

**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

**60,595 individuals**

have fled northern Ethiopia and entered eastern Sudan as of 1 February 2021



The newly completed, IOM-constructed water supply system in Um Rakuba Camp, Sudan © IOM 2021

## 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. This conflict, coupled with pre-existing humanitarian needs and the COVID-19 pandemic context in northern Ethiopia, has created a concerning, volatile humanitarian situation, and has displaced numerous civilians.

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, such as banks, are partially restored. 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 throughout Tigray and humanitarian access to the region remains constrained. 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, 60,595 individuals have fled Tigray and entered the Sudanese states of Kassala, Gedaref, and Blue Nile as of 1 February 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 with about 23,263 residents and the newest camp, Tunaydbah, currently hosts about 13,371 individuals. In January 2021, the average number of daily arrivals in Sudan was 174 individuals, representing a decrease in arrivals since early November 2020. While the inter-agency response is providing housing and other services to refugees in camps, transit centers, and in host communities, protection concerns remain over those living in open areas, particularly along the Ethiopia-Sudan border.

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.

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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, implementing complaints and feedback mechanisms, and ensuring fire safety in both locations. IOM also participates in site management coordination meetings and is supporting decongestion and durable solutions planning for the two sites.



IOM constructs a shelter in Kebero Meda IDP site, Ethiopia © IOM 2021



## HEALTH

In Ethiopia, IOM mobile health and nutrition teams conducted 464 medical consultations and carried out 176 nutrition screenings for children aged 6-59 months in Kebero Meda and Dabat/Golmasa IDP sites. In addition, IOM reached 685 people from both sites with health promotion activities focused on COVID-19, environmental and personal hygiene, and communicable disease.

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 is also supporting two health centers by constructing 12 latrines and connection the centers 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 extending the existing water supply networks and trucking, with 48,000 liters provided to Kebero Meda and 200,000 liters provided to Dabat site between 26 January and 1 February 2021 alone.

In Sudan, IOM is constructing latrines and water infrastructure in Um Rakouba Camp. To date, IOM has constructed 270

household latrines, 170 showers, and six emergency water supply points. IOM also recently completed the construction of a 1600m<sup>2</sup> water supply network, which will soon be operational.

IOM Sudan has also mobilized and trained 40 volunteers from the refugee community as hygiene promoters. The promoters' daily awareness sessions on improving hygiene and sanitation practices, including on menstrual hygiene, and mitigating the risk of disease transmission reached about 1,831 households between 14-31 January 2021.



## SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

IOM Ethiopia has 1,500 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. As of 1 February 2021, IOM has distributed a total of 480 NFI kits in Kebero Meda IDP site. IOM has also constructed 24 blocks of communal shelters and 8 blocks of communal kitchens across Kebero Meda and Dabat/Golmasa sites.



## 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 a third in progress. DTM has also been measuring movements at the Metema Flow Monitoring Point, and observed 5,586 inflows to Amhara Regional State between October and December 2020.



## PROTECTION

IOM Sudan is currently upgrading its Migrant Resource Center (MRC) in Gedaref to expand protection and other services available to refugees. IOM is also rolling out counter-trafficking and smuggling awareness-raising activities for refugee youth and the host community, as well as mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and referrals for refugees in Um Rakuba Camp. The mission has set up a temporary MHPSS clinic and provided training to a psychologist from the refugee community and two psychologists from the Gedaref Trauma Centre.



A focus group discussion with IDPs in Gondar, Ethiopia © IOM 2021