



American Ethiopian Public Affairs Committee (AEPAC)
Diaspora Survey Results, September 2022

Methodology

Survey:

Timeline: September 2nd – 5th 2022

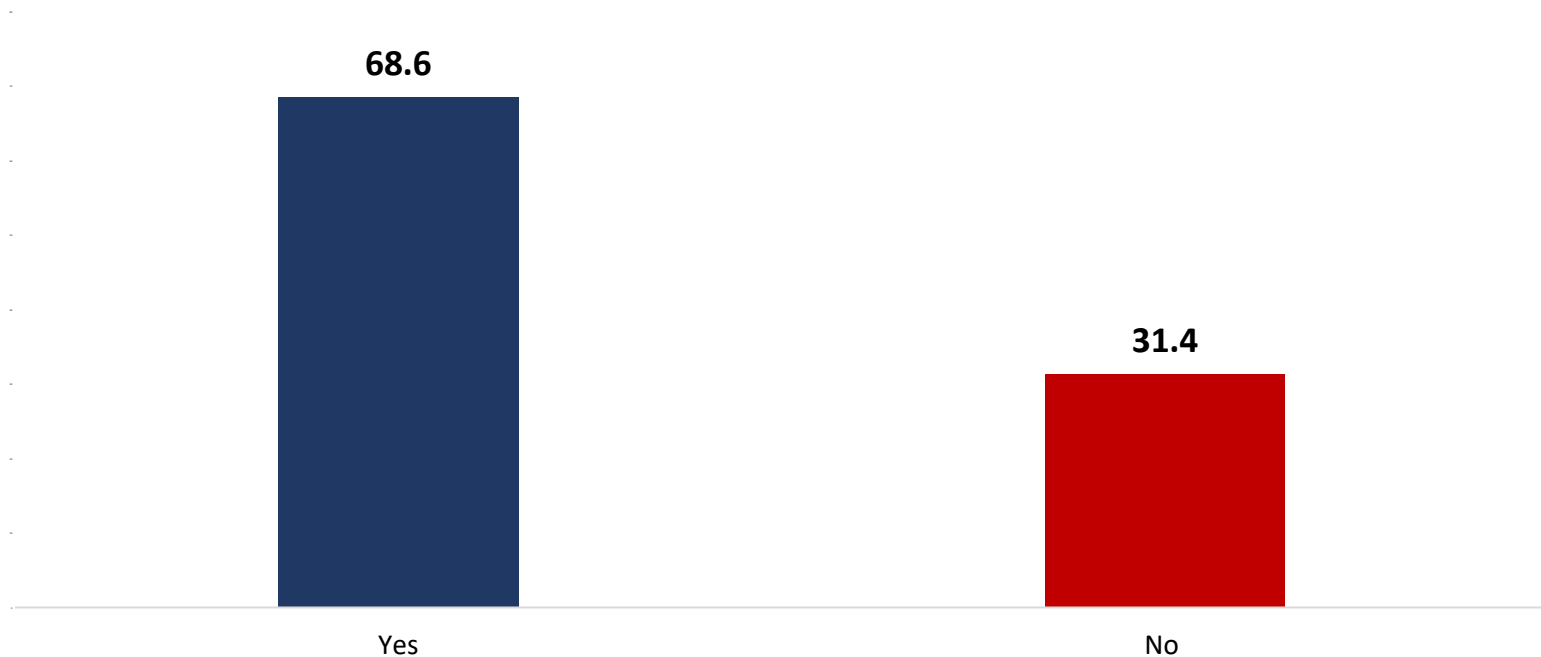
Method: Online Survey

Size of the sample: 1013

Source of participants: Open to all American Ethiopians, sourced via a range of partners and shared widely online.

