



## Notes on the Tigray War

The Tigray War erupted in 2020 when Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali declared war on the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), which challenged the government's authority from the northern region of the country. **Violence spread rapidly as Amhara militias and Eritrean troops engaged in ongoing violations.** While in November 2022 both parties agreed to a ceasefire with the Pretoria Agreement, atrocities continue to be committed.

The dire situation continues. The TPLF is currently fighting for power against the Tigray Interim Administration (TIA), appointed by Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed in 2023 as part of the Pretoria Agreement. Eritrea is reportedly supporting the TPLF, undermining Ethiopia's ambitions for access to the Red Sea. The conflict is exacerbated by the incomplete implementation of the Pretoria Agreement, including disarmament of the Tigray Defence Forces and the continued presence of Eritrean troops in the region. Tensions in Ethiopia have escalated, threatening to ignite a new conflict with Eritrea – which raises the risk of further destabilisation in the Horn of Africa and worsening humanitarian conditions.

From July 2023 to January 2024, major fighting between **government forces and Fano militia** were reported. **According to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)** government forces carried out 'violations of international humanitarian law, including extrajudicial and arbitrary executions, airstrikes with UAVs [unmanned aerial vehicles] and heavy artillery against civilians, injury of civilians, rape/conflict-related sexual violence, attacks on and destruction of civilian objects, attacks against medical personnel, attacks against religious sites, arbitrary arrests, torture or ill-treatment, and the use of schools for military purposes.' Fano militias were likewise **reportedly** responsible for the killings of civilians, attacks on civilian objects and unlawful arrests, among other atrocities.

Between January and June 2024, five aid workers were killed, ten assaulted and 11 kidnapped in Amhara. The UN considered suspending the relief operation.

In 2025, Ethiopia continues to face humanitarian challenges marked by ongoing conflict, **disease outbreaks** – including cholera, measles, malaria and Mpox – and climate-related issues. As the **UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reports**, the conflict has left people in urgent need of assistance, particularly those in hard-to-reach areas with restricted humanitarian access. The current nutrition crisis in the country has been significantly influenced by climatic shock (flood, landslide and drought), conflict, disease outbreaks and insecurity in most areas.