



ETHIOPIA

WHAT HAPPENED IN AUGUST?

Federal and Tigray forces **returned to frontline fighting** in Amhara-Tigray border areas, shattering the precarious truce formalised in March, endangering desperately needed aid deliveries to Tigray and harming the prospect of long-awaited peace talks.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Renewed hostilities, which follow the hardening of negotiating positions on both sides over the choice of mediator and pre-conditions for talks, raise the risk of a period of sustained conflict that sinks all parties deeper into a **brutal and unwinnable war**.

JULY TRENDS

The federal government and Tigray authorities continued to disagree over **whether African Union Envoy Olusegun Obasanjo should mediate peace talks**. Meanwhile, violence persisted in Oromia and Al-Shabaab made a rare incursion into the country's east from Somalia.

1 ↘ Hostilities between Tigray and federal forces erupted anew

On 24 August, clashes erupted between federal and Tigray forces around Kobo town in Amhara-Tigray borderlands. Both sides **traded blame and renewed fighting** quickly escalated. Notably, Tigray forces claimed control of Kobo on 27 August. Federal forces bombed civilian areas of Tigray's capital, Mekelle, on 26 and 30 August.

On 31 August, a senior Tigray official accused the federal government of sending "tens of thousands of troops" to Eritrea, which in turn said Tigray's forces were **expanding hostilities to multiple fronts**.

2 → Federal government rejected Oromo Liberation Army's proposed truce

As fighting persisted in Oromia between security forces and the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA), authorities captured a senior OLA commander on 6 August in the Ethiopia-Kenya border town, Moyale. Several days earlier, authorities arrested an intelligence officer in Oromia's Borena Zone on suspicion of working with the OLA, suggesting **growing collaboration between OLA rebels and local officials**.

On 20 August, the federal government rejected the **OLA's proposed humanitarian truce** to facilitate aid deliveries into the drought-stricken region.

3 → Clashes in Afar-Somali borderlands, GERD third filling completed

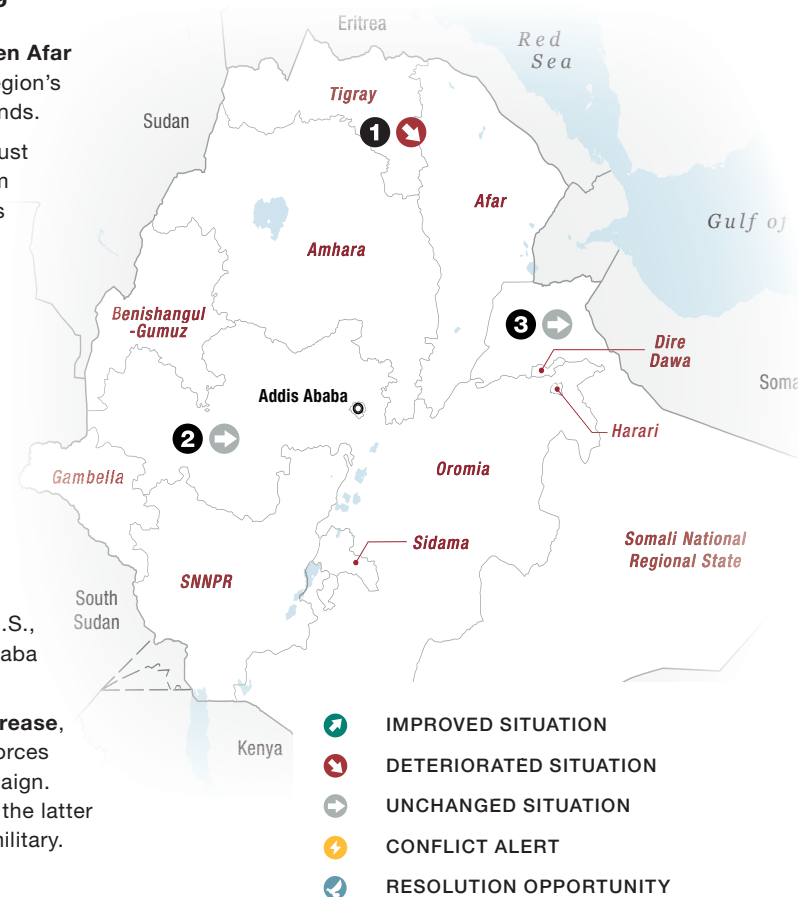
On 11 August, **clashes erupted between Afar and Somali ethnic militias** in Somali region's Sitti Zone, reportedly displacing thousands.

The federal government said on 11 August that it had begun power production from the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam's (GERD) second turbine, and a day later announced **completion of the dam's third filling**. The development comes in the wake of Egypt's letter to the UN Security Council in late July protesting Ethiopia's intention to continue "unilaterally" filling the dam.

WHAT TO WATCH

Hostilities between federal and Tigray forces could expand, notably into contested Western Tigray, which has been under Amhara control since late 2020, and which Tigray also claims. U.S., EU, UN, and AU envoys are in Addis Ababa pressing the parties to cease hostilities.

Violence in western Oromia could increase, as federal troops and Oromia security forces continue their counter-insurgency campaign. **Ethiopia-Sudan tensions may rise**, as the latter hosts Tigray forces fighting Ethiopia's military.



TRENDS TIMELINE

