

CONTEXT

- The compounded effects of climatic shocks, conflict, and related displacement continue to generate high levels of humanitarian need across Ethiopia, with more than 20 million people requiring aid, according to the UN. A historic drought and conflict in northern Ethiopia—which both began in 2020—in addition to disease outbreaks, high food prices, intercommunal conflict, and seasonal flooding have contributed to elevated needs across the country.
- The drought in the Horn of Africa, coupled with the conflict in northern Ethiopia and other factors, has prompted the displacement of 4.6 million people according to the UN. Furthermore, the UN estimates that 11 million people in drought-affected areas and 9.4 million people in conflict-affected areas require emergency food assistance. Approximately 2.7 million children were experiencing acute malnutrition, including nearly 1 million children experiencing severe acute malnutrition due to the drought as of November 2022, according to the UN. The drought also resulted in approximately 4 million livestock deaths in 2022, decimating pastoralists' livelihoods and reducing access to milk, a critical source of nutrition for pastoral households. While the March-to-May 2023 rainy season replenished some vegetation and water sources after the previous five consecutive failed rainy seasons, widespread food and nutrition insecurity will likely remain high as several seasons of favorable rains are required for robust livelihood recovery. Relief actors anticipate critically high levels of humanitarian need in Ethiopia throughout 2023.
- Conflict in northern Ethiopia since 2020 resulted in widespread damage to critical infrastructure, livelihoods, and local markets, exacerbating food insecurity and malnutrition across the region. Populations in conflict-affected areas of northern Ethiopia will likely continue facing Crisis—IPC 3—and Emergency—IPC 4—levels of acute food insecurity through May due to the compounding effects of conflict and poor harvest outcomes, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) projects.¹ While increased humanitarian access and assistance and early rainy season helping replenish water sources may mitigate food consumption deficits, scarce outcomes during previous harvests and fragile macroeconomic conditions continue to challenge food-insecure households' access to food and purchasing power, according to FEWS NET.
- Humanitarian access in northern Ethiopia expanded following the signing of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement in November 2022, improving relief actors' ability to deliver emergency assistance to conflict-affected populations. Despite overall access improvements, some areas along the Eritrea–Ethiopia border and northeastern Amhara Region remain difficult to reach. Insecurity and the presence of armed actors continue to impede humanitarian operations and jeopardize the safety of aid workers and civilians in these areas, the UN reports.



¹ 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.

ASSISTANCE

- USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) supports partners to address critical humanitarian needs of conflict- and drought-affected populations across Ethiopia, providing nearly \$2 billion in Fiscal Years (FYs) 2022 and 2023 for emergency interventions, including nearly \$1 billion in funding for the northern Ethiopia complex emergency response. Additionally, USAID/BHA has provided more than \$101 million for early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) activities during the fiscal years. USAID/BHA funding supports agriculture, food, health, livelihood, multipurpose cash, nutrition, protection, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene assistance across the country.
- USAID/BHA supports the provision of emergency food assistance to reach vulnerable populations—including host community members, internally displaced persons, and refugees—in food-insecure areas across Ethiopia. To provide food assistance, USAID/BHA supports the Joint Emergency Operation (JEOP), a consortium of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) led by Catholic Relief Services, which coordinates closely with the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) Disaster Risk Management Commission to respond to emergency food assistance needs in conflict- and drought-affected areas. The JEOP provides food assistance across four regions of Ethiopia. Additionally, USAID/BHA supports the UN World Food Program (WFP) to provide food and cash-based assistance in Afar, Amhara, and Tigray regions, as well as targeted nutrition interventions across Afar and Amhara.
- USAID/BHA partners also provide essential logistics support for the humanitarian response in Afar, Amhara, and Tigray, enabling critical coordination and logistics services—including the transportation and storage of life-saving commodities—for the humanitarian community through the Logistics Cluster, the coordinating body for humanitarian logistics activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders. Amid persistent access constraints, the Logistics Cluster transported more than 232,000 MT of humanitarian cargo to Tigray on overland convoys between November 2022 and April 2023. The cluster also coordinates overland convoys that transport relief items to communities in need in Afar and Amhara.
- USAID/BHA also funds ER4 Resilience Food Security Activities that work in tandem with the GoE’s Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP)—an initiative launched in 2005 that seeks to address the basic food needs of approximately 9 million people experiencing food insecurity annually—to build long-term resilience among vulnerable communities. USAID/BHA supports programs that improve food security, nutrition practices, and livelihood skills, as well as access to income-generating activities for vulnerable households enrolled in the PSNP.

USAID/BHA Funding in Ethiopia ²			
	Emergency ³	ER4	TOTAL
FY 2022	\$1,411,625,873	\$101,220,773	\$1,512,846,646
FY 2023	\$550,393,630	\$10,284	\$550,403,914

² Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of March 15, 2023. Totals include estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.
³ Includes funding for programs that integrate ER4 activities with emergency response.