



ICRC

Violence in Tigray – Response Plan



Context and casualties

In November 2020, armed violence between federal and regional forces erupted in Tigray, northern Ethiopia – triggering immense suffering for people living there. Clashes continue to take place and there are now major humanitarian needs across the region.

An untold number of people are displaced inside Tigray, hundreds continue to stream into Sudan every day, and we have received thousands of requests from people for help to get in contact with their family members. Hospitals and health care facilities we have visited have dealt with high numbers of wounded and are running out of medicines and supplies.

“**The needs in Tigray are overwhelming... humanitarian organizations urgently need access so people can receive lifesaving assistance before it’s too late.**

– Patrick Youssef,
ICRC’s Regional Director for Africa



Casualties and destruction

The fighting has caused **untold casualties and deaths**. Hospitals and primary health care centres in and around areas that have seen active fighting have seen an influx of wounded.

In addition, there have been reports of sexual violence, attacks on health and water facilities and their staff, as well as looting and damage to property.



Essential services

Health, water and electricity services have been severely disrupted and, in many cases, ceased to function. Supply chains to Tigray for medical items or fuel to run water pumps and generators have been interrupted. Those facilities which are still operating, lack essential items – hospitals need **supplies for treating wounded or chronically ill people**, including for medical procedures such as dialysis.



Displacement

Around **60,000 Ethiopians have reportedly fled to eastern Sudan**, where they have gathered in refugee camps. Many more have been displaced within Ethiopia.

Local leader, Kuse Hurumale told us “*Most of the displaced people fled with nothing but their lives. Many, including children, sleep on the ground in open fields.*”



Hamdayet, Border Reception Centre. A healthcare worker with the Sudanese Red Crescent Society treats a woman who fled the fighting in Tigray.

O. Jobard/MWO/ICRC



Food and livelihoods

People have lost access to the essentials they rely on to sustain themselves. Farmers have had to abandon their crops ahead of the harvesting season; others are unable to access their place of work or the materials needed for their business.



Losing contact with loved ones

At the start of the hostilities, communication lines in the region were cut. People displaced within and beyond Ethiopia have lost contact with their families. Although communications services are slowly resuming in some areas of Tigray, **many people remain without news of their relatives, many of whom are feared missing or dead.**

THE ESCALATION IN **VIOLENCE** AND ASSOCIATED **NEEDS**
STRIKE A REGION WHICH WAS ALREADY **HEAVILY-DEPENDENT**
ON DEVELOPMENT **ASSISTANCE** – AND STRUGGLING
TO MANAGE **COVID-19 CASES.**



“ It was harvest season. I was in my sorghum field when the men arrived. I saw the one who shot me.

– Naga Shokole, a 30-year-old farmer from the town of Humera

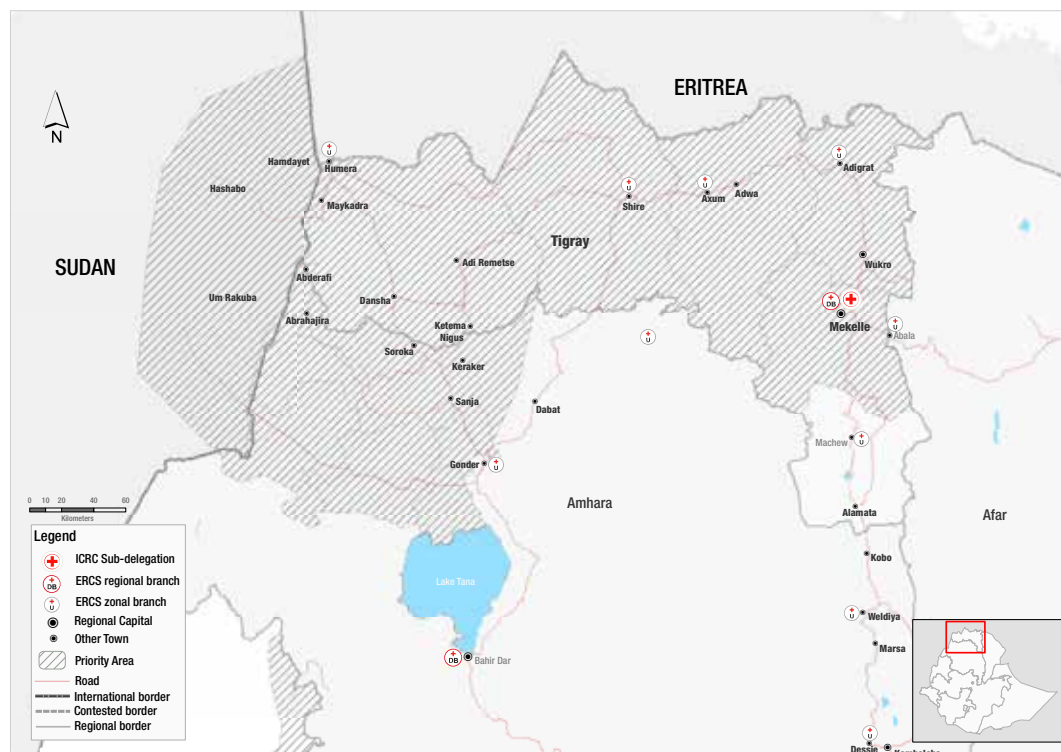
Naga’s wife, Yayish, found him wounded. Together with their two-year-old daughter, Hirmila, they fled across the border in a small cart pulled by their donkeys. On arrival, the Sudanese Red Crescent took Naga to Hashaba hospital where he is receiving care.

