



Re-establishing and strengthening ties with Local Governments in Tigray Region



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After two years of ravaging war, the Tigray Regional State's government, represented by the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), and the Federal Government of Ethiopia, reached an Agreement for Lasting Peace through the Permanent Cessation of Hostilities (CoHA). Following the brokering of peace agreements in November of 2022, an interim regional government was established in Tigray. As a result, the political situation in northern Ethiopia is slowly stabilizing. To help support the normalization of conditions in the aftermath of the upheaval, VNG International has been working to re-establish and strengthen ties with local governments in Tigray.

Through our sister organization, the Ethiopian Cities Association (ECA), ties have been re-established with 15 cities in Tigray region. After individual needs collection and contact, the ECA organized a four-day special training program on *Mindset, Municipal Service Delivery, Urban Planning, and Land Management* under our [Uniting Local Governments in Ethiopia \(ULGE\) programme](#). In total, more than 300 regional, zonal, and city leaders and experts attended the training, among which were 15 mayors from all over Tigray region. The participants - mostly new in public office - jointly discussed and adopted a customer-oriented approach to service provision, helping them be more sensitized towards and better respond to the needs of their citizens. ECA helps to provide a platform for dialogue and cooperation, allowing local governments and their partners to come together and share their ideas experiences on how to improve governance and service delivery. After all, the establishment of a more stable and prosperous Ethiopia can only be done together.

Also under our flagship [Ethiopia Social Accountability Programme \(ESAP\)](#), contracts are signed to start implementation in 24 woredas (rural municipalities) in Tigray region as per July 1st 2023. The ESAP programme works on creating an inclusive and participatory process around the development of Service Restoration Plans in the region. These are important, as infrastructure in woredas has been destroyed - and citizens should be able to participate in deciding and planning for development in their region. Two civil society organizations will join our network of 71 Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations through which we improve access to, and quality of, basic services in over 400 municipalities in Ethiopia.



Honorable Mrs. Almaz Gebre Tsadiq, Head of the Tigray Region Interim Administration's Urban and Construction Office, opening the ECA training programme in Mekelle, May 31st, 2023.

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