

Ethiopia ES/NFI Cluster – 1st Round Prioritization of 2026

Responses and Priority Woredas

@Ethiopia ES/NFI Cluster



Humanitarian Situation Overview

Displacement in Ethiopia continues to present a complex and evolving context for shelter and non-food item needs. While levels of large-scale displacement fluctuate across regions, significant numbers of displacement-affected households continue to live in inadequate shelter conditions or without essential household items. These conditions persist due to a combination of recurrent and prolonged displacement without access to durable solutions, environmental pressures, and constrained humanitarian resources.

At the same time, existing and prolonged internally displaced particularly in Tigray and Amhara, continue to live in sub-standard shelter conditions, including overcrowded collective centers, informal settlements, and host community arrangements that were not designed for extended habitation. In Afar, shelter needs are shaped by both conflict-related displacement and natural hazards. In the southern and south-eastern parts of the country, including areas affected by displacement linked to the Oromia-Somali conflict, drought has compounded existing

vulnerabilities, increasing pressure on shelter conditions and household coping capacities.

Return movements have increased in some areas, particularly where access has improved. In these contexts, shelter repair support and Housing, Land and Property (HLP) assistance remain important to enable safe and sustainable return and to support pathways toward durable solutions, while reducing the risk of secondary displacement.

Within this context, the ES/NFI Cluster prioritization focuses on the severity of shelter and non-food item needs, recognizing that these requirements cut across different population groups and living situations. The prioritization aims to support informed by need, ensuring that limited resources are directed toward locations and households with the most pressing gaps in shelter and household items, while complementing broader efforts toward durable solutions.

“ Sub-standard shelter conditions remain a key concern for displaced households, particularly in overcrowded collective centers where privacy is limited, and in informal settlements where exposure to weather and environmental risks is highest. ,,

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Samaritan's Purse
INTERNATIONAL





Prioritization and Strategic Response



R1 Target
260k



Urgent Requirement
\$11.8M



Pipeline Requirement
\$3.9M

Priority Overview

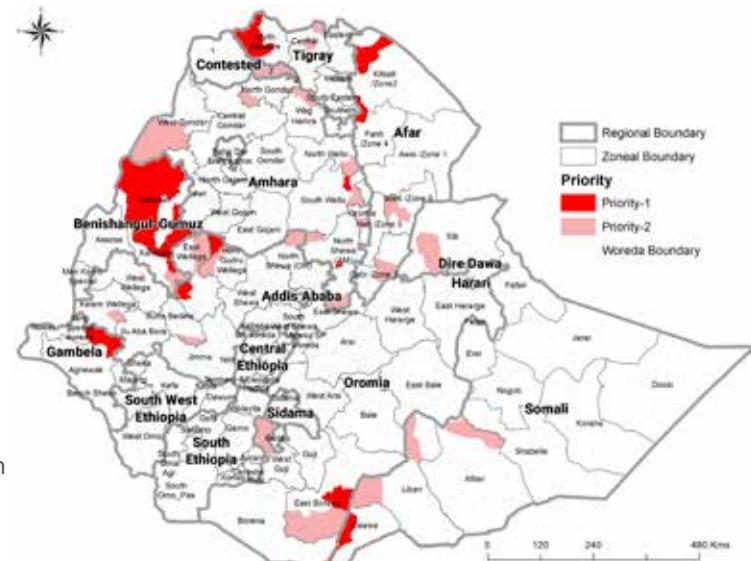
The ES/NFI Cluster prioritization identifies 24 Priority-1 woredas across seven regions, based on a severity-and needs-driven analysis. These locations are characterized by a convergence of factors, including recent conflict-related displacement (those displaced by the flood in the last quarter of 2025 are expected to return), prolonged displacement without durable solutions, return to damaged shelters, and environmental stressors that have resulted in particularly acute shelter and NFI gaps. The identification of Priority-1 woredas does not imply the absence of needs elsewhere but highlights locations where the concentration and severity of shelter and NFI gaps are comparatively higher.

