



In numbers



4.4 million people in high acute food insecurity, of whom 401 000 in catastrophe (Phase 5) in Tigray (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, September 2021)*

*These are the latest IPC figures available



+4.2 million internally displaced people (IDPs) (1.8 million in Tigray, 2.1 million in Amhara and 334 264 in Afar)



80% of the population depend on agriculture for their food and income



USD 45 million preliminarily required by FAO for 2022 response

- The escalation of conflict in Tigray, Afar and Amhara is occurring, once again as in 2020, at the peak of the main agricultural season (*Meher*) harvest period. This is hindering harvesting in some areas and therefore further compromising an already fragile food security situation.
- Amid the conflict and new displacements, agriculture is still the main source of livelihoods. The scaling up of agricultural emergency response is impeded by a combination of constraints, including significant funding shortfalls. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' (FAO) Northern Ethiopia appeal (June to December 2021 – USD 30 million) is only 49 percent funded.
- The lack of information on the food security situation in the conflict-affected regions of Tigray, Amhara and Afar is a cause of major concern as a significant amount of people are still facing high levels of acute food insecurity.



Challenges facing food security and agriculture

The agriculture sector has been severely affected by the conflict, leaving many people with limited sources of food and livelihood opportunities.

The *Meher* harvesting is ongoing, with farmers in conflict-torn areas of Amhara unable to access their fields. As a result, only 40 percent of the planted crops had been harvested by late November. In Tigray, planting was well below average. Harvest operations are ongoing, with a 60–80 percent completion rate for wheat and *teff*, while sorghum harvest has just started. The availability of grain is providing much needed relief for households' food security, livestock and income. However, transport constraints will likely limit the movement of harvests from surplus (production) to deficit (consumption) areas.

There are over 4.2 million conflict-induced IDPs in Northern Ethiopia. In Amhara alone, there are about 2.1 million IDPs, while 4 million people have been affected in 49 *woredas* (districts).

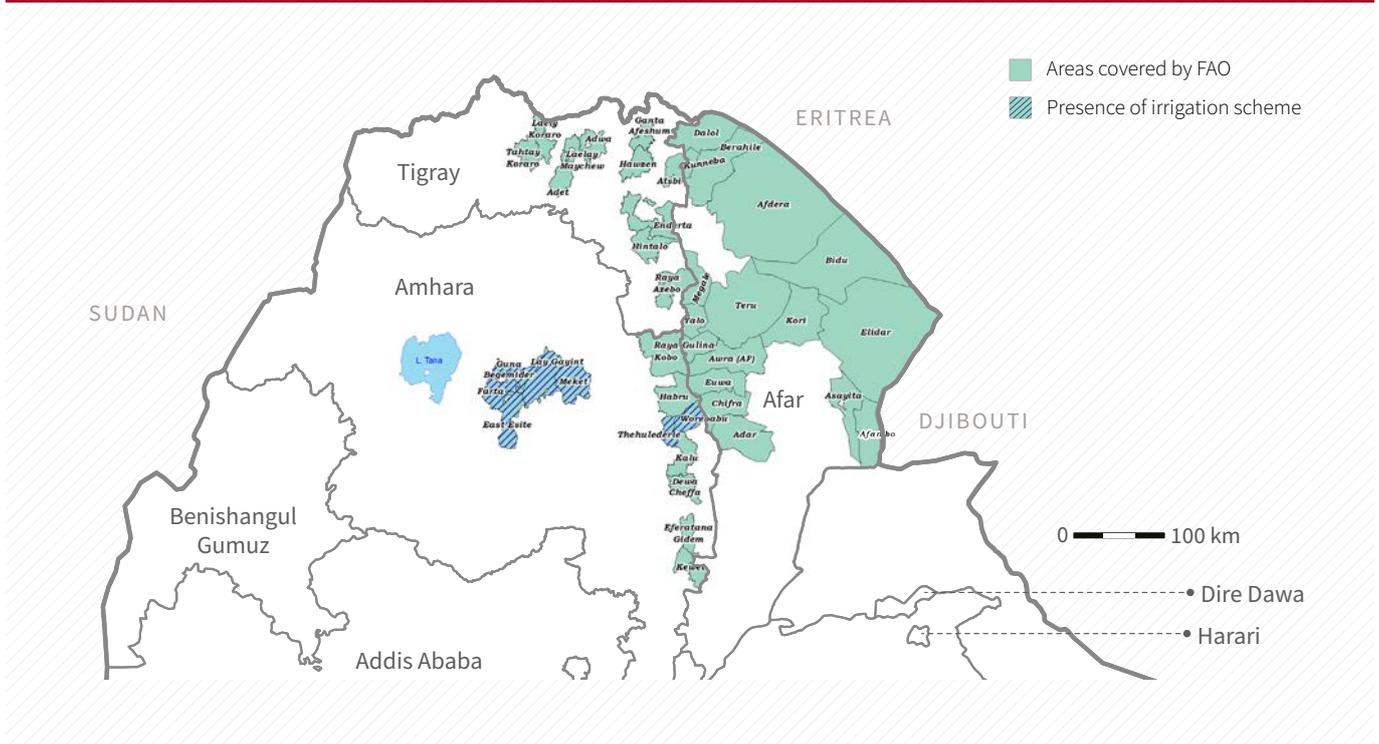
In the Afar region, 700 000 people from ten *woredas* bordering Amhara and Tigray have been affected by the conflict, and about 334 300 people have been displaced. The conflict has also resulted in the early migration of livestock, and destruction of crops and infrastructure in the region.

In Tigray, the IDP situation is fluid: it comprises 1.8 million people, mostly attributable to the 'old' and recent displacement from the Western Tigray area. At the same time, spontaneous and voluntary returns to peaceful and accessible areas is also occurring.

