



**Forum:** Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

**Topic:** Implementing socioeconomic measures to prevent Genocide and Ethnic Cleansing in the Tigray Region

**Student Officer:** Nancy Liakou

**Position:** Deputy President

## **PERSONAL INTRODUCTION**

Dear delegates,

It is an honour to welcome you all to the Economic and Social Council Committee of the 5th St. Catherine's Model United Nations. My name is Nancy Liakou, I am an IB1 student at St Catherine's British School and I will be serving as a Deputy President in this committee.

I would like to begin by congratulating you on your decision to immerse yourselves in the MUN community. Throughout this conference, you will gain valuable insight into diplomacy, politics and the global challenges our world faces today. Not only will you engage in stimulating debates but also form everlasting friends and connections.

Upon reading this study guide, you will be informed about the issues of genocide and ethnic cleansing in the Tigray region. Through this understanding, you will be able to develop and propose effective socioeconomic measures to address these changes.

I can't wait to meet you all in February! I hope you are as eager as I am to engage in thoughtful debate on this topic. If you have any questions contact me via email at [nancy.s.liakou@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.s.liakou@gmail.com) or the ECOSOC President at [ioannisdimitriosmakry@gmail.com](mailto:ioannisdimitriosmakry@gmail.com).

See you in February!



## TOPIC INTRODUCTION

The Tigray Region of northern Ethiopia has faced one of the most devastating socioeconomic crises in recent years. The Tigray war commenced in late 2020, stemming from tensions over the government's desire for greater autonomy over the population. This led to a military intervention by the Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF)<sup>1</sup> following a dispute between the Ethiopian federal government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF).<sup>2</sup> This dispute has resulted in thousands of deaths, millions displaced, famine and destruction of infrastructure, including reports of ethnic cleansing and mass atrocities.

While the war formally ended in November 2022 and a peace treaty was signed<sup>3</sup>, the region continues to face instability, deep ethnic divisions, and severe economic collapse. Over 350,000 people in Tigray, a region in Northern Ethiopia, are suffering from severe famine<sup>4</sup>, while access to healthcare and education remains extremely limited. Years of conflict have also resulted in damaged infrastructure such as schools and hospitals, deepening the region's socioeconomic vulnerabilities. Ethnic marginalisation and divide has further strained communities in the region due to factors such as resource competition and political mobilisation along ethnic lines. Furthermore, the war has internally displaced approximately 2.1 million civilians, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).<sup>5</sup>

The topic at hand directly connects to the conference's theme "Beyond Borders" because the consequences of such atrocities are not confined to one nation or region. Conflicts, similar to the Tigray crisis, trigger refugee flows, straining neighbouring countries' resources, destabilising regional economies, and challenging international peace and security. Addressing these issues that extend beyond national borders, bring

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<sup>1</sup> Wikipedia Contributors. "Genocide in Tigray." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 9 Dec. 2024, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genocide\\_in\\_Tigray](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genocide_in_Tigray).

<sup>2</sup> Wikipedia Contributors. "Genocide in Tigray." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 9 Dec. 2024, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genocide\\_in\\_Tigray](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genocide_in_Tigray).

<sup>3</sup> Wikipedia Contributors. "Genocide in Tigray." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 9 Dec. 2024, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genocide\\_in\\_Tigray](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genocide_in_Tigray).

<sup>4</sup> "UN Report: 350,000 Ethiopians Are Living in Famine Conditions." *UNICEF USA*, [www.unicefusa.org/stories/un-report-350000-ethiopians-are-living-famine-conditions](https://www.unicefusa.org/stories/un-report-350000-ethiopians-are-living-famine-conditions).

<sup>5</sup> Center, Future. "مركز المستقبل - How the War in Tigray Is Impacting Ethiopia's Economy?" *Futureuae*, 2021, [futureuae.com/ar/Mainpage/Item/6933/the-extensive-cost-how-the-war-in-tigray-is-impacting-ethiopia-economy](https://futureuae.com/ar/Mainpage/Item/6933/the-extensive-cost-how-the-war-in-tigray-is-impacting-ethiopia-economy).



together the global community to promote human rights as well as an economically stable economy.

## DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

### Ethnic Cleansing

“The organized, often violent attempt by a particular cultural or racial group to completely remove from a country or area all members of a different group.”<sup>6</sup> Ethnic cleansing is one of the key issues that need to be addressed and tackled in the Tigray Region through the implementation of socioeconomic measures.

### Genocide

“The crime of intentionally destroying part or all of a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group, by killing people or by other methods.”<sup>7</sup> Genocide is another key issue that needs to be addressed and combatted in the Tigray Region through the implementation of socioeconomic measures.

### Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

“Persons or groups of persons who have been forced to leave their homes in order to avoid conflict who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border.”<sup>8</sup> Internally Displaced Persons seek refuge and shelter in other regions outside the war zone, a situation that can significantly impact the local economic stability.

### Socioeconomic Development

“Socioeconomic development is the process of improving both social and economic conditions within a community or nation, not just about monetary advancements.”<sup>9</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Cambridge Dictionary. “Ethnic Cleansing.” @CambridgeWords, 4 Jan. 2023, [dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/ethnic-cleansing](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/ethnic-cleansing).

<sup>7</sup>“GENOCIDE | Meaning in the Cambridge English Dictionary.” Dictionary.cambridge.org, [dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/genocide](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/genocide).

<sup>8</sup>UNHCR. “IDP Definition.” UNHCR, 2024, [emergency.unhcr.org/protection/legal-framework/idp-definition](https://emergency.unhcr.org/protection/legal-framework/idp-definition).

<sup>9</sup>Sustainability Directory. “Socioeconomic Development → Term.” Energy → Sustainability Directory, 31 Jan. 2025, [energy.sustainability-directory.com/term/socioeconomic-development/](https://energy.sustainability-directory.com/term/socioeconomic-development/).



Through socioeconomic development, genocide and ethnic cleansing can be mitigated by addressing the root causes of conflict, reducing inequality.

### **Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF)**

"A left-wing ethnic nationalist, paramilitary group, and the former ruling party of Ethiopia. It was classified as a terrorist organization by the Ethiopian government during the Tigray War until its removal from the list in 2023."<sup>10</sup> The TPLF is considered as a major stakeholder in the issue of preventing ethnic cleansing and genocide because of its central role in the Tigray civil war which included to allegations of such war crimes.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **Geographical Context of the Region**

The Tigray Region, located in the northernmost part of Ethiopia, is the homeland of the Tigrayan, Irob and Kunama people.<sup>11</sup> The region had an estimated pre-war population of 7 million<sup>12</sup>, representing about 5.5% of Ethiopia's population, but current estimates suggest the population has declined to 5.5 million<sup>13</sup>. This dramatic decrease shows the result of genocide and targeted attacks on ethnic communities.

