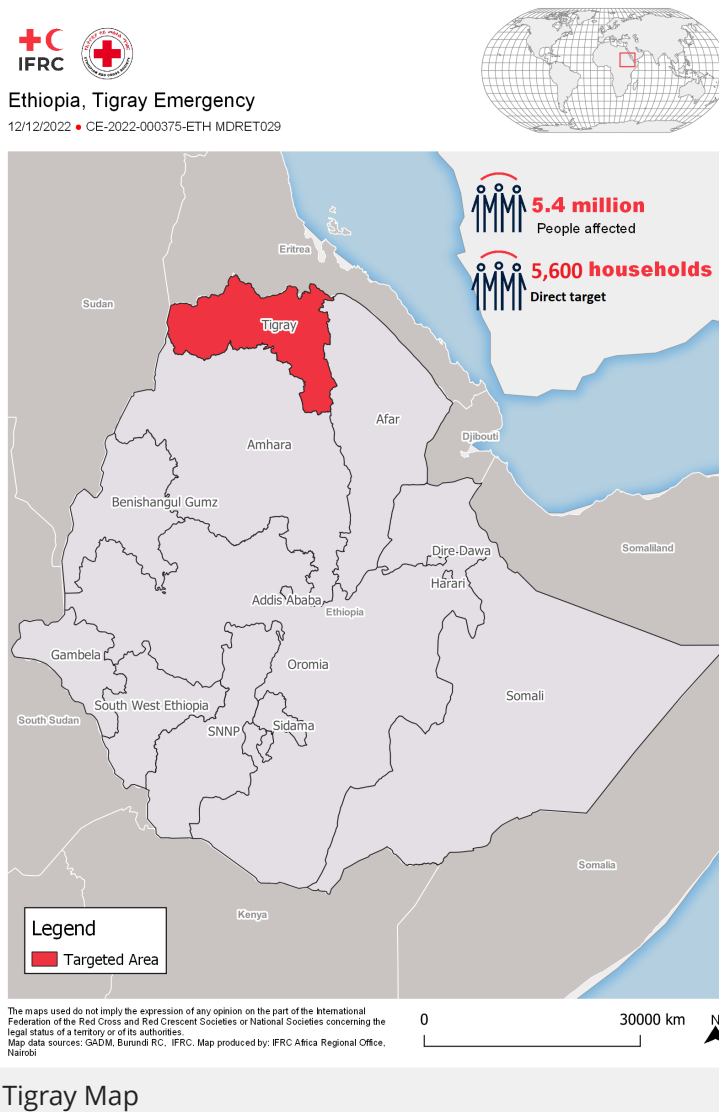




### Ethiopian RC staff and volunteers participating in Tigray assessment

Appeal: <b>MDRET029</b>	Total DREF Allocation <b>CHF 993,549</b>	Crisis Category: <b>Orange</b>	Hazard: <b>Complex Emergency</b>
Glide Number: <b>CE-2022-000375-ETH</b>	People Affected: <b>7,200,000 people</b>	People Targeted: <b>50,000 people</b>	
Event Onset: <b>Slow</b>	Operation Start Date: <b>2022-12-15</b>	New Operational end date: <b>2023-09-30</b>	Total operating timeframe: <b>9 months</b>
Additional Allocation Re- quested <b>822,542</b>	Targeted Areas:	<b>Tigray</b>	

# Description of the Event



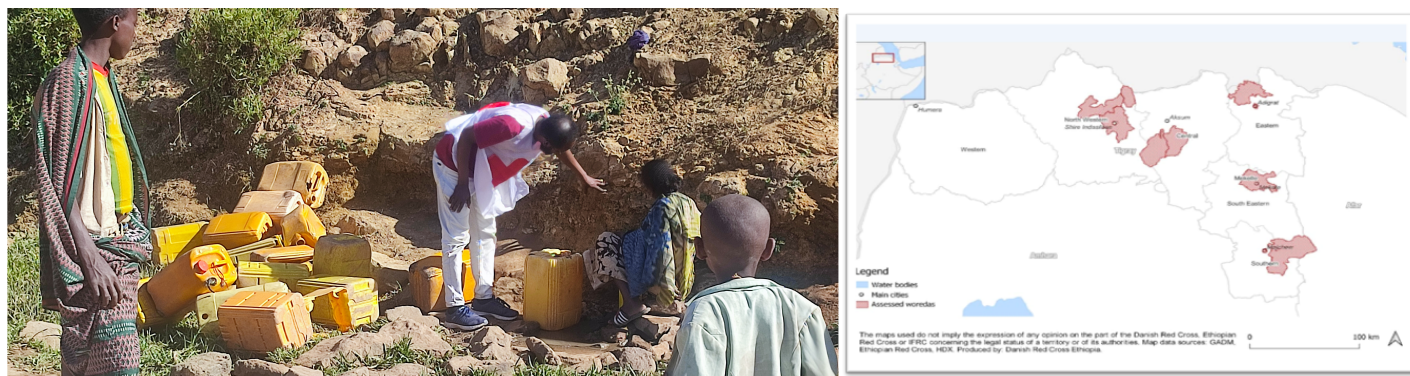
## What happened, where and when?

The conflict that broke out on 4th November 2020 between the Federal Democratic Government of Ethiopia (GoE) and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) left an estimated 1.8 million people displaced, claimed several hundred thousand lives according to some estimates, and left Tigray in ruins with many Tigrayans struggling to obtain basic needs and medical care. A telecommunications, electricity, and banking blackout that lasted for roughly two years, effectively cut Tigrayans off from the rest of the world. Furthermore, the distribution of aid was blocked for many months; in December 2022, an estimated 5.5 million people in Northern Ethiopia were facing severe acute food insecurity.

In November 2022, the two parties, GoE and TPLF, signed an agreement on permanent cessation of hostilities to end the two-year-long conflict including the protection of civilians' human rights, the resumption of public services in the region, the unobstructed flow of humanitarian supplies to Tigray, and facilitation of the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees to the region.

