



ETHIOPIA

WHAT HAPPENED IN NOVEMBER?

Following an escalation of hostilities that raised fears of mass atrocities, the federal government and Tigray leaders signed a **surprise peace accord** in South Africa's capital, Pretoria, to end their devastating two-year conflict. Violence in Oromia continued to intensify.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Fighting between Tigray and Ethiopian-Eritrean forces stopped, but the **fragile calm could shatter** absent implementation of initial pledges and sustained momentum in ongoing talks. The continued vigilance of international actors is critical to keeping the peace process on track.

OCTOBER TRENDS

Federal and Eritrean forces made **significant battlefield gains in Tigray**, intensifying the violence and raising the risk of atrocities against civilians. Warring Ethiopian parties met in South Africa for talks. Meanwhile, violence raged in Oromia.

1 → Federal and Tigray leaders struck welcome peace agreement

On 2 November, federal and Tigray leaders signed a **"permanent cessation of hostilities"** accord in Pretoria under African Union auspices.

The agreement was a **triumph for Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed**. The federal government consented to halt its offensive and restore services and aid to Tigray, while Tigray's embattled leaders agreed to disarm their forces, dissolve Tigray's administration and restore federal authority in the region.

During follow-up talks on 12 November in Kenya's capital Nairobi, federal authorities pledged Eritrean and Amhara troops would withdraw from Tigray.

2 → Accord received mixed reactions, but halted fighting

Prime Minister Abiy and international actors welcomed the deal, while Eritrea's silence may have signalled its consent. Amhara nationalists feared it could be a mechanism to hand contested Western Tigray to Mekelle, while Tigray's leaders expressed dissatisfaction with some aspects, reflecting the deal's fragility.

As pledged, however, both sides **stopped fighting** during November. Humanitarian deliveries began trickling into the region, but on 25 November, the World Food Programme said **aid flows were insufficient**.

3 → Violence continued unabated in Oromia

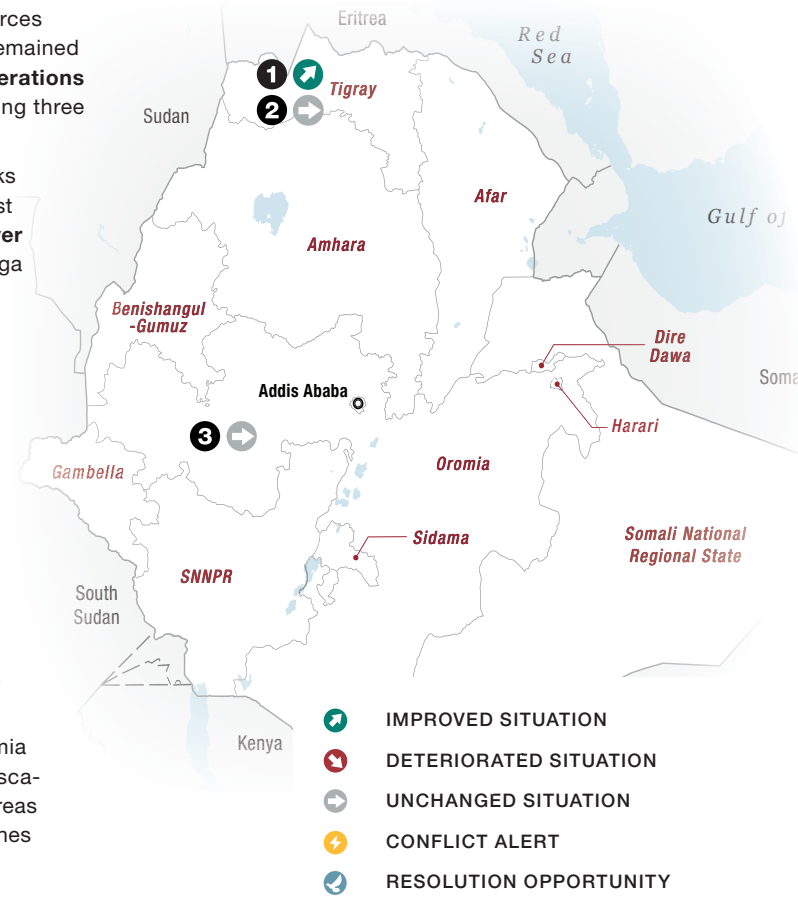
Fighting between federal and Oromia forces and the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) remained widespread amid an **uptick in rebel operations and government drone strikes**, including three in West Wollega Zone that killed 55.

On 6 November, OLA fighters looted banks and freed prisoners in Nekemte town, East Wollega Zone. The **OLA now controls over a dozen districts** in East and West Wollega Zones. Late November fighting between Oromia security forces and Fano Amhara militia killed dozens in East Wollega's Kiramu district.

WHAT TO WATCH

As part of the peace process, Eritrea and Amhara forces are expected to begin withdrawing from Tigray while Mekelle gives up heavy weapons in return. The federal government and Tigray People's Liberation Front should begin discussions on **political and governing arrangements** for Tigray in coming weeks.

Violence between Amhara militia and Oromia security forces and the OLA will likely escalate in western Oromia, particularly in areas bordering Amhara. Oromo-Amhara clashes could fuel **intercommunal tensions**.



TRENDS TIMELINE