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<sup>10</sup>"Tigray People's Liberation Front." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 13 Dec. 2020, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tigray\\_People%27s\\_Liberation\\_Front](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tigray_People%27s_Liberation_Front).

<sup>11</sup>"Tigray Region." *Wikipedia*, 29 Nov. 2020, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tigray\\_Region](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tigray_Region).

<sup>12</sup>Plaut, Martin. "New Study of Tigray – Violence and Casualties during the War and After." *Martin Plaut*, 22 July 2024, [martinplaut.com/2024/07/22/new-study-of-tigray-violence-and-casualties-during-the-war-and-after/](https://martinplaut.com/2024/07/22/new-study-of-tigray-violence-and-casualties-during-the-war-and-after/).

<sup>13</sup> Plaut, Martin. "New Study of Tigray – Violence and Casualties during the War and After." *Martin Plaut*, 22 July 2024, [martinplaut.com/2024/07/22/new-study-of-tigray-violence-and-casualties-during-the-war-and-after/](https://martinplaut.com/2024/07/22/new-study-of-tigray-violence-and-casualties-during-the-war-and-after/).



**Figure 1:** Map of Ethiopia showing where the Tigray region is located.<sup>14</sup>

According to a February 2021 ACAPS report, Tigrayans were the predominant ethnic group of the population at 96.6%, while other ethnic groups such as the Amhara (1.6%), Irob (0.7%), Afar (0.2%), Oromo (0.2%), Eritrean (0.1%), Kuna and Ari (0.7% each) have been severely affected.<sup>15</sup> The steep population decline and systematic targeting of minority groups reflect the threats of genocide and ethnic cleansing, demonstrating how ethnic violence has affected the regions demographic landscape.

## Background Tensions

In 1943, a rebellion broke out in Tigray under the slogan, “there is no government; let’s organise and govern ourselves”<sup>16</sup> because Tigrayan people felt a need for self-governance and resistance to government control. During this rebellion, local assemblies, called gerreb, were established throughout the region to maintain order.<sup>17</sup>

The Tigray’s People Liberation Front (TPLF) later emerged in 1975, led by ex-prime minister Meles Zenawi, as a political and military organisation advocating for the rights of the Tigrayan people.<sup>18</sup> Following the end of the Ethiopian Civil War in 1991, it became the dominant political party with the support of the Ethiopian People’s Revolutionary

<sup>14</sup>Burton, Katie. “Tigray: The War the World Forgot.” *Geographical*, 11 Jan. 2024, [geographical.co.uk/culture/tigray-the-war-the-world-forgot](https://geographical.co.uk/culture/tigray-the-war-the-world-forgot).

<sup>15</sup> ACAPS Secondary Data Review Ethiopia Pre-Crisis Situation in Tigray. 23 Feb. 2021, [www.acaps.org/fileadmin/Data\\_Product/Main\\_media/20210223\\_acaps\\_secondary\\_data\\_review\\_ethiopia\\_pre-crisis\\_situation\\_in\\_tigray.pdf](https://www.acaps.org/fileadmin/Data_Product/Main_media/20210223_acaps_secondary_data_review_ethiopia_pre-crisis_situation_in_tigray.pdf).

<sup>16</sup>“Tigray Region.” *Wikipedia*, 29 Nov. 2020, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tigray\\_Region](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tigray_Region)

<sup>17</sup>“Tigray Region.” *Wikipedia*, 29 Nov. 2020, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tigray\\_Region](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tigray_Region)

<sup>18</sup>“Tigray People’s Liberation Front.” *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 13 Dec. 2020, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tigray\\_People%27s\\_Liberation\\_Front](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tigray_People%27s_Liberation_Front).



Democratic Front (EPRDF) which governed Ethiopia for nearly 3 decades.<sup>19</sup> When Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed came to power in 2018, he introduced reforms and sidelined the TPLF from the ruling coalition which led to growing mistrust between the TPLF and the federal government.<sup>20</sup>

National elections were scheduled for August 2020 but Abiy's government postponed them due to COVID-19.<sup>21</sup> The TPLF rejected the delay and accused the federal government of using the pandemic as an excuse to extend its rule. In defiance, the TPLF held its own regional elections in Tigray in September 2020, claiming a 98% victory<sup>22</sup>, despite federal objections and warnings from Abiy and parliament. This unconstitutional election led federal and regional authorities to challenge each other's legitimacy, and ceased to acknowledge each other's authority leading to the federal government to cut funding and ties with Tigray.

On the night of November 3rd 2020, TPLF forces attacked the Ethiopian National Defense Force's Northern Command bases in Tigray, which resulted in Prime Minister Abiy announcing the start of military operations.<sup>23</sup> The TPLF argued that this was "preemptive self-defense," claiming the federal government was preparing to attack them.<sup>24</sup> The Ethiopian government called it a betrayal and launched a military offensive in response.<sup>25</sup> The fighting spread quickly, drawing in the Eritrean military (supporting Ethiopia's government) and regional forces and militias from Amhara, Afar and Oromia. The conflict led to massive human rights abuses, famine, displacement, and accusations

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<sup>19</sup>"Tigray People's Liberation Front." Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 13 Dec. 2020, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tigray\\_People%27s\\_Liberation\\_Front](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tigray_People%27s_Liberation_Front).

<sup>20</sup>"Tigray People's Liberation Front." Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 13 Dec. 2020, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tigray\\_People%27s\\_Liberation\\_Front](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tigray_People%27s_Liberation_Front).

<sup>21</sup>Dawit Endeshaw. "Ethiopia Postpones August Election Due to Coronavirus." *Reuters*, 1 Apr. 2020, [www.reuters.com/article/world/ethiopia-postpones-august-election-due-to-coronavirus-idUSKB N21I2S6/](https://www.reuters.com/article/world/ethiopia-postpones-august-election-due-to-coronavirus-idUSKB N21I2S6/).

