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iMMAP

SITUATION ANALYSIS REPORT

SECTORAL ANALYSIS: PROTECTION

REGIONAL FOCUS: AFAR AND AMHARA

ETHIOPIA

JULY - NOV 2021

Credit: Mulugeta Ayene/OCHA

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BACKGROUND

Ethiopia is grappling with multiple ongoing crises in a year of unprecedented emergencies and humanitarian needs. Since 2018, the country has experienced chronic internal displacement caused by a combination of natural hazards, including drought and flooding, and mounting inter-communal and inter-ethnic conflicts, against a backdrop of significant political change. Starting in November 2020, the military conflict in the Tigray region triggered additional forced displacement, while political, security and ethnic tensions spread to neighboring regions of Afar and Amhara region.

There is a prevailing need for accurate and up-to-date information for humanitarian actors to offer a tailored response to beneficiaries' needs. Indeed, the complex and dynamic nature of the crisis requires strong and effective humanitarian coordination supported by accurate information management services.

ABOUT IMMAP

iMMAP is **an international not-for-profit organization** that provides **information management services** to humanitarian and development organizations, enabling partners to make informed decisions to support high-quality targeted assistance to the world's most vulnerable populations.

We support humanitarian actors to solve operational and strategic challenges. Our pioneering approach facilitates informed and effective emergency preparedness, humanitarian response, and development aid activities by enabling evidence-based decision-making for UN agencies, humanitarian cluster/sector leads, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and government operations.

Since 2016, iMMAP is supporting the humanitarian community in Ethiopia by providing Information Management (IM) services through diverse projects listed hereafter. iMMAP's support over the previous years has resulted in substantial improvements in the quality of information generated by the supported clusters and organizations involved in the humanitarian response. iMMAP has contributed to enhance coordination and decision making both at the national level and in the field coordination efforts.

IMPROVING ANALYSIS AND NEED ASSESSMENTS CAPACITIES IN CRISIS AFFECTED AREA

With the support of the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), iMMAP initiated a project aiming to improve the humanitarian community's understanding of a quickly evolving context and humanitarian needs in conflicted-affected areas, through the provision of IM support and production of Humanitarian Situation Analysis reports.

METHODOLOGY

To iMMAP humanitarian situation analysis report utilized the Secondary Data Review (SDR) methodology. The SDR methodology helps to gather diverse sources of information and creates the logical link between events in the form of trends, data, and narratives. The SDR methodology was selected based on two main reasons:

> a.   Difficulty (physical, security and bureaucratic constraints)
> to access some areas for primary data collection[1] (US DOS, 03/09/2021)
> b.   Availability of multiple secondary data sources.

During the SDR process iMMAP cross-analyzes published[2] and unpublished documents from a diverse array of sources, including NNGOs, INGOs, Institutional sources, Media, and UN Agencies. iMMAP teams conduct the data hunting process, targeted to address information gaps identified by the humanitarian community. Some unpublished sources may be provided by partners, such as databases or drafts of soon-to-be published reports. To ensure the quality of the report, iMMAP decided not to integrate social media material considering the difficulty to rigorously cross-check and ensure the reliability of provided information. DEEP, an online open-source platform, is a secondary sources repository used to classify sources, and extract through a tagging process based on the Joint Intersectoral Assessment Framework (JIAF). See Annex 1 for the JIAF technical documentation.

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1 Since the start of the conflict in November 2020 the access of several areas of Ethiopia is limited
2 Published sources are available in different platform : reliefweb, organizations' websites, humanitarian response, clusters' websites etc

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ACRONYMS

|	
ART	Antiretroviral Treatment
CP	Child Protection
DHS	Demographic and Heatlh Survey
DPFSCPCO	Disaster Prevention and Food Security Programmes Coordination Office
DTM	Displacement Tracking Matrix
ECHO	European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
ECHR	Ethiopian Human Rights Commission
ENDF	Ethiopian National Defense Forces
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
HNO	Humanitarian Needs Overview
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
IDP	Internal Displaced People
IM	Information Management
IOM	International Office of Migration
IPC	Integrated Phase Classification
JIAF	Joint Intersectoral Assessment Framework
MAM	Moderate Acute Malnutrition
MHNTS	Mobile healt and Nutrition team
NDRMC	National Disaster Risk Management Commission
NGO	Non-governmental organizations
OTP	Outpatient Therapeutic feeding Program
PHEOC	Public Health Emergency Operation Center
PIN	People in need
PLW'S	Pregnant and Lactating Women
RHB	Regional Health Bureau
RWB	Regional Water Bureau
SAM	Sever Acute Malnutrition
SDR	Secondary Data Review
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SNFI	Shelter and Non-food item
TFP	Therapeutic Feeding Program
TPLF	Tigray People's Liberation Front
TSFP	Targeted Supplementary Feeding Program
UNFP	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNOHCHR	United Nations Office of the High commissionner for Human Rights
WFP	World Food program

CONTENTS

PROTECTION SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS REPORT OF ETHIOPIA - RESULTS OF PRE-REPORT NEED ASSESSMENT SURVEY

iMMAP Situational Analysis reports **aim to fill information gaps in the humanitarian ecosystem in Ethiopia**. To further this objective, a survey (iMMAP, 10/2021) was disseminated across the humanitarian ecosystem in Ethiopia to identify the said information needs and orient the focus of the first humanitarian overview report. The results, reflected below, show a major interest in the protection sector. In term of location respondents were more interested in Tigray and Amhara regions. Considering the difficulty to access information from Tigray, and the extensive analyses produced by ACAPS through thematic reports on humanitarian needs, the team decided to focus on **the protection conditions in the Amhara and Afar regions.**

Figure 1 *Results of iMMAP survey to identify information needes among humanitarian actors in Ethipia*
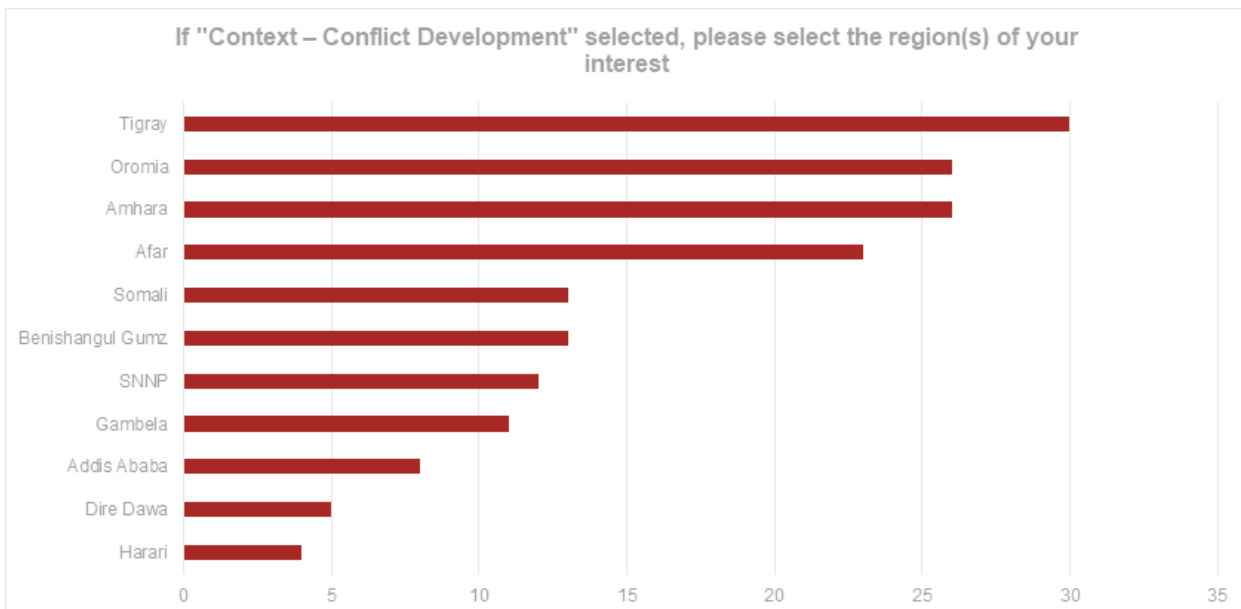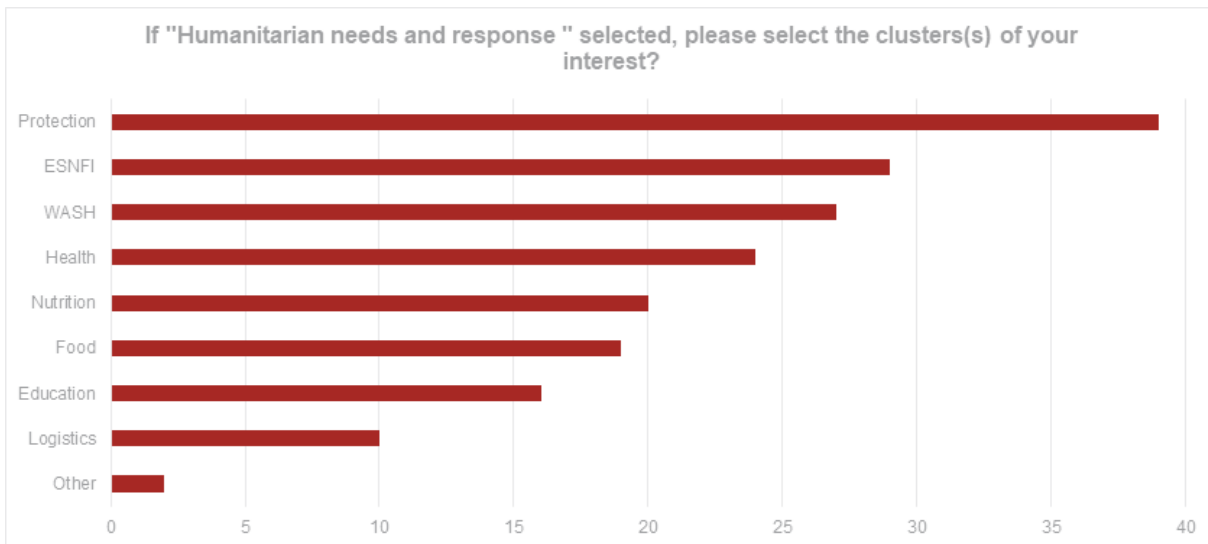
HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA – FOCUS ON AFAR AND AMHARA REGION

Displayed data are based on the 2021 HNO for Ethiopia (OCHA, 2021). The figures cover the period from January 2021 to March 2021. Data related to Afar and Amhara region are specified.

All other sources are mentioned in the content.
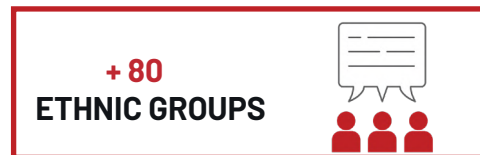
GENERAL

According to the Ethiopian Central Statistics Agency, **the population of Ethiopia reaches over 103 million**. Ethiopia finds itself in the midst of a multi-layered crisis in which security, climate and economic factors come into play, impacting the national economy and humanitarian needs. In a country in the throes of numerous distensions, raising tension

**103.7 M
TOTAL POPULATION**

with, and within, Ethiopia's neighbors such as Sudan, Kenya, Eritrea and Somalia exacerbate pre-existing internal security crises. The compounding effect of internal and external tensions directly contribute to Ethiopia being **one of the ten countries in the world to face humanitarian crises** (ACAPS, 07/2021). The

current security situation not only affects the local population but also the refugees from South Sudan, Eritrea and Somalia who are currently living in Ethiopia.

Ethiopia's population encapsulates a great **ethnic, cultural and religious diversity.** Over 80 ethnic groups are represented across the 11 regional states of the country. Numerous religious communities co-habit throughout the country. The sex-ratio of the national population is almost equal as reflected in Figure 2. The majority of the Ethiopian population lives in **rural areas** (80%), and **agriculture is the major income** generating activity.

**+ 80
ETHNIC GROUPS**

Figure 2 Sex disaggregation of the Ethiopian population

Male, 50.10%

Female, 49.90%
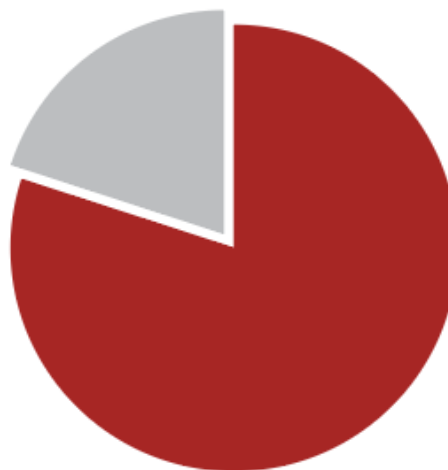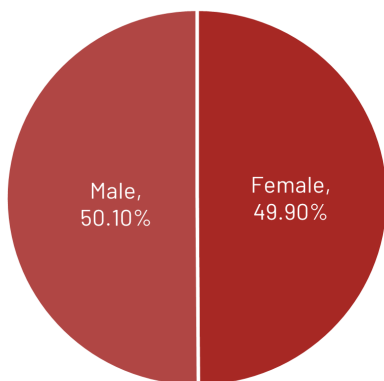
80% of the population lived in rural area

Fecundity in Ethiopia is not as high as other African countries, and **the average Ethiopian household counts 4.6 persons.** Out of 10 habitants, almost 2 (1.7) live with disabilities.

Early marriage is still common through the country, with **40% of young women being married before turning 18 years old**.

Four in Ten young women are married before the age of 18

(*Demographic and health survey*, p72, 2016)
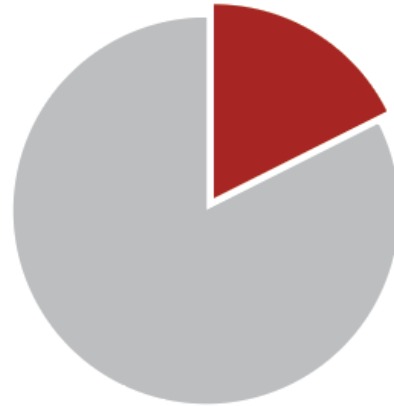
17.6% of the population live with disabilities
(*WHO & World Bank,* 2011)

4.6 persons per household in average

Figure 3 *Map of Ethiopia and neighboring countries, borders as accepted by the Ethiopian government in October 2021*

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PEOPLE IN NEED

23.5 million of people are considered as "in need" across Ethiopia and 4.4 million are located in Afar and Amhara region.

