

Relief Society of Tigray (REST)



Proposal On EMERGENCY ACTION TO RESTORE ACCESS TO POTABLE WATER SUPPLY IN RURAL TIGRAY, ETHIOPIA

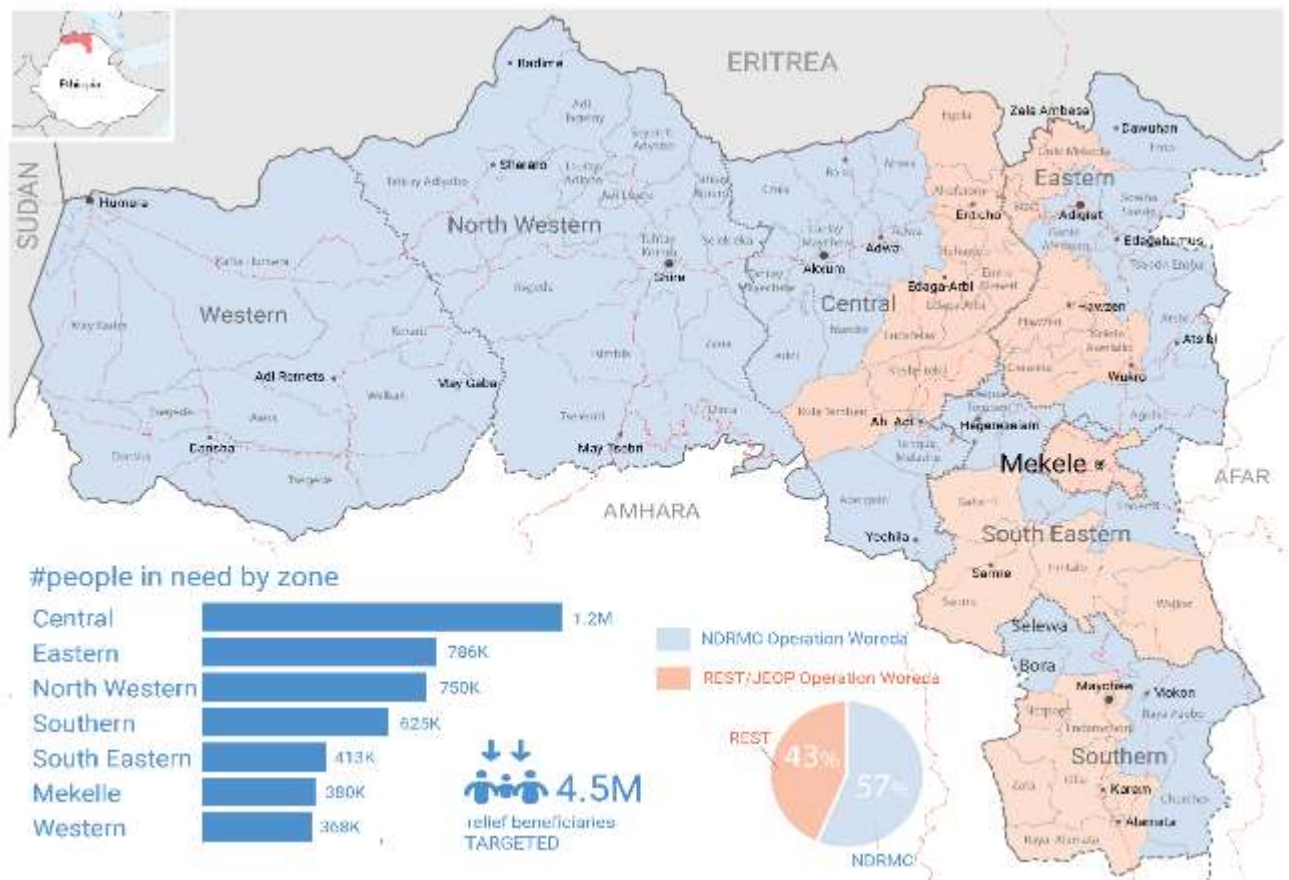
Submitted to: Well Wishers

Project Period: One Year (April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022)

April 5, 2021
Mekelle, Tigray, Ethiopia

1. Regional Humanitarian context

It has been more than five months since the conflict broke in Tigray. The security situation in Tigray remains volatile and unpredictable, with reports of ongoing clashes in many parts of the region. Violence against civilians, including killings, abductions, force returns of refugees and internally displaced people, and sexual and gender-based violence continue to be reported across Tigray. The verification of these reports, however, remains challenging as humanitarian partners have not been able to have full access to the Western, Central, Eastern, North Western, South and South Eastern parts of the region. Access is particularly limited in remote and rural areas¹. OCHA most recent report (Feb 12,2021) stated: *“more than three months of conflict, together with constrained humanitarian access, has resulted in a dire humanitarian situation in Tigray. Much of rural areas, where 80 per cent of the population lived prior to the conflict, remain cut off from humanitarian assistance, and there are emerging reports from partners such as the Ethiopian*



