



Standard Project Report 2015

World Food Programme in Ethiopia, Federal Democratic Republic of (ET)

Provision of humanitarian air services in Ethiopia

Reporting period: 1 January - 31 December 2015

Project Information	
Project Number	200711
Project Category	Single Country Special Operation
Overall Planned Beneficiaries	N/A
Planned Beneficiaries in 2015	N/A
Total Beneficiaries in 2015	N/A

Key Project Dates	
Project Approval Date	February 18, 2015
Planned Start Date	January 01, 2015
Actual Start Date	January 01, 2015
Project End Date	December 31, 2016
Financial Closure Date	N/A

Approved budget in USD	
Food and Related Costs	N/A
Capacity Dev.t and Augmentation	15,628,400
Direct Support Costs	1,245,248
Cash-Based Transfers and Related Costs	N/A
Indirect Support Costs	1,181,155
Total	18,054,804

Commodities	Metric Tonnes
Planned Commodities in 2015	0
Actual Commodities 2015	0
Total Approved Commodities	N/A

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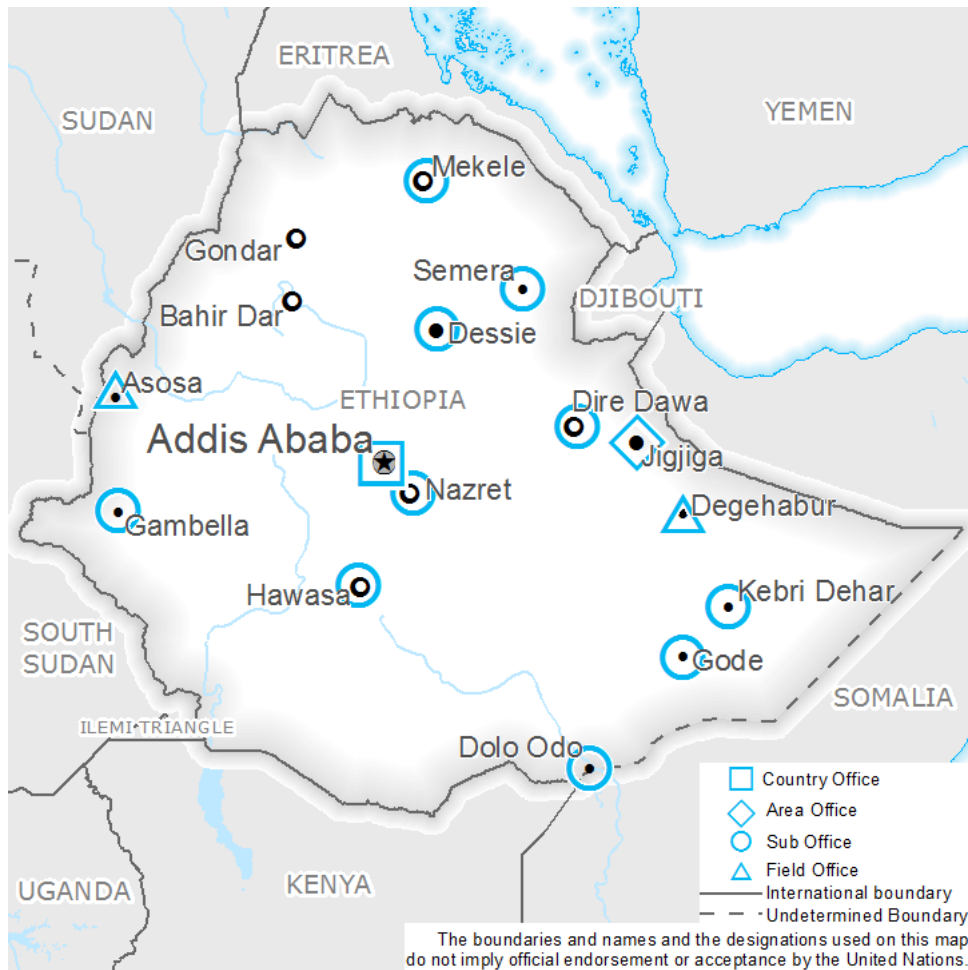
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COUNTRY OVERVIEW



Country Background

With a population of almost 97 million people, Ethiopia is the second most populous country in Africa. The country has made impressive strides over the last 20 years in reducing poverty and expanding investments in basic social services - paving the way for the country to meet many of its Millennium Development Goal (MDG) targets.

From 2004 - 2013, the World Bank estimates that Ethiopia's economy has had strong growth, with annual gross domestic product (GDP) per capita growth rates of 8.3 percent. According to the Ethiopia MDG Report for 2014, the number of people in absolute poverty fell from 48 percent in 1990 to an estimated 25 percent in 2013/2014. At the same time, the proportion of undernourished people fell from almost 75 percent in 1990/92 to a projected 32 percent in 2014/15 - thereby enabling Ethiopia to reach its MDG Hunger target.

