

# **TIGRAY**

## **EMERGENCY COORDINATION CENTER**

### **OPERATIONAL UPDATE**

**22 SEPT 2023**



Regional Emergency Coordination Center



# TIGRAY Region: ECC meeting 22 Sept 2023

1. Opening remarks
2. Action points from the previous meeting review
3. Key findings on verification assessment – RHB
4. Smart survey findings- RHB and UNICEF
5. Rapid Pre Meher assessment findings –BOA
6. GBV assessment findings- BoWA



# Previous Action Points

Action points for next meetings	Responsible body	Status
Joint Rapid assessment on reported death cases.	RHB	Ongoing
Jeop and WFP targeting status update	JOEP and WFP	Ongoing
Food Clusters to report on the impact of food pause	Logistics Cluster	Next meeting



# Assessment and verification of starvation suspected deaths in selected districts of Tigray, Northern Ethiopia

- Tigray Health Research Institute
- Tigray Bureau of Health
- Mekelle University, College of Health Science



# Background

- Hunger and undernutrition are the greatest threats to public health (John M, 2017).
- Globally, about 735 million people faced hunger in 2022 (FAO, 2023).
- Nearly 98% of worldwide hunger exists in underdeveloped countries (FAO, 2023).

## Background....

- East Africa, hunger is expected to claim one life every second ([John M, 2017](#)).
- Regrettably, this deprivation is not because of insufficient food production.
- Weather extremes, COVID-19, rising food prices, and **conflict** ([WFP, 2022](#)).

# Background....

- Conflict and hunger are intertwined (Julie Dzerowicz, 2023).
- Fighting disrupts environmental security and hinders access:
  - Farmland and food production (FAO, 2017).
  - Markets and flow of commercial food commodities and humanitarian aid (FAO, 2017 & Demeuse, 2022).

## Background .....

- Combatants to the fighting burn harvest, steal or slaughter livestock.
  - Intentionally loot and/or destroy food (FAO, 2022).
- Warring parties inflict displacement and starvation to death (UN, 2018; UN 2022).
- Conversely, hunger can also lead to violence and fuel conflict (FAO, 2017).



## Background.....

- Nexus b/n humanitarian - developmental - peace building activities is critical
  - There was a noticeable delay in the resumption of aid.
  - The flow after resumption was infrequent and inadequate
  - The distribution process was very slow.
  - A complete aid suspension ([Ben Farmer, 2023](#); [USAID, 2023](#)).
  - Overall, the post-war engagement is insufficient.

## Background ....

- Hunger is continuing in its worst form, and unverified death reports are mounting in relation to it.
- Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Commission- over 1400 starvation deaths has been reported ([Addis standard](#), [Reuters](#), [the Telegraph](#), [AP](#), 2023).
- However, the reported figures were not systematically collected.
- Therefore, a systematic study is warranted to verify the claimed hunger-related deaths and uncover new ones.

# Rationale

- Generating the hunger death statistics through this study would help:
- The DRM to understand the depth and breadth of the problem:
  - Parsimoniously target its limited resources
  - Intensify its advocacy efforts for further resource mobilization.
- The THB and its partners for:
  - Public health planning,
  - Resource allocation,
  - Monitoring and evaluation of emergency response programs.

# Objective of the study

## **General Objective**

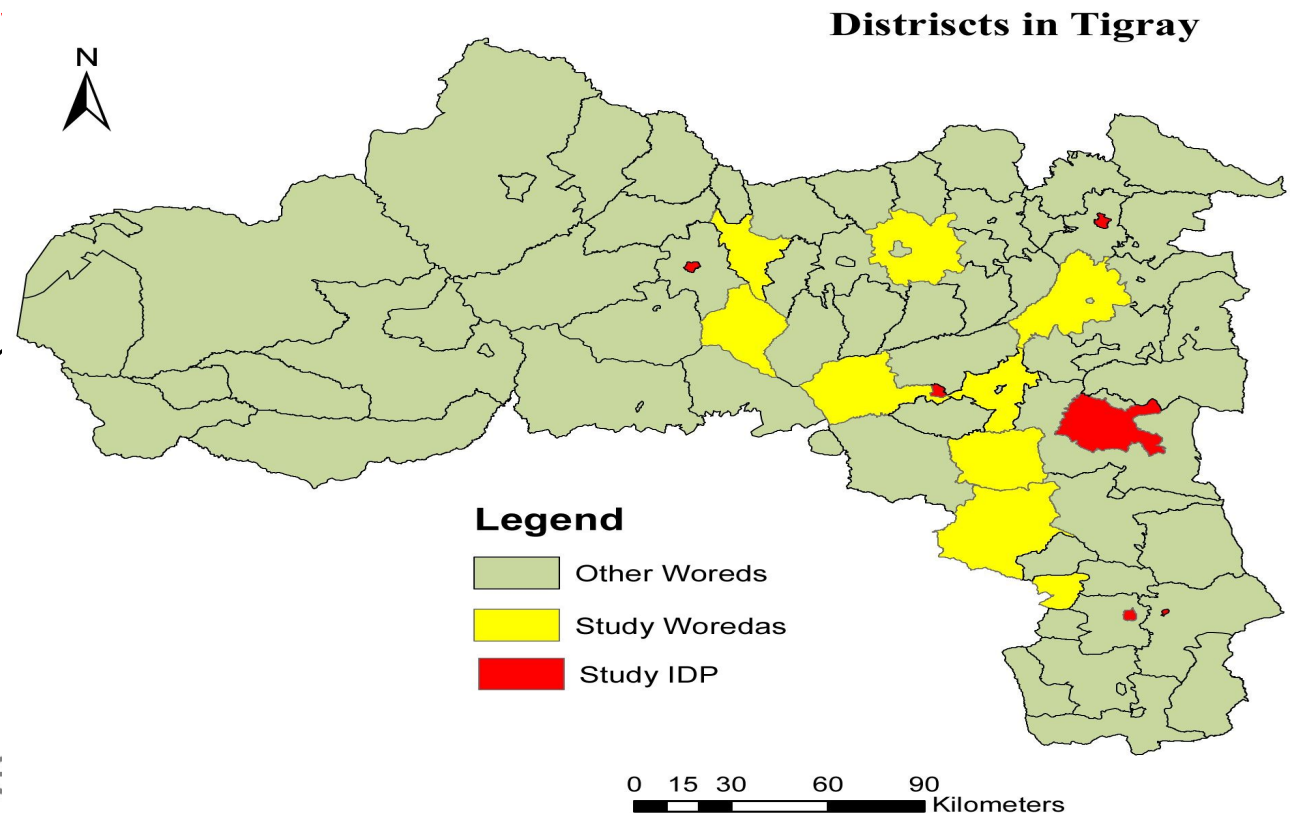
- To investigate and verify hunger and hunger related deaths among communities in Tigray.

## **Specific objectives**

- To determine the magnitude of all cause deaths in the selected districts.
- To verify hunger and hunger related deaths reported by the families of the deceased.
- To assess the current level of hunger in the deceased households.

# Study setting

- The study was conducted in five zones of Tigray region from August 15-29, 2023
- **Nine out of the 76 accessible Tigray**
- **About 110 kebeles in nine Woreda**
- 53 IDP centers in five towns (Maich)



## Time-frame

- We collected the data on:
  - Individuals who have died since the **Pretoria peace agreement**  
02 Nov 2022 (24 Tikimti 2015 until Hamle 30/2015 Geez  
Calander).
  - We used social reminders



## Study population

- All households who have deceased were assessed.
- People who died from accident/injury, poisoning, animal bite, or burn were excluded from Verbal autopsy (VA).
- Neonates were excluded from VA.



## Population cont'd

- Hunger-suspected deaths were eligible for VA interview.
  - Adult deceased:  $\geq 15$  years old ==  [Adult VA](#)
  - Child deceased:  $< 15$  years old ==  [Child VA](#)



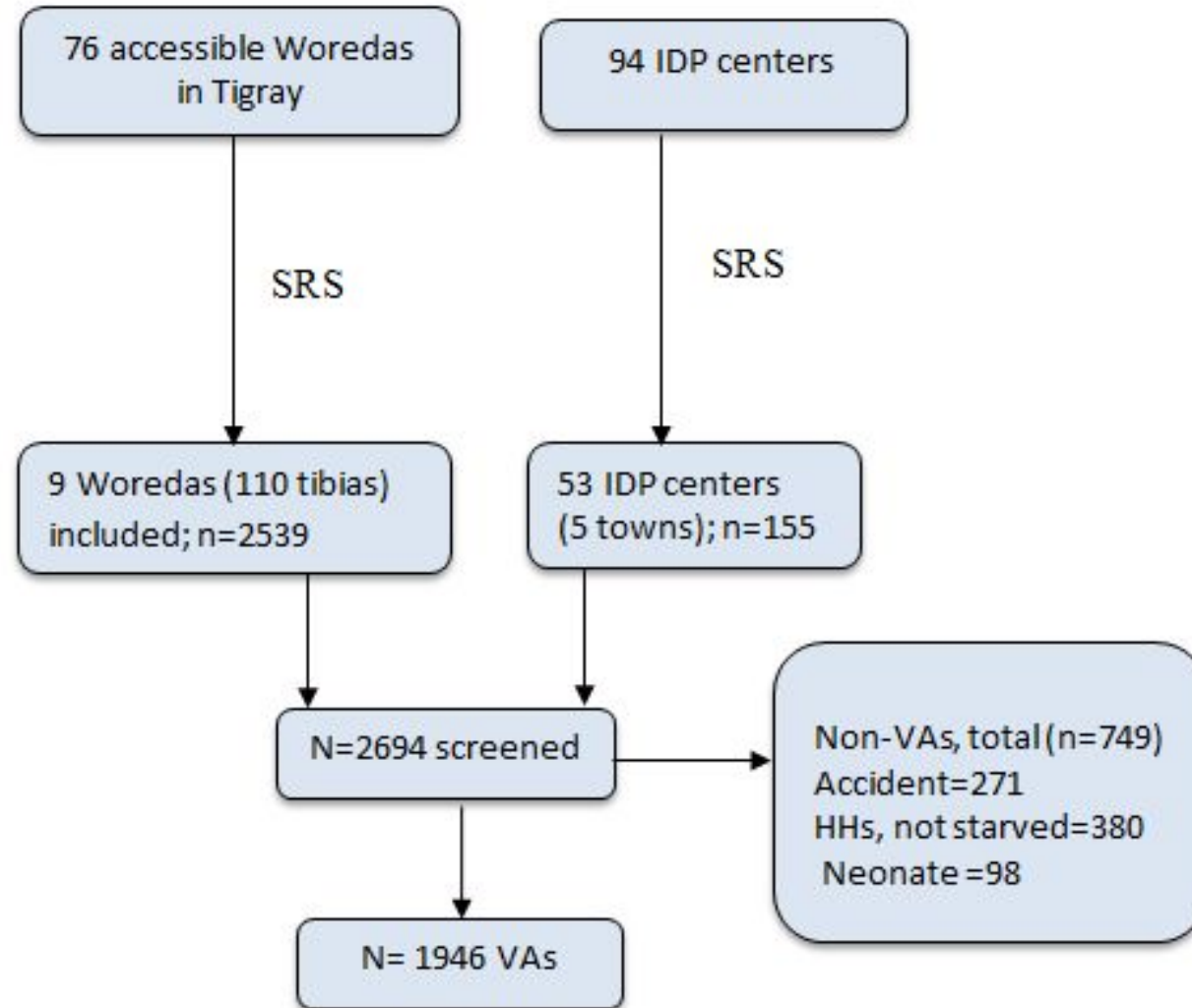


## Enumeration: census/no sampling

- All households who have deceased in the past nine months were included.
- We tried not to miss any household with the deceased regardless of the cause and age.
- A total of **2694** deceased were identified.



# Flow chart: Research process



## Data collection procedure

- Fifty data collectors were deployed
- The study tool had three components :
  - Screening tool: to identify hunger-suspected deaths.
  - Verbal autopsy (child & adult): to verify the hunger suspected deaths.
  - Household hunger scale: to assess the current level of hunger of HHs.
- Face-to-face interview with family members of the deceased.



# Data collection tool

- We used Verbal Autopsy tool adapted from Hunger Watch Group of Jan Swasthya Abhiyan (JSA) and Public Health Resource Network (PHRN) of India which was adapted from the WHO verbal autopsy tool.
- It was developed as a guideline for investigating suspected starvation deaths (Vandana Prasad, 2003).
- The tool development was led by Vandana Prasad who is a community pediatrician and public health professional.
- The questionnaire was reviewed and enriched with inputs from other experts from the area of forensic medicine and National Nutrition Institute of India . Available at [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/313571351\\_Guidelines\\_for\\_Investigating\\_Suspected\\_Starvation\\_Deaths](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/313571351_Guidelines_for_Investigating_Suspected_Starvation_Deaths).



## Activities

- Met Woreda health office/social affair to record the number of deaths (all-cause).
- We collected primary data on socio-demographic information, feeding condition, clinical data of the deceased, one month prior to death.
- Conducted verbal autopsy to verify starvation-related death among HHs with suspected ones.
- Screened all HHs with a deceased for current hunger using a household hunger scale.
- GPS data



## Operational definitions

- **Suspected starvation death:** any death where family members report that the deceased had significantly reduced food intake due to non-availability of food, during the month before death.
- **Starvation deaths:** are those deaths that have been identified as being due to starvation/ malnutrition based on the Verbal Autopsy process by physician.



## Operational definitions...

- **Hunger Scale:** Three occurrences and three frequency questions.
- ✓ 0-1: Little or no hunger
- ✓ 2-3: Moderate hunger
- ✓ 4-6: Severely hungered



# Ascertaining cause of death

- A panel of physicians (three) reviewed the collected VA.
- The physicians made individual decisions regarding the probable cause of death (immediate and underlying).
- The final diagnosis was made based on consensus.
- Cause of death was declared only for those approved by the panel.
- If the collected data were insufficient to diagnose the cause, deaths were labeled as undefined.





## Quality assurance

- We recruited experienced health professionals as data collectors.
- Training was given to data collectors and supervisors for four days.
- The study team closely supervised the data collection process.
- Data were collected using smartphones/ODK.
- Daily data submission to a server and was monitored daily.



## Data analysis

- We made a descriptive analysis.
- Proportion of people who were suspected of starvation and are verified by the verbal autopsy.
- Household hunger scale was determined.
- We performed a stratified analysis for IDP, community.



