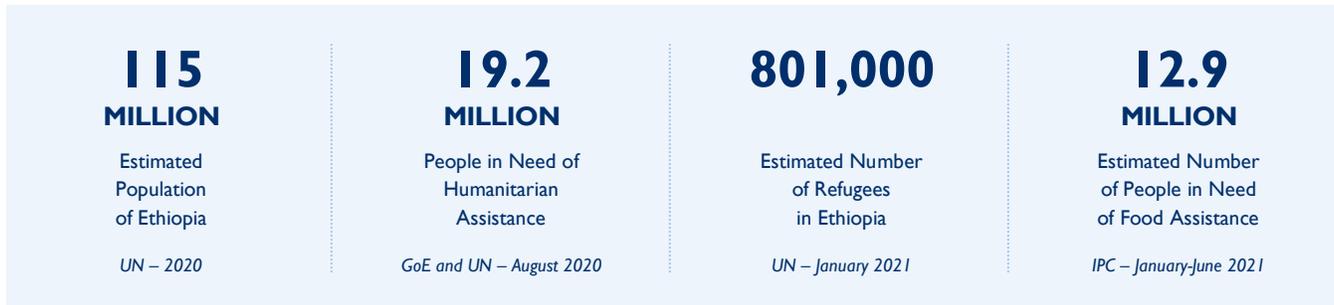


Ethiopia – Complex Emergency

FEBRUARY 19, 2021

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Insecurity in parts of western and southern Ethiopia—including Benishangul-Gumuz Region’s Metekel Zone, Oromiya Region’s West Wollega Zone, and SNNP Region’s Konso Zone—continues to drive widespread displacement and elevated humanitarian needs.
- Nearly 13 million Ethiopians will likely require emergency food assistance through July due to conflict, drought, locust infestations, and COVID-19, according to food security monitors.
- Ethiopian authorities and relief actors completed the first phase of a cholera vaccination campaign in late January, immunizing more than 1.6 million people in Gambella, Oromiya, Sidama, and SNNP regions.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Ethiopia Response in FY 2021	USAID/BHA ¹	\$80,775,265 ²
	State/PRM ³	\$375,000
Total		\$81,150,265⁴

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 5

¹ USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA).
² Humanitarian funding for the complex emergency in Ethiopia includes nearly \$2.1 million for the ongoing desert locust response. For additional information regarding the Ethiopia desert locust response, please refer to the USAID/BHA East Africa Desert Locust Crisis Fact Sheet. For additional information regarding the Tigray Conflict response, please refer to the USAID/BHA Tigray Conflict Fact Sheet.
³ U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM). State/PRM funding in Ethiopia includes assistance to Somali and South Sudanese refugees who are sheltering in Ethiopia, which is also included in the regional U.S Government (USG) response totals for Somalia and South Sudan

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Repeated Attacks Exacerbate Humanitarian Needs in Benishangul-Gumuz

In recent months, escalating non-state armed group attacks against civilians have resulted in a sharp deterioration of security conditions in Metekel, prompting widespread displacement and increasing humanitarian needs in the zone, relief actors report. Between July 2020 and January 2021, armed group attacks resulted in at least 500 civilian deaths, with a December 23 attack accounting for more than 200 of the fatalities, according to the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC). Additionally, insecurity in Metekel had cumulatively displaced nearly 180,000 people—more than 30 percent of the zone’s population—as of late January, with approximately 100,000 people displaced in Metekel’s Bullen, Dibate, Guba, Mandura, and Wombera *woredas*, or districts, more than 77,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) sheltering in neighboring Amhara Region’s Awi Zone, and approximately 1,300 Ethiopian refugees sheltering in Sudan’s Blue Nile State, according to the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) and the UN. Relief actors report food, health, nutrition, protection, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) needs in Metekel have significantly increased due to the insecurity, particularly among newly displaced populations and host community households.

In response, the GoE, Benishangul-Gumuz regional authorities, and other relief actors have provided limited humanitarian assistance, including food, medication, and relief commodities—such as blankets, kitchen sets, and mosquito nets—to displaced populations since July, though significant insecurity-related access constraints are hindering the expansion of humanitarian operations. Frequent non-state armed group attacks along major roads in Metekel have reduced humanitarian organizations’ ability to deploy staff and provide assistance to IDPs and other conflict-affected populations, according to the UN. On January 21, the GoE declared a state of emergency in Metekel due to ongoing insecurity and has used armed escorts to support the delivery of humanitarian assistance in the zone. Additionally, some relief actors are negotiating for independent access to conflict-affected populations, the UN reports. As of late January, some relief actors had relocated from Metekel’s Gelgel Beles town to Awi’s Chagni town, where security conditions are more stable and displaced populations are accessible, though humanitarian needs remain high.