The prevalence of stunting declined from 58 percent in 2000 to 40 percent in 2014, while wasting rates remained at 10 percent during the same period. Net primary school enrollment rates have risen from 21 percent in 1996 to 92.6 percent in 2014, and the gender parity index currently stands at 0.93, indicating a significant improvement in girls' access to education.

The government's longer-term vision is to attain middle-income country status by 2025. To achieve this goal, the government has organized its policy and investment framework under the umbrella of two 5- year Growth and Transformation Plans - GTP I and GTP II. Both GTPs place an emphasis on agriculture as the main driver for growth, coupled with a strong focus on social protection instruments such as the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) to ensure sustained attention on food security and poverty reduction. For example, the latest iteration of the PSNP (PSNP IV) aims to provide conditional food and cash transfers to almost 8 million people per year from 2015

to 2020.

Despite strong economic gains and a comprehensive policy framework for development, the distribution of developmental gains remains uneven. According to the UNDP 2015 Human Development Report, Ethiopia is ranked 174 out of 188 countries in terms of human development. While national figures on nutrition are fairly promising, regional variation is quite pronounced. For example, in Afar and Somali regions, global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates can be as high as 30 percent, and stunting rates in Amhara and Afar are close to 60 percent.

Poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition are all inextricably linked. Over 80 percent of the population living in rural areas is dependent on rain-fed agriculture and livestock rearing as their main source of food and income. In turn, climate shocks are the primary driver behind chronic poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition at household level. The International Food Policy Research Institute's Global Hunger Index scores Ethiopia at 33.9 - or at a "serious" level - even after the impressive gains the country has made from a MDG perspective.

Rainfall data for the period from 1967 to 2000 indicate that Ethiopia's annual variability in rainfall across different zones is among the highest in the world, ranging from a low of 15 percent to a high of 81 percent. The larger the variation in rainfall a household is exposed to, the lower its income and consumption levels. Repeated climate shocks have severely eroded rural livelihoods, leaving households with little capacity to cope and meet their most basic consumption needs. Climate shocks are a major cause of humanitarian crises in Ethiopia. Since 2003, the country has faced five serious droughts affecting millions of people, the most recent of which unfolded over the course of 2015 and was compounded by the global El Niño event.

In 2015, the already fragile situation among food insecure and vulnerable people was exacerbated by the failure of the *belg* rains (February-May) and well below normal rainfall for the main *kiremt* rains (June-September), affecting the main *meher* cropping season that contributes around 85 percent of Ethiopia's total annual food production. With the onset of the El Niño phenomenon, in July 2015, production assessments reported that up to 25 percent of the harvest was lost at the national level, and in some regions this figure rose to 70 percent.

The lack of water has had devastating effects for both human and animal well-being. An outbreak of scabies occurred in large swaths of Amhara, along with communicable diseases in Afar, Oromia and Somali regions. Coupled with a lack of food at the household level, GAM rates reached 20 percent and higher in Oromia, Afar, and Somali regions. Conservative estimates indicate that over 30,000 head of cattle died as a result of no water, pasture or browse. Not only are livestock essential household assets that generate income, but they also represent a key source of meat and milk for pastoral communities. This, too, contributed to the increase in malnutrition across the country.

In the face of the worst drought in over 50 years, the scale of humanitarian needs over the course of 2015 rose dramatically. In February 2015, the Government issued its official Humanitarian Requirements Document (HRD), estimating that 2.9 million people required emergency food assistance. By December 2015, this number had risen to 10.2 million - almost a 250 percent increase. With regard to the prevalence of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM), in February 2015, some 200,000 children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) were projected as needing MAM treatment. By the end of 2015, this number peaked at 2.2 million young children and PLW, or a 1,000 percent increase.

The adult HIV prevalence in the country is 1.1 percent, with 700,000 HIV positive people and 800,000 orphans and vulnerable children. Significant variation exists between genders, among population groups and across geographic areas. The HIV prevalence rate for men and women is 0.8 percent and 1.4 percent respectively; for rural residents it is 0.5 percent while for urban residents it reaches 3.8 percent. HIV prevalence is disproportionately higher among urban females (4 percent) compared to urban men (2.4 percent).

Ethiopia is also host to the largest refugee population on the African Continent. Over 730,000 officially registered refugees from South Sudan, Somalia, Sudan, Eritrea and Kenya now reside in 26 camps located in five regional states including Afar, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, Somali and Tigray. Of the total, approximately one-third are South Sudanese who arrived into the Gambella region in early 2014 following the eruption of hostilities in South Sudan in 2013.