23.5M
PEOPLE IN NEED ACCROSS ETHIOPIA

Amhara
3.4M

Afar
1.0M

NUMBER OF
PEOPLE IN NEED

AT NATIONAL LEVEL

24% WOMEN
(EXCLUDE CHILDREN)

53% CHILDREN

15% WITH DISABILITIES
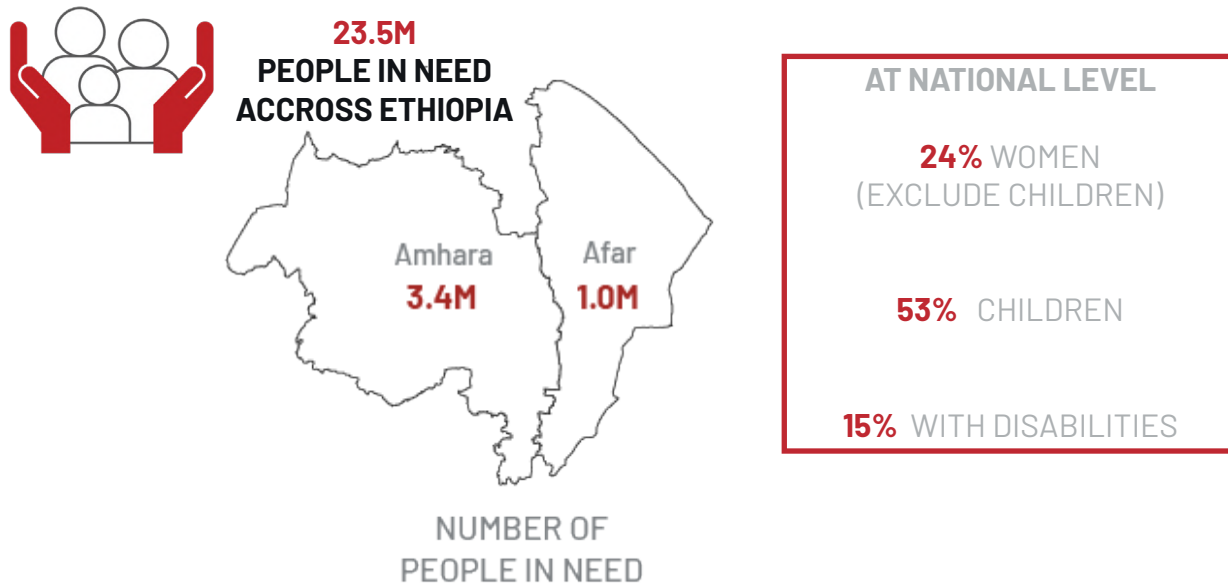
Figure 4 *Severity of needs among PIN in Ethiopia, OCHA, HNO 2021*

Severity of needs among people in need

Minimal	Stress	Severe	Extreme	Catastrophic
0.9	5.4	11.7	4.8	0.06
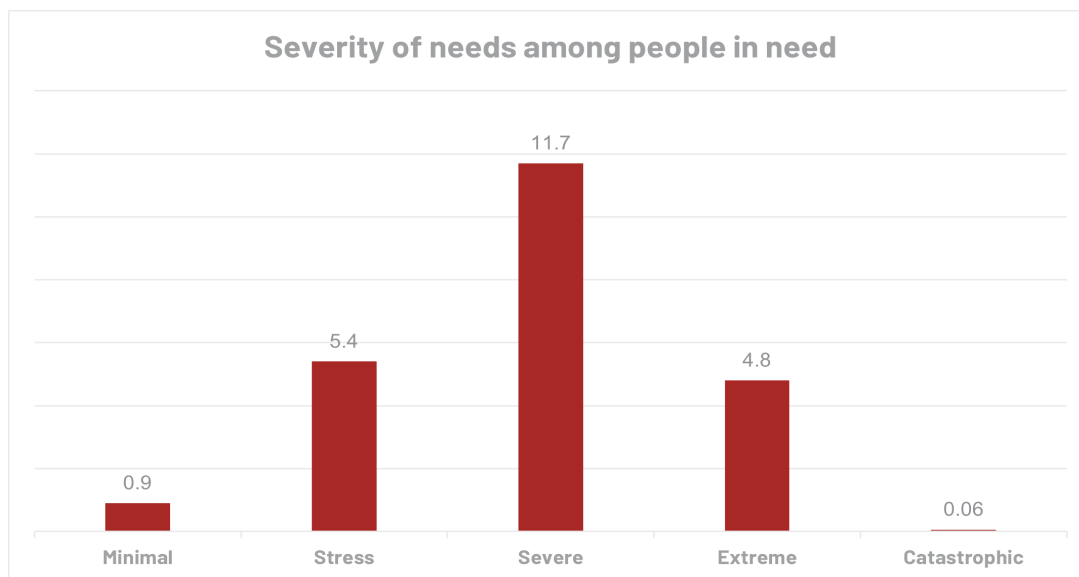
The demographic profile of People in Need (PiN) in Afar and Amhara region strongly resembles the one at the national level, both in terms of sex and age disaggregation. There are **as many women as men in need**, except in Afar region, which displays a slight over-representation of men (54%) amongst the PiN. When it comes to age, children (<18yo) and adults (>18) are similarly in need, with a slight over-representation of children amongst PiN in Afar region (56%).

SECURITY

The security situation in Ethiopia is deteriorating. It's been a year since the breaking out of the **war between the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) and the Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF)** in the Tigray region. Despite a unilateral ceasefire proclaimed by the government of Ethiopia since June 2021, the **conflict spread to Afar and Amhara regions.** Security across Ethiopia is impacted by an interlay of contributing factors, and conflict in the north shall therefore not be the only element considered when analyzing the situation. Internally, the **existence of militias** (ex. FANO, SALUG) lead to additional civils conflicts. Also, externally, instability at the border create many security issues in the territory around. As the war spilled over to neighboring Afar and Amhara regions, many people were forced to flee their home, for many resulting into the loss of their livelihood. On top of that, the access blockade severely constrains humanitarian organizations' ability to fulfill basic humanitarian needs for the internally displaced persons (IDPs), and to provide protection services for civilian in the crises affected areas of Ethiopia. The conflict results **in millions of IDPs**, including children, pregnant and lactating women, elderlies and disabled people. GBV, child abuse and death of civilians have also surged since the beginning of the conflict in Northern Ethiopia.

As highlighted in ACLED data[3] **1,419 security events were referenced from 01 January 2021 to 11 November 2021** (ACLED, 2021).   The different events ACLED is collecting data on, are:

Violence against civilians: Attack, Sexual violence and Abduction/forced disappearance

Strategic development: arrests, looting/property destruction, Change to group/activity = everything link to geopolitical moves

Riots: Mob violence, Violent demonstration

Protests: Peaceful protests, Protest with intervention and Excessive force against protesters

Explosions/Remote violence: Air/drone strike, Shelling/artillery/missile attack, Grenade,Remote explosive/landmine/IED and Suicide bomb

Battles: Government regains territory, Armed clash and Non-state actor overtakes territory

**Figure 5** *Security events references by ACLED for 2021*
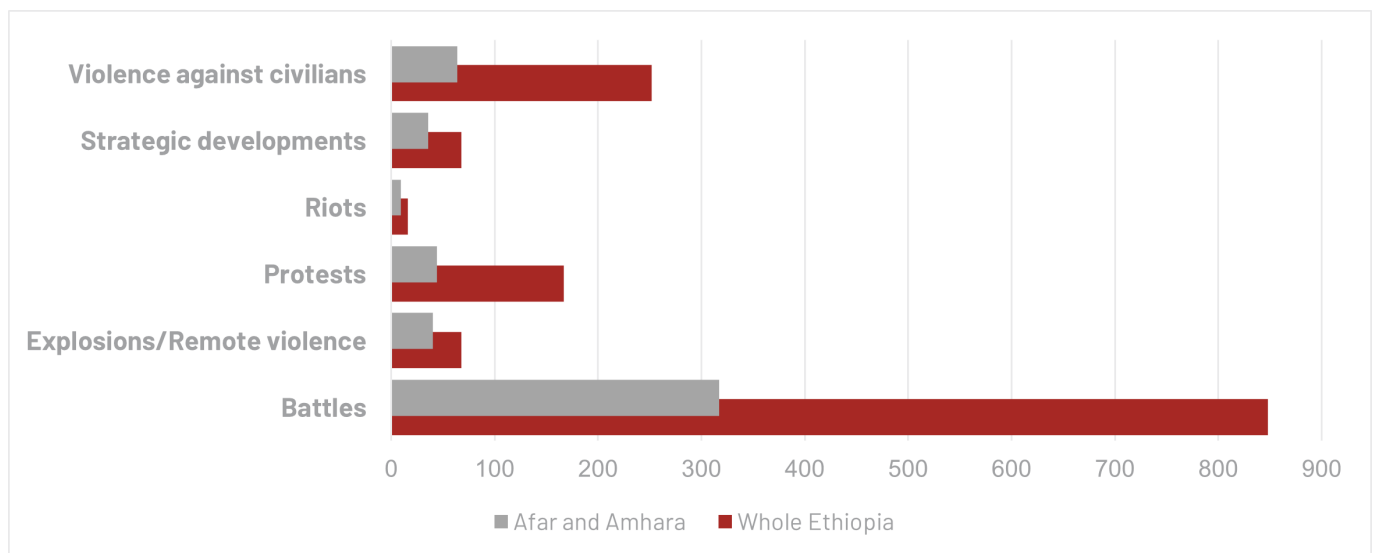
3 Real-time data and analysis source on political violence and protest around the world

Among these security events, **510 occurred in the Afar and Amhara region**. The two regions encompass 18% of the Ethiopian population (1/5) but are the location of one third of the battles, highlighting the exacerbated vulnerability of the population. The most reported type of security event reported in 2021 is Battle, mainly explained by the conflict between the TPLF and the government forces (ENDF). Of these events, 249 occurred in Afar and Amhara regions and involve the TPLF

(representing almost 50%). The remaining incidents involve intercommunal violence along with other armed militias such as the Amhara Ethnic Militia or the Oromo Liberation Front. Violence against civilians is the second highest category and may also be explained by the situation in Northern Ethiopia (*See the section: Protection of civilians for more details*).
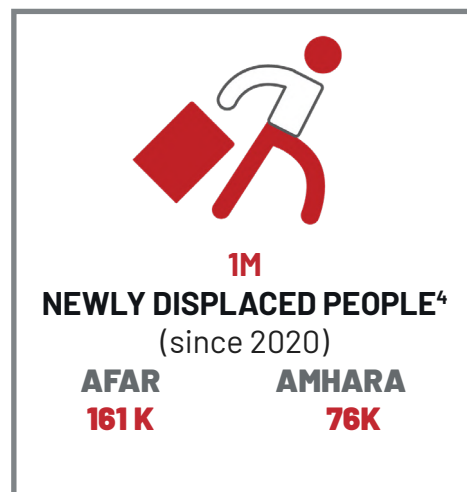
DISPLACEMENT (in 2020)

Among Ethiopia many people were displaced in 2020. There are **2.7 million of IDPs across the country** whose 1 million new (comparing to 2019) only for the year 2020. Many factors explain this situation like security reasons or even climatic and economic ones. Indeed, **60% of the displacement are due to conflict and 35% to climate shocks**. In 2020, approximately 350 000 people have been estimated returned their homes. Many of these returnees are coming from The Eastern Migration Route, mainly Saudi Arabia. No later than in July 2021 40,000 migrants were repatriated following an agreement
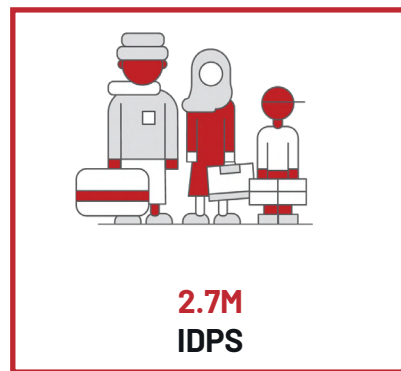
between the two countries. After their returned, migrants faced many challenges for their reintegration in the society. First, they often arrived in Addis-Ababa in overcrowded facilities. Then, find a job is complicated due to discrimination issues. It often results in economical and food insecurity (ACAPS, 16/11/2021).

The HNO report estimated the number of **newly internal displaced people at 161,000 in Afar region and 76,000 in Amhara region.** However, these figures may be relatively underestimated are they have been releasing early in 2021 and the conflict in the North has spread through the country since.

**2.7M
IDPS**

**350.000
RETURNEES IN 2020**

**1M
NEWLY DISPLACED PEOPLE[4]**
(since 2020)

AFAR	AMHARA
161 K	**76K**

4 Compared to the data of 2020 HNO for

Figure 6 *Reasons behind displacement in Ethiopia, HNO, 2021*
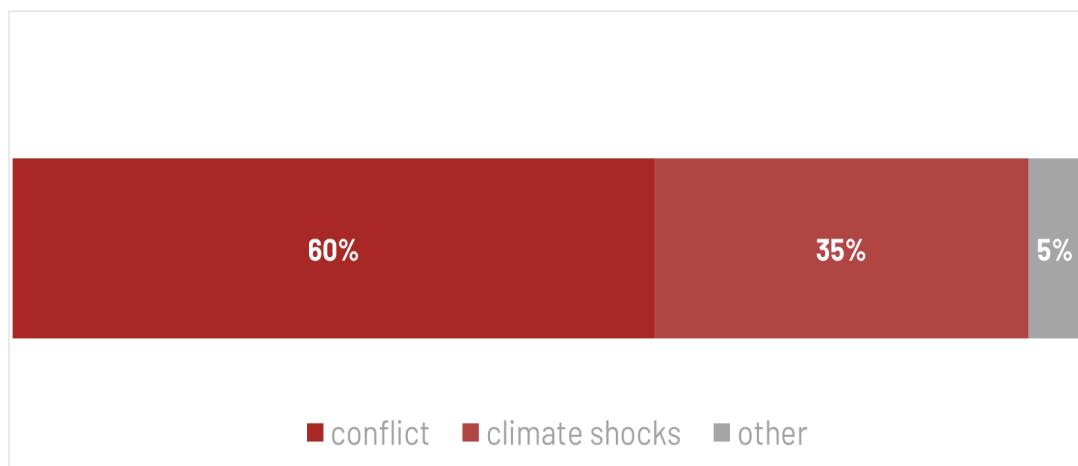
HUMANITARIAN ACCESS OVERVIEW

Humanitarian access in Ethiopia is challenging. The UN estimated that, as of November 2021 (UN, 08/11/2021) **20 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance**, while challenges keep piling up.

Since summer 2021, humanitarian aid entry into Tigray is limited **to a single-entry located in Afar region**. As several convoys were blocked access, this de facto blockade has made it increasingly difficult for humanitarian organizations to provide aid in the region (OCHA, 02/09/2021). **Entries through foreign borders is not feasible** either. To the North, the Eritrean border is not accessible as the national government, unwilling to jeopardize its peace agreement with Ethiopia, abides by a de facto alliance in regards to the TPLF. In addition, as the West part of Tigray is controlled by the Amhara people, the TPLF does not have direct access to the Sudanese border. By air, the status quo deteriorated since 22 October as the **UN interrupted its flight to Mekele due to air strikes**. In Afar and Amhara region, active fighting blocks access to areas where hostilities are taking place. The issue of Benishangul areas rendered inaccessible by armed clashes is also prominent. In addition, to physical barriers, the **bureaucratic restrictions** also contribute to the difficulty faced by humanitarian organization when trying to access people in need. This is most notably reflected in the restrictions on entry visas and work permits, which affect the ability of INGOs to deploy specialized staff. Since December 2020, over **1,702 humanitarian access incidents** were reported, of which 1,474 (87%) related to "active hostilities, security operations, and inter-communal violence impeding humanitarian operations". Most of them were reported in Oromia region (68%), the country's largest in terms of size and population, followed by Amhara and Somalia OCHA, 2021).

