

Ethiopia – Complex Emergency

SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

115 MILLION	23.8 MILLION	795,108	12.9 MILLION	7.1 MILLION
Estimated Population of Ethiopia	Estimated People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in Ethiopia	Number of Refugees in Ethiopia	Estimated People in Need of Emergency Food Assistance	Estimated People in Need of Nutrition Assistance
<i>UN – December 2020</i>	<i>UN – February 2021</i>	<i>UNHCR – August 2021</i>	<i>IPC – January–June 2021</i>	<i>UN – February 2021</i>

- The food emergency in Ethiopia is projected to persist through January 2022 due to conflict, drought conditions, and poor macroeconomic conditions.
- Conflict, insecurity, and extreme weather continue to generate population displacement, with an estimated 4.2 million people displaced across Ethiopia as of July.
- Desert locust breeding is underway in northern Ethiopia, with locust swarms expected to migrate northward and eastward to nearby regions and countries in October.
- With USAID/BHA support, the CRS-led JEOP reached more than 3.3 million individuals with food assistance and WFP distributed nearly 276,000 MT of food assistance from May to September.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the Ethiopia Response in FY 2021

USAID/BHA^{1,2} \$828,068,229

State/PRM³ \$191,588,028

Total \$1,019,656,257

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 more than \$461 million for the Northern Ethiopia crisis response and nearly \$5.8 million for the desert locust response. For additional information regarding the Tigray crisis response, please refer to the USAID/BHA Northern Ethiopia Crisis Fact Sheet

³ Total U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (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

Food Emergency to Continue Through January Due to Conflict, Low Rainfall

Widespread food insecurity is projected to persist across Ethiopia through at least January 2022 as a result of consecutive poor rainy seasons, ongoing conflict, and deteriorating macroeconomic conditions, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). Below-average and erratic rainy seasons across Ethiopia in late 2020 and early 2021 reduced pasture and water availability and resulted in poor crop harvests, affecting households reliant on livestock and agricultural activities for income and food supply. Compounding the adverse effects of poor rainy seasons on agropastoral households, conflict continues to displace populations, disrupt local market access, obstruct food production, and foster poor macroeconomic conditions. Inflation reached nearly 25 percent in June, an increase from nearly 20 percent in May; the June inflation rate represents the highest year-on-year inflation rate since 2016. Similarly, decreased agricultural production has limited supplies of staple foods, increasing food prices countrywide. In Ethiopia's capital city of Addis Ababa, maize prices in June were 80 percent higher than the five-year average, FEWS NET reports.

Relatedly, countrywide malnutrition admissions for severe wasting, a life-threatening form of malnutrition, across Ethiopia—excluding those in Tigray Region, which are measured and reported separately—increased nearly 20 percent between June 2020 and June 2021, with southwestern Ethiopia's Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' (SNNP) Region reporting a more than 80 percent increase—the largest increase of any region, according to an August-issued Ethiopia Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (ENCU) update. Benishangul-Gumuz and Somali regions also experienced significant increases in admissions for severe wasting, the ENCU reports, with the number of admissions increasing by more than 30 percent in the two regions during the same period. The ENCU notes that part of the increase may be due to recent changes in the mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) cut-off in Ethiopia, which makes year-to-year comparisons challenging. In response to nutrition needs in Ethiopia, particularly among children and pregnant and lactating women, humanitarian actors continue to scale up efforts to prevent and treat malnutrition among crisis-affected populations as access allows.

Humanitarian food partners, including the USAID/BHA-funded Catholic Relief Services (CRS)-led Joint Emergency Operation (JEOP) and the UN World Food Program (WFP), among others, are providing individuals in need of urgent food assistance with cash transfers for food; U.S.-sourced food; and locally, regionally, and internationally procured food. The JEOP reached 5.9 million beneficiaries with 101,000 MT of food through Round 1 of assistance—launched by food actors in April—from April to September, and had reached more than 3.3 million beneficiaries with 57,000 MT of food assistance through Round 2, launched in May, as of mid-September. Meanwhile, with support from USAID/BHA and other donors, WFP distributed nearly 276,000 MT of food assistance and provided nearly \$10.8 million in cash transfers across Ethiopia from May to September, reaching an average of 4.6 million people per month.

