

# Ethiopia – Complex Emergency

AUGUST 9, 2021

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<b>115</b> MILLION	<b>23.8</b> MILLION	<b>785,322</b>	<b>12.9</b> MILLION	<b>7.1</b> 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
UN – December 2020	UN – February 2021	UNHCR – June 2021	IPC – January–June 2021	UN – February 2021

- Populations across areas of Afar, Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Oromia, and Somali regions will likely continue to experience Crisis—IPC 3—levels of acute food insecurity through January 2022 as a result of continued conflict and drought.
- As of April, more than 4 million IDPs were sheltering across Ethiopia, nearly double the 2.1 million IDPs identified at the beginning of 2021.
- Insecurity related to the ongoing crisis in Tigray Region is generating humanitarian needs elsewhere in Ethiopia, with violence displacing 54,000 people in Afar in mid-July.



<b>TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING</b> For the Ethiopia Response in FY 2021	USAID/BHA <sup>1,2</sup>	\$822,955,749
	State/PRM <sup>3</sup>	\$70,077,480
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$893,033,229</b>

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

<sup>1</sup>USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

<sup>2</sup>Humanitarian funding for the complex emergency in Ethiopia includes approximately \$453 million for the Tigray crisis response and nearly \$5.8 million for the ongoing desert locust response. For additional information regarding the Tigray crisis response, please refer to the USAID/BHA Tigray Crisis Fact Sheet. For additional information regarding the Ethiopia desert locust response, please refer to the USAID/BHA East Africa Desert Locust Crisis Fact Sheet.

<sup>3</sup>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

### Heightened Food Insecurity to Persist Through 2021

Populations across Ethiopia—including portions of Afar, Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Oromia, Somali, and Tigray regions—will likely continue to experience Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity through January 2022, largely due to the impact of continued conflict and drought, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).<sup>5</sup> In particular, populations in areas of northwestern Afar will likely experience heightened food needs in the coming months as the conflict in neighboring Tigray—where FEWS NET noted the highest levels of acute food insecurity in Ethiopia—continues to diminish livelihoods and undermine poor households' ability to purchase food. Similarly, many households in Benishangul-Gumuz's Metekel Zone and Oromia's East Wollega and West Wollega zones will face Crisis outcomes through the end of 2021 due to the effects of continued armed group attacks and intercommunal violence. Meanwhile, several consecutive seasons of poor rainfall will likely drive similar outcomes in southeastern Afar and portions of Somali along the Shabelle River, where poor livestock conditions are reducing the purchasing power of pastoral households as food prices increase above average levels observed over the past five years.

### More Than 4 Million People Internally Displaced Amid Access Challenges

More than 4 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) were sheltering across Ethiopia as of April, marking a nearly two-fold increase from the 2.1 million IDPs identified at the beginning of 2021, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Overall, IOM found that conflict—both across Ethiopia and within Tigray specifically—had displaced approximately 80 percent of IDPs in the country, while drought and flooding had displaced the remaining 20 percent. Oromia, Somali, and Tigray hosted the largest displaced populations, with more than 430,000 IDPs sheltering in Oromia's Borena Zone and Somali's Dawa and Liben zones alone. In addition, IOM noted that approximately 1.7 million IDPs had returned to their areas of origin—predominantly in Oromia and Somali—since the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) began administering return movements in April 2019.

Relief actors have expressed concern regarding an uptick in armed group attacks and intercommunal violence in Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, and Oromia in recent months that resulted in the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people. Between June 15 and 25 alone, conflict displaced approximately 75,000 people from Amhara's Awi Zone, including IDPs secondarily displaced from Chagni Ranch IDP site; Benishangul-Gumuz's Asosa and Kemashi zones; and Oromia's East Wollega, Gudru Wollega, and West Wollega zones. Previously, insecurity in Benishangul-Gumuz in late May prompted approximately 21,400 people to seek shelter in the region's Kemashi and Metekel zones as well as in neighboring areas of East Wollega. Meanwhile, conflict in East Wollega's Sasiga *woreda*—or district—displaced more than 7,300 people from May to late July, relief actors report. In addition, recent intercommunal conflict in Amhara had displaced approximately 400,000 people in North Shewa Special Zone and approximately 91,000 people in Oromo Special Zone, as of late April. The violence also prevented humanitarian actors from providing life-saving assistance to affected populations across the two zones for several weeks.

Escalating insecurity in Amhara and Oromia, in particular, has hindered humanitarian access. As of late July, one USAID/BHA non-governmental organization (NGO) partner had suspended operations in Amhara's Abergelle and Sekota *woredas* due to increased armed group attacks. Previously, several humanitarian organizations had suspended activities in East Wollega following an increase in insecurity, reducing assistance to the approximately 55,000 IDPs sheltering in the area. Worsening security

<sup>5</sup> 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.

conditions—including armed conflict and attacks on humanitarian staff and facilities—prompted relief agencies to suspend movement in many parts of Oromia’s Guji Zone in April, leaving 51,000 IDPs in hard-to-reach areas and 11,000 IDPs in partially accessible areas with limited access to humanitarian assistance. Previously, an escalation in conflict in March and April between GoE forces and armed groups in Guji resulted in the temporary suspension of activities conducted by a USAID/BHA partner NGO.

