

Ethiopia – Complex Emergency

March 4, 2022

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

117.9 MILLION	25.9 MILLION	824,000	6.8 MILLION	4.2 MILLION
Estimated Population of Ethiopia	Estimated People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in Ethiopia	Estimated Refugees in Ethiopia	Estimated People Affected by Drought in Ethiopia	Estimated IDPs in Ethiopia
<i>UN – Dec 2021</i>	<i>UN – Dec 2021</i>	<i>UNHCR – Dec 2021</i>	<i>UN – Feb 2022</i>	<i>UN – Sept 2021</i>

- Drought conditions linked to a third consecutive poor rainy season in late 2021 had affected 6.8 million people across southern Ethiopia as of February, with affected populations facing critical water shortages and heightened needs for emergency food assistance.
- The expansion of insecurity in Benishangul-Gumuz Region in early 2022 has resulted in the displacement of thousands of refugees while limiting relief actors' access to crisis-affected populations.
- USAID/BHA assistance enabled the CRS-led JEOP to provide emergency food assistance to 4.6 million people across Ethiopia between October and November, while partner WFP reached nearly 452,000 drought-affected people in Somali Region.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the Ethiopia Response in FYs 2021–2022

USAID/BHA^{1,2} \$879,326,724

State/PRM³ \$191,588,028

Total \$1,070,914,752

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 \$473 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

Drought Affects 6.8 Million People Across Southern Ethiopia

Worsening drought conditions resulting from a third consecutive poor rainy season in late 2021 had negatively affected 6.8 million people across southern and southeastern Ethiopia's Oromiya, Somali, and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' (SNNP) regions as of February, according to the UN. Overall, cumulative rainfall across much of the three regions was nearly 50 percent below average levels in late 2021, relief actors report. By early January, poor rainfall had led to yields of key staple crops such as maize and sorghum that were 70 percent below average levels in Somali's Fafan and Sitti zones—among the areas worst affected by drought—with parts of southern Oromiya reporting similar declines in agricultural production, according to the UN. Below-average precipitation also continues to generate critical water shortages, with relief actors reporting that nearly 30 percent of boreholes in Somali were dry or nearly dry as of early January. Declining access to water and pasture also resulted in the deaths of approximately 260,000 livestock in Somali, SNNP, and southern Oromiya between November and January and a significant deterioration in livestock body conditions, undermining livelihoods and food access. Although rainfall projections for the coming months are mixed, relief actors remain concerned that an unprecedented fourth consecutive season of poor rainfall between March and May could further exacerbate drought conditions.

As of early February, drought had left approximately 5.7 million people in Ethiopia in need of emergency food assistance to meet basic needs, with growing conflict in several regions contributing to additional food needs, according to the UN World Food Program (WFP). In addition, wasting rates in many drought-affected communities are on the rise due to sharp decreases in household incomes and access to food and milk, a key source of nutrition in many pastoral communities. In Somali, for example, nutrition screenings conducted by regional health authorities across 93 *woredas*, or districts, and six cities in December revealed an 18 percent rate of global acute malnutrition that exceeded the 15 percent emergency threshold. The number of children treated for severe wasting—a life-threatening form of malnutrition—across all drought-affected areas in 2021 exceeded levels recorded during the previous year, according to relief actors. In addition, more than 3 million people in southern Oromiya and Somali were facing water shortages as of January and required water trucking services.

In response to growing needs, USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) announced an additional \$39 million contribution to relief operations in drought-affected southern Ethiopia on February 14. This support will enable USAID/BHA partner WFP to provide emergency food and nutrition assistance to an additional 1.6 million drought-affected Ethiopians and refugees. The contribution builds on existing USAID/BHA support to drought-affected communities, including the provision of emergency food assistance to 3.4 million people as well as crucial health, livelihoods, nutrition, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions.

Conflict in Benishangul-Gumuz Drives Displacement, Restricts Access

Growing insecurity in Benishangul-Gumuz Region's Metekel Zone expanded to the region's Assosa and Kamashi zones as well as the Mau Komo Special *woreda*, or district, in early 2022, leading deteriorating humanitarian conditions and prompting the secondary displacement of tens of thousands of refugees from Sudan and South Sudan, according to the UN. In Mau Komo, conflict between armed group actors and Ethiopian National Defense Force-aligned elements broke out near Tongo village on January 18 and subsequently led to the looting and destruction of a refugee camp where more than 10,000 people were sheltering. Events in Tongo followed the looting of the *woreda's* nearby Gure-Shimbola refugee camp by armed actors in late December. The two incidents prevented relief actors from reaching affected

populations and prompted the displacement of approximately 20,000 refugees to areas of the region surrounding Benishangul-Gumuz's capital city of Assosa. Relief actors were coordinating with regional authorities to provide food, water, and health services to the secondarily displaced refugees as of early February. Regional authorities also established a new site adjacent to the Tsore refugee camp, where approximately 17,000 of the affected refugees were sheltering as of late February.

