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 Plan (2021-2030) envisions Ethiopia becoming a middle-income country. The plan and other national policies and strategies prioritize support to the agricultural sector to enhance food and nutrition security and build resilience.

Ethiopia is experiencing prolonged drought with three consecutive poor rainy seasons, the first time in four decades. Across the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya) there are 20 million impacted by the drought - in Ethiopia, 7.4 million people will require food assistance.

Conflict in Northern Ethiopia has almost exhausted the coping mechanisms of millions and displaced hundreds of thousands from their homes. More than 131 million people require humanitarian food assistance mainly in conflict affected zones of Afar, Amhara and Tigray regions.

In Numbers

2.7 million people assisted
USD 3.75 million cash-based transfers provided
USD 511 million (June - November 2022) net funding requirements
28,952 mt of food assistance distributed

Operational Updates

- In May, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 2.7 million people, including those affected by drought and floods, internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, and malnourished women and children. Assistance to communities affected by conflict in Northern Ethiopia.

Relief
- In the Tigray Region, WFP delivered food assistance to 461,542 people in May. WFP also provided food and nutrition assistance to 196,536 people in the Afar Region and 36,640 people in the Amhara Region, both to internally displaced people and food insecure people in host communities.
- In the Somali Region WFP continued to provide food assistance to internally displaced people and people affected by drought during the month, but with a reduced cereal ration due to funding shortages. WFP also assisted 539,625 people with 5,491 mt of food and USD 2.65 million in cash-based transfers during the month of May.

Nutrition
- In May, WFP provided 1,570 mt of specialized nutritious foods for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and the prevention of wasting to 326,393 children under the age of 5 and Pregnant and Lactating Women and Girls (PLWGs).

Support to Refugees
- WFP supported 730,918 refugees with 8,434 mt of food assistance and USD 390,958 in cash-based transfers in 24 refugee camps across Ethiopia during the month of May. Due to significant funding shortfalls, WFP was only able to provide 50 percent of the standard ration.

School Feeding
- In May, WFP’s school feeding programme provided 198,029 school children with daily meals with 380 mt of food.

Fresh Food Vouchers
- The Fresh Food Voucher Programme supports households with PLWGs, and children under the age of 2 years, to access fresh foods and improve their dietary diversity. During the month of May, WFP provided fresh food vouchers to 90,926 women and children in the Amhara Region. An additional 2,885 PLWGs were reached through Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) activities, which promote best dietary practices.

Livelihood Support
- To improve the livelihoods of local communities, WFP supported over 7,380 people through its resilience building and livelihood activities in the Gambella Region. Under this initiative, WFP conducted a workshop to ascertain local private sector needs and capacity to link farmers to sustainable markets. This led to the design of a pilot project “Integrated Smallholder Resilience and Livelihood Support project” in collaboration with UN agencies, non-government organizations (NGOs), local administrators and smallholder farmers.

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Photo: WFP/Michael Tewelde

* the estimates inserted are based on three-month average

Population: 109 million
2020 Human Development Index: 173 out of 189
Income Level: Low
Chronic malnutrition: 38 percent of children between 6-59
Climate Risk Management
- WFP continued to implement the R4 Rural Resilience Initiative to enable vulnerable rural families to increase their food and income security by managing climate-related risks. During the month of May, WFP distributed awareness-raising materials for the R4 Rural Resilience Initiative in the Amhara Region.

Supply Chain
- In May, WFP dispatched 11 convoys from Semera to the Tigray Region consisting of more than 1,300 trucks for WFP, Catholic Relief Services (CRS)/Joint Emergency Operation (JEOP) and Logistics Cluster partners. In total, 22,270 mt of WFP food commodities were delivered to the region.
- In the Afar Region, WFP dispatched 300 mt of specialized nutritious foods and 2,400 mt of relief commodities to conflict-affected people in May.
- In the Amhara Region, WFP dispatched 382 mt of food to refugees in the Dabat camp and 312 mt of specialized nutritious foods from Kombolcha to distribution points in the region.
- The Logistics Cluster facilitated the storage of 5,791 m³ of humanitarian supplies on behalf of 25 partners in May.
- The Logistics Cluster facilitated the transport of 4,633 mt of humanitarian cargo to different locations in Addis Ababa and the Afar, Amhara, Oromia and Tigray regions on behalf of 26 partners in May.

Accountability to Affected Populations
- WFP participated in the Gender Results Network, training staff and members on disability inclusion, providing a multilingual glossary of prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse terminology in the Amharic, Tigrigna, Oromia and Somali languages.

United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)
- During the reporting period, UNHAS transported 92 mt of humanitarian cargo and 853 passengers within Ethiopia.

Challenges
- Insecurity in Northern Ethiopia and a lack of fuel, supplies and humanitarian access continued to hamper WFP’s activities. WFP continues to engage and coordinate with Federal and Regional authorities to secure safe access to scale up humanitarian operations.
- WFP has the ability to save and change lives across Ethiopia through 2022, but a widening gap between resources and needs is making access to humanitarian food assistance to millions of Ethiopians uncertain. WFP has already been forced to cut rations to refugees and people affected by drought.

Donors
Australian, Austria, Canada, CERF, China, Denmark, the Ethiopia Humanitarian Fund, European Commission, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Norway, South Korea, SRAC, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

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