Continued Insecurity Endangers Civilians, Humanitarian Access in Oromiya

Clashes between GoE security forces and non-state armed groups, as well as intercommunal tensions, continue to generate civilian casualties and restrict humanitarian access in several areas of western Oromiya. On November 2, unidentified armed actors attacked West Wollega’s Guliso *woreda*, resulting in approximately 50 civilian deaths and displacing an estimated 200 households, according to the EHRC and Amnesty International. In a separate incident on December 15, unidentified armed actors attacked multiple communities in West Wollega and nearby Goro Guduru Wollega Zone, resulting in approximately 20 civilian deaths and displacing an unknown number of people. Between April and mid-September 2020, the UN recorded more than 240 incidents involving armed clashes in western Oromiya, resulting in frequent interruptions and delays to humanitarian assistance for approximately 153,000 people in Oromiya’s East and West Wollega Zones.

Relief Actors Highlight Significant Humanitarian Needs in SNNP

In late December, two humanitarian needs assessments by relief actors and the Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples (SNNP) Region Disaster Risk Management Bureau identified significant unmet food needs due to conflict-related displacement and widespread destruction and looting of crops in SNNP’s Konso Zone and neighboring Alle, Burji, and Derashe *woredas*, where heightened insecurity

displaced more than 157,000 people and resulted in an unknown number of civilian casualties in November and December, according to the UN. According to the assessments, an estimated 92,000 people in Konso and Alle will likely require additional food assistance from January to June due to conflict-related displacement and widespread destruction and looting of crops. In addition, health, nutrition, protection, and WASH remain priority needs for IDPs in the area. Following completion of the assessments, clashes resulted in further displacement in January, likely exacerbating humanitarian needs among conflict-affected populations in Konso and surrounding *woredas*, relief actors report.

Nearly 13 Million People Expected to Require Food Assistance Through July

Approximately 12.9 million people in Ethiopia will likely face Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity and require emergency food assistance through July due to the impact of conflict, coronavirus disease (COVID-19) mitigation measures, drought, and desert locust infestations, according to a recent Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis.⁵ Additionally, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) anticipates that below average February–to–May *belg* rains will likely reduce crop production and livestock productivity across much of eastern Amhara, central and eastern Oromiya, and southern Tigray regions, further exacerbating food insecurity among vulnerable households in the coming months.

The GoE has lifted many COVID-19 mitigation measures across Ethiopia, including movement restrictions and curfews. However, economic activity in many areas of the country remains below pre-pandemic levels, negatively impacting poor households' income and ability to access food, particularly in urban areas. Meanwhile, depreciation of Ethiopia's currency and reduced remittance flows—an important source of income for households that purchase food from markets—are also eroding the purchasing power of vulnerable populations countrywide, according to the latest IPC analysis. Conflict remains a primary driver of food insecurity in several regions, particularly in northern Ethiopia's Tigray Region, where conflict has severely limited agricultural activities, disrupted markets, and caused widespread displacement since November 2020. As such, populations in most areas of central and eastern Tigray will likely face Emergency—IPC 4—conditions through May, IPC and FEWS NET report.

Relief Actors Launch Cholera Vaccination Campaign Amid Rising Cases

Health actors recorded nearly 11,000 suspected and confirmed cases of cholera and 210 related deaths in Ethiopia's Afar, Gambella, Oromiya, Sidama, and SNNP regions during 2020, representing a more than 300 percent increase compared to the approximately 2,600 cases reported in those regions during 2019, according to the UN. Overall, health actors have recorded approximately 18,000 cholera cases across Ethiopia since the start of the current outbreak in April 2019. Flooding, underdeveloped WASH infrastructure, poor sanitation practices, and COVID-19 movement restrictions—which temporarily disrupted the distribution of health and WASH assistance in recent months—are among the main factors contributing to heightened cholera transmission, according to the UN.

To protect vulnerable populations from cholera and mitigate future spread of the disease, the Ethiopian Public Health Institute—a GoE agency—and other health actors, including the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) recently launched an oral cholera vaccination campaign in areas of Afar, Gambella, Oromiya, Sidama, and SNNP affected by the outbreak, reaching approximately 1.6 million people as of late January. Health actors plan to provide follow-up vaccine doses in the same *woredas* in the coming weeks, while continuing to implement a variety of other health interventions including disease surveillance, case management, community engagement, water testing and treatment, and latrine construction.

⁵ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a multi-partner initiative that developed a standardized scale to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries and time, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5—for acute food insecurity.

