



Overview

The ongoing conflict in Tigray has led to a humanitarian crisis characterized by alarmingly high levels of food insecurity, gender-based violence, widespread displacement, limited access to services, and the destruction of the local economy.

As of June 2021, conflict and insecurity have displaced almost 2 million people across Tigray and into neighbouring regions. Consequently, more than 5.5 million people in northern Ethiopia require emergency assistance, representing nearly 61 percent of the analyzed population; of whom 2 million require urgent livelihood assistance.

The conflict commenced at the peak of the main agricultural season (*Meher*) harvest period when many households had not yet harvested their crops. It is estimated over 90 percent of the crop harvest was lost (looted, burned and/or destroyed) and 15 percent of the region's 17 million livestock were reported looted or slaughtered.

Given that the majority of households depend on subsistence agriculture, the loss of their harvest and production inputs has severely impacted their food security and nutrition.



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Northern Ethiopia

Tigray, Afar, Amhara

Urgent call for assistance



to assist

1.4 million people



FAO requires

USD 30 million



period

June–December 2021

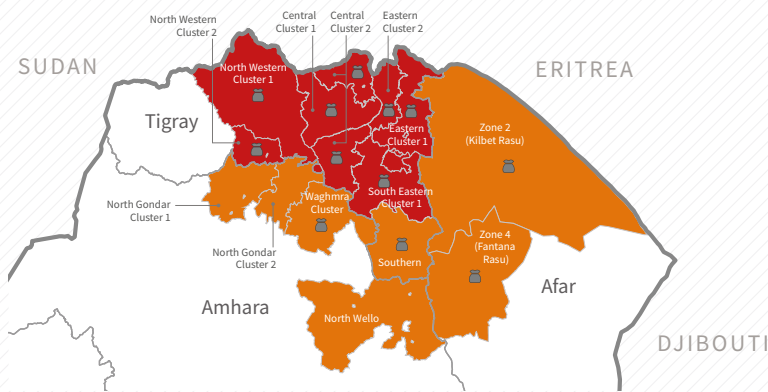
Northern Ethiopia is experiencing a devastating food crisis, recording the highest number of people in Catastrophe level of acute food insecurity in the last decade. A worsening crisis can be prevented if action is taken now at scale to provide vulnerable communities with urgent livelihood assistance.



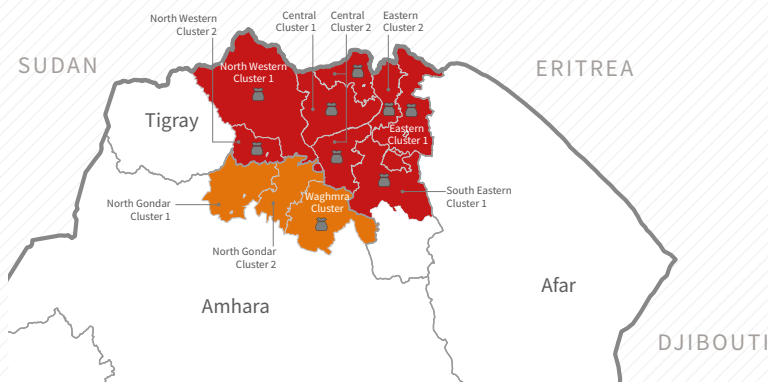
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Current and projected acute food insecurity situation

Current (May–June 2021)



Projected (July–September 2021)



Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)



Source: IPC. 2021. *Ethiopia: Acute food insecurity analysis, May–June 2021*. [online]. Rome, Italy. [Cited 10 June 2021]. <http://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1154897/?iso3=ETH>

Impact of conflict on food security and agriculture

Since the eruption of the conflict in early November 2020, the food security situation in northern Ethiopia has deteriorated. In Amhara, 41 percent of the analyzed population is facing crisis or worse levels of food insecurity, 60 percent in Afar and 70 percent in Tigray, according to the latest IPC analysis. With 6 percent of Tigray's population in Catastrophe, 353 000 people, the repercussions of not acting now will be dire.