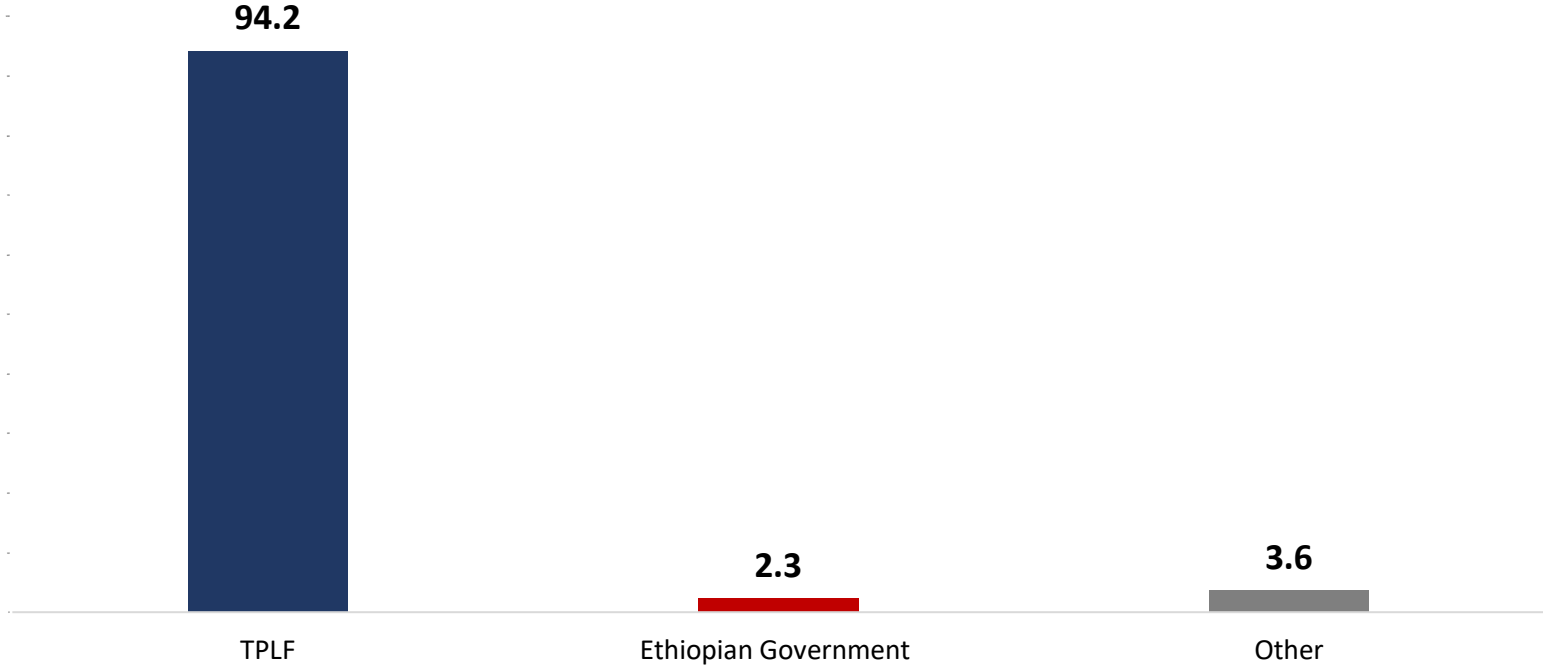
More than two thirds of American Ethiopians have friends or family directly impacted by the fighting in the North of the country.

QUESTION 1: “Do you have friends or family impacted by the fighting in either Afar, Amhara, or Tigray?”



The blame for the renewed fighting in Ethiopia is placed solely on the TPLF in the eyes of the diaspora.

QUESTION 2: “Who do you blame for the restart of hostilities?”



Participants who chose 'other' were invited to comment.
Some examples are below.

QUESTION 2: "Who do you blame for the restart of hostilities?"

"Both sides, the Ethiopian government should call all parties to discuss and resolve the ongoing issues. TPLF should agree with the ceasefire and push for talk. Finally war will not going to resolve Ethiopian complicated issues. Forces or power is not the answer they need to talk."