Prioritization is informed by a multi-criteria framework, consistent with established cluster thresholds, which considers displacement levels and trends, severity of shelter and NFI conditions, existing and planned assistance, access constraints, recurring displacement, and coverage gaps.

Living conditions related to shelter remain one of the primary protection concerns, particularly for households residing in overcrowded collective centers, IDP sites where emergency shelters require rehabilitation, informal settlements where shelters provide insufficient protection against the elements, and for IDPs in the host communities where multiple families share a single room or live in shelters that offer inadequate protection from weather and environmental exposure.

This prioritization is intended to guide partners and donors in allocating resources to locations where shelter and NFI needs are most acute, ensuring that limited resources are directed toward areas with the most pressing gaps in shelter and NFI across the three priority population groups.

Regional differences in displacement dynamics and shelter conditions, and the related response approaches, are further elaborated in the following section, in which regions are grouped based on shared contextual and operational characteristics.



Essential Shelter Items Pipeline

The ES/NFI common pipeline remains a critical enabler of the prioritized response, supporting the timely and cost-effective delivery of quality-assured shelter and non-food item assistance.

The pipeline plays a particularly important role in locations requiring rapid response and in prioritized areas where acute shelter gaps persist. Through consolidated procurement and pre-positioning of essential items, it supports harmonization of assistance and enables partners to focus operational resources on delivery and community engagement, particularly where local market capacity is limited or inconsistent.

For 2026, the ES/NFI Cluster plans to support at least 118,000 Households through the common pipeline. In the current period, and excluding existing pipeline capacity and available resources, the Cluster plans to reach approximately 39,300 displacement-affected Households, subject to pipeline replenishment.

Despite its importance, pipeline availability remains constrained in 2026, with current resources covering approximately 10% of overall identified needs. While available capacity covers around 31 per cent of planned requirements in the current quarter, additional pipeline replenishment is required to enable phased implementation and ensure predictable access to essential shelter and NFI items in the most affected locations.

Strategic Priorities Approaches

The ES/NFI Cluster strategic response is structured around a three-fold approach that reflects the main displacement dynamics and shelter conditions observed across prioritized locations: households displaced within the last year due to conflict and remaining in displacement; households experiencing prolonged displacement and living in sub-standard or deteriorating living conditions; and recently returned IDPs facing challenges related to uninhabitable shelters and HLP issues.

The response will be adapted to settlement type and context, with a continued focus on displacement-affected households living in informal or dispersed settlements, overcrowded collective centers, and host communities where shelter conditions and access to essential household items remain limited.

- ▶ Provision of emergency shelter support for displaced populations in collective centers and informal sites, where exposure to the elements leaves people without adequate protection.
- ▶ Rental support for vulnerable households within host communities living in sub-standard conditions or in locations where the number of IDPs exceeds the absorption capacity of the host community.
- ▶ Distribution of ESNFI or NFI kits to meet the immediate needs of newly displaced households and those lacking essential household items, particularly in informal and dispersed settlements.
- ▶ First-line return response and HLP support for newly returned households..

In locations experiencing prolonged displacement where return options are under active discussion, NFI distribution should be carefully considered, as households' ability to transport items may be constrained.

The Cluster aims to reach **260,423** displacement-affected people across 24 woredas. To achieve this, at least USD **11.8** million is required to ensure that displacement-affected populations receive adequate protection, close critical gaps, and scale up life-saving shelter and NFI assistance where it is needed most.

To ensure the effective use of limited resources, all partners are strongly encouraged to coordinate closely with sub-national ES/NFI Clusters and align interventions with the latest prioritization guidance.

Geographic Priorities and Response Focus

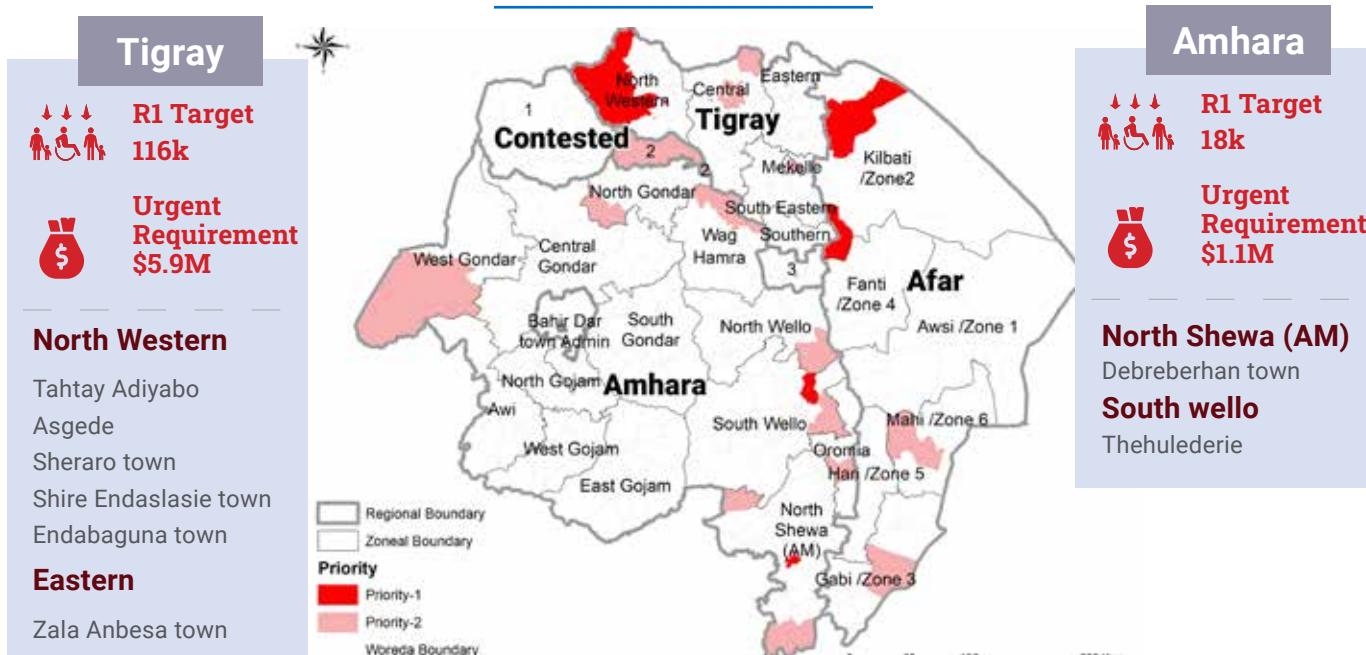
“
Amhara, Afar, and Tigray represent the largest share of Priority-1 and Priority-2 woredas, indicating areas with severe shelter and NFI needs and significantly constrained living conditions requiring timely support.
”

In Amhara, Afar, and Tigray, shelter and NFI needs are primarily driven by existing displacement and return dynamics, rather than large-scale new displacement. These regions account for approximately 56% of the ES/NFI Cluster target for 2026, while also representing around 50% of Priority-1 woredas and 45% of Priority-2 woredas, underscoring their centrality to the overall response.

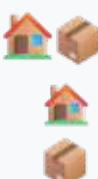
The presence of Priority-1 woredas (Amhara: 2; Afar: 3; Tigray: 6) reflects locations where living conditions among displaced households and returnees are most severe, including prolonged stays in sub-standard shelter, damaged or partially habitable housing, and limited access to essential household items. In these locations, shelter deterioration continues to undermine safety and dignity.

The larger number of Priority-2 woredas in Amhara (10), Afar (2), and Tigray (8) reflects areas where shelter and NFI needs remain significant but comparatively less acute. These locations are characterized by aging shelter infrastructure, depleted household items, and partial recovery, requiring sequenced and context-appropriate support. Overall, the prioritization reflects the need to stabilize living conditions and support return processes, while preventing further deterioration and secondary displacement. The identification of Priority-1 and Priority-2 woredas supports a phased response approach, addressing the most severe shelter and NFI gaps first while maintaining readiness to scale assistance as conditions evolve.

Priority Locations



Recommended Activities



- Integrated Shelter and Essential NFI Kit (Amhara and Tigray Collective Centers and IDP sites)
- Rental Support (Amhara and Tigray)
- Mobility Adapted ESNFI kit



Benishangul, Gambela, Oromia and Somail

“ Prioritized woredas in Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambela, Oromia, and Somali face overlapping displacement and acute shelter gaps, requiring phased, context-driven support. ”

Thirteen woredas across Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambela, Oromia, and Somali Regions are prioritized as Priority 1, demonstrating the convergence of new displacement, prolonged sub-standard living conditions among existing IDPs, and return movements, which continue to drive sustained shelter and NFI needs.

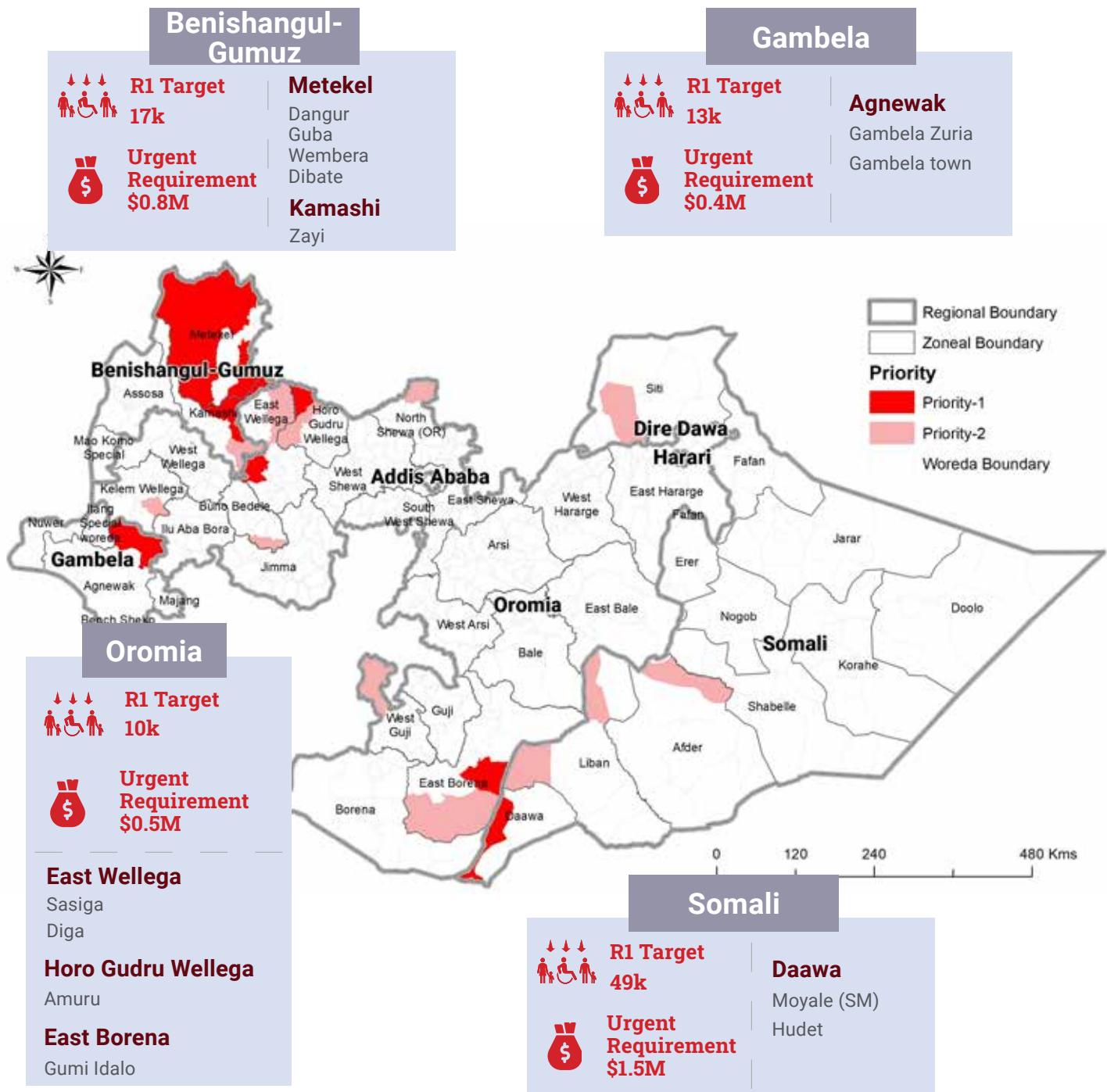
Across these regions, Priority-1 woredas are associated with recent and recurring conflict-related displacement, access constraints, and limited response coverage, resulting in more acute shelter and NFI gaps. Priority-2 woredas reflect areas where needs remain substantial but less immediate, shaped by deteriorating shelter conditions and emerging return-related needs that require sequenced, context-appropriate support.

- ▶ In western Oromia, prioritized woredas include Gida Ayana and Diga (East Wellega) and Jarte Jardega and Abe Dongoro (Horo Gudru Wellega), where displacement and return dynamics linked to insecurity and pressure on host communities continue to impact the displacement-affected population. Along the Somali border, displacement affecting Moyale (Somali) and Hudet (Daawa) has been driven by conflict-related population movements.
- ▶ In Benishangul-Gumuz, prioritized woredas include Dangur, Guba, Wembera, and Dibate (Metekel) and Zayi (Kamashi), where shelter and NFI needs are shaped by insecurity and access constraints linked to instability in neighboring areas. These factors, combined with limited response coverage in recent periods, have resulted in persistent and comparatively under-addressed shelter and household item gaps.
- ▶ In Gambela, Gambela Zuria and Gambela Town (Agnewak) remain prioritized due to recent and recurring conflict-related displacement, which continues to affect community resilience and necessitates both immediate and stabilizing shelter support.



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Priority Locations



Recommended Activities

- Rental Support
(Western Oromia, Gambela, and Benishangul)
- Shelter Repair Kits-Full or Partial
- Mobility Adapted ESNFI kit

ANNEX

Ethiopia ES/NFI Cluster 1st Round 2026

Priority 1 Woredas

Region	Zone	Woreda	2026 Target	R1 Priority Level
Afar	Kilbati /Zone2	Berahile	47,456	Priority-1
Afar	Kilbati /Zone2	Kunneba	6,558	Priority-1
Afar	Kilbati /Zone2	Megale	17,154	Priority-1
Amhara	North Shewa (AM)	Debre Berhan town	24,948	Priority-1
Amhara	South Wello	Thehulederie	7,091	Priority-1
Benishangul-Gumuz	Kamashi	Zayi	9,994	Priority-1
Benishangul-Gumuz	Metekel	Dangur	5,820	Priority-1
Benishangul-Gumuz	Metekel	Dibate	2,793	Priority-1
Benishangul-Gumuz	Metekel	Guba	2,872	Priority-1
Benishangul-Gumuz	Metekel	Wembera	3,561	Priority-1
Gambela	Agnewak	Gambela town	20,430	Priority-1
Gambela	Agnewak	Gambela Zuria	4,057	Priority-1
Oromia	East Borena	Gumi Idalo	2,783	Priority-1
Oromia	East Wellega	Diga	2,666	Priority-1
Oromia	East Wellega	Sasiga	6,716	Priority-1
Oromia	Horo Gudru Wellega	Amuru	3,460	Priority-1
Somali	Daawa	Hudet	44,935	Priority-1
Somali	Daawa	Moyale (SM)	53,684	Priority-1
Tigray	Eastern	Zala Anbesa town	17,839	Priority-1
Tigray	North Western	Asgede	38,304	Priority-1
Tigray	North Western	Endabaguna town	4,278	Priority-1
Tigray	North Western	Sheraro town	42,262	Priority-1
Tigray	North Western	Shire Endaslasie town	75,872	Priority-1
Tigray	North Western	Tahtay Adiyabo	40,967	Priority-1

Priority 2 Woredas

Region	Zone	Woreda	2026 Target	R1 2026 Priority
Afar	Gabi /Zone 3	Hanruka	10,483	Priority-2
Afar	Mahi /Zone 6	Yangudi	11,512	Priority-2
Amhara	North Gondar	Dabat	2,613	Priority-2
Amhara	North Shewa (AM)	Mida Woremo	1,410	Priority-2
Amhara	North Shewa (AM)	Minjar Shenkora	3,731	Priority-2
Amhara	North Shewa (AM)	Shoa Robit	1,251	Priority-2
Amhara	North Wello	Habru	10,491	Priority-2
Amhara	Oromia	Artuma Fursi	9,270	Priority-2
Amhara	South Wello	Argoba	3,505	Priority-2
Amhara	South Wello	Kalu	3,071	Priority-2
Amhara	Wag Hamra	Abergele (AM)	1,540	Priority-2
Amhara	West Gondar	Quara	14,700	Priority-2
Benishangul-Gumuz	Kamashi	Mezniga	5,899	Priority-2

Priority 2 Woredas

Region	Zone	Woreda	2026 Target	R1 2026 Priority
Contested	2	Laelay Tselemti/ Dima	931	Priority-2
Contested	2	May Tsebri town	1,755	Priority-2
Contested	2	Tselemti/ West Telemt	1,170	Priority-2
Contested	3	Alamata town	1,215	Priority-2
Oromia	Buno Bedele	Dedesha	6,323	Priority-2
Oromia	East Borena	Dhas	56,332	Priority-2
Oromia	East Borena	Wachile	16,232	Priority-2
Oromia	East Wellega	Gida Ayana	2,885	Priority-2
Oromia	East Wellega	Kiremu	3,212	Priority-2
Oromia	Horo Gudru Wellega	Abe Dongoro	4,004	Priority-2
Oromia	Horo Gudru Wellega	Jarte Jardega	6,441	Priority-2
Oromia	Kelem Wellega	Hawa Galan	515	Priority-2
Oromia	North Shewa (OR)	Dera (OR)	904	Priority-2
Oromia	West Guji	Abaya	8,852	Priority-2
Oromia	West Guji	Gelana (West Guji)	7,110	Priority-2
Oromia	West Wellega	Nejo town	1,697	Priority-2
Somali	Afder	West Imi	6,733	Priority-2
Somali	Liban	Deka Suftu	11,684	Priority-2
Somali	Liban	Guradamole	11,726	Priority-2
Somali	Siti	Dhunyar	6,480	Priority-2
Somali	Siti	Erer (SM)	24,655	Priority-2
Tigray	Central	Adwa	28,226	Priority-2
Tigray	Central	Axum town	28,104	Priority-2
Tigray	Central	Egela	2,452	Priority-2
Tigray	Eastern	Adigrat town	9,275	Priority-2
Tigray	Mekelle	Adihaki Sub City	3,668	Priority-2
Tigray	Mekelle	Kuiha Sub City	22,415	Priority-2
Tigray	Mekelle	Semen Sub City	20,479	Priority-2

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