# Ethics and data confidentiality

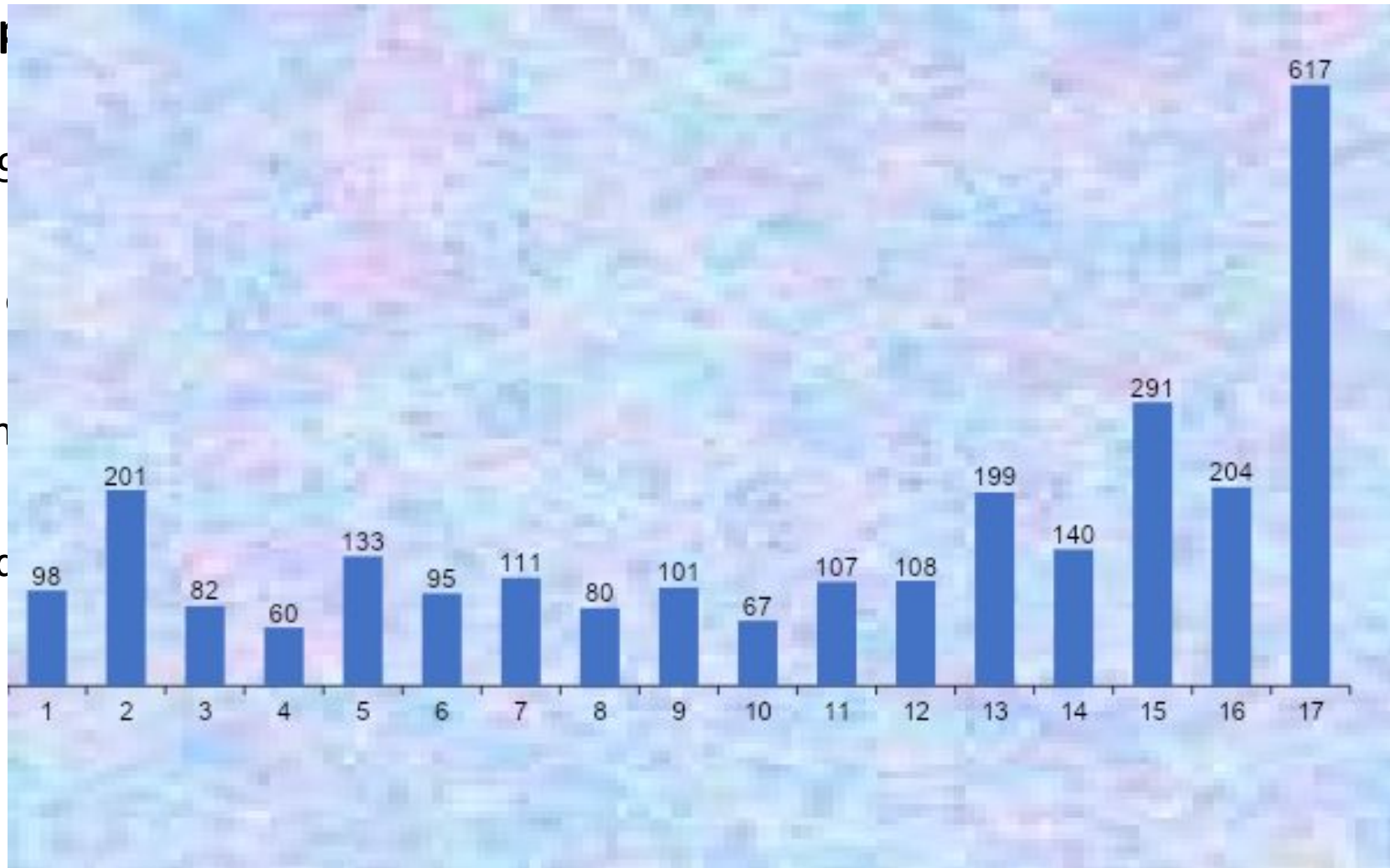
- Ethical clearance obtained from THRI
- Informed consent
- Data deidentified and secured
- Support letter from regional health bureau



# Results

## Socio-demographic

- A total of 269
- From a total
- There were h
- The highest c



## Cont'd

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inhabita

Name of <u>weredas</u>	Number of population	Total death	Mortality rate Per 100K
Samre	64669	214	331
Seharti	86374	326	377
D/Temben	16643	261	1568
Bora	33452	229	685
Hawzen Rural	113410	381	336
Adwa Rural	120000	372	310
Kola Temben	85986	279	324
L/Qoraro	72760	166	228
Zanna	71571	311	435
Mekelle IDP	49712	14	28
Miachew IDP	350	2	571
Adigrat IDP		10	-
Abiadi IDP	8136	34	418
Shire IDP	39931	95	238

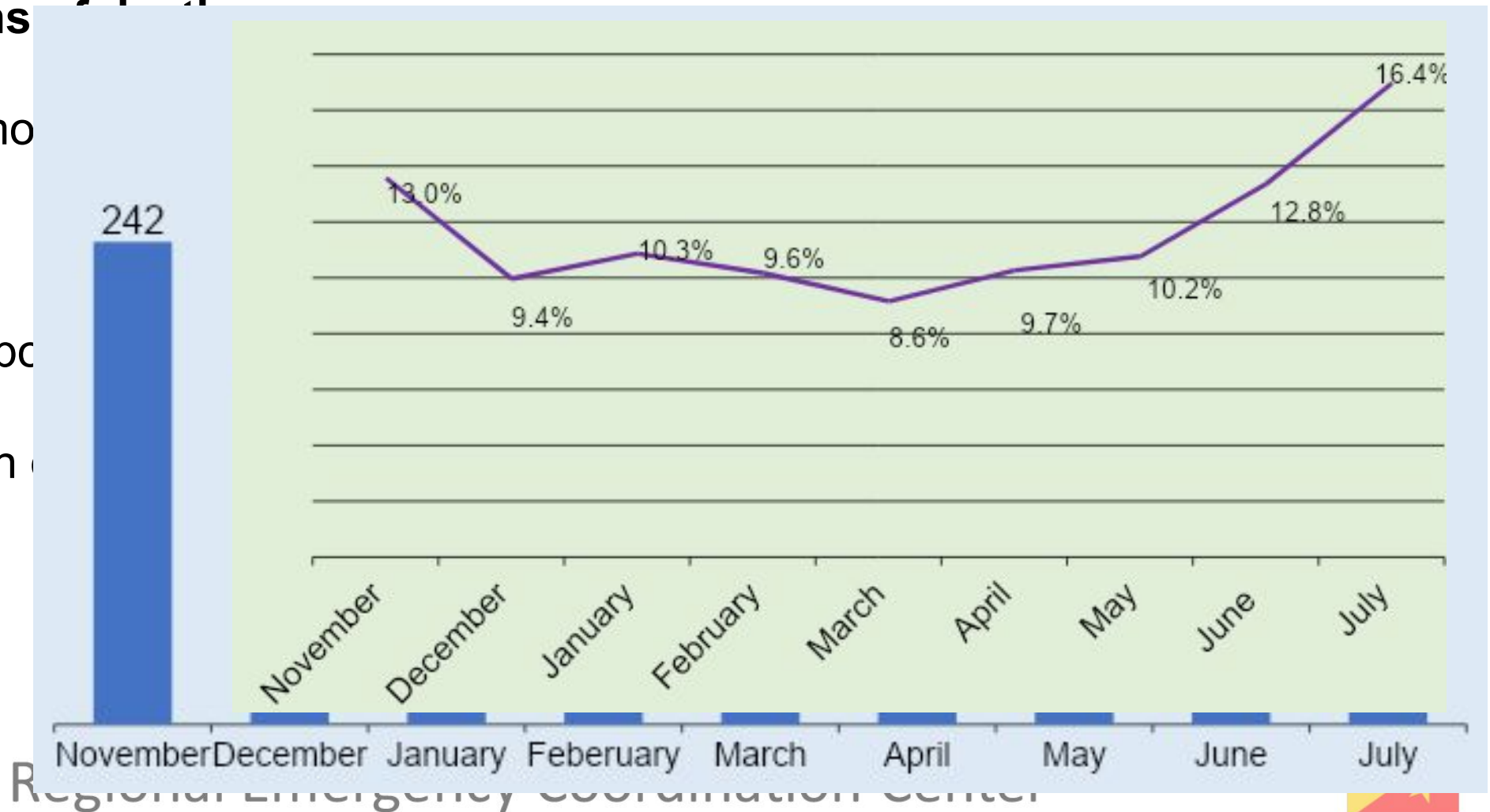
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## Cont'd

### Monthly variations

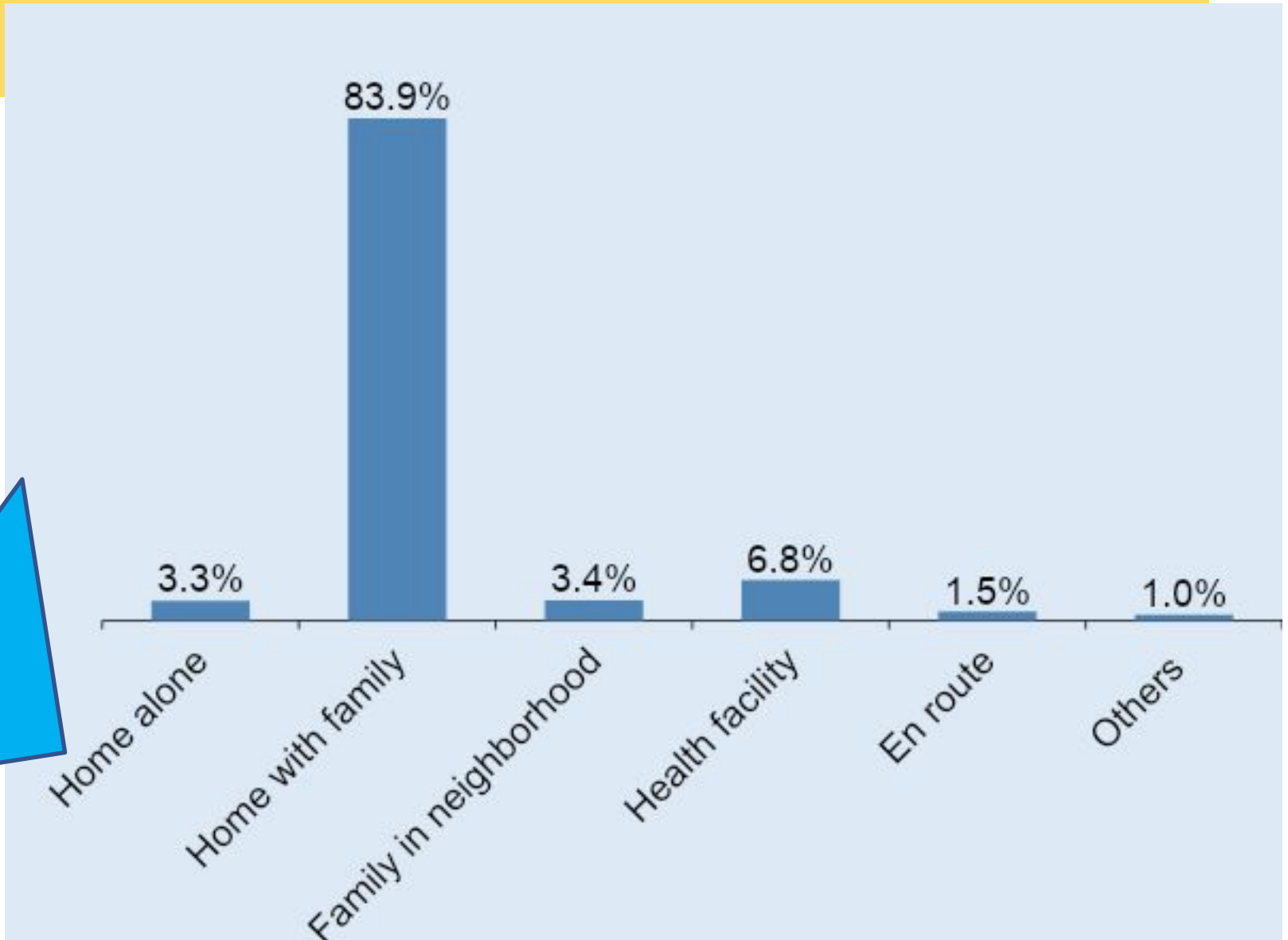
- The pattern of monthly variations is similar to that of July.
- The highest proportion of cases occurs during the month of July.



Cont'd

Place of death

Nearly, nine out of ten deaths (87.2%, n = 1495 ) occurred at home.





## Contextual factors

Contextual factors	Frequency	Percent (%)
One month prior to the death, the household/deceased often deprived of food.	1797	66.7%
One month prior to the death, the household/ deceased often have to eat foods that they really didn't want to eat.	945	35.1%
One month prior to death, the household/ deceased often have to eat fewer meals in a day.	1811	67.2%
One month prior to the death, the household/ deceased often have to eat a smaller meal than they needed.	1841	68.3
Distress sale of cattle, vessels (goods), implements and other belongings to obtain food	1072	62.5