Conflict and Climatic Events Continue to Drive Displacement

Nearly 4.2 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) were sheltering across Ethiopia between June and July, approximately double the 2.1 million IDPs identified at the beginning of 2021, according to a September International Organization for Migration (IOM) report. IOM attributed approximately 85 percent of the displacements to conflict and more than 10 percent to drought conditions and flash flooding; other reasons for displacement included seasonal floods and social tension, among others. Approximately half of the IDPs identified by the IOM assessment in Ethiopia were displaced in Afar, Amhara, and Tigray regions as a result of conflict in northern Ethiopia; nearly 2.1 million IDPs were identified across sites elsewhere in Ethiopia. Notably, the number of IDPs identified in both Benishangul-

Gumuz and Oromiya regions decreased compared to the number of IDPs identified in these areas during a March-to-April assessment. Some of the decreased IDP counts are likely a result of insecurity-related site inaccessibility, according to IOM. In response to the needs of displaced populations, USG partners, including USAID/BHA partners GOAL, IOM, and World Vision and State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), rehabilitate IDP shelters; distribute emergency relief commodities, including blankets, sleeping mats, and water kettles; and provide emergency shelters for newly displaced individuals, among other activities.

Insecurity, Access Challenges Affect Ethiopia Response

Nearly 1,500 security and access incidents affected humanitarian operations in Ethiopia during the first half of 2021, according to the UN. Active hostilities—including armed group conflict, intercommunal violence, and civil unrest—comprised more than 60 percent of the incidents from January to June, while restrictions on conflict-affected populations' access to relief goods and services—as well as violence against humanitarian personnel, assets, and facilities, which together constituted nearly 25 percent of the total reported incidents—also hindered relief actors. As a result of armed conflict and ongoing security operations across Ethiopia, including in Afar, Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Oromiya, SNNP, Somali, and Tigray regions, the safety and security of relief workers deteriorated significantly in 2021, with nearly 150 incidents of violence reported against humanitarian personnel, assets, or facilities, according to the UN. Portions of Benishangul-Gumuz's Metekel Zone, southern and western Oromiya, and areas of Afar and Somali remained inaccessible to relief actors from January to June, adversely affecting populations in need of humanitarian assistance in these areas.

Meanwhile, access constraints in Afar, Amhara, and Tigray related to the regional crisis inhibited humanitarian programs and restricted the movement of relief commodities by road and air. In addition, limits on the movement of fuel and cash into the region, as well as disruptions to banking, electricity, and telecommunications services, further impeded humanitarian activities. Bureaucratic impediments imposed by parties to the conflict also affected the response in Ethiopia: on September 30, the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) ordered the expulsion of seven UN officials, including staff members of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. The expulsion follows suspensions of the activities of the international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) Médecins Sans Frontières and Norwegian Refugee Council by the GoE in early August.

Locust Breeding Underway in North, Migration Expected in October

Desert locusts—among the most destructive migratory pests in the world—continue to threaten crops and pastureland critical to the food security and livelihoods of populations in Ethiopia. New immature summer-bred desert locust swarms were forming in Afar as of mid-September, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The summer-bred locusts are likely to also present in southeastern portions of Tigray and eastern areas of Amhara, though ongoing conflict and a GoE-enforced no-fly zone has limited ground teams' ability to comprehensively assess the scale of breeding or conduct control operations. Additional immature swarms could form in inaccessible areas of northern Ethiopia during the coming weeks and are expected to migrate northwards and eastwards toward the coastal plains of Eritrea, eastern Ethiopia, southern Djibouti, and northern Somalia, where forecast levels of rainfall in October and December are projected to support swarm maturation and egg laying. Additionally, untreated swarms in Yemen may migrate across the Gulf of Aden to northern Somalia and eastern Ethiopia in October, FAO reports. Additional surveys in northern Ethiopia are required to accurately assess the presence of desert locust swarms in northern Ethiopia and control operations currently ongoing in Somali, where spring-bred immature bands are present, should be maintained.

