

UNFPA ETHIOPIA HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

SITUATION REPORT - APRIL 2023

SITUATION OVERVIEW

More than **20 million men, women and children across Ethiopia continue to depend on humanitarian assistance** due to the compounded impacts of conflict, displacement, disease outbreaks and climatic shocks such as severe drought and floods. Persistent food insecurity in Northern Ethiopia, as well as consecutive hazards in drought and flood affected areas, are having detrimental consequences leading to health risks and increased protection concerns - with **over 10 million people estimated to be in need of protection services across the country**. Emerging situations such as a dengue fever outbreak and the ongoing influx of thousands of displaced people escaping from violence in neighboring Sudan and Somalia will continue to disproportionately affect women and girls in an already strained health and protection system due to overlapping crises and lack of sufficient funds and resources.

Recent heavy rains in some drought-affected pocket areas have caused widespread destruction and displacement in Somali, Oromia, Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples', and Afar regions. According to OCHA, more than 35,000 households have been displaced, 45 human lives lost, and more than 99,000 hectares of farmland destroyed in Somali Region alone [1]. Furthermore, **floods have pushed more than 196,000 people to leave their homes across Somali and Oromia regions**, further increasing the risk of disease outbreaks [2]. Since the onset of the cholera outbreak, cases continue to increase with close to **7 million people at high-risk across 54 affected woredas** in Ethiopia.

The Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (COHA) in **Northern Ethiopia** has allowed humanitarian actors to reach previously inaccessible areas with assistance although a large portion of the population remains underserved with alarmingly **rising malnutrition levels** across all three regions. Despite the suspension of food aid in **Tigray** as a response to food diversion, distribution of other lifesaving supplies and services continues across the region. In **Amhara**, a shortage of nutritious food supplies for management of moderate malnourishment is exposing 18,159 under-five children and 4,602 pregnant and lactating women in six zones of the region to further risks of severe malnourishment [3]. In **Afar**, a dengue fever outbreak amidst ongoing floods and malaria, is creating additional pressure in a weak health system - with shortage of drugs, medical supplies and staff - to respond to the increased needs in the region.

Meanwhile, **the situation of Sudan and Somalia continues to impact Ethiopia** with thousands of people crossing the border and stretching available resources. Since February 2023, more than **95,000 new refugees/asylum seekers fleeing hostilities in Laas Caanood in Somalia** are estimated to have crossed into the Doolo and Warder zones in Somali Region. From Sudan, **22,600 people from over 64 nationalities** have been registered in the past couple of weeks in Amhara's Metema border although daily arrivals are also reported in bordering areas of Benishangul Gumuz and Gambella regions. Most of the fleeing refugees are women and girls (over 50% of the caseload to date). UNFPA is participating in an inter-agency Refugee Response Plan to assess and respond to the health and protection needs of affected women and girls.

PROGRAMME UPDATES

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH



22,835

Individuals reached with HIV/STIs care in crisis-affected regions
(April 2023)



