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The Interim Administration of Tigray
Bureau of Health

Date March 05, 2026
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EMERGENCY APPEAL to HUMANITARIAN PARTNERS, DONORS, UN AGENCIES, EMBASSIES AND GLOBAL HEALTH INSTITUTIONS:

URGENT SUPPORT REQUIRED TO PREVENT HEALTH SYSTEM COLLAPSE IN TIGRAY REGION

Health is a fundamental human right and must remain protected under all circumstances. The Constitution of the World Health Organization affirms that the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the basic rights of every human being. This principle is echoed by the United Nations and enshrined in international human rights instruments that recognize access to essential health services, medicines, and emergency care as a core obligation of governments and the global community.

Health service delivery must never be reduced to a political issue or subjected to restrictions that prevent civilians from accessing life saving care. In the current context, the health system in Tigray region is facing imminent operational collapse due to three interlinked crises: critical fuel shortages due to fuel ban to the region, complete halt of pharmaceutical supply refills, and severe financial restrictions. These constraints are preventing emergency response operations, disrupting the transport of the limited medicines and medical supplies, and paralyzing essential health services across the region.

Immediate intervention is required to prevent avoidable morbidity and mortality among millions of civilians.

1. Critical Fuel Shortage Disrupting Emergency Health Response

Fuel supply to Tigray has dropped to negligible levels. In January 2026, only 850,000 liters were delivered compared to a routine monthly allocation of approximately 15 million liters to the region as whole. Deliveries have since ceased entirely.

The impact on the health system is severe:

- Response to outbreaks of all kinds
- Ambulances are unable to operate consistently.
- Distribution of medicines and medical supplies from central warehouses to health facilities has become impossible.

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- Cold chain systems for vaccines in EPSS’s Mekelle and Shire hubs and in facilities with electrical refrigerator are at risk due to generator fuel shortages.
- Humanitarian outreach to internally displaced populations is severely constrained.
- Supervisory, monitoring, and emergency response activities have stopped.
- Surgical services of all types are becoming an uphill battle during power outage.

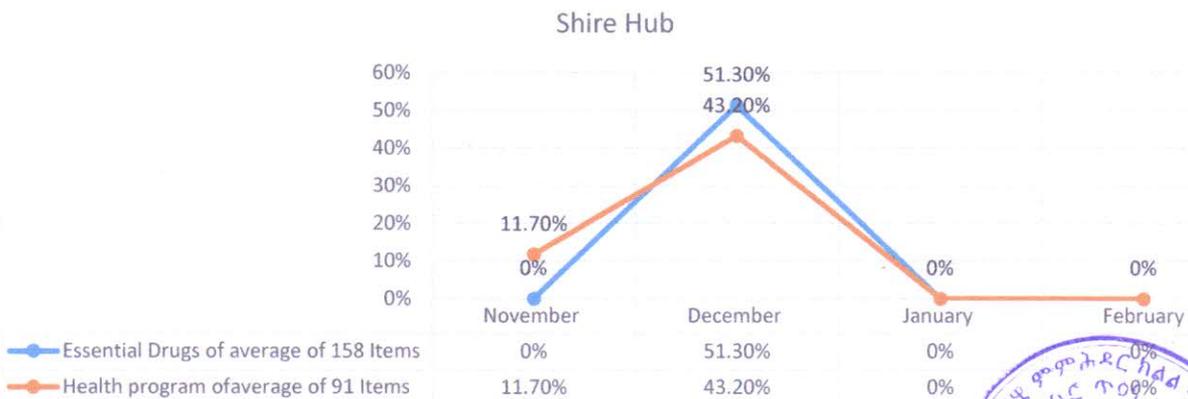
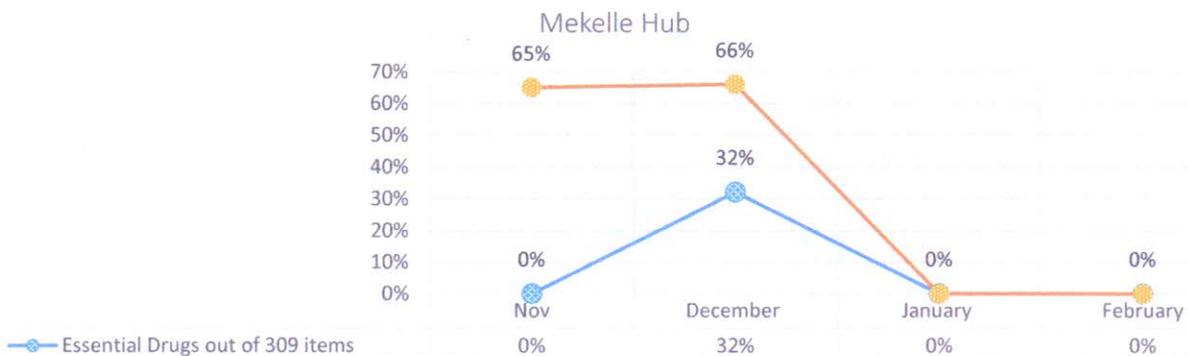
Humanitarian response teams require a minimum of 264,00 liters of diesel fuel and 75,470 liters of petrol fuel immediately to resume lifesaving outreach and supply distribution for the coming three months.