¹ OCHA (Feb 12, 2021): ETHIOPIA - TIGRAY REGION HUMANITARIAN UPDATE Situation Report. Last updated: 12 February 2021

Red Cross Society (ERCS) of children hungry and traumatized by violent experiences. Assistance provided in the past weeks remains drastically inadequate to the rapidly rising needs on the ground, with most areas in Central, Eastern and North Western Zones still inaccessible to humanitarian actors”

Though basic services have been gradually restored in the Region, such developments are for the most part limited to Southern and South Eastern Zones as well as Mekelle Town, and large swathes of Tigray have had no access to telecommunications, electricity, cash and fuel since early November. Many local markets are still reportedly not functioning, exacerbating an already critical situation. In terms of response focus was provided to distributing food-aid to the affected community and by February 12, 2021 only 1.8 million people, out of the 4.5 million targeted by the interim administration, has reportedly received food assistance (OCHA Report, Feb 12, 2021). There is still huge need to provide humanitarian assistance including: fast tracking food aid, provision of key non-food items (including emergency shelter kit, bedding set, kitchen utensils, water and hygiene related inputs) for internally displaced people and rural communities whose assets has been looted and/or damaged; restore access to key service such as health, water, market, banking, protection and education services. This proposed action focus on contributing to restoring access to potable water supply in rural areas but undertaking maintenance of 60 non-functional schemes and improve service for 10,800 people (of which 51% being female) **in SIX rural Woredas** of Tigray namely: Kilde Awlaelo (Eastern Zone), Hintallo-Wajerat, Enderta, Seharti-Samre and Degua-Temben (South- Eastern Zone) as well as Kolla-Temben (Central Zone) of Tigray. These Woredas are selected to realign with Well Wishers Emergency Response Program Woredas in addition the Woredas are currently accessible (relatively) and maintenance activities can be undertaken.

2. Effect of The Conflict on Water Supply Services and Need for Emergency Response

Prior to the conflict, focus was given to increase water supply coverage in the region. The effort was guided by the Growth and Transformation Plan – II which was under implementation from 2016 to 2020. The key target was to increase potable water supply coverage of the region from the baseline by the end of 2015; that is 48% coverage, to 82% by the end of 2020. To this end the regional government has been focusing on sustaining the integrated effort by development actors (including government, non-governmental and community efforts). In rural areas the target

in the GTP-II program period was to increase water supply coverage from 49% (in 2015) to 85% (by 2020). Access as per the GTP II standards was defined as *25 litre per person per day with in one kilo-meter radius*. However, the ambitious target was not fully met, as the mid-term evaluation of the performance of the sector indicated:

- About 20.6% of the rural community still depend on un-protected source for daily water consumption,
- 92% of rural households consume less than the standard daily consumption of 25 liter per capita,
- In the rural area 57.54% access water below ONE Kilo-meter (15 minutes of fetching time) and 2.39% are accessing beyond one Kilo-meter of the population.

The water sector is among the highly impacted sectors by the armed conflict over the past FIVE months. The rapid assessment carried out the regional WASH Cluster (forum of actor responding to the WASH emergency situation including the Bureau of Water Resources, International and Local NGOs and relevant UN agencies) indicated that of the total 18,757 rural water supply schemes **about 60%** (11,254 water supply schemes) are currently non-functional. The main factors contributing to non-functionality of rural water supply schemes are:

- Lack of spare-parts in local market to undertake maintenance of water supply schemes: due to the conflict markets have become non-functional and the supply chain have been broken thus about 55% of non-functional rural water supply schemes currently are not providing the required service due to lack of spare-parts to maintain the schemes;
- Non-functionality of government support system to communities to ensure functionality of water points: with the government line office responsible for providing technical support to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Committees (WASHCOs) such as Tabia Water Technicians and Woreda Water Office functions are not providing the necessary technical support due to the conflict, insecurity and as public servants in rural areas are yet to receive their monthly salary since the conflict broke (for than three months);
- Rural water supply schemes damaged by the war (conflict): considerable number of rural water supply schemes (more than 5,000 water supply schemes) are reported to be damaged and became non-functional due to the conflict; and
- Lack of access to necessary chemicals to periodically treat the water points and maintain water quality: water supply schemes need to be treated periodically with chemical to maintain required water quality in rural areas. This treatment has been conducted by the

health and water supply functions of the government at Woreda level. However, such treatments currently are not in place thus there is no mechanism to periodically treat the water in rural areas of Tigray due to breakage of supply chain of the required chemicals, insecurity and inaccessibility of considerable parts of Tigray region and lack of service provision by the assigned public sector functions (health and water related functions at Woreda level)

3. Proposed REST Response Actions to Restore Access to Potable Water Supply Services in Rural Tigray

The proposed emergency actions main objective is to restore access to potable water supply for 10,800 people (of which 51% are female) in 60 war affected rural communities in SIX rural Woredas of Tigray.