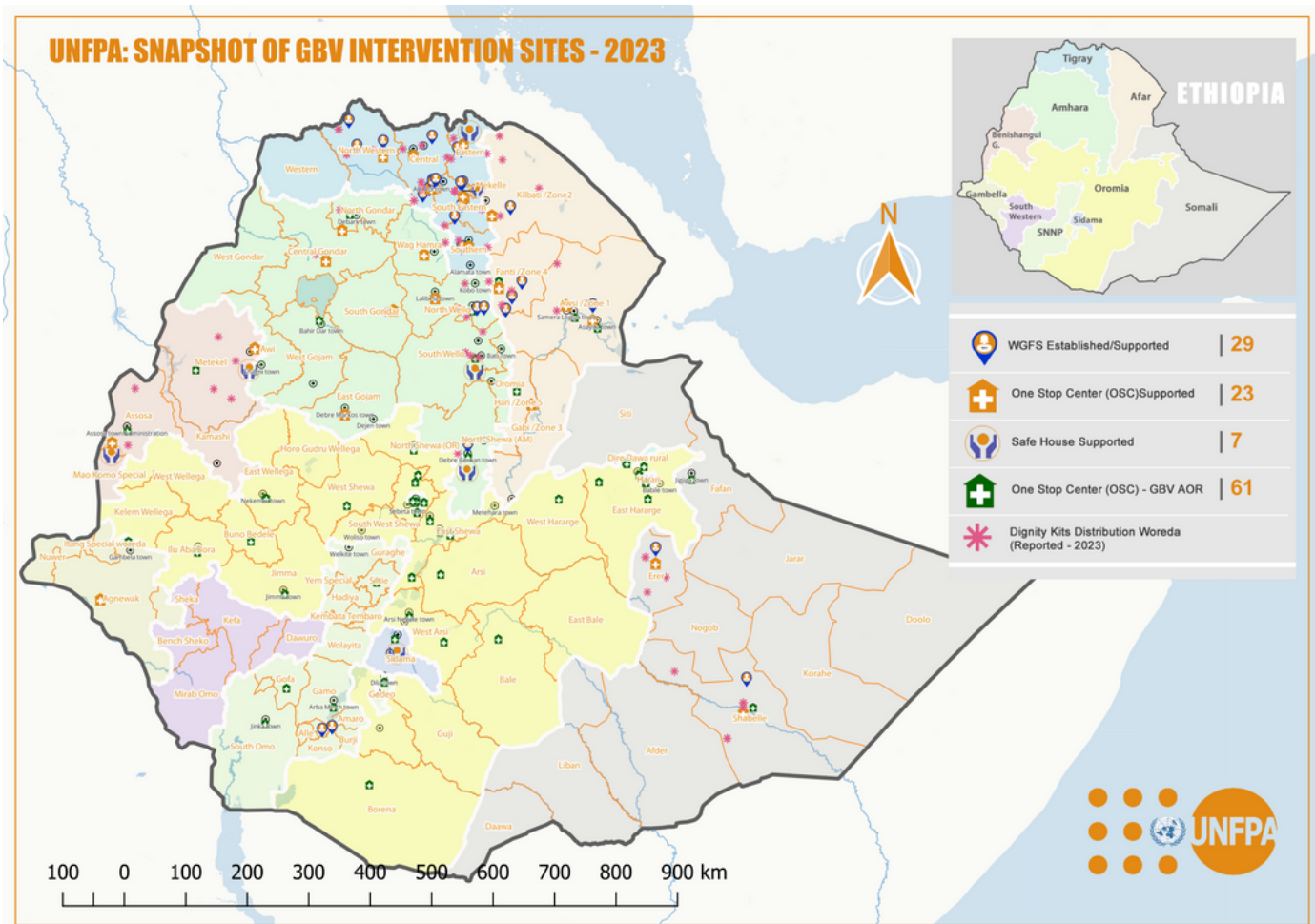
179

Inter-Agency Reproductive Health (IARH) kits distributed in Somali and Tigray regions
(April 3/2023)

• Key Achievements

- **66,673 conflict-affected individuals** – in Afar, Amhara, SNNP, Somali and Tigray regions – **reached with sexual and reproductive health services**, including maternal and newborn services, by 212 deployed midwives and 95 health extension workers (HEWs) through multiple partnerships.
- **8,518 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) screened for acute malnutrition and provided with iron and folic acid supplements** in Afar, Amhara, Somali and Tigray regions.
- **16,722 affected individuals reached with integrated GBV/SRH awareness creation sessions** on STI/HIV prevention and risk mitigation, family planning, birth preparedness, and personal hygiene management by health extension workers deployed across IDP sites and health facilities in Amhara, Somali and Tigray regions.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)



PROGRAMME UPDATES

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)



18,881

Dignity Kits and sanitary pads distributed by UNFPA in crisis-affected regions
(Cumulative for 2023)

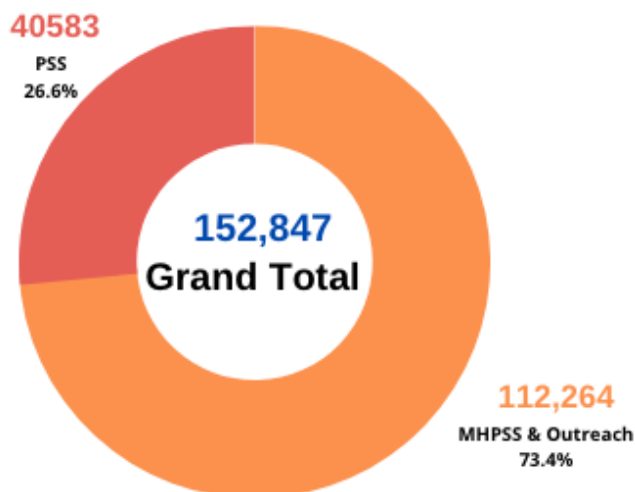


218

GBV professionals trained on GBV Minimum Standards in crisis-affected regions
(Cumulative for 2023)