The ICRC's access and initial response

Other than the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) and the ICRC, few humanitarian actors have been able to access Tigray since the fighting began. Already present prior to the violence through our sub-delegation in Mekelle, the Tigray state capital, the ICRC has been assisting people affected by the conflict since the fighting began. We have been able to access areas where few other humanitarian actors are present. For example, a joint ERCS – ICRC convoy was the first to reach Mekelle, bringing urgently-needed medical supplies.

Now, given the extensive needs resulting from the violence, and the limited presence of other humanitarian actors, **the ICRC is seeking to scale-up its activities** to provide comprehensive assistance to people in northern Ethiopia, and support the delivery of health and family-links services to Ethiopian refugees in eastern Sudan. We will do so while maintaining our humanitarian activities in other violence-affected areas of Ethiopia.

ICRC AND ERCS LOCATIONS AND PRIORITY AREAS



The boundaries, names and designations used in this map do not imply official endorsement, nor express a political opinion on the part of the ICRC, and are without prejudice to claims of sovereignty over the territories mentioned.

Sources: ICRC Referential, ICRC Addis Ababa delegation, ERCS

Scaling up

The ICRC response will focus on communities with the greatest needs and which are accessible to few other actors. We will continue to work with and support the Ethiopian Red Cross Society and the Sudanese Red Crescent Society. Amongst other activities, we aim to expand our emergency response to:



Support health-care providers so that people with medical needs can access first-aid, hospital and rehabilitative care;



Enable people to obtain food, water and other essentials, while supporting communities and local authorities in establishing solutions that support recovery and long-term resilience;



Strengthen our dialogue with relevant parties on the need to respect applicable law, especially in terms of safeguarding people not taking part in hostilities including health workers and facilities, preventing sexual violence, and clarifying the fate or whereabouts of people who have gone missing due to the violence;



Help reconnect family members separated by the fighting;



Expand our access to and presence in violence-affected areas in Tigray.

REPRESENTATIVE COSTS:

CHF 10,000 COULD HELP MORE THAN **430 PEOPLE** MEET THEIR **ESSENTIAL NEEDS** (E.G. ACCESS FOOD, COOKING ITEMS, SOAP, BLANKETS ETC.) AT AN AVERAGE COST OF **CHF 23 PER PERSON**.

CHF 50,000 COULD HELP **10,000 PEOPLE** ACCESS **SAFE WATER** AT AN AVERAGE COST OF **CHF 5 EACH**.

CHF 170,000 COULD PROVIDE A HEALTH CENTRE OR HOSPITAL WITH **MEDICAL SUPPLIES** AND **EQUIPMENT**, AS WELL TRAINING SO THAT STAFF CAN PROVIDE **SPECIALIZED CARE** FOR VICTIMS/SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE.



“ I was so afraid for the baby that I have almost no memory of the road.

It’s like a black hole.

Today, I’m told that I have to stay here because I could deliver at any moment.

– 24 year old Million is 9 months pregnant and receiving care at a Sudanese Red Crescent health centre. Her husband is still in Mekelle.

Families in Ethiopia and Sudan need us now

Tens of thousands of people are in urgent need of our help. The ICRC, the ERCS and other members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement are working tirelessly – and with your support, we can do more. To support the scaling up of our activities in northern Ethiopia and eastern Sudan, the ICRC is appealing for CHF 20.245m, of which CHF 18.678m will be used in Ethiopia and CHF 1.567m in Sudan.

Please help us provide urgently-needed care by making a donation via one of the following accounts:

Bank address: UBS SA, P.O. BOX 2600, 1211 GENEVA 2, Switzerland

Swift code (BIC): UBSWCH ZH80A

	BANK ACCOUNT	IBAN
		(required for all bank transactions)
Swiss francs (CHF)	240-C0129986.0	CH63 0024 0240 C012 9986 0
US dollars (USD)	240-C0129986.4	CH52 0024 0240 C012 9986 4
Euros (EUR)	240-C0129986.5	CH25 0024 0240 C012 9986 5
Pounds Sterling (GBP)	240-C0183929.1	CH73 0024 0240 C018 3929 1

Your support will help people in great need. Thank you.

Cover image: Fighting in Ethiopia's Tigray region has triggered a humanitarian crisis that is worsening as clashes continue. Our response must be scaled up urgently to meet people's needs from medical care to food, water and reconnecting loved ones.



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