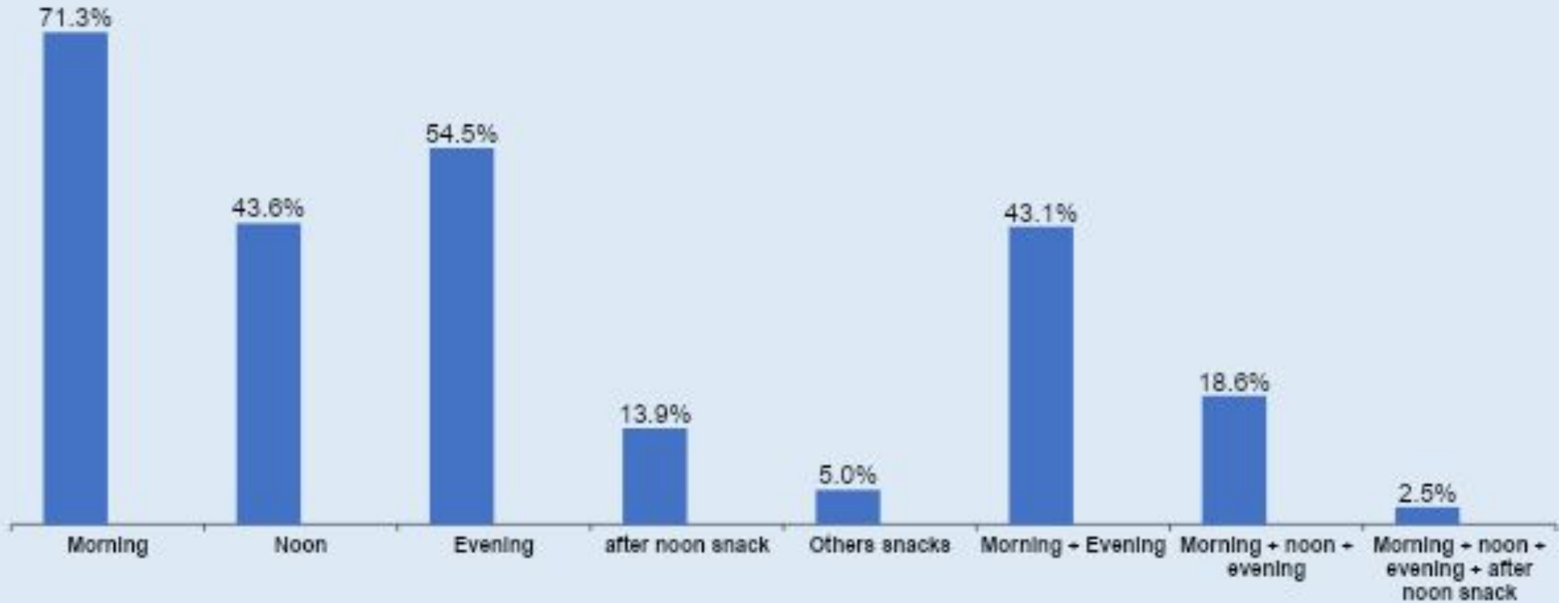


## Deceased information related to starvation

Deceased information		Frequency	Percent (%)
Complaints related to hunger during the month prior to death	Constant complaint of hunger	1053	61.4
	Dizziness on standing up	944	55.1
	Extreme weakness and inability to walk	744	43.4
	Inability to see at night	1526	89.0
Daily food intake during the month prior to death	Not sufficient enough to satisfy his/her hunger	1527	89.1
Unusual or 'famine' foods being eaten (roots, tubers, leaves etc.)	Yes	421	24.6



## Cont'd



# Starvation

- Respiratory
- such as

Observation of the family members		Frequency	Percent (%)
Eyes	Sunken	1186	69.2
	Normal	462	27
Skin	Scaling or peeling	1088	63.5
	Normal	297	17.3
Hair	Normal	916	53.4
	Dry or discolored	662	38.6
Cheeks	As usual	533	31.1
	Very sunken	1097	64.0
Ribs	As usual	522	30.5
	Very prominent	1097	64.0
Limb bones	As usual	532	31.0
	Prominent	1094	63.8
Hip bones	As usual	533	31.1
	Prominent and projecting	1086	63.4
Lips	Normal	579	33.8
	Dry or cracked	1002	58.5
Gums	Normal	961	56.1
	Loose teeth	260	15.2
	Bleeding	184	10.7
Palms and nails	Normal pink color	495	28.9
	Very pale or whitish	912	53.2





# Cause of death

Disease condition/abnormality (Adult)	Frequency	
	Immediate	Underlying
Starvation	118	1046
Single organ -failure (Cardiac arrest, CHF, HHF, MI, RE,LF, CNS)	403	49
Multi-organ	214	1
Anemia + hypoxia	104	4
Infection	116	8
Respiratory failure	101	-
Dehydration, hypov, septic shock, shock, electrolyte imbalance	92	1
Acute kidney Injury	24	3
Diabetes, DKA, HHS, Hypoglycemia	74	8
Hypertension and stroke	12	7
Cancer	17	17
Tuberculosis	39	5
Pneumonia	35	19
Asthma	4	3
Meningitis	15	1
Malaria	6	1
Chronic liver disease	6	5
Chronic kidney disease	3	4
PUD and upper GI bleeding	15	6
Acute abdomen (BOO, intestinal obstruction, acute bowel obstruction)	8	4
Bleeding	8	-
Thyrotoxicosis/Goiter	4	1
Obstetric related complications (PPH, bleeding 2 <sup>ry</sup> PPH)	2	3
Others (Epileptic seizure, fat metabolism, head mass, Hypothermia, Bone tumor, upper air way obstruction...)	7	2
Immunosuppression	-	3
Aging	-	4
Diarrheal diseases/Dysentery	-	8
Gastroenteritis	6	18
Other chronic medical illnesses	-	16
Undefined cause of death	40	-
NA	31	-

Id)	Frequency	
	Immediate	Underlying
	29	129
ery,	-	7
	4	-
	8	7
ock,	31	-
	19	-
	1	1
	10	2
	25	-
	-	1

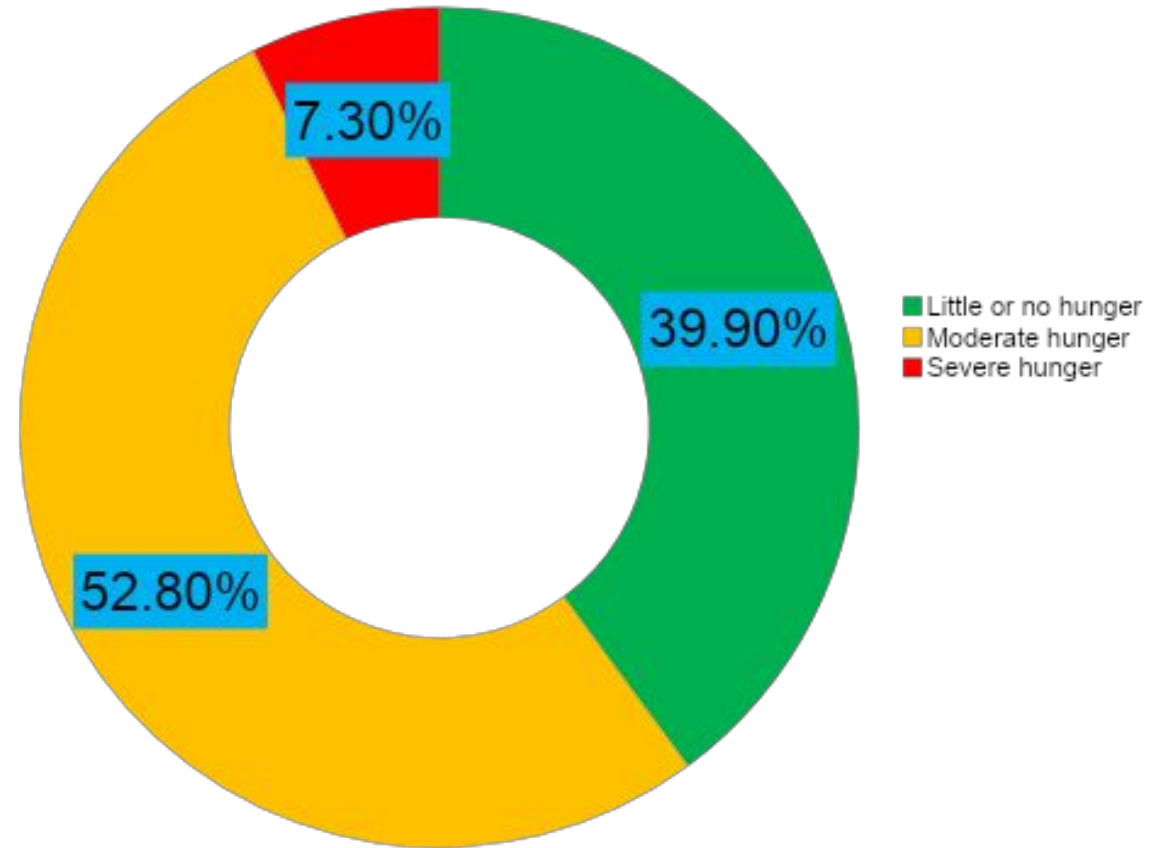
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## Household hunger scale

- According to the household hunger scale, 52.8% of the households had moderate and 7.3% severe hunger.

- About 3.3% of the households had moderate or severe hunger during the prewar period and 35.9% during the war period.
- In comparison to war / prewar, it



increases above 24-50% points (Aregawi



## Conclusion

- The findings of this study confirm **starvation** as the main causes of death.
- Starvation contributed to more deaths in the IDPs than in the community.
- Current Household **hunger rate** in the study area was unacceptably high, suggesting more starvation deaths to unfold.



# Recommendation

- ❖ The findings reflect a serious humanitarian emergency.
  - Continuous advocacy is expected from the government side.
  - Expedited humanitarian response is warranted from aid agencies to prevent more deaths.
  - Rehabilitation activities including return of the displaced communities to their home should be strengthened to rescue those facing moderate to severe hunger.



## Strengths of the study

- Interviews were conducted in subject's home.
- The use of large sample size for representativeness of the study findings.
- Health professional data collectors.
- VA tool contextualized and translated into Tigrigna to assess starvation deaths.





## Limitation of the study

- Recall bias (we ask individuals whose family members died months ago).
- Church and mosque leaders were not communicated.
- We were not able to verify whether the neonates died of hunger or not.



# Acknowledgements

- TBH
- THRI
- MU-college of health science
- Professor Afework Mulugeta, Dr Hailemariam and Dr Mohammed
- **Study participants**
- Data collectors
- Supervisors
- Physicians



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# Tigray DRM-ATF

Presentation  
22-Sep-2023



Regional Emergency Coordination Center



# Kiremt Rainfall Performance

- **Metrological prediction for Azmera and Tsidia indicated that:**
  - ✓ **South, Southeast and Eastern zone** expected normal and below normal rainfall distribution
  - ✓ **Central and N/West zones** Normal and Above Normal Distribution

## Actual Rainfall Performance in Azmera:

- Rainfall onset:
  - ✓ Eastern, Southern and Southeastern on set was normal
  - ✓ Central and Northwestern it was late and very erratic
- Rainfall cessation:
  - ✓ the Azmera rain fall was normal and late
  - ✓ Seccession was normal



# Rainfall cont..

- **Actual Rainfall Performance in Tsidia**
- **Rainfall onset:** late onset; very poor with long dry spell.
- ✓ Eastern (4weeks late), Southern and Southeastern (4-6 weeks late) and pocket woredas in central and NW zones;
- ✓ The dry spell was up to 6 weeks in some woredas including Wojerat
- ✓ Central and Northwestern it was late and very erratic
- Rainfall Cessation:
- ✓ Cessation predicted to be normal in NW and Central zones.



# Land preparation and plantation

- The total arable land in the region is 1.3 m hectares which includes the western zone and other inaccessible woredas in NW, Eastern and southern Zones
- The prepared land in the remain zones is 687,430 ha.
- Total prepared and planted land size was 640,940 which is about 49% from the total land and 93% of the accessible land



# Shocks/Hazards; Drought

Zone	# Rural woredas	# Affected woredas	# affected Tabias	# Affected crop land (Ha)	# affected crop land(Ha) with complete damage	Percentage (%)
East	11	11	89	34,812.77	17,877	51
Southeast	6	6	24	38,952.00	11,111	28
South	10	4	23	53,015.30	10,614	20
Central	18	5	23	18,925	N/A	N/A





# Effects of drought on livestock

- **Feed**
  - ✓ 23 woredas assessed- feed shortage is very critical.
  - ✓ Eastern zone the feed gap is 48-95%. (Tsirae, wonberta, Atsbi, Subhasaese, Tsaedaemba and Irob woredas are more critical
  - ✓ Average feed gap in central zone is 50%
- **Water shortage**
  - ✓ Gap in central zone 42-75%
  - ✓ Gap in Eastern zone 40-60%
  - ✓ Southeast zone 85% (Wojerat and R/Azebo)
  - ✓ Northwest not critical except some pocket woredas (Seyemti and Tahtay adyabo)
- **Market price** for feed is rising while price for animals is declining in the assessed woredas



# Hazard; Hailstorm

S.N	Zones	# affected Woredas	# affected Tabias	Affected land	Damage level (%)
1	South and S/east	5	23	4494	25-65
2	East	6	11	1420	30-100
3	Northwest	9	26	5005.5	75-100
4	Central	13	47	11,923	20-100
	Total	11	84	12,065	



# Pests (AAW, FAW and DL)

S.N	Zones	# affected Woredas	# affected Tabias	Affected land	Damage level (%)
1	South and S/east	4	32	9,175	20-80
2	East	6	51	1,270	20-80
3	Northwest	1	1	1,620	
4	Central				
	Total	11	84	12,065	



# Shock: Livestock Health

- Health
  - ✓ Transboundary animal disease including LSD, PPR, NCD, Sheep pox, FMD
  - ✓ Zoonotic diseases including Rabies and Anthrax
  - ✓ Stress born diseases
- Mortality rate
- Central zone Sick animals **28,817**, Dead Animals **2,097** Population at **potential risk 268,320**
- Vaccination: there is supply of vaccines, but the problem is shortage of operational costs, necessary inputs including cold chain, transportation and other related problems
- Drug shortage is very critical (zero balance)



# Performance

- Because of the limited land preparation, poor and erratic rainfall performance, concurrent outbreaks of pests and all other shocks
  - ✓ the level of yield (total crop production) is to decrease significantly
  - ✓ production and productivity of livestock will also fall
  - ✓ thus, the food insecurity level will rise



# Challenges

- ✓ Lack of fund in the sector
- ✓ Early warning, extension and plant protection systems are collapsed and needs more effort to reactivate them
- ✓ The woreda risk profile and other data are not accessible and need to be addressed anew
- ✓ Livestock health service (institutions) are not fully functional



# Recommendations

- According to metrological forecasts, there will be rainfall until mid of November
- Resource mobilization for emergency seed will be very important
- It will also very important and critical to support with seeds, fertilizer and other inputs in the irrigation production and encouraging urban agriculture.
- Irrigation channel maintenance
- Preparation to deliver water for livestock
- This report should be communicated to all stakeholders in order to declare the drought condition
- Public mobilization within and out of the region



**Tigray region meteorological  
service centre , mekelle**

*Bega 2023/24 climate out look  
in Tigray*



# Outline

- Introduction
- Climatology of the Bega season
- Current and future seasonal trends
- Analogue years and rainfall performance
- Analogue years and extreme minimum temperature performance
- Bega 2023/24 Forecast
- Conclusion