Prior to the conflict, the Tigray food system (from production to consumption) fed and supported the livelihoods of the majority of the region's population. Although households were repeatedly exposed to multiple shocks, such as drought, desert locusts and the recent COVID-19 pandemic, most in Tigray were able to cope, as demonstrated by various food security assessments.

Situation analysis



5.5 million people in high acute food insecurity, of whom **353 000** people in Phase 5 in Tigray (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification [IPC], June 2021)



1.7 million internally displaced people



Over **80%** of the population in Tigray rely on agriculture for their food and income

Insecurity has caused the large scale displacement of people across northern Ethiopia. Most households have migrated from rural areas, abandoning their livelihoods and assets, to urban areas where they are more likely to access humanitarian assistance and functional markets.

The conflict has also contributed to **food shortages** by disrupting markets and has limited labour opportunities. As at May 2021, 40 to 70 percent of households have no food stocks to go beyond one month, due to the missed harvest and the looting and destruction of food stocks. Meanwhile, price hikes and other macroeconomic factors, such as the devaluation of currency, exacerbate the prevailing challenges households face in accessing food and further limit their purchasing power.

The majority of **services linked to agriculture and livestock** are also no longer functioning reducing households' production capacities. Furthermore, agricultural inputs (seed, tools, equipment, fertilizers and livestock feed and veterinary drugs) are not available due to market disruptions. Farmers risk not being able to plant if they are not supported, which would lead to more catastrophic food insecurity levels.

The destruction of most of the region's veterinary clinics (158 of 198) has led to adverse implications on the animal health delivery system. Consequently, diseases outbreaks were reported. There is an urgent need to respond in order to avoid losing more livestock, key sources of milk and other animal products, in the coming months.

The situation demands immediate efforts to save the lives and livelihoods of vulnerable communities and to rapidly increase the production, access to and availability of food.

Without urgent humanitarian action, the already high number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3+) in Tigray will further increase by September 2021.





Ongoing response

FAO has reprogrammed **USD 2 million** to:

- Provide 250 000 people with crop and vegetable seeds (wheat, teff, chickpea, onion and tomato), of whom 20 000 have been reached so far.
- Carry out the treatment and vaccination of 2.4 million small ruminants and 1.2 million cattle.

Planned response



Restore the capacities of 375 000 people to produce, access and consume diversified nutritious food

unconditional cash | provision of cereals, legumes and vegetable seeds | training, extension and advisory services



Protect and safeguard the livestock assets of 1.25 million people

livestock treatment and vaccination | animal feed for core breeding animals | training, extension and advisory services



Food security analysis, coordination and information management

Conduct integrated agricultural livelihoods, food security and nutrition situation assessments | harmonize planning and implementation | enhance capacity of partners in the food security sector (accountability to affected populations, gender-based violence)

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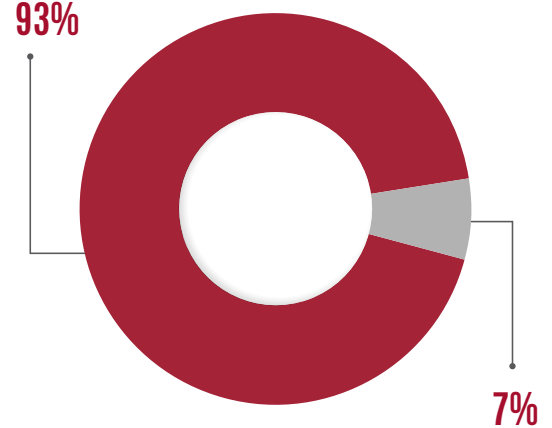
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Funding

FUNDING GAP

USD 28 million

93%



7%

FUNDING TO-DATE

USD 2 million

(reprogrammed funds)

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