

Europe External Programme with Africa

# SITUATION REPORT - HORN OF AFRICA

## No.249 - 26 July 2022

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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 26 July)

- WHO is flying in 1MT of tuberculosis drugs from the Ethiopian Ministry of Health and 3,8 million emergency surgery kits to Mekelle. This will be used in particular for the Ayder hospital in Mekelle.
- Researchers at the Ghent University published an article about the “Challenges and resilience” of farming systems in wartime. It focuses on the experiences of farmers during the war in Tigray.
- Among other things it looked at the changing types of crops used. It found that certain crops were used more than others due to the fighting disrupting the sowing season. It also looked into the “ability of the indigenous farming system to partially rebound in times of autarky”.
- Paula Gil, president of MSF Spain, says she was not allowed to travel to Tigray to meet the families of two of the three MSF members killed in June 2021. She regrets not having been able to inform them of the progress of MSF’s internal investigation on the case.
- Paula Gil also deplores not having been able to meet with representatives of the federal government, despite requests, and states MSF has received no credible answers after one year.

### Situation in Ethiopia (per 26 July)

- An analysis on the Al-Shabab incursion into the Ethiopian Somali region has been made by analysts for the The Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD) long war journal. They write that the incursion “should be seen within the context of its resurgent capabilities inside Somalia”.
- The analysis adds that Ethiopia has fit the incursion into its narrative that it is fighting terrorist organisations, grouping Al-Shabab, the TPLF, and the OLA together.
- The analysis finishes by saying that the recent incursion into Ethiopia should be a reminder of Al-Shabab's threat to regional security in the Horn of Africa.
- The Addis Standard reports that an Ethiopian General announced joint operations with regional forces are being undertaken to get rid of Al-Shabab elements in Eastern Ethiopia. ENDF reinforcements were sent to the region.
- The Addis Standard spoke to residents in Amhara State regarding the progress of the National Dialogue. AS asked residents about the progress and what they believe the government should do.
- The AS also spoke to Ethiopian law professionals. One said that political differences between parties make the “practicality of the National Dialogue very tough”. He added that a national dialogue is necessary, but that “Abiy’s government seems to have failed in understanding the very complex nature of Ethiopia’s politics”.
- Another expert said that important priorities such as peace in Tigray should have been handled before the National Dialogue was launched.

## Regional Situation (per 26 July)

- Following a bilateral meeting in Cairo, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El Sisi and Somali leader Sheikh Mohamud have jointly rejected Ethiopia's unilateral moves regarding the GERD dam filling.
- In its July 2022 Business Brief, UNOCHA calls on the private sector to get involved in addressing the food crisis in the Horn of Africa. It refers to the worst drought in Africa for more than 40 years, threatening 18,6 million people with acute food insecurity and malnutrition. This figure could rise to 20 million by September 2022.
- UNOCHA suggests the private sector gets involved through increasing financial contributions to reputable aid organisations, making an in-kind contribution of pre-identified goods on the field by organisations, or advocating the UN message.

## Situation in Eritrea (per 26 July)

- The Eritrean Ministry of Information reports that students from 26 secondary schools of the Southern region have arrived at the Sawa Military Academy. They will participate in the 35th round of national service.
- 49% of them are reported to be women, and according to the Ministry, all of them have declared to be physically and psychologically ready.

## International Situation (per 26 July)

- An internal EU report seen by DEVEX states that the Union is concerned about its relationship with Africa being impacted by the conflict in Ukraine. It is concerned that European messaging on Ukraine is not being received in African capitals, and that EU messaging needs to be more "targeted, audible and effective."
- According to DEVEX, the document states that AU Member States do not see the EU as a peace facilitator in the conflict in Ukraine, but rather as "fuelling the conflict". The report adds that African states sometimes feel lectured by the EU, and that this needs to be "banned".
- The report states that EU policy needs better "LTTs [lines to take]", and adds that "[b]ecoming more transactional in our approach, we should be clear about the fact that the willingness of Europeans (governments and taxpayers) to maintain higher levels of financial engagement in African countries will depend on working based on common values and a joint vision,"
- The leaked report comes as the Russian Foreign minister is Touring Africa. He will be received in Addis Ababa on 26-27 July and is setting up the framework for a Russia-AU summit in the autumn.

## Links of interest

- [WHO Ethiopia](#)
- [Egypt and Somalia condemn Ethiopia over Nile dam dispute](#)
- [Analysis: Shabaab's multi-day incursion into Ethiopia](#)
- [Challenges and resilience of an indigenous farming system during wartime \(Tigray, North Ethiopia\)](#)
- [Exclusive: Internal report shows EU fears losing Africa over Ukraine](#)
- [Horn of Africa Drought: Regional Humanitarian Overview & Call To Action | Business Brief, July 2022](#)
- [Analysis: Ethiopia's National Dialogue: Views of hopes, aspirations and concerns from Amhara region](#)
- [Eritrea: Students from Southern Region arrive in Sawa](#)
- [News update: Ethiopia army general says joint military operation underway "to clean up" Al-Shabaab](#)
- [Update on the killing of MSF staff in Tigray](#)

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