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Europe External Programme with Africa is a Belgium-based Centre of Expertise with in-depth knowledge, publications, and networks, specialised in issues of peacebuilding, refugee protection, and resilience in the Horn of Africa. EEPA has published extensively on issues related to the movement and/or human trafficking of refugees in the Horn of Africa and on the Central Mediterranean Route. It cooperates with a wide network of universities, research organizations, civil society, and experts from Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda, and across Africa. The situation reports can be found [here](#).

Horn Highlights: Airstrikes and healthcare destruction in Tigray, Adigrat Church calls for end to blockade, seven dead in Sudan protests

In this week Horn Highlights: Airstrikes have killed over 100 people in Tigray since 2022; Adigrat Church sends out letter detailing atrocities and humanitarian needs; Article details health care destruction in Tigray; WFP update on Tigray; Biden calls with Abiy; New US Horn Envoy to visit Ethiopia; WHO asks for humanitarian access to Tigray; Seven killed during one of the bloodiest days of Sudan protests; UN denounces attacks on UN operations in North Darfur.

Greater Horn of Africa

Ethiopia: Tigray hit by airstrikes killing over 108 civilians since 2022

The last weeks have seen an increase in airstrikes carried out in the Tigray region. According to reports, hundreds of people, including women and children, have been killed in these strikes. The United Nations says that at least 108 civilians have been killed in Tigray since the start of the year 2022. The UN also said that it was “alarmed by the multiple, deeply disturbing reports we continue to receive of civilian casualties and destruction of civilian objects resulting from airstrikes in Ethiopia’s Tigray region.” The Spokesperson of the UN Secretary general added that “the Secretary-General reiterates his call for an immediate cessation of hostilities, including airstrikes, and for all parties to adhere to their obligations under international humanitarian law to facilitate humanitarian access and to ensure the protection of civilians, including humanitarian actors, premises, and sites.”

- [Air strike in Ethiopia's Tigray kills at least 17, aid workers say](#)
- [Aid workers say Ethiopia air strike in northwest Tigray killed 56 people](#)
- [Statement attributable to the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General - on Ethiopia](#)
- [News: UN “alarmed” by Ethiopia airstrike in Tigray killing at least 108, injuring more than 75 civilians since the year began](#)

Ethiopia: Adigrat Church letter outlines atrocities and humanitarian needs

The Ethiopian Catholic Church in Adigrat, Tigray, says in a letter that the conflict has deprived people from the basic human rights, including the right to live in dignity, food and shelter, and right to humanitarian assistance. The Diocesan Director of Adigrat, Abba Abraha Hagos, says that millions of people are experiencing starvation,

Europe External Programme with Africa ivzw

115 Stevinstraat, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium

Tel: + 32 2 231 1659; e-mail admin@eepa.be

Web: www.eepa.be

Registration no: 0452.298.528

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famine and malnutrition, and that urgent action is needed. Food and other items, including water, are in “critical shortage”. The Church has done its utmost to address critical needs, states the letter, but has not been able to do so since December 2021.

- [Situation updating letter to Partners & Donors](#)

Ethiopia: Destruction of health system in Tigray

Global Health Reporter Sara Jerving outlines in *Devex* that the health systems in Tigray are “in a state of collapse”. Fighting and the blockade of essential goods have led to chronic shortages, including shortages of medicine. Furthermore, health facilities have been deliberately vandalised, states Jerving. The article sums up the aspects that have led to the collapse of Tigray’s health systems, which had been dubbed one of the best in Ethiopia.

- [Tigray: The deliberate destruction of a health system](#)

Ethiopia: World Food Programme update on Tigray

The World Food Programme has said in a statement on 14 January that no food convoy has reached Tigray since mid-December. It added that “[s]tocks of nutritionally fortified food for the treatment of malnourished children and women are now exhausted, and the last of WFP’s cereals, pulses and oil will be distributed next week.” The WFP further said that they can only reach 20% of the people due to food and fuel shortages. The number of people in need of aid has also increased by 2.7 million in four months. The total estimated number of people requiring humanitarian aid is now estimated by the WFP to be 9.4 million people.

- [No food, no fuel, no funding: WFP's northern Ethiopia operations grinding to a halt](#)
- [Ethiopia - Northern Ethiopia Humanitarian Update](#)

Ethiopia: US President calls with Ethiopian PM

The President of the United States Joe Biden and Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed have spoken on the phone, according to a press release on 10 January 2022. They discussed the release of political prisoners in Ethiopia, the need for a ceasefire, and humanitarian aid. President Biden also raised concern about the recent airstrikes on Tigray.

- [Readout of President Biden’s Call with Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed of Ethiopia](#)

Ethiopia: New US envoy to visit Horn next week

The United States has appointed a new envoy to the Horn, named as Ambassador David Satterfield. The state department said that he would travel to Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Ethiopia next week. He will be accompanied by Assistant Secretary of African Affairs Molly Phee, and they will meet government officials. They aim to end the airstrikes, open the door for negotiations, and “lay the foundation for a national dialogue”. In Sudan they will discuss the country’s transition to democracy.

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- New U.S. Horn of Africa envoy to visit Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Ethiopia

Ethiopia: World Health Organisation ask for humanitarian access to Tigray

The World Health Organization has said that it “will continue to ask the Ethiopian government to allow access to deliver humanitarian supplies and services to the 7 million people in Tigray, Ethiopia.” The WHO statement comes following a spat between the WHO and the Ethiopian government, who accused the WHO director general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, of supporting the Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF). The Ethiopian army chief accused Tedros of providing weapons and equipment to the Tigrayans. The United Nations says that the government is carrying out a “de facto” blockade of aid to the region, an accusation the Ethiopian government denies.

- Ethiopia says WHO chief has links to rebellious Tigrayan forces

Sudan: 7 protesters killed in violent crackdown on demonstration

Seven protesters were killed in protests on Monday 17 January. The deaths were reported by the Central Committee of Sudanese Doctors, who indicated that live ammunition and stun grenades were used to repel the protests. Witnesses saw injured victims bleeding heavily amidst volleys of teargas. Protesters announced two days of civil disobedience and strikes after the news of the killings broke out. Meanwhile, one Sudanese pro-democracy group, Central Council for the Forces of Freedom and Change (CCFFC), has conditionally accepted the UN’s offer to broker between the parties in Sudan, states *Al Jazeera*. However, another prominent group rejected the offer.

- Seven dead in crackdown on anti-coup rallies in Sudan -medics
- Sudan pro-democracy faction agrees to UN-brokered talks

Sudan: UN Press Release denounces attacks on UN operations in North Darfur

Officials from various United Nations agencies have denounced attacks that have taken place against UN operations in North Darfur, Sudan. The attacks include looting of humanitarian assistance. Officials said that “These acts of violence constitute a direct attack on the most vulnerable people in Sudan, who have unjustly been robbed of food assistance they so desperately need.” The attacks forced the World Food Programme to suspend their operations last year. Officials from the agencies have also met with government officials in order to find solutions and bring the attackers to account. An estimated 14.3 million people need humanitarian assistance in the region, and the suspension of WFP operations could affect up to 2 million people. The statement notes that the North Darfur region has been increasingly insecure since November 2021.

- UN Agencies Denounce Attacks on UN Operations During Darfur Visit



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* If you have any comments, questions, or additions to the next news highlights, please let us know.

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