



CROWN AGENTS
ACCELERATING SELF-SUFFICIENCY & PROSPERITY

Addressing sexual and gender-based violence: **Ethiopia – Tigray Protection Project**

The outbreak of conflict in Tigray, Ethiopia in November 2020 has precipitated a vast and complex humanitarian crisis across the entire Tigray region. According to The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), an estimated 5.2 million people in Tigray need urgent humanitarian assistance. There are over 1.6 million people displaced by the crisis within Tigray and over 630,000 refugees have arrived in camps in Eastern Sudan.

It is painfully clear that Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) has become a weapon of war. The level of SGBV incidents is likely to be much higher than current estimates given the absence of service providers and the stigma associated with reporting such crimes not to mention the fear of retaliation. "Language used by the assailants makes clear that these are not random attacks. They target women because of their ethnicity and because they are Tigrayan. The attacks are integral to the conflict," reads one of the two letters published to mark the UN's International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) estimates that around 22,500 survivors of SGBV in Tigray will seek clinical care in 2021. Crown Agents has assessed the scale of the crisis, the needs and gaps that exist in the humanitarian relief effort. The establishment of protection and treatment measures as well as safe spaces for survivors of SGBV around the growing number of IDP sites is incredibly urgent.

Crown Agents has been engaging with the humanitarian crisis in Tigray since early 2021 and are focusing our support on Internally Displaced People (IDP) to provide vital support to survivors of SGBV and other vulnerable groups. Working with our local partner The Relief Society of Tigray (REST) we are:

1. Establishing safe spaces within designated IDP camps.
2. Procuring and distributing dignity kits for women and girls of reproductive age that include sanitary pads, body soap, washing soap, clean bed clothes and underwear.
3. Sourcing and distributing post-rape kits to women and girls of reproductive age.
4. Providing psychosocial support and counselling, post violence care and referrals for SGBV survivors.

We urgently need to respond to one of the worst humanitarian crises of recent times.

We are reaching out to you requesting that you join us in helping the women and children in Tigray who are in desperate need and reduce the life-long damage caused by SGBV.

Interested to know more or get in contact?
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