



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

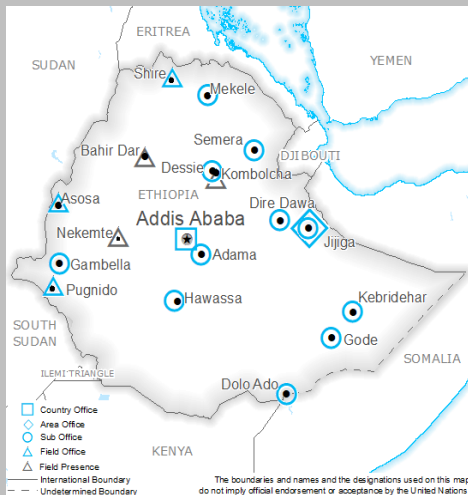
## WFP Ethiopia, Country Brief March 2020



### Operational Context

Ethiopia has achieved notable progress over the past decade, from economic growth averaging ten percent per annum (from 2007–2017), to a reduction in extreme poverty and hunger rates by half (61 to 31 percent). The Government's Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP II) envisions Ethiopia as a middle-income country by 2025.

The GTP II prioritizes support to the agricultural sector to enhance food and nutrition security and build resilience. WFP's portfolio is designed to support and complement national efforts, with key support areas focused on disaster risk management, basic social services and resilience building. The Government-led Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Plan 2020 identified 5.9 million people in Ethiopia requiring humanitarian assistance in 2020.



Population: **105 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **173 out of 189**

Income Level: **Low**

Chronic malnutrition: **38 percent of children between 6-59 months**

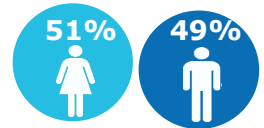
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 Photo: WFP/Edward Johnson

### In Numbers

**30,000 mt** of food distributed  
**USD 8.4 million** of cash distributed

**USD 125 million** (May - October 2020) net funding requirements

**3.2 million** people assisted in March 2020



### Operational Updates

- The first case of COVID-19 was reported in Ethiopia in March 2020, though the infection rates remain, humanitarian needs are expected to increase in the coming months. WFP anticipates that food assistance requirements will likely increase should COVID-19 spread. There are indications that the urban poor and those in informal sectors will face food consumption gaps should the pandemic spread in Ethiopia. The Food Cluster provisionally estimates that an additional 9 million people in rural and urban areas will require cash or food transfers as a result of COVID-19.
- The desert locust infestation is likely to worsen food insecurity. Impacted areas are in *belg* crop-producing areas such as Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region (SNNPR), zones in eastern Amhara and southern Tigray and all pastoral areas.
- The Government and the Food Cluster are estimating the number of people likely to require humanitarian assistance due to the impacts of COVID-19 and desert locusts. The results will be incorporated within a revised 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). Under the HRP relief food sector, three food partners currently assist 7 million people: the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) - 3.7 million; WFP - 1.9 million; and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) under the Joint Emergency Operation (JEOP) - 1.4 million;).
- In line with WFP's COVID-19 preparedness and response plan, addressing key sectoral and cross-cutting, and operational priorities in the Government's COVID-19 National Emergency Response Plan, and within the context of the United Nations system's contribution to the Plan, WFP is prioritizing life-saving activities:
  - Prioritized assistance:** relief assistance for food insecure households including internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, and mothers and children in targeted supplementary feeding (TSF) activities will continue to receive support.
  - New assistance:** recognizing that a substantial portion of additional food assistance requirements caused by COVID-19 will be in urban contexts, WFP and partners are exploring the options for cash and food transfers in urban areas, including in Addis Ababa (WFP support is currently in rural areas only).

# WFP Country Strategy

## Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2020)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>871 m</b>	<b>79 m</b>	<b>280 m</b>

### Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

**Strategic Outcome 1:** Refugees and crisis-affected populations in targeted areas are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs throughout the year.