<sup>22</sup>Wikipedia Contributors. "2020 Tigray Regional Election." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 6 June 2025, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2020\\_Tigray\\_regional\\_election](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2020_Tigray_regional_election)

<sup>23</sup> Wikipedia Contributors. "2020 Tigray Regional Election." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 6 June 2025, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2020\\_Tigray\\_regional\\_election](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2020_Tigray_regional_election)

<sup>24</sup>"Eritrean Involvement in the Tigray War." *Wikipedia*, 30 Jan. 2023, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eritrean\\_involvement\\_in\\_the\\_Tigray\\_War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eritrean_involvement_in_the_Tigray_War)

<sup>25</sup>"Ethiopia to Commemorate TPLF's Betrayal Attack on National Defense Force." *ENA English*, 2021, [www.ena.et/web/eng/w/en\\_30052](https://www.ena.et/web/eng/w/en_30052).



of genocide and ethnic cleansing. Between 300,000 and 800,000 civilians died during the conflict.<sup>26</sup>

On 4 November 2022, the federal government and the TPLF signed a Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) which ended the war.<sup>27</sup> Whilst a peace agreement was signed, cases of genocide and ethnic cleansing continue to present themselves in the Tigray region. This is primarily due to the continued presence of non-federal forces as forces from neighboring Eritrea and Amhara regional militias were not present when the peace treaty was signed and agreed upon. These groups have remained in areas of Tigray and have been repeatedly accused of human rights violations.<sup>28</sup> Additionally, the lack of accountability and a flawed justice system contributed to the continuation of genocide and ethnic cleansing in the region. The CoHA included a commitment to a comprehensive national justice policy aimed at accountability and reconciliation. However, this process has been deemed flawed by UN experts and civil society groups as the Ethiopian government continues to be accused of hindering independent international investigations, contributing to a culture of impunity for perpetrators of serious crimes committed during the war.

## **Socioeconomic Issues**

### **Education**

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) estimated that in 2021, that more than 2.8 million children<sup>29</sup> were deprived of education as they were unable to attend school in the Afar, Amhara and Tigray regions due to the war. Schools and universities were targeted during and after the conflict, due to their occupation and

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<sup>26</sup>“Country Policy and Information Note: Tigrayans and the Tigrayan People’s Liberation Front, Ethiopia, December 2024 (Accessible).” GOV.UK, 2024, [www.gov.uk/government/publications/ethiopia-country-policy-and-information-notes/country-policy-and-information-note-tigrayans-and-the-tigrayan-peoples-liberation-front-ethiopia-december-2024-accessible](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ethiopia-country-policy-and-information-notes/country-policy-and-information-note-tigrayans-and-the-tigrayan-peoples-liberation-front-ethiopia-december-2024-accessible).

<sup>27</sup>“Ethiopia–Tigray Peace Agreement.” Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 19 Feb. 2024, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethiopia%E2%80%93Tigray\\_peace\\_agreement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethiopia%E2%80%93Tigray_peace_agreement).

<sup>28</sup> Banketa, Deborah. “A New Crisis in Tigray: The Shortcomings of Ethiopia’s Transitional Justice Policy African Transitional Justice Hub.” African Transitional Justice Hub, 14 Aug. 2025, [atjhub.csvr.org.za/a-new-crisis-in-tigray-the-shortcomings-of-ethiopias-transitional-justice-policy/](https://atjhub.csvr.org.za/a-new-crisis-in-tigray-the-shortcomings-of-ethiopias-transitional-justice-policy/).

<sup>29</sup>“Ethiopia’s Tigray War and Its Devastating Impact on Tigrayan Children’s Education.” Wilson Center, 18 Apr. 2023, [www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/tigray-war-and-education](https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/tigray-war-and-education)



use for military purposes by all warring parties and making them legitimate military objectives under the laws of war, resulting in the destruction of classrooms, theft of educational resources, and disruptions to learning environments<sup>30</sup>. According to the Tigray Education Bureau's 2021 assessment<sup>31</sup>, out of 2,054 public schools surveyed, 88.3% classrooms were severely damaged. The damage included theft or destruction of 96.5% of desks, 95.9% of blackboards, 84.5% of lab equipment, 92.5% of educational models and more than 48% of school toilets.<sup>32</sup> Approximately 2.4 million school-aged children were denied the right to education for 3 academic years, with 88% of school infrastructures damaged. Child protection risks escalated, exposing children to various harms and trauma<sup>33</sup>. The deprivation of education reduces future workforce productivity, limits skill development and affects long-term economic recovery. Families were forced to refrain their children from attending school and often rely on child labour to survive. According to the Tigray Regional Education Bureau, only 40% of school-aged children have enrolled in school since their reopening.<sup>34</sup>

### Water-supply infrastructure

According to reports from the Tigray Bureau of Water and Energy, prior to the outbreak, approximately 60% of urban residents and 55% of rural inhabitants had access to potable water.<sup>35</sup> A later study conducted early 2022 revealed that the genocidal war

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<sup>30</sup>"Ethiopia's Tigray War and Its Devastating Impact on Tigrayan Children's Education." *Wilson Center*, 18 Apr. 2023, [www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/tigray-war-and-education](https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/tigray-war-and-education)

<sup>31</sup>"Ethiopia's Tigray War and Its Devastating Impact on Tigrayan Children's Education." *Wilson Center*, 18 Apr. 2023, [www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/tigray-war-and-education](https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/tigray-war-and-education)

<sup>32</sup>*The 4th Universal Periodic Review: Economic and Infrastructure Destruction in Ethiopia's Tigray Region Submitting Evidence on Gross Violations of Human Rights, War Crimes, Crime against Humanity, and Genocide.* [upr-info.org/sites/default/files/country-document/2025-04/JS22\\_UPR47\\_Ethiopia.pdf](https://upr-info.org/sites/default/files/country-document/2025-04/JS22_UPR47_Ethiopia.pdf).

<sup>33</sup> "Tigray, Ethiopia: Helping Children Stay in School." European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, 2023, [civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/news-stories/stories/tigray-ethiopia-helping-children-stay-school\\_en](https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/news-stories/stories/tigray-ethiopia-helping-children-stay-school_en).

<sup>34</sup>"Tigray, Ethiopia: Helping Children Stay in School." European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, 2023, [civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/news-stories/stories/tigray-ethiopia-helping-children-stay-school\\_en](https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/news-stories/stories/tigray-ethiopia-helping-children-stay-school_en).

<sup>35</sup>*The 4th Universal Periodic Review: Economic and Infrastructure Destruction in Ethiopia's Tigray Region Submitting Evidence on Gross Violations of Human Rights, War Crimes, Crime against Humanity, and Genocide.* [upr-info.org/sites/default/files/country-document/2025-04/JS22\\_UPR47\\_Ethiopia.pdf](https://upr-info.org/sites/default/files/country-document/2025-04/JS22_UPR47_Ethiopia.pdf).





diminished water supply coverage in the Tigray region by more than 50%, resulting in over 3.7 million individuals in Tigray vulnerable to a shortage of drinking water supply. The lack of clean water led to loss of labor productivity, increased healthcare costs and declining agricultural output which is the main source of income for most Tigrayans.

### **Destruction of Transport Systems and Infrastructure**

The damage to infrastructure caused by Ethiopian, Amhara and Eritrean forces, including airports; for example, the Aksum Airport was shut down, contributing to the collapse of the tourism industry and has further increased the region's isolation and economic downturn.<sup>36</sup> Additionally, the allied forces caused significant damage, including vandalized doors and windows, looted property, severe damage to ICT infrastructure such as cloud computing centers, and disruptions to essential utilities like electricity and water supply. Transportation blockages have congested supply chains, reduced market access for farmers and isolated Tigray from international markets and trading causing a steep decline in the regional GDP.