KEY FIGURES



10 Million

People Supported
Monthly Through USG
emergency food
assistance



7

Number of USG
implementing partners
providing health
programming



17

Number of USG
implementing partners
providing WASH
programming



8

Number of USG
implementing partners
providing nutrition
programming

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

In response to acute food needs across Ethiopia, USAID/BHA is supporting the UN World Food Program (WFP) and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) Catholic Relief Services (CRS), International Rescue Committee, and Save the Children to provide emergency food commodities—including U.S.-sourced cereals, pulses, and vegetable oil—to Ethiopia's most vulnerable families. USAID/BHA partners also provide cash transfers to food-insecure households across the country, enabling them to purchase food from local markets. With more than \$57.9 million in FY 2021 funding to date, USAID/BHA partners are reaching approximately 10 million people in Ethiopia with food assistance on a monthly basis.

HEALTH

USAID/BHA supports International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNICEF, and 4 NGOs to improve access to health care services across Ethiopia. Often integrated with nutrition and WASH programming, USAID/BHA provides medical supplies, supports health units, and trains community health workers to support urgent health needs. In addition, State/PRM partners, including the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and NGOs, support essential health interventions for refugees, asylum-seekers, and other vulnerable populations in Ethiopia.

WASH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM fund the provision of critical WASH assistance throughout Ethiopia to improve access to safe drinking water and prevent outbreaks of communicable diseases, such as cholera. With USAID/BHA support, IOM, UNICEF, and 14 NGO partners are conducting hygiene awareness sessions, rehabilitating water systems, and providing safe drinking water to IDPs and other people in need. In addition, State/PRM is supporting UNHCR to implement WASH activities that assist refugees sheltering across the country, including those fleeing Eritrea, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan.

NUTRITION

USAID/BHA partners are leading efforts to prevent and treat acute malnutrition across Ethiopia. Working through UNICEF, WFP, and 6 NGO implementing partners, USAID/BHA supports community- and evidence-based programs aimed at decreasing malnutrition-related morbidity and mortality by strengthening prevention efforts, as well as the identification and treatment of acute malnutrition, particularly among children and pregnant and lactating women. USAID/BHA partners have continued to provide malnutrition prevention and treatment services during Ethiopia's ongoing COVID-19 outbreak, which has coincided with a notable increase in severe acute malnutrition cases as populations face multiple crises.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Populations in Ethiopia frequently experience recurrent drought, seasonal flooding, intercommunal conflict, food insecurity, pest and disease outbreaks, and limited access to health and WASH services, contributing to sustained humanitarian needs and an ongoing complex emergency. USG humanitarian assistance is designed to remain flexible and respond to needs as they arise, providing support to crisis-affected populations across the country.
- From 2015 to 2016, the former USAID Office of Food for Peace and Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance responded to Ethiopia's worst drought in more than 50 years, which resulted in at least 10.2 million people requiring emergency food assistance. In 2017, drought conditions in previously less-affected pastoral areas of southeastern Ethiopia intensified after consecutive seasons of below-average rainfall, decreasing livestock herd sizes and impacting access to food and livelihoods opportunities.
- Localized intercommunal conflicts throughout 2018 exacerbated humanitarian needs and prompted widespread displacement in Ethiopia, with approximately 2.8 million people displaced internally by late 2018—the highest number of IDPs in any country for the year. In May 2019, the GoE initiated a process to return IDPs to prior areas of residence across the country, despite ongoing security concerns. Conflict incidents and related displacement have continued through February 2021. Humanitarian organizations are responding to the acute needs of IDPs and returnees across the country as access and security conditions allow.
- On November 17, 2020, U.S. Ambassador to Ethiopia Michael A. Raynor redeclared a disaster for FY 2021 due to the complex emergency in Ethiopia.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE ETHIOPIA RESPONSE IN FY 2021¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
ECC-SCDO-Harar	WASH	Oromiya	\$400,000
International Potato Center (IPC)	Agriculture and Food Security	Amhara, Oromiya, SNNP	\$2,100,000
Priority Worldwide Services	Transportation - Disaster Site	Countrywide	\$2,037,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,200,000
WFP	Food Assistance—Local, Regional, and International Procurement (LRIP), Cash Transfers for Food, Nutrition, Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practice	Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, Oromiya, Somali, Tigray	\$75,000,000
	Program Support		\$38,265
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$80,775,265
STATE/PRM			
UNHCR	Multi-sectoral assistance	Countrywide	\$375,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$375,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE ETHIOPIA RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$81,150,265

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of February 19, 2021.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [interaction.org](https://www.interaction.org).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [cidi.org](https://www.cidi.org)
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://www.reliefweb.int).

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)