Following the signature of the Agreement, humanitarian access to Tigray has improved, allowing the Ethiopian Red Cross Society to complete an assessment shared on 15th March 2023 and demonstrating the critical need to scale up assistance in newly accessible areas. This assessment is a basis to inform immediate action to save lives through provision of humanitarian assistance but also to build confidence with local communities and returnees, authorities, and donors that assistance can be sustained at scale.

The ERCS with its regional, zonal, and woreda branches across the North Part of the country are well positioned to play a key role in supporting the response to the multidimensional crisis in Tigray where the communities remain in a critical needs pattern. This includes food access, shelter, access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), basic lifesaving health services, and critical non-food items (NFIs) as part of the pressing needs for most of the people, especially in the context of high displacement of the communities and linkage to the overall food insecurity crisis in the North.



Community trying to gather water in a damaged water source in Ṭ Areas assessed by ERCS

## Scope and Scale

For nearly two years, there have been limited information on the scale of the needs due to the lack of humanitarian access to Tigray region and communication shut down. The Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) had sporadic contact with its branches in Tigray during the conflict, but not enough to be able to analysed the scale of the crisis and plan accordingly. With the signing of the peace agreement, information flow improved and a humanitarian corridor to the north was opened and ERCS, with the support of IFRC, has conducted a multisectoral needs assessment in the Tigray region to identify and validate the immediate humanitarian and early recovery needs of the most vulnerable communities after the two-year conflict to sustain to ERCS interventions.

The conflict in Tigray has had a devastating toll on communities and people's different ways. From the assessment conducted by ERCS, the crisis has consequences on over 7.2 million people, a huge impact recorded on the displaced population which represent 1.8 million people.

- The crisis has affected agriculture and other means of livelihood for more than 6 million people, making it difficult to meet their basic food and nutrition needs, as well as infrastructure, including health facilities, schools, roads, bridges, water and sanitation facilities, and electricity systems have been destroyed or severely damaged.
- The consequences of the multiple crises faced by the communities remain present with dire needs across the region in terms of food security and livelihood for 6.5 million. The population lacks the capacity to access markets that experienced important price increases, basic infrastructure systems, WASH and health facilities, and minimum services.
- The displacement crisis resulting from the conflict creates a worsening factor to the above-mentioned needs. People have moved to townships and stay at either displacement sites, makeshift shelters, or overcrowded rented houses among host communities. Displacement sites are often overcrowded, with limited services and no livelihood opportunities, leaving most IDPs dependent on humanitarian aid. There are signs that some IDPs are starting to return to their place of origin. However, when they return, many face challenges to finding safe shelter, livelihoods, and access to health or educational services all of which have a significant impact on the mental well-being of many families.

- The food security assessment conducted by WFP in January 2022 reported that three-quarters of the communities were relying on severe consumption-based coping strategies (such as limiting portion sizes, reducing the number of meals per day, and reducing portions for adults so that children and/or pregnant women can eat). Only 59 Woredas out of 88 are covered following the food security cluster with 67% coverage of the needed assistance. The fact that more than three fourth of the population is undertaking such coping strategies underlines the challenges in both food access and food availability across the Tigray region. Food insecurity will continue to further deteriorate if immediate actions are not taken, the number of people depending on food assistance has increased from 15 % prior to the crisis to 75 % at the time of the assessment.

- On average 79% of the health system and facilities remain to be reset as highly affected by the crisis, both the structure, the information, and the availability of health staff. Malnutrition and overall health situation is preoccupancy, epidemic are difficult to track or address for the communities as a result of the capacity and th e health system, thus adding to the food crisis.□

The interim government is not yet in place and the peace agreement is slowly being put into action. Local authorities have not yet resumed their services and there is a high need for humanitarian assistance in all sectors.

Access is not full in all of Tigray, the Western part remains the most challenging and security is still volatile. At the same time, the number of actors operating in the region is fairly limited in relation to the needs on the ground.

The region has experienced a blockade of financial services for a period of 2 years, however, following the peace agreement, the services have gradually started to resume since January 2023. By the end of January 2023, the banking system had started to resume, with restrictions on withdrawing. The markets assessed in 2 locations were functional but still limited. However, it remains critical that financial services, communication, and transport systems are resumed to make markets fully functional.

To support the ERCS response capacity in Tigray, which has been heavily impacted by the conflict, the branches require immediate support. MHPSS to staff and volunteers also need to be considered.

## Summary of changes

Are you changing the timeframe of the operation	Yes
Are you changing the operational strategy	Yes
Are you changing the target population of the operation	Yes
Are you changing the geographical location	No
Are you making changes to the budget	Yes
Is this a request for a second allocation	Yes
Has the forecasted event materialize?	No
Please explain the summary of changes and justification	
With the support of the current DREF ERCS have conducted a multisectoral needs assessment sampled in the 4 zones of Tigray: Eastern, Southeastern, Central and Northwest zones (30th January to 10th February 2023) apart from also providing food assistance to 1000 HH in Tigray. The assessment has informed the scale up of the response to meet the immediate needs of humanitarian assistance and link to the recovery phase through engagement of community-based plans.	



The overall operation scale-up effect is reaching a number of people with an additional budget of 822,542 CHF. Below are details of activity-level strategy adjustments.

- i. Scaling up the food assistance response to 5,600 HH, 1000 HH of them have already received assistance.
- ii. Adding a component of immediate WASH assistance to support 4,500 HH with water treatment chemicals, and soap and also distribution of 3,200 MHM kits to women and girls. The WASH component will also include hygiene promotion activities targeting 50,000 people conducted by volunteers.
- iii. Vulnerability Capacity Assessments to be conducted in 2 woredas (this includes training of staff and volunteers prior to the assessment) to inform the long-term resource mobilization recovery program.
- iv. This implies increasing the caseload from 5,000 people (1,000 households) to 50,000 people (10,000 HH)
- v. Ethiopia Red Cross Society (ERCS) is also extending the DREF operation by 6 additional months from (new end date 30th September 2023), to enable the scale-up of response actions planned to be completed as well as completion of activities which needed to be adapted to the new targeting strategy or have not been completed.
- vi. The 9 months timeframe of this operation will allow the implementation of the overall allocation of CHF 993,549. This update's second allocation of CHF 822,542 is made to cover operative purposes resulting from the above changes while the initial allocation of CHF 171,007 has covered the assessment and the assistance to 5,000 initial beneficiaries.