KEY Activities:

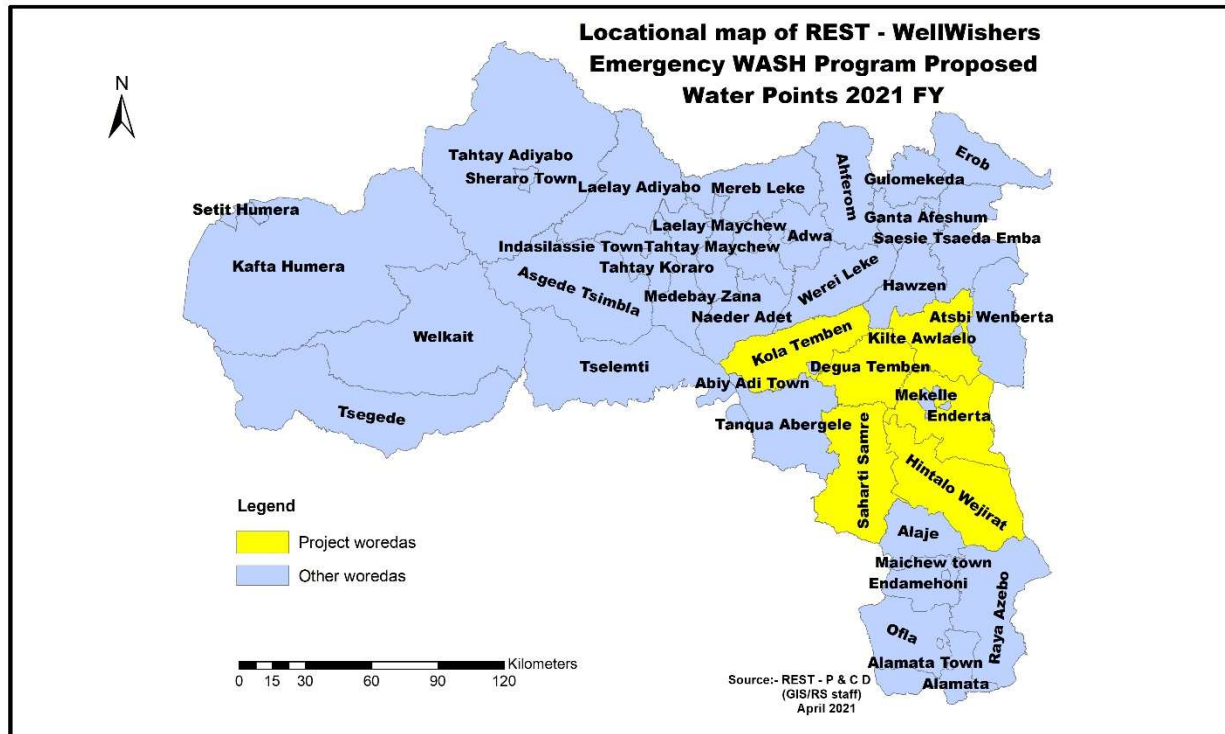
- Maintain/repair 60 rural water points in SIX war affected Woredas and restore access to water for about 10,800 people (including at least 5,400 women and girls)
- Re-organize and/or strengthen 60 WASHCOs to support better management and operation of maintained/repared water supply schemes

The table below presents planned number of schemes to be maintained (by Woreda):

Table 2: Proposed # of Water Points (WPs) to be Maintained and Reailitaded (by Woreda)

SN	Woreda	# of Schemes	# of Beneficiaries
1	Kilte Awlaelo	8	1,440
2	Hintallo-Wajerat	8	1,440
3	Seharti-Samre	13	2,340
4	Enderta	13	2,340
5	Kolla-Temben	9	1,620
6	Degua-Temben	9	1,620
	TOTAL	60	10,800

REST - Well-wishers - FY2021/22 - Location Map of the Proposed Water Points (by Woreda)



4. Delivery Modalities

- REST will deploy Technicians to undertake maintenance/repair service for non-functional water supply schemes that has stopped providing as a result of breakage in supply chain for the spare parts and non-functionality of government services
- REST technicians will engage WASHCOs in the maintenance/repair process (as part of on spot technical training and knowledge transfer)