Summary Of WFP Assistance

WFP's role in Ethiopia is to support government policies, programmes and systems that address the multiple dimensions of hunger and undernutrition among the most vulnerable segments of the population and refugees hosted in different parts of the country.

Protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) 200290 and its successor PRRO 200712 were designed to support and complement the Government's social protection, disaster risk management and nutrition programmes by

providing emergency food assistance, engaging in productive safety net activities, addressing malnutrition, and offering technical assistance. In 2015, these PRROs responded to the dramatic rise in acute food and nutrition needs arising from the failure of both the spring and summer rains and the onset of the El Niño-related drought. Simultaneously, WFP also provided food assistance to chronically food insecure households under the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP).

PRRO 200365 and its successor, PRRO 200700, aimed to support Ethiopia's significant refugee population, focusing on live-saving food and nutrition assistance for over 560,000 refugees in 26 camps across the country.

WFP's country programme (CP) 200253 comprised five components: 1) support to the Government of Ethiopia in the development of a national disaster risk management system; 2) building resilience in food insecure communities through natural resource management activities (Managing Environmental Resources to Enable Transition to More Sustainable Livelihoods); 3) school feeding under the Children in Local Development Initiative; 4) support to people living with HIV and AIDS; and 5) support to smallholder farmers through Purchase for Progress (P4P).

WFP further assisted the government through capacity strengthening efforts. Through its P4P programme, WFP worked with local cooperative farms to source cereals that are then distributed under WFP and government programmes. WFP has also invested in a Food Management Improvement Project that established a commodity management system within the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC), which oversees all food commodity movements in the country. Finally, WFP deployed its expertise in food security analysis to support the NDRMC in the preparation of disaster risk profiles at *woreda* (district) level.

WFP has three special operations (SO) in Ethiopia. SO 200711 operated the United Nations Humanitarian Air Services, which enabled the humanitarian community to reach remote areas where refugee camps are located. SO 200358 focused on the construction of a Humanitarian Hub in Djibouti, where WFP and other humanitarian agencies can store cargo intended for operations across East Africa and organise specialized logistics training sessions. Lastly, SO 200752 was launched in 2014 for the construction of a bridge in the Somali Region (Geeldoh) to facilitate access to isolated districts and villages that are cut off from basic services and humanitarian assistance during rainy seasons.

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Children (under 5 years)	458,578	464,775	923,353
Children (5-18 years)	1,171,232	1,146,444	2,317,676
Adults (18 years plus)	1,493,476	1,462,491	2,955,967
Total number of beneficiaries in 2015	3,123,286	3,073,710	6,196,996

Distribution (mt)						
Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Country Programme	1,875	829	171	4,147	85	7,108
Single Country PRRO	352,181	10,879	45,105	25,396	3,389	436,950
Total Food Distributed in 2015	354,056	11,708	45,276	29,543	3,475	444,058

OPERATIONAL SPR

Operational Objectives and Relevance

This special operation, United Nations Humanitarian Air Service in Ethiopia (200711), was launched in January 2015 in order to provide safe access for humanitarian workers to remote locations, mainly in the Somali region, where no reliable commercial flights operate.

Supporting WFP's Strategic Objective 1, the specific objectives of this operation were to:

- provide safe, flexible and efficient air services to humanitarian agencies including the United Nations, international and national NGOs and donor representatives in Ethiopia;
- provide transport of light relief cargo, such as medical supplies and support equipment; and
- carry out medical and security evacuations for humanitarian agencies and to respond in a fast and reliable manner to the needs of the humanitarian community.

This project replaced special operation 200364, which ended in December 2014. The continuation of the air services was necessary because of i) the continued demand for the service from users; ii) the unpredictable security situation in the Somali region, which limits humanitarian workers' use of surface transport; and iii) the lack of safe commercial flights serving the most remote destinations where humanitarian assistance is needed.

The UNHAS Ethiopia management and staff also assisted UNHAS South Sudan to deliver humanitarian assistance in the form of food and non-food items to refugee camps and airdrop sites in South Sudan. All activities in support of WFP's response within South Sudan were funded not through this special operation, but through the relevant South Sudan operations.

This special operation was originally planned to end in December 2015, however it has been extended for 12 months until 31 December 2016.