## Current National Society Actions



zone	IDP (individuals) DTM Jan 2022	Total PIN ES/NFI Jan 2023	Sum of Total Targeted PIN	Total Reached PIN	Total Committed	Total Gap
Central	500,754	320,026	263,442	38,855	8,560	216,027
Eastern	180,228	171,082	142,649	1,500	7,500	133,649
Mekelle	272,353	63,073	50,666	11,320	2,500	36,846
Northwestern	802,759	805,107	676,138	93,625	17,875	564,638
Southeastern	19,842	26,467	20,468	5,000	1,750	13,718
Southern	38,348	105,581	78,582	16,095	5,000	57,487
Western		10,750	6,012			6,012
Grand Total	1,814,284	1,502,085	1,237,957	166,395	43,185	1,028,377

Table 6: IDP count conducted Jan 2022 and Targeting of Cluster Jan 2023;

SECTOR	AFFECTED POPULATION	IDP- HC	IDP- CS	PIN	TARGET
Shelter	1.8 M	1.3M	0.45M	1.5M	1.2M
Food security	7.2 M	1.3M	0.45M	6.5M	5.2 M
Health	7.2 M	1.3M	0.45M	6.5 M	Data not available
Nutrition	2.9 M	1.3M	0.45M	1.2M	0.1M
Protection	7.2 M	1.3M	0.45M	7.2 M	Data not available
WASH – Emergency water supply (water trucking)	2.95M	1.3M	0.45M	2.95M	0.95M
WASH – Rehabilitation	4.7 M	1.3M	0.45M	4.7 M	2.95M
WASH – Sanitation	4.7 M	1.3M	0.45M	4.7 M	1.6M
WASH – Hygiene promotion	4.7 M	1.3M	0.45M	4.7 M	3.6M
Education	2.4M			2.4M	1.9M

Table 4: Affected Population

Assessment dissemination to regional leaders in Tigray

Affected population data.

### Coordination

Movement Coordination platforms are in place and ERCS is working with PNSs, IFRC, and ICRC to ensure effective coordination.

The partnership building ERCS made with many stakeholders so far will enable the organization to provide quality service for affected communities. At the movement level, the SMMC coordination structure is robust in Ethiopia where at the strategic level the head of the three pillars attends a quarterly routine, and at the operation level movement operation coordination is convened on a monthly basis while technical working groups coordinate more frequently.

### Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

ERCS, with the support of DRC, is providing water trucking and sanitation activities, mainly latrine-dislodging services using the ERCS dislodging truck in IDP sites etc, and sanitation campaigns to clean up IDP sites, hospitals and other sites in the host community in Shire.

<b>Shelter, Housing And Settlements</b>	ERCS with the support of DRC has reached 3525 HH with Shelter NFIs in the Northwestern zone, Laelay Adiyabo woreda.
<b>Assessment</b>	ERCS has provided continuous situational updates from the Tigray region throughout the conflict. The ERCS and IFRC multisectoral needs assessment conducted in February 2023 under this DREF will be used when developing the roadmap for the National Society's response in Tigray which includes the scale-up of the DREF to meet the immediate humanitarian needs.
<b>Community Engagement And Accountability</b>	ERCS has a CEA guideline adopted from IFRC. Currently the approach is widely used by ERCS HQ and branches by integrating CEA in the entire program cycle. The National Society has its own coordinator at ERCS HQ and 300 trained staff members and volunteers at all levels
<b>Protection, Gender And Inclusion</b>	PGI is integrated into all the actions undertaken by ERCS interventions both in emergency and non-emergency situations. ERCS is currently working on integrating PGI into its emergency response that addresses violence, discrimination and exclusion and child protection related issues.
<b>Health</b>	ERCS has ongoing activities in health, sanitation and PSS supported by the Danish Red Cross (DRC) and Italian Red Cross (ItRC) in Shire and Mekele. 2000 dignity kits have been distributed with women associations in Adigrat, Shire and Mekele with support from DRC. ERCS continues to operate its ambulance services in Tigray though 143 out of 254 were looted or destroyed during the conflict.
<b>Livelihoods And Basic Needs</b>	ERCS has distributed essential food items in Tigray to 1,000 HH through this DREF. An additional 8000 HH are supported with food assistance in Northwestern zone, Easter zone and Mekele (4000 HH reached and an additional 4000 HH will be reached in the next 2 weeks) with support from DRC.
<b>Resource Mobilization</b>	ERCS is working with Movement partners to mobilize resources required for immediate lifesaving assistance and early recovery needs. The assessment report produced under the DREF will be used to support resource mobilization activities.
	<p>The Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) was established in 1935; The National Society is responsible for providing humanitarian assistance to people affected by natural disasters and conflict throughout the country. The main auxiliary role of ERCS is to supplement the government in the fulfilment of its responsibility to address the vulnerabilities that exist in the country</p> <p>As such, ERCS has responded to the crisis in northern Ethiopia, and its humanitarian consequences across other parts of the country since its onset in November 2020. They carried out initial assessments inside Tigray region since 9 December 2021 before other humanitarian stakeholders were able to have access. ERCS has been involved in responding to a ranging of humanitarian needs for displaced populations in the most affected areas. This has included basic first aid, pre-hospital care, ambulance services, support to health services, distribution of essential household items and emergency shelter, disbursement of multi-purpose cash grants, provision of in-kind food assistance, livelihoods support, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services; and engaging in protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) and Community</p>