ECONOMY

The economic situation in Ethiopia has been affected by the ongoing conflict. Prior to the global pandemic and the war, Ethiopia's economy was one of the fastest growing in the region, **expanding by an average 10% each year between 2000-2019,** according to the World Bank ([BBC](#), 30/08/2021). However, the ongoing conflict in the northern Ethiopia acted as an exogenous shock on the country's economy, disturbing the overall economic activities ranging from agriculture to industry and manufacturing. In 2020, an estimated 25% of Ethiopians lived in extreme poverty ([OHCHR,](#) 10/2021).

Average economic growth of **9.8%** per year for the last decade

Inflation rate : **9.8%** in April 2020 Highest since 2012

the pandemic has impacted the inflation, foreign direct investment and the overall economic growth. However the study relies on several projections, concrete figures for the impact of COVID-19 on the economy in Ethiopia are not available yet ([UN](#), 2021). The Ethiopian economy is mainly based

Between 2020 and 2021 **devaluation of the Birr of 23%** compared to the US dollar

on rainfed agriculture and the service sectors. The agricultural sector is still prevalent in the economy but represent a lose part in the global GDP since 2015, while the share of the industry keeps growing ([Statista](#), 11/2021). As the national economy remains reliant on agriculture, and as 80% of Ethiopians lives in rural areas, droughts, locusts' infestation and floods have a dramatic effect on one of the leading source of

Figure 7 Division of economic sectors in Ethiopia - Data from Statista (2020)
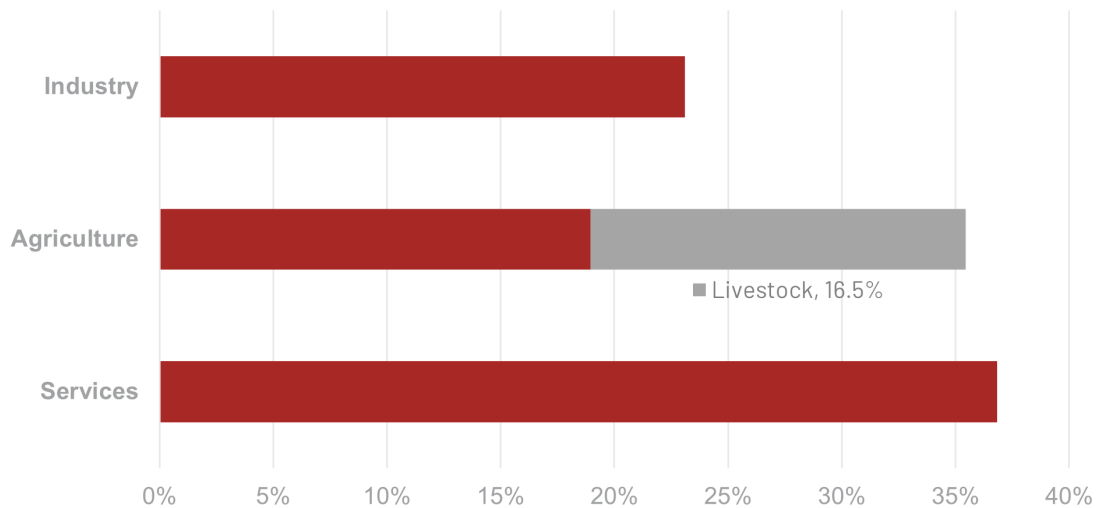
COVID-19 pandemic and mitigation measures aggravated the situation. The vast majority of the population (70%) estimated that their income was negatively impacted as a result. The UN assessment on the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 in Ethiopia evaluated that

livelihood for the population (Figure 5). This phenomenon is also reflected in the fact that 35% of IDPs displacements are caused by climate shocks [(Figure 6)](#).

CLIMATE

Climate change is a reality in Ethiopia. Over the last decade, the country has been affected by floods, high intensity rainfall and frequent droughts due to climate change. The Thornthwaite aridity index elaborated by CGIAR identified in 2021 that almost 90% of the territory is vulnerable to severe or extreme climate stress. Climate stress is seen as any air temperature, humidity, air movement, and radiant heat that may impact the wellbeing of the fauna and flora. Climate shocks lead to economic losses and exacerbate food security issues. These events jeopardize farmers'

livelihoods and revenues, leading to job losses, and impacting the national economy that extensively relies on the agriculture sector. The desert locust infestation that occurs in Ethiopia, mainly through Afar, Somalia and Tigray regions, have affected 1.3 million hectares of pasture and still continue to expand (feed on leaves, twigs, or other high-growing vegetation.). In term of food security, up to 10% of the population is chronically considered as food insecure (See the section: Health and Child protection for more details). (CGIAR, 10/2020)

Figure 8 *Aridity in Ethiopia - Measure with Thorntwaite's aridity index,* CFIAR, 20215
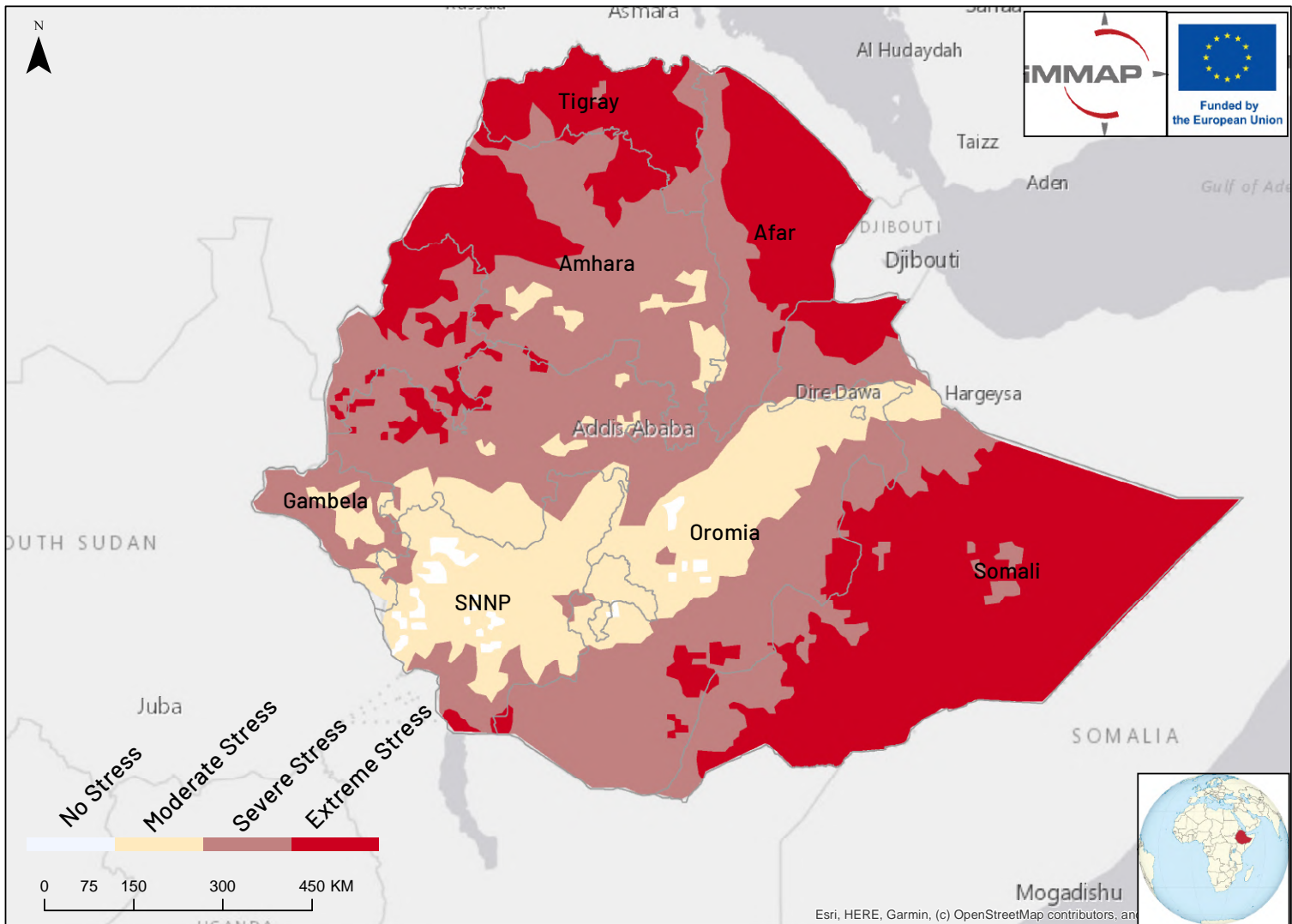
COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The global COVID-19 pandemic had a relatively limited impact on Ethiopia. Based on WHO figures, as of 11 November 2021, since 3 January 2020, Ethiopia counted 367,647 confirmed cases and 6,561 deaths, while 507,091 vaccine doses[5] were administered ([WHO](), 11/11/2021).

While COVID-19 mitigation measures were limited to wearing masks in public areas since the outbreak, Ethiopia experienced a consistent decrease in the number of cases since early September 2021. Since October, and the end of the rainy season, this trend seems to be accelerating.

However, the pandemic exacerbated already fragile socio-economic dynamics, resulting in a cumulative loss of approximately 1.6 – 2.4 million jobs, mostly in urban areas ([UN](), 05/2021). This can be explained by the impact on the service sector, including tourism, which was hardly hit by global mitigation measures. Although limited data is available on the matter, it was estimated a 10-15 percent loss of livelihoods (income source) resulted in an estimated 19-23 percent increase of the number of people living below the poverty line in 2020.

OVERVIEW OF AFAR AND AMHARA REGION

Over 23% of the Ethiopian population ([Ethiopian Ministry of Health](), 2020) live in the Afar and Amhara regions that are located at the crossroad of internal and regional tensions. To the west, the Amhara region shares a border with Sudan, while the Afar region, shares borders with Djibouti and

Eritrea to the East. Internally, the Amhara region is neighboring with Afar, Tigray, Benishangul-Gumuz, and Oromia, and the Afar region with the Somali and Oromia region. On several occasions, instability within these national and international neighbors has spilled over to Afar and Amhara. Since the 2018 peace agreement between Eritrea and Ethiopia, the Northern regions enjoyed a growing sense of stability as they recovered from years of war[6]. However, the Tigray conflict, and the involvement of the Eritrean government therein, jeopardized this long-awaited stability ([AlJazeera](), 23/03/2021). Since November 2020 indeed, the conflict between the Tigray rebels and the Ethiopian government spilled over to the neighboring regions, hindering the stability of the Afar and Amhara region, exacerbating underlying

security threats, and raising concerns on the safety of civilians. The Afar region has seen sporadic deployments of Eritrean troops. The recent coup d'état in Soudan is another factor of instability, most particularly for the Amhara region which shares its western border with the country ([CNN](), 26/10/2021). The border with Sudan is also the theatre of regional tensions as the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), located at the border between Sudan, Benishangul-Gumuz and Amhara regions, exacerbated strains between Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia ([ENEIPSS,]() 29/94/2019). Benishangul-Gumuz is one of the most unstable regions in Ethiopia, with instability led by ethnic violence and crimes, and ongoing combat between the Ethiopian army and unidentified armed groups ([ForeignPolicy](), 06/01/2021).

Geopolitical stability is not the only concern facing the Afar and Amhara regions, which are also exposed to climate stress. Amhara region is larger and more densely populated than Afar region, and faces less arid climatic conditions with fertile lands throughout its territory, except in its western part ([ICPS](), 2013).

5 Both first and second dose
6 The Algiers agreement signed on 12 December 2000

 In contrast, the Afar region, due to the afore mentioned climatic conditions, is climate sensitive and exposed to many climatic shocks. Over the last decade, this underlying vulnerability translated into many crises as Afar region and western part of Amhara region encountered repeated droughts, adding to a devastating locust infestation, of which compounded effect exposed the most vulnerable parts of the population to food insecurity (Save the Children, 10/2010).

Since November 2020, the escalation of the conflict opposing the TPLF to the Ethiopian government has undermined the stability of Afar and Amhara region. The raising security threats added onto pre- existing vulnerabilities in Afar and Amhara region, raising concerns surrounding the protection of civilians and respect to humanitarian and human rights laws.

In Amhara region most of the reported security events occur in North Gondar, South Gondar and North Wello Zones. A lower number of incidents are reported in Afar, as the majority of the population lives in Fanti/Zone 4, leaving the rest of the region largely scarcely populated (see: Figure 6 and 7). Almost all of Afar, and the Western part of the Amhara region are the most concerned by food insecurity issues.

Afar

1,945,801 people
37 woredas

Amhara

22,191,890 people
167 woredas
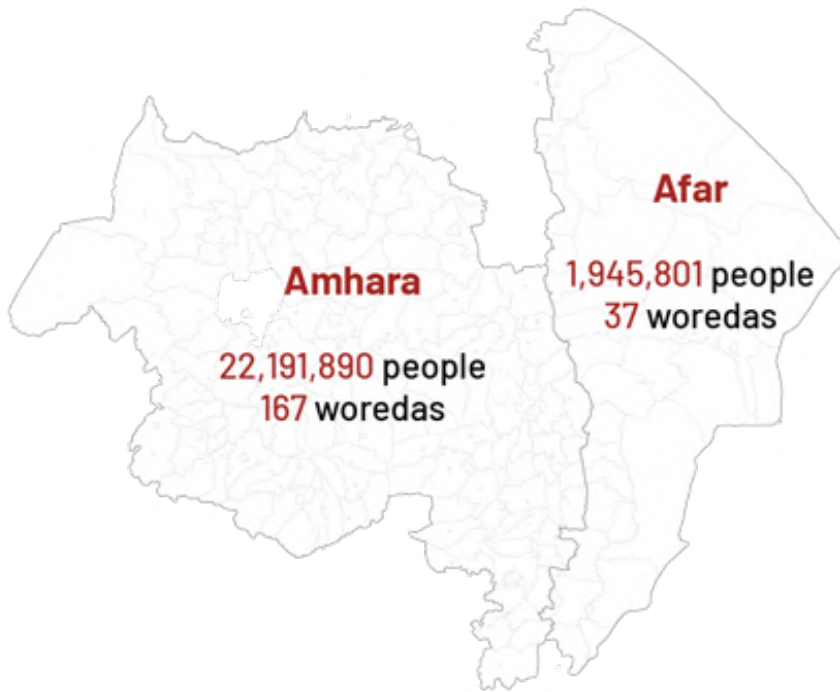
CALENDAR AND IMPORTANT DATES

Since November 2020, Ethiopia has been the scene of important events that shaped the complex humanitarian situation. Many of these dates are related to the ongoing conflict in Northern Ethiopia. The timeline enables to have an overview of the various incidents that occurred in Ethiopia.