KEY FIGURES



10 Million

People supported monthly through USG emergency food assistance



12

Number of USG implementing partners providing health programming



18

Number of USG implementing partners providing WASH programming



11

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 WFP and CRS 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 nearly \$612 million in FY 2021 funding to date, USAID/BHA partners are reaching approximately 10 million people monthly in Ethiopia with food assistance.

HEALTH

USAID/BHA supports UNICEF, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), the UN World Health Organization (WHO), and eight NGOs to improve access to health care services across Ethiopia. USAID/BHA provides medical supplies, supports mobile health units, and trains community health workers to support urgent health needs, often integrated with nutrition and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programming. In addition, State/PRM partners, including UNHCR and several 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. With USAID/BHA support, IOM, UNICEF, and 15 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 Ethiopia, 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 nine 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 wasting, particularly among children and pregnant and lactating women. USAID/BHA partners have continued to provide malnutrition prevention and treatment services during Ethiopia’s ongoing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak, which has coincided with a notable increase in severe wasting—a life-threatening form of malnutrition—cases as populations face multiple crises.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Populations in Ethiopia frequently struggle with a confluence of recurring acute shocks: drought, seasonal flooding, food insecurity, pest outbreaks such as desert locusts and disease outbreaks including COVID-19, and limited access to health and WASH services. These ongoing challenges have led to chronic and sustained humanitarian needs, which are further exacerbated by ongoing large-scale conflict and resultant displacement, 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, Michael A. Raynor—U.S. Ambassador to Ethiopia until January 2021—redeclared a disaster for Ethiopia for FY 2021 due to the continued humanitarian needs resulting from the complex emergency—including the conflict in Tigray—and the impact of ongoing climate, conflict, food insecurity, and health shocks on vulnerable populations. Separately, on October 16, 2020, Ambassador Raynor redeclared a disaster for Ethiopia due to the sustained widespread impacts of desert locust infestations in the country.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR ETHIOPIA COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN FY 2021¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
ETHIOPIA			
USAID/BHA			
Action Against Hunger (AAH)	Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Oromiya	\$3,000,000
Concern	Nutrition, WASH	Somali	\$1,150,000
CRS ²	Food Assistance-87,040 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Amhara; Dire Dawa; Oromiya; SNNP	\$41,618,228
	Agriculture	Oromiya, SNNP	\$3,000,000
ECC-SCDO-Harar	WASH	Oromiya	\$400,000
	Agriculture	Afar, Somali	\$1,500,000
	Agriculture	Countrywide	\$3,750,350
FAO	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$500,000

Food for the Hungry	Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz	\$1,895,096
GOAL	Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Oromiya, SNNP, Somali	\$2,000,000
Handicap International	Protection, WASH	Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, Somali	\$1,199,994
iMMAP	HCIMA	Afar, Oromiya, Somali	\$413,899
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Oromiya	\$5,000,000
International Potato Center	Agriculture	Amhara, Oromiya, SNNP	\$2,100,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Protection	Afar, Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Oromiya, SNNP	\$1,300,000
IOM	HCIMA, Shelter and Settlements	Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Oromiya, SNNP	\$6,700,000
OCHA	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$13,200,000
People in Need	Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Oromiya, SNNP	\$2,500,000
Priority Worldwide Services	Transportation - Disaster Site	Countrywide	\$2,035,756
Save the Children Federation (SCF)	Nutrition, WASH	Oromiya, Somali	\$3,500,000
UNICEF	Protection, WASH	Afar, Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, Oromiya, Somali, SNNP	\$8,200,000
WFP	Food Assistance—Local, Regional, and International Procurement (LRIP), Cash Transfers for Food, 88,780 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, Oromiya, Somali	\$143,874,887
	Disaster Risk Reduction and Policy Practice, Nutrition	Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, Oromiya, Somali	\$115,200,000
World Vision	Health, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Oromiya, SNNP	\$2,600,000
	Program Support		\$38,265
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING³			\$366,676,475
STATE/PRM			
AAH	Nutrition	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
Center for Victims of Torture (CVT)	Health, Protection	Countrywide	\$4,115,980
DanChurchAid (DCA)	Livelihoods	Countrywide	\$2,500,000
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	Health, Protection	Countrywide	\$2,823,833
GOAL	Health, Nutrition	Countrywide	\$1,930,000
IMC	Health, Nutrition, Protection	Countrywide	\$4,316,716
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$16,140,000
IOM	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$1,966,500
IRC	Education, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
Julia V. Taft Refugee Fund Awardee	Protection	Countrywide	\$24,999
Plan International	Education, Protection	Countrywide	\$1,750,000
SCF	Education, Protection	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$89,725,000
UNICEF	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
WFP	Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING⁴			\$134,793,028
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR ETHIOPIA COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN FY 2021			\$501,469,503

