



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Ethiopia Country Brief

March 2021



Operational Context

Ethiopia has achieved notable progress over the past decade, from economic growth averaging 10 percent per annum (2007-2017) to a reduction in extreme poverty and hunger rates by half (61 to 31 percent). The Government's Ten-Year Perspective Development Plan (2021-2030) envisions Ethiopia as a middle-income country.

The ten-year plan and other national policies and strategies prioritize support to the agriculture sector to enhance food and nutrition security and build resilience.

WFP is aligned to the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2020-2025). 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 security in Tigray remained unstable and unpredictable in March. The situation was particularly volatile in rural areas where large numbers of people are believed to have fled. Due to the conflict, farmers missed the harvest season and with regional trade blocked, the local markets are close to collapsing. The Government estimates that 5.2 million people are in urgent need of food assistance in the Tigray Region.



Population: **109 million**

2019 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/Michael Tewelde

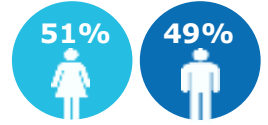
In Numbers

4 million people assisted

US\$ 2 million cash-based transferrals made

US\$ 314 million (April - September 2021) net funding requirements

44,500 mt of food assistance distributed



Operational Updates

In March, WFP assisted **4 million people**, including drought and flood-affected people, internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, and malnourished children and women. WFP extended its emergency relief food assistance response in Tigray and continued to mobilize food assistance and augment secondary transport capacity for relief distributions, as requested by the Government.

Relief

- In the Tigray Region, WFP started its relief food distribution in three accessible *woredas* in Southern Tigray in favor of 399,860 people. WFP also established a presence in Shire for the scale-up of its relief assistance to 1.4 million beneficiaries in Tigray.
- In the Somali Region, WFP continued to provide in-kind food assistance to drought and flood-affected people and IDPs. WFP is entirely responsible for relief food assistance in this Region. WFP began the first round of food distributions under the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan. WFP delivered digital cash-based transfers (CBT) at six food distribution points and is preparing for round one of CBT in Somali region.

Nutrition

- WFP distributed 2,067 mt of specialized nutritious food to 412,556 children aged 6-59 months, and pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWG) through targeted supplementary feeding (TSF) for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM).
- Insecurity in the Tigray Region has interrupted access to markets and services, leading to an increase in malnutrition cases among pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWG) and children. WFP carried out its blanket supplementary feeding programme (BSFP) in three accessible districts in Tigray and assisted 45,286 children and 23,349 PLWG with an aim of preventing malnutrition/cushioning children and women.

Refugees response

- WFP supported 699,863 refugees through the distribution of in-kind food and cash-based transferrals (CBT) in 24 refugee camps. In total, WFP distributed 11,229 mt of food and transferred US\$643,140 in cash. Funding shortfalls for refugee operations resulted in refugees receiving 81 percent of the minimum recommended daily nutritional intake.

School feeding

- Adhering to the national COVID-19 safety measures, WFP reached 186,900 school children in Afar and Oromia Regions with 1,750 mt of food.

Fresh Food Vouchers

- The FFV Programme supports households with pregnant and lactating women/children under 2 years of age to improve their access to fresh food and improve dietary diversity. US\$ 271,600 through fresh food vouchers (FFV), were transferred to 105,730 people to enable them to purchase fresh food. In addition, a catch-up cycle of US\$5,326 was distributed and in favor of 1,440 people (288 households).

Country Strategic Plan (2020 - 2025)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
3 b	498 m	314 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

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

Activities:

- Provide unconditional, nutrition-sensitive, cash-based and in-kind food assistance to crisis-affected populations and transitory clients of the Productive Safety Net Programme.
- Support treatment and prevention of acute malnutrition for crisis-affected children under 5 and PLWG.
- Provide unconditional, nutrition-sensitive, cash-based and in-kind food assistance, school feeding and nutrition support to refugees.

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 2: Vulnerable and food-insecure populations in targeted areas have increased resilience to shocks by 2025.