S.N	Damage Type	Damage Amount (ETB)	Damage Amount (USD)
1	Building's damage	416,132,141.81	7,566,038.94
2	Under-construction Building projects	5,782,986,946.51	105,145,217.21
3	Roads and other infrastructure	39,828,977,339.78	724,163,224.36
4	Vehicle damage	854,141,816.17	15,529,851.20
5	Office furniture	199,185,944.35	3,621,562.62
6	Electronics and Office Equipment	446,624,784.90	8,120,450.63
7	ICT equipment	55,379,306.94	1,006,896.49
8	Consumable goods	94,371,981.27	1,715,854.20
9	Spare parts	9,045,213.00	164,458.42
10	Books and document	65,854,430.00	1,197,353.27
11	Greenery	13,995,850,000.00	254,470,000.00
12	Machinery	183,604,745.01	3,338,268.09
13	Museum and cafeteria	541,145,000.00	9,839,000.00
14	Library equipment	8,132,550.00	147,864.55
15	Sport items	80,455,697.00	1,462,830.85
16	Music equipment	1,350,800.00	24,560.00
17	plan surveying	71,091,538.00	1,292,573.42
	<b>Total</b>	<b>62,634,330,234.75</b>	<b>1,138,806,004.27</b>

<sup>36</sup>In-Depth Analysis: Tourism Industry, Local Economy Face Major Setback with the Destruction of Aksum Airport during the Tigray War. 22 Nov. 2023, [addisstandard.com/in-depth-analysis-tourism-industry-local-economy-faces-major-setback-with-the-destruction-of-aksum-airport-during-the-tigray-war/](https://addisstandard.com/in-depth-analysis-tourism-industry-local-economy-faces-major-setback-with-the-destruction-of-aksum-airport-during-the-tigray-war/).



**Figure 2:** Item-Based Summary of Damage on Urban Development & Construction, Roads, and Transport.<sup>37</sup>

### **Internally Displaced persons (IDPs) and Refugees**

Following a report conducted by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), when the Tigray war started in 2020, there were already 100,000 internally displaced people living across the region.<sup>38</sup> After recent assessment there are now over 2.1 million IDPs from the Tigray war. According to satellite imagery analyzed by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)<sup>39</sup> buildings designated to provide assistance to refugees were identified among several structures destroyed in Ethiopia's Tigray region however it wasn't enough. IDPs rely on humanitarian aid, reducing overall economic productivity and increasing dependency.

The effect of these economic and infrastructure devastations has plunged Tigray into a state of profound crisis, posing significant challenges to its recovery and reconstruction efforts.<sup>40</sup>

### **Economic Situation Before the Conflict**

Between the years 1992 and 2017, the Tigray received a significant share of Ethiopia's total domestic investment, with specific investment across the agricultural and manufacturing sectors.<sup>41</sup> The economy heavily relied on mixed farming in rural areas and a range of urban occupations. In 2019, Tigray ranked in the top three regions in

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<sup>37</sup>Figure 2: Data has been collected by Tigray Road Authority (TRA), Ethiopian Road Authority-Adigrat District (ERA), Bureau of construction and Urban development, Bureau of Transport, Tigray Road Construction Enterprise (TRCE) in collaboration with Tigray Inquiry Commission

<sup>38</sup>Weldemichel, Teklehaymanot G. "Tigray War: Modern Geographies of Mass Violence and the Invisibilization of Populations." *Political Geography*, vol. 118, no. 103298, 24 Feb. 2025, pp. 103298–103298, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.polgeo.2025.103298>.

<sup>39</sup>"Buildings Belonging to NRC Destroyed in Ethiopia's Tigray - Ethiopia." ReliefWeb, 8 Feb. 2021, [reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/buildings-belonging-nrc-destroyed-ethiopia-tigray](https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/buildings-belonging-nrc-destroyed-ethiopia-tigray)

<sup>40</sup>The 4th Universal Periodic Review: Economic and Infrastructure Destruction in Ethiopia's Tigray Region Submitting Evidence on Gross Violations of Human Rights, War Crimes, Crime against Humanity, and Genocide. [upr-info.org/sites/default/files/country-document/2025-04/JS22\\_UPR47\\_Ethiopia.pdf](https://upr-info.org/sites/default/files/country-document/2025-04/JS22_UPR47_Ethiopia.pdf).

<sup>41</sup>ACAPS Secondary Data Review Ethiopia Pre-Crisis Situation in Tigray. 23 Feb. 2021, [www.acaps.org/fileadmin/Data\\_Product/Main\\_media/20210223\\_acaps\\_secondary\\_data\\_review\\_ethiopia\\_pre-crisis\\_situation\\_in\\_tigray.pdf](https://www.acaps.org/fileadmin/Data_Product/Main_media/20210223_acaps_secondary_data_review_ethiopia_pre-crisis_situation_in_tigray.pdf).



Ethiopia for the number of micro and small-scale enterprises, directly contributing to the reduction of poverty and unemployment.<sup>42</sup>

## Economic policies

### Slowing Economic Growth

The months-long conflict impacted the whole economy in Ethiopia, slowing the economic growth. The economic growth dropped to less than 2% in 2021, which was the lowest in more than two decades.<sup>43</sup> Apart from the Tigray region, the economic decline is also affecting all other regions and sectors in Ethiopia, including agriculture, mining and manufacturing industries.

### Lowering the exchange rate of the Birr

Due to the depreciating economic situation, the Ethiopian central bank suspended all money lending, money transfers and coverage for direct imports. The blockade largely caused a crisis in the exchange market and as a result the official exchange rate of the local birr currency dropped to 45, after the local currency was trading 35 to the dollar last year.<sup>44</sup>

### Soaring inflation

The war led to soaring inflation in Ethiopia due to the disruption of supply chains, damaged infrastructure and the reduction in the economic output. The conflict resulted in the scarcity of goods, which combined with high government expenditure and a weakened currency, increased prices for essential commodities. The annual inflation rate increased from 18% pre-war to 34.2% in October 2021 due to the lack of food in

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<sup>42</sup>ACAPS Secondary Data Review Ethiopia Pre-Crisis Situation in Tigray. 23 Feb. 2021, [www.acaps.org/fileadmin/Data\\_Product/Main\\_media/20210223\\_acaps\\_secondary\\_data\\_review\\_ethiopia\\_pre-crisis\\_situation\\_in\\_tigray.pdf](http://www.acaps.org/fileadmin/Data_Product/Main_media/20210223_acaps_secondary_data_review_ethiopia_pre-crisis_situation_in_tigray.pdf).