4 November 2020: TPLF attacked a military camp of Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF) ([TheGuardian](#), 4/11/2020)

November 2020: Tigray/Northern Ethiopia: start of conflict in northern Ethiopia

13 November 2020: Rocket from TPLF in airport area in Bahir Dar and Gondar ([RFI](#), 14/11/2020)

23 March 2021: Ethiopian government confirms that Eritrean forces have entered Tigray region ([REUTERS](#), 23/03/2021)

28 June 2021: Ethiopian government declares ceasefire in Ethiopia for "the sake of peace" and allow humanitarian aid ([AlJazeera](#), 28/06/2021)

12 July 2021: The first humanitarian cargo convoy reaches Mekele since late June 2021

22 July 2021: First UNHAS passenger flight lands in Mekele since 24 June 2021

20 August 2021: Heavy rainfalls led to flooding across the country ([WATCHERS](#), 20/08/2021)

30 September 2021: Government of Ethiopia expels seven UN officials from Ethiopia

7 October 2021: The European Parliament votes a resolution to deplore human rights abuses and humanitarian blockade in Tigray, asking for sanction against responsible, an arms embargo and UN intervention ([DG ECHO](#), 07/10/2021)

18 October 2021: First airstrikes on Mekele by Ethiopian army ([DailyNews Egypt](#), 18/10/2021)

20 October 2021: Locust swarms has been observed northern Ethiopia leading to fears of a new invasion, exacerbating the food security vulnerability of the region ([TheNationalNews](#), 22/10/2021)

22 October 2021: UNHAS flight from Addis to Tigray has to return because of air strikes – end of flight convoy to Mekele by UN

31 October 2021: TPLF takes over the towns of Dessie and Kombolcha, Amhara region

31 October 2021: Amhara Regional State Council announces the State of Emergency

31 October 2021: TPLF takes over the towns of Dessie and Kombolcha, Amhara region

31 October 2021: Amhara Regional State Council announces the State of Emergency

2 November 2021: State of Emergency is declared in the whole country

2 November 2021: US President Biden revokes trade preferences for Ethiopia over military campaign

03 November 2021 : Release of a joint report by the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) and the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) documenting shelling, air strikes, arbitrary executions and mass displacement in Tigray and brutal human rights abuses (including sexual violence) against girls and women

4 November 2021: US Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa Jeffrey Feltman visits Ethiopia to try to reach a ceasefire between the two parties

10 November 2021: UN declares that 16 of its staff were detained by the government and denounces mass arrest based on ethnicity, a claim contested by the Ethiopian government. (TheGuardian, 10/11/2021) (SwissInfo, 09/11/2021)

11 November 2021: 72 Truck convoy drivers contracted by WFP to transport food assistance were arrested for trying to enter Tigray to deliver aid and detained in Semera, Afar region (Al Jazeera, 10/11/2021).

THE PROTECTION SECTOR IN ETHIOPIA

According the 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview data **5.3 million people are in need** due to a situation relative to protection. Among these PiN, 24% are women (over 18 years of age, not including children) and 53% are children. Between 2020 and 2021, the number of PiN has increased from 3.9 million to 5.3 – i.e an increase of 37.28%. This increase partially originates from the ongoing conflict in Northern Ethiopia. However, Protection humanitarian service coverage has not increased since 2020 mainly due to the access difficulties and limited protection programming related to resources/logistic constraint.

Amongst people in need of protection-related services, many have needs that can be classified in sub-sectors of the protection cluster as shown in the table below.

As reflected in Table 1, the first group amongst Protection PiN requires child protection services. Within this group, 8% (447,790 individuals) live with a disability. Since 2020, the number of people in need of child protection rose by 23% (from 2.6M to 3.2M). The situation is considered as severe with 30% of these PIN living in "high" or "very high" severity woredas with no access to child protection services. The main child protection risks observed in Ethiopia is the risk of exploitation and child labor notably due to ongoing conflicts through the country. Gender-Based Violence (GBV)[7] is an increased concern among the Ethiopian population. The 2021 HNO stated that since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, an increase of GBV case reports has been observed. GBV encompasses sexual violence, child marriage, physical abuse, child labor or even recruitment by armed groups . While healthcare infrastructures were not necessarily overwhelmed in Ethiopia, the economic situation was impacted and therefore affected living and protection conditions of groups at protection risks.

Table 1 *Type of need for pin in need of protection, OCHA, HNO 2021*

Sub-sector	People in need (in million)	%of PIN in need of protection concerned
Child Protection	3.2	60.37%
Gender-based violence	2.5	47.17%
Housing, Land and Property (HLP)	1.9	35.84%
Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)	2.3	43.39%

7 Gender-Based violence refers to harmful acts directed at an individual based on their gender. It is rooted in gender inequality, the abuse of power and harmful norms. Gender-based violence (GBV) is a serious violation of human rights and a life-threatening health and protection issue. – UNHCR Protection 2021.

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There was a notable disruption of protection specialized services due to the pandemic.

Since the start of the conflict in Northern Ethiopia, children recruited by armed groups is frequently reported in Tigray and Amhara regions. In October 2021, OCHA released a new Humanitarian Response plan focusing on the Northern part of Ethiopia (OCHA , 10/2021) identifying an increase of 300,000 in PiN in Tigray only.

In addition, in 2020, the Ethiopia protection cluster released its strategy for 2020-2022 (Protection cluster Ethiopia) which stressed that "Repeated assessments of the response in Ethiopia have highlighted a lack of attention to protection (including the Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation (IAHE) of the Drought Response in Ethiopia, 2019, the 2016 Senior Transformative Implementation Team (STAIT) mission, and the 2012 IASC Real-Time Evaluation)." Particularly the statement mentions "very little consideration to questions of gender, age, disability, and other factors that affect the vulnerability of different groups" is given in these assessments.

The protection cluster Strategic Plan for 2020-2022 considers Protection as "a long-standing issue" that needs to be approached with care and attention to answer people's needs and avoid the situation from getting worse.

PROTECTION IN AFAR AND AMHARA REGION

PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS

Global statement

Security of civilians in Afar and Amhara region since June 2021 has deteriorated quickly, following a trend initiated in late 2020.

As the conflict between TPLF and affiliated armed groups and the Ethiopian government expands throughout the country, civilians are on the front line of this conflict and very vulnerable to its evolution because they are in the path of the fighting with a fast-moving frontline. Civilians are collateral damage of the TPLF/ENDF conflict, and victims of intentional targeting. Murders and cases of abuse were reported. If fighting has been the main source of civilians suffering, other factors are threatening their lives and livelihood such as climate change.

Information gaps

Understanding the situation of civilians in Afar and Amhara region is quite challenging due to different factors. The ongoing conflict is the main cause of limited access to information. Gathering information from conflict-affected areas is complicating as physical access restrictions and telecommunication blackout make it nearly impossible to reach individuals physically in battle zones. Phone communication and internet network are cut in concerned zones. While misinformation from different camps and fake news are prevalent, it is very difficult to cross-check published information due to communication blackout. Restriction of humanitarian interventions and press movement is another cause that prevents information from leaving conflict zones.

Because of the above constraints, getting information in conflict areas (specially in Afar and Amhara region) like, number of physical abuses by gender and age, and threat based on ethnicity, have not been possible for this report are missing but are necessary to have a full picture of the situation.

Details

PHYSICAL ABUSE IN THE CONTEXT OF CONFLICT

The increase in civilians exposure to shocks such as natural disasters and armed conflicts remain a major protection concern in Ethiopia. the complex nature of the crisis in Ethiopia hinders physical access to the afflicted areas and communications (Protection Cluster, 2020). This adds to the lack of established protection and humanitarian structures allowing needs identification and response. This makes it difficult to provide clear estimates on the number of PiN and severity of these needs. Due to the spillover of the conflict in the Amhara and Afar regions, many civilians have lost their lives. A consistent figure is difficult to determine due to information gaps and the fact that the conflict is still ongoing. Reporting from the conflict zone shows that Afari people were relatively less targeted than Amhara people at the start of the conflict, due to their ethnicity. However, it is difficult to say whether this trend is still in place.

In October 2021, OHCHR and EHRC, following the joint investigation (JIT), released a joint assessment reporting many events and types of abuse that impacted civilians since the start of the conflict in Tigray; a "series of violations and abuses, including unlawful killings and extra-judicial executions, torture, sexual and gender-based violence, violations against refugees, and forced displacement of civilians" as expressed in the findings of the JIT (UNOHCHR, 01/10/2021, 03/11/2021).

First, the report referenced the killing of civilians by Tigrayan rebels based on

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suspicion of being informants or offering aid to federal forces ([Al Jazeera](#), 13/11/2021). The study estimated that prior to June 2021, 184 civilians lost their life in the Amhara region between July and August. Some of the attacks on civilians were deliberate according to the report. Report describes that for each new town captured by the TPLF, habitants were killed randomly based on these accusations. Also, the JIT highlights that mentally-ill residents and people that have fled war in Tigray were specially targeted. When it is not murder, the report contains many allegations of rapes and tortures by different actors of this conflict. Random abuses have been perpetrated against civilians since months. Then, both sides of the conflict have pursued shelling that impacted innocent civilians. In late 2020, Bahir Dar airport has been targeted by the TPLF's long distance rockets. ([CBC](#), 14/11/2021). Tigray, and mainly its capital Mekelle also suffered from several airstrike in October 2021. These shelling caused civilian deaths, injuries and damages to civilian property ([UNOHCHR](#), 03/11/2021).

THE THREAT OF ETHNICITY

Since October 2021 and increasing tensions in the country due to TPLF's progress, many reports of mass arrests were released, raising Human Rights concerns from the International Community. The Ethiopia's state-appointed human rights commission (EHRC) pointed out that police was arresting people "based on their ethnicity", as part of State of Emergency (SoE) procedures. The SoE statement enables to keep "people suspected of collaborating with terrorist groups on reasonable grounds" incarcerated ([UNOHCHR](#), 01/10/2021). In October 2021, several citizens reported that some of their relatives were "arrested from their workplaces, homes and on the streets" ([Cable News Network](#), 08/11/2021). For the JIT, these arrests are based on "ethnicity". The United Nations have raised identical concerns after that some of its staff have been detained. The government of Ethiopia and related

authorities responded to these allegations by saying that only people "who receive money and training from the TPLF" were arrested and that no ethnical arbitrary detention has ever been made ". ([Cable News Network](#), 08/11/2021).

Ethnicity also seems at the center of mass displacement. In the same report, OHCHR and ECHR mentioned many cases of violence in Tigray towards Amhara people, people fled from Tigray due to human right violation based on their ethnicity. Many cases concern Amhara people. Displacement is not the only consequences of the target of non-Tigrayan person by the TPLF, extra-judicial executions, killings, unlawful arrests and detentions, destruction of property, are at the center of this conflict. The report estimated that since November 2020, more than six hundred thousand (600,000) ethnic Tigrayans fled their habitual residence, mainly from the Awrora, Dansha, Mai Gaba, Maikadra, Tsegede, Welkait and Humera Woredas ([UNOHCHR](#), 01/10/2021). Their destination is not evoked but based on DTM 27 data, most of the new camps and IDPs has been recorded in the East Afar region and West Gojam in Amhara region ([DTM](#) IOM).

ABUSE ON AN UPWARD CURVE

The JIT report is an important product to demonstrate the human right abuses that were committed during the ongoing conflict in Ethiopia. However, certain limitations exist to only rely on the JIT source to show abuse committed across Ethiopia, due to its spatial and time limitation as mentioned by the authors.

First, the group stopped its investigation when the government of Ethiopia declared a ceasefire in Tigray on June, 28th, 2021. As written in the report "it is regrettable that such limitation in the temporal and spatial scope of the joint investigation work led to a very limited exposition of the egregious and deplorable human rights violations perpetuated by the

TPLF. The most recent tragedies committed by the group in the Afar and Amhara regional states, including the extensive use of child soldiers, the killings and displacement of thousands of civilians (women, elderly, and children), and a pattern of brutal sexual violence remain to be accounted.". This statement indicates that many atrocities have not been recorded and that Humanitarian needs may be underestimated. Other limitations have been brought up by the different sides concerned by this report. The presence of national authorities all along the investigation is widely denounced, arguing that the authorities were able to influence results of the report. Each actor blames the report's position toward the other camp questioning its neutrality (UNOHCHR, 01/10/2021).

LIVE IN CONFLICT AREA

In October 2021; in its Northern Ethiopia Access Snapshot, OCHA gave an estimation of the number of people living in conflict area for Afar and Amhara region: 12,278,860 with 87% of them in the Amhara region, mainly in Central and South Gondar as shown by the figure below. 42% of these persons living in Afar and Amhara region are in area classified as "hard to reach areas". At least, 12 millions of people are impacted by the conflict and cannot beneficiate from necessary aid (UNOCHA, 32/10/2021).

Figure 9 *Accessibility of area through Afar and Amhara region, OCHA, October 2021*
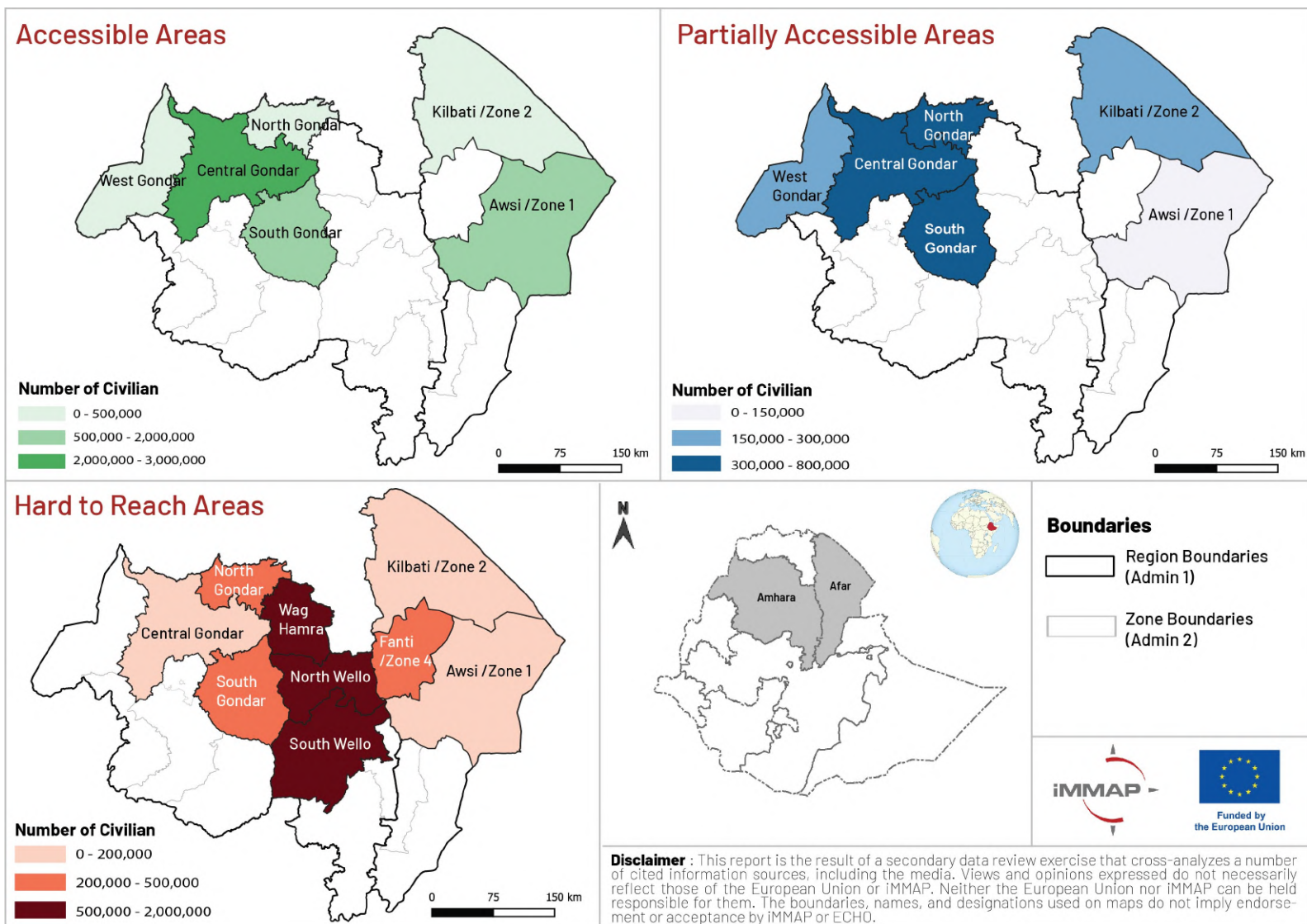
These locations are considered hard-to-reach areas where there is physical access constraints such as: several checkpoints, located in the middle of battlefield etc. Humanitarian agencies tried alternative solutions such as alternative access routes, but these attempts were undermined by the fact that the conflict worsened, and new blockades appeared.