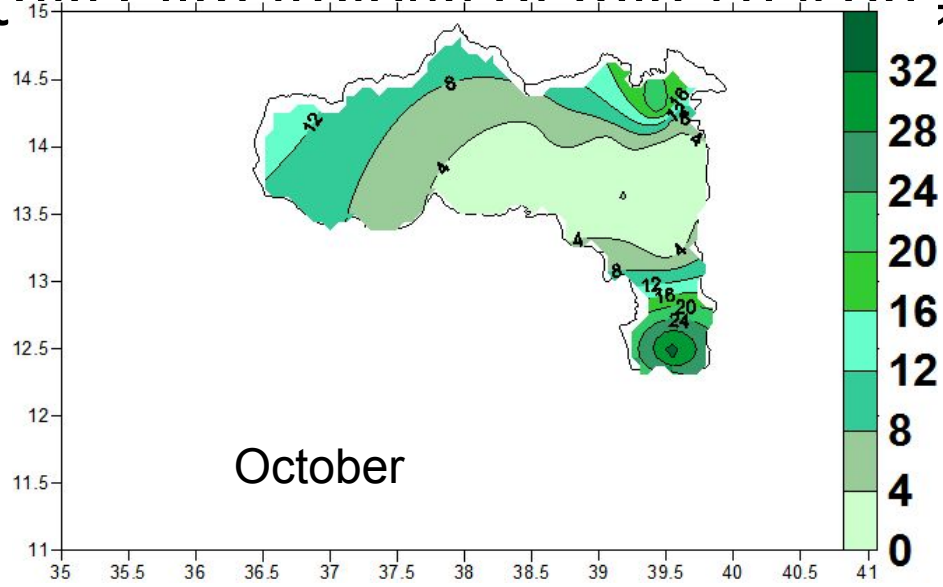


## Introduction to bega season

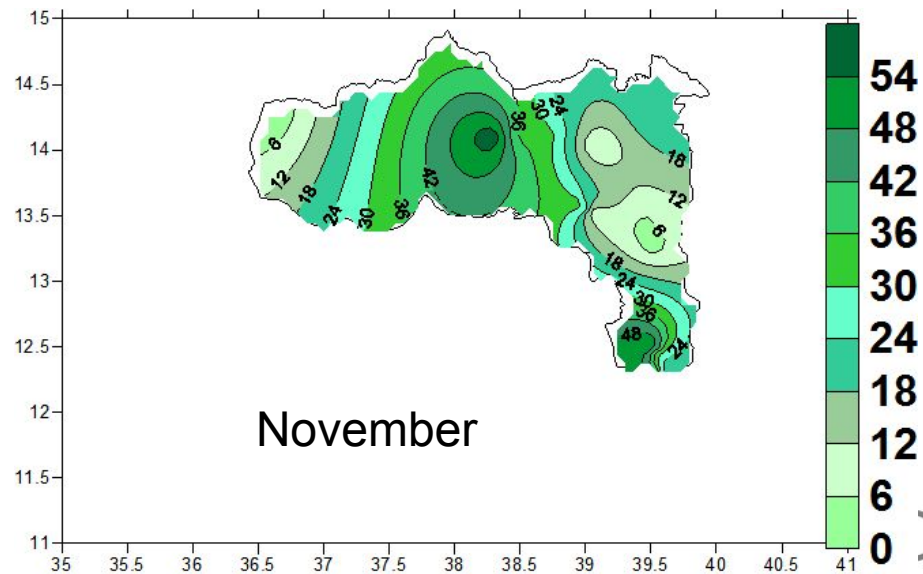
- October to January
- It is characterized with **sunny and dry** weather situation in all parts of Tigray region.
- During the season, **morning and night** times are colder and daytime is warmer.
- Extreme **cold temperatures** and the associated occurrence of frost.



# Monthly Climatology of mid seasonal bega season



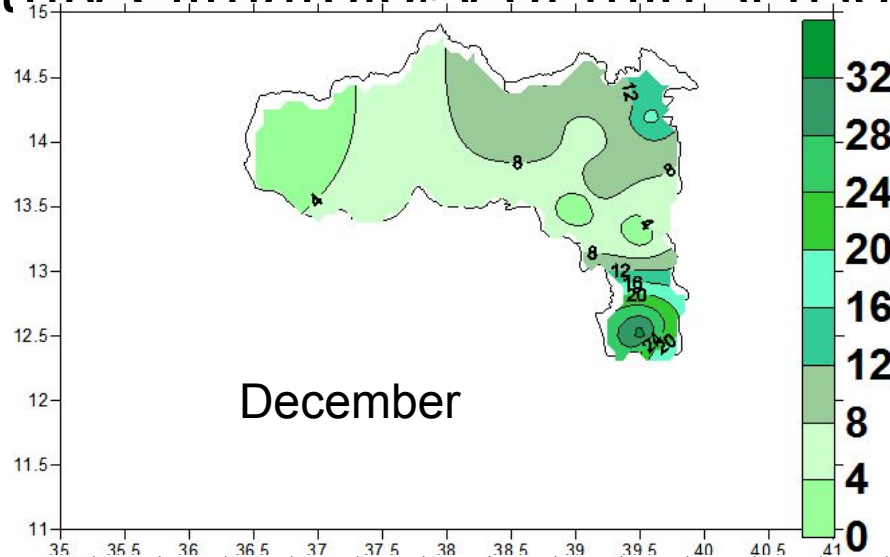
During the month of October, areas of Eastern, South eastern , Central , N/western and western a zones have an average 4 to 16 mm of rainfall . And areas of Southern zones have climatologically rain fall of 12 to 32mm .



During the month of November, areas of Eastern, South eastern and western zones have an average 6 to 20 mm of rainfall . And areas of Southern , central and north west zones have climatologically rain fall of 20 to 50mm .

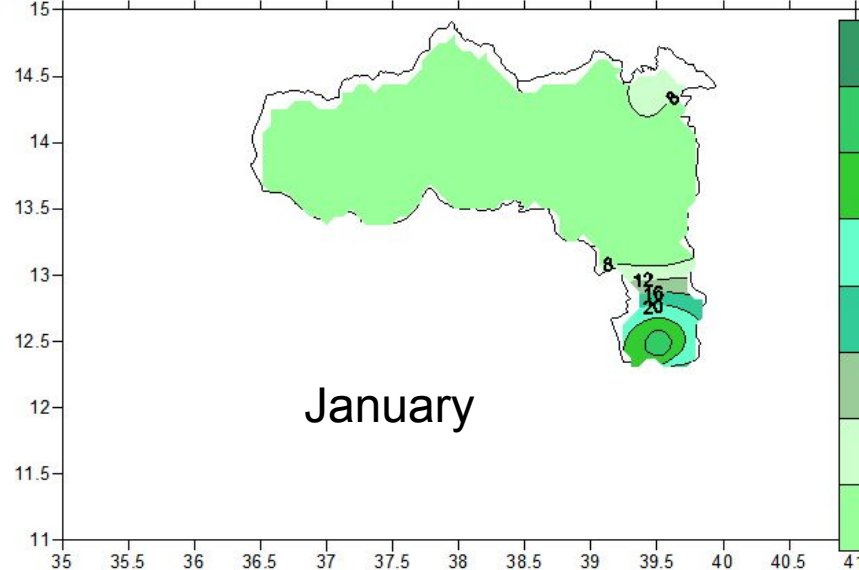


# Monthly Climatology of mid-seasonal bega season



December

During the month of December, areas of southern zones have an average 10 to 30 mm of rainfall . And most areas of Tigray zones have climatologically rain fall of 0 to 10 mm .



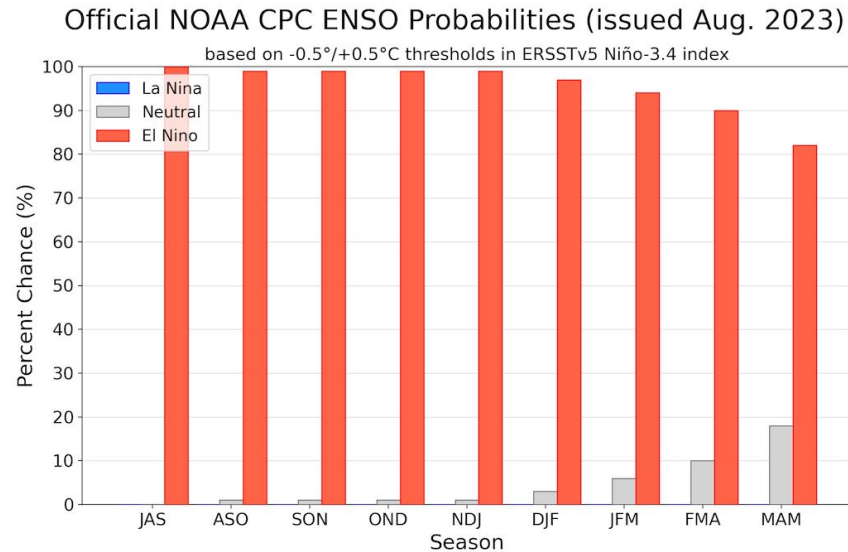
January

During the month of January, most areas of Tigray region have an average 0 to 8 mm of rainfall . And areas of Southern zones have climatologically rain fall of 10 to 30mm .



# Current and projected seasonal trends

# CPC/IRI OFFICIAL NINO3.4 Forecast



Season	La Niña	Neutral	El Niño
JAS	0	0	100
ASO	0	1	99
SON	0	1	99
OND	0	1	99
NDJ	0	1	99
DJF	0	3	97
JFM	0	6	94
FMA	0	10	90
MAM	0	18	82

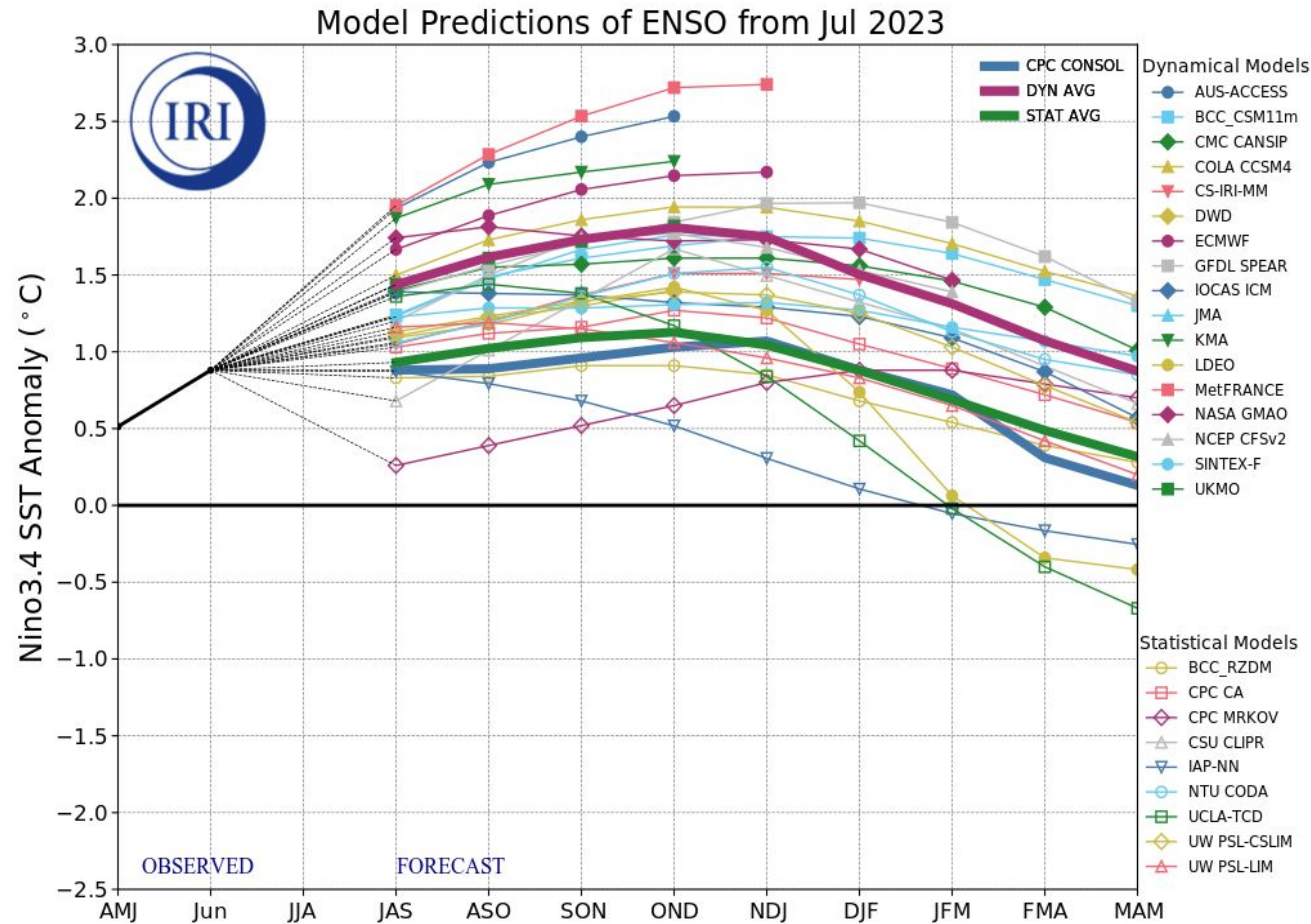
El Niño is anticipated to continue through the Northern Hemisphere winter (with greater than 95% chance through December 2023 -February 2024).



Regional Emergency Coordination Center



# NINO3.4 Model Forecasts



- Nearly all models indicate El Niño will persist through the Northern Hemisphere winter 2023-24. A strong El Niño (ONI values at or greater than 1.5°C) is indicated by the dynamical model average through December 2023-February 2024.

Source: International Research Institute (IRI) for Climate and Society.

