

## Tigray on brink of famine, warns U.N.

11th June, 2021



The United Nations has warned that people in Ethiopia's Tigray region are on the brink of a famine. Tigray is the northernmost state in Ethiopia and the homeland of the Tigrayan, Irob and Kunama peoples. In addition to facing the

possibility of starvation, people in Tigray have had to endure the hardships that come with being involved in a military conflict. In November 2020, fighting broke out between the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) and Ethiopia's army. The TPLF wants to overthrow Ethiopia's government. Neighbouring Eritrea has waded in on the side of Ethiopia. This has escalated into the Tigray War, causing instability in the region and increasing suffering for the people.

The U.N. warned that: "Several areas in Tigray are on the brink of famine. The situation will only keep getting worse unless needed funding is increased and humanitarian access is improved." It added: "People need to wake up. There is now the risk of a loss of life running into the hundreds of thousands or worse. Businesses have been destroyed, the economy has been destroyed, crops have been destroyed, and farms have been destroyed." A farmer in Tigray told the BBC: "We are eating small remains of crops that we have managed to hide, but now we don't have anything. Nobody has given us any aid. Almost everyone is on the verge of death....Death is knocking on our door."

Sources: [bbc.com](http://bbc.com) / [cbsnews.com](http://cbsnews.com) / [africanews.com](http://africanews.com)

### Writing

The world's billionaires should help the people of Tigray. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

region / brink / state / homeland / starvation / hardships / conflict / army / instability / famine / situation / humanitarian / economy / farmer / remains / crops / hide / death

### True / False

- 1) Tigray is in the centre of Ethiopia. T / F
- 2) People in Tigray are facing starvation and the hardships of war. T / F
- 3) The Tigray War broke out two years ago. T / F
- 4) Neighbouring Eritrea is in support of the Tigray People's Liberation Front. T / F
- 5) The U.N. warned that several areas of Tigray are on the brink of famine. T / F
- 6) The U.N. warned that hundreds of thousands of people could die. T / F
- 7) A farmer said he had been hiding small amounts of crops to eat. T / F
- 8) The farmer said death is knocking on his door. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. <b>warned</b>     | a. wrecked           |
| 2. <b>brink</b>      | b. war               |
| 3. <b>starvation</b> | c. circumstances     |
| 4. <b>conflict</b>   | d. edge              |
| 5. <b>escalated</b>  | e. possibility       |
| 6. <b>situation</b>  | f. conceal           |
| 7. <b>risk</b>       | g. cautioned         |
| 8. <b>destroyed</b>  | h. assistance        |
| 9. <b>hide</b>       | i. extreme hunger    |
| 10. <b>aid</b>       | j. increased rapidly |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) Why do people still go to war?
- b) What can the world do to stop the war in Tigray?
- c) What do you know about Ethiopia?
- d) How is it possible people can face starvation in 2021?
- e) What hardships come with being involved in military conflict?
- f) Did you support the last conflict your country took part in?
- g) How can we help the people in Tigray?
- h) What can we do to stop all future wars?

## Phrase Match

- |                                       |                            |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Tigray is the northernmost         | a. on the side of Ethiopia |
| 2. people in Tigray have had to       | b. getting worse           |
| 3. Neighbouring Eritrea has waded in  | c. on our door             |
| 4. This has escalated into            | d. hundreds of thousands   |
| 5. increasing suffering               | e. the Tigray War          |
| 6. The situation will only keep       | f. of death                |
| 7. There is now the risk of a loss of | g. state in Ethiopia       |
| 8. running into the                   | h. life                    |
| 9. Almost everyone is on the verge    | i. for the people          |
| 10. Death is knocking                 | j. endure the hardships    |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What would you do if your country was on the brink of famine?
- How much do you think the world cares about the Tigray war?
- Do you think the world's billionaires should feed the people in Tigray?
- Why have Tigrayans' farms and businesses been destroyed?
- What aid should the world give Tigray?
- What 3 adjectives best describe this story?
- What questions would you like to ask the generals?

## Spelling

- facing the possibility of tsrvaoatin
- dneeur the hardships
- a ymratlii conflict
- This has asecdlet into the Tigray War
- causing iyatibisInt in the region
- increasing ferfusign for the people
- The aituinst will only keep getting worse
- needed finndu is increased
- aahniinautmr access
- farms have been rdodseeyt
- small marsnei of crops
- on the geerv of death

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. i	4. b	5. j
6. c	7. e	8. a	9. g	10. h

## Role Play

### Role A – Famine

You think famine is the biggest obstacle for poor people. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which of these is the least likely to hold poor people back (and why): war, no Internet or the drugs trade.

### Role B – War

You think war is the biggest obstacle for poor people. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which of these is the least likely to hold poor people back (and why): famine, no Internet or the drugs trade.

### Role C – No Internet

You think no Internet is the biggest obstacle for poor people. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which of these is the least likely to hold poor people back (and why): war, famine or the drugs trade.

### Role D – The Drugs Trade

You think the drugs trade is the biggest obstacle for poor people. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which of these is the least likely to hold poor people back (and why): war, no Internet or famine.

## Speaking – Poorer People

Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest obstacles for poorer people at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| • Famine       | • Bad leaders    |
| • War          | • Poor education |
| • Drought      | • Corruption     |
| • Lack of wifi | • Drug trade     |

### Answers – True False

1 F	2 T	3 F	4 F	5 T	6 T	7 T	8 T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.