<p><b>National Society Readiness</b></p>	<p>Engagement and Accountability (CEA)</p> <p>Tigray Region branches, Northwestern Zone branch office was established four decades ago and serving the most vulnerable even in very critical periods like the current conflict situation. ERCS has been supporting people who were affected by different natural and man-made disasters. In addition to disaster response activities, it has been implemented various development and humanitarian project activities which contributed to the National resilient community endeavors. Even though the needs were enormous, the branch office played great support to respond immediate needs of those who are most vulnerable</p> <p>The partnership building made with many stakeholders enables ERCS to provide quality service for affected communities. At the National Headquarters (NHQ) level, response activities are led by the Disaster Risk Reduction Directorate which supports a regional and zonal representation, present in all regions of Ethiopia. This comprises a network of 11 regional and 37 zonal branches, 2,176 staff members, 44,700 volunteers, 6,000 Red Cross committees at community level, and 5 million paying member</p> <p>The operational capacity of ERCS branches at regional and zonal level in the Tigray region was significantly reduced during the conflict; out of the 254 ambulances 143 were either looted or destroyed. Three pharmacies at Adigrat, Wukro and Humera were looted and there is no pharmaceutical services currently in any of the zones in the Tigray region. The ERCS offices located in eastern zone Adigrat town and northwestern zone in Shire town were partially damaged and lost all office furniture and equipment due to looting. There has been reports that all ES/NFI prepositioned, and first aid materials were also looted.</p>
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## Movement Partners Actions Related To The Current Event

<p><b>IFRC</b></p>	<p>The IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for Ethiopia and Djibouti is providing technical support to ERCS for the Implementation of the DREF and strategic strategic coordination with PNSs. An IFRC Assessment Coordinator was deployed for 3 months to lead and support the multisectoral assessment conducted as part of the DREF.</p>
<p><b>ICRC</b></p>	<p>ICRC is present in Tigray and have also supported the DREF will support with coordination, access, logistics and security.</p>
<p><b>Participating National Societies</b></p>	<p>The PNSs currently present in the country include Austrian, Danish, Finnish, German, Italian, Netherlands and Swiss Red Cross Societies.</p> <p>Danish Red Cross is supporting food assistance, health, WASH and shelter interventions in Tigray (see more details on the interventions under Current National Society Action). In addition, support is provided for reconstruction of branch offices. DRC is also supporting the resumption of minimal ambulance services in Northwestern, Eastern zones and Mekele as well as PSS activities for caring for volunteers in the three branches and PSS and SGBV outreach activities in Northwestern zone. In addition, support is provided for reconstruction of branch offices (Shire zonal branch, Laelay Adiyabo woreda branch, Mekele zonal branch and Adigrat zonal branch). □</p>

ERCS with the support of Italian Red Cross supported Quiha hospital in Mekele with 18 months salary support, the salary support will continue in 2023. Italian Red Cross conducted a visit to Tigray in March 2023 which will feed into their planned support to the region.

ERCS with the support of Austrian Red Cross WASH, EMS and Basic needs in Southern Tigray.

## Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

<b>Government has requested international assistance</b>	Yes
<b>National authorities</b>	<p>On 13 November, the National Disaster Risk Management Commission of Ethiopia held a meeting with Implementing Partners to come up with modalities for discharging their respective responsibilities reaching out to the Northern Ethiopia conflict affected population. The Ethiopian Government and Donor Partners reached a mutual agreement on emergency management upon the launching of full access to enclosed areas of Northern Ethiopia and to resume the multi-sectoral response operations with a sense of urgency.</p> <p>According to data from the FSL cluster, the Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission (EDRMC) assisted 77,600 people (41 % of its planned caseload of 0.2 million people) with 1,164 MT of wheat in the Western Zone.</p>
<b>UN or other actors</b>	<p>UN organisations including WFP, UNHCR, UNICEF and IOM are active in Tigray. Joint Emergency Operations Program (JEOP) partners, led by the Catholic Relief Services and implemented through a consortium of partners including Care World Vision, the Relief Society of Tigray amongst others, are providing food assistance in response to acute food needs.</p> <p>During the 3rd round of distributions, which was launched in late December 2022, FSL partners have assisted 3.9 million people (73% of the total planned caseload of 5.4 million people for the region, including Western Zone) with 66,720 MT of food as of 8th of March. Out of the 3.9 million assisted, more than 314,000 people are IDPs. Among the main FSL partners, JEOP assisted 2.7 million people (87% of its planned caseload of 3.1 million people) with 45,703 MT of food; WFP and its partners assisted 1.17 million people (56% of its planned caseload of 2.1 million people) with 19,853 MT of food.</p> <p>Since mid-November 2022 when humanitarian food supplies resumed to enter Tigray, more than 166,000 MT of food has been brought into the region as of 16 March; and around 138,000 MT of food (for Round 2 and 3 of 2022) has been distributed to five million people as of 8th of March.</p> <p>WASH cluster partners are preparing to scale up the WASH response. A rapid assessment in IDP sites are ongoing and the cluster is currently assigning a WASH focal agency. As of February 2023 WASH cluster partners have received 2,761 MT of WASH supplies, including water treatment chemicals and soap for IDPs, and distributed 84 % and 95 % respectively of the received NFIs.</p> <p>Currently there are 6 organizations represented in the food security cluster in Tigray; (4 international, 1 local NGO and government disaster department working in the western zone) undertaking interventions to address food in-</p>



security. Since mid-November 2022 when access was resumed and humanitarian food distributions commenced, covering 59 Woredas on 88 from food security cluster data on a total target population which is 5.2M. Now, local authorities and communities, partners are working on re-targeting to include people who are newly displaced or experiencing secondary displacement in the caseload and identifying other most vulnerable people in need based on available vulnerability information (e.g. demographic and socio-economic data). This exercise has been challenging due to the context with increased population movements, high number of displaced people, limited or non-existing local government structure, presence of multiple armed actors in some areas, and lack of documentation among IDPs.

