



# WFP Ethiopia Country Brief

February 2018

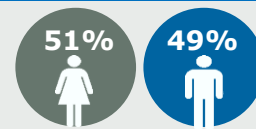
## In Numbers

**3.7 million** people in the Somali Region are being assisted through WFP's emergency relief assistance.

**US\$6 m** distributed through cash based transfers

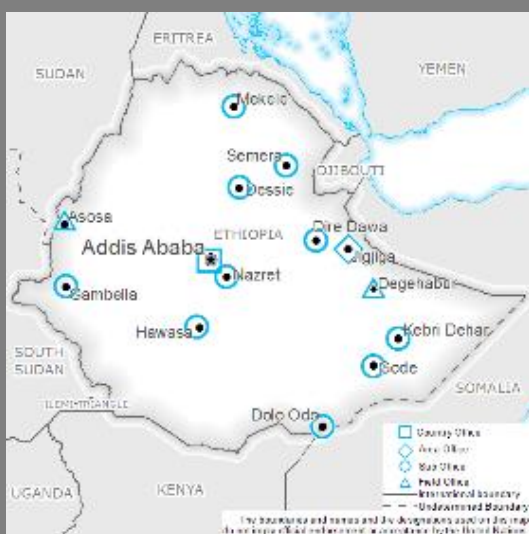
**US\$207 m** required from March- August 2018, representing 64% of the total requirements.

**5.3 m people assisted**  
in February 2018



### Operational Context

Ethiopia is the second most populous country in Africa. Over the past seven years, Ethiopia has achieved high economic growth averaging 11 percent per annum and reduced extreme poverty from 60.5 to 30.7 percent, enabling it to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger rates by half, as was expected in Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 1. The Government's medium term strategic framework Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP II), promotes agricultural development to achieve food and nutrition security with the aim of building resilience and places emphasis on the production of high value crops and livestock production. The overarching objective GTP II is the realization of Ethiopia's vision of becoming a middle-income country by 2025. WFP Ethiopia's Country Strategy focuses on disaster risk management and resource management; basic social services and agriculture markets and livelihoods. The overarching goal is to reduce hunger and contribution to Ethiopia's transformation.



### Operational Updates

- According to the recently launched Humanitarian Disaster Resilience Plan, an estimated 7.88 million people in Ethiopia will require food assistance in 2018. In addition, Ethiopia remains the second largest refugee hosting state in Africa with over 909,000 refugees and asylum seekers registered.
- In February, WFP reached 3.7 million people, including 1.6 million people registered under the Government's Protective Safety Net Programme (PSNP) and 300,000 conflict IDPs, with emergency relief assistance in the Somali Region. WFP's emergency relief assistance in the Somali Region consists of a combination of food and cash modality, depending on needs and availability of functional markets.
- Through a cash pilot programme, WFP is assisting an estimated 588,000 people with cash transfers in the Somali Region. The pilot aims to deliver humanitarian assistance to beneficiaries using the National Safety Net mechanism, to harmonize the development of humanitarian investments in the Somali Region and to identify potential areas for systems strengthening as this approach is scaled up.
- WFP provided prevention and treatment services for moderate acute malnutrition to an estimated 1 million children under five years of age and pregnant and nursing mothers in regions where the risk of malnutrition is highest in the country in February.
- WFP distributed food commodities to 660,000 refugees; of which an estimated 142,000 (in 13 refugee camps) also received cash assistance. Due to funding constraints, WFP may be forced to implement 40 percent rations cuts starting May 2018. WFP is also expanding its livelihood interventions to promote food security and income generation among the refugees and host communities around the camps.
- To respond to consecutive failed rainy seasons and protect the productive assets of vulnerable pastoralists, WFP is introducing an insurance programme; the Satellite Index Insurance for Pastoralists in Ethiopia (SIPIE), that aims to provide timely pay-outs to those affected by drought in March 2018. A baseline assessment is being conducted in three targeted woredas (districts) in the Somali Region.

Population: **97 million**

2015 Human Development Index:  
**174 out of 188**

Income Level: **Low**

Chronic malnutrition: **40% of children between 6-59 months**

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Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/ethiopia](http://www.wfp.org/countries/ethiopia)

	Total Requirements (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
<b>Responding to Humanitarian Crises and Enhancing Resilience to Food Insecurity</b>			
PRRO 200712 (Jul 2015 – Jun 2018)	1.36 b	804.3 m (58 %)	178m (70%)
<b>Food Assistance for Somali, Eritrean and Sudanese Refugees</b>			
PRRO 200700 (Apr 2015 – Jun 2018)	487 m	326.9 m (67%)	29m (43%)
<b>Country Programme</b>			
CP 200253 (Jan 2012 – Dec 2017)	340 m	141.5m (42%)	1.8m (39%)
<b>Provision of humanitarian air services in Ethiopia</b>			
SO 200711 (Jan 2016 – Dec 2018)	16.3 m	13.03m (80%)	2.1 m (96%)

\*March – August 2018

## Political Situation

- On 15 February 2018, the Ethiopian Prime Minister Haile-Mariam Desalegn announced his resignation. A day later, a State of Emergency (SOE) was announced in the country, as a pre-emptive measure to deter violence or demonstrations. While the exact measures that will accompany it are yet to be fully disclosed and outside of reducing operational access, the SOE is not expected to have major impact on WFP operations. This is the second time the country has been in a State of Emergency in two years.

## Donors

Austria, BASF Stiftung, Canada, China, Denmark, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (EU ECHO), France, Germany, Japan, Luxembourg, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs/Ethiopian Humanitarian Fund (OCHA/EHF), United States of America.

## Monitoring

- A standard nutrition survey undertaken in three refugee camps Jijiga (Somali Region) indicated the GAM rates were found below 10 percent in all the 3 camps. This is an improvement from what was reported at the same time last year ago (below 15 percent).

## Challenges

- Growing unrest in the country and increasing insecurity along the Oromia- Somali regional border has affected WFP's ability to make timely deliveries. WFP is exploring alternate routes to deliver commodities. However, some areas remain inaccessible with limited visibility on the food security and malnutrition status of households living in the areas.
- The refugee operation is facing critical funding gaps. To avoid complete breaks in May and June 2018, WFP is considering additional ration cuts reaching up to 40 percent from May 2018. Previous ration cuts have historically created numerous instances of unrest in the camps.
- The number of refugees from South Sudan increased over the past month. This will further strain the existing resources due to increased humanitarian needs.
- WFP's School Feeding programme is also facing critical pipeline breaks, as a result a total of 344,550 students will be affected nationwide. To resume the programme, WFP needs USD 1.8 million for the next six months. A funding proposal has been submitted to McGovern Dole to support Ethiopia's efforts to improve access to quality education, address the health and nutrition needs of pre-primary and primary school-going children, and to support the government's transition towards national ownership of a home-grown school meals programme. Other sources of funding are urgently needed in the meantime.