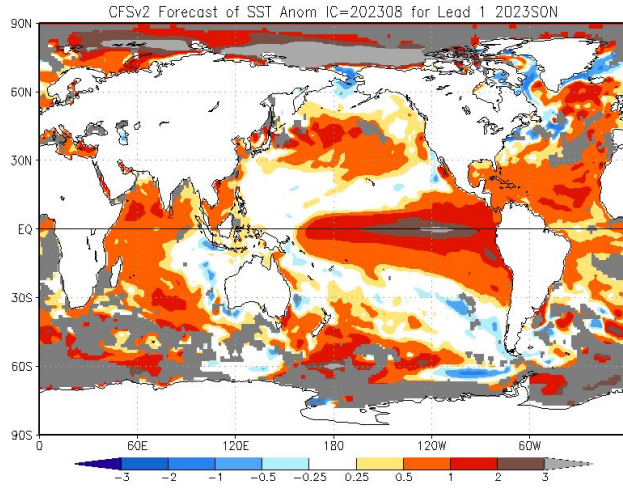




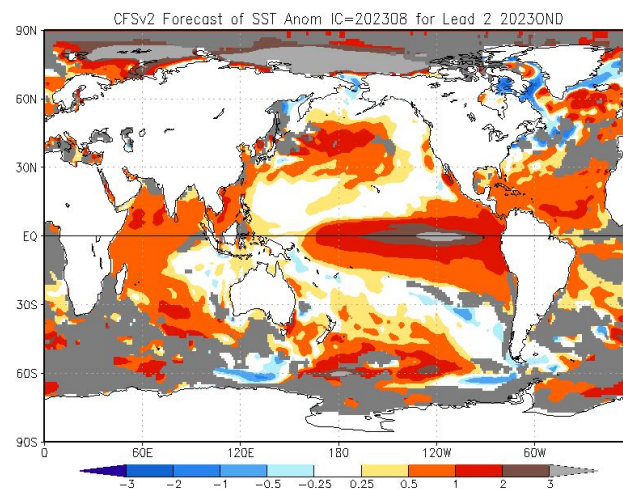
# NCEP Climate Forecast System version 2 (CFSv2) SST Outlooks (skill masked)

(01 – 08 Aug 2023 IC)

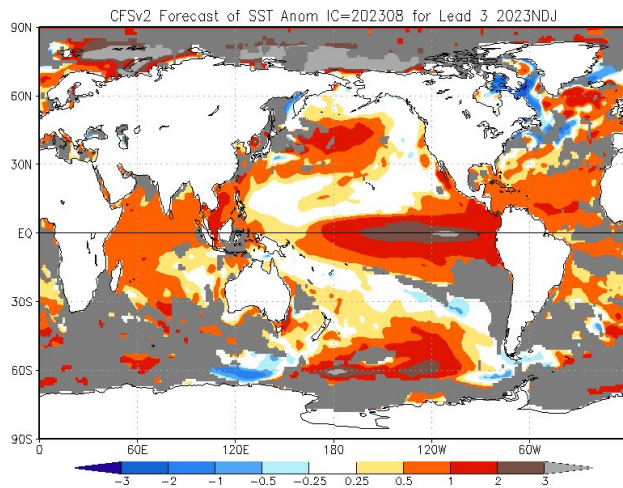
### Sep – Nov 2023



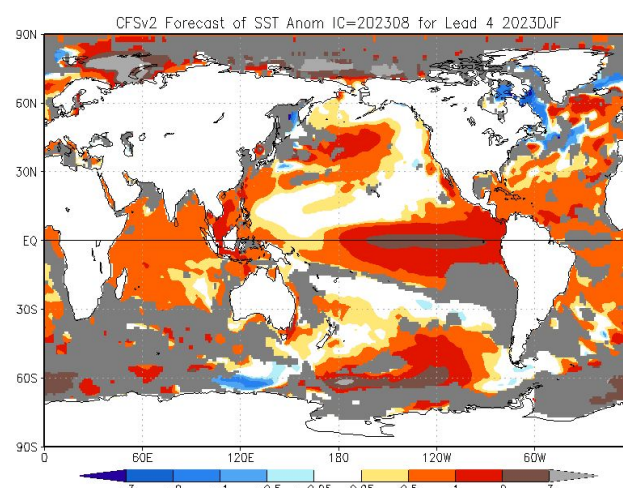
### Oct – Dec 2023



### Nov 2023 – Jan 2024



### Dec 2023 - Feb 2024



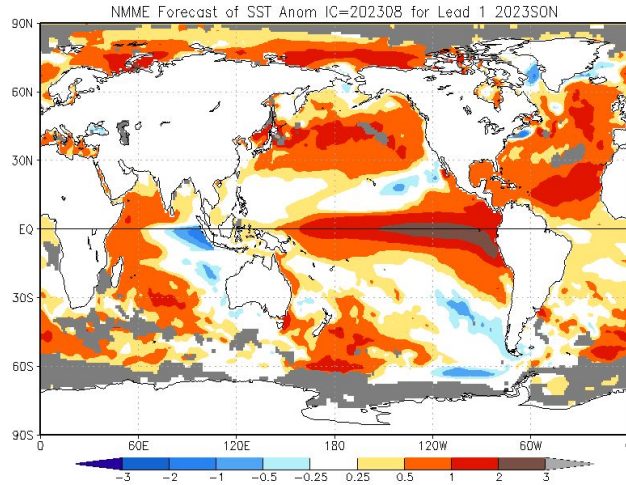
The NCEP CFSv2 favors above-average SST across equatorial central and eastern Pacific.



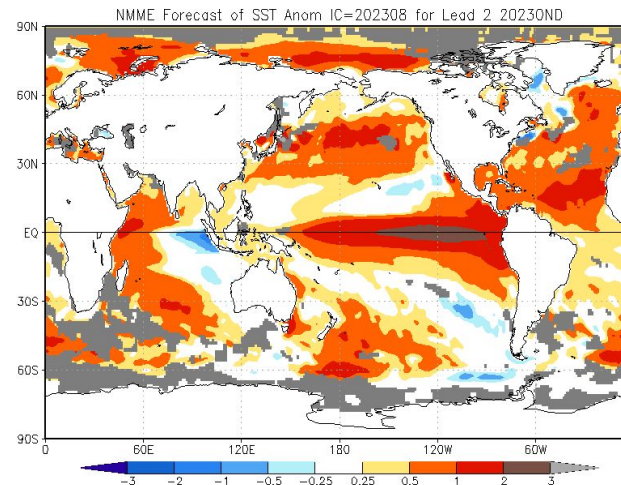
# North American Multi-Model Ensemble (NMME) Global SST Outlook (skill masked)

(01 – 08 Aug 2023 IC)

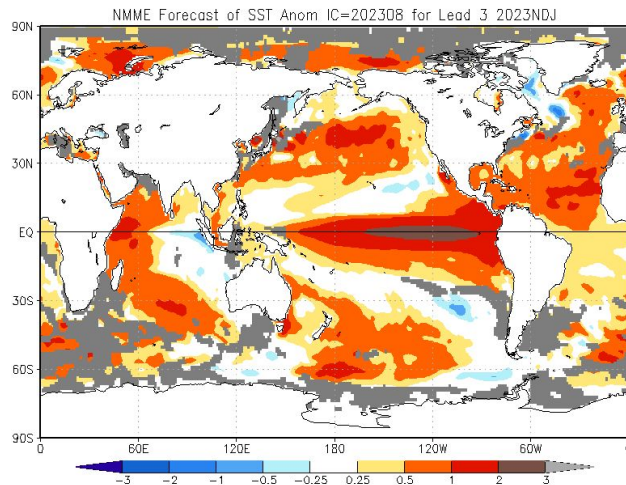
## Sep – Nov 2023



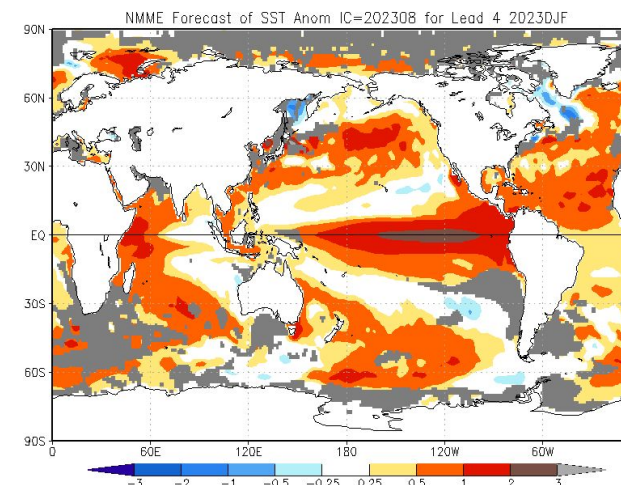
## Oct – Dec 2023



## Nov 2023 – Jan 2024



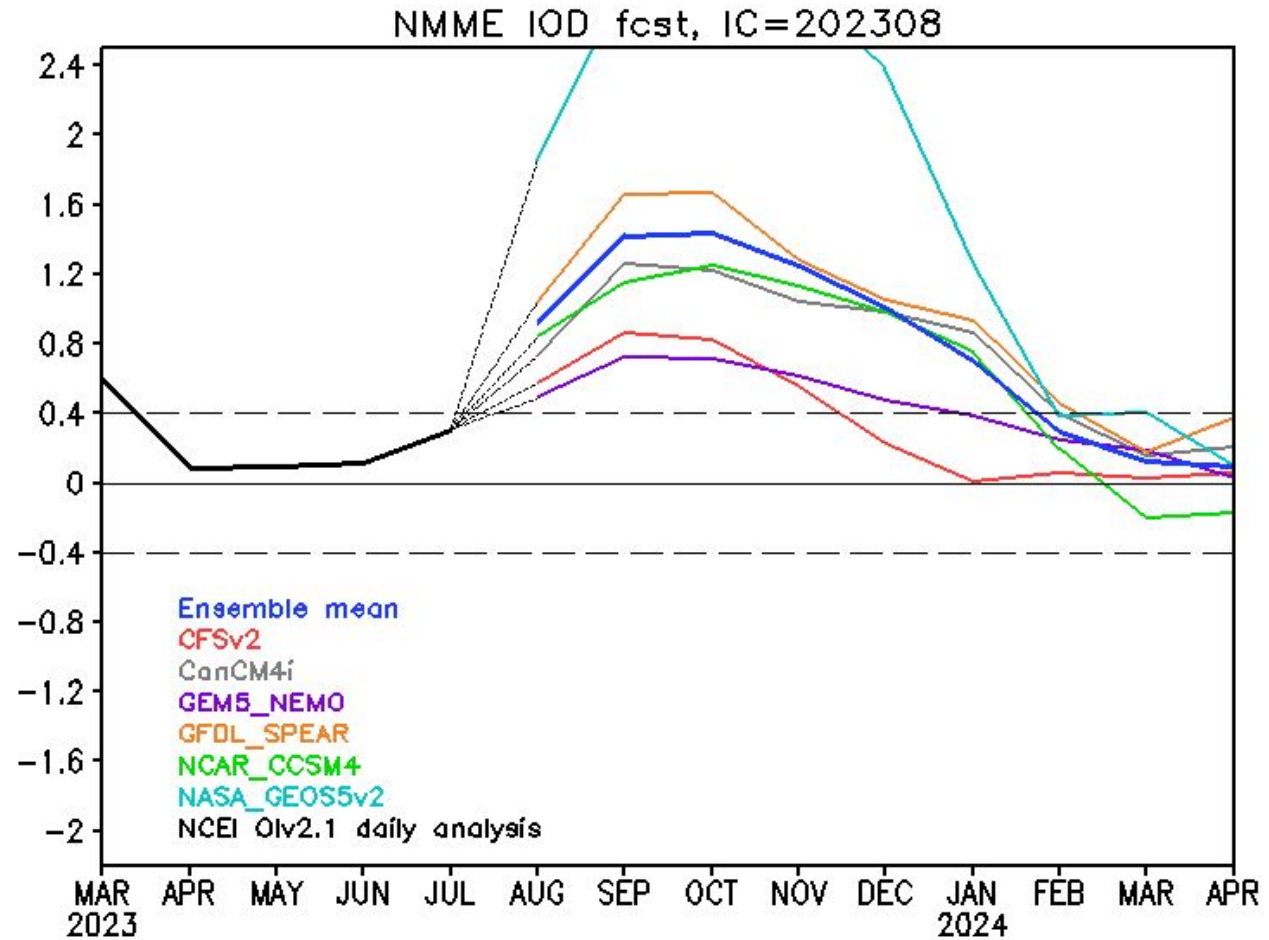
## Dec 2023 - Feb 2024



Forecasts are consistent with that of the CFSv2.

# Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) Outlook

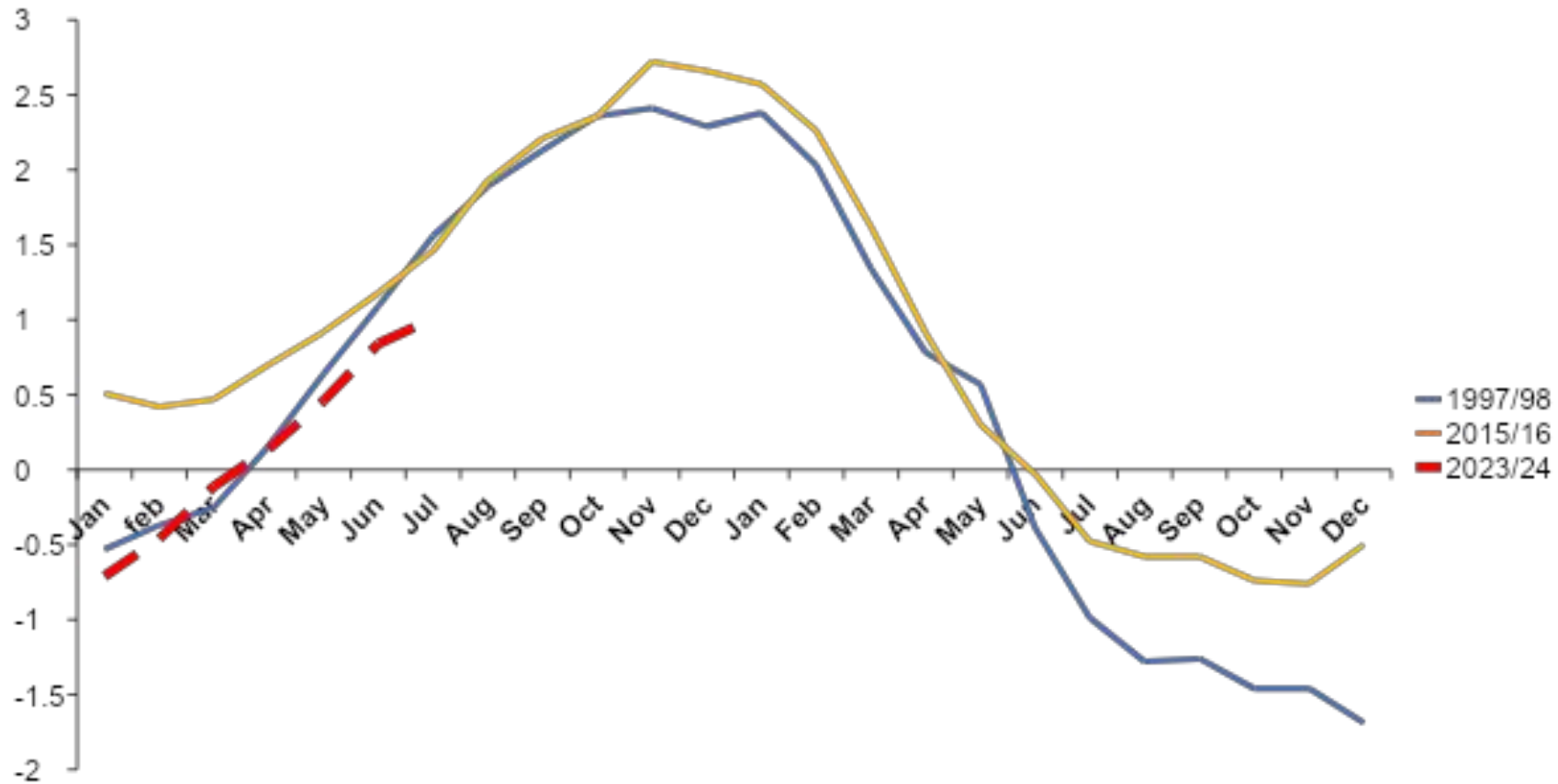
NMME forecasts indicate positive IOD to develop in the coming months and peak during the northern hemisphere autumn 2023.



