

22 million USD

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

7 million USD

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

56,548 individuals

have fled northern Ethiopia and entered eastern Sudan as of 6 January 2021



An IOM staff member conducts a medical consultation in Loza Kebero Meda IDP site, 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 Mekelle, where electricity, phone, and some services are partially restored. The Commercial Bank of Ethiopia has opened a few branches, although with long queues and withdrawal restrictions. Shortages of fuel, food, and other key goods remain, 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 Shire. As a result, although some humanitarian operations have begun, a comprehensive response has not yet been possible.

According to IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), 222,413 internally displaced persons (IDPs) have been recorded in Tigray as of 6 January 2021. IDPs also continue to arrive in North Amhara, but at lower rates than at the beginning of the conflict. Nonetheless, IDP sites are becoming overcrowded and sporadic population movements across regional borders are expected to continue.

In Sudan, 56,548 individuals have fled Tigray and entered the Sudanese states of Kassala, Gedaref, and Blue Nile as of 6 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 Rakuba, 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 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.

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IOM RESPONSE



CAMP COORDINATION & CAMP MANAGEMENT

IOM Ethiopia established complaints and feedback mechanisms (CFMs) and set up women's and youth committees in Loza Kebero Meda IDP site. IOM also 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 staff test the water supply points in Um Rakuba Camp, Sudan
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HEALTH

In Ethiopia, IOM conducted 187 medical consultations in Loza Kebero Meda and Dabat/Golmasa IDP sites, and carried out 60 nutrition screenings for children aged 6-59 months. In addition, IOM reached 295 people from both sites with health promotion activities focused on COVID-19, environmental and personal hygiene, and communicable disease. IOM is also supporting the construction of a new mobile health clinic for both sites.

As a part of its hygiene promotion activities in Um Rakuba 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 access to water in both sites through trucking and extending the existing water supply networks.

In Sudan, IOM is constructing latrines and a water supply network in Um Rakuba Camp to meet refugees' and host communities' WASH needs. To date, IOM has constructed 110 household latrines, 73 bathing facilities, and four emergency water supply

points. The entire 1600m² water supply network and 12 tap stands will be completed in the coming weeks.

IOM Sudan has also mobilized and trained 40 volunteers from the refugee community as hygiene promoters. These volunteers will hold daily hygiene awareness sessions to contribute to improving hygiene and sanitation practices and to mitigate the risk of disease transmission. 40 additional hygiene promoters are currently under selection.



SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

IOM Ethiopia has 1500 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 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 a first round of data collection completed on 14 December 2020 and the results to be published shortly. The second round of ESA data collection is planned for 4-14 January 2021. DTM has also been using its Event Tracking Tool (ETT) to remotely collect data about displaced populations and displacement events and sites through key informants, a key source of data given the limited humanitarian access in Tigray. IOM is actively scaling up its ETT network to continue providing 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. 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.



IOM distributes NFIs in Loza Kebero Meda IDP site, Ethiopia
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