<sup>43</sup>ACAPS Secondary Data Review Ethiopia Pre-Crisis Situation in Tigray. 23 Feb. 2021, [www.acaps.org/fileadmin/Data\\_Product/Main\\_media/20210223\\_acaps\\_secondary\\_data\\_review\\_ethiopia\\_pre-crisis\\_situation\\_in\\_tigray.pdf](http://www.acaps.org/fileadmin/Data_Product/Main_media/20210223_acaps_secondary_data_review_ethiopia_pre-crisis_situation_in_tigray.pdf).

<sup>44</sup>"How the War in Tigray Is Impacting Ethiopia's Economy?" *Futureuae*, 2021, [futureuae.com/ar/Mainpage/Item/6933/the-extensive-cost-how-the-war-in-tigray-is-impacting-ethiopias-economy](https://futureuae.com/ar/Mainpage/Item/6933/the-extensive-cost-how-the-war-in-tigray-is-impacting-ethiopias-economy).



the region. Food prices reached 40.7%<sup>45</sup> to a 10-year high, threatening the living standards and food security of Ethiopians, to further intensify poverty and unemployment which already went above 17%.

### Suspension of International Aid and Declining Exports

Due to the conflict, Ethiopia lost most of the support offered by Western nations and had a significant decrease in the country's foreign trade. The European Union suspended budget support worth 88 million euros over the current conflict<sup>46</sup>, forcing the Ethiopian authorities to rely on foreign aid. Additionally, according to the Ethiopian Ministry of Trade and Industry,<sup>47</sup> Ethiopia lost \$20 million in export revenue after the trading facilities in the Tigray region were shut down<sup>48</sup>.

### TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date of the Event	Event
May 1943	Tigray rebellion broke out against the government, driven by the demand for self-governance and resistance to government control. <sup>49</sup>
April 2nd, 2018	Abiy Ahmed becomes Prime Minister of Ethiopia and gains power over the

<sup>45</sup>"How the War in Tigray Is Impacting Ethiopia's Economy?" *Futureuae*, 2021, [futureuae.com/ar/Mainpage/Item/6933/the-extensive-cost-how-the-war-in-tigray-is-impacting-ethiopias-economy](https://futureuae.com/ar/Mainpage/Item/6933/the-extensive-cost-how-the-war-in-tigray-is-impacting-ethiopias-economy).

<sup>46</sup>"How the War in Tigray Is Impacting Ethiopia's Economy?" *Futureuae*, 2021, [futureuae.com/ar/Mainpage/Item/6933/the-extensive-cost-how-the-war-in-tigray-is-impacting-ethiopias-economy](https://futureuae.com/ar/Mainpage/Item/6933/the-extensive-cost-how-the-war-in-tigray-is-impacting-ethiopias-economy).

<sup>47</sup>"How the War in Tigray Is Impacting Ethiopia's Economy?" *Futureuae*, 2021, [futureuae.com/ar/Mainpage/Item/6933/the-extensive-cost-how-the-war-in-tigray-is-impacting-ethiopias-economy](https://futureuae.com/ar/Mainpage/Item/6933/the-extensive-cost-how-the-war-in-tigray-is-impacting-ethiopias-economy).

<sup>48</sup>"How the War in Tigray Is Impacting Ethiopia's Economy?" *Futureuae*, 2021, [futureuae.com/ar/Mainpage/Item/6933/the-extensive-cost-how-the-war-in-tigray-is-impacting-ethiopias-economy](https://futureuae.com/ar/Mainpage/Item/6933/the-extensive-cost-how-the-war-in-tigray-is-impacting-ethiopias-economy).

<sup>49</sup>"The Ethiopian Civil War in Tigray." *Origins.osu.edu*, [origins.osu.edu/article/ethiopian-civil-war-tigray](https://origins.osu.edu/article/ethiopian-civil-war-tigray).



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	TPLF. <sup>50</sup>
December 1st, 2019	Abiy dissolves the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), a coalition of four ethnically based parties dominated by the TPLF. <sup>51</sup>
March 3rd, 2020	National elections scheduled for August 2020 are postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. <sup>52</sup>
September 9th, 2020	The TPLF holds regional elections in Tigray in defiance of the federal government. <sup>53</sup>
October 7th, 2020	The Ethiopian Parliament cuts ties and funding with Tigray's regional government. <sup>54</sup>
November 3rd, 2020	TPLF forces attack the Ethiopian military's Northern Command bases in Tigray. <sup>55</sup>
March 4th, 2022	Both sides agree to a humanitarian

<sup>50</sup>"Tigray Region." *Wikipedia*, 29 Nov. 2020, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tigray\\_Region](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tigray_Region).

<sup>51</sup>"Abiy Ahmed's Sixth Year - April 2024." *ACLEDA*, 30 Apr. 2025, [acleddata.com/update/abiy-ahmeds-sixth-year-april-2024](https://acleddata.com/update/abiy-ahmeds-sixth-year-april-2024).

<sup>52</sup>"Ethiopia Postpones August Election due to Coronavirus." *Reuters*, 1 Apr. 2020, [www.reuters.com/article/world/ethiopia-postpones-august-election-due-to-coronavirus-idUSKBN21I256/](https://www.reuters.com/article/world/ethiopia-postpones-august-election-due-to-coronavirus-idUSKBN21I256/).

<sup>53</sup>Giulia Paravicini. "Ethiopia's Tigray Holds Regional Election in Defiance of Federal Government." *Reuters*, 9 Sept. 2020, [www.reuters.com/world/ethiopia-tigray-holds-regional-election-defiance-federal-government-2020-09-09/](https://www.reuters.com/world/ethiopia-tigray-holds-regional-election-defiance-federal-government-2020-09-09/).

<sup>54</sup>"Ethiopian Parliament Votes to Cut Ties with Tigray Region Leaders." *Al Jazeera*, [www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/10/7/ethiopia-parliament-votes-to-cut-ties-with-tigray-region-leaders](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/10/7/ethiopia-parliament-votes-to-cut-ties-with-tigray-region-leaders).