- Selected analogue years
- 1997/98
- 2015/16



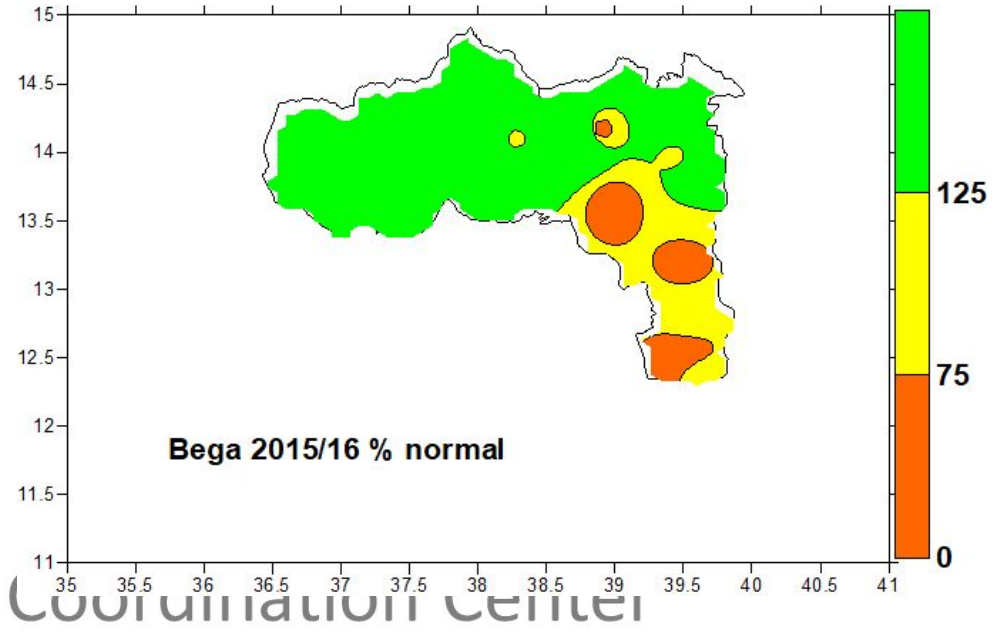
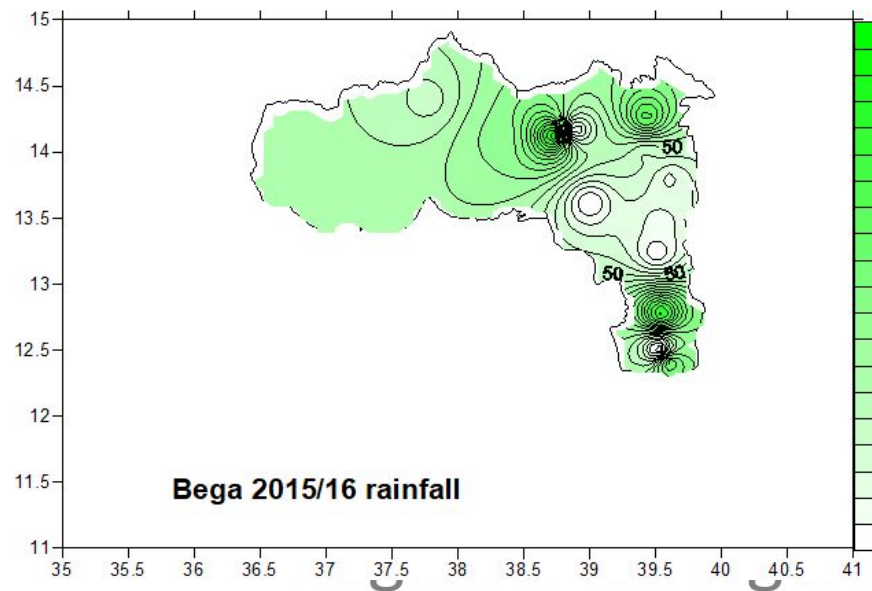
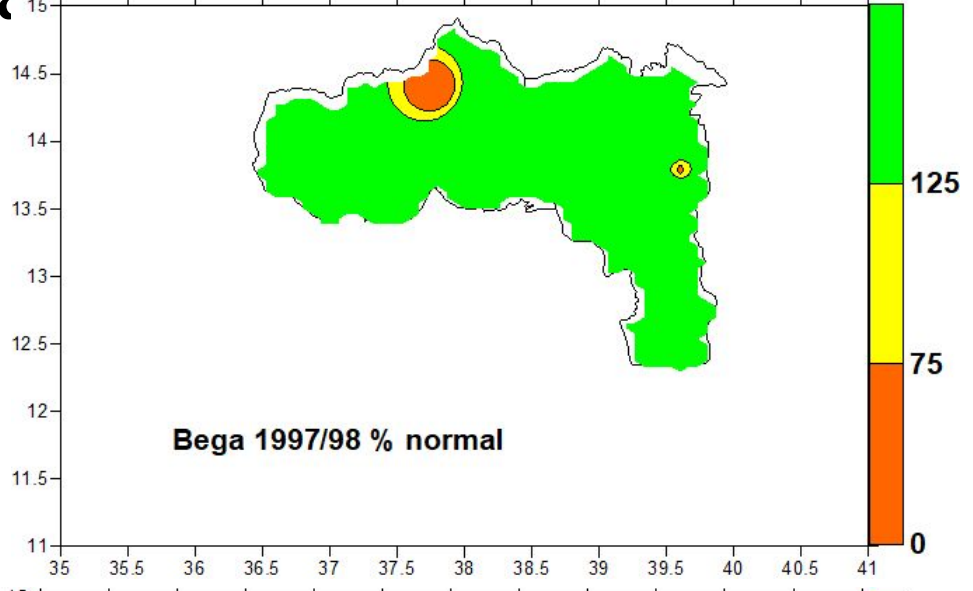
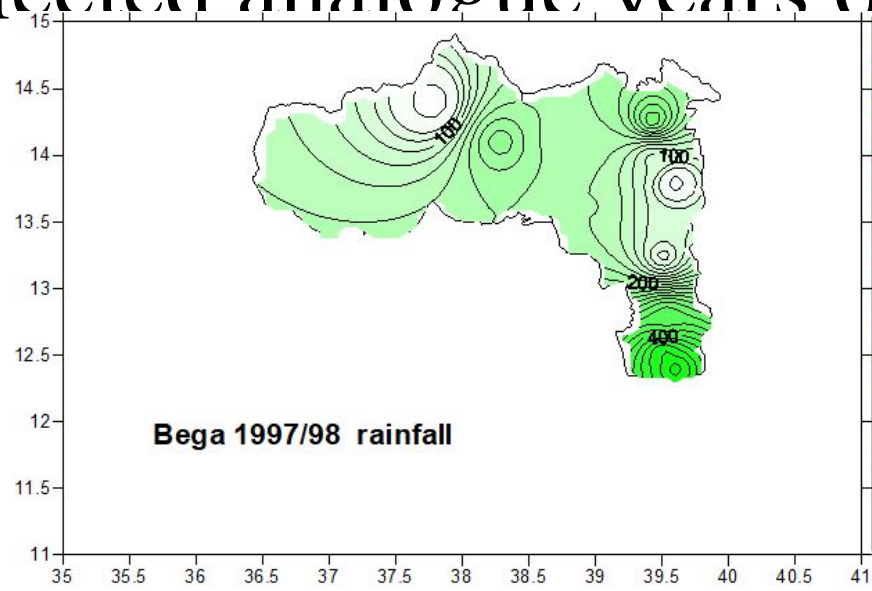
# Cont.....



Regional Emergency Coordination Center

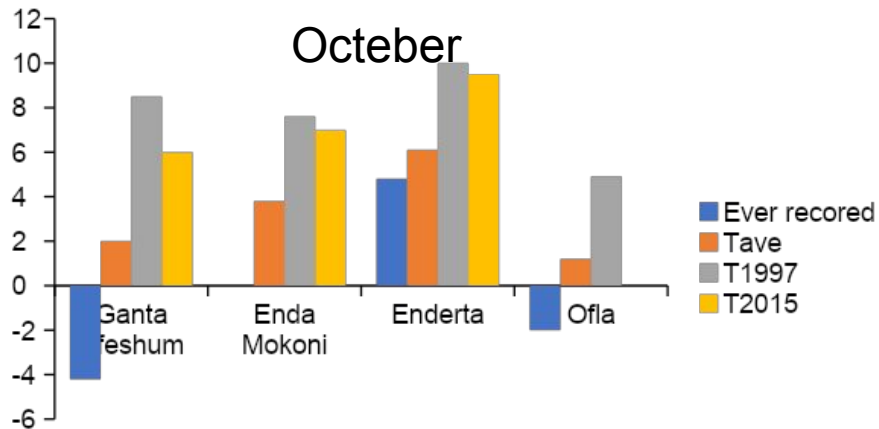


# Selected analogue years of rainfall performance

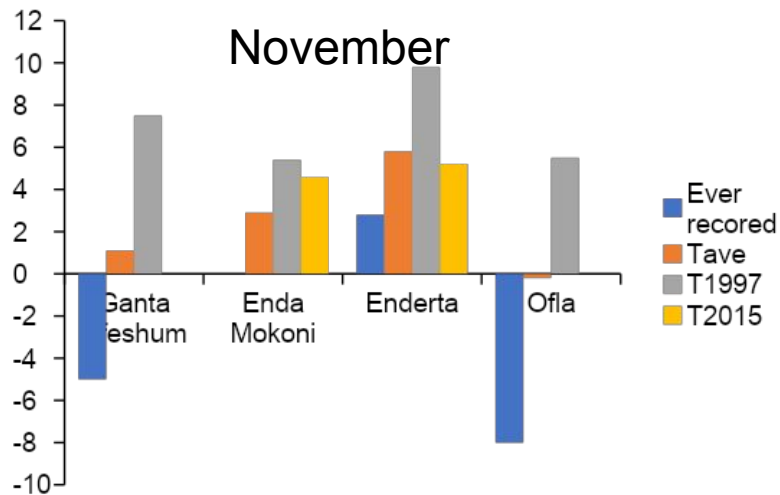




## Selected analogue years of Extreme minimum Temperature



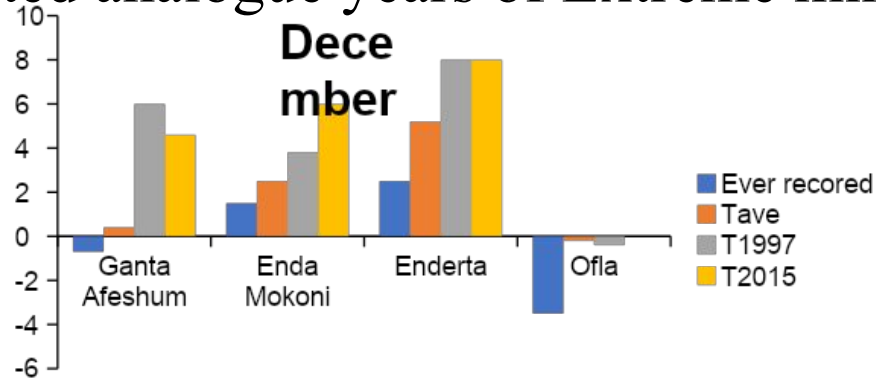
During October month, The ever recorded and average min temperature of G/ Afeshum, E/ Mokoni, Enderta and Ofla were -4.2 , 0.0, 4.8, -2.0 °C and 2.0, 3.8, 6.1, 1.2 °C respectively. Generally, The observed analogue year's in October month were above ever recorded and average minimum temperature.



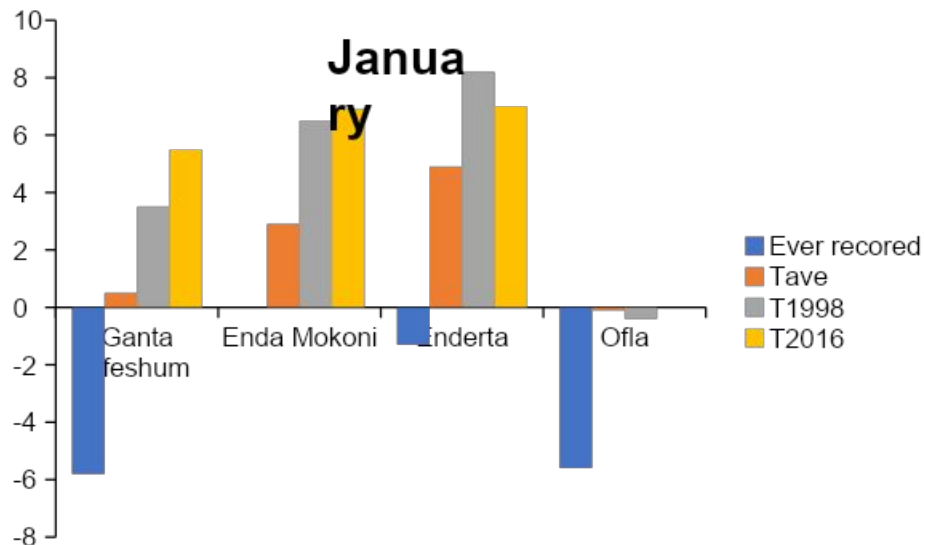
During November month, The ever recorded and average min temperature of G/ Afeshum, E/ Mokoni, Enderta and Ofla were -5.0, 0.0, 2.8, -8.0 °C and 1.1, 2.9, 5.8, -0.2 °C respectively. The observed analogue year's in November month were above ever recorded and average minimum temperature.