Results

Outputs

In 2015, the UNHAS Ethiopia fleet consisted of four aircraft: one Dash-8, two Caravans, and a 19-seater jet. The latter was in use until November 2015 when it was suspended due to a lack of funds. In addition, UNHAS Ethiopia also managed four IL-76 Aircrafts for South Sudan airdrop operations and two C-130 aircraft for airlift operations. Two IL-76 were based in Gambella and two in Jimma, and the two C-130 were based in Assosa. The latter were dedicated to the support of the Maban refugee camp. UNHAS also managed a UNHCR helicopter serving refugee camps around Gambella. In March 2015, UNHAS secured overflight and landing clearances during the evacuation of humanitarian workers from Sana'a to Addis Ababa during the Yemen crisis.

In 2015, UNHAS transported over 5,600 passengers to seven regular and chartered destinations. The number of transported passengers was below plan, mainly due to the security situation in Dollo Ado, Somali region (this is the most frequent destination for UNHAS flights). Flights were also cancelled due to bad weather and poor airstrip conditions at Dollo Ado.

As a result of the World Health Organization's polio campaign in Ethiopia, UNHAS attracted new passengers and additional cargo - mainly materials used for vaccination.

Besides regular scheduled flights, UNHAS also organized and flew special flights to transport donors, government officials and delegates. UNHAS' contribution towards the humanitarian community was not only limited to safe and reliable air transportation; it also carried out urgent medical evacuations to save the lives of humanitarian workers in Ethiopia. In 2015, UNHAS conducted 87 medical evacuations but there was no need for any security evacuations.

UNHAS also regularly conducted aviation trainings and workshops for government counterparts and partners in 2015.

During the reporting period, UNHAS carried out two surveys with a special emphasis on whether the schedule and frequency of flights were adequately addressed. The results obtained confirmed that passengers and clients were satisfied with the schedule and frequency of flights.

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
SO1: Special Operation (Air Ops)				
Average weight of light cargo transported monthly	Mt	2	4	200.0
Number of agencies and organizations using humanitarian air services	agency/organization	35	46	131.4
Number of locations served	site	7	7	100.0
Number of meetings conducted	instance	6	7	116.7
Number of passengers transported	individual	7,680	5,654	73.6
Percentage response to medical and security evacuation	%	100	100	100.0
Utilization of the contracted hours of aircraft	%	100	100	100.0

Outcomes

UNHAS played a vital role in the overall humanitarian response in Ethiopia by ensuring reliable access to remote but crucial project implementation sites. UNHAS' assistance also extended to WFP's operations in South Sudan as well as the humanitarian community in Yemen during the crisis in March 2015. UNHAS assisted these missions by facilitating timely, safe and reliable logistical support and evacuations, thereby avoiding unnecessary loss of life and improving project implementation.

Sustainability, Capacity Development and Handover

The rehabilitation of Dollo Ado's main airstrip is of vital importance, as this is the most frequent destination for UNHAS. Together with partners, WFP continued to search for a lasting solution to the maintenance and repair problems of the main airstrip to make it fully operational so it can meet the needs of the humanitarian community. National ownership is important to resolving this issue in a sustainable manner.

Management

Partnerships

UNHAS's partnership with the Government of Ethiopia through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defense and the Ethiopian Civil Aviation Authority (ECAA) strengthened the overall relationship WFP has with the government by reinforcing WFP's profile as a reliable partner. This partnership enabled the smooth running of regular UNHAS operations as well as the South Sudan operation and the evacuations during the Yemen crisis in March 2015.

The Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defense and the Ethiopian Civil Aviation Authority assisted with clearances and security for the flights. The ECAA provided technical assistance in communication, flight follow-up, weather monitoring and reporting, crew proficiency, and monitoring of aircraft air worthiness requirements.

UNHAS is managed by WFP on behalf of the humanitarian community and receives guidance from the User Group Committee (UGC). The UGC met every two months and consists of United Nations agencies, donors, NGOs and WFP. In 2015, the Committee provided guidance on operational matters, prioritization of passengers and cargo, approval of standard administrative and operating procedures, and schedules, and ensured that the common air service was provided appropriately to those entitled to the service.

Lessons Learned

The long-standing cooperation and partnership between UNHAS and government counterparts proved particularly valuable in 2015 as UNHAS had to respond to needs beyond passenger and cargo transport in Ethiopia. The Yemen crisis in March 2015 necessitated urgent security evacuations of United Nations and diplomatic personnel from Sana'a, Yemen, to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Thanks to the strong relationship between UNHAS and the government and the smooth running of the UGC, these evacuations were successfully carried out. Furthermore, UNHAS continued to provide vital air services for WFP's South Sudan operation. The Ethiopia UNHAS team's experience and technical knowledge of food transport and airdrops through the Djibouti/Ethiopia corridor was essential to the operation. Its partnership with the Ethiopian Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defense and the ECAA were also used to secure permissions from the government and contributed to the successful implementation of the South Sudan operation.