Europe External Programme with Africa

SITUATION REPORT - HORN OF AFRICA

No. 780 - 16 November 2026

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 Ethiopia (per 16 November)

- Escalating clashes around Badme, the disputed border town between Ethiopia and Eritrea, have been ongoing for over six days, involving Ethiopian drone strikes and heavy Eritrean artillery.
- Ethiopian National Defence Forces' (ENDF) troops are now present in Gemhalo, located between Sheraro and Badme, while the Eritrean Defence Forces are reportedly stationed near Badme.
- Badme itself remains outside the control of any military force. Eritrean intelligence personnel have been seen in the town.
- Families have been displaced amid ongoing clashes in Badme, with residents stating that shops and markets have been closed.
- Public protests erupted in Jimma city, southwestern Oromia, sparked by the fatal shooting of a former ENDF soldier and fueled by mounting anger over forced conscription, security, extortion, and uncompensated urban evictions.

Situation in Sudan (per 16 November)

- Sudanese Prime Minister Kamil Idris announced the creation of a joint security force to fight networks trafficking gold, gum arabic, and other commodities into countries bordering Sudan. The joint security force will be operating under the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) chief of staff.
- A field commander in the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), Ahmed Hasab Al-Rasoul, announced his defection to the SAF on 15 November, accusing the RSF of lacking unified leadership and being dominated by internal favoritism and tribalism.
- The SAF announced that they had shot down a long-range drone over the Dandro area of Blue Nile state on 13 November, which was allegedly launched from Ethiopia.
- A drone hit a group of displaced people in Bani Shako, in Kurmuk county south-east of Ed Damazin on 10 November. 16 people died in the attack caused by the RSF, according to Kurmuk's governor.
- The SAF recaptured Al-Khuwai, in West Kordofan, along with the nearby town of Serif Ankoush from the RSF on 13 November. This is the first SAF territorial gain in West Kordofan since May 2025.
- The SAF launched intensive drone strikes against the RSF positions across West Kordofan state as ground troops advanced toward the state's largest city, Al Nahud. The offensive has led many civilians to flee Al Nahud, Abu Zabad, and nearby towns.
- Around 750 civilians fled the town of Abu Zabad, West Kordofan state, on 15 November due to the security situation. Most of them sought refuge in the nearby towns of Al-Sunut, Al-Salam, and Lagawa.
- The World Food Programme (WFP) has been forced to cut emergency food assistance for around 900,000 vulnerable people in Sudan since September due to severe funding shortages. Luke Lindberg, WFP Executive Director, urged rival parties to end the war in order to protect the civilians.

Regional and international situation (per 16 November)

- ENDF army chief of staff Field Marshal Berhanu Jula accused Eritrea of leading a military offensive with the Tigray People's Liberation Front in Tigray During his speech on 14 November, Jula also accused Egypt of providing logistical support and supplies for this offensive.

- Two Kenyans were killed and 22 more injured as fighting intensified in the border city of Moyale, spilling conflict from the Ethiopian side of the city. The violence has displaced more than 10,000 Kenyan residents and driven over 50,000 Ethiopian refugees into Marsabit County.
- Marsabit Governor Mohamud Ali confirmed that conflict affected civilian areas, power supply, and disrupted school programmes and national examinations.
- The South Sudan's National Elections Commission postponed the country's national elections, originally scheduled for December 2026, to 11 February 2027, citing the requirement to complete voter registration and civic education.
- 520 detained Ethiopian migrants, majority of which are youth from Tigray, are facing execution in Saudi Arabia on drug-related charges. Tigray Caretaker Administration Youth Bureau Head, Haish Subagadis, appealed to the Ethiopian federal government to urgently intervene diplomatically.
- The Quintet (UN, Africa Union, EU, Arab League and IGAD) issued a joint statement on 15 November condemning escalating drone attacks across multiple Sudanese states. The Quintet warned that the strikes on power stations and health facilities are worsening the humanitarian crisis.
- Ethiopia and Switzerland signed a Statement of Intent on Strategic Cooperation and Dialogue on Migration in Addis Ababa on 13 November. Both nations commit to expanding bilateral migration management and address the impacts of irregular migration.
- The Chadian authorities released Youssef Ibrahim Ezzat, a former political adviser and spokesperson for the RSF, after thirteen months in detention. He attributed his release to Canada's diplomatic intervention, whose passport he holds.
- US Ambassador to Ethiopia Ervin Massinga met with Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church Patriarch Abune Mathias in Addis Ababa, discussing topics of religious freedom, following a wave of violence against Orthodox Christians in the Arsi Zone of the Oromia region.
- Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty, UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and US Senior Adviser for Arab and African Affairs Massad Boulos held discussions focusing on the war in Sudan, Red Sea tensions and water security in the Horn of Africa, between 14-15 November.
- The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) presented a new fleet of vehicles at its office in Port Sudan, aiming to support FAO's programme implementation across Sudan. The procurement has been funded with the support of the EU, China and Canada.

Links of interest

Conflict in Ethiopia
News: Diplomatic sources report escalating clashes near Badme on Ethiopia-Eritrea border as residents flee bombardment
Badme fighting: villagers flee as Ethiopia blames Eritrea
News: 'People are getting desperate': Jimma protests expose growing anger over forced conscription, extortion
Sudan to Form Joint Force to Combat Gold Smuggling, Illegal Mining
RSF field commander announces defection to Sudanese army
Sudan drone claim: army says aircraft from Ethiopia shot down
Sudanese army pushes into West Kordofan, retakes Al-Khuwai
Sudanese army advances on Al Nahud amid airstrikes
750 civilians flee insecurity in Sudan's West Kordofan in a single day: UN migration agency
Sudan food aid: WFP chief urges end to war as 900,000 cut off
Ethiopia blames Egypt, Eritrea for Tigray attacks
Ethiopia accuses Eritrea of leading Tigray rebel offensive with Egyptian support
Two Kenyans killed, 22 injured as Ethiopia fighting spills into Moyale
South Sudan pushes back elections amid violent flare-ups
News Analysis: Tigrayan youths face mounting execution fears in Saudi Arabia; caretaker admin pleads with fed. gov't to intervene
5 international partners condemn escalating attacks in Sudan
Ethiopia, Switzerland Sign Agreement to Strengthen Strategic Cooperation on Migration
Chadian authorities release former RSF political adviser
US Ambassador Meets Ethiopian Patriarch Amid Growing International Outcry Over Religious Killings
#Daily_Brief: #Sudan war, #Red_Sea tensions and 'water security' feature in #Egypt-#US-#UAE talks
Sudan: China and Canada Support FAO Operations in Sudan with New Fleet of Vehicles

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