"I blame TPLF for the restart of hostilities. However, I also truly believe there are third parties (other countries) behind it. The third parties use TPLF as an agent to weaken Ethiopia. Those countries believe they can benefit from establishing a weak Ethiopia to promote their own interest in the region."

"Mainly TPLF. But also other ethnic-minded separatists inside Ethiopia who have given direct or/and indirect support to TPLF; the west especially the EU and US by providing aid, tacit support comfort to TPLF's ultimate desire of dismantling Ethiopia; and other foreign Africa countries who have animosity towards Ethiopia. "

There is no support among the American Ethiopian community for the US, UN or EU to insert itself into any potential peace talks. The only process with support is with the African Union's.

QUESTION 3: "How do you believe the war in Ethiopia should come to an end?"



Participants who chose 'other' were invited to comment. Some examples are below.

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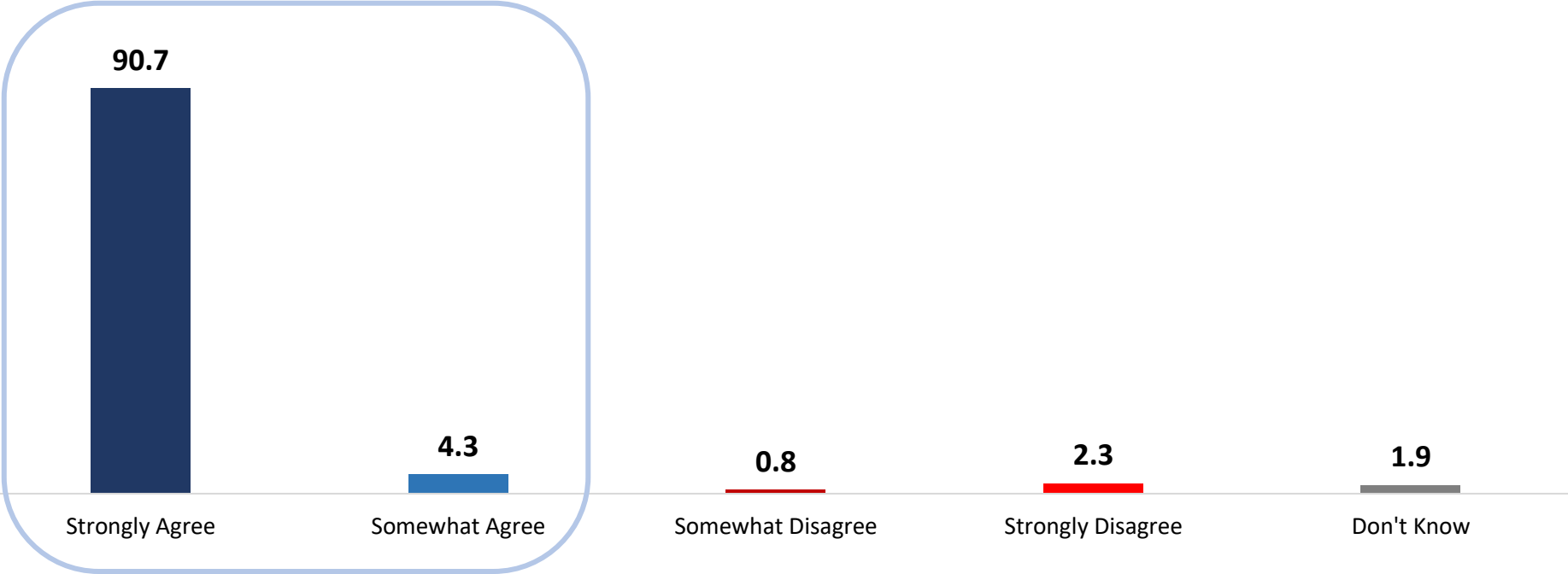
"On both sides, citizens of Ethiopia are dying and paying a price. It is better for both sides to come to peace process. I support the African Union-led peace process. However, based on the history of TPLF, it is very difficult to conclude that everlasting peace will come as a result of peace process without the military defeat of TPLF."

