

INFORMATION SHEET

Study Title: Crisis-attributable population mortality in Tigray: A web-based, respondent-driven sample survey of the global Tigrayan diaspora

Principal Investigator: Professor Francesco Checchi

We would like to invite you to participate in this study being conducted by researchers at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) in the UK. Before you decide whether to take part, we want to clarify why the research is being conducted and what your participation will involve. Please take time to read the following information. You can also get in touch with us if you have further questions. A dedicated web page on the study in Tigrigna and English is available here: <https://tigray-rds.lshtm.ac.uk/en/>

What is the aim of the study?

The aim of this study is to inform the response by humanitarian actors, government stakeholders and civil society in Tigray to current crisis. This study is expected to generate evidence on the extent to which mortality among children and adults has been changing over time in Tigray.

Why have I been asked to take part?

You have been invited to take part in the study by one of your friends, relatives, or colleagues. You have been invited to participate as you have a Tigrayan background, and you reside outside of Tigray. We are seeking to talk to members from the global Tigrayan diaspora and collect information on living and deceased members of their families both in Tigray and abroad. We intend to have a range of Tigrayan participants from different origins in Tigray and countries of current residence.

Do I have to take part?

It is your choice to join this study. If you agree to take part, we will ask you to provide your consent stating that you have read and understood this information sheet and agreed to participate. You will still be free to withdraw at any time during the questionnaire, or even afterwards by getting in touch with us.

What does it mean to participate?

Participation involves completing an online survey about your close family members (i.e., your parents, spouse, siblings, and nieces/nephews). The survey asks for information about each close family member (e.g., gender, age, whether they have died or not, and if so, where and by what means). The survey also includes some questions about the average socio-economic status of your closest family members who are still in Tigray.

After completing the questionnaire, you will also be asked to invite five people from your social network to complete the same survey. You can invite others within your family to take the survey, as long as they are not your children, siblings, parents, nephews, nieces, uncles, or aunts or any of the above from your partner's family.

However, if possible, we would ask you also to share the survey with contacts outside your family with people who have not already participated in the survey. We recommend that you invite five people, but you do not have to.

Are there any risks or benefits for me in taking part in this study?

There is a risk that you may recall events that will make you sad or upset: if for any reason you prefer to stop answering the survey, you are, of course, free to do so. Please find mental health resources on this [webpage](#). There are no real benefits for you from taking part in the study. Still, your information will help raise awareness about the crisis in Tigray and the severity of the humanitarian situation. We hope this will both evidence and improve resource allocation decisions by humanitarian actors. It may also contribute to efforts to resolve the ongoing crisis.

Will my participation be anonymous?

Yes. During the survey will not ask you for any identifying information about yourself or your family members. We will not ask for names or addresses. The survey has been designed to ask for the minimum amount of information to achieve the aim of the study. No one (including members of the study team) will be able to identify you or any of your family members. We will ask you to forward the survey to others; this will also be done anonymously.

All data will be stored securely. Once the study is complete, we will publish the data so that others can replicate our analysis and verify our estimates. The published data will be completely anonymous.

How will study results be used?

Study results will be published in a study report and one or more scientific articles. They will also be presented to researchers and organisations assisting with the humanitarian response in Tigray. We will include a link to the final published report and any other published outputs on this [website](#).

If you or one of your close family members (e.g. parents, spouse, brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews) has already participated in this study, you should not complete the survey. Many thanks!

Principle investigator

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