### **Are there major coordination mechanisms in place?**

The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) led by the UN Humanitarian Coordinator, the Inter Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG), and clusters are operational and meet regularly at national and regional levels. ERCS participates in clusters, ICCG and HCT with support from IFRC and PNSs. For all intervention strategies of this DREF, the ERCS will ensure coordination with Government authorities at all levels, relevant stakeholders, and thematic clusters to ensure complementarity, transparency, and coordination. As noted, ERCS will conduct PDM of distributions and will conduct lesson learnt workshop for reflective learning and improving on future programming.

# Needs (Gaps) Identified



## Protection, Gender And Inclusion

From the assessment findings more than 50% of respondents experienced violence or SGBV in the place where they are currently live, while 72% reported the areas they resided to be unsafe. The long school closure and shortage of food and other basic needs also forced the community to adopt negative coping mechanism including early marriage and prostitution. The assessment also revealed less support for SGBV cases which need immediate attention due to damaged health facilities in the respective areas and absence of government structures.

Vulnerable groups include people living with disabilities, children under five, pregnant and lactating mothers, elderly and displaced population among others are likely to face risk of common protection: Gender-based violence and child protection minimum. High rates of poverty, limited access to information and education, and limited access to food and primary health care have weakened Tigray families' ability to cope with persistent and new shocks. This exposes vulnerable people, particularly elderly people, women, children, and persons with disabilities to protection risks.

The resumption of services will improve SGBV services, ERCS will conduct awareness raising including on referral systems to support affected population to access services. All volunteers engaged in the operation will be oriented on PGI and referral mechanisms.



## Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

The massive displacement forced more than 1.8M people to live either in collective sites or in makeshift shelters within the host communities. From the assessment conducted, water treatment and hygiene supplies remain to be one of the main challenge for the affected population which places them at high risk of disease outbreak that are exacerbating the food insecurity and stretching the leaving conditions.

Analysis of KIIs, FGDs and observation shows that the community members know how to use water and sanitation facilities and practices properly, but they are not able to wash themselves and their families because of the shortage of water and lack of income to buy soap.

With this DREF scale up ERCS will support 4,600 households with water treatment chemicals (Aquatabs), soap and dignity kits for women. 52 volunteers will be trained and deployed for 3 months to conduct hygiene promotion and support the distributions of the WASH NFIs and the orientation of how to use the NFIs distributed.



## Livelihoods And Basic Needs

During the assessment, more than 96 % of the respondents report that their primary income has decreased due to impacts of the conflict. This was also observed by the assessment team during the transact walk where several houses, crops and livestock being looted. In Tigray these results are linked to the decrease curve of agro-pastoral activities which represent the main source of income of the population.

Livelihoods have been disrupted in different ways. 29 % of the respondents in the HH survey highlighted damage of community infrastructure such as roads, markets, and communication as causes of livelihood interruptions, while 34 % reported that they lost agriculture inputs.

Decreased access to food parcel for local production resulting from climate/conflict/migrations have led to less and less local food productions. Declining local production has immediate consequences on income generating

activities of families with majority being farmers. Moreover, this has significantly increased the dependence to market supplies affected by price raising. Dependence to humanitarian assistance has continued in a context of low purchase power and poverty

During the conflict period, farmers have been prevented from ploughing or harvesting, seeds for planting have been stolen, farm equipment has been looted, and livestock has been killed. Crops that were able to be sown have often been pillaged and destroyed.

Tigray region has been identified as one of the most drought-vulnerable crops-production regions. From FEWS-NET latest report forecast until January 2023, Tigray drought is still worst. The climate effect with drought increased and precipitation still be insufficient extend hazards on agropastoral production. The number of people to be assisted and livestock to be supported is increasing, leading to bad coping mechanism for minimum food assistance. According to OCHA report on 8 December 2022, since late 2021, 4 million livestock have perished, and more than 30 million livestock are emaciated and at risk. This is an increase from 3.5 million livestock deaths and at least 25 million at risk reported by mid-May 2022. People are in dire need of immediate food assistance

Food insecurity is worsening over the country driven by similar factors as Tigray. At the same time, deterioration of the hunger crisis in the country and bordering countries is enriched by chronical niches of complex disasters like Tigray which results on multiple humanitarian consequences spreading over to other regions and countries. The crisis in Tigray has affected several neighbouring regions in terms of food insecurity resulting from the lack of production, deterioration of income for community's livelihood, migration and effect of health crisis. To have the best approach in the hunger crisis response and to identify the best integrated approach for this operation, NS will need to fully understand the dynamic between Tigray crisis and the overall Hunger crisis in the country; similar driven factors between Tigray and effects of ongoing crisis in the country to other regions

Following the assessment conducted in the Eastern, Southeastern, Central and Northwest zones of Tigray region engaging the affected population, the most urgent need is food reflecting the factors mentioned above. It has not been able to practice any agriculture or other livelihood activities for two consecutive years as a result of the conflict, blockade to services, shortage of farm inputs and disruption of farming and irrigation schemes. The food insecurity severity is not only amongst the IDP but also amongst the general population in the host community. The livelihoods of the affected population have deteriorated and an increase of people in need of food assistance from 10-15% pre-conflict, to 75-90% post conflict was reported in the assessment. Currently more than 6.5 Millions people are reported food insecure.

#### Financial system and market

The gradual resumption of transportation, banking, and communication systems in January 2023, is slowly reviving the situation with limited access to some areas.

With the available resources being limited, the FSL cluster has advised to sustain the ongoing food assistance through the most appropriate modalities, complementing it with agriculture and livelihood support in collaboration with other clusters to improve food security in the region and prevent further deterioration. With better climate conditions, food assistance is forecasted to last up to next main harvest season in late 2023.

The existing DREF reached 1000 HH with one cycle of food distribution. To complement the emergency food need, ERCS seeks to extend immediate food needs to 4,600 HH (23,000 people) in the Tigray region.