Recent armed group attacks across the region have severely limited the ability of crisis-affected populations to access humanitarian assistance and basic services, according to the UN. As of December, many parts of Benishangul-Gumuz's Metekel and Kemashi zones remained inaccessible to relief actors due to insecurity. In particular, armed attacks in 2021 prompted the displacement of thousands of members of the Gumuz community to isolated rural areas of Metekel that are inaccessible to relief actors. Regional authorities have suspended public services in many rural parts of Benishangul-Gumuz, while armed groups have damaged or destroyed health centers and public infrastructure across the region. Overall, more than 500,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 70,000 refugees from Sudan and South Sudan were sheltering in Benishangul-Gumuz as of January, the UN reports.

More Than 4.2 Million IDPs Present Across Ethiopia

There were more than 4.2 million IDPs across Ethiopia as of September, marking an increase of approximately 70,000 people over a two-month period and a more than twofold increase in IDPs compared to December 2020, according to a December 2021 International Organization for Migration (IOM) update. While the vast majority of IDPs—nearly 90 percent—identified conflict as the reason for their displacement, nearly 10 percent of IDPs countrywide reported having left their homes in search of food, water, and pasture for livestock due to worsening drought. Overall, Tigray, Oromiya, and Amhara regions hosted the largest IDP populations due to the ongoing crisis in northern Ethiopia. The assessment identified heightened shelter needs among IDPs residing in camp settings and with host communities in Amhara, Oromiya, and Somali as well as a lack of livelihood opportunities at many displacement sites. IOM warns that the actual number of displaced persons in Ethiopia is likely higher than the 4.2 million IDPs reported in its latest assessment as humanitarian access constraints prevented relief actors from collecting data in several areas.

USAID/BHA Partners Deliver Emergency Food Assistance Countrywide

Despite ongoing impediments to humanitarian access, USAID/BHA partners continued to reach vulnerable populations in Ethiopia with emergency food and nutrition assistance in late 2021. In October and November, the USAID/BHA-funded, Catholic Relief Services (CRS)-led Joint Emergency Operation (JEOP) consortium of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) reached more than 4.6 million people with emergency food assistance despite deteriorating security conditions in northern Ethiopia and other parts of the country. Similarly, with support from USAID/BHA, WFP reached nearly 452,000 drought-affected people in Somali with nearly 5,400 metric tons (MT) of in-kind food and approximately \$23 million in cash transfers for food in November. During the same month, WFP provided livestock insurance to more than 141,000 people in pastoral areas of the region and distributed 3,200 MT of ready-to-use supplementary foods to prevent or treat moderate wasting in more than 755,000 children ages five years or younger and pregnant and lactating women across the country.

KEY FIGURES



10 Million

People supported 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, USAID/BHA partners are targeting approximately 10 million people in Ethiopia with ongoing 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 partners provide medical supplies, support mobile health units, and train community health workers to support urgent health needs, often integrated with nutrition and 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 interventions 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-centered 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 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.
- USAID/BHA continues to respond to acute needs resulting from persistent dry weather in southern and southeastern Ethiopia, with a third consecutive seasons of poor rainfall in late 2021 leading to the most severe drought conditions on record in the Horn of Africa Region in at least 30 years. Critical water shortages in drought-affected areas have significantly undermined livestock conditions, livelihoods, and food access in affected regions. The former USAID Office of Food for Peace also responded to heightened food and nutrition needs resulting from drought in Ethiopia between 2015 and 2018
- 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 18, 2021, U.S. Ambassador Geeta Pasi redeclared a disaster for Ethiopia for FY 2022 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.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR ETHIOPIA COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN FY 2022¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
ETHIOPIA			
USAID/BHA			
WFP	Food Assistance, Nutrition	Somali	\$39,240,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING³			\$39,240,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR ETHIOPIA COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN FY 2022			\$39,240,000

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR ETHIOPIA COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN FY 2021

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
FAO	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	Oromiya, SNNP, Somali	\$2,000,000
Handicap International	Protection, WASH	Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, Somali	\$1,199,994
iMAP	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	\$288,881,583
	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			\$473,410,249
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			\$530,205,249
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR ETHIOPIA RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$840,086,724
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR ETHIOPIA RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$191,588,028
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR ETHIOPIA RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$1,030,674,752
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR ETHIOPIA RESPONSE IN FYs 2021-2022			\$1,070,914,752

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of March 4, 2022.

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 March 4, 2022.

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)