



ETHIOPIA

WHAT HAPPENED?

The Tigray conflict spread further as Tigray forces continued their offensive in Ethiopia's north. In parallel, the federal government intensified war rhetoric and mobilised reinforcements.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Since July, Ethiopia's civil war has entered a **dangerous new phase**. With the rainy season ending, fighting could increase and expand further outside of Tigray, likely leading to thousands more deaths and greater instability countrywide.

LAST MONTH'S TRENDS

Tigray forces advanced into neighbouring Afar and Amhara regions as federal authorities enlisted paramilitaries from some of Ethiopia's nine other regions and launched a mass recruitment drive.

Tigray forces continue their offensive in neighbouring regions

Tigray forces continued to launch offensives into Amhara and Afar regions in August, seizing several towns in Amhara and prompting tens of thousands to flee.

Afar regional authorities accused Tigray forces of killing over 200 people in an attack on displaced civilians in the Galicoma area.

The federal government calls for military reinforcement

The federal government threatened to "deploy the entire defensive capability of the state" and urged "all capable" citizens to join the military effort against Tigray forces.

The U.S. development agency (USAID) accused the federal government of creating **food shortages** in Tigray by obstructing humanitarian operations, and blamed Tigray forces for looting aid warehouses in Amhara region.

Fallout from the Tigray conflict in other regions

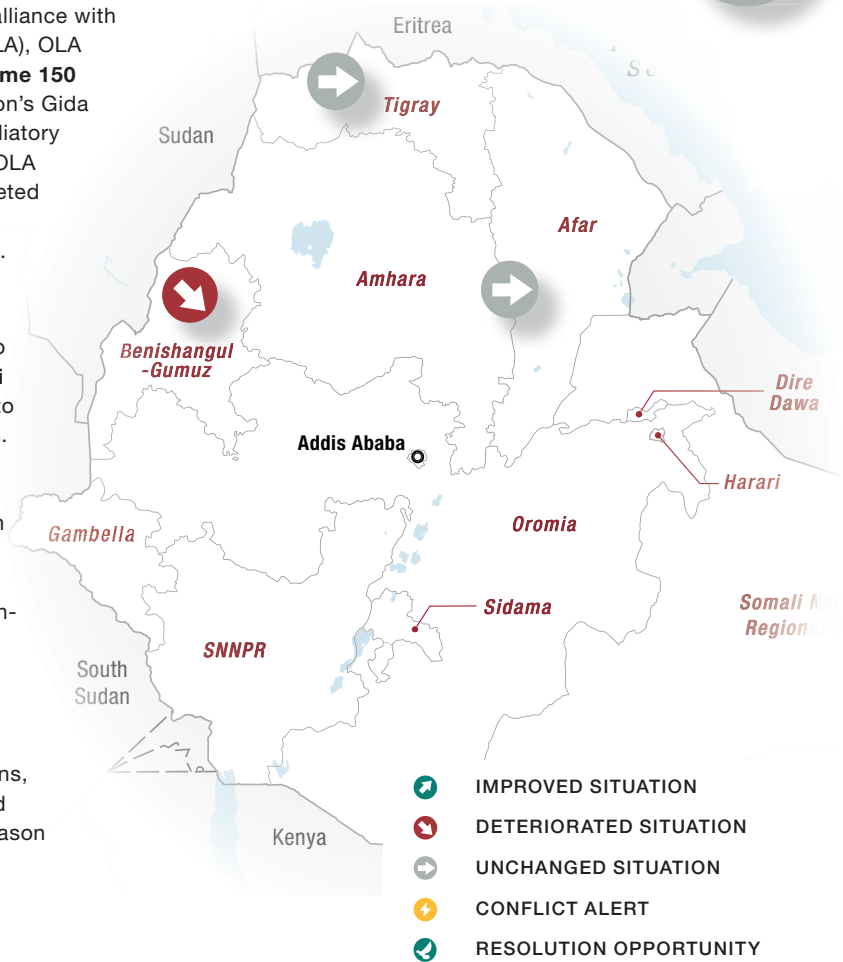
The Benishangul-Gumuz regional government accused militias allied with Tigray forces of having entered the region from neighbouring Sudan in an alleged destabilisation attempt.

After Tigray forces formed an alliance with the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA), OLA insurgents reportedly **killed some 150 ethnic Amhara** in Oromia region's Gida Kiremu district, prompting retaliatory attacks that left 60 dead. The OLA immediately denied it had targeted civilians, and accused Amhara militias of initiating the clashes.

WHAT TO WATCH

In Afar, Tigray forces may try to cut the **trade route to Djibouti** to force Prime Minister Abiy into accepting their ceasefire terms. They may also seek to push Amhara forces out of western Tigray, which would allow them to open a **vital supply line through Sudan**. Such a move could help ease Tigray's humanitarian crisis, but it also risks aggravating tensions between Khartoum and Addis Ababa.

Federal forces may intensify their counteroffensive operations, including with newly purchased **attack drones**, as the rainy season tapers off in September.



TRENDS TIMELINE

