

Europe External Programme with Africa

SITUATION REPORT - HORN OF AFRICA

No. 214 - 1 June 2022

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 organisations, civil society, and experts from Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda, and across Africa. The Situation Reports can be found [here](#). To receive the situation report in your e-mail, [click here](#). You can unsubscribe at any moment through the link at the bottom of each e-mail.

Situation in Tigray (per 1 June)

- According to Getachaw Reda, Advisor to the President of Tigray and Executive Committee member of the TPLF, Debretsion Gebremicheal held talks with the AU Special Envoy Chief Olusegun Obasanjo on regional matters in Mekelle, Tigray.
- According to CRUX Catholic Media, a priest from Tigray says the arrival of hundreds of aid trucks is a sign of hope for millions of people driven to the brink of famine but much more is needed.
- "We welcome this movement of aid. Life has been terrible for the people," said the priest who wishes not to be named for security matters. "We also hope this is honest aid and we hope this is not a trick being played on the people of Tigray."
- He adds the need is so large that it will take a long time before the situation on the ground normalises. "I think this is a small - only 6%. Perhaps, we can have 100 aid trucks each day," said the priest, while warning that ongoing tensions and clashes in some areas continue to cause further suffering for the people.

Situation in Ethiopia (per 1 June)

- A report by Al Jazeera reports on the decline in freedom of the press in Ethiopia over the last three years, in particular how the recent crackdown and mass detention of journalists and media personnel by the Ethiopian authorities signals shrinking media freedom in the country.
- The report says 22 media personnel have been arrested across Ethiopia this year alone and authorities have accused the detainees of worsening the bloodshed at a time when the country was torn apart by strife.
- The report added that press advocates such as the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) dismiss this defence from the Ethiopian authorities and say mass detentions are part of a consistent trend.
- The "Committee to Protect Journalists has documented a drastic decline in press freedom in Ethiopia over the last three years," said Angela Quintal, Head of the CPJ Africa Programme. "This decline has accelerated during the ongoing civil war. Numerous journalists have been arrested and detained without trial or for prolonged pre-charge periods."
- According to Addis Standard, the Afar People's Party (APP) Executive Committee has issued a statement calling on the federal government of Ethiopia to discharge its constitutional responsibilities with a response to the humanitarian crisis in the region and by protecting civilians from killings.
- The party accuses both the federal government and Tigrayan authorities for what it said was a "competition for power" and blamed both for creating instability and chaos in the Afar region resulting in deaths, displacements and destruction of properties.

- APP also slammed the federal government for failing to protect the people of Afar from ongoing atrocities. The party vowed that the people would defend their sovereignty from state and non-state “invading forces”.
- The party further discussed high living costs, large-scale corruption, unfair wealth accumulation, money laundering and other illegal activities.
- APP expressed its reservation over the National Dialogue Commission for not meeting minimum requirements and not being inclusive of all actors including armed groups operating in the country.
- The African Development Bank (AfDB) has signed an USD 830,000 technical assistance grant agreement for Ethiopia to improve climate resilience for communities and ecosystems.
- According to AfDB, the fund will contribute to the development of climate-aligned water resources development and an investment strategy for the Ziway-Shalla sub-basin in Ethiopia’s central rift valley.

Situation in Eritrea (per 1 June)

- Unconfirmed reports state that the Eritrean government was going from door to door this weekend, confiscating property and arresting persons, under the guise of looking for smugglers.

Regional Situation (per 1 June)

- The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) 2022 Global Report states Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for 80% of all internal displacements caused by conflict and violence globally in 2021.
- The report stated that conflict and violence has triggered nearly 11.6 million internal displacements in sub-Saharan Africa in 2021, the highest figure ever recorded for the region.
- The report said that the regional total was 4.7 million higher than the figure for the previous year, driven mostly by the conflicts in Ethiopia, DRC, Central African Republic and Somalia.
- In Ethiopia, the civil war has led to an unprecedented displacement of over 5.1 million people in 2021, three times higher than in 2020 and the highest annual figure recorded in a single country.
- According to the IDMC report, the crisis in Tigray deepened, spreading to neighbouring regions and uprooting millions from their shelters.
- In Sudan, the humanitarian situation has deteriorated significantly in 2021 as intercommunal violence intensified and the number of IDPs soared to 3.2 million.
- The IDMC report further stated that around 442,000 internal displacements were reported in 2021, more than five times the figure for the previous year and the highest since 2014.
- According to the report, the increase was mainly due to the escalating violence across the country, and mainly in Darfur, stemming from disputes over land, grazing routes and other resources.

Links of interest

[Twitter: President of Tigray Dr. Debretsion held talks with AU Envoy Chief Obasanjo](#)

[Arrival of aid in Tigray brings hope but much more is needed: Church source](#)

[Mass detention signals shrinking press freedom in Ethiopia: AL-JAZEERA](#)

[ከሩናት ትግራይ፡ ፍሉይ ልሎኸ ሕብረት አፍሪቃ ኦሎሰጉን ኦባሳንጅ ምስ ዶ/ር ደብረጽዮን ተራኹቡ](#)

[African Development Bank signs an USD830,000 grant with Ethiopia](#)

[Afar People’s Party \(APP\) calls attention to the region humanitarian crisis and blam parties to the civil war](#)

[ከአፋር ህዝብ ፓርቲ፡ የሰራ እስፊ፡ፃግሚ ኮሚቴ የተሰጠ ወቅታዊ መግለጫ](#)

[IDMC’s 2020 Global Report on Internal Displacement](#)

Disclaimer: All information in this Situation Report is presented as a fluid update report, as to the best knowledge and understanding of the authors at the moment of publication. EEPA does not claim that the information is correct but verifies to the best of ability within the circumstances. Publication is weighed on the basis of interest to understand potential impacts of events (or perceptions of these) on the situation. Check all information against updates and other media. EEPA does not take responsibility for the use of the information or impact thereof. All information reported originates from third parties and the content of all reported and linked information remains the sole responsibility of these third parties. Report to info@eepea.be any additional information and corrections.