#### Activities:

- Unconditional cash and food assistance, livelihood support and emergency school feeding to crisis-affected populations.
- Nutritional support and treatment of moderate acute malnutrition to crisis-affected children aged 6-59 months, pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWG) and anti-retroviral treatment /tuberculosis – daily observed treatment clients.
- Unconditional cash and food assistance, school feeding and nutritional support to refugees, and livelihood support to refugees and host populations.

### Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

**Strategic Outcome 2:** *Vulnerable and food-insecure populations are able to meet their essential food needs and establish climate-resilient livelihoods.*

#### Activities:

- Safe and reliable food to primary-school children, and support to the Ministries of Education and Agriculture in scaling up nutrition-sensitive school-feeding programmes.
- Conditional food assistance to chronically food-insecure households, disaster risk-management solutions, economic empowerment to women, and technical support to government for the implementation of PSNP.

### Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

**Strategic Outcome 3:** *Nutritionally vulnerable populations in targeted areas receive support aimed at preventing all forms of undernutrition.*

#### Activities:

- Cash- or voucher-based transfers to PLWG and children aged 6-23 months, jointly with social behaviour and change communication, training for outreach workers, and government capacity-strengthening to contribute to national efforts to reduce stunting and prevent undernutrition.

### Strategic Result 5: Developing countries have strengthened capacities to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

**Strategic Outcome 4:** *Government institutions and the private sector benefit from capacity strengthening in the areas of early warning and emergency preparedness systems, the design and implementation of safety net programmes, and supply chain management.*

#### Activities:

- Advisory and technical services to Government and private sector for strengthening delivery platforms and national systems, including early warning and emergency preparedness systems, safety nets programme management, and supply chain management.

### Strategic Result 8: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology, strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs

**Strategic Outcome 5:** *Government, humanitarian and development partners in Ethiopia have access to, and benefit from, effective and cost-efficient logistics services, including air transport, common coordination platforms and improved commodity supply chains.*

#### Activities:

- Aviation-related services to government and humanitarian partners.
- Supply chain services to government and humanitarian partners.

- WFP reached 3.2 million beneficiaries (60 percent of the overall planning levels) in March through six different activities, including relief, targeted supplementary feeding, refugee response and school feeding. There were delays for HRP relief assistance (Activity 1) in Somali Region, with only 40 percent of the planned beneficiaries assisted in March due to COVID-19 border closures and transportation hold-ups. WFP reduced the capacity delays by expanding the pool of transporters,
- WFP and partners have introduced preventive measure at the food distributions sites to limit the spread of possible COVID-19 infections by, where possible, combining two distribution rounds into one thereby limiting the number of gatherings. Physical distancing and handwashing were implemented at distribution sites and health centres, where hygiene posters were displayed. WFP and partner organizations require personal protection equipment.
- WFP requires US\$125 million from May to October to maintain current food assistance plans. Additional COVID-19 needs are being assessed.

## Cross-border assistance to South Sudan

- Cross-border operation: WFP airdropped 2,500 mt of food commodities to 12 drop zones in South Sudan in 84 rotations. Poor road conditions have adversely impacted road movement from Ethiopia to South Sudan.
- As part of the supply chain COVID-19 preparedness and response strategy, WFP and medical professionals jointly providing sensitization sessions to service providers and transporters across the country.
- WFP provided logistics and supply chain support in the transportation of medical supplies and equipment from the Jack Ma and Ali Baba Foundations. Ethiopian Airlines flew the cargo from Addis Ababa to 50 African countries in March.
- The Logistics Cluster will be activated to support COVID-19 response in the coming weeks, co-led by the NDRMC and WFP.

## UNHAS

- The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) ensures the provision of safe, reliable, effective, and cost-efficient passenger and light cargo transport to the broader humanitarian community, development actors, and donors. In March, UNHAS transported 327 passengers and 3,300 kg of cargo, for 28 humanitarian organizations.

**Donors:** (in alphabetical order): Austria, BASF Stiftung, Canada, China, Denmark, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, France, Germany, Japan, Luxembourg, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, UN Central Emergency Response Fund, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs/Ethiopian Humanitarian Fund, USA.