Activities:

- Provide safe, nutritious and reliable daily meals to primary school children and support to the Ministries and Bureaus of Education and Agriculture in scaling up nutrition-sensitive school feeding programmes.
- Provide nutrition-sensitive social protection, climate risk management services and capacity strengthening support for smallholder farmers, pastoralists, refugees and returnees most vulnerable to climate shocks.

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 3: Nutritionally vulnerable populations in targeted areas have an improved consumption of high-quality, nutrient-dense foods to prevent all forms of malnutrition through June 2025.

Activities:

- Provide climate-sensitive cash-based food transfers to PLWG and children aged 6-23 months, SBCC to communities, training to outreach workers and capacity strengthening to the private sector and Government to contribute to national and regional efforts to reduce stunting and prevent all other forms of malnutrition.

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

Strategic Outcome 4: Federal and regional government institutions, the private sector and local NGOs benefit from capacity strengthening in the areas of early warning and emergency preparedness systems, safety nets programme design and implementation and supply chain management through June 2025

Activities:

- Provide advisory and technical services to federal and regional government and the private sector for strengthening food assistance delivery platforms and national and regional systems, including social safety nets programme management, early warning and emergency preparedness systems, and supply chain solutions and 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 through June 2025.

Activities:

- Provide aviation and air operation services to government and humanitarian actors.
- Provide supply chain services to government and humanitarian partners.

Climate Risk Management

- To mitigate risks posed by the invasion of desert locusts, flooding and the COVID-19 pandemic, WFP provided assistance to 28,300 households in the Somali Region through satellite index insurance for pastoralists in Ethiopia (SIPE). SIPE provides livestock insurance and greater protection to pastoralists against climate risk.

Social protection and livelihoods

- To strengthen livelihoods and resilience of refugee and host community farmers, WFP trained 1,355 beneficiaries on various livestock health and feeding practice, harvesting and post-harvest handling, and business skill development.

Logistics

- In March, WFP transported 14,400 mt of food on behalf of the Government's National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC).
- WFP also transported 6,700 mt for its relief, nutrition, and refugee activities across the Tigray Region.
- The Logistics Cluster facilitated the transport of 1,093 mt of relief goods into Tigray on behalf of several partners.
- WFP continued to operate its Last Mile Solution (LMS) and Bag Marking Solution (BMS) to improve its systems to track food commodities. In March, WFP recorded 6,087 mt through the LMS covering 23 different locations. Over 500 mt were tagged with the BMS and delivered to 29 different locations.

Gender and protection

- 335 cases were received through the helpline (36 percent of the calls were made by women and 63 percent by men). By the end of March, 48 percent of the cases were resolved.

Cross-border assistance to South Sudan

- Despite the ongoing challenges of security and road inaccessibility, WFP continued cross-border support to South Sudan. WFP delivered 1,500 mt of food commodities via air drop, 450 mt via river, and 175 mt via road.

United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- In March, UNHAS has transported 1,441 kg of light humanitarian cargo and 244 passengers.
- 22 humanitarian organizations used UNHAS services (82 percent NGOs, 13 percent United Nations agencies, and five percent government officials). UNHAS also performed seven medical evacuations.

Challenges

- Insecurity in Tigray continued to present a challenge to humanitarian activities in March. Humanitarian partners continued to engage and coordinate with the Government and the NDMRC for humanitarian access. More Government clearances were granted for international humanitarian staff in March. Clearances for humanitarian cargo were facilitated by the Logistics Cluster and were granted quickly.
- The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact WFP's interventions. Measures are in place to ensure continuity of life-saving food assistance for: (i) relief (conflict, drought, desert locust affected people); (ii) treatment/prevention of moderate acute malnutrition; and (iii) assistance to refugees in camps.

Donors (in alphabetical order): Austria, Canada, China, Denmark, Ethiopia Humanitarian Fund, European Commission, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxemburg, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and United States of America.

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