### **Regional Authorities in Western Ethiopia to Relocate 200,000 IDPs**

In June, regional authorities in Amhara and Benishangul-Gumuz proceeded with plans to return or relocate approximately 200,000 conflict-affected IDPs in the coming months, despite relief actor concerns regarding the voluntary and safe nature of ongoing relocations, according to the UN. On June 18, Benishangul-Gumuz and Amhara regional authorities began relocating approximately 17,000 IDPs from the Chagni Ranch IDP site to four sites in Metekel. Relief actors—who have not been involved in planning the relocation process to date—noted that regional authorities did not assess the willingness of IDPs to relocate or provide them assurances of safety in resettlement sites despite volatile security conditions in Metekel. Similarly, between June 5 and 21, Amhara authorities returned nearly 70,000 individuals to their areas of origin out of the 95,000 IDPs displaced by violence in the region’s Ataye town during March and April. Returns continued through at least late June, with local authorities continuing to repair and reconstruct houses damaged by violence to encourage additional IDP returns.

### **Returns of Ethiopian Migrants from Saudi Arabia Increase**

Returns of Ethiopian migrants from Saudi Arabia—including involuntary returns—doubled during the first half of 2021, from approximately 1,000 returns per week in January to 2,000 per week in late June, straining transit facilities and long-term shelters in Ethiopia with limited capacity, relief actors report. Returns are likely to continue to increase, with the GoE announcing in late June that an additional 40,000 Ethiopian migrants detained in Saudi Arabia would be repatriated by mid-July. Relief actors note that many newly-returned migrants are likely unable to return to their areas of origin amid deteriorating security conditions, while those opting to stay in Ethiopia’s capital city of Addis Ababa have departed GoE-run return centers due to the limited availability of assistance. Overall, the Government of Saudi Arabia has deported approximately 400,000 Ethiopian migrants since 2017, according to IOM.

### **Tigray-Related Violence Displaces Thousands in Neighboring Afar**

Insecurity related to the ongoing crisis in Tigray is spreading into neighboring regions of Ethiopia, displacing populations and generating humanitarian needs, relief actors report. For example, on July 16, Tigray-related conflict affected communities in Afar’s Fanti-Rasu Zone, displacing approximately 54,000 people in Fanti-Rasu’s Awra, Golina, and Yallo *woredas*, according to regional authorities. Displaced populations were reportedly sheltering in nearby areas of Afar’s Awsi Rasu Zone and Semera city as of mid-July. Humanitarian actors identified food, nutrition, health services, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), as well as other relief commodities, as urgent needs among displaced populations.

### **Control Efforts Continue as Desert Locust Swarms Threaten Crops**

Desert locust monitors reported sightings of swarms in Afar, Amhara, and Somali regions in mid-July, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The current locust presence poses a risk to crops and rangeland in Ethiopia, particularly in areas where the main planting season for cereal crops is underway. As of mid-July, seasonal rains had begun in northeastern Ethiopia, creating favorable conditions for swarms to reproduce in breeding areas of Afar and Amhara regions. During June, control operations treated nearly 16,000 acres in eastern Ethiopia. However, by early July, swarms had damaged nearly 89,000 acres of crops in Amhara alone, according to preliminary estimates.

## KEY FIGURES



**10 Million**

People supported monthly through USG emergency food assistance



**10**

Number of USG implementing partners providing health programming



**20**

Number of USG implementing partners providing WASH programming



**12**

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 NGO Catholic Relief Services (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 more than \$610 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 the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and 9 NGOs to improve access to health care services across Ethiopia. USAID/BHA provides medical supplies, supports health units, and trains community health workers to support urgent health needs, often integrated with nutrition and WASH programming. 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. With USAID/BHA support, IOM, UNICEF, and 18 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 10 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 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, 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 2021<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>ETHIOPIA</b>			
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
Action Against Hunger	Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Oromia	\$3,000,000
CARE	Agriculture, Nutrition, WASH	Oromia, Somali	\$2,600,000
Concern	Nutrition, WASH	Somali	\$1,150,000
CRS <sup>2</sup>	Food Assistance-87,040 Metric Tons (MT) of U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Amhara; Dire Dawa; Oromia; Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNP)	\$44,680,038
	Agriculture	Oromia, SNNP	\$3,000,000
ECC-SCDO-Harar	WASH	Oromia	\$400,000