## Selected analogue years of Extreme minimum Temperature



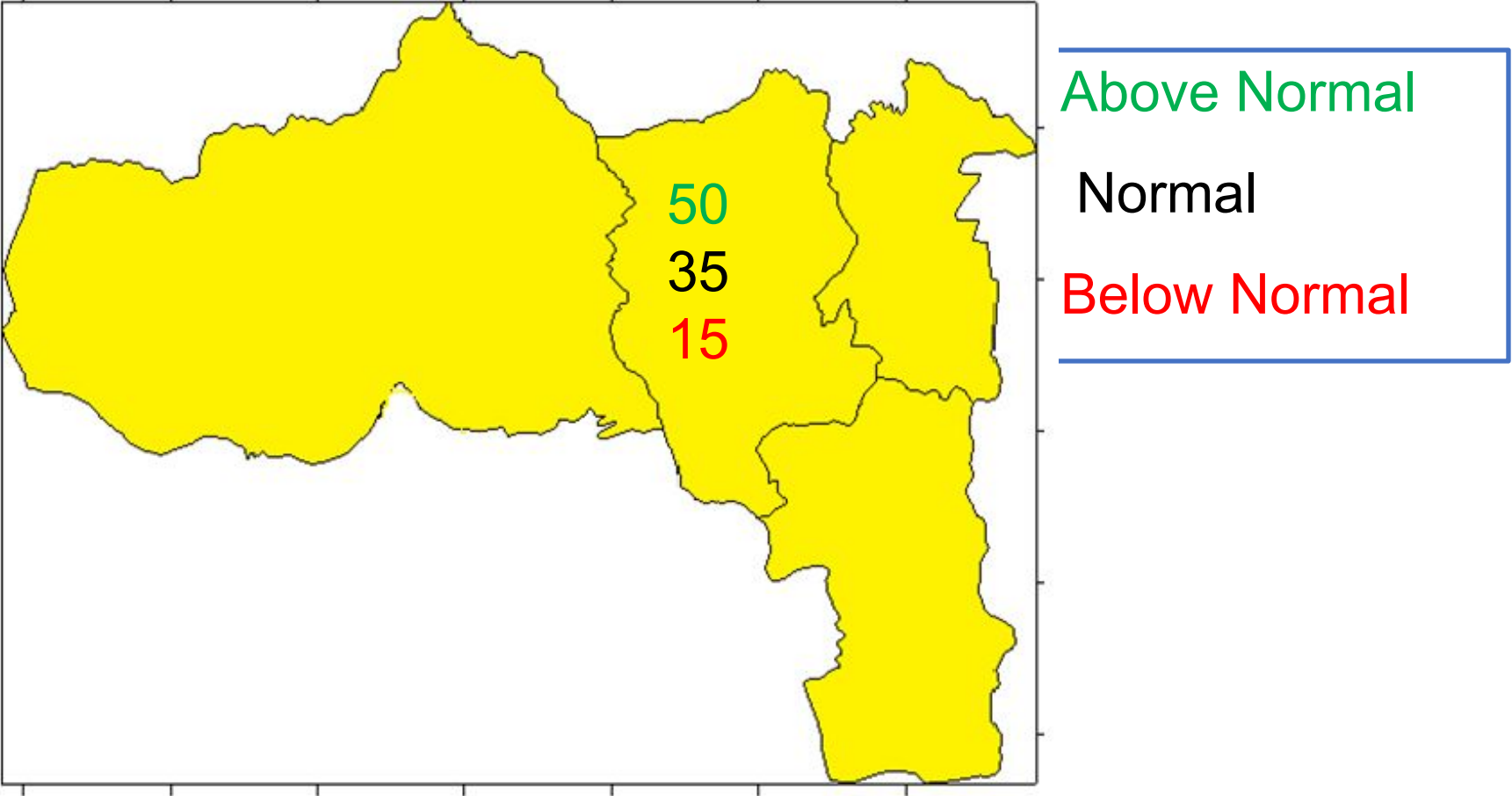
During December month, The ever recorded and average min temperature of G/ Afeshum, E/ Mokoni, Enderta and Ofla were  $-0.7$ ,  $1.5$ ,  $2.5$ ,  $-3.5$  °C and  $0.4$ ,  $2.5$ ,  $5.2$ ,  $-0.2$  °C respectively



During January month, The ever recorded and average min temperature of G/ Afeshum, E/ Mokoni, Enderta and Ofla were  $-5.8$ ,  $0.0$ ,  $-1.3$ ,  $-5.6$  °C and  $0.5$ ,  $2.9$ ,  $4.9$ ,  $-0.1$  °C respectively .



# Tercile rainfall probability for Bega 2023/24 season





# conclusion

- Sea surface temperatures in the central-eastern equatorial Pacific remain above-average.
- Nearly all models indicate El Niño will persist through the Northern Hemisphere winter 2023/24
- positive IOD to develop in the coming months and peak during the northern hemisphere autumn 2023.
- In both of the analogue year's the rainfall performance were above normal .
- The minimum temperature of the analogue years were above the extreme minimum temperature .
- Generally ,the expected rainfall for the coming Bega season will be normal to above normal over most part of the region .
- NB: You have to follow the forecasts which are given every three days, ten days and monthly updates by Tigray meteorological service center.



**THANK YOU !!!**



Regional Emergency Coordination Center



# FOOD Cluster



Regional Emergency Coordination Center



## Food Cluster key updates as of 18 September 2023

1. In Tigray, households are likely facing large food consumption gaps until the Meher harvest as the protracted halt of most food aid continues during the region's peak hunger season (June - September). According to [recent food security analysis](#), while the Meher harvest may provide some respite in food availability and access between October 2023 - January 2024, it is anticipated that there will be below-average production, leading to early depletion of stocks and giving way to an atypical lean season in early 2024.
1. It has been more than five months since the main food partners, namely JEOP, WFP and their partners, halted food assistance activities. While the pause of most food assistance activities continues, WFP and partners have started testing the improved processes in the region since 31 July. **This testing phase gives an opportunity for partners to evaluate the enhanced measures and controls jointly put in place and further strengthen the system prior to any wider distribution.**
1. The distributions are being conducted in the 10 woredas where beneficiary targeting and registration had been completed (with around 795,000 people targeted). **As of 18 September, around 457,700 people were assisted with around 6,866 MT of wheat in the following woredas (Adi Daero, Adi Hageray, Asgede, Laelay Adiabo, Tahtay Adiyabo, Tahtay Koraro, Tsimbla and Zana in North Western Zone and Raya Azebo in Southern Zone). Each person received one 15 KG pre-packed bag of wheat grains.**

## Food Cluster key updates as of 18 August 2023

4. Through data-driven, **vulnerability-based targeting (VBT)** approach, food partners continue to conduct large-scale data collection, validation and registration exercise with local communities as per the agreed upon inclusion/exclusion criteria to identify the most vulnerable families to receive upcoming food assistance.
4. **In Central, Eastern, South Eastern and some parts of Southern zones, the exercise for host communities has been completed in both rural and urban areas. The total number of people that fall under the food security threshold out of the 3.39 million people registered is being reviewed. Data collection for IDP communities has started since 21 September.**
4. **In North Western and the remaining parts of Southern zones, the exercise for both host and IDP communities has been finalized in 10 woredas with around 795,000 people identified to be in need of food assistance. In some of the areas, re-targeting exercise will be conducted to improve data quality in late September. The VBT will be rolled out in additional woredas/towns in early October.**
4. Through **house-to-house verification, community validation and appeal mechanisms**, partners are working to address the challenges encountered during the targeting exercise, including unavailability of community members during the planting season, difficulties in asset and income estimation, cases of inflated family size, fluid population movements especially in displacement setting and urban areas, and lack of documentation among the displaced populations.

## Food Cluster key updates as of 18 August 2023

8. Based on recent feasibility assessments, **two food partners are conducting beneficiary targeting exercise in preparation for cash-based food assistance for around 258,000 people in eight selected woredas in Central Zone (Adwa town, Axum town, Edaga Arbi and Endafalasi), Eastern Zone (Adigrat town, Ganta Afeshum and Saesie) and North Western Zone (Shire (Indasilassie) town) in October** in coordination with the partners providing in-kind food assistance or multi-purpose cash, including targeting approach harmonization, joint verification and beneficiary data sharing, to avoid duplication and create synergy.
8. As the main food partners' pause of distribution has entered its sixth consecutive month in Tigray, **in August, the Government conducted a gap-filling distribution of food items (around 2,900 MT of rice, Corn-Soy Blend (CSB) and vegetable oil) to support IDPs in 17 towns across the region. Another round of distribution prioritizing IDPs is scheduled to take place in the coming weeks.**
8. In early September, a food partner conducted one-off distributions in Abi Adi town and Kola Temben in Central Zone, Mekelle, as well as Raya Azebo and Chercher in Southern Zone - distributing about 99 MT of assorted food items (wheat flour, pulses, vegetable oil and salt) to around 12,200 people, including IDPs and vulnerable people referred by protection partners.

**Logistics Cluster  
EDRMC**

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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December 2022

# Nutrition Cluster Update



Regional Emergency Coordination Center





# RECC Operational Update

Tigray Nutrition Cluster  
22 September 2023



Regional Emergency Coordination Center



# Nutrition Cluster bi-weekly response update

- **August 2023:-**

- Children under 5 Screened using MUAC: **254,572 (129,832 girls and 124,740 boys)**. Of the children screened **23%** were wasted (1% SAM and 22% MAM).
- PLW screened: **78,449** and **64%** of these women were acutely malnourished.
- In the month of August total of **2,522 SAM children were admitted** for treatment (2,281 children were admitted to Outpatient care and 271 were admitted to inpatient care).
- Admission of SAM children into the nutrition programme is decreasing due to poor case finding related to reduced coverage of the nutrition response. Coverage of Nutrition sites supported by partners decreased from 69% in July to 60% in August.
- A total of **21,125 children and 25,449 PLWs were reached with supplementary feeds**. The supplementary feeding programme is now being implemented in 56 locations in Tigray region which is covering a slightly over 50% of the targeted beneficiaries in the HRP.
- A total of **341 Health staff and community health workers were trained** on Community management of acute malnutrition (CMAM).
- The nutrition cluster in 2023 has been able to respond in **73 accessible woredas in Jan – Aug 2023**. There are gaps in funding for several nutrition partners affecting mainly local partners.



# Other updates - SMART+ survey

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- **A nutrition SMART+ survey** has been conducted by the RHB, coordinated by the Nutrition Cluster with support from implementing partners.
- Six separate surveys were conducted in 5 zones with a focus on the rural areas and from IDP sites.
- The survey training of enumerators and data collection took place from the last week of July to the end of August. Data collection was concluded on August 29.
- The survey is expected to determine the under-5 and maternal nutrition status, as well as collect information on other drivers of malnutrition, such as health, WASH, food security, and coverage of other malnutrition preventative services.
- The survey results are going through validation process



# Supplies Update

Supplies received Nov-Aug 2023				Stock balance
Commodity	Unit	Distributed Nov 2022 – Aug 2023	(subset) Distributed August 2023	
<b>SAM supply</b>				
RUTF	Carton	82,137	13,785	9,000 cartons
F-75	Carton	477	43	186 cartons
F-100	Carton	200	-	0
<b>MAM Supply</b>				
RUSF	MT	977	212	160MT
CSB++	MT	2,416	536	444MT

Being distributed in Sept.

- Adequate supplies of RUTF and F75 are available in Tigray.
- There are stock-outs of F100. Supplies are expected to be received from UNICEF Addis by Oct 2023.

The nutrition cluster is also using local solutions to prevent malnutrition. An operational research study is also being carried out to assess effectiveness on these products on prevention of malnutrition.

**Bahgna**, a nutritious mixture of grains and legumes is also being distributed to children at risk of malnutrition aged 6-12 months.

**A Peanut paste** developed by Mekelle university is also being tested as a supplementary feed for malnourished children.

**SQ-LNS** are also being provided to all children 6-23 months.



# Challenges and Plans

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## Challenges:

- **Suspension of food distribution** - this has directly affected the nutrition response.
- **Lack of funding for the nutrition activities:** Forcing some partners to scale down field presence
- **Coverage of nutrition program not optimal** as some Health facilities are not operational following extensive damage.

## Plans for next 2 weeks:

- SMART + survey validation of results and dissemination of preliminary report.
- Conduct Joint Support Supervision in Southern Zone and undertake the review meetings in the zone.



# Health Cluster Update



Regional Emergency Coordination Center



# WASH Cluster Update



Regional Emergency Coordination Center



# WASH Cluster Operational Update

ECC

22 Sep 2023



Regional Emergency Coordination Center





## Key priority:

- **WASH service provision at the community level**
  - Water supply: new construction, repairs, and rehabilitation
    - Water quality surveillance
  - Sanitation: Increase sanitation coverage
  - Health and hygiene promotions against public health risks.
  - Capacity strengthening: Regional to woreda level for water and health.
- **WASH response to IDPs: full WASH package**
  - Water provision through durable options and limited water trucking at critical times only.
    - Increase water quality monitoring
  - Sanitation coverage: solid / liquid waste management, desludging, maintenance of facilities and new construction.
  - Hygiene promotions – provision of WASH NFIs with awareness creation.
- **Institutional WASH (Schools and Health Facilities)**
  - Schools: adequate and appropriate WASH service provision
    - Prioritize site cleanup & decommissioning when IDPs relocated from schools for school reopening.
  - Health facilities: adequate and appropriate WASH service provision
  - Prioritize cholera hotspot woredas and nearby IDP sites.



### WASH Cluster response ( Sep 2023)

- WASH cluster partners reached a total of 135,729 people, of which 21,038 people were reached through emergency water supply/water trucking and 45,610 through durable solutions. 14,823 people were reached through sanitation service provisions. 37,201 supported through hygiene promotion message and 7,924 people received WASH NFIs.
- The cluster has conducted water quality monitoring assessment in Mekelle hot spot sites as part of the cholera preparedness. Soap and steam barrel provided to Bora for the typhus response.
- UNICEF is enhancing the water supply system through solarization program in three sites Hade-Algar (Chado) and Irba in Raya Chercher woreda, Southern Zone and in Adi Hagra in Northwestern zone.



## Key challenges and asks:

- **Water treatment chemicals** – HTH, HH WTH,  $\text{Al}_2\text{SO}_4$ , Testing Kits, etc. ( \$5M)
  - 32% water sample had presence of Fecal Coliform in cholera hotspot weredas.
- Funding is very limited
- **Supplies:** current supplies are approximately 10% of the initial scale up requirements.
- **Staffing / HR** capacity is very limited among WASH partners – Number of staff and technical capacity.
- **Capacity building** of NGO, and RWEB staff at Zonal and Kabelle level to ensure sustainability.