### Community Engagement And Accountability

The formal information access was totally disrupted, i.e., no telephone, no transport and restricted free mobility. 63 % report that their preferred channel for feedback and complaints remains community meetings, 20 % through religious leaders and 12 % through help desk. Feedback via phone and SMS was not prioritized as most areas still do not have access to mobile network or they do not have mobile phones.

The respondents find that information/communication with family members (33 %) is most important, followed

by information on relief operations (26 %) and security information (24 %).

The surveys conducted have also allow to get direct voice from communities on their perception of the crisis and give them open place to express the most pressing needs they perceive. Hence, the main challenge reported by the respondents was food shortage (72%), security concerns (42%), health problems (31 %), lack of portable water due to major damage to infrastructure (12 %) and poverty (9 %).

## Operational Strategy

### Overall objective of the operation

The main objective of this revised operation is to scale up the response to meet the immediate needs identified during the assessment to the population most in need, while monitoring the situation for immediate and early recovery based on the Government and ERCS response plan.

This DREF responds to the immediate emergency need and is providing (from the assessment to the groundwork to be done during this update) the necessary information and platforms to discuss the transition to the unified plan/recovery plan that could address the specific context of Ethiopia and Tigray especially.

### Operation strategy rationale

ERCS with the support of IFRC intends to extend the provision of immediate humanitarian assistance to most in need communities in Tigray for a period of 6 months. ERCS has engaged local communities during the multisectoral needs assessment to get an in-depth integrated analysis of the current situation after several months being locked down from the region.

The immediate needs have been drawn from the community feedback during the assessment conducted by ERCS in collaboration with Government lead sectors with the support from IFRC from January 28 to Feb 10th, 2023. The results from the assessment identified growing needs in food security and livelihood, WASH, protection, shelter, health, and nutrition, aggregated by the two-year long conflict which put a halt to all the economic activities over the period of 2 years. Looting and burning of public and private properties and the blockade of transport, communication, banking, subsidies, and major services have had a negative impact on the Tigray economy. The regional local government has been disrupted since the start of the conflict, and in some areas had not yet resumed at the time of the assessment.

Transition to the early recovery and sustainable long-term planning

- This operation through the assessment is providing the groundwork for early recovery and long-term planning decision making. To complement the result of the assessment in the way to support the early recovery, ERCS under this operation will ensure a continuous assessment and conduct the capacity and vulnerability assessment. Both assessments results, capacity of NS and learnings from the current proposed interventions will provide groundwork for further planning to a sustainable early recovery and long-term planning.
- The coordination with partners in-country will also be part of the key work area for mid-term and long-term planning to complement the current emergency response by ensuring sustainable food availability, livelihoods and WASH facilities access through adapted environmental solutions and community based agro-pastoral solutions.
- Aside of that, the coming months will provide good space to ensure appropriate communication on ERCS actions for the Tigray crisis since and the capacity of NS as an invaluable partner in this crisis that with benefit of the extended branches can better provide an integrated response to the converged factors in the North that also driven the crisis in Tigray.

ERCS is an actively participating in coordination meeting and updated with all the response operations on site, always consults with the sector leads for all planned responses and targeting validation on the planned assistance. The response under this allocation includes the following aspects:



1. ERCS will extend the distribution of essential food assistance to 4,600 households with food portion per person as identified in the initial plan, 15 kg wheat flour, 1.5 kg pulses and 0.6 litres of oil. The ERCS staff and volunteers will be engaged in beneficiary identification based on the agreed criteria, registration, and distribution of food, closely monitoring the fairness and appropriateness of the relief distribution. Prior to the distribution, they will receive a refresher training on relief distribution and crowd management, CEA, feedback and compliant mechanisms
2. Procurement and distribution of WASH essential items to ensure water purification with tabs and soap for hygiene to 4,600 HH. The WASH intervention will cover refresher training to 52 volunteers that will provide hygiene promotion and communication messages. They will also get briefings and demonstration to be conducted in the communities to be able to cascade the orientation on how to use distributed water treatment chemicals and safe storage. The Hygiene promotion interventions will refer to the IFRC guidelines: <https://watsanmissionassistant.org/emergency-hygiene/>. ERCS will also integrate the sanitation mapping at HH level, mobilizing for latrine construction and resourcing for support for the most vulnerable families with other WASH partners or scale up in the recovery phase.
3. The DREF will also support ERCS to support hygiene through the Procurement and distribution of MHM kits for 3,200 women/girls.
4. In order to inform the recover programming Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (VCA) will be conducted in 2 woredas. A ToT training will be conducted, followed by training of volunteers in the 2 woredas prior to the VCA assessment, potentially to link the humanitarian phase to the recovery level with more community-based action plans.
5. Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI): The operation will adhere to the IFRC Minimum Standard Commitment to PGI in emergency settings. Services delivered will be informed by a PGI analysis of the needs of the most vulnerable people. Activities will include PGI training to staff and volunteers engaged in the operation including SGBV and child safeguarding, using the IFRC guidelines, mapping of referral pathways and making accessible information on local referral systems for any SGBV concerns in coordination with other SGBV actors. The trained volunteers will also be engaged in Community awareness sessions on SGBV prevention and child safeguarding. NS will also conduct a child safeguarding risks analysis with the support from IFRC PGI regional team using the Q&A on Child Safeguarding Risk Analysis for IFRC Programmes. All the reporting, data collection and documentation will consider gender and diversity to ascertain all groups participation.
6. Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) will mainly focus on ensuring the engagement and involvement of all stakeholders including the affected population all along the operation, with consideration of expressed communication preferences. The community will be consulted in the establishment of community feedback committees for reliable and swift relay of information, feedback, and complaints. Sensitive feedback will be handled through the referral pathways. Communication and dissemination of Fundamental Principles will be a component of the CEA activities to ensure access and acceptance. For all intervention strategies of this operation, the ERCS will ensure coordination with Government authorities at all levels, relevant stakeholders, and thematic clusters to ensure complementarity, transparency, and coordination.
7. Capacity strengthening of ERCS branches and volunteers:  
To support the wellbeing of staff and volunteers a two days MHPSS clinic will be provided. Trainings for the necessary capacities of NS staff and volunteers to carry out the activities will be provided; this includes a two-day orientation including Safer Access and Security briefings.
8. Monitoring and reporting  
Emphasis is made on encouraging continuous assessment of the situation, monitoring of the services being provided as well as looking at monitoring of the feedback from beneficiaries. Analysis of monitoring observations will help with timely decision-making. Attention will be paid to data management (including collection of COVID-19 screening data, GBV and protection cases), inclusive of collection of disaggregated beneficiary data, storage, and analysis. Continuous communication with the field teams, along with issuance of necessary updates of the operation including the final report will be managed accordingly.

