

# 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 Sudan (per 23 November)

- Rapid Support Forces (RSF) took control over the military base in El Daein, the capital city of East Darfur region, on Monday. Witnesses state that dozens people were killed by bombs during the process of capturing the division headquarters.
- Taking control over El Daein is part of RSF's efforts to expand its territorial control, in which it previously claimed control of 3 other regional capital cities in Darfur namely Nyala, Zalingei and El Geneina.
- The situation caused a wave of displacement as El Daein residents fear for their life, safety and property. The shops remain closed.
- RSF further captured a military base in Jebel Aulia, south of Khartoum, which was previously under Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) control.
- RSF stated that they are in full control of the base as well as the bridge connecting Khartoum and Omdurman.
- Five armed groups known as the Joint Protection Forces deployed hundreds of fighters to protect the population against the RSF in North Darfur and its capital El Fasher, reports Aljazeera.
- Most of the deployed forces are from non-Arab groups while the RSF affiliated soldiers and militia groups are predominantly from Arab tribes.
- Experts are concerned "that [the fight for North Darfur] will most likely turn into an all-out, ethnic-based conflict," said Nic Pyat, head of mission for the NGO Nonviolent Peaceforce.
- At least 5 million children face severe infringement of their rights and protection in the Darfur region, according to UNICEF. Child rights violations increased by 450% compared to the previous year.
- In addition, 1.2 million children under five years old face acute malnutrition.

## Refugee Situation (per 23 November)

- The UN World Food Programme (WFP) warned that lack of funding may stop food and nutrition assistance to 1.4 million people in Chad including refugees arriving from Sudan.
- WFP will suspend assistance to refugees and internally displaced people, including new arrivals from Sudan, in January 2024, while already in December, WFP is forced to stop assistance to refugees from Nigeria, Central African Republic, and Cameroon.

## Situation in Ethiopia (per 23 November)

- The Second round of peace talks between Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) and Ethiopian federal government ended without adopting any agreement. Negotiations had been taking place since 7 November in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
- The federal government reportedly did not want to enter into negotiations about shifts in governance and inclusivity of political parties in Oromia, and wanted to negotiate only points concerning OLA.
- Redwan Hussein, national security adviser to PM Abiy Ahmed, called the approach of the opposing side inflexible and said that "unrealistic demands" were voiced, precluding adoption of an agreement.

- In response, OLA pushed the responsibility to the government's side stating it "was only interested in co-optation of the leadership of the OLA" rather than addressing underlying problems.
- Clashes between federal government forces and OLA caused deaths of 4 civilians Horroo Guduruu Wallagga Zone in Oromia on Monday.
- Confrontation erupted near the Fincha Sugar Factory where workers leaving for home were hit in a crossfire.
- Disruption of supplies severely affects the healthcare sector in the Amhara region as medical supplies for chronic illnesses such as diabetes are running out.
- Women and children dependent on supplementary feeding programs are also in danger as the supplies are not being delivered due to road closures.
- The Ethiopian Pharmaceutical Supply Service Agency (EPSA) confirmed that overland distribution of medical supplies is not possible due to security issues across the region.

### **Situation in Tigray (per 23 November)**

- The Tigray Tourism Bureau announced that it will launch a tourism rebranding program in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Tourism to reopen tourist destinations in Tigray. Tourist sites have not been accessible in the Tigray region since the beginning of the 2-year war in November 2020.
- Sileshi Girma, Minister for Tourism, announced that the Axum Obelisk site is ready to receive visitors as of this week. Tourists can travel via Shire airport as the airport in Axum has not resumed operations yet.
- Getachew Reda, President of the Tigray Interim Administration, met with Irish Ambassador, Nicola Brennan, who had visited Shire, Axum, and Adigrat before travelling to Mekelle.
- The Ambassador highlighted the need to prioritise help to Tigrayan women and girls who have been severely affected during the war. Brennan reassured Ireland's readiness to support the rehabilitation process in the region.

### **Regional Situation (per 23 November)**

- Floods caused by heavy rains in Somalia have led to 687,235 people to be displaced and 50 deaths.
- Another round of heavy rains is expected between 21 and 24 November. Experts fear that it will cause a new wave of flooding.
- The whole Horn of Africa region is experiencing extreme downpours resulting in floods. The change of weather patterns is linked to the El Niño weather phenomenon.
- A joint committee in support of peace building in Sudan has been established by the Sudan's Forces for Freedom and Change (FFC) in collaboration with South Sudan Mediation Committee for Peace in Sudan.
- This initiative has been endorsed by South Sudanese President Salva Kiir who met the FFC delegation during their visit in Juba.
- Ethiopia has reportedly engaged in talks with the un-recognized self proclaimed state of Somaliland over access to Red Sea port located in Berbera town. The talks were reportedly progressing well, according to the Ethiopian Press Agency.

### **Links of interest**

[Sudan war: East Darfur SAF base 'falls to RSF'](#)

[RSF take control of Sudanese army base in Jebel Aulia](#)

[Fears of all-out ethnic war rise in Sudan's Darfur](#)

[At least 5 million children at the brink in Darfur as unchecked conflict worsens](#)

[WFP operations risk grinding to a halt in Chad as refugees flee Darfur killings](#)

[Ethiopia: new government-OLA talks end without agreement, armed Oromo group](#)

[Twitter: Redwan Hussein](#)

[Statement OLF-OLA High Command](#)

[News: Four civilians killed in clashes between government forces and OLA in Sulula Fincha district of Oromia region](#)

[News: Tigray region's tourism destinations to reopen after years of closure](#)

[Somalia floods kill 50 people, nearly 700,000 displaced: Disaster agency](#)

[South Sudan, FFC establish joint committee to end war in Sudan](#)

[Progress at talks over Ethiopia's Red Sea access - minister](#)

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