to the main water supply network is operationalized.

In Sudan, IOM is constructing latrines and a water pipeline in Um Rakuba Camp to meet refugees' WASH needs. Latrine pit excavation has been completed and slab and superstructure

installation will take place soon. IOM and partners are incorporating gender-sensitive safety considerations into latrine design and location planning. The construction and installation of the water pipeline and water distribution points in the camp are ongoing.

IOM Sudan is also mobilizing 40 volunteers from the refugee community to be trained as hygiene promoters. These volunteers will hold hygiene awareness sessions and contribute to improving hygiene and sanitation practices and mitigate the risk of disease transmission.



SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

IOM Ethiopia has 500 emergency shelter (ES)/NFI kits prepositioned in Gondar in IOM's new 800m² warehouse to address the needs of conflict affected populations in northern Ethiopia. In addition, IOM, with support from the Ethiopian Red Cross Society, distributed 167 ES/NFI kits to IDPs in Loza Kebero Meda IDP site in Gondar on 15 December.



DISPLACEMENT TRACKING

IOM Ethiopia's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) team has been collecting monthly data on the situation in northern Ethiopia through the Emergency Site Assessment (ESA) tool, with a first round of data collection completed on 14 December. In addition, DTM has been using its Event Tracking Tool (ETT) to remotely collect data through key informants about displaced populations and displacement events and sites. The ETT has been a key source of data given current humanitarian access restrictions and IOM is actively scaling up its ETT network to continue to provide accurate displacement information to inform humanitarian response in northern Ethiopia.



PROTECTION

IOM Sudan is currently upgrading the Migrant Resource Center (MRC) in Gedaref to expand protection and other services available to Ethiopian refugees in the state.



A volunteer engaged by IOM assists with NFI distribution in Gondar, Ethiopia © IOM 2020