

Conflict, community, and COVID-19: response and implications in Ethiopia

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Key Messages

- An extensive network of primary health services, including community extension workers makes up large parts of Ethiopia's decentralized health system. The ongoing conflict in Tigray Region continues to severely impact essential services, including healthcare, humanitarian support, and education.
- Ensuring proper training of community extension workers by regional health bureaus and humanitarian organizations could reduce COVID-19 transmission and morbidity through improved hygiene and awareness measures, promoting early detection of malnutrition, and recommencing education services.
- An end to ongoing conflict through diplomatic channels is essential for allowing secure passage of humanitarian workers to aid in the urgent need for food, water, and medication shortages, and to ensure wellbeing for the large number of displaced people from the conflict.