



WFP Ethiopia Country Brief

November 2024

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

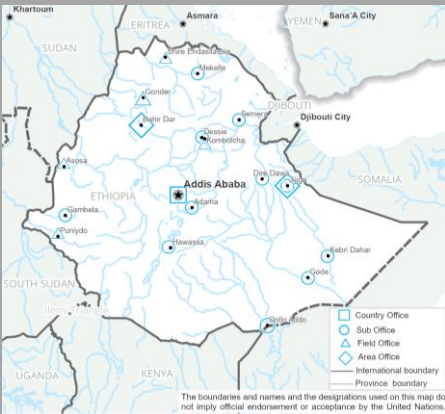


Operational Context

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.

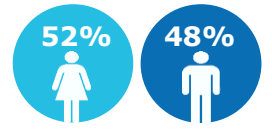


Population: **126 million**

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

Income Level: **Low**

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



In Numbers

2.49 million people assisted

USD 3.6 million cash-based transfers provided

18,014 MT of food distributed

USD 345.8 million six months (Dec 2024 – May 2025) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

Relief Response

- In November, WFP through its partners assisted 778,321 (90 percent of the target) food insecure people distributing 6,673 MT and transferring USD 2.79 million in cash.
- Following the end of peak of lean season in the third quarter, WFP prioritized woredas that are classified as Household Economy Analysis (HEA) phase 4 and 5 (emergency and famine levels respectively), and IDPs in camps as well as returnees, covering 27 districts in its Area of Responsibility in Afar, Amhara, Tigray and Somali regions. WFP updated vulnerability data for IDPs in camps across 11 sites in Tigray. This was followed by biometrics registration and provision of Multi-Purpose Cash assistance in the Tigray region for the first time in November. The intervention targeted 41,000 IDP households with nearly 190,000 members. This approach was based on evidence demonstrating the lack of basic needs among IDP households in the region.
- The post distribution monitoring for quarter 3 revealed that WFP's assistance had delivered measurable improvements in household food security: Afar saw a significant improvement in acceptable Food Consumption Scores (FCS), rising from 18 percent in January to 47 percent in October 2024. Despite regional challenges, the continuous provision of assistance has played a pivotal role in reducing hunger.

Refugees Assistance

- WFP and NGO partners assisted 794,340 refugees (88 percent) in 29 camps and sites distributing 8,560 MT of in-kind food and USD 307,660 cash assistance.
- Similarly, 26 MT of specialized nutritious foods were distributed to 9,088 children under five, and pregnant and breastfeeding women for malnutrition treatment.
- The Post Distribution for quarter 3 indicated an improved food security situation for refugees. The proportion of households who reported to have consumed sufficient food improved significantly mostly in Afar, from 18 percent in January 2024 to 47 percent in October.

Livelihood Support and Climate Risk Management

- WFP has empowered local communities through Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs). In Gambella 36 new VSLAs were added in November, now totalling 286. The 82 VSLA groups in the Somali region have savings of ETB 7.3 million and loans of ETB 1.8 million. In Amhara, 2,007 groups have nearly ETB 20 million in savings and ETB 17.8 million in loans. Tigray formed three new VSLAs, bringing the total to 26 with 705 members. These initiatives evidently enhance the local financial activity and support community economic development.

School Meals

- Across all regions, WFP provided 156,673 school children with school meals in November 2024.

Nutrition Activities

- WFP provided 2,615 MT of specialized nutritious foods to 528,125 children under five, and pregnant and breastfeeding women under the treatment of acute malnutrition programme in nine regions. Concerns on sustained access to delivery nutrition assistance in insecure areas of Amhara and other regions remain.

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Photo caption: Nune Osman, 22 a mother of 4 seen preparing a farmland in Berdaley Village as part of anticipatory action in the Somali Region of Ethiopia. ©WFP

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	345.8 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.

- WFP reached 2,137 people through the voucher for treatment, distributing USD 20,153 through cash-based transfers. This activity is expected to expand in additional ten woredas in Oromia and the Southern regions by the end of the year.
- In partnership with the Government, and communities, WFP under its community engagement initiatives are in the process of developing an outreach program to educate beneficiaries on how to effectively use the Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM). WFP has made significant investment in enhancing and standardizing its CFM to ensure that affected communities have a voice in decision-making while addressing their food and nutritional needs in a safe and dignified manner.

Strategic Update

- WFP started the review of its early recovery and livelihood framework in the Tigray region to incorporate key components such as post-harvest management, nutrition, and water resource management, with the aim of developing a more holistic and sustainable approach to recovery.

Anticipatory Action Update

- **Through Early Warning Messages** 1,800 members of early warning committees were trained and the committee disseminated early warning messages and advisories to 360,234 people in the 15 targeted woredas through face to face message delivery channel. Furthermore, the information shared through Radio Ethiopia, Somali Region TV, and various Facebook pages across Somali region. However, following further weather forecasts, WFP is adjusting its early warning messages and programme interventions.
- The second round of multi-purpose cash assistance was successfully distributed to 9,578 households across three woredas: Ayun, Bokh, and Dollo Bay. Preparations for the third round are currently underway. Multipurpose cash is one of the anticipatory action proactive measures to mitigate the impacts of predictable disasters, primarily drought and improve food security. The beneficiaries can use it for household consumption.
- The Rangeland Management and Fodder Production intervention has delivered significant achievements. A total of 4,479 individuals received training on rangeland management and irrigated fodder production, while 1,944 households were provided with essential hand tools to enhance their productivity. Rangeland rehabilitation and fodder production efforts covered 120 hectares, accompanied by the construction of 7,920 soil and water conservation structures, such as half-moons and water diversion canals. Community participation facilitated the construction of 750 meters of water diversion canals. Additionally, 60 hectares of land were improved through embankments, dykes, and bush clearing activities. To ensure proper storage and management of feed, four fodder storage facilities were constructed. Furthermore, 4,046 households across Dollo, Ado, Dollo Bay, Ayun, Aware, Gashamo, and Wangey woredas were registered for feed vouchers to support their livestock needs.
- Under the Rehabilitation of Water Points initiative, 19 existing water points, including *birkas*, ponds, boreholes, and hand-dug wells, were rehabilitated to restore functionality. To further support livestock, six cattle troughs were constructed, ensuring access to water resources in the targeted areas.

Challenges

- **Funding Gaps:** WFP urgently requires USD 345.8 million to sustain operations over the next six months.
- Insecurity in Amhara region persists, delaying and impacting transportation of food to schools, and nutrition activities.

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.