



Ethiopia ES/NFI Cluster Tigray Region Sub-national

Advocacy Note – September 30, 2022.

Humanitarian Situation

Since August 2022, the renewal of conflict in Northern Ethiopia has expanded to the Tigray region's North-Western, Eastern, and Southern zones. Close 230,730 people are displaced from the North-western Zone, mainly to Tahitay Adiyabo, Adi Hageray, Asgede, and Seyemti Adiyabo woredas. In Central and Eastern zones, ongoing displacement was reported from Rama, Zalambesa, and Erob toward Adwa, Axum, and Adigrat locations. In North Western Zone, IDPs from Kalawilo moved to Zelazile as the former was inaccessible hence humanitarian aid could not reach them. Both sites are overcrowded and lack essential household items and hence require immediate Shelter and NFI interventions.

The IDPs are observed to live in open spaces and under trees as no buildings are available to shelter them in most of these collective sites. They have not received any shelter support besides family tents provided by a Cluster partner. Living without Shelter during the ongoing rainy and cold season will expose these IDPs to health and protection risks. It should also be noted that the displacement locations have been in the conflict zones for the past twenty months. With the restriction of cash into the region, the IDPs have exhausted their coping mechanism, which increases their vulnerability.

In addition, in terms of the Shelter, the existing IDP caseloads, 74% of their needs are still not addressed, and currently, the Cluster partners are constructing and maintaining emergency shelters in (Mai Dimu, Adi Abay, Selekeleka, Adwa Industrial zone 2, Hitisat, Five Angels, Sebcare, Fatsi, and UNMAIS)



Fig 1. Showing IDPs that have arrived and without shelters



Fig 2. Showing an IDP family living under a tree without shelter



Fig 3. Showing IDPs that have arrived and without shelters



Fig 4. Showing IDPs that have arrived and are waiting for assistance



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Response

The Cluster is responding to the newly displaced people in the three zones by providing lifesaving shelter and NFIs services, with 3,902 In-kind NFI kits, 887 in-kind ESNFI kits, 250 family tents, and some loose items (tarpaulins, sleeping mats, and jerrycans) distributed to date. There are also 300 ESNFI kits, 42,539 NFI kits, 2,819 family tents, and several loose items in stock in Mekelle and Shire to respond to the current situation. The stock is very limited compared to the current needs and can only serve 48K households. In addition, some loose items, such as tarpaulins, sleeping mats, blankets, partial kits, etc., that are in stock are still not enough to meet the desired critical needs already identified.

In addition, once the available stocks are depleted, there are no pipelines for ES/NFIs and Shelter related activities. The blockage of incoming humanitarian aid and the suspension of UNHAS flights to Tigray has significantly impacted the Cluster partner's response. Most partners are phasing out their activities due to the security situation and the operational challenges caused by a lack of resources and cash. For the limited stocks in the region, fuel is the main challenge in enduring continuous local transportation of resources to provide support to the new displaced, considering a large number of the IDPs are living in inadequate conditions.

Areas of focus

The Cluster will continue to reach the newly arrived IDPs with ES/NFI support while maintaining response in the existing IDP sites.

ES/NFI Key concerns

- The suspension of delivery services (road blockade and UNHAS flight suspension) for humanitarian aid into Tigray is resulting in the limited flow of much-needed lifesaving resources into the region
- The fluidity of the conflict line causes access constraints to locations where IDPs have settled and make it difficult to provide the much-needed Shelter and NFI support.
- Considerable reduction in activities due to limited partner presence because of the deteriorating security situation and the operational challenges.
- The lack of fuel and cash has made transporting items from Mekelle to the Shire and different sites difficult.
- High costs of transportation by local vendors who are even requesting to be paid in cash which is scarce in the region.

ES/NFI cluster Key Asks

- Continued high-level advocacy with the GoE to allow passage of much-needed critical, lifesaving resources as well as cash into the region of Tigray either through road or via airlift operations.
- Resumption of fuel allocation to partners for urgent transportation of critical resources between the Mekele and Shire AoR.
- Donors and various Diplomatic Representations call for immediate de-escalation of hostilities to allow all service providers, particularly shelter partners, to reach out to remote, hard-to-reach critical displacement locations to support the resumption of coordination mechanisms/platforms, thereby allowing for the delivery of lifesaving interventions.
- Donor Community to consider top-up funding to support the ESNFI cluster to increase its coverage across critical displacement sites by engaging new local partners and maintaining the Tigray region's cluster pipeline.