



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Ethiopia Country Brief January 2025

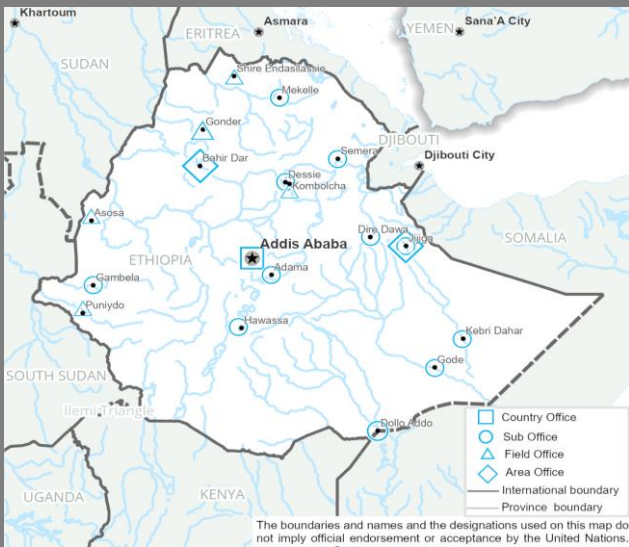


## Operational Context

Ethiopia continues to experience conflict, drought, flooding, and inflation, exacerbating food insecurity. While the peace agreement ended active conflict in the Tigray region, armed clashes in other regions, particularly in Amhara and Oromia, have increased risks and costs for WFP, making it more challenging to deliver food safely and on time to the most vulnerable populations.

While consensus on the number of food-insecure people in Ethiopia has not yet been reached, the Global Humanitarian Overview estimates that 10 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in 2025.

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 months**

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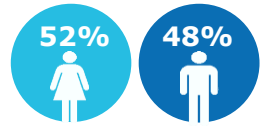
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**Photo caption:** Amina Hussen Mekaban, 40, a mother of 12 and a beneficiary from Bure Kebele, Gurmeyti village in the Afar region of Ethiopia, is seen queuing for WFP's cash assistance. The assistance was provided in response to the impacts of climate change and conflict in the region. ©WFP/Michael Tewelde

## In Numbers

**2.39 million** people assisted



**USD 3.28 million** cash-based transfers provided

**16,911 metric tonnes (mt)** of food distributed

**USD 256 million** net funding requirement for the next six months (February – July 2025)

## Operational Updates

### Relief Response

- In January 2025, WFP assisted 594,058 people (96 percent) of its target of 617,432 across the Afar, Amhara, Somali, Tigray, and Oromia regions. Of those assisted, 436,349 people (73.5 percent) received in-kind food commodities, while 157,709 people (26.5 percent) were supported through cash-based transfers.
- According to the Household Economic Assessment (HEA), an estimated 1.34 million people in WFP operational areas will require food assistance in the first quarter of 2025 (January to March). Due to limited resources, WFP is prioritizing acutely food-insecure people in HEA phases 4 and 5 woredas, as well as internally displaced persons and returnees.
- Rations included 12 kg of cereals, 1.5 kg of pulses, and 1.1 kg of vegetable oil. As in December, cereal rations in January remained at 12 kg, down from 15 kg, due to shortages, with further ration cuts expected in February.
- Cash-based transfers were implemented in Afar and Tigray after feasibility assessments. In January, cