



HPN4TIGRAY

Health Professionals Network for Tigray

2022
ANNUAL
IMPACT REPORT

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About Us

Health Professionals Network for Tigray (HPN4Tigray) was created in November 2020 in response to the humanitarian crisis caused by the war waged on Tigray, the northernmost region of Ethiopia. **HPN4Tigray is a non-profit, non-religious, and non-partisan organization** composed primarily of volunteers in the diaspora from both medical and non-medical backgrounds. Our members are committed to improving access to **healthcare and addressing the unmet humanitarian needs** of those in Tigray, Ethiopia, and beyond.

Our Vision

We envision a world where everyone has access to healthcare and basic necessities to live a full and productive life.

Our Mission

- ✓ Provide humanitarian assistance and life-saving medical services to underserved populations in Tigray, Ethiopia, and beyond.
- ✓ Help advance access to healthcare and medical training in Tigray through institutional partnership, education, mentorship and advocacy.
- ✓ Lead the way for health professionals and institutions with mutual passions to improve healthcare and exchange expertise in Tigray.



Letter from President and Founder

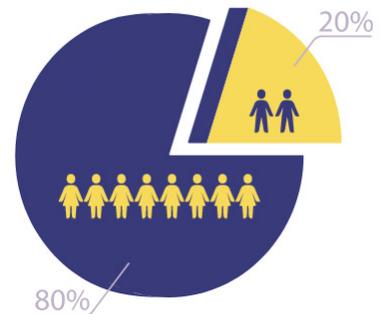
Dr. Rishan Desta

My name is **Rishan**. I am from Tigray. Since the war broke out, the people of Tigray have suffered immensely. It has been over two years of darkness for the innocent civilians in Tigray, with little to no access to food, clean water, banks, communication services, and primarily access to life-saving medical care. As a result, reliable sources have reported that **600,000-800,000 civilians have perished due to lack of health care, starvation, and direct killings.** Over 70,000 people have been forced to flee their homes and seek refuge in neighboring Sudan.



Millions more have been forcibly internally displaced to towns and cities across Tigray that do not have the resources to support them. Despite the most recent peace agreement, the situation in Tigray is still extremely dire, and civilians continue to suffer without unfettered humanitarian access.

Health Professionals Network for Tigray (HPN4Tigray) comprised over **250 volunteer members** with a wide range of skills dedicated to serving the people of Tigray. Our organization's mission is to respond to the unmet health needs during this crisis and contribute to the rebuilding and healing of affected communities.



We remain cautiously hopeful the December 2022 CoHA (Cessation of Hostilities) peace agreement will be implemented and unfettered humanitarian access will be made available to Tigray. As we look forward to the new year, our mission remains the same. By serving the people of Tigray, we hope to contribute to the rebuilding phase of healthcare in Tigray through education, expertise exchange, advocacy, and research.

We thank our dedicated members who have tirelessly worked to help those in need. **HPN4Tigray is open to all persons who believe in the vision and mission of the organization.**

Our Values



2022 Strategic Pillars



PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

Implement programs and initiatives that help meet the unmet health-related needs of Tigrayans.

ADVOCATE

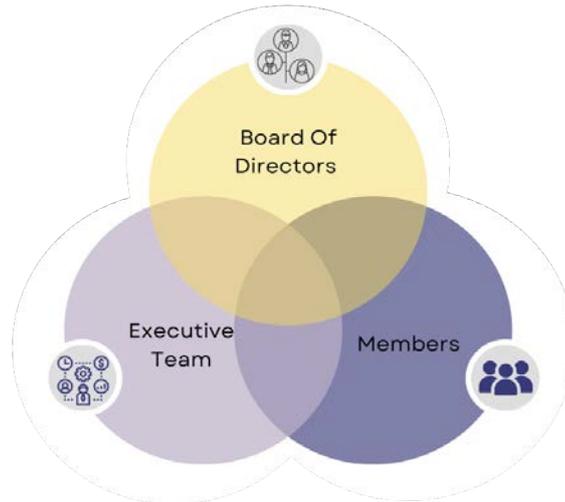
Advocate and raise awareness for Tigray, while communicating how HPN4Tigray works to fill gaps and serve

IMPACT

Develop and maintain internal and external systems to maximize the impact of our programs and functions.



HPN4Tigray's Organizational Structure



Our programs and functions reflect the health needs on the ground, and the teams are tasked with leading projects/initiatives to help address these needs, as well as help implement long-term solutions.

The following are our current **programs and functions**:



Executive Team



Rishan Desta, MD
Founder and President



Semhal Ghessese, MD MPH
Vice President



Betsir Zemen, PhD
Secretary



Frewoini Kidanemariam
Treasurer



Yonas G. Atakilti, MD
Co-Founder & International Liaison



Sela Gebremeskel
Director of Operations

In the midst of a de-facto humanitarian blockade and lack of access to Tigray, HPN4Tigray has been able to lead initiatives to help alleviate the man-made crisis in Tigray. **Marking HPN4Tigray's second anniversary is bittersweet as the siege on Tigray continues to claim lives daily.** For the people of Tigray, these have been over two years of agony. Health providers across Tigray continue to struggle to save lives without the necessary tools at hand and have been speaking up about the plight and suffering of the people they serve. It is our duty to stand with them and help alleviate suffering by providing needed resources and advocating for unfettered humanitarian access.

As we continue to stand in solidarity with those suffering and healthcare professionals in Tigray, **we must fulfill our vision and mission of serving the people of Tigray at large through advocacy, strategic partnerships, and procuring funds, medical equipment, and medicine.** We can help rebuild and heal those who endured unimaginable suffering with our collective commitment and energy.

Year in Review



Emergency Response

Throughout the past year, HPN4Tigray prioritized responding to the critical health needs of the people of Tigray, both in the region and in refugee camps in Sudan. Because of the generosity and tireless efforts of our members, the community at large, allies, and donors, we were able to deliver life-saving medications and medical supplies to Tigray and refugee camps in Sudan. We also led nutritional initiatives and provided cash support to healthcare providers who faced unimaginable circumstances while trying to save lives under a de facto humanitarian blockade. HPN4Tigray's committed members and supporters held multiple successful fundraising events to fund these initiatives and galvanize support for those in dire need.



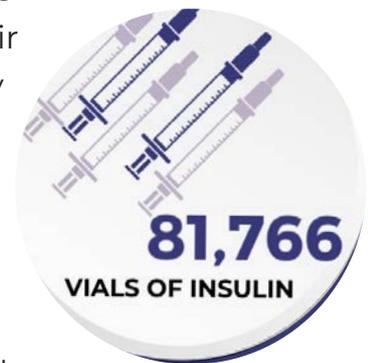
Delivery of Medications and Medical Supplies

Due to the war, destruction of health facilities, and the de facto blockade, the people of Tigray suffered due to the shortage of medications that are critical for survival, such as insulin and antibiotics. Using the most recent opportunity of limited access to Tigray, in December 2022, HPN4Tigray worked with health professionals and INGOs on the ground to purchase and deliver **~\$100,000 worth of medications and medical supplies** based on the needs assessment provided by the Regional Health Bureau.



Insulin Delivery

One of the critical needs our team identified in Tigray at the beginning of the crisis was a shortage of insulin. We received reports of diabetic patients dying or facing complications due to a lack of access to their medication. **In 2021**, we started our initiative to purchase and supply insulin. As a result, HPN4Tigray was able to run a **“3Dollars4Insulin” campaign**, and we **delivered 6,800 vials of insulin** to Tigray. After this initiative, our partner Novo Nordisk (NN), donated 74,966 vials of insulin, which were distributed to referral, general, and primary hospitals in Tigray in May 2022 despite the challenges faced due to the blockade. With the help of NN, the International Committee of The Red Cross (ICRC), and the Danish Red Cross, insulin was distributed across Tigray to those who needed it most.



In our continued efforts to address the lack of insulin in the region, we worked with our team at Ayder Hospital to purchase **\$15,000 worth of insulin with syringes, IV bags of resuscitation fluids, and associated medications in December 2022**. We are thankful to have been able to respond to an urgent call to address critical insulin shortages. HPN4Tigray will continue to find sustainable ways to address these unmet needs and continue working with major donors and partners to address the demands on the ground.

Central Pharmacy and Makeshift Operating Rooms



HPN4Tigray's resource mobilization and medical services team worked with doctors across three refugee camps to complete a needs assessment. They identified unmet needs INGOs could not support, including the provision of medications and medical supplies. This past year HPN4Tigray opened a central pharmacy in Gedaref, near all three camps, and allocated a total of **\$360,000 with a budget of \$50,000-60,000 every three months to procure, restock the pharmacy,** and distribute these medications to these camps based on a need.

Amongst other HPN4Tigray's accomplishments in 2022 is the opening of three makeshift operating rooms in Hasheba Refugee Camp. Our volunteer surgeons, nurses, and surgical techs lead these makeshift operating rooms on the ground. They provide services such as emergency surgical care, tending to acute injuries and wound care, emergency c-section, and dental extraction amongst other ailments. As of December 2022, HPN4Tigray was able to allocate funds to continue supplying anesthesia medications and surgical equipment to the camp.



Teame Teklaihamanot, a member from the organization "It Stops With Us" which combats HIV/AIDS had this to say:

Delivery of Medications and Medical Supplies

In 2022, we secured a partnership with the Supply Overseas Organization (SOS). With SOS, **we shipped \$200,000 worth of medical and nutritional supplies to refugee camps in Sudan.** These medical supplies were a generous contribution from SOS, and **HPN4Tigray allocated close to \$22,922** to cover shipping and container costs. A 40-foot high cube container was loaded on May 18, 2022, shipped to Port Sudan on June 3, 2022 and arrived on August 10, 2022.



The shipment included pallets of medical supplies for urology, anesthesia, general surgery, orthopedics, personal protective equipment, gloves, and more. It also contained **36 boxes of Nutri-Plenty meals (fortified rice), amounting to more than 7,000 meals.** As HPN4Tigray focuses on serving our people in Sudan's refugee camps, we greatly appreciate our partnership with SOS. This contribution has provided immediate relief to the many without proper, life-saving medical care.

Wellness & Mental Health Services

Adult and Children Psychoeducational Curriculum



HPN4Tigray's Mental Health & Community Wellness is a subgroup focused on creating initiatives to promote the overall well-being and mental health of Tigrayans, particularly those in Sudanese refugee camps. At HPN4Tigray, we place great importance on mental health and understand that it plays a crucial role in the healing process. That is why we are dedicated to spreading this message among the people of Tigray. To effectively work through the mental and emotional challenges faced by individuals of all ages in our community, we have been committed to providing coping mechanisms and expert support to aid in healing, rebuilding, and improving self-respect, critical social skills, and addressing traumatic experiences and the loss of loved ones.



The Opening of Wellness & Education Center

To meet the mental health needs described above, it is with great pride that we announce the construction of the HPN4Tigray and ECDC Wellness and Education Center and have begun providing mental health services. Funded by HPN4Tigray members, allies, and donors, in partnership with Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC), the **center is located in the Tenedba refugee camp, where close to 25,000 people reside.** The center has a large library, activity room, arts and crafts room, four classrooms, and storage. We have allocated a total of approximately **\$53,000 to build and maintain.** The center will continue to provide services revolving around educational betterment, youth engagement services, and support mechanisms for CRSV survivors. Our Mental Health and Wellness team designed a rigorous trauma-informed psychoeducation curriculum to be offered at the Wellness Center. They have trained counselors who will facilitate trauma-informed psychosocial support to women and children in the camp.

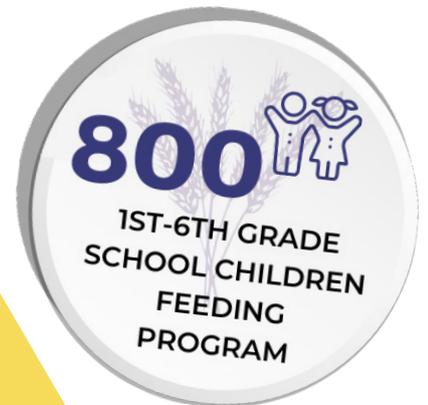


We express the utmost gratitude and admiration for the Mental Health and Wellness leadership team. We have also partnered with Tigray Disaster Relief Fund (TDRF) to continue addressing the mental health needs of our people in Sudan and to heal our youth during this time of extreme need. TDRF has provided **\$5,406 to fund the pilot program of adult and children psychoeducational curricula at the Wellness & Education Center** with the plan to expand to other refugee camps and implement best practices in Tigray.

Nutritional Initiatives in Tigray and Sudan

Maedot School Feeding Program

HPN4Tigray's Women and Children's Health subgroup is committed to improving women's and children's medical and nutritional needs in Tigray and the refugee camps in Sudan. To this effect, HPN4Tigray works closely with our sister organization on the ground in Tigray, Maedot Aid Organization, spearheading nutritional care project for 800 school children in 1st through 6th grades who are now returning to school for the first time in almost three years. This initiative will ensure the provision of nutritious to mitigate the devastating impacts of malnutrition in childhood. To implement this project, we are powered by our partner Tigrayan Youth Association Victoria (TYAV), which has contributed **\$15,471.97** to the Maedot School Feeding program. Another generous contributor is Dr. Scholl, who contributed **\$10,000** to the school feeding program. This program is dedicated to improving primary school children's health and nutrition status and providing a nutritious meal for each student before the first period of class.





A Dollar A Day to Save A Child

A Dollar A Day to Save a Child project aims to prevent acute malnutrition and childhood diseases in one of the refugee camps. One dollar a day, or thirty dollars per month, provides families (primarily single mothers) with the necessary resources to purchase nutritious meals or buy sanitary products such as a comb and soap to prevent diseases such as scabies. HPN4Tigray allocated **initial funding of \$25,000 towards this nutritional initiative**, and we recently completed our pilot program, located in Tenedba Refugee Camp, which served **150 participants**. Of these participants, **113 are children under age 18, and 37 are women and mothers**. We created an assessment tool that will help register the measurement of the mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) of children and women and determine edema in children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM). The 6-month assessment shows that **112 out of 113 children** supported by our program exceeded the **MUAC of $\geq 12\text{cm}$ (Healthy)**. The Dollar A Day program plans to increase the number of participants and identify ways to make the initiative more sustainable. In addition, we are looking into expanding to other refugee camps.

We qualified for a grant worth **\$2500 from REALITY Microgrant** with our 6-month assessment evaluation and an impact report.

Supporting Health Professionals on the Ground

Despite the unimaginable circumstances, our colleagues on the ground continue to show up to serve the people of Tigray day in and day out.

Through institutions like Ayder Specialized Referral Hospital (Ayder) or organizations such as Maedot Aid, health professionals continue to provide care and support to vulnerable populations, including women and children who are gravely affected by the war and blockade.



To support their efforts and help preserve Tigray's healthcare human resources, we raised and sent **\$50,000** to Tigray thanks to our members, generous donors, and allies of HPN4Tigray. Funds were allocated to health providers who have yet to receive their salaries in close to two years within both Maedot Charity organization and Ayder referral hospital, where **\$20,000 was used to support residents and interns who reside on campus and are the backbone of the hospital.** The remaining **\$30,000** was allocated to Maedot, which was disbursed as a cash stipend to support health professionals from all corners of Tigray but currently serving different health posts or within this volunteer organization to care for the people of Tigray in any capacity.



Fundraising Initiatives

Emergency Fundraising Campaign



As the impact of the war and the de facto blockade continued to claim civilian lives, we continued to receive requests to support the supply of urgently needed **medications and medical supplies both in Tigray and Sudan**. To this effect, we designed a phased fundraising campaign with phases I and II to address urgent medical needs in Tigray and Sudan, where we raised **\$300,000**. We have allocated a total of **\$200,000 towards purchasing medications deemed critical by the Tigray Regional Health Bureau (TRHB)**. We have also **allocated \$110,000 towards restocking the pharmacy and purchasing anesthesia and surgical equipment for our makeshift ORs**.



Feed the Famine Gala - Mesob Restaurant

To continue **funding nutritional as well as women and children's health-related initiatives**, Mesob Restaurant hosted their "Feed the Famine Gala" in Denver, Colorado. The event was led by one of our dedicated subgroup leaders. It was a successful fundraising event and a beautiful and touching evening where we used the opportunity to raise awareness about the plight of the people of Tigray. Thank you to all who attended in person and those who contributed to the event; we were able to fundraise close to **\$15,000**. All proceeds were earmarked for nutrition-related HPN4Tigray projects.

Thank you once more to Mesob Restaurant, all the attendees, volunteers, and especially our subgroup lead, Kessanet Negash, who made this happen!



Chicago Chefs Cook for Tigray

On September 21, 2022, Chef Tigist Reda Demera Restaurant Chicago owner hosted the yearly HPN4Tigray Gala. A group of 30 amazing chefs from 24 Chicago restaurants came together to **raise awareness and stand with humanity to address the humanitarian crisis in Tigray.**



The night was filled with chef-curated stations, performances, a marketplace to purchase merchandise, great conversations, and more. Thanks to the generosity of our allies and the Tigrayan community in Chicago, we raised **\$122,626**. Thanks to the gracious donation of The National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts & Culture space, 100% of the proceeds from the dinner went a great distance to **help us provide needed humanitarian assistance especially for the women and children who endured the brunt of this war.**

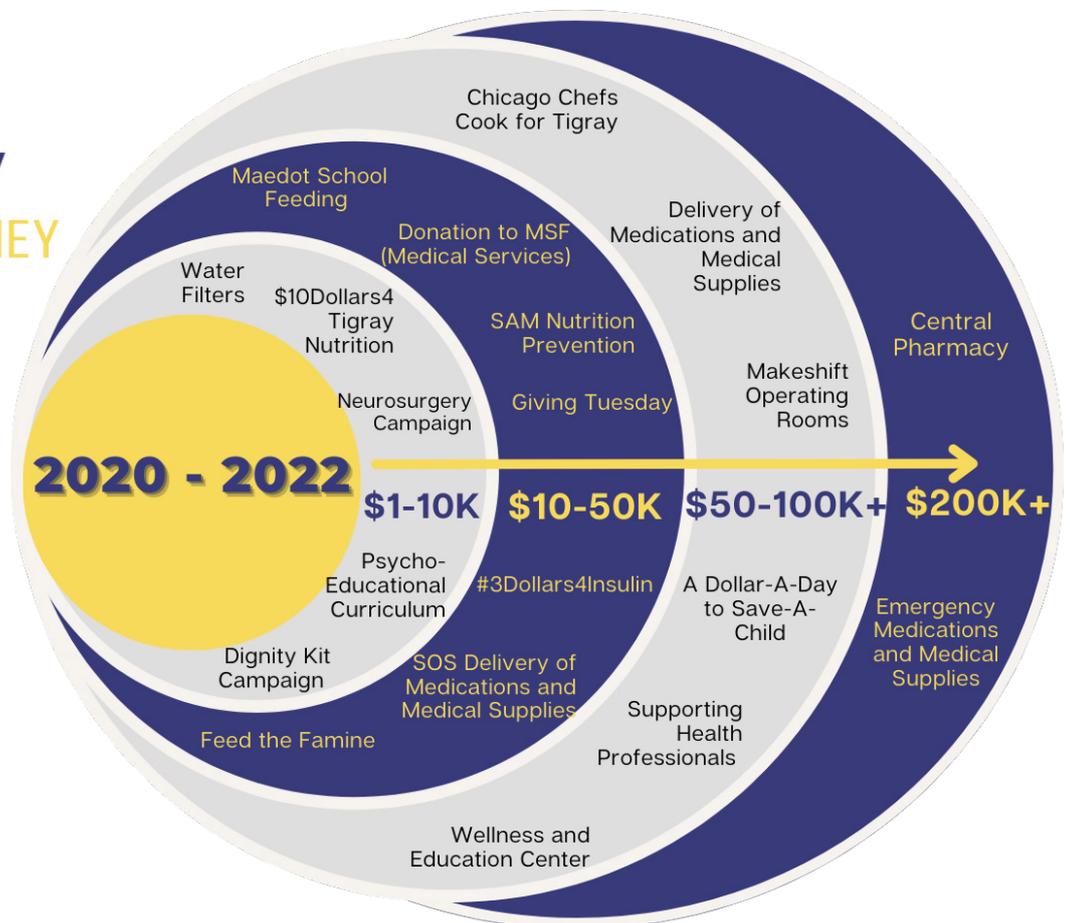
Advocacy

HPN4Tigray combines allyship-building, innovative technology, and stakeholder management to advocate for humanitarian response and amplify the voices of the people of Tigray. Our advocacy program partners with our communications function to run social media-based advocacy campaigns, such as when we stood with healthcare workers from Tigray's largest referral hospital for the #SaveAyder campaign. We also continue to advocate based on specific health challenges, including producing infographics and educational videos to raise awareness. Lastly, our advocacy team members and doctors regularly meet with policymakers and other stakeholders, including United States Congressional offices, USAID, and the State Department. **We brief stakeholders and government officials on the humanitarian situation in Tigray and urge for passing key legislation to foster peace and end the humanitarian crisis in Ethiopia.** Thank you to all who have contributed to and attended various meetings, participated in and amplified our campaigns, and been a voice for the silenced people of Tigray.

2022 Collaborators and Key Contributors who helped HPN4Tigray touch the lives of so many in Tigray and Beyond.

- ✓ Ayder Referral Hospital
- ✓ Chicago Chefs Cook for Tigray
- ✓ Demera Restaurant in Chicago
- ✓ Salesians of Don Bosco - Adwa
- ✓ Dr. Scholl Foundation
- ✓ ECDC
- ✓ Haben Tigray
- ✓ Hdrina Charity Association
- ✓ Horn Broadcasting Services Inc.
- ✓ International Society For Better Health Access
- ✓ Konjo by Design
- ✓ Maedot Aid
- ✓ Make Injera Not War
- ✓ Medical Ministries International
- ✓ Mesob Restaurant in Denver
- ✓ Perth Community
- ✓ Pledges
- ✓ Shop Bahrina
- ✓ Supplies Over Seas (SOS)
- ✓ Tigray Disaster Relief Fund (TDRF)
- ✓ The Paramount Group
- ✓ Tigist Reda
- ✓ Tigray Action Committee
- ✓ Tigray Development Association (TDA)
- ✓ Tigrayan Youth Association Victoria (TYAV)
- ✓ Te'Shelima Jewelry
- ✓ Wayfarer Foundation

HPN4TIGRAY GROWTH JOURNEY



Financials at a Glance

January - December 2022



\$805,261.96

Total Donations & Contributions



\$691,112.64

Contributions Towards Programs



\$86,594.09

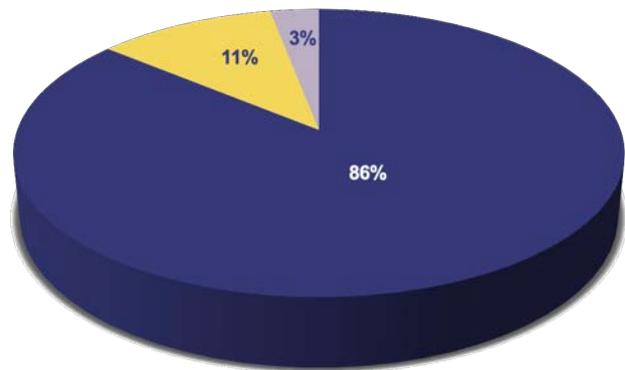
Business Operating Expenses



\$27,555.23

Net Cash

- Contributions Towards Programs
- Business Operating Expenses
- Net Cash



Income	Total	
Total Donations & Contributions	\$	805,261.96
Total Income	\$	805,261.96
Expenses		
Contributions Towards Programs	\$	691,112.64
Contractors & Consultants	\$	64,902.00
Other Operating Expenses	\$	21,692.09
Total Expenses	\$	777,706.73
Net Income**	\$	27,555.23

** \$27,555.23 does not reflect what we have in our reserves. In addition to \$27,555.23 we maintain reserves from prior years that allow us to respond immediately to a crisis without having to wait for an appeal. The use of HPN4Tigray funds is tightly controlled and the audited financial reports are available upon request.