Ethiopian Red Cross Society	Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Benishangul-Gumuz, SNNP	\$1,655,971
FAO	Agriculture	Afar, Somali	\$1,500,000
	Agriculture	Countrywide	\$3,750,350
	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	Oromia, SNNP, Somali	\$2,000,000
Handicap International	Protection, WASH	Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, Somali	\$1,200,000
iMMAP	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA)	Afar, Oromia, Somali, Tigray	\$413,899
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Oromia	\$5,000,000
International Potato Center	Agriculture	Amhara, Oromia, SNNP	\$2,100,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Protection	Afar, Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Oromia, SNNP	\$1,300,000
IOM	HCIMA, Shelter and Settlements	Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Oromia, SNNP	\$6,700,000
People in Need	Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Oromia, SNNP	\$2,500,000
Priority Worldwide Services	Transportation - Disaster Site	Countrywide	\$2,035,756
Save the Children Federation (SCF)	Nutrition, WASH	Oromia, Somali	\$3,500,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$13,200,000
UNICEF	Protection, WASH	Afar, Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, Oromia, Somali, SNNP	\$8,200,000
WFP	Food Assistance—Local, Regional, and International Procurement (LRIP), Cash Transfers for Food, 88,750 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, Oromia, Somali	\$140,040,001
	Disaster Risk Reduction and Policy Practice, Nutrition	Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, Oromia, Somali	\$115,200,000
World Vision	Health, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Oromia, SNNP	\$2,600,000
	Program Support		\$38,265
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING<sup>3</sup></b>			<b>\$370,159,376</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
Center for Victims of Torture (CVT)	Protection	Gambella, Tigray	\$115,980
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	Multi-Sector Assistance	Gambella	\$1,250,000
UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$23,366,500
UNICEF	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING<sup>4</sup></b>			<b>\$28,732,480</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR ETHIOPIA COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN FY 2021</b>			<b>\$398,891,856</b>
<b>TIGRAY<sup>5</sup></b>			
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			

American Refugee Committee (ARC)	Protection	Mekele, Eastern, Central, North Western zones	\$1,500,000
CARE	Agriculture	Eastern, South Eastern, Southern zones	\$9,175,461
CONCERN	Health, Nutrition	South Eastern Zone	\$800,000
CRS	Food Assistance—328,820 MT of U.S. In Kind Food Aid	Mekele, Central, Eastern, North Western, South Eastern, Southern zones	\$276,863,088
	Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Central, Eastern zones	\$5,000,000
FHI 360	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Central, Eastern, North Western zones	\$5,999,048
GOAL	Health, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Mekele, Central, Eastern, South Eastern zones; Afar Region	\$3,000,000
IMC	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Central, North Western zones	\$4,000,000
iMMAP	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA)	Tigray-wide	\$87,480
IOM	Shelter and Settlements	Tigray-wide	\$8,000,000
IRC	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	North Western Zone	\$4,860,000
OCHA	HCIMA	Mekele, North Western Zone	\$1,300,000
Plan USA	Protection	Mekele, Central, North Western, South Eastern zones	\$1,800,000
Relief Society of Tigray (REST)	Food Assistance—Transportation	Mekele, Central, Eastern, North Western, South Eastern, Southern zones	\$570,000
Samaritan's Purse	Health, Nutrition, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	North Western Zone	\$5,000,000
Save the Children	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Central, Eastern, North Western zones	\$5,000,000
UN Population Fund (UNFPA)	Health, Protection	Mekele, Central, Eastern, North Western, Southern zones	\$1,637,521
UN World Health Organization (WHO)	Health, HCIMA	Tigray-wide, Afar, Amhara regions	\$1,316,955
UNICEF	Health Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Tigray-wide, Afar, Amhara regions	\$9,893,876
WFP	Food Assistance—91,049 MT of Local, Regional, and International Procurement (LRIP)	North Western, Southern zones	\$100,000,000
	Nutrition, Logistics Support	Tigray-wide	
World Vision	Health, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Mekele, Eastern, North Western, South Eastern zones	\$5,131,897
	Airlifted Relief Commodities		\$1,103,766
	Program Support		\$757,281
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$452,796,373</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Multi-Sector Assistance	Tigray-wide	\$8,740,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Tigray-wide	\$32,605,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$41,345,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR TIGRAY COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN FY 2021</b>			<b>\$494,141,373</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR ETHIOPIA RESPONSE IN FY 2021</b>			<b>\$822,955,749</b>
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR ETHIOPIA RESPONSE IN FY 2021</b>			<b>\$70,077,480</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR ETHIOPIA RESPONSE IN FY 2021</b>			<b>\$893,033,229</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of August 9, 2021.

<sup>2</sup> USAID/BHA's \$44,680,038 contribution supports the CRS-led Joint Emergency Operations Program (J.EOP).

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

<sup>4</sup> 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 Tigray Fact Sheet as part of the Tigray regional response.

<sup>5</sup> Funding figures for Tigray reflect publicly announced funding as of July 30, 2021.

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## 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)