



ETHIOPIA

WHAT HAPPENED IN APRIL?

The fragile truce announced in March between the federal government and Tigray forces held, but humanitarian aid flowing into the embattled region remained grossly **insufficient**. Elsewhere, violence continued and religious tensions flared in Amhara and the Southern Nations regions.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

The pause in large-scale fighting between the federal coalition and Tigray's forces has generated **cautious optimism**. However, if the warring sides fail to build on this momentum, it raises the possibility that full-scale hostilities resume, particularly in Western Tigray.

MARCH TRENDS

The federal government declared an **"indefinite humanitarian truce"** to allow aid into the Tigray region. Meanwhile, violence remained rampant in several other regions, including Afar, Amhara, Oromia and Benishangul-Gumuz.

1 ➡ Humanitarian truce held, aid entering Tigray insufficient

The "indefinite humanitarian truce" held throughout April with **no clashes reported** in Tigray. On 1 April, for the first time since December 2021, aid convoys entered Tigray by land. In April, 170 trucks entered the region, though deliveries remained grossly insufficient.

After departing Erebti district in Afar region, Tigray forces said on 25 April that they were completely withdrawing from Afar to ensure more aid flowed into Tigray. On 28 April, the federal government dismissed these claims as "big lies".

2 ↘ Oromia's security crisis persisted, displacing thousands

In Oromia, federal and regional forces renewed their offensive against the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA). On 2-3 April, intense fighting erupted along the highway connecting Hawassa city to Kenya. Government forces **killed tens of civilians** on 29 April in the Adea Berga district of West Shewa Zone, northwest of Addis Ababa, after a deadly OLA ambush on federal soldiers.

In Amhara, Amhara-Oromo clashes on 18-19 April in the border area between Oromia Zone and North Shewa Zone reportedly **killed 20**.

3 ↘ Religious tensions spiked across several states

In Amhara, armed Orthodox Christian assailants attacked Muslim worshippers in Gondar city on 26 April. The attack and subsequent unrest **killed 21 people**. Violent protests erupted including in the national capital Addis Ababa, resulting in property destruction.

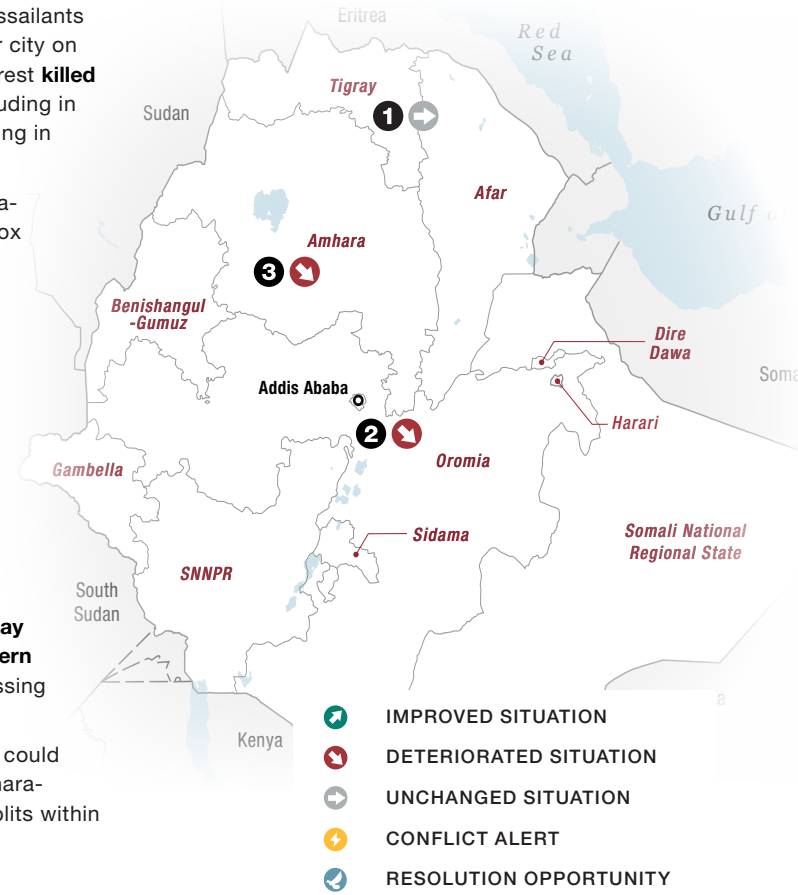
On 28 April, there were reportedly retaliatory attacks by Muslims against Orthodox and Protestant Christians in Werabe town, Southern Nations region. Two Orthodox and three Protestant churches burned down.

WHAT TO WATCH

If aid deliveries increase, federal and Tigray authorities **could begin ceasefire negotiations**. While overall positive, this could cause the rift between Addis Ababa and Amhara and Eritrea to widen.

If deliveries remain piecemeal, Tigray **may seek to reclaim Amhara-occupied Western Tigray** and break the blockade by accessing a supply line via Sudan.

Growing violence in the Oromia conflict could boost support for the OLA, worsen Amhara-Oromo communal clashes and cause splits within Oromia's ruling elite.



TRENDS TIMELINE

