



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Ethiopia Country Brief August 2024



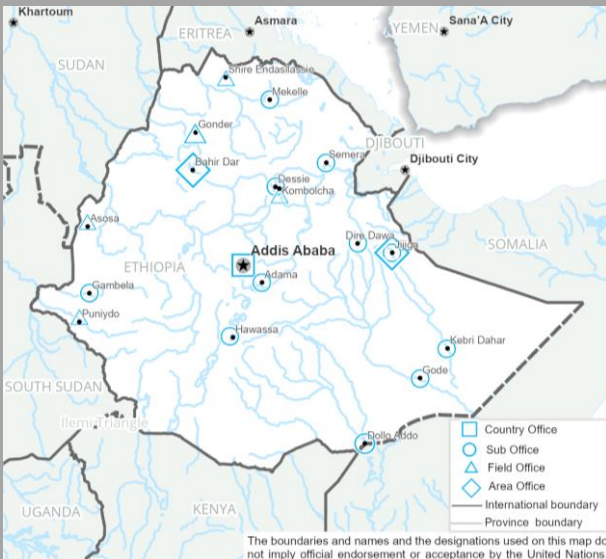
Nejat and her family live in Ura refugee camp. "We left to make our children safe. But they have no education, no future. We rely on the food from WFP but it is not enough." ©WFP

## Operational Context

Ethiopia has continued to face conflict, drought, flooding, and inflation, leading to increasing food insecurity. Despite the peace agreement ending active conflict in the Tigray region, intense armed conflict has erupted in other regions, primarily in Amhara and Oromia. As a result, WFP operations face elevated risks and costs to ensure safe and timely food deliveries to the most vulnerable individuals.

The Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2024 targets 20.4 million people with food, nutrition, and protection needs due to violence, conflict, extreme drought, and floods. According to the Food Cluster, 15.8 million people need food assistance across the country in 2024.

Ethiopia is also hosting more than 1 million refugees and asylum seekers from South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea, and Sudan. The influx of new refugees from Sudan continues to be a priority.



The boundaries and names and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Population: **126 million**

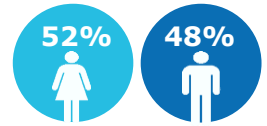
Human Development Index: **176 out of 193**

Income Level: **Low**

Chronic malnutrition: **41 percent of children between 6-59**

## In Numbers

**3.3 million** people assisted



**USD 1.5 million** cash-based transfers provided

**32,700 MT** of food distributed

**USD 341 million** six months (Sept 2024 - Feb 2025) net funding requirements

## Operational Updates

### Relief Support

- WFP provided food assistance to 1.6 million people food-insecure individuals in Afar, Amhara, Tigray and Somali regions – distributing 19,300 metric tons (MT) of in-kind food and USD 1 million in cash assistance. Due to lack of funding, WFP is distributing reduced food rations in districts facing emergency levels of food insecurity and in Internally Displaced People (IDP) camps.

### Support to Refugees

- WFP assisted 792,000 refugees in 29 camps and sites distributing 9,500 MT of in-kind food and USD 283,000 cash assistance. In August, distributions to refugees in Amhara were delayed due to insecurity.
- WFP also distributed 150 MT of nutritious supplementary food to 12,400 refugees to treat Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) among children under 5, and pregnant and breastfeeding women.

### Livelihood Support and Climate Risk Management

- WFP supported 170,000 individuals through resilience building of smallholder farmers and climate risk management initiatives in Afar, Amhara, Gambella, Somali and Tigray regions in August. This support included distributing 4,000 fruit seedlings, rehabilitating a 600-meter irrigation canal benefiting 100 farmers, donating 120 solar pumps, planting 984,000 trees, and establishing 80 new savings groups. WFP also facilitated the enrolment of 124,000 smallholder farmers in insurance programmes to protect them from potential yield losses.
- WFP is preparing to provide Anticipatory Action (AA) support in Somali between October and December 2024 to mitigate the impact of the anticipated drought that is forecasted to be triggered by La Niña. Based on funding already secured, WFP is planning to provide cash assistance to 70,000 people and to disseminate early warning messages to 473,000 individuals. WFP is also actively seeking additional AA funding to implement activities in other areas, given the expected significant impact of La Niña.

### School Meals

- WFP organized take-home ration distributions to ensure that any stock balance from the previous school year was distributed to school children – with 283 MT distributed to 58,000 children in August.

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## Country Strategic Plan (2020 - 2025)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>6.31 b</b>	<b>3.09 b</b>	<b>341 m</b>

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

**Strategic Outcome 1:** Shock-affected populations in targeted areas and refugees in camps can 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 five and PLWG.
- Provide unconditional, nutrition-sensitive, cash-based and in-kind food assistance, school feeding and nutrition support to refugees.

**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.
- 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.

#### 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 SDGs

**Strategic Outcome 5:** Government, humanitarian and development partners have access to and benefit from effective and cost-efficient logistics services, including air transport, common coordination platforms, improved commodity supply chains and information technology through June 2025.

#### Activities:

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

## Nutrition Activities

- WFP supported 664,000 individuals with malnutrition treatment and prevention across eight regions, including children under 5, pregnant women, and breastfeeding mothers. Among them, 616,000 received treatment for malnutrition, with 3,100 mt of specialized nutritious food and vouchers worth USD 12,000 distributed. WFP also distributed 300 MT of specialized nutritious food to 48,000 individuals to prevent malnutrition.
- In Amhara, WFP provided fresh food vouchers (FFV) worth USD 220,000 to 21,000 individuals to prevent malnutrition.

## Strategic Updates

- In August, WFP held consultations on the design and relevance of its 2025-2030 Country Strategic Plan (CSP) with government counterparts, UN agencies, civil society, donors and cooperation partners.

## Food Security and Nutrition Updates

- Forecasts indicate that La Nina will bring below-average rains during the October to December 2024 rainy season. If this materializes, regions in the south and southeast will move to emergency levels of food insecurity during the dry period from January to March 2025. An estimated 8.6 million people are projected to be at risk of 'severe' drought conditions because of this situation. Many households have yet to recover from the extended drought from 2020-23, which was the worst in recent history in the Horn of Africa.
- High levels of malnutrition persist. Wasting rates above 15 percent – which is considered high/very critical – were reported in six out of seven regions by the Ethiopian Nutrition Coordination Unit, following the screening of 2 million children.

## Challenges

- **Funding Gaps:** WFP requires USD 341 million to sustain operations over the next six months. Due to funding challenges, the current response is not meeting all humanitarian needs of the population, with more than 6 million acutely food insecure people not receiving assistance. WFP also had to significantly reduce the size of rations for the majority of beneficiaries.
- Additionally, for the next school year starting in September, WFP will no longer be able to reach 128,000 school children in Afar and Oromia regions due to funding shortfalls.
- **Insecurity:** Recurrent security incidents, particularly in Amhara region, have been impacting operations and threatening humanitarian staff safety. In August, a humanitarian worker was fatally shot, and a WFP staff was shot at and injured. Insecurity also resulted in loss of food, with nine trucks transporting WFP food looted.

**Donors:** Canada, Denmark, the European Commission, Ethiopia (World Bank), France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malta, Norway, Private donors, Republic of Korea, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, the UN Central Emergency Response Fund, and the United States of America.