



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Ethiopia Country Brief September 2024



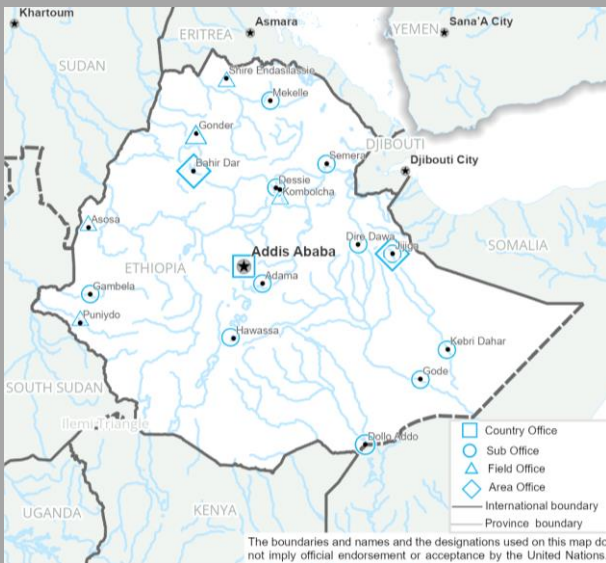
Mohamed Hassen, 12, 5th Grade student having his meal at school in Hilaweyn Refugee camp in Somali region of Ethiopia. ©WFP

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.

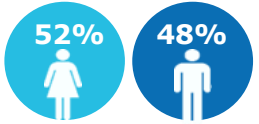
Population: **126 million**

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

Income Level: **Low**

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

In Numbers



2.8 million people assisted

USD 0.3 million cash-based transfers provided

28,200 MT of food distributed

USD 346 million six months (Oct 2024 – Mar 2025) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

Relief Support

- WFP provided food assistance to **1.3 million people food-insecure individuals** in Afar, Amhara, Tigray, and Somali regions – distributing 15,800 metric tons (MT) of in-kind food and USD 47,000 in cash assistance. Due to funding shortfalls, WFP provided 12 kg of cereals for HEA (Household Economy Analysis) phase 4 areas and IDPs in camps; but maintained a 15 kg/person/month for woredas in Household Economy Analysis (HEA) phase 5 which are among the severely food insecure areas.

Support to Refugees

- WFP assisted **751,000 refugees** in 29 camps and sites distributing 8,900 MT of in-kind food and USD 285,000 cash assistance. In August, distributions to refugees in Amhara were delayed due to **insecurity**.
- WFP also distributed 44 MT of specialized **nutritious foods** 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 trained 1,088 farmers on sustainable rangeland management, water management, post-harvest technologies, and Village saving and Loans (VSLA) methodologies in the Somali region. Furthermore, 1,036 households were trained on small business management. In the Gambella region, 144 farmers received training in post-harvest management and 31 farmers received training in crop diversification and financial management.
- WFP has initiated a baseline survey for its Anticipatory Action (AA) intervention in the Somali region to provide a baseline for assessing the effectiveness of the response. The survey targets 370 households in the treatment group and 370 households in the control group. Finalization of data collection is scheduled for the end of October.

School Meals

- Schools officially reopened on 17 September to start the 2024-2025 academic year. Distribution of school meals will begin in October 2024.
- Funding shortfalls of USD 4M projected for Sep - Jan semester due to the phasing out of in-kind commodity donations from the USDA/McGovern-Dole programme affecting 128,000 school children. Unless immediate funding received, the pipeline break will continue to impact the Feb-Jul Semester.

Contact info: **Jurian Steeghs**, jurian.steeghs@wfp.org

Country Director: **Zlatan Milisic**

Further information: wfp.org/countries/Ethiopia and [@WFP_Ethiopia](https://twitter.com/WFP_Ethiopia) X account

Country Strategic Plan (2020 - 2025)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
6.31 b	3.09 b	346 m

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 provided 3,400 MT of specialized nutritious foods to 611,000 individuals under the treatment of acute malnutrition programme in nine regions.

Strategic Updates

- In September, the Ministry of Finance and WFP Ethiopia co-hosted a consultation with government counterparts on the design of the WFP 2025-2030 Country Strategic Plan (CSP), confirming its alignment with national priorities. WFP also held stakeholder consultations on the evaluation of the current CSP (2020-2025), gathering feedback from the Government, development partners, UN agencies, and NGOs on the evaluation findings and recommendations.
- WFP conducted a protection and gender rapid assessment in Somali region for its Anticipatory Action activities to assess the impacts of climate change and drought on diverse groups. An action plan is under finalization incorporating the recommendations from the assessment.

Food Security and Nutrition Assessments

- According to the mid-year Belg season assessment, an estimated 12 million people require humanitarian food assistance from July to September 2024. This will decline to 5.5 million during the last quarter from October to December as the lean season comes to an end and the Meher harvests start. Of the 12 million people in need of assistance from July to September, about 3.7 million are IDPs and the number of IDPs will remain the same at 3.7 million from October to December 2025.

Challenges

- **Funding Gaps:** WFP urgently requires USD 346 million to sustain operations over the next six months.
- There will be a significant pipeline break in November under relief activity, which will result in the reprioritization of November and December distribution plans. In November and December, WFP is planning to assist 560,000 IDPs and returnees with 55 percent of the standard ration. In addition, immediate resources are required to reach 754,00 food insecure people under the Household Economy Analysis (HEA) Phase 4 and Phase 5 districts to be included in the November plan with 100% ration size.
- **Insecurity:** The overall security situation across the Amhara region remains unchanged posing a challenge to humanitarian operations. While schools reopened on 17 September, some WFP target schools remain closed in the Meket and Adi-Arkay woredas of the Amhara region due to insecurity. Internet connection and cell phone service in the operational areas have also been intermittently interrupted.

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