



ETHIOPIA

WHAT HAPPENED?

Intense fighting continued in northern Ethiopia. **Federal and allied regional forces took back some territory** after resisting efforts by Tigray fighters and their allies to control the Djibouti trade corridor and push toward the capital, Addis Ababa.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Fighting between Tigray forces and their allies on one hand, and federal forces and their supporters on the other, combined with growing insurgency in Ethiopia's largest region, Oromia, threatens the **government's overall stability**. Unrest could eventually extend across Ethiopia's borders.

OCTOBER TRENDS

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, sworn in on 4 October after his party's election win, launched a federal offensive in the north. When that sputtered, **Tigray forces advanced** in eastern Amhara. Meanwhile, clashes between insurgents and government forces spiked in Oromia.

1 ➔ Federal forces and allies pushed back Tigray offensive

In early to mid-November, Tigray forces along with the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) captured key towns in Amhara region's Oromia, North Shewa and Semien Shewa Zones. Tigray forces' advance toward the capital Addis Ababa prompted thousands of residents to **join self-defence groups**.

In late November, federal and allied regional forces stiffly resisted Tigray fighters' advance in Afar and Amhara regions, forced **Tigray's retreat** and **retook some towns**.

2 ➔ Violence continued in Oromia

In Oromia region, the OLA claimed on 16 November to have taken **control of "much" of North Shewa and West Shewa Zones**, as well as Gidami, Begi and Qondala towns in West Wollega and Kellem Wollega Zones. Clashes between OLA and security forces were also reported in late November in East Wollega and West Wollega Zones.

Oromo and Amhara militias clashed on 19 November in Nono area, West Shewa Zone, leaving at least twenty dead.

3 ➔ New anti-government alliance formed, insecurity persisted in Benishangul-Gumuz

Nine anti-government entities, including Tigray insurgents and the OLA, **formed an alliance** on 5 November with the purpose of **unseating PM Abiy**.

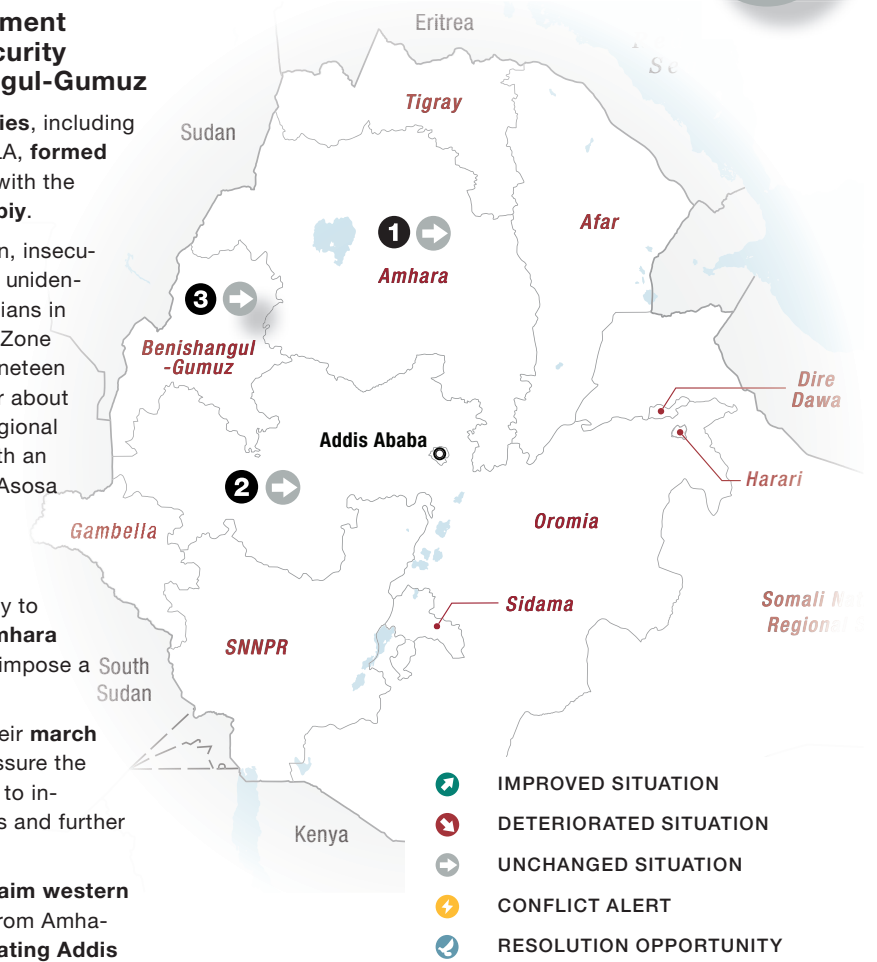
In Benishangul-Gumuz region, insecurity persisted. On 9 November, unidentified gunmen killed four civilians in Mandura Woreda in Metekel Zone with security forces killing nineteen assailants in response. On or about 22 November, federal and regional forces reportedly clashed with an unidentified armed group in Asosa Zone, killing at least 30.

WHAT TO WATCH

The federal coalition could try to **drive Tigray forces from Amhara** back to Tigray, then seek to impose a South Sudan settlement.

Tigray forces could renew their **march toward Addis Ababa** to pressure the government. This could lead to increased attacks on Tigrayans and further destabilisation.

Tigray forces may try to **reclaim western Tigray** (on Sudan's border) from Amhara control. This risks **aggravating Addis Ababa-Khartoum tensions** if Tigray tries to establish a supply route to Sudan.



TRENDS TIMELINE