SECURITY CONCERNS
Almost all zones in Amhara reported more than ten different security incidents since the start of 2021. Most concerned zones are South Gondar and North Wello with more than 50 different reported events linked to security. These data are extracted from ACLED which use different sources to cross-check data and elaborate database about security incidents. However, figures may be underestimated as ACLED based its record on media reports. (ACLED, 05/11/2021).

Figure 10 *Number of security incidents through Amhara region, from 01/2021 to 11/2021, ACLED data,*
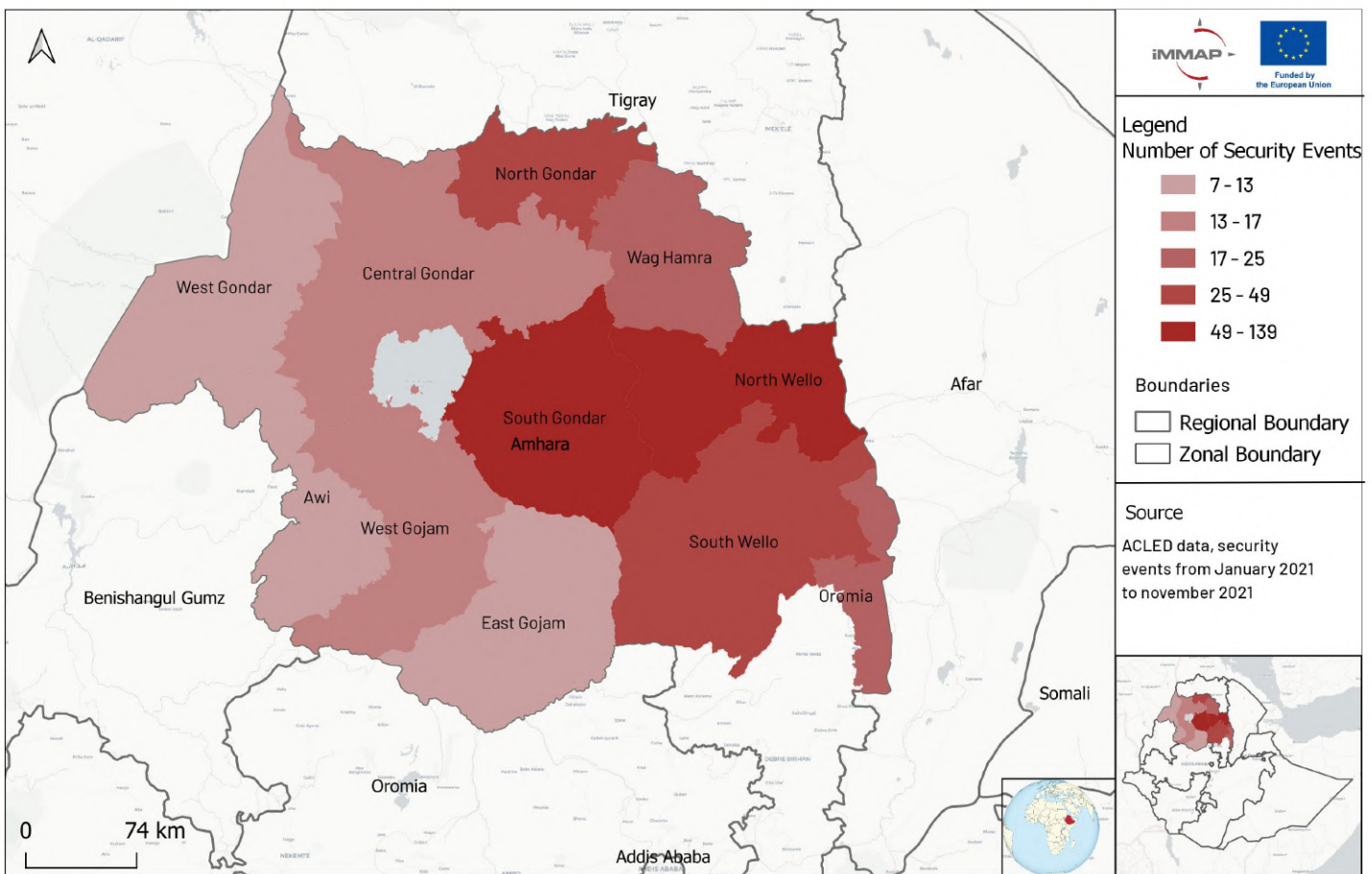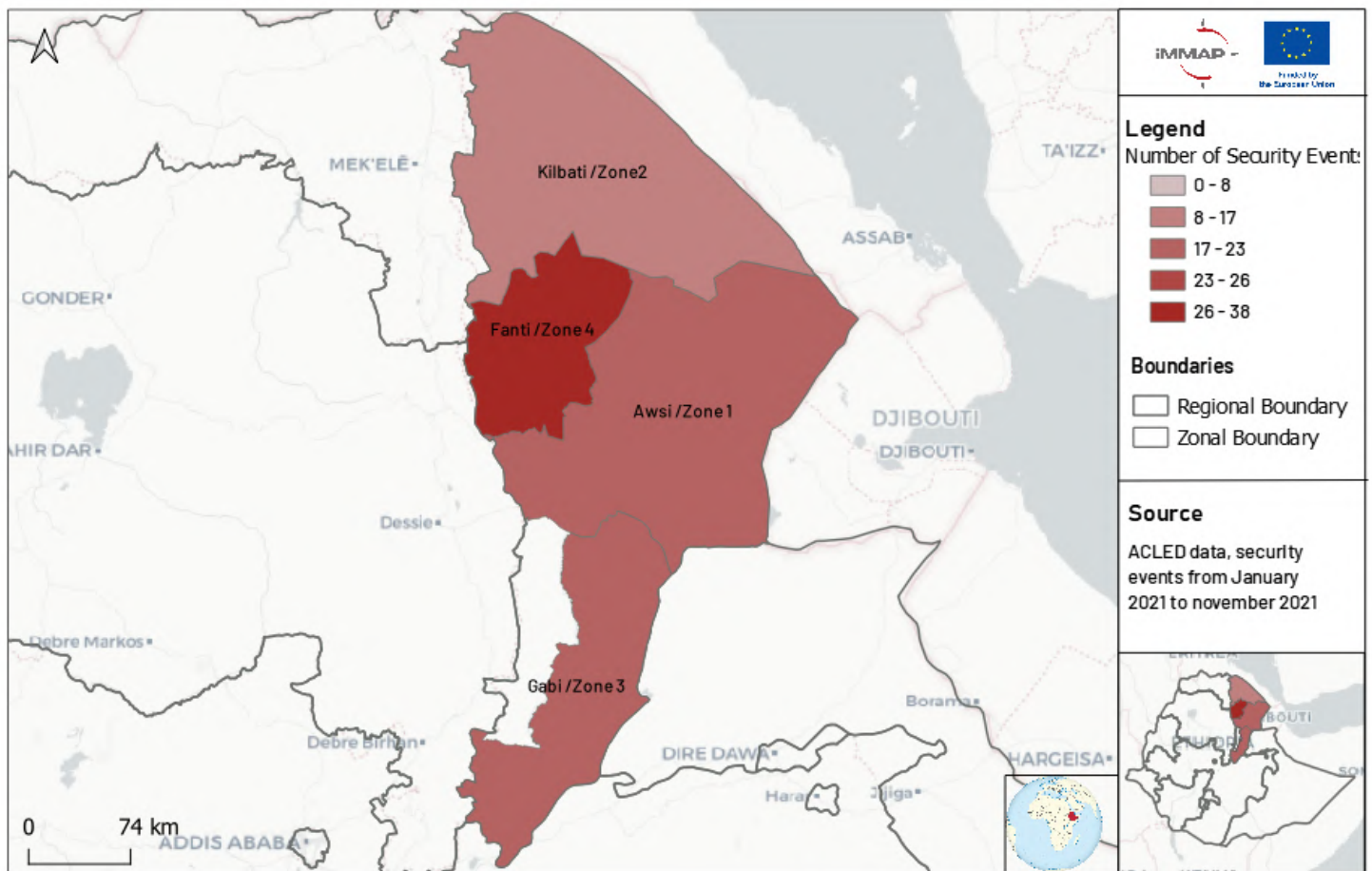
Figure 11 Number of security incidents through Afar region, from 01/2021 to 11/2021, ACLED data,

CLIMATE AS AGGRAVATOR

The conflict between TPLF and the Ethiopian government is not the only threat against civilians in the Afar and Amhara region but also adverse effects of climate related events also playing significant role for threatening livelihoods. As quantified by UNFPA, "more than 5 million people across Amhara and Afar regions" are suffering from climate-related shocks and intercommunal conflicts (UNFPA, 08/10/2021).

Climate shocks in Afar and Amhara region are quite frequent and severely impacts people's lives. In the last years, drought and locusts have affected the country. 2021 was no exception. Between April and July, in Afar and Amhara, floods have been recorded affecting 616,714 people, displacing 214,214 and killing 28. In September 2021, threat of locust infection appeared with swarms reported in several woredas across Amhara. In October 2021, FAO highlighted that swarms were expected to become mature in Afar and Amhara region and spread throughout neighboring regions. Crop pests have affected 77,714 hectares of fields crops. These climate shocks impacted the lives of civilians, threatening their livelihoods, forcing them to adopt negative coping mechanisms (reduce meals, child labor begging…) and flee their homes (Humanitarian Response, 08/09/2021) (UNOCHA, 27/10/2021) (FAO, 01/10/2021).

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ECONOMIC PROBLEMS MAKE MATTERS WORSE

Another threat for civilians in Ethiopia is the economic situation. Ethiopia has enjoyed economic growth and considerable prosperity gains up. The recent Covid-19 crisis combined with internal political issues further aggravated economical constraints that provoked the Ethiopian Birr (ETB) to slowly plummet compared to the US Dollar. Although the Ethiopian government devaluated the ETB in 2017, inflation has been in double-digit for over four years in Ethiopia. Inflation has severely impacted millions of households across the country.

On top of this, the conflicts that currently occurs in Ethiopia leads to the destruction of many assets. Reconstruction costs are about to increase dramatically. The InsuResilience Solutions fund estimated in August 2021 a 35 million USD damage of assets for the Afar region only. Due to the economic and monetary situation, they expect this cost to rise by 385%.

In addition to these ongoing proxy, climate shocks become more and more hazardous and have impacted Ethiopia's economy. In the same study, InsuResilience quantified their impact on price, expecting a future rise of 144% for the worst extreme climate scenario (InsuResilience Solutions Fund, 30/08/2021) (TheReporter, 09/01/2021).

DISPLACEMENT

Global statement

Displacement of people in Ethiopia's Afar and Amhara regions has increased at an alarming rate since June 2021 with the spillover of the conflict into these two regions. The displacement causes many to lose their livelihoods, including agriculture and other income-generating activities. The conflicts also put people into serious food insecurity as access to basic services, including protection of IDPs in collective sites and hosted by the community is significantly hindered. On top of this, climate change related crises like floods and drought also increased the number of IDPs in the Afar region and to some extent in Amhara region.

Information gaps

Displacement of civilians are ongoing in Amhara and Afar region, and people are not still settled due to the evolution of the ongoing conflict in Northern Ethiopia. However, gathering accurate and precise data is extremely difficult due to complete communication blackout. For instance, lack of aggregated data based on gender, age group and disability information make it difficult to analyze the consequence of protection issues of the IDPs. In addition, it has been very difficult to get information on the protection status of IDPs that are hosted by the local community. There was also no data indicating the size of household level farms which are left uncultivated due to the conflict and its impact on food security related information.

Details

SPREAD OF CONFLICT IN THE NORTH AND DISPLACEMENT OF PEOPLE

In Ethiopia, hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced due to internal and border conflict over the past decades. These conflicts vastly affect already vulnerable communities. For instance, battles, especially armed conflicts, and protests, have been increasing and caused several fatalities compared to other types of conflicts between 1997-2020.

One of the pieces of evidence is the ongoing war between the Ethiopian government and the TPLF (Tigray People Liberation Front) rebel group in the northern part of Ethiopia which started in November 2020 in Tigray and later spread to Afar and Amhara regions at the end of June 2021. Since the breaking-out of the war, several people have been displaced internally and externally (Protection Cluster, 01/09/2021)(CGIAR, 28/09/2021)(WFP , 05/10/2021)(BBC , 05/09/2021) (UNICEF , 01/09/2021).

In addition to the ENDF and the TPLF conflict, the Afar region also experienced clan-based conflicts between the Afar region and Issa clans (UNICEF , 07/07/2021). The Hari Resu zone was affected by clan conflict which added another burden to existing humanitarian condition in the region. In the Afar Region's Awra and Ewa woredas, in zone 2, local communities have experienced causalities from the conflict between ENDF and TPLF, affecting an unverified number of civilians.

