

THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2106/210611-tigray-ethiopia-war.html>

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: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-57397901>
<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/tigray-ethiopia-war-un-warns-famine-could-kill-hundreds-of-thousands/>
<https://www.africanews.com/2021/05/26/over-1-7-million-people-displaced-due-to-conflict-need-urgent-assistance-in-northern-ethiopia-iom/>

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 1. brink | a. Suffering or death caused by hunger. |
| 2. famine | b. A point at which something, typically something unwelcome, is about to happen. |
| 3. starvation | c. Suffer something painful or difficult patiently. |
| 4. endure | d. Remove forcibly from power. |
| 5. overthrow | e. An extreme lack of food. |
| 6. escalated | f. A lack of being safe and secure. |
| 7. instability | g. Became or caused to become more intense or serious. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 8. funding | h. Concerned with or seeking to promote human welfare. |
| 9. humanitarian | i. The parts left over after other parts have been removed, used, or destroyed. |
| 10. access | j. Money provided for a particular purpose. |
| 11. crops | k. The right or opportunity to use or benefit from something. |
| 12. remains | l. Financial or material help given to a country or area in need. |
| 13. aid | m. Plants grown as food, especially a grain, fruit, or vegetable. |
| 14. verge | n. An extreme limit beyond which something specified will happen. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2106/210611-tigray-ethiopia-war.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

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**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

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

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 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 |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2106/210611-tigray-ethiopia-war.html>

1. Where in Ethiopia is the region of Tigray?
2. What are those in Tigray facing besides the hardships of military conflict?
3. When did fighting break out in Tigray?
4. What does the Tigray People's Liberation Front want?
5. Which country has joined in the conflict?
6. What does the U.N. say needs to be increased?
7. What does the U.N. say people need to do?
8. How many people does the U.N. say might die?
9. What did a farmer manage to hide?
10. What did the farmer say is knocking on his door?

WAR DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'war'?
3. Why do people still go to war?
4. What can the world do to stop the war in Tigray?
5. What do you know about Ethiopia?
6. How is it possible people can face starvation in 2021?
7. What hardships come with being involved in military conflict?
8. Did you support the last conflict your country took part in?
9. How can we help the people in Tigray?
10. What can we do to stop all future wars?

Tigray on brink of famine, warns U.N. - 11th June, 2021
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WAR DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'famine'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What would you do if your country was on the brink of famine?
15. How much do you think the world cares about the Tigray war?
16. Do you think the world's billionaires should feed the people in Tigray?
17. Why have Tigrayans' farms and businesses been destroyed?
18. What aid should the world give Tigray?
19. What three adjectives best describe this story?
20. What questions would you like to ask the generals?