<sup>55</sup>"Northern Command Attacks (Ethiopia)." *Wikipedia*, 2 Dec. 2023, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern\\_Command\\_attacks\\_\(Ethiopia\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_Command_attacks_(Ethiopia)).



	ceasefire to allow aid into Tigray. <sup>56</sup>
November 4th, 2022	Peace treaty signed on Cessation of Hostilities agreement. <sup>57</sup>

## MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

### Ethiopia

Ethiopia's federal government, led by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, has been accused of committing severe human rights violations during the Tigray war. A report from the New Lines Institute in 2024<sup>58</sup> found that the Ethiopian troops and their allies engaged in genocidal actions, such as mass executions, causing severe physical and mental harm and intentionally creating circumstances that resulted in the destruction of the Tigrayan population. Airstrikes cause 1,143 casualties<sup>59</sup> in six regions of Tigray, with around 33.7% of these occurrences resulting in deaths. Furthermore, the Mai Kadra massacre in November 2020 resulted in the deaths of 1,100 people, mainly from the Amhara ethnic group, and was described as ethnic cleansing.<sup>60</sup>

The government responded to these accusations with denial and in May 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs dismissed claims of chemical weapon usage in Tigray, labelling them as baseless. Additionally, the government's inability to avert or penalize acts of genocide against the Tigrayan population has been recorded, as the UK Home Office indicated a justifiable reason to believe that Ethiopia did not fulfill its

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<sup>56</sup>"Ethiopia Declares Unilateral Truce to Allow Aid into Tigray." *Www.aljazeera.com*, [www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/3/24/ethiopia-declares-truce-to-allow-aid-into-tigray](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/3/24/ethiopia-declares-truce-to-allow-aid-into-tigray).

<sup>57</sup>"Ethiopia–Tigray Peace Agreement." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 19 Feb. 2024, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethiopia%E2%80%93Tigray\\_peace\\_agreement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethiopia%E2%80%93Tigray_peace_agreement).

<sup>58</sup>Jazeera, Al. "Strong Evidence That Ethiopia Committed Genocide in Tigray War: Report." *Al Jazeera*, 4 June 2024, [www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/6/4/strong-evidence-that-ethiopia-committed-genocide-in-tigray-war-report](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/6/4/strong-evidence-that-ethiopia-committed-genocide-in-tigray-war-report)

<sup>59</sup>Gebregziabher, Mulugeta, et al. "Civilian Death and Injury from Airstrikes: Evidence from the War in Tigray, Ethiopia." *Population Health Metrics*, vol. 23, no. 1, 14 Mar. 2025, <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12963-025-00373-1>.

<sup>60</sup>"Mai Kadra Massacre." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 5 Aug. 2025, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mai\\_Kadra\\_massacre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mai_Kadra_massacre).



international duties to prevent such actions.<sup>61</sup> Although a Cessation of Hostilities Agreement was signed in November 2022, the Ethiopian government has failed to make substantial efforts to investigate or hold accountable those who perpetrated the atrocities during the conflict.<sup>62</sup> However as stated in the background information, the agreement wasn't upheld by the militias residing in the region, leading to the continuation of ethnic cleansing and genocide.

## **Eritrea**

In 2019, the Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed won the Nobel Peace Prize for resolving the Ethiopian-Eritrean border conflict through a peace pact with Eritrean dictator Isaias Afewerki.<sup>63</sup> Afewerki sent troops to fight alongside Ethiopian forces; accused of committing widespread atrocities in Tigray. While this agreement initially succeeded in ending unresolved hostilities between the two nations and improving diplomatic ties and raised hopes for long-term regional stability in the Horn of Africa, reports document that the Eritrean forces stationed in the Tigray committed an extensive series of vicious human rights abuses and war crimes against the people of Tigray such as destroying infrastructure, mass executions, looting property and supplies, and rape<sup>64</sup>. Overall, the agreement achieved interstate peace but enabled a military partnership used in an internal conflict. Instead of promoting stability, the Ethiopia-Eritrea rapprochement contributed to massive civilian suffering in Tigray.

## **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**

The UAE supplied armed drones and military support to Ethiopia during the conflict, strengthening the federal government's military advantage and facilitating operations

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<sup>61</sup>"Country Policy and Information Note: Tigrayans and the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front, Ethiopia, December 2024 (Accessible)." GOV.UK, 2024, [www.gov.uk/government/publications/ethiopia-country-policy-and-information-notes/country-policy-and-information-note-tigrayans-and-the-tigrayan-peoples-liberation-front-ethiopia-december-2024-accessible](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ethiopia-country-policy-and-information-notes/country-policy-and-information-note-tigrayans-and-the-tigrayan-peoples-liberation-front-ethiopia-december-2024-accessible).

<sup>62</sup>"Country Policy and Information Note: Tigrayans and the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front, Ethiopia, December 2024 (Accessible)." GOV.UK, 2024, [www.gov.uk/government/publications/ethiopia-country-policy-and-information-notes/country-policy-and-information-note-tigrayans-and-the-tigrayan-peoples-liberation-front-ethiopia-december-2024-accessible](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ethiopia-country-policy-and-information-notes/country-policy-and-information-note-tigrayans-and-the-tigrayan-peoples-liberation-front-ethiopia-december-2024-accessible).

<sup>63</sup>Semhal. "Foreign Involvement in the War on Tigray." *Omna Tigray*, 23 Jan. 2022, [omnatigray.org/foreign-involvement-in-the-war-on-tigray/](https://omnatigray.org/foreign-involvement-in-the-war-on-tigray/).

<sup>64</sup>Semhal. "Foreign Involvement in the War on Tigray." *Omna Tigray*, 23 Jan. 2022, [omnatigray.org/foreign-involvement-in-the-war-on-tigray/](https://omnatigray.org/foreign-involvement-in-the-war-on-tigray/).



from an Eritrean airbase. Reports indicate that an estimate of 119 cargo flights from the UAE to Ethiopia have been recorded since August 2021,<sup>65</sup> supplying Chinese-made machinery purchased by the UAE that was later linked to attacks on civilians, such as the bombing of Alamanta in December 2021.<sup>66</sup> The UAE's policy was successful in strengthening Ethiopia's advantage in the Tigray war, however the policy failed in terms of ethical and humanitarian outcomes, violating human security.

## China

Beijing maintained a relatively neutral position when hostilities initially erupted in Tigray in November 2020. Chinese workers were evacuated from Tigray with the help of the central government in Addis Ababa. Since then, China has attempted to balance protecting its interests with preserving its close relationship with the Ethiopian government. China has publicly opposed potential US sanctions against Ethiopia and Chinese foreign policy officials have reassured Ethiopian counterparts that China will oppose interference in Ethiopia's domestic affairs.<sup>67</sup> In February at a regular press conference, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Spokesperson Wang Webin expressed China's willingness to "offer emergency food assistance"<sup>68</sup> and called upon the international community to support efforts to bring about stability in Tigray. While humanitarian actions are noted, the approach avoids addressing or condemning human rights violations, showing that China's efforts aren't as impactful to the prevention of ethical cleansing

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<sup>65</sup>"Foreign Involvement in the War on Tigray." *Omna Tigray*, 23 Jan. 2022,

[omnatigray.org/foreign-involvement-in-the-war-on-tigray/](https://omnatigray.org/foreign-involvement-in-the-war-on-tigray/).

<sup>66</sup>*Ethiopia the Use of Air Delivered Munitions in the Context of Humanitarian Action in Ethiopia with a Focus on Drones*. Dec. 2022,

[insecurityinsight.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Ethiopia-The-Use-of-Air-delivered-Munitions-in-the-Context-of-Humanitarian-Action-in-Ethiopia-with-a-Focus-on-Drones.pdf](https://insecurityinsight.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Ethiopia-The-Use-of-Air-delivered-Munitions-in-the-Context-of-Humanitarian-Action-in-Ethiopia-with-a-Focus-on-Drones.pdf).

<sup>67</sup>"Why Ethiopia's Fate Matters to China." *ISPI*,

[www.ispionline.it/en/publication/why-ethiopias-fate-matters-china-32469](https://www.ispionline.it/en/publication/why-ethiopias-fate-matters-china-32469).

<sup>68</sup>"Why Ethiopia's Fate Matters to China." *ISPI*,

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## African Union (AU)

A globally-renowned and funded institution of the African Union is the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA),<sup>69</sup> which seek to resolve and manage conflicts in Africa. With the current conflict in Ethiopia and the African Union's neglect of the genocidal war on Tigray, the APSA's performance has become questionable. On November 4, 2022, the Government of Tigray pleaded to the AU to help Ethiopia find a peaceful solution. Two weeks into the conflict, the African Union proposed sending a special envoy to mediate talks between the federal government and Tigray's regional government leading to the November 2022 Pretoria Agreement.<sup>70</sup> A peace treaty was signed by the government of Ethiopia and the TPLF where both parties agreed to a "permanent cessation of hostilities" to end the Tigray war.<sup>71</sup>

## European Union (EU)

The EU has been engaged in promoting and supporting lasting peace in Ethiopia. In April 2023, the EU confirmed its support for the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement for lasting peace.<sup>72</sup> The union emphasised that it would progressively normalise relations with Ethiopia. Additionally, the EU has provided assistance by allocating over €63 million to humanitarian projects in Ethiopia in 2020,<sup>73</sup> including more than €24.5 million to address urgent humanitarian needs in Tigray.<sup>74</sup> The EU's financial support and diplomatic efforts contributed to the cessation of hostilities however there were delays in aid delivery and challenges in ensuring the implementation of transitional justice measures.

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<sup>69</sup>Support, Tech. "How the African Union Failed Tigray." *Omna Tigray*, 26 Apr. 2022, [omnatigray.org/how-the-african-union-failed-tigray/](https://omnatigray.org/how-the-african-union-failed-tigray/).

<sup>70</sup>Support, Tech. "How the African Union Failed Tigray." *Omna Tigray*, 26 Apr. 2022, [omnatigray.org/how-the-african-union-failed-tigray/](https://omnatigray.org/how-the-african-union-failed-tigray/).

<sup>71</sup>"Ethiopia–Tigray Peace Agreement." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 19 Feb. 2024, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethiopia%E2%80%93Tigray\\_peace\\_agreement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethiopia%E2%80%93Tigray_peace_agreement).

<sup>72</sup>"Welcome to Zscaler Directory Authentication." *Diplomacyireland.eu*, 2025, [diplomacyireland.eu/12889-2/?utm](https://diplomacyireland.eu/12889-2/?utm).

<sup>73</sup>"Welcome to Zscaler Directory Authentication." *Diplomacyireland.eu*, 2025, [diplomacyireland.eu/12889-2/?utm](https://diplomacyireland.eu/12889-2/?utm).

<sup>74</sup>"Welcome to Zscaler Directory Authentication." *Diplomacyireland.eu*, 2025, [diplomacyireland.eu/12889-2/?utm](https://diplomacyireland.eu/12889-2/?utm).



## RELEVANT UN TREATIES CONVENTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

### The Ethiopia-Tigray peace agreement

The Ethiopia-Tigray peace agreement is also known as the Pretoria agreement or the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA).<sup>75</sup> This is a peace treaty between the government of Ethiopia and the TPLF that was signed 2nd of November 2022 where both parties agreed to a “permanent cessation of hostilities” to end the Tigray war.

### United States Senate Resolution 97

The U.S. Senate passed Resolution 97,<sup>76</sup> calling on the Government of Ethiopia and the TPLF to end all hostilities, protect human rights and allow humanitarian aid to enter the country's borders. It called for the restoration of essential services such as electricity, banking and communications to the Tigray Region. Additionally, it demanded cooperation with independent and transparent investigations of credible atrocity allegations and the holding of perpetrators accountable.

### United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

The UNHRC has been actively monitoring any human rights violations in Ethiopia. In July 2021, the UNHRC adopted Resolution A/HRC/RES/47/13,<sup>77</sup> which acknowledged the importance of addressing human rights violations in the context of the Tigray conflict and ensuring accountability and the protection of civilians. Additionally, in 2023, the UNHRC extended the mandate of the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia for one more year.<sup>78</sup> This extension is aimed to continue addressing human rights violations in the country. Despite their efforts, the limited enforcement

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<sup>75</sup>“Ethiopia–Tigray Peace Agreement.” *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 19 Feb. 2024, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethiopia%E2%80%93Tigray\\_peace\\_agreement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethiopia%E2%80%93Tigray_peace_agreement).

<sup>76</sup>R-ID, James E. “Text - S.Res.97 - 117th Congress (2021-2022): A Resolution Calling on the Government of Ethiopia, the Tigray People's Liberation Front, and Other Belligerents in the Conflict in the Tigray Region of Ethiopia to Cease All Hostilities, Protect Human Rights, Allow Unfettered Humanitarian Access, and Cooperate with Independent Investigations of Credible Atrocity Allegations.” *Congress.gov*, 2021, [www.congress.gov/bills/117th-congress/senate-resolution/97/text](https://www.congress.gov/bills/117/congress/senate/resolutions/97/text)

<sup>77</sup>“Document Viewer.” *Un.org*, 2025, [docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/RES/47/13](https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/RES/47/13)

<sup>78</sup>“54th Session of the UN Human Rights Council: Ethiopia – Renew the Mandate of the ICHREE.” *Human Rights Watch*, 7 Sept. 2023, [www.hrw.org/news/2023/09/07/54th-session-un-human-rights-council-ethiopia-renew-mandate-ichree](https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/09/07/54th-session-un-human-rights-council-ethiopia-renew-mandate-ichree).



power and the Ethiopian government's resistance to international aid became significant challenges.

## PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

### United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The UNHCR has been actively involved in supporting and providing emergency response to Tigrayan refugees and IDPs in Ethiopia and Sudan. The UN organisation attempted to address the protection needs of refugees and IDPs, by providing emergency assistance to over 930,000 refugees and IDPs, distributed food, shelter, and essential services. Biometric verification systems were also implemented to ensure aid reached the intended recipients.<sup>79</sup> In 2025, UNHCR released a 4-year strategy plan focusing on enhancing the protections and well-being of refugees and IDPs in Ethiopia.<sup>80</sup> Their efforts were crucial in alleviating the immediate humanitarian needs however access restrictions and ongoing insecurity hindered the delivery of the aid to some areas.

### Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) and the Organisation for Justice and Accountability in the Horn of Africa (OJAH)

In July 2025, PHR and OJAH released a detailed report on extensive, systematic sexual violence; including mass rape, forced pregnancy, and sexual torture committed by Ethiopian and Eritrean soldiers during the Tigray conflict.<sup>81</sup> Based on medical evidence from over 500 patients and 600 health workers, the report concluded these acts amounted to crimes against humanity and possibly genocide.<sup>82</sup> Despite their efforts, the

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<sup>79</sup>Ethiopia Multi-Year Strategy. 2025, [www.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/2025-01/Ethiopia%20-%20Strategy%202025%20%E2%80%93%202029\\_0.pdf](http://www.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/2025-01/Ethiopia%20-%20Strategy%202025%20%E2%80%93%202029_0.pdf).

<sup>80</sup>Ethiopia Multi-Year Strategy. 2025, [www.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/2025-01/Ethiopia%20-%20Strategy%202025%20%E2%80%93%202029\\_0.pdf](http://www.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/2025-01/Ethiopia%20-%20Strategy%202025%20%E2%80%93%202029_0.pdf).

<sup>81</sup> McClure, Tess. "Mass Rape, Forced Pregnancy and Sexual Torture in Tigray Amount to Crimes against Humanity – Report." The Guardian, The Guardian, 31 July 2025, [www.theguardian.com/global-development/2025/jul/31/mass-rape-forced-pregnancy-sexual-torture-in-tigray-ethiopian-eritrean-forces-crimes-against-humanity-report](https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2025/jul/31/mass-rape-forced-pregnancy-sexual-torture-in-tigray-ethiopian-eritrean-forces-crimes-against-humanity-report).

<sup>82</sup>McClure, Tess. "Mass Rape, Forced Pregnancy and Sexual Torture in Tigray Amount to Crimes against Humanity – Report." The Guardian, The Guardian, 31 July 2025,



lack of accountability for perpetrators, which is due to the instability of the judicial process, has allowed such abuses to persist.

### Human Rights Watch (HRW)

The HRW has been documenting and reporting human rights abuses in Ethiopia. In April 2022, HRW released a report which documented systematic expulsions of Tigrayan civilians from their homes, involving threats, unlawful killings, sexual violence, mass arbitrary detention, pillage, forcible transfer, and the denial of humanitarian assistance.<sup>83</sup> In June 2021, the HRW and other human rights organizations called on the UN Human Rights Council to adopt a resolution addressing the situation in Tigray, urging for accountability and the protection of civilians. Their detailed reports have provided credible evidence of abuses, however there has been limited progress in holding perpetrators accountable.<sup>84</sup>

## POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

### Economic Measures

#### Immediate Infrastructure Rehabilitation

The government and local authorities with support from international donors and non governmental organisations (NGOs) need to prioritize the rehabilitation and reconstruction of damaged infrastructure, particularly in vital sectors such as roads, transportation, energy, water supply, and telecommunications. Schools and educational institutions damaged during the war must also be rebuilt and refurbished to guarantee access to quality education for all children. Similarly, water supply systems require urgent attention, with investment in repairing water treatment plants and pipelines to

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[www.theguardian.com/global-development/2025/jul/31/mass-rape-forced-pregnancy-sexual-to-rture-in-tigray-ethiopian-eritrean-forces-crimes-against-humanity-report](https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2025/jul/31/mass-rape-forced-pregnancy-sexual-to-rture-in-tigray-ethiopian-eritrean-forces-crimes-against-humanity-report).

<sup>83</sup>Human Rights Watch. ““We Will Erase You from This Land”: Crimes against Humanity and Ethnic Cleansing in Ethiopia’s Western Tigray Zone.” *Human Rights Watch*, 6 Apr. 2022, [www.hrw.org/report/2022/04/06/we-will-erase-you-land/crimes-against-humanity-and-ethnic-cleansing-ethiopias](https://www.hrw.org/report/2022/04/06/we-will-erase-you-land/crimes-against-humanity-and-ethnic-cleansing-ethiopias).

<sup>84</sup>Human Rights Watch. ““We Will Erase You from This Land”: Crimes against Humanity and Ethnic Cleansing in Ethiopia’s Western Tigray Zone.” *Human Rights Watch*, 6 Apr. 2022, [www.hrw.org/report/2022/04/06/we-will-erase-you-land/crimes-against-humanity-and-ethnic-cleansing-ethiopias](https://www.hrw.org/report/2022/04/06/we-will-erase-you-land/crimes-against-humanity-and-ethnic-cleansing-ethiopias).



prevent shortages and associated public health risks. Without such infrastructure, basic services and economic recovery in affected areas remain severely hindered. Restoring these services immediately will lead economic recovery and protect public health. This will be done by allocating resources, labour and technical expertise to restoration projects.

### **Organise a Standalone Tigray Post-War Reconstruction and Development Donors Conference**

A conference established through the collaboration of the UN and the government of Ethiopia with a strong human rights foundation, demonstrating solidarity with the people of Tigray and providing much-needed support for the region's recovery and sustainable development is very crucial. This bi-annual conference attended by representatives from the TPLF, Tigray's federal government and the African Union can serve as a catalyst for mobilizing resources, fostering partnerships, and ensuring that the reconstruction and development process in Tigray is inclusive and participatory and respects the fundamental rights of all individuals affected by the war.

### **Social Measures**

#### **Security Measures**

The immediate implementation of enhanced security measures such as additional surveillance through the use of cameras and drones by government security forces to safeguard critical infrastructure from further damage or destruction is necessary to ensure safe and uninterrupted reconstruction and service delivery. Security forces should be deployed to safeguard vulnerable sites, such as transportation hubs, energy facilities, and water installations, from attacks or looting. Ongoing maintenance is required until long-term stability of the region is achieved.

#### **Ensuring full implementation of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) peace treaty**

The full implementation of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) is critical. Transparency, accountability, and coordination are all factors involved in the reconstruction process, including the government, international organizations, civil



society, and the private sector. Establishing a hybrid body to oversee and undertake regular monitoring and evaluation will be essential to assessing progress, identifying challenges, and making necessary adjustments in accordance with human rights principles such as non-discrimination, participation, and the rule of law.

### **Support for Agriculture**

Government agencies, NGOs and international partners could provide assistance to farmers affected by the war to recover and resume agricultural activities in order to restore food production and reduce hunger. They can also distribute agricultural inputs (such as seeds), tools, provide training and machinery to enable farmers to restart production and mitigate food insecurity.



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