Table 2 Number of IDPs in Afar and Amhara region, IOM DTM 27, at the date of November 2021

Region	Total IDP (Individuals)
Afar	106,440
Amhara	391,260
Grand Total	497,700

Table 3 Number of camps per zones in Afar and Amhara region, IOM DTM 27, at the date of November 2021

Number of camp per zone	
Afar	82
Awsi /Zone 1	32
Gabi /Zone 3	31
Hari /Zone 5	6
Kilbati /Zone2	13
Ahmara	378
Awi	61
Central Gondar	9
East Gojam	62
North Shewa (AM)	49
Oromia	10
South Gondar	47
South Wello	19
West Gojam	120
West Gondar	1

Figure 12 *IDPs sites in Amhara and Afar Region per Woredas,: CCCM Cluster – Site Master List – Ethiopia, 29/07/2021*
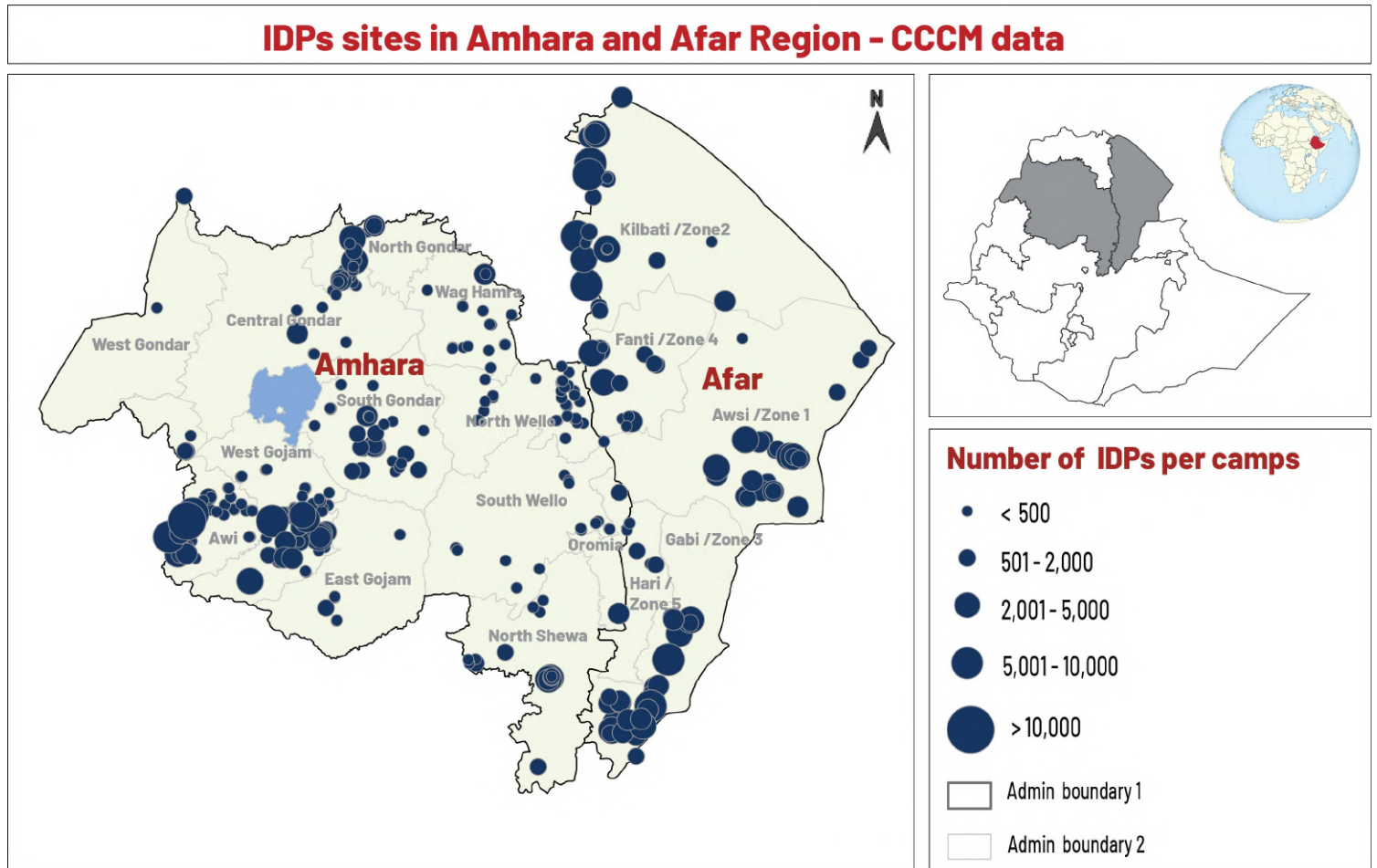
The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) 27, a survey released by IOM among IDPs, provides detailed data on the IDPs situation throughout Ethiopia. As of November 2021, it had identified 106,440 IDPs in the Afar region and more than three times more in Amhara region (391,260 individuals). In Afar region, most of the displaced person are in the Awsi/ Zone 1 and Gabi /Zone 3. In Amhara region, West Gojam gathers the highest proportion of individuals (61.3%). These data are consistent with those of USAID reports stated in October 2021 that the majority of the IDPs lived in North Gondar (21.5%), Dessie city (13.5%), West Gojjam (11.3%) and North Shewa (11.3%) zone. Repartition by gender is almost equal for both regions: IDPs in Afar region are mostly men (53.76%) whereas in Amhara region the repartition is quite identical with 50.18% of women. Through the different zone the repartition globally corresponds to the one of the region (DTM IOM)(USAID, 29/10/2021).

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Figure 13 *Number of camps and IDPs per zones in Afar and Amhara ,IOM DTM 27, at the date of November 2021*
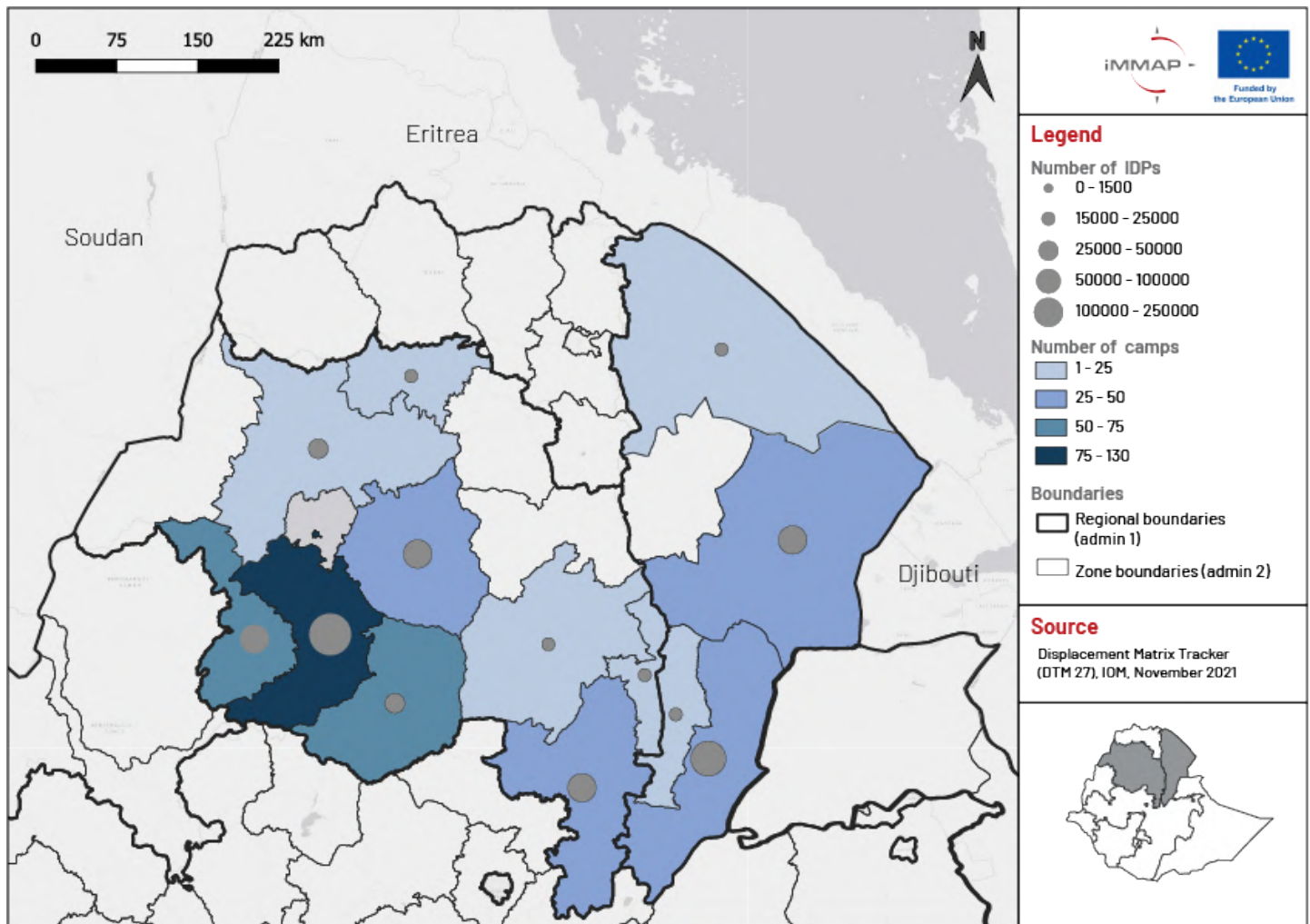
The DTM27 survey enabled the identification of new IDPs in Ethiopia since July 2021: 439,616 in Afar and Amhara regions, either in camps or hosted by local communities. Most of them, 87.29% (383 748) are in the Amhara region. The expansion of the TPLF rebel group to Amhara region displaced 50,000 people between July and August 2021 and more than 2.2 million until November 2021. This number covers 11.5% of the total population of Amhara.

The stress is mostly located in camps in Afar region with an average of 624 new arrivals per camps during these last four months and within host community, in Amhara region with around 992 new arrivals in average per community. Zones in Afar region most concerned by the arrival of new IDPs are Awsi and Gabi and in Amhara region, Oromia, South Wello and North Shewa.

Table 4 *Number of new camps per zones in Afar and Amhara region, IOM DTM 27, at the date of November*

New camps per zone in Afar region since July 2021	
Afar	**15**
Awsi / Zone 1	7
Gabi / Zone 3	8
Amhara	**4**
East Gojam	2
West Gojam	2

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Through the survey, 19 new camps were identified as "new", as they appeared since July 2021 (15 in Afar region and 4 in Amhara region) (DTM IOM) (crisisgroup, 26/10/2021).

Figure 14 *Number of new IDPs and camps in Amhara and Afar per zone, IOM DTM 27, at the date of November 2021*
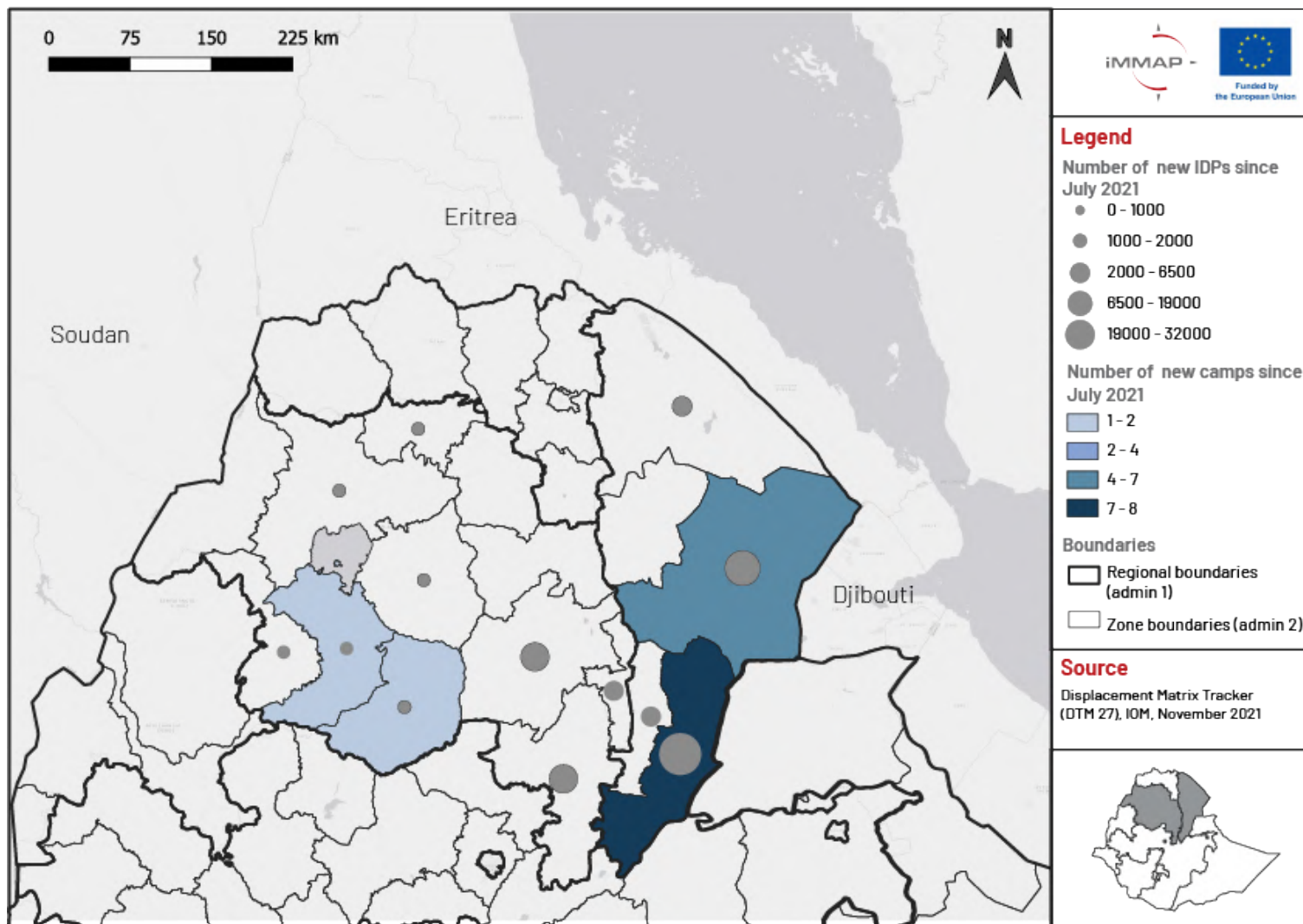
Table 5 *Number of new IDPs in Amhara per type of camp, IOM DTM 27, at the date*

	New IDPs since July 2021 in Afar	
	In camps	In host community
Awsi /Zone 1	17,052	1,327
Gabi /Zone 3	31,160	3,356
Hari /Zone 5	1,709	0
Kilbati /Zone2	1,264	0
Total	51,185	4,683

As stated in the DTM27, IDPs feel "welcomed" among host communities in Amhara (96%) and in spontaneous camps in the Afar region (76.8%). These data are consistent with the government's, stating that from the 2.2 million internally displaced people in Amhara region, 6.3% are temporarily sheltered in 93 collection sites while 93.7% of the IDP are living with the host community. Most of the collective sites are in South Wollo followed by Dessie city in the Amhara Region (Amhara Public Health Institute, 03/11/2021) (DTM IOM).

