Overview

An IPC analysis update conducted in Tigray and the neighbouring zones of Amhara and Afar concludes that over 350,000 people are in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) since the 2011 famine in Somalia. This IPC analysis serves as an urgent call for the delivery of crucial life-saving humanitarian food assistance that has reached up to 5 million people in the last few months.

As of May 2021, 5.5 million people (61% of the people in the area) are facing high levels of acute food insecurity: 3.1 million people are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and 2.1 million people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and 353,000 in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) between May and June 2021. As a consequence of the conflict, some 1.7 million people have been forced to flee their homes in northern Ethiopia, with 1.65 million displaced in Tigray alone.

This severe crisis results from the cascading effects of conflict, including population displacements, movement restrictions, limited humanitarian access, loss of harvest and livelihood assets, and dysfunctional or non-existent markets. Among these, an estimated 400,000 people are expected to face Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5). These estimations take into account an expansion of humanitarian assistance to reach 60% of the population. If the conflict further escalates or, for any other reason, humanitarian assistance is hampered, most areas of Tigray will be at Risk of Famine. (see box on the right).

This IPC analysis serves as an urgent call for the delivery of crucial life-saving assistance for the millions affected. Urgent action is needed to scale up the geographic coverage and quantity of assistance: more people need more assistance, more consistently, in all affected areas.

Regional Acute Food Insecurity Analysis | May - June 2021

- **Afar Region**: Population of concern (IPC Phase 3 or above) of the 6 million people analysed in northern Ethiopia are likely to face high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) between July and September 2021.
- **Amhara Region**: More than 4.4 million people or 74% of the 6 million people analysed in northern Ethiopia are likely to face high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) between July and September 2021.
- **Tigray Region**: 74% of the analysed population of 6 million is projected to be in high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) between July and September 2021.

Projected Acute Food Insecurity | July - September 2021

- **Afar Region**: 74% of the population of concern (IPC Phase 3 or above) between July and September 2021.
- **Amhara Region**: 74% of the population of concern (IPC Phase 3 or above) between July and September 2021.
- **Tigray Region**: 74% of the population of concern (IPC Phase 3 or above) between July and September 2021.

The Risk of Famine

According to the IPC, Risk of Famine is a statement about the potential deterioration of the situation compared to the most likely scenario expected in the projection period. It is not an IPC classification but a statement focusing on a worse scenario that has a reasonable chance of occurring.

While the situation may stabilize or somewhat improve, it is also possible that the conflict will intensify and expand into areas not yet affected. An expansion of the conflict would result in further destruction of property and livelihoods, population displacements and further impede humanitarian access.

Food assistance is expected to increase from the 3.4 million people reached in April to nearly 6 million people in June 2021. There is, however, a reasonable chance that this will not materialize.

In the event that the conflict intensifies and humanitarian assistance plans are significantly hampered, there is a risk that Famine may occur in North Western, Central and Eastern Tigray.