

## **Speedy update on fast-moving crisis in Afar: November 1<sup>st</sup> 2021**

As you may have heard, Afar Region is now being taken by the TPLF. They are today advancing to take the asphalt road north of Mille (Adayto) where it appears their intention is to cut the Awash Road enabling them to divert all port transport coming from Djibouti into Tigray. They have taken major towns in Amhara Region that were supply – sources of both factory and farm – products.

APDA has just stopped Dr Andrew, Barbara May Foundation Australia’s international fistula surgeon from making a trip to the hospital the foundation supports to conduct a program of fistula repair in Afar Region – he was about to make his annual supporting campaign with us. APDA is now using as much resource as possible to support displaced people. As of today, thousands of Amharas are pouring into Afar Region for safe haven – the Afar Regional Government is now stretched to offer support and is housing them in a rural area.

The entire populations of Sifra and Uwwa, districts adjoining to the Amhara Region where the fighting continues have now displaced and ‘Adda’ar is in danger of displacing. APDA saw a total of 40,968 displaced people in one rural site where minimal water, food and medical help is being supplied – almost no shelter. APDA has a health team there and the mentioned Mille hospital staff saw a total of 62 pregnant mothers yesterday, planning to come back in a week to examine the remaining around another 80 pregnant mothers.

While it may not be proper to speculate, Afar Region will totally close down until a compromise between the warring factions is reached. Meanwhile, APDA along with other NGOs here will continue to offer as we can:

- A) Food targeting the most vulnerable people
- B) Keep health worker groups going in the communities that are displaced that they treat acute illness and survey for malnutrition
- C) Continue water trucking to the displacement camps in Wokki, Sifra and Barahale
- D) Provide hygiene and sanitation mobilization, teaching along with soap and water purification
- E) Provide the remaining supplementary food to pregnant and lactating mothers that is in APDA’s warehouse – around 1,200 mothers can receive 10 kilograms of soya bean – protein mix
- F) APDA’s hospital is serving and will serve for all emergencies



*These 7 - month twins now in displacement in Sifra are already displaying moderate malnutrition. October 31<sup>st</sup> 2021*