Table 6 Number of new IDPs in Amhara per type of camp, IOM DTM 27, at the date of November 2021

	New IDPs since July 2021 in Amhara	
	In camps	In host community
Awi	0	38,501
Central Gondar	0	18,246
East Gojam	679	15,935
North Shewa (AM	3,245	28,857
Oromia	1,890	4,481
South Gondar	259	26,673
South Wello	2,545	3,502
West Gojam	5	238,305
West Gondar	0	625
Total	8,623	375,125

DISPLACEMENT DUE TO FLOODING

Flooding in the Afar region in 2020 affected 90,000 people and displaced 54,000 people in 18 woredas along the Awash River Basin. The flood affected communities that are still struggling to recover from previous natural hazards. The flood destroyed 50ha of agriculture land and caused the death of three people. A total of 1 million people is now considered vulnerable because of floods and other hazards in the region. This numbers represents 50% of the total population in Afar. While in Amhara region 144,490 individuals were affected by floods, according to the Ethiopian National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) (flood list, 23/09/2020, 10/08/2021) (OCHA, 15/08/2020)

IDPS AND COLLECTIVE SITES

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) are people who are forced to flee their homes due to armed conflict, generalized violence, violations of human rights, or natural or human-made disasters. IDPs have specific needs that change in congested collective centers and within host communities. IDPs mostly require continuous food supplies and non-food items, including safe drinking water, health services, hygiene, and dignity kits. However, due to the spreading conflict in Amhara and Afar region, access to basic services to the people in need is challenging (OCHA, 03/11/2021) (Global Protection Cluster, 03/11/2021).

The severity, in terms of camp overcrowding in Afar and Amhara region, has been identified has "moderate" in Amhara and "low" in Afar region by DTM27 (DTM IOM). However, the IOM report published on October 2021 indicates that one collective site in Dessie is overcrowded with 35–55 IDPs sharing a classroom for shelter, for example. This arrangement is problematic for elderly people with underlying medical conditions and for infants less than 2 months old. Plan international also showed that certain camps are overcrowded and consist of women and children who are mostly affected by these overcrowded camp conditions, as in South Wollo zone in Amhara region (IOM , 04/10/2021) (UNOCHA , 11/11/2021).

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DTM survey in the camps focused on the percentage of households that are living into shelters which do not protect them from the weather (heavy rains, wind, cold etc). the majority of respondents are not affected by this type of issue. However, looking at the disaggregation per regions, 42.68% of respondents in Afar region indicated that more than 75% of households did not have access to a correct shelter . However, in Amhara, respondents consider that this is not an issue in the camps. Most concerned zone in Afar region are Awsi/Zone 1 and Kibati/Zone 2. (DTM IOM).

406 people with mental disability were displaced in July 2021 according to IOM. DTM surveys approach the IDPs' safety concerns. In the DTM 27, in Afar and Amhara regions, 95.87% answered that lack of security was not one of their major concerns. However, 74.35% of the IDPs are concerned by the lack of lights in camps, the majority is located in Afar region (98.78%), where almost all the camps seem to do not have access to light services. The issue of privacy inside the camp is a big issue in Amhara (91.8%) and yet not in the Afar region. (DTM IOM).

Table 7 *Percentage of Household living in shelter that do not protect them from the rain, DTM 21, November 2021*

Zone	% of HHs living in bad shelter condition			
	>75%	51-57%	25-50%	None
Awsi/Zone1	68%	16%	16%	33%
Kilbati/Zone 2	31%	4%	5%	0%
Gabi/Zone 3	0%	56%	79%	0%
Hari/ Zone 5	0%	24%	0%	0%

As IDPs are often vulnerable groups, precarious living conditions worsen their situation. These vulnerable groups include single parents, female headed households, older persons, separated children and physically disabled according to International organization for Migration (IOM)'s Displacement Tracking matrix (DTM) data. (IOM, 24/09/2021) (plan-international, 15/10/2021). In addition to this, disabled people were also displaced in Afar region due to the conflict. For instance,

THE IMPACT OF CONFLICT ON INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES

The spread of conflict to Amhara region between July and August 2021 disrupted income generating activities for an estimated number of 500,000 people due to assets looting that deteriorated the livelihoods of communities already vulnerable to food security (Famine Early Warning Systems Network, 29/10/2021).

One of the impacts of the conflict was seen in the Amhara region where sesame farms exist. Due to the conflict, sesame farmers migrated to urban areas, leaving their land behind. Sesame farms used to be one of the striving activities in Amhara. Following the occupation of 40km of land in Gondar by the Sudanese military, sesame production in Ethiopia gradually decreased since mid-2020. This can be explained by the fact that the occupied land is very fertile, where most of the sesame is produced. In co

THE IMPACT OF CONFLICT DISPLACEMENT ON AGRICULTURE IN AMHARA REGION

Agricultural activity in Amhara and Afar region has been significantly affected due to the spread of conflict into the regions since July 2021.

According to the CGIAR study, most of the Afar and Amhara regions are climatically stressed regions where agriculture is less productive. this harsh climatic condition is mostly observed in the western part of Amhara that borders Sudan. Afar region is also a climatically sensitive region which makes the subsistence of pastoral communities difficult. The majority of the 1.5 million of the people affected by the conflict are farmers that are dependent on agriculture in the Amhara region., 200,000 of them belong to households that practice irrigation agriculture which is severely impacted by the climate condition of the region. (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 11/11/2021).

According to the All-Africa magazine 500,000ha, of sesame land was left uncultivated due to the conflict. This comprises 70% of the country sesame crop cultivation (AllAfrica, 30/10/2021). This is because the conflict started during Meher ploughing season, June and July 2021. The conflict also disrupted the harvesting period in the Eastern Amhara region. This makes the food security issue more complex as it reduces anticipated crops yields for 2022.

For instance, 400,000 people in the Northern Ethiopia are considered under "catastrophic food security condition" according to the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC). This does not include over 2.2 million people displaced due to the conflict in Amhara region. (United Nations Children's Fund, 07/07/2021)

HEALTH

Global statement

More than 1,500 Health Facilities and WASH infrastructure have been either looted or destroyed and are not functional anymore in Afar and Amhara regions due to the ongoing conflict in Northern Ethiopia. Also, the disruption of essential health service activities forced thousands of children and adults to receive essential health services in IDP sites. More than 33,000 HIV/AIDS patients were unable to get Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) medicines. Besides, the conflict also diverted the attention of government on COVID-19 response and activities.

In Afar and Amhara region according to DTM27 survey most of the respondents (94.8%) have never seen Targeted Supplementary Feeding Program (TSFP) services provided in the IDP camp.

Information gaps

Health information and data for related protection issues are increasingly hard to obtain. Data is mainly missing in the Afar region to draw the global picture of the health situation. Notably the number of IDPs receiving essential health services (disaggregated by Gender and Age) . More detail information on type of diseases and number of patients in IDPs camps would be necessary to collect too. Also, access data to the ratio of hospitals in Afar region, to know if health facilities are overcrowded, is challenging. In addition, information on number of COVID-19 cases and death is not available for IDP sites in Afar and Amhara region. Impact of conflict on ongoing treatment such as the ART one is also one of the missing pieces. All these information need to be disaggregated to enable a concrete understanding of the issues in Afar and Amhara, both by age and gender.

Details

ESSENTIAL HEALTH SERVICE

Access to humanitarian Aid, especially essential health service, is severely affected by the ongoing conflict in Amhara region. This puts over six million people at risk and in need of urgent essential health services in the region as the Amhara Region Public Health Emergency Operation Center (PHEOC) reports.

However, in Amhara region, a total of 23,069 IDP children under five and 55,236 adult IDPs received free essential health services in governmental facilities. The top diseases that were reported from collective sites are Diarrheal disease, Malnutrition and Upper respiratory tract infection which covers 21.1%, 17.6% and 12.9% respectively as of 28/10/2021 according to the Amhara Public Health Institute report. (APHI, PHEOC weekly report, 03/11/2021)

The bar chart below represents the top five causes of morbidity at collective IDP sites in Amhara region
The destruction of health facilities and the ongoing conflict in Northern Ethiopia,

nearly 30,000 HIV patients' were forced to interrupt their ART their treatment (UNOCHA, 11/11/2021).

INTERRUPTION OF ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES AND WASH

Access to Health Facilities

As mentioned by the Ethiopian Ministry of Health, more than 1,500 health facilities have been either severely damaged or looted following the territorial gains made by the rebel Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) in the regions (Afar and Amhara) a few months ago. In the Amhara region, where the TPLF group partially controls territory, 155 health centers,15 hospitals and 642 health posts were destroyed by TPLF groups. This destruction accounts for 18% of the total available health facilities in Amhara. The destruction of health facilities left more than 6 million people without essential health services and displaced 9,888 health care workers in the Amhara region. Currently, as the fighting continues and reportedly results in large scale displacement and destruction of health facilities from and around Dessie and Kombolcha food, emergency shelter, drinking water, medicines and health services are urgently needed. (Amhara Public Health Institute (APHI), PHEOC weekly report, 03/11/2021)

Figure 15 *Top 5 Diseases at collective IDP sites in Amhara Region, APHI, PHEOC weekly SitRip-45,*
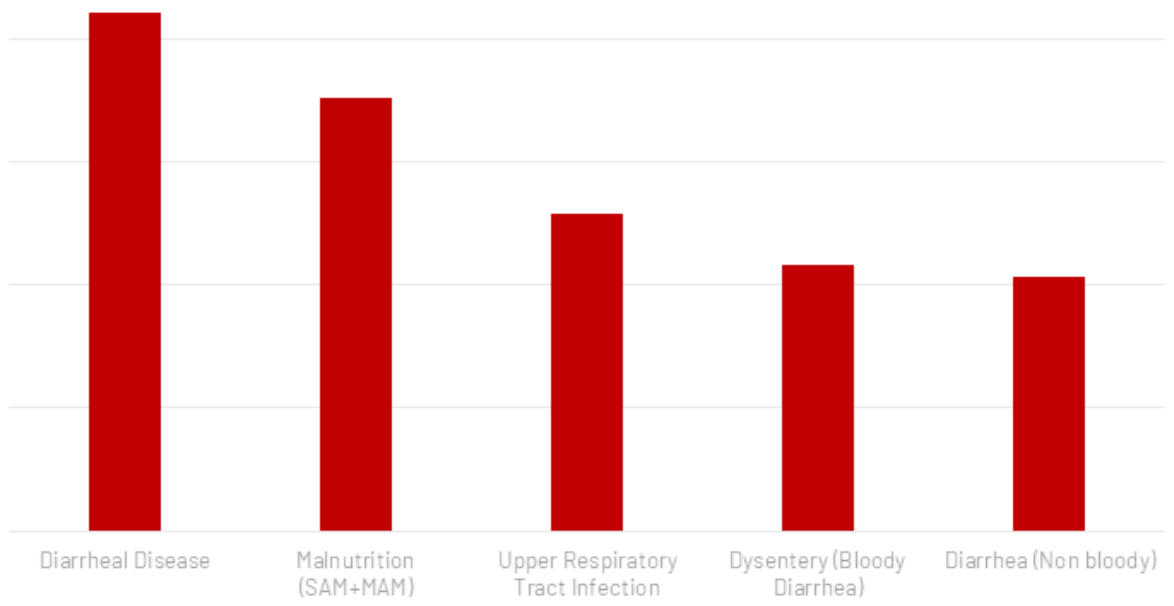
In Afar region, 1 hospital, 10 health centers and 38 health posts were destroyed. Based on the 2012 EFY figure this counts 11% of the total available health facilities in Afar region. As a result, millions of people in the region left without essential health services (Ethiopia Observer, 22/09/2021).

Access to WASH

Due to the ongoing conflict in Afar and Amhara region, the regions have indicted damage to water supply infrastructure, with up-to 57% boreholes, electromechanical equipment (switch boards, generators, pumps) are looted/ destroyed or made non-functional.

Based on the Regional Water Bureau (RWBs), assessments conducted on WASH infrastructure and damaged/looted or destroyed infrastructure, it was deemed that an water network extension to areas hosting IDPs would require around 2 billion ETB (US$51 million). This amount would ensure repairs, including both water and sanitation facilities. Lack of adequate WASH facilities jeopardizes the safety of particular groups at risk, women, children, elderly persons, persons with reduced mobility (United Nations Children's Fund, 27/10/2021).

COVID-19 IN ETHIOPIA

In March 2020, Ethiopia reported its first cases of coronavirus. The pandemic added significant pressure on an already fragile health system with limited capacity to deal with shocks. (European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid, 08/10/2021).On the 24 August 2021, the Ministry of Health confirmed that there were credible signs of a third wave related to the Delta variant of COVID-19 outbreak in Ethiopia and urged citizens to adhere to COVID-19 prevention protocols. The 3rd wave brought the infection rate to stand at 9.4 percent, compared to 2-3 percent a couple of months ago nationally. According to COVID-19 situation report #424 released on 25 August, some 2,095 new cases of COVID-19 a

record high in number of cases since the end of April 2021.

Initially, the government's response was effective. Containment measures were put in place. These included restrictions on social gatherings, face masks and physical distancing were mandatory. People were compliant at first. But as time went on, the restrictions were hardly enforced by the government or followed by the public.

Ethiopia has allocated 3 billion Ethiopian Birr (US$328 million) for vaccines and related expenses, which is 25.4% of the needed budget but the rest relies on donations from high income countries.

In addition, the country's target to vaccinate 20% of its eligible population by the end of 2021 is unlikely to be achieved. To do this it would need over 35 million doses. But it only has under 4 million doses – just 11% of the needed vaccine doses.

Currently, the situation is aggravated by the multiple conflicts in regional states such as Oromia region or the full-fledged war in Tigray, Afar and Amhara region. War displaces populations, destroys health system infrastructure, interrupts health service delivery, and diverts the attention of political leadership. It takes scarce resources away from basic services and leads to the collapse of the public health system, causing a domino effect. And much of the government and public attention in Ethiopia is not on COVID-19 but on the 10-month-old war in Northern Ethiopia (PreventionWeb, 22/09/2021)(Humanitarian Response, 08/09/2021).

FOOD INSECURITY IN IDPs

Due to the several climate shocks that have impacted Ethiopia, mainly Afar and Amhara region, the country is facing many foods insecurity issues. The DTM 27 survey carried out by IOM includes questions on

supplementary feeding program (TSFP) for IDPs and ask respondents the last time this type of services was provided to them. As a result, in Afar and Amhara regions, the majority of the respondents (94.8%) answered that they had never received TSFP services. This tendency is worse in Amhara region (96.8%) compared to Afar region (85.4%) ([DTM](#) IOM).

Table 9 Last time TSFP service was provided in IDPs camp, DTM 27, IOM, November 2021

Last time TSFP service was provided in IDPs camp	
< 1 month	2.8%
> 2 months	0.9%
1–2 months	1.5%
Have never seen TSFP	94.8%

Table 10 Last time TSFP service was provided in IDPs camp per region, DTM 27, IOM, November 2021

Region	Last time TSFP service was provided in IDPs camp	
Afar	< 1 month ago	9.8%
	> 2 months ago	4.9%
	Have never seen TSFP	85.4%
Amhara	< 1 month ago	1.3%
	1–2 months ago	1.9%
	Have never seen TSFP	96.8%

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Global statement

Gender Based Violence (GBV), as in many countries across the world, is common in Ethiopia. There has been an increase in trend of GBV, including rape cases, child labor, human trafficking, and an increase in number of separated children from their parents since the mid of 2019. However, the GBV issue in Ethiopia is deep rooted to the sociocultural factors existed in the community including some practices seen as abusive such as access to land, early marriage and the inability to go to school.