NORTHERN ETHIOPIA CRISIS⁵

USAID/BHA

American Refugee Committee (ARC)	Protection	Tigray	\$1,500,000
CARE	Agriculture	Tigray	\$9,175,461
CONCERN	Health, Nutrition	Amhara, Tigray	\$800,000
CRS	Food Assistance—328,820 MT of U.S. In Kind Food Aid	Amhara, Tigray	\$276,863,088
	Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Tigray	\$5,000,000
DRC	HCIMA	Tigray	\$339,996
FHI 360	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Tigray	\$5,999,048
GOAL	Health, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Afar, Tigray	\$3,000,000
IMC	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$4,000,000
iMMAP	HCIMA	Tigray	\$87,480
IOM	Shelter and Settlements	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$9,535,860
IRC	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Tigray	\$4,860,000
OCHA	HCIMA	Tigray	\$1,300,000
Plan USA	Protection	Tigray	\$1,800,000
Relief Society of Tigray (REST)	Food Assistance—Transportation	Tigray	\$570,000
Samaritan's Purse	Health, Nutrition, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Tigray	\$5,000,000
Save the Children	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Tigray	\$5,000,000
UN Development Program (UNDP)/UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS)	HCIMA	Tigray	\$1,475,153
UNFPA	Health, Protection	Tigray	\$1,637,521
UNICEF	Health Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$10,410,382
WFP	Food Assistance—91,049 MT of LRIP	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$73,000,000
	Nutrition, Logistics Support	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$27,000,000
WHO	Health, HCIMA	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$1,316,955
World Vision	Health, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Tigray	\$5,131,897
ZOA	Shelter and Settlement, WASH	Tigray	\$2,700,000
	Airlifted Relief Commodities		\$2,333,933
	Program Support		\$1,554,980
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$461,391,754
STATE/PRM			
Implementing Partner	Multi-Sector Assistance	Northern Ethiopia	\$14,340,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Afar, Amhara, Tigray	\$42,455,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$56,795,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR NORTHERN ETHIOPIA CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$518,186,754

TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR ETHIOPIA RESPONSE IN FY 2021	\$828,068,229
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR ETHIOPIA RESPONSE IN FY 2021	\$191,588,028
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR ETHIOPIA RESPONSE IN FY 2021	\$1,019,656,257

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 30, 2021.

² USAID/BHA's \$41,606,728 contribution supports the CRS-led JEOP.

³ USAID/BHA funding for the Ethiopia complex emergency in FY 2021 includes nearly \$5.8 million for the desert locust response.

⁴ Total State/PRM funding includes assistance to refugees residing in Ethiopia, which is also reported in the South Sudan Fact sheets as the South Sudan Regional Response, Somalia Fact Sheet as part of the Somalia regional response, and Northern Ethiopia Fact Sheet as part of the Northern Ethiopia Crisis Response.

⁵ Funding figures for the Northern Ethiopia Crisis Response reflect publicly announced funding as of September 30, 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.
- 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
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at 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)