Impact at a Glance



\$567,765

Delivery of medications and medical supplies



\$13,906

Mental Health Wellness



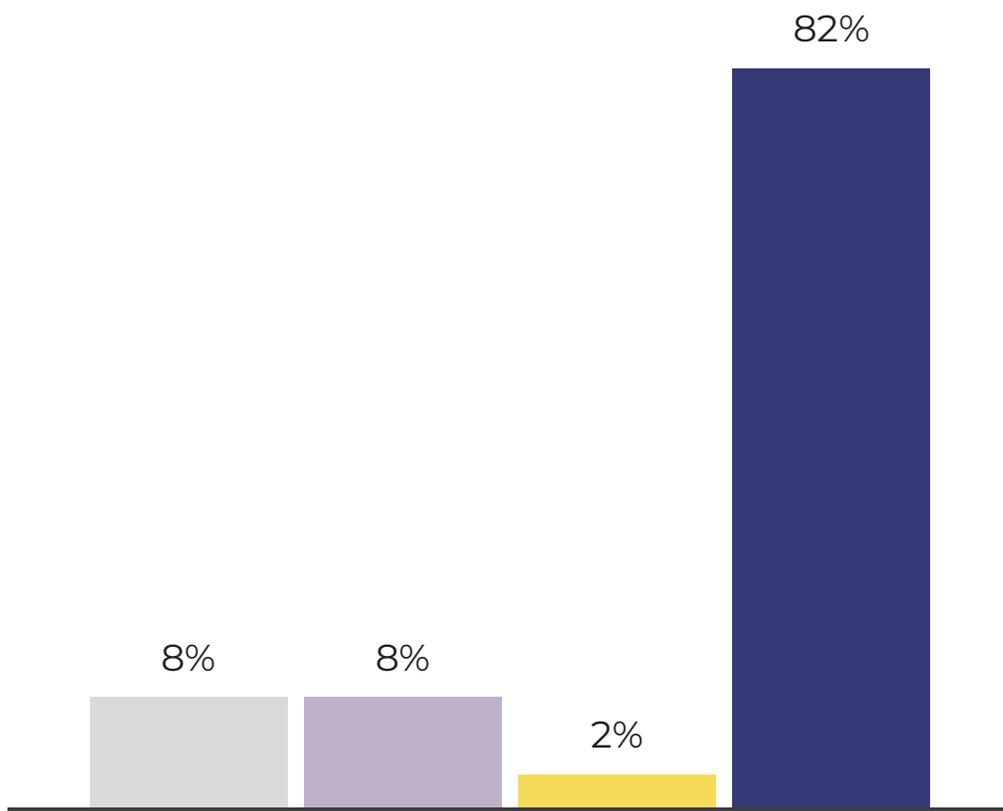
\$57,179

Nutrition



\$52,263

Supporting Medical Professionals in Tigray



- Delivery of medications and medical supplies
- Mental Health Wellness
- Nutrition
- Supporting Medical Professionals



HOW TO HELP HPN4TIGRAY MAKE AN IMPACT

Become a one-time or sustaining contributor via **our website**
hpn4tigray.org/donate

We're proud to announce that we earned our **2023 Platinum Seal** with
[@CandidDotOrg!](https://www.candid.com/)

Email info@hpn4tigray.org to join us!

Follow us on our socials!

 **@HPN4Tigray**
7,688 followers

 **@HPN4Tigray**
3,402 followers

 **@HPN4Tigray**
2,400 followers

 **@hpn4tigray841**
160 followers

 **Health Professionals Network for Tigray**
415 followers



THANK YOU

Hiyab, 6, Tigray



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