- **46,550 women and girls reached with gender-based violence multi-sectoral services** and referrals through UNFPA-supported Women and Girls' Friendly Spaces (WGFS), One-Stop Centers and Safe Houses.
- **23,380 women and girls** - Amhara, SNNP, Somali and Tigray Regions - **reached with Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)** and outreach activities outside of WGFS.
- **779 dignity kits** with menstrual and personal hygiene items distributed to vulnerable women and girls in partnership with Maedot, and Women Association of Tigray (WAT) in Tigray Region.
- **Provided multipurpose cash support to GBV survivors** in partnership with World Vision Ethiopia and Food for the Hungry International in Amhara and Tigray regions.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services (PSS) provided across Ethiopia (Cumulative figures since 2021 to present)



STORIES OF CHANGE



“

"The drama has reduced child marriage and female genital mutilation in Yejube town. It encouraged a conversation among friends and families about the negative consequences of child marriage and gender-based violence,"

says Endawoke, 24, from Yejube town in Baso Liben Woreda, Amhara region, after listening to *Nekakat drama* on National Radio.

[\[Read more\]](#)

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PROGRAMME UPDATES

COORDINATION & PARTNERSHIPS

- Continued to participate in various humanitarian coordination platforms, including the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) and Health and Protection Clusters. It also continues to lead the GBV sub-cluster and SRH Working Groups at the national and sub-national levels.
- Mobilized a total of USD 27.7 million within the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus programming from World Bank, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Irish Aid, Italy, Norway, Japan and USAID for the first quarter of 2023. Resource mobilization efforts from Canada, Spain and other donors are in the pipeline. The resources will be largely used to scale up humanitarian interventions.
- As the lead agency of the GBV AOR, continued working jointly with the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs (MOWSA) in the development of the first National GBV specific SOPs for Ethiopia, complemented by other ongoing joint actions with MOWSA including GBVIMS, and GBV Case Management Capacity Building Initiative roll outs.
- Organized a series of youth consultations on peace, security and social cohesion from April 18 to 29, 2023 in Mekelle, Tigray. This participatory approach aimed at involving young people in reconciliation and social cohesion in the northern regions of this country as part of UNFPA's support to the national process of community recovery and peacebuilding.

YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY WORKING GROUP UPDATES



Young participants attending the Focus Group Discussions held in Mekelle by UNFPA Ethiopia on Youth, Peace, and Security Agenda from 18 to 28 April 2023. More than 192 individuals, including youth, community, and religious leaders, participated in the discussions to assess and evaluate youth's involvement and participation in peacebuilding across conflict-affected regions in northern Ethiopia.

“

"I was a first-year degree student but now I have a disability on my left hand and leg. My target is to support young people and help them to make the right choice in their life", says one former student on the youth consu

"If there is peace and security, students will complete their education and will make a huge contribution not only to themselves and their relatives but also to their countries as well", says one of the participants from Mekelle.

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PROGRAMME UPDATES

LOGISTICS & OPERATIONS



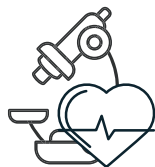
779

Dignity Kits distributed to be distributed to women and girls of reproductive age in affected regions
(April 2023)



