

**22 million USD**

requested in Ethiopia under IOM Ethiopia's Flash Appeal for the Northern Ethiopia Crisis

**10.8 million USD**

requested in Sudan under IOM Sudan's Flash Appeal for the Northern Ethiopia Crisis

**58,045 individuals**

have fled northern Ethiopia and entered eastern Sudan as of 13 January 2021



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.

Telecommunications, electricity, airspace, and services have slowly been opening up since the Government of Ethiopia declared the end of military operations on 28 November 2020. The situation is gradually improving in the city of Mekelle, where electricity, phone, and some services are partially restored. Banks have begun to reopen, although with long lines and withdrawal restrictions. Shortages of fuel, food, and other key goods continue, along with inflated market prices due to limited and slow resupply. In addition, insecurity concerns continue in Tigray and humanitarian access to the region remains constrained, particularly in and around the city of Shire. As a result, although some humanitarian operations have begun, a comprehensive response in the region has not yet been possible.

Displaced populations continue to arrive in Amhara and Afar from Tigray, although arrival rates have slowed since the beginning of the conflict. Nonetheless, IDP sites are becoming overcrowded and sporadic population movements across regional borders are expected to continue.

In Sudan, 58,045 individuals have fled Tigray and entered the Sudanese states of Kassala, Gedaref, and Blue Nile as of 13 January 2021, according to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR). About 31 per cent of these refugees are children under the age of 18 and 43 percent overall are women. The largest camp, Um Rakouba, has reached capacity and a second camp, Tunaydbah, was opened on 31 December 2020, as Ethiopians fleeing the conflict continue to arrive in Sudan daily.

IOM is present in northern Ethiopia and eastern Sudan, and has been collaborating with other UN agencies and partners on preparedness, initial response, and coordination activities. IOM Ethiopia has released a [Flash Appeal for the Northern Ethiopia Crisis](#), appealing for USD 22 million for November 2020 - January 2021 in line with the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group's Humanitarian Preparedness Plan, and IOM Sudan has released a [Flash Appeal for the Northern Ethiopia Crisis](#) appealing for USD 10.8 million for November 2020 - April 2021 in line with the Inter-Agency Refugee Emergency Response Plan for Ethiopian refugees in Sudan.

## CONTACTS

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## IOM RESPONSE



## CAMP COORDINATION &amp; CAMP MANAGEMENT

IOM Ethiopia conducted service monitoring in both Loza Kebero Meda and Dabat/Golmasa sites to assess resident populations' needs and is supporting site rehabilitation and community service delivery in both locations. IOM also participates in site management coordination meetings and will soon roll out a survey to inform site decongestion and durable solutions planning, as well as a site management training for government partners.



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



## HEALTH

In Ethiopia, IOM mobile health and nutrition teams conducted 257 medical consultations and carried out 59 nutrition screenings for children aged 6-59 months in Loza Kebero Meda and Dabat/Golmasa IDP sites. In addition, IOM reached 382 people from both sites with health promotion activities focused on COVID-19, environmental and personal hygiene, and communicable disease. IOM also constructed a temporary health clinic for the Dabat/Golmasa site.

As a part of its hygiene promotion activities in Um Rakouba camp, IOM Sudan is mainstreaming COVID-19 awareness messaging into its sessions and implementing them in line with COVID-19 regulations. The mission also supported two health centers in the camp with the construction of 12 latrines and connection to the camp's water network.



## WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH)

In Ethiopia, IOM is responding to displaced populations' WASH needs through the construction of latrines, showers, water taps, and handwashing facilities in Loza Kebero Meda and Dabat/Golmasa IDP sites. In collaboration with local authorities, IOM is also ensuring water access in both sites through trucking and extending the existing water supply networks.

In Sudan, IOM is constructing latrines and water infrastructure in Um Rakouba Camp. To date, IOM has constructed 162 household latrines, 104 bathing facilities, and four emergency

water supply points. A 1600m<sup>2</sup> water supply network and 12 tap stands have been completed and IOM is working to install a 50m<sup>3</sup> water storage tank.

IOM Sudan has also mobilized and trained 40 volunteers from the refugee community as hygiene promoters, who began holding daily awareness sessions to contribute to improving hygiene and sanitation practices, including on menstrual hygiene, and to mitigate the risk of disease transmission. 40 additional hygiene promoters have been selected and are currently being trained.



## SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

IOM Ethiopia has 1500 emergency shelter (ES)/NFI kits prepositioned in Gondar in IOM's new 800m<sup>2</sup> warehouse to address the needs of conflict affected populations in northern Ethiopia. In addition, IOM and partners distributed NFIs to 325 most vulnerable IDP households in Loza Kebero Meda site in Gondar on 28 December 2020.



## DISPLACEMENT TRACKING

IOM Ethiopia's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) team has been collecting data on the situation in northern Ethiopia through the Emergency Site Assessment (ESA) tool, with two rounds of data collection complete and their publication forthcoming. DTM has also been using its Event Tracking Tool (ETT) to remotely collect data on displaced populations and displacement events and sites through key informants, a key data source to inform humanitarian response given the limited access in Tigray.



## PROTECTION

IOM Sudan is currently upgrading its Migrant Resource Center (MRC) in Gedaref to expand protection and other services available to refugees. IOM also participated in an inter-agency data collection exercise on 9-10 January 2021 to assess refugees' needs in terms of appropriate communications channels in the camps and will soon roll out both counter-trafficking and smuggling awareness-raising activities and mental health and psychosocial support and referrals in Um Rakouba Camp for refugee youth and host community members.



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