# Targeting Strategy

## Who will be targeted through this operation?

Following the assessment conducted by ERCS, this DREF operation is extending the target beyond the 1000 HH initially targeted. The revised target of this operation is distributed as follow:

- 50,000 people in total will benefit from Hygiene promotion that will be conducted in targeted areas.
- 5,600 Households (HH) will represent the main direct target for which NS will provide food assistance. Under this DREF, 1,000 households were provided with food assistance and this revision of the DREF will thus extend the same assistance to 4,600 HH. 4,600HH will meet the immediate need to access safe drinking water, hygiene and protection.

The 5,600 HH direct target represent 28,000 people approximatively (5000 people initially and 23,000 additional).

The people in dire need of assistance in Tigray and ERCS staff and volunteers responding to the emergency. For specific areas targeted, NS will focus on the areas included in the multisectoral needs.

The area has been selected mainly as a result of:

- Presence of ERCS Tigray branch with better operational capacity in terms of staff and volunteers (29 staff and more than 52 trained volunteers on BDRT, first aid, and WASH).
- Excellent existing partnership with humanitarian partners and EDRMC working in Shire town (UNHCR, IOM. In most cases, the ERCS Northwest branch plays a leadership role.
- Safe access analysis

## Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The magnitude of impact within the region is huge. The geographical targeting will be done during the implementation stage considering the coverage of other partners, and vulnerability in the assessed areas. The selection criteria include those displaced households who lost their breadwinner due to the conflict, households who faced major wounds and spend money on medication, women-headed households, women with many children, disabilities, elderliness, and other critical criteria identified during community discussion through the CEA approach.

Maintaining the initial targeting and selection criteria, priority will be given to the following group identified to be most in need in the assessment findings:

- UAMs who lost their parents/guardians during the conflict.
- IDPs living at IDP sites or in the host communities.
- Individuals from the general population who was included in the safety net project prior to the conflict, as were identified as poor households.
- Individuals from the general population identified with key vulnerability factors (e.g. people with disabilities or chronic illnesses, female/child headed households, elderly).


## Total Targeted Population

Women:	19,125	Rural %	Urban %
Girls (under 18):	6,375	21.30 %	78.70 %
Men:	18,375	People with disabilities (estimated %)	
Boys (under 18):	6,125	1.00 %	
Total targeted population:	50,000		

# Risk and security considerations

Please indicate about potential operational risk for this operations and mitigation actions	
Risk	Mitigation action
Community needs may exceed the capacity of this operation	ERCS will advocate as necessary to partner organizations to meet unmet needs
Access to some areas still limited	ERCS and IFRC will coordinate closely with local officials and with the support of ICRC to ensure safe access. However, the TPLF is armless, and the access has improved, target areas will consider the security.
procurement and Logistic	ERCS will use the approved single source procurement for food items, and the shipping will be done by the third party, who will bear the transport risks. (risk transfer)
Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation	
<p>Although the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF) signed an agreement on permanent cessation of hostilities including the resumption of public services in the region and the unobstructed flow of humanitarian supplies to Tigray and the region is gradually opening, the situation remains fragile. One concern is that target areas become inaccessible due to the deterioration of the security situation. To effectively work in a such sensitive environment, it will be necessary for the ERCS to keep updating the security standard operational procedures and security plans and disseminate them among all the team in a suitable language. SOPs on checkpoint behaviour, field movement, and communications should be drafted, and contingency plans for loss of communication, actions under fire, kidnapping, and death or injury of staff should be drafted or revised as needed. ERCS has a security unit that provides situation monitoring and providing timely security advice to field personnel and works closely with IFRC security officer at the Delegation level. To enhance safety, the ERCS operation team will clearly be identifiable by wearing the RCRC visibility gear. Staff would also need to be trained on these procedures and plan</p> <p>All response teams should receive a detailed briefing on the risk of this operation, in dealing with assistance in conflict areas. All IFRC staff must complete, and RC/RC staff and volunteers are encouraged to, the IFRC Stay Safe e-learning courses (i.e. Stay Safe Personal Security, Stay Safe Security Management, and Stay Safe Volunteer Security online training). First aid training, PSS, and safe access should be a mandatory prerequisite to be engaged in this operation. The IFRC security plans will apply to all IFRC staff throughout. Area-specific Security Risk Assessment will be conducted for any operational area should any IFRC personnel be deployed there. Support for the establishment or reinforcement of these mitigation measures could come from the IFRC Regional Security Coordinator with support from the Global Security Unit in Geneva. All Branch volunteers engaged in the operation will be insured and their movement will be monitored and oriented following the regular security updates to be established through SMS/WhatsApp phone updates. The IFRC will also continue to closely monitor the security situation in all regions and coordinate the security plan with ICRC, RCRC Movement partners, and local actors. ERCS counts on the presence of volunteers and partners that could make a difference in the community</p>	

# Planned Intervention

	Water, Sanitation And Hygiene	Budget		CHF 68,730
		Targeted Persons		50000
Indicators		Target	Actual	
# of People reached with hygiene promotion		50000	0	
Volunteer trained		52	0	
# of HH receiveing water treatment chemicals		4600	0	
# of women and girls receiving MHM kits		3200	0	
# of Households receiving soap		4600	0	

## Progress Towards Outcome

The revised activities to be implemented include:

- Training volunteers on Hygiene promotion
- Deployment of volunteer for hygiene promotion sessions through community gathering and H to H, including orientation to use of aqua tabs.
- 15 strips of water purification tabs, 6 bars of soap for 3 months will be distributed per householdto 4,600 HHs.