140

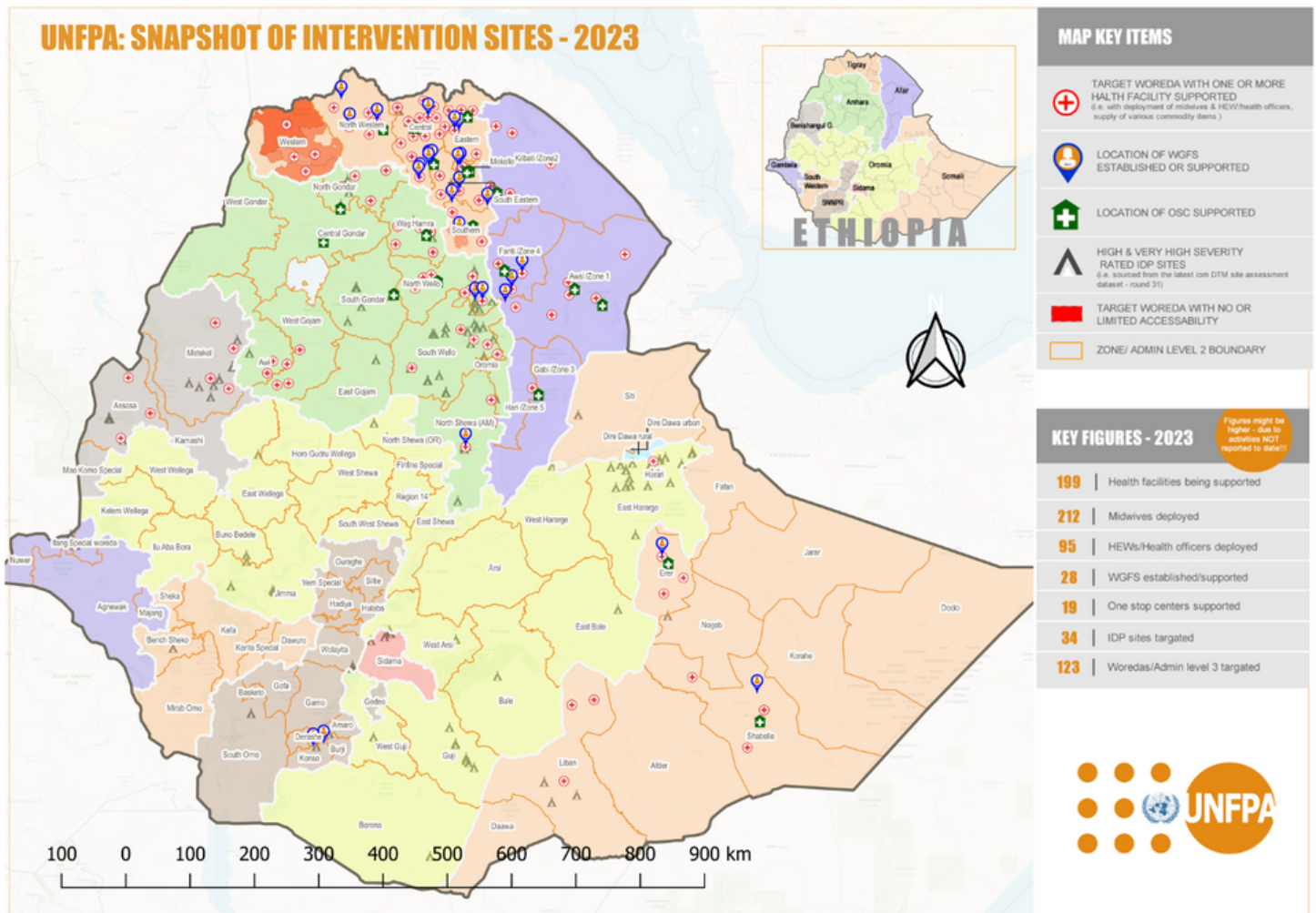
Metric tons of IARH Kits & Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) Items PEs across affected regions
(April 2023)



739

Medical Equipment distributed to health facilities in Somali and Tigray regions
(April 2023)

- Dispatched 140 metric tons of Inter-Agency Reproductive Health (IARH) Kits, PPEs and assorted medical equipment across drought and flood affected regions in Ethiopia.
- Followed up on the upcoming procurement of additional IARH Kits and assorted medical equipment and supplies to scale up UNFPA's humanitarian response in crisis-affected populations across the country.



*Source: UNFPA Ethiopia

PROGRAMME UPDATES

COMMUNICATIONS & ADVOCACY

- Advocated - jointly with UN sister agencies - for a funding appeal to support the scale up of humanitarian assistance to the recent refugee influx from Somalia into Ethiopia.
- Showcased the efforts to strengthen partnerships for effective GBV coordination and response across multiple crises in the country.
- Highlighted the efforts to scale up obstetric fistula treatment and repair after two years of conflict in Tigray with funding from Global Affairs Canada.

HIGHLIGHTS



“The retreat was very unique with many practical insights to better understand how indicators can be developed using the minimum standards for GBV response as well as to contextualize our strategies to a particular context, like in my case to the Gambella Region”,

says Girum Gebreyesus, Director of the Women Mobilization Unit at Gambella's Bureau of Women and Social Affairs (BOWSA) after attending the GBV AoR retreat and GBV Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Workshop in Bishoftu, Oromia Region.

[\[Read more\]](#)

FROM THE FIELD

“When health workers returned to work after the conflict, I was referred to Hamlin Fistula Center. Here, I am recovering from my depression and I have started to sleep for about two hours a day”,

says Mebrat, a survivor of obstetric fistula from Rama, the northern part of Tigray, Ethiopia.

[\[Read more\]](#)



RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

2023

UNFPA National Humanitarian Response Plan (2023)

Funding Required: 45,000,000 USD

Funding Received: 27,711,053 USD

Our Donors:

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Canada

Denmark

Ireland

Italy

Japan

Norway

Sweden

USAID

World Bank / UNOPS

Delivering a world where every
pregnancy is wanted, every
childbirth is safe and every
young person's potential is
fulfilled



UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA)

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