This has been widely seen in the Amhara and Afar regions. Compared to communities living in urban and sub-urban areas, there is less awareness among communities living in rural areas. Early marriage and associated consequences are the main contributors of most GBV cases in Amhara and Afar. However, the spreading of the conflict into Amhara and Afar region aggravated GBV cases, including rape. Due to the access blockade in conflict areas, many populations group ranging from child to women were exposed to severe GBV risk, where there is no adequate response in place, including legal, medical, MHPSS etc in place.

Information gaps

The conflict between the TPLF and the government exacerbated the situation in Ethiopia. Difficulties to access hard-to-reach areas prevent access to vulnerable population and so on to concrete and clear data. Missing

information include number of GBV cases disaggregated by age, gender and disability group; the extent of GBV related psychological, mental and physical health issues; and number of HIV and unwanted pregnancy related to GBV among different age groups of females. These data would allow us to improve the analysis of the situation for better understanding. However, reports and testimony of abuses and concerning situation were available during the reporting period.

Details

RAPE CASES IN AMHARA REGION DUE TO THE CONFLICT

During the periods when TPLF gained control of towns and village in Amhara region, several rape cases were reported. For instance, in mid-August 2021, sixteen women were raped by TPLF rebel group in Nifas Mewcha town in Amhara region, according to amnesty international. The local government reported 71 cases while the ministry of justice said it was 73 rape cases on the same month. ([Amnesty International](#), 09/11/2021)

GBV AWARENESS IN ETHIOPIA

The general awareness and perception towards GBV in Ethiopia is different between men and women. The study by the OHCHR showed that most interviewed women and men (69.2% women and 56.2% of the men) believed that GBV itself was a problem. The study also showed that rural communities are not aware of GBV issues compared to the community living in urban and semi-urban areas. The same survey by the UNOHCHR showed that 41.8% of men believe that GBV occurs less frequently while 56.5% of women believed GBV is a frequent phenomenon. However, 36.5% of the women still believe that GBV is happening sometimes. ([UNOHCHR](#), 01/10/2020)

Regarding awareness of the types of GBV, the study revealed that four common types of GBV were known by survey respondents: sexual harassment, emotional abuse, physical abuse and forced sex.

EARLY MARRIAGE IN ETHIOPIA

Early marriage refers to "any marriage happens under the age of 18 years, where the girl is not ready for the marriage and childbirth". Ethiopia is home for 15 million child brides according to the UN child fund program, 2018. Out of 15 million, 6 million were married before their 18th birthday. This means 4 in 10 young females married before the age of 18. Child marriage in Amhara and Afar regions are common. Compared to in Addis Ababa, the Afar region knows is 50% higher than Addis Ababa while in Amhara region it is 40%, proportionally. the burden of child marriage in Ethiopia has not decreased further and remains high today. However, Amhara region significantly reduced child marriage from 75 percent in 1991 to 56% in 2016 though the prevalence rate of early marriage in Amhara region was eighty percent of girls who got married before the age of eighteen which is higher than the national prevalence. But in Afar region the reduction remained insignificant, decreasing from 69% to 62% on the same period (hindawi,, 09/03/2021) ([unicef-irc](#), 15/12/2020)([UNICEF](#), 01/01/2018)

EARLY MARRIAGE AND HEALTH SERVICE IN ETHIOPIA

According to UNICEF, 25% of the Ethiopian people who got married before the age 18 had three or more children at the age of 20-24. In contrast females married at or after 18 years of age have received more antenatal care and deliver under skilled personal. The rate of antenatal care was 75% and 53% of those females deliver their child under the care of skilled professional. This indicate that females who married early have low access to the health professional support compared to females who married at or after 18 years of age ([UNICEF](#), 01/01/2018).

EDUCATION AND EARLY MARRIAGE IN ETHIOPIA

The 2016 DHS report also showed that early marriage happens more in rural area, compared to urban areas. Moreover, females who married above 20 years old are more educated than female who got married before 18 years of age. In urban areas the average age for marriage is 19.3 while in the rural area it is 16.3. Most of the time females married above age 24 had completed secondary education while females who married early had either completed primary education or none at all. (unicef-irc, 15/12/2020)

INTIMATE VIOLENCE AND EARLY MARRIAGE

Women married before age 18 are more likely exposed to intimate partner violence compared to women who are married at or after the age of 18. According to the 2018 UNICEF study, within 12 month 22%, 9%, 21% and 29% of women married before 18 years of age reported physical violence, sexual violence, emotional violence, and any types of violence respectively. While women married after the age of 18 reported marital violence. (United Nations Children's Fund, 01/01/2018)

CHILD PROTECTION

Global statement

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and the expansion of the conflict in Northern Ethiopia. Child Protection issues have worsened on top of issues already suffered by Ethiopian Children: child abuse, including early marriage, genital violence, physical abuse etc. In addition, children's access to school was reduced due to multifaced crises. Nutrition status of children across Afar and Amhara region is also concerning. Children are vulnerable to the various difficulties Ethiopia is currently facing.

Information gaps

Many children and females are kept out of school due to COVID-19 and the conflict in the northern Ethiopia. The difficulty of collecting information specific to child protection was also due to the communication blackout like others. For better understanding of the situation, this report would have gain to include information such as number of separated children by age and gender; the protection status of child IDPs both in camp and in host community; percentage child marriage increased especially due to COVID-19; number of disabled children IDPs; and number of records GBV related to closing of schools after the pandemic. However, some global statement and report of child

abuses are available which make difficult to understand the situation.

Details

STATUS OF CHILD PROTECTION IN ETHIOPIA

The Humanitarian needs overview 2021 for Ethiopia states that the number of children in need amount to 14 million- among more than 47 millions of children in the country (WorldPopulationReview, 2021). Approximately 2.2 million of these children are in the Afar and Amhara region.. The last report of the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission highlighted that children are facing food insecurity, lack of access to education and health scare services and conflict – denouncing that this situation "deprived children of their fundamental rights." (UNOHCHR, 01/10/2021)(HNO, 2021).

In its report release in October, the OHCHR states that "Thousands of children were separated from their families as result of the conflict.". In April, UNICEF estimated "about 5,000 separated and unaccompanied children". Afar and Amhara region are the primary container of displaced children from the conflict in Tigray. Reuniting families is quite a challenge due to the disconnection of telecommunications and insecurity (UNOHCHR, 01/10/2021).

UNICEF also in 2021 underlined that the "The vulnerabilities of women and children in conflict-affected areas of Tigray, Amhara and Afar region are increasing as conditions continue to deteriorate and internal displacement rapidly expand even as access to these IDPs remains a challenge" ([UNICEF](), 27/10/2021).

CHILD ABUSE SINCE COVID-19
In September 2021, a report developed by the working group "Joining forces for all children", gathering contributions from several Child Protection humanitarian organizations, has been released. Since the COVID-19 curfew in March 2020, reports of child abuse increased as children were kept out of school. According to this assessment, in the Afar region of Ethiopia, in February 2021, 99.7% of children reported having experienced "physical or psychological aggression from their guardians in the past month" . The study evokes cases of "lonely girls", while parents were out working, being exposed to higher risks of SGBV" during the covid-19 pandemic. Respondents also indicated that early and forced marriage (CEFM) have increased since the pandemic outbreak. Viewed as a traditional practice, Female genital mutilation (FGM) has also increased in the past year. Concerning Child Labor, the study highlights that Ethiopian children were also more vulnerable to this type of practice. The study interviewed several children during few months, majority of them expressed a desire for "action to feel secure against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and other kinds of abuse, with their parents, communities and the legal system providing protection.". However, few disaggregated data and information are available. Each topic would require more investigation to be able to target the needs on the field ([Joining forces](), September 2021).

DEATH OF CHILDREN
The conflict in Amhara and Afar causes loss of children's lives as well. For instance, an example of child death due to the conflict is the tragic death of 100-child reported from the Galicoma village in Afar which accounts for 50% of the total death during this conflict. According to the Ethiopian government most of the killings were reported from TPLF captured villages, including Dessie, Kombolch, Woldiya, Kemissie, Nifas mewcha, Debark, Debre tabor, Lalibela and North Wollo ([UNICEF](), 09/08/2021).

CHILD CONTINUE TO DROP OUT FROM SCHOOL DUE TO CONFLICT
The conflict in Afar and Amhara region also significantly impacts the education system through destruction of school infrastructures. In 2019 only, 1 million children were out of school according to the Ethiopian protection strategy document ([Protection Cluster](), 01/09/2021). Prior to the conflict schooling for children of Ethiopia had been already impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. As reported by the UNHCR in October 2020 in its COVID-19 Rapid Gender Assessment, the impact was unequal depending on children's living environments. In rural areas, 44% of the children did not see any measures implemented to enable them to keep learning as opposed to only one quarter (25%) in urban areas. The majority of children in Afar and Amhara region live in rural areas – the ongoing conflict thus adds to the already existing difficulties. For UNICEF, 1.3 children remain out of school in Northern Ethiopia following the pandemic, in addition to the number of people affected by the conflict ([UNICEF](), 27/10/2021).

Thus, the number of children out of school has been increasing since 2020, especially in Tigray, Afar and Amhara region due to the damage to school. According to OCHA, 2.7 million children in Northern Ethiopia saw their school either destroyed, damaged schools or used as temporary shelters by IDPs shelter as it's the case in Debre Berhan in Amhara region for at least two schools building ([UNOCHA](), 11/11/2021).

In Afar region, UNICEF and the Afar Regional Education Bureau did a multi-agency assessment in areas affected by the conflict. They have quantified that 450 schools are affected by the conflict whose 38 primary schools and 6 alternative basic education (ABE) centers that have been destroyed. The assessment identified 44 schools in four different woredas (Yallo, Ewa, Awra and Gulina) of Fenti zone with classroom blocks destroyed that needs to be reconstruct. Approximately 88,846 female (42%) are among the number of people impacted by these damages (UNICEF, 27/10/2021).

In the study led by the working group "Joining all our forces", author highlighted that not returning to school has been expressed by children interviewed as one of their biggest fear. They also indicate it was a source of anxiety for them (Joining forces, September 2021).

FOOD SECURITY ISSUE AND INCREASE OF SAM ADMISSIONS

The Afar and Amhara regions are impacted by major food security issue. As of October 2021, an estimation of additional 1.7 million people were displaced and need urgent assistant for food in both Amhara and Afar region as estimated by the Nutrition cluster, 700,000people are from Amhara and 140,000 people are from Afar region.

This undoubtedly results in an increase of SAM admissions (patient admitted to the hospital for severe accurate malnutrition) with limiting access to essential humanitarian aid. However, the reporting capacity of the SAM admission centers was also significantly affected by the conflict and the data may be not accurate. For instance, in June, 25% of the centers did not report any TFP (Therapeutic Feeding Program) in Afar region. During this period, the highest SAM admission rate was reported from the conflict-affected Fanti-rasu and Awsi-rasu zones which covers 51.1% of the overall SAM admissions in the region (ENCU reports, 2021).

In Afar region, SAM admissions increased through February to June 2021 while slightly declined in April and July. The severity of nutrition issues is increasing in Afar region. Indeed, rates of inpatient cares, meaning patient whose condition requires treatment in a hospital or other health care facility, were getting higher. The increase in SAM admissions may come from diverse factors such as the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, desert locust infestation, high food prices, and disrupted rainfall patterns. The impact of these underlying factors leads to acute food insecurity in the Afar region.

In Amhara region, SAM admission rate showed a decrease from the months of April to May 2021. Compared to previous year same month (May 2021), admissions have significantly decreased by 18.3% (1118 less admissions). But when figures are considered at zonal level West Gojam shows an increase in admission rate of 77% (104 more cases).

Available data and rate of severity need to be considered with cautious as they only concern people that reached health facility or were reached by humanitarian organizations. Since a few months, as demonstrated in this report, the humanitarian organizations' ability to reach people in Northern Ethiopia has decreased. More importantly, health facilities have been damaged by the conflict.

INTERNAL DISPLACED CHILDREN

 Data from the DTM27 shows that in the Afar and Amhara regions, the average number of children (<18 years old) per camp was 530, which represents 46.25% of the total camp population. This proportion is bigger in Afar region with 56.44% of people in the camp being children in general and 44.04% in Amhara region. In Amhara region the zones where children are more present are Awsi/Zone 1 and Kibati/Zone2. In Afar, South Gondar

is one of the zone with less children in the camp compared to Awsi (DTM IOM).

COVERAGE MALNUTRITION IN AFAR REGION
Few data are available on the coverage of SAM and MAM in Afar and Amhara region. Logical hypothesis is to state low coverage due to the ongoing situation. WFP (World Food Program) indicated in June 2021, that The MHNTs (Mobile health and Nutrition team) in the remote areas of Afar region provided treatment for 32% of children admitted to SAM. In the same month 35,115 Pregnant, and Lactating Women and 41,796 children under five, had received MAM treatment from WFP and its Partners, Disaster Prevention & food security program coordination office (DPFSCPCO) and the Regional Health Bureau. This counts the 77% of the monthly target beneficiaries (ENCU reports, 2021).

ANNEXES

Joint Intersectoral Analysis Framework (JIAF)

JIAF enables to classify a piece of information per operational enviroment and by sector information

a) Operational environment
Context
- –Politics
- –Security
- –Legal & Policy
- –Demography
- –Economy
- –Socio cultural
- –Environment
- –Technological

Shock/Event/Ongoing conditions
- –Type and characteristics
- –Underlying factors
- –Hazard and threats:

COVID-19
- –Cases/death
- –Testing
- –Hospitalization and care
- –Vaccination
- –Information and communication:
- –Restriction measures

Displacement
- Type/Numbers/Movements
- –Push factors
- –Pull factors
- –Intentions

Humanitarian access
- –Relief to beneficiaries
- –Beneficiaries to relief
- –Physical Constraints
- –People with access constraints

Information and communication
- –Communication means and preferences
- –Communication barriers and challenges
- –Knowledge and information gaps (population)
- –Knowledge and information gaps (humanitarian)

b) Sectoral information
Per Sector :
- Cross
- Food-security
- Livelihoods
- Health
- Nutrition
- Shelter
- Education
- Protection
- Agriculture
- Logistics

Per dimension & Sub-dimension
Impact
- Drivers/Aggravating Factors
- Impact on People
- Impact on System & Services
- Number of People Affected

The humanitarian conditions
- Living Standards
- Coping Mechanisms
- Physical & mental wellbeing
- Number of People in Need

At risk
- People at risk / Vulnerable:

Priorities
- Priority Needs (Pop)
- Priority Needs (Staff)
- Priority Interventions (Pop)
- Priority Interventions (Staff)

THANK YOU.

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