## TIGRAY: WASH Cluster biweekly Response

WASH-Indicators	Target/HRP	Bi-Weekly Plan	Bi-Weekly Achi.	Bi-Weekly Ach. %	Remark
# People get access to Sanitation facilities	1,561,255	27,874	14,823	53	
# People get access to water through durable solution	2,185,996	57,925	45,610	79	
# People get access to water through water trucking	668,231	34,603	21,038	61	
# People provided with lifesaving WASH NFI	832,456	21,982	7,924	36	
# People provided essential sanitation and hygiene message	3,376,378	58,205	37,201	64	



Regional Emergency Coordination Center



WASH-Indicators	Target/HRP	Cumulative reach	Remark
# People get access to Sanitation facilities	1,561,255	253,908	
# People get access to water through durable solution	2,185,996	781,827	
# People get access to water through water trucking	668,231	389,757	
# People provided with lifesaving WASH NFI	832,456	550,404	
# People provided essential sanitation and hygiene message	3,376,378	563,662	



## Next Bi-Weekly Plan

WASH Indicator	Plan	Remark
# People get access to Sanitation facilities	27,874	
# People get access to water through durable solution	57,925	
# People get access to water through water trucking	34,603	
# People provided with lifesaving WASH NFI	21,982	
# People provided essential sanitation and hygiene message	58,205	



Humedica



Regional Emergency Coordination Center



# Emergency Shelter & NFI Cluster Update



Regional Emergency Coordination Center





# Tigray ECC Operational Update

ES/NFI Cluster  
15 Sep 2023



Regional Emergency Coordination Center



# Situation update

- Over 250 IDPs who were captured and imprisoned by non-state actors in Western Tigray have been released and brought to Sheraro for urgent humanitarian assistance. The IDPs are living in inadequate shelter conditions, including partially enclosed, outside, and congested spaces.
- The Endabaguna reception center has received new arrivals from three Tselemti woredas, Sudan (27111HHs; 13515IDP) in Shire AoR, 1661 ind registered across 18 IDP sites, and 71 ind from Western Tigray, undergoing verification and registration by local authorities.
- Heavy rain caused flooding at the Taba-Woyane IDP site, affecting 150 shelters and 451 households. Urgently needed items include plastic sheets, blankets, sleeping mats, jerricans, kitchen sets, and bed nets. Some partners have distributed NFIs, but the issue remains unresolved. The blocked city drainage system is causing the flooding. Municipality requested to address.
- Discussions are underway for the return of IDPs in the North-Western Zone, with humanitarian partners preparing for assistance in return locations. The Regional Warrior Group has returned 750HHs and 2200 Inds, with plans to return over 800HHs to 5 woredas across the zone. However, relocation is still on hold due to a new proposal from the regional education bureau.
- The relocation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) from schools to the Mai Dimu Site is still under discussion, with food and electricity issues being top unaddressed issues. A meeting with regional education bureau, education, ESNFIs, protection clusters, and OCHA is planned tomorrow to discuss the authority's proposed proposal, with clusters expected to share their reflections.



# Situation update

- IOM registered and verified 400 households, 120 from schools, and 378 from inaccessible areas for the Adigrat cash for rent program. DPO's initial activities were canceled due to some constraints, and ZOA committed to bridge the gap of DPO.
- RRF provided 700ESNFI kits to displaced populations in Afar to Hintalo, with registration and verification completed. However, 32HH IDPs still require ES/NFI assistance, requiring further support.
- UNHCR and DSWG plan to start a return exercise in September 2023, focusing on IDPs in schools. The first phase will involve pooling resources for the return of IDPs to their origin and decommissioning schools. Funds have been secured to support the exercise.
- Resource mapping to identify IDPs with special needs living in IDP sites, particularly those in need of blankets and sleeping mats. As of September 6, 2023, the cluster has secured 2,586 pieces of sleeping mats and blankets. Prioritization and targeting for distribution will be managed by the CCCM cluster with resource allocation from ESNFI cluster.
- The Eastern Zone Government and ESNFI cluster discussed on the cash for rent targeting, implementation process, and timeline. Partners urged to speed up verification and relocate IDPs from schools, given the September school reopening schedule.



# Accomplishments in the week

No.	Activity description	Location	Plan	Achievement	% accomplishment	Remark (explanation for over/under achievements)
1	ES maintenance	Shire, 5 Angels	13	13	100	Maintained by UNHCR
2	NFI kit distribution	Sheraro	41	41	100	Distributed by UNHCR- for new arrivals
3	Cash for rent	Endabaguna	525	525	Ongoing	Implementing by IOM
4	ES Maintenance	Adi Abay	25	25	Ongoing	Maintaining by ANE/UNHCR
	NFI kit	Maichew and Mekoni	Abiy Adi	216	216	Distributed by DEC/UNHCR



# Cumulative plan Vs Accomplishments

Cluster Indicators/targets	Cumulative plan	Cumulative Reach	Remark
ESNFI	331k	188k	57%
NFI	515k	291k	57%
Emergency Shelter	501k	40K	8%
Repair Kit	161k	56K	35%



Regional Emergency Coordination Center



# Challenges encountered

- The displacement situation in Tigray is complex and dynamic, with fluid movements and influx of IDPs due to insecurity, lack of services, and seasonal factors.
- The cluster is facing significant concerns due to persistent reports of shelter damage from rain and windstorms, prompting requests for repairs.
- IDPs are living in substandard, damaged shelters, especially in schools and public buildings. As schools reopen for the new ETH academic year, many face forced evictions, emphasizing the need to prioritize their safety and well-being.
- Host families are sharing shelters and resources with IDPs, putting strain on their living conditions and livelihoods. Although returns are increasing, many cannot fully return to their damaged homes due to secondary displacements, leaving them to live with neighbors or relatives.



# Plan for next week

No.	Activity description	Operational location (woreda)	Plan (qty)	Available resources	Remark (any preconditions, support needs, etc.)
1	Emergency Shelter maintenance	Sheraro, Adi abay	25	25	To be maintained by ANE/UNHCR
2	Cash for rent	Endabaguna	525	525	By IOM
3	Cash for rent	Endabaguna	500	500	ZOA to release 3 <sup>rd</sup> round cash
4	Cash for rent	Endabaguna	500	500	NRC to release 3 <sup>rd</sup> round cash
5	Cash for rent	Axum	1100	1100	UNHCR to support for relocation of IDPs from 5 schools.
6	Repair Kit	Ahferom	375	375	DPO plans
7	Repair Kit	Maekel Adiyabo, Adi Awala	400	400	DPO plans
8	NFI loose items	Shire (Tabo Woyane IDP site)	451	TBC	NRC and UNHCR to support
9	Cash for rent	Adigrat IDPs	400	400	To be implemented by IOM
10	Sleeping Mat and Blanket	Mayweyni secondary school, Quhia Shed, Maichew Poly technic college /Wefri Selam IDP site, Adihawsi school, Kisanet primary school, Adi-Haki Secondary school, Adiha, Momona, Lisanu Primary school	2586	2586	To be distributed by UNHCR, WVI and ZOA
11	Cash for rent	Adigrat IDPs	340	340	To be implemented by ZOA
12	Repair Kit	Bora and Raya Azebo	200	200	To be distributed by IOM



**End**



Regional Emergency Coordination Center





# CCCCM Update



Regional Emergency Coordination Center



# Education Cluster Update



Regional Emergency Coordination Center



# TIGRAY EDUCATION CLUSTER

## RECC Operational Update

## Education Cluster

22<sup>nd</sup> September  
2023



Regional Emergency Coordination Center



# TIGRAY EDUCATION CLUSTER – Needs and Gaps

## Opportunities

- Schools reopened on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 after the summer vacation
- Donor Visits □ popping up some funding opportunities
- 41,000 teachers were trained on MHPSS, accelerated teaching and EiE management
- Back to School walk/campaign launched in Mekelle & aired on media

## Needs

- Urgent need for Temporary Classrooms and emergency WASH facilities in Shire □ 82 TLS somehow secured by partners (59 TLS) and 23 by city administration
- Advocacy and coordination with CCCM, Shelter and Protection clusters to fast-track relocation/return of IDPs in Shire, Sheraro & Adigrat
- Teaching and Learning materials for more than 600,000 students
- School Supplies (Combined desks, blackboards, textbooks, chalk, office supplies)
- Reconstruction/rehabilitation
- Back to school campaign at woreda and kebele levels
- **Gaps & Challenges**
  - 145 classrooms are still required to facilitate access for the 27,000 children in Shire – solutions need to be found to free schools as resources (estimated 1 million USD) are not available
  - Delayed relocation of IDPs in Adigrat & from 3 schools in Shire
  - Funds allocated for school decommissioning may also be delayed □ reputational risk with donors
  - 552 schools are in an inaccessible woredas
  - More than 30 schools have presence of other groups and are not safe for children to return to school
  - Extremely low partner reports □ only received from UNICEF, SCI, Child fund, SOS and WVE (from 21 partners)

# TIGRAY EDUCATION CLUSTER – Response

No	Activity description	Plan (Needs or target)	Achievement	% accomplishment (show the gaps)	Remark (explanation for over/under achievements)
1	Teachers trained on MHPSS, EiE management and accelerated teaching methodologies (REB with support from UNICEF & I1Day and WVE)	37,000	41,048	110%	High demand and interest from administrative staff.
2	Support provided to children with a disability to return to school (SCI)	1,500	781	52%	Low partners report
3	School Feeding (SCI)	3,500	1,676	48%	Low partners report & we expect WFP SF to resume this week. Lacking reports from DoC.
4	Displaced & vulnerable children accessing non-formal learning with protection support (IRC, WVE & SCI)	15,000	4,098	27%	Low partner report
5	Dispatch of Education Supplies (Child Fund, SCI and WVE)	50,000 children	36,000	72%	Low Partners report.
6	Provision/mobilization of TLS (SCI, NRC and IRC)	225	85	20%	Low Partners report
7	School rehabilitation (SCI)	2	2 schools		Benefitting 750 children



# Cumulative plan Vs Accomplishments

Cluster Indicators/targets	Cumulative plan (target)	Cumulative Reach (response)	Remark
Distribution of TLMs (Teaching and Learning Materials)	964,000	335,701	35%
School Feeding	174,000	7,526	4%
Back to school campaign/mobilization	550,000	98,906	18%
Rehabilitation/establishment of TLS	250	96	38%
Girls reached with MHM/sanitary supplies	30,000	1649	5%
People reached with life-saving messages	250,000	90,000	36%
AEP for crisis affected IDPs and host community	70,000	108,365	Large portion now integrated in formal school
Training on MHPSS	11,000	41,000	300%



# TIGRAY EDUCATION CLUSTER - Plan for next week

N o.	Activity description	Operational location (woreda)	Plan (qty)	Available resources	Remark (any preconditions, support needs, etc)
1	Resumption of School Feeding Services by WFP	Mekelle, Shire, Abiyi Addi, Hintalo, Samre, Keyih Tekli, Tanqua Melash, Zana, Seyemti Adiyabo, Tahtay Adiyabo	26,000		WFP School Feeding Program to resume
2	Distribute & mobilize TLMs for emergency affected learners	All Zones (excluding Western)	5,000		Schools are closed and hence may be in the non-formal ones
3	Distribution of combined desks/blackboards	Asgede, Abergele, Hintalo, Hawzen	1500/200		
4	Completion of JENA Data Analysis		1		
	Finalize construction of TLS in Shire	Shire	2	Secured	Require an additional 145 classrooms – vital to free 3 schools identified in Shire



# Protection Cluster Update



# **Protection Cluster Updates**

**ECC Tigray Region**

**September 22, 2023**

## *TIGRAY: Protection Cluster Updates*

- The Durable Solutions WG (DSWG) with the engagement of cluster partners and the government is preparing to facilitate returns as well as relocations. With limited resources from UNHCR and the contribution of partners, a pilot return exercise will commence on Friday (22 Sep 2023) to return 264HHs (1,160 individuals) at Hawelti Primary School in Mekelle (all to L/maychew).
- Following the rapid protection assessment conducted in Hintalo to assess the living situation of newly arrived IDPs from Afar, the UNHCR/DICAC through ANE distributed MHM kits (containing 3 soap, 3 sanitary pads, and 2 underwear) to 279 pregnant and lactating women sheltered in Rebhat site/Hintalo. EECMY also distributed 2500 Kg of nutrients and 201 L of edible oil to 500 HH for children under the age of 5.
- UNHCR through its partner DICAC supported 68 women and girls with cash of of 84,000 ETB (3000 ETB per person).

## *TIGRAY: Protection Cluster Updates*

- IOM supported 82 individuals with the most protection risks with Teff, Barley, and Wheat in Mekelle and Wukro.
- IOM trained 69 (22 PwDs) women and girls with Vocational and cultural skills in Mekelle, Quiha, and Wukro.
- 20 individuals who were at higher protection risks were identified and supported with one-time 150 USD cash support by IOM.
- UNFPA provided 167 different types of IARH kits and medical supplies including 7 Ultra Sound scanners worth around 280,000 USD to health facilities in Tigray. These supplies will be able to serve more than 20,000 beneficiaries for a period of 3 months.
- 21 children were reunified with their families in Adigrat, Abi Adi, and Hadinet by WVI, PIE, and AAH.
- UNMAS identified and marked 39 areas in southeast, central, northwest, and eastern zones and it will Link victims with mine action implementing partners for assistance.

## *TIGRAY: Protection Cluster Updates*

- I1D in coordination with SNV, has a milk program that benefits 230 children daily in 70 Kare IDP site.
- PIE distributed NFI to adolescent girls in Enderta Wereda and provided sanitary pads, soap, and underwear, (606 pieces for each item)
- Kebron Charity reached 46 children with Food, NFIs, and transport fees in Mekelle.
- AAH distributed 6000 Dignity kits to women and girls of reproductive age in Abi-Adi town, Abergele Yechila, and Tanqua Milash Woredas.
- WVI distributed 190 dignity kits and 2400 soaps in Hintalo, Abergele, Hawzen, & and Megab.
- ADRC Supported 120 vulnerable women and girls with 500 ETB each.
- CARE distributed Menstrual hygiene kits to 100 girls.
- Evangelical Church Mekelle supported 631 women and girls with 80,076 ETB cash for multipurpose in Samre Woreda.

## *TIGRAY: Protection Cluster Challenges encountered*

- Reopening of schools with no adequate place and service to relocate IDPs.
- The presence of bugs and insects in IDP sites in Mekelle, Wukro, Abiadi, and Maichew are challenging IDPs with no pesticide and mosquito nets provided.
- Accessibility and insecurity remain a challenge in some localities.
- Increase in child marriage to fulfill economic needs, especially in the central zone.
- Relocation and return of IDPs increases demand for GBV and SRH services with limited resources.
- Limited resources and infrastructure including basic equipment or transportation, or financial resources to protect women and girls and to conduct FTR services.
- Lack of assistive devices such as wheelchairs, toilet seats, white canes, and hearing aids.
- Still there is a gap in providing reliable & accurate information with GPS –coordinates where the ERW is found and duplication of suspected hazardous areas.

# **Agriculture Cluster Update**