"Ethiopia has different mechanism to solve problems like using Aba Geda, Elders, church leaders. Thus, I suggest solving the problem internally."

"This can't be a one point solution because of the behaviour of TPLF and other involved parties. Plan A: is African Union-led peace process and Plan B: is mobilize the Amhara, Afar and all Ethiopians and defeat the TPLF for good."

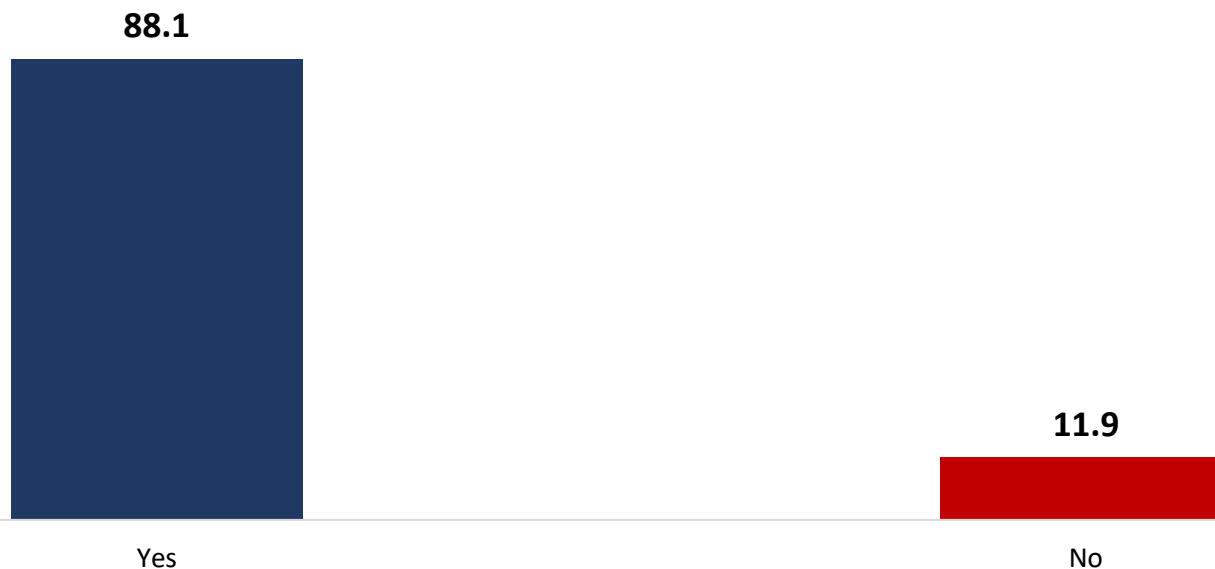
95% of the diaspora believe the time has come for a renewed national unity effort by the Government of Ethiopia to tackle both the TPLF and OLF-Shene groups.

QUESTION 4: “Do you agree with the statement “now is the time for a large-scale mobilization and national unity effort by the Government of Ethiopia to defend the country and its citizens against increasing threats by the TPLF and OLF-Shene?”



