



WFP Ethiopia Country Brief

October 2024

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

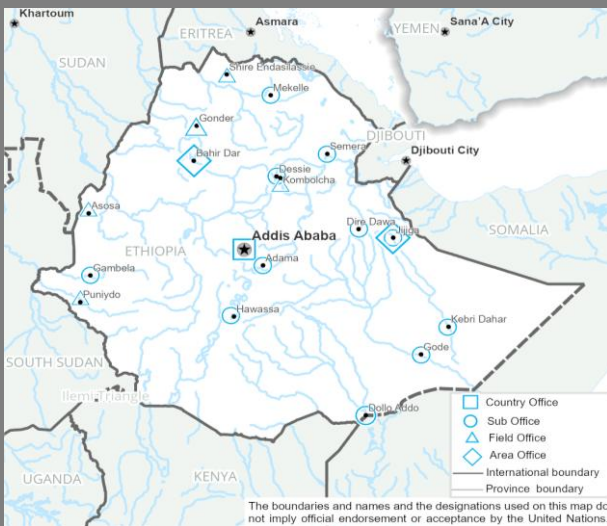


Operational Context

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 one 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**

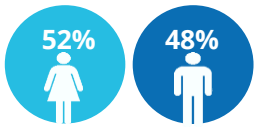
Human Development Index: **176 out of 193**

Income Level: **Low**

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

In Numbers

2.6 million people assisted



USD 0.4 million cash-based transfers provided

24,200 mt of food distributed

USD 364 million six months (Nov 2024 – Apr 2025) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

Relief Support

- In October, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to over one million food-insecure people in Afar, Amhara, Tigray, and Somali regions – distributing 12,170 metric tons (mt) of in-kind food and USD 34,300 in cash assistance.
- WFP has started responding to vulnerable returnees with food assistance in the contested woredas at the Amhara and Tigray borders, where internally displaced people have started returning to their places of origin from both regions.

Support to Refugees

- WFP assisted 764,000 refugees in 29 camps and sites distributing 8,900 mt of in-kind food and USD 246,100 cash assistance. This includes cash assistance under hybrid basket for Sudanese refugees. In October, distributions to refugees in Amhara were delayed due to insecurity.
- WFP distributed 156 mt of school meals to 50,700 school children in the refugee camps. In addition, 118,800 children under five and pregnant and breastfeeding women received 55 mt of specialized nutritious food to treat moderate acute malnutrition (MAM).

Livelihood Support and Climate Risk Management

- WFP has supported 97,680 households with agricultural inputs and financial resources across the five targeted regions (Afar, Amhara, Gambella, Somali and Tigray) since January 2024. More than 247,000 smallholder farmers have been insured through the Area Yield Index Insurance to protect their agro-inputs investment valued at USD 44 million. In addition, WFP enrolled some 4,300 pastoralists in the Index-Based Livestock Insurance in the Somali region.
- WFP's support for meso-insurance in the Amhara region, along with the proof of concept from the Area Yield Index, has paved the way for the private sector to expand risk insurance nationwide. This includes the Tigray and Oromia regions, with 547,000 people currently insured and many more being registered in the Oromia region.

School Meals

- The School Feeding Programme contributes to education outcomes and supports local farmers through the Home Grown School Feeding Programme (HGSP). In October, WFP provided school meals to 30,449 school children through the onsite school feeding programme and an additional 30,900 through the Home-Grown School Feeding programme (HGSP). In total, 33 mt of food commodities across 27 schools in the Afar and Tigray regions while USD 86,000 was disbursed through the HGSP.

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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	364 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 Program
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- 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 assisted 564,580 children under five, and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls with 3,100 mt of specialized nutritious foods to treat moderate acute malnutrition in nine regions.
- Around 7,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women received assistance for nutrition prevention through the Fresh Food Voucher intervention.

Strategic Updates

- The Ethiopia Country Office is developing its Country Strategic Plan (2025-2030). The strategic plan has been informed by evidence, and extensive consultations with stakeholders, and is aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, which is also under development.
- With the onset of the Meher harvest in October 2024, the number of people requiring food assistance has reduced from 12 million individuals during the lean season (July-September) to 5.5 million people between October and December. However, the triggers of food insecurity still persist.

Anticipatory Action Activation

- In anticipation of the La Niña-induced drought in the Somali region during the October–December 2024 season, WFP in collaboration with the Somali Disaster Risk Management Bureau (DRMB), activated Anticipatory Actions across 15 woredas in the Somali region. This activation was informed by vulnerability analysis, and planned anticipatory actions aim to cushion communities from the negative impact of the drought. In October, WFP reached 473,813 people with early warning messages and advisories and distributed the first round of multipurpose cash assistance to 67,753 individuals in the Ayun, Dollo Bay, and Bokh woredas.

Challenges

- **Funding Gaps:** WFP urgently requires USD 364 million to sustain operations over the next six months (Nov 2024 – April 2025).
- The number of returnees in the contested woredas of Tigray and Amhara regions has increased significantly. These returnees are experiencing acute food shortages as they return to their places of origin without access to other food sources. Consequently, WFP will prioritize support to 171,000 returnees and most food-insecure residents in November.
- **Insecurity:** The security situation in Ethiopia along the border with Sudan remains fragile. While the Benishangul Gumuz region is affected overall, the Amhara region is particularly impacted by the armed conflict.
- Due to insecurity in the Amhara region, 77 schools in various woredas targeted with school meals remain closed. WFP is engaging with the Bureau of Education and Woreda education offices to monitor the situation and to develop a plan to resume school meals when schools reopen.

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.