	Protection, Gender And Inclusion	Budget		CHF 1,155
		Targeted Persons		80
Indicators		Target		Actual
Volunteers and staff trained		81		0

	Livelihoods And Basic Needs	Budget		CHF 742,860
		Targeted Persons		28000
Indicators		Target		Actual
Woreda conducted eVCA		2		0
Vol Trained eVCA		25		0
Multi Sector Assessment completed		1		1




# of HH receiving food assistance	5600	1000
<b>Progress Towards Outcome</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The assessment has been conducted include a community level multi-sectoral assessment with direct feedback from communities in their most pressing needs. Food access being on top, following the initial strategy is maintaining the food distribution.</li> <li>• NS has provided food for 1000 HH. The kits have already been procured and distributed, targeting the most vulnerable HH in the assessed areas.</li> <li>• The assistance for food is extended to reach 4,600 additional Households.</li> <li>• Once completed, ERCS will gather feedback from communities with a satisfactions survey and evaluation of effectiveness and relevance of the food distribution in addressing the needs. The Post distribution and Lesson learnt workshop will both contribute to that result.</li> </ul>		

	Community Engagement And Accountability	Budget	CHF 2,105
		Targeted Persons	105
Indicators	Target	Actual	
Percentage of key informant interviewed for the assessment	100	100	
# of key informants identified	5	8	
# of feedback mechanism in place	1	0	
Progress Towards Outcome			
During the assessment stage community consultation was paramount to understand the needs of the community. The assessment employed several mechanisms to ensure community participation including 1010 HH survey, 17 FGD, and more than 20 people reached through KII			

	National Society Strengthening	Budget		CHF 104,844
		Targeted Persons		81
Indicators		Target		Actual
Dissemination session		1		
Staff deployed		1		
MHPSS clinic		81		
Staff and volunteers trained		81		52
Progress Towards Outcome				

- The orientation to staff and volunteers SAF, CEA and PGI will be carried out in the second phase of the DREF, only training to multisectoral needs assessment was carried out during this period.
- 30 volunteers and staff have been engaged initially in the food distribution to the targeted food-receiving beneficiaries.
- Prior to the next distributions and deployment of additional volunteers, they will take some refresher training on relief distribution and crowd management, CEA, feedback, and compliant mechanisms.
- An eVCA training will be provided to volunteers and NS branch staff to be able to conduct the eVCA at community level.

	Secretariat Services	Budget	CHF 73,855
		Targeted Persons	2
Indicators		Target	Actual
Monitoring visit		4	1
Surge deployed		2	1
Progress Towards Outcome			
An assessment coordinator surge was deployed for 3 Months and supported the NS in assessment process. a food security specialist surge profile will be included to support the response and continuous collection and analysis of data. The person will also provide technical support to NS, contribute to the coordination with other partners food responses and monitor the implementation.			

# About Support Services

## **How many staff and volunteers will be involved in this operation. Briefly describe their role.**

In the planned operational areas (Shire town and its environs) there are 29 staff members and 52 active volunteers mostly engaged in emergency operations (relief distribution, first aid, and ambulance attendants.).

At least 15 staff members and 30 volunteers will be engaged for the distributions and 22 more will be added to cover the promotions. Total of 52 volunteers mobilized for this response. Total of 81 volunteers engaged.

IFRC will also support the operation through the IFRC Addis Delegation Operations Manager and the Deputy Operations Manager. From the security side, support will also be provided for security updates either from the delegation or from the regional level to support assessing the security dynamic and paths for safe access by the communities. It would be part of the continuous assessment.

## **Will surge personnel be deployed? Please provide the role profile needed.**

An assessment coordinator was deployed for 3 months to lead and support the multi-sectoral assessment team consisting of ERCS specialists and IFRC country cluster staff. The need for surge personnel is still critical to support the NS in the development of a country response plan for the 3 regions affected by the Tigray crisis, including Afar, Amhara, and Tigray, and technical person to support in the eVCA training and conduct eVCA at the community level.

## **If there is procurement, will it be done by National Society or IFRC?**

The National Society will do the procurement and manage the distribution.

## **How will this operation be monitored?**

The operation will be monitored through the NS to ensure any operational issues are addressed accordingly. IFRC country cluster office will support on this. after distribution the post distribution monitoring will be conducted to gather feedback from community on the support provided.□

A Federation-wide inception workshop will be held in the early stages of the operation where a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (M&E Plan) and indicator Tracking Table (ITT) will be developed. Movement Coordination and PMER support has been offered from the IFRC Ethiopia and Regional Office to support the coordination and Ethiopia team with the development of a Federation-wide designing a template on Kobo Collect indicator tracking tools. These will be completed by all members operating under the frame of the Complex Emergency response to produce a Federation-wide footprint of our collective action. □

ERCS and IFRC PMER personnel will oversee and ensure quality data collection, aggregation, analysis, and reporting of all gathered information during the DREF implementation period. ERCS branch offices staffs and volunteers will train on Kobo toolbox system. All data will be collected through KoBo Collect system using smartphones and the report will be shared with the IFRC to jointly inform the implementation of the response. A progress report will be shared with the IFRC and partners with standard templates, the time frame of the DREF. A lesson learned workshop will be organized at the end of the operation of the DREF. Coordination meetings will be held throughout the operation to ensure harmonized monitoring and capture learnings.

## **Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation.**

Contact with the ERCS volunteers and branch will be maintained and effective communication between all levels of the operation. Periodic meetings will be held to provide updates and information on progress. The visibility for the operation will be ensured through regular situation and operations updates and sharing updates through various media outlets.

# Contact Information

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

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