Without dedicated fuel support, even available medicines cannot reach facilities.

2. Severe Shortage of Medicines and Medical Supplies

The pharmaceutical supply chain has been fully interrupted for two consecutive months. No central refills were delivered to Mekelle or Shire branches in January and February 2026.

Essential and Health Program drugs refill of the region’s EPSS hubs.



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Critical stockouts now include:

- IV fluids
- IV antibiotics (such as Ceftriaxone, Ceftazidime, Vancomycin)
- Anesthetics (the stock at hand are not even sufficient for one facility)
- Pediatric formulations
- Antiretroviral Therapy drugs (such as TDF+3TC, AZT and Nevirapine Syrup)
- Anti TB drugs

These are not optional commodities. They are the foundation of emergency surgery, maternal care, infection management, trauma response, and pediatric survival. (please refer to the detailed need of medication and medical supplies to the region). Prior to the conflict, pharmaceutical availability for essential drugs was more than 70%. Currently stand still at 44.5% while being depleted at the same time.

If supply lines are not restored urgently, essential services including emergency obstetric care, surgical procedures, inpatient treatment, and routine infection management will cease functioning in large parts of the region.

3. Financial Restrictions Crippling Health System Operations

The health system in Tigray is operating under severe financial constraints compounded by broader restrictions on banking access, liquidity flows, and economic activity within the region.

Even where limited commodities are technically available at national level, the region faces:

- Severe budget shortfalls are affecting the public health system in particular and the Tigray region in general. Since the beginning of the current Ethiopian Fiscal Year, operational budget allocated has effectively ceased. The only budget received have been for salaries, and even these have progressively declined. The federal government covered only 30 percent of the required salary budget in October and November, and 50 percent in December 2025. No salary allocations have been received during the first months of 2026. Restricted access to operational cash and delayed financial transfers.
- Limited banking functionality and liquidity shortages affecting payments.
- Inadequate budget allocations for emergency procurement.
- Reduced Revolving Drug Fund capital due to prolonged service disruption.
- Inability to rapidly mobilize funds for alternative fuel sourcing and emergency transport.

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Health facilities are increasingly unable to prefinance essential medicines, pay transport providers, or secure contingency logistics arrangements. The normal financial cycle that sustains procurement, distribution, and service delivery has been interrupted.

This creates a vicious cycle. Stockouts reduce service provision. Reduced services reduce facility revenue. Reduced revenue further weakens procurement capacity.

Without emergency financial support and flexible funding mechanisms, recovery of the supply chain will not be feasible.

Immediate Funding Priorities

1. Dedicated fuel allocation for health and humanitarian transport.
2. Emergency procurement of essential medicines and medical supplies.
3. Financial bridge support for emergency logistics.
4. Support for emergency kits.
5. Restoration of cold chain and supply chain transport capacity.

Risk Outlook

If current conditions persist for another month, the region faces:

- Collapse of emergency surgical services.
- Increased maternal and neonatal mortality.
- Rise in preventable deaths from sepsis and untreated infections, chronic illness deaths
- Vaccine spoilage and increased risk of outbreak.
- Long term degradation of supply chain systems and workforce capacity.

The health system is operating at a critical threshold. Immediate intervention within days, not weeks, is required.

Call to Action

We respectfully call upon humanitarian partners, bilateral donors, UN agencies, embassies, and global health institutions to mobilize urgent emergency funding and operational support.

Restoring fuel supply, reopening pharmaceutical supply chains, and stabilizing financial flows are not administrative issues. They are lifesaving interventions.

Millions of civilians depend on the urgent restoration of essential health services.

Regards,

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 Bureau Head



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