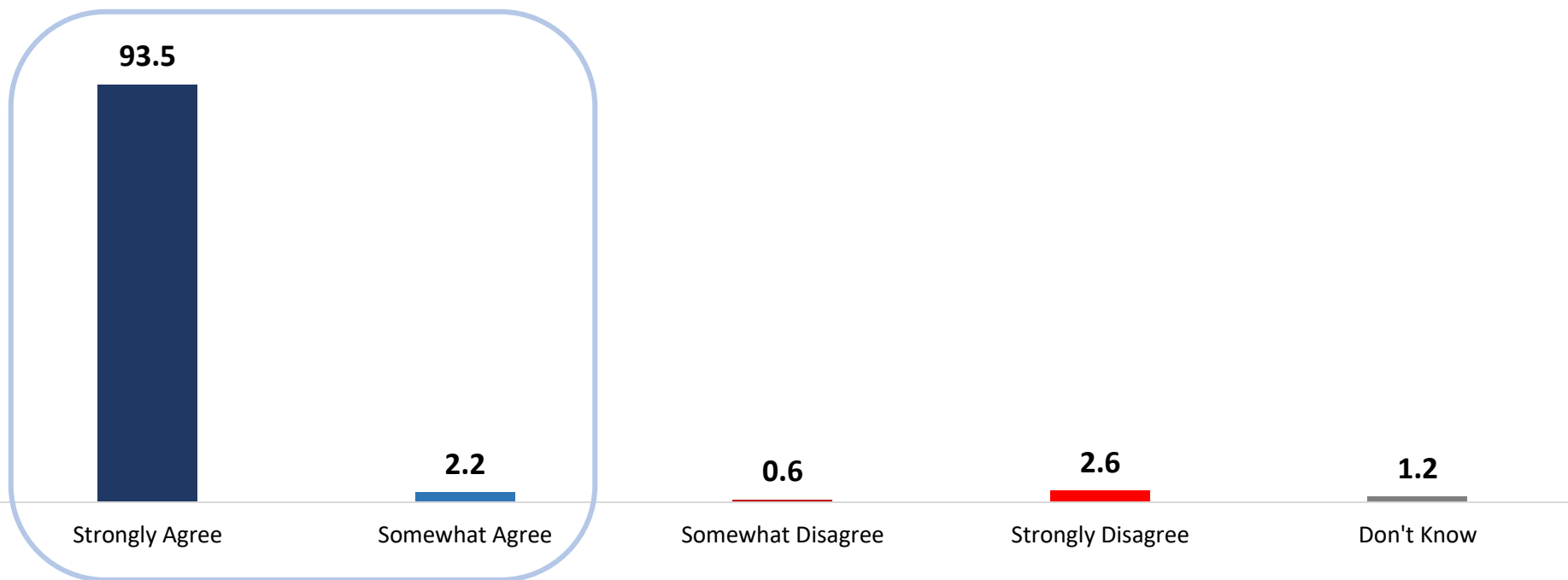
There is overwhelming disappointment among the American Ethiopian community as to how they view the US Government's approach to the war in Ethiopia.

QUESTION 5: "Do you feel let down by the US Government in their policy approach towards Ethiopia?"



95% of survey respondents stated they believe the US Government should send a message signal to the TPLF by condemning their violence.

QUESTION 6: “Do you agree with the statement “The US Government should support the American-Ethiopian community by condemning the TPLF’s violence and call on them to lay down their arms”?”



AEPAC Analysis

The survey results have reaffirmed many of the trends we have witnessed within the American Ethiopian community over the past two years.

- With access to sources on the ground in Ethiopia and having experienced the authoritarian TPLF-led government for 27-years, the American Ethiopian community is clear eyed about the TPLF's role in initiating and prolonging the war.
- While the diaspora would choose peace over conflict, there is concern that as long as the TPLF is an operational fighting force they simply will not engage in meaningful talks, therefore only a military conclusion is possible. However, the African Union peace process does have support, but there is no confidence in the US, EU or UN to conduct a fair mediation.
- There is a desire to see a new national unity campaign by the Government of Ethiopia to mobilize the nation to tackle both the TPLF and OLF-Shene insurgencies.
- There is a deep sense of disappointment in the US Government for its stance on the conflict which has been perceived as favoring the TPLF. There is a view the State Department has failed to scrutinize the actions of the TPLF and has even amplified the group's pretexts for war.
- There is still an opportunity for the US Government to reengage with the American Ethiopian community and to change the current perception, but that is reliant on condemnation of the TPLF and a call for them to lay down their arms.



THANK YOU

We are grateful to all those who participated in the survey. The diaspora has a critical part to play in supporting Ethiopia overcome its current challenges and return to the democratic journey it begun in 2018.

AEPAC will continue to work closely with partners across the United States and around the World to ensure your voice is heard by decision makers and the media.

For more information on our activity, please visit our website: <https://aepact.org/>

