

Europe External Programme with Africa

SITUATION REPORT - HORN OF AFRICA

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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 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 23 June)

- A spokeswoman for the Prime Minister Office of Ethiopia, Billene Seyoum says that in the last week alone, three fuel tankers carrying over 137,500 litres of fuel arrived in Mekelle and over 920,000 litres of fuel have been sent to Tigray since April.
- The EU Commissioner for Crisis Management, Janez Lenarcic, said the aid efforts in Tigray need more fuel so that humanitarian workers can deliver assistance to all in need, after visiting the regional capital of the Tigray region, Mekelle.
- TPLF spokesperson Getachaw Reda has accused the federal government of misrepresenting facts and said fuel shortage in Tigray is as “vicious” as creating “unnecessary checkpoints” aimed at hindering humanitarian access.
- The Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) has warned that farmers in Tigray are in serious danger of losing the main agricultural season (June - August) if they do not get immediate help from the international community.
- FAO is seeking to raise \$96 million focusing specifically on the time-sensitive opportunity offered by Ethiopia to purchase fertilisers at cost price.
- “The importance of supporting food production in Tigray cannot be overstressed. It is highly unlikely that the region will be able to produce sufficient food for its population without the appropriate seeds and fertilisers. Every dollar invested now in food production has a multiplying effect, and it turns into 4-7 dollars worth of food. At the same time, bringing in food assistance at a later stage will be much more expensive,” said David Phiri, FAO Representative for Ethiopia.
- According to the FAO, if the farming inputs do not arrive soon, the next opportunity will not be before October 2023.
- Director of the FAO Office of Emergencies and Resilience, Rein Paulsen also said: “We are in the midst of the critical planting season. There is a small window of opportunity to prevent severe hunger by supporting local production and averting a potential increase in humanitarian food needs over the next year.”
- Paulsen added that a successful planting season in the region will play an important role in recovery efforts and sustainable return of displaced communities and ensure urban food security.

Situation in Ethiopia (per 23 June)

- The VOA reports that the Ethiopian ambassador to South Sudan walked out of a UNHCR event following remarks by a Tigrayan refugee on how the war has affected her life. The UNHCR event in Juba was organised to mark World Refugee Day.

Regional Situation (per 23 June)

- In his message to the G7 leaders, the World Food Programme's (WFP) regional director for East Africa, Michael Dunford said that an urgent donation is required from governments if there was to be any hope of avoiding the worst humanitarian crisis in Somalia, The Guardian reported.
- "We need money and we need it now," said Dunford.
- After visiting Somalia, the deputy humanitarian director of Save the Children, says she met mothers who had buried multiple children and others were suffering from acute malnutrition.
- "I can honestly say in my 23 years of responding to humanitarian crisis, this is by far the worst I've seen, particularly in terms of the level of impact on children," she said. "The starvation that my colleagues and I witnessed in Somalia has escalated even faster than we feared."
- According to Sudan Tribune, the African Union (AU) representative in Sudan has suspended his participation in the political processes and negotiations of the country.
- The African Union Representative in Sudan, Mohamed Belaiche, took the decision after he was excluded from the direct meetings between the Forces for Freedom and Change (FFC) and the military component.
- "The African Union cannot continue in a process lacking transparency, honesty and inclusion, as well as respect for all actors and treat them with full and equal respect," said Belaiche.
- He further stressed that based on the directives of the AU leadership, he will not attend "hidden, evasive and opaque meetings in an exclusionary atmosphere."

International Situation (per 23 June)

- The U.S State Department has warned its citizens not to travel to Ethiopia due to armed conflict, civil unrest, disruptions in communications, crime, and the potential danger of terrorism and kidnapping in border areas.

Links of interest

[Ethiopian government calls Tigray fuel shortage a 'Myth': VOA](#)

[Time is running out in Tigray to avert food insecurity: FAO](#)

[Ethiopian Ambassador to South Sudan walked out of World Refugees Days event: VOA](#)

[The worst humanitarian crisis we've ever seen in Somalia: The Guardian](#)

[AU suspends its participation in Sudan's political process: Sudan Tribune](#)

[Ethiopia Travel Advisory: U.S State Department](#)

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