Endemic livestock diseases such as *peste des petits ruminants* and sheep and goat pox in small ruminants, and lumpy skin disease and foot-and-mouth disease in cattle are causing high mortalities, due to limited access to veterinary services.

The benefits of investing in agriculture, even in times of conflict, are visible in Tigray: the food security and nutrition of households benefiting from agricultural support has increased. Investing in agriculture improves households' self-reliance and reduces the need for prolonged humanitarian support. We must scale up sustainable agricultural assistance.

FAO interventions in conflict-affected areas (November 2021)



Source of map: UNOCHA. 2020. *Administrative map of Ethiopia*. [online]. [Cited 7 December 2021]. <https://reliefweb.int/map/ethiopia/ethiopia-administrative-map-october-2020>
 Source of data: FAO. 2021. *FAO intervention areas in Northern Ethiopia*. [internal document].

Response to date (since June 2021)

In June 2021, FAO initiated plans to support 192 830 households in the three regions:

- **Tigray:** 80 833 households with crop, vegetable and/or forage seeds, livestock vaccination support, and cash transfers.
- **Amhara:** 24 350 farming and agropastoral households with assorted crop, vegetable and/or forage seeds, fertilizer, and cash transfers.
- **Afar:** 87 650 households with crop, vegetable and/or forage seeds, cash transfers, livestock vaccination support, and livestock feed.

The following has been carried out to date. Activities in Afar were suspended due to security challenges in the region and will be conducted in early 2022.

Tigray

Supported 80 833 households

- Provided 34 000 households with 449 tonnes of cereal and vegetable seed.
- Supported the Tigray Bureau of Agriculture to vaccinate 685 000 (out of 3.5 million) livestock, belonging to 46 833 households against common diseases.

Amhara

Supported 11 137 households

- Provided 8 500 households with 69 tonnes of crop and vegetable seeds (against a target of 12 850 households with 104 tonnes).
- Provided 900 households with 7.6 tonnes of seed to produce forage for livestock.
- Provided 1 737 households with USD 83 000 as part of the cash+ kit (against a target of 2 100 households with USD 100 000).

Funding in 2021

FUNDING GAP

USD 15.2 million

50.6%



49.4%

FUNDING TO DATE

USD 14.8 million

(Including reprogramming)



In 2021 FAO required
USD 30 million



to assist
1.4 million people

Resource partners

The Government of Belgium (through the Special Fund for Emergencies and Rehabilitation Activities), and the United Nations' Central Emergency Response Fund

Planned response

Due to challenges faced in providing humanitarian support to communities in Northern Ethiopia, the following activities which were a part of the 2021 response are planned for the coming months.

Tigray (December 2021- December 2022)

96 800 households to be supported

- Crop and vegetable production under irrigation: 96 000 households to receive 251.5 tonnes of cereal and vegetable seed.
- Seed multiplication: 800 households to receive 10.3 tonnes of chickpea seed (in collaboration with the Mekelle Agricultural Research Centre).
- Cash+ kits: 61 200 households, receiving crop and vegetable seeds, to be transferred the equivalent of USD 2 175 000.

Amhara (December 2021- March 2022)

16 210 households to be supported

- Crop and vegetable production: 14 410 households to receive 604 tonnes of seeds.
- Irish potato production: 300 households to receive 30 000 kg of tubers.
- Sweet potato production: 300 households to receive 840 000 vines.
- Fertilizer for farming: 1 200 households to receive 72 tonnes of fertilizer.

Afar (December 2021-March 2022)

87 650 households to be supported

- Crop and vegetable production: 10 500 households to receive 184 tonnes of assorted crop and vegetable seeds.
- Supplementary animal feed for livestock: 41 250 households to receive 10 870 tonnes for 82 500 livestock.
- Seed for livestock forage production: 5 200 households to receive 52 tonnes of seeds to produce forage for livestock.
- Animal health: 921 000 livestock, belonging to about 30 700 households, to be vaccinated.
- Cash+ kits: 39 950 households, benefiting from other agricultural and livestock support interventions, to be transferred the equivalent of USD 1.4 million.

Upcoming assessments and reviews

- “Cash and Restocking Feasibility Assessment” to inform the cash+ programming in Tigray and Afar.
- Agricultural Needs Assessment for the 2022 *Belg* and *Meher* seasons.
- End-line evaluation to determine the impact of drought anticipatory actions implemented in Afar (among other drought-prone regions).
- As part of the “Return Working Group”, FAO will participate in the pilot “Return Programme” in Tigray by coordinating the design of a livelihood return kit. The programme was envisioned in the region following the July 2021 intention survey where 89 percent of IDPs confirmed their intention to return to their places of origin. The design of the kit will be informed by a pilot study being undertaken in Samre *Woreda*. Prioritization of *woredas* will be based on three key factors: (i) security; (ii) availability of services, particularly health; and (iii) areas expecting over 50 percent of the normal harvest. Overall, 38 of the 84 *woredas* in Tigray meet these criteria.

2022 Northern Ethiopia Response

As the 2022 Northern Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Plan is being finalized, FAO is provisionally appealing for USD 45 million to protect and restore the agricultural-based livelihoods of communities affected by conflict.

Affected households are expected to benefit through:

- Crop and vegetable seeds for secondary season (*Belg*) and main season (*Meher*) planting.
- Animal health support for productive livestock (treatment and vaccinations).
- Fodder production through the provision of seeds.
- Supplementary livestock feed.
- Cash for work (infrastructure rehabilitation).

A breakdown of FAO’s response for 2022 will be featured in upcoming issues of the Northern Ethiopia situation overview.



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1.6 million people

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