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ቀን/Date 17/1/2022

To: Our Partners and Donors,

Subject: SITUATION UPDATING ON THE WORSENING SITUATION IN TIGRAY

Throughout the war time in Tigray upto the present, Adigrat Diocesan Catholic Secretariat and the Religious Congregations operating under the Eparchy have been applying utmost efforts and trying to address emergency needs of war-affected people in Tigray. Accordingly, since early November 2020 until mid-June 2021 our contribution to save lives of war-affected people was relatively significant. Even though there have been efforts to mobilize resources to respond to the needs of the affected people, the humanitarian assistances were limited to towns and to areas that are found around the main roads because of multiple constraints, among which security, restriction of movement and accesses, cash withdrawal limit, and shortage of basic supplies in Tigray market are the major ones. Like other humanitarian aid organizations, starting from December 2021 Adigrat Diocesan Catholic Secretariat and Rel.Congregations have not been able to continue emergency response activities. In turn could not move forward with the ongoing emergency response programs and reach war-affected people and reduce their sufferings.

Since the onset of the war on Tigray, and particularly from June 28/2021 until present time, the ongoing war accompanied by indiscriminate airstrikes with fighter jets, war helicopters and drones; blockage of bank services, telecommunication as well as land and air transport connecting to Tigray with Addis Ababa, Djibouti port, neighbouring Sudan, has worsened the situation. The genocidal war that continued for 1 year, 2 monthes, 2 weeks (442 days) months has resulted catastrophic human suffering. The following types of overwhelming atrocities demonstrate the level of damages and disaster:

- ❖ Ethnic based civilian attacks and massacres
- ❖ Destruction of homes and displacement of millions,
- ❖ Rampant Gender Based Violence, which destroyed families and individual women and girls lives,
- ❖ Devastation of economic and social institutions and infrastructures,
- ❖ Destruction of cultural and religious heritages,
- ❖ The blockage of basic services and humanitarian aids resulted to starvation of millions, malnutrition, illness and death of children, elderly people, people with chronic diseases and facilitating fast spread of COVID-19
- ❖ Has put millions into psychological pain, panic & at large overwhelming Humanitarian crisis of people in Tigray which may be recorded as unprecedented.

The cumulated negative result of the genocidal war in Tigray has deprived the people of Tigray from all basic rights of a human being (the proclamations of the international laws) like:-

- ❖ The right to life with dignity,
- ❖ The right to shelter, education, food, water, ...
- ❖ The right to receive humanitarian assistance and
- ❖ The right for protection and security, etc.

Added to the systematic political containment of Tigray, all basic services such as bank, telecommunication, electricity, and aid corridors completely blocked by the federal government of Ethiopia. Consequently, currently the supply of food and non-food items, medicine and medical equipment, potable water etc. are either in critical shortage or non-existent in Tigray.

This current catastrophic situation has exposed millions of people to severe malnutrition of children, starvation and famine of millions of people including IDPs followed by illness and death - especially children, elderly people, people with chronic disease and people affected by COVID-19 pandemic. Hence, it is a day-to-day reality to see human sufferings, death of people due to starvation and lack of medicines to preventable diseases. This shows any delay will definitely end up with irreparable disaster on human lives and the social fabric of the generation in Ethiopia's Tigray.

As elaborated above, the Adigrat Catholic Diocese which covers the entire Tigray is immersed in the extremely alarming crisis which needs an urgent response from our partners, other humanitarian aid organizations and the international community. In this occasion, we would like to call upon all our partners and other humanitarian aid organizations to continue urging and lobbying to the international communities, the United Nations, faith and right based organizations, international government agencies and diplomatic societies in the globe, to push for political dialogue for Peace and for unlimited access to humanitarian aids, basic services and supplies that are natural right of human beings in Tigray as well as in any other areas of the country where needed.

We are asking our partner organization for full-fledged possible Humanitarian aid resources support as well as to be able to voice on behalf of the war affected people in Tigray so as together we could respond to this immense humanitarian need in Tigray and elsewhere in the country where communities/population are in need.

I take this opportunity to wish you and your organizations' mission God's blessings in the New Year 2022 and always, and with our deep gratitude,

Yours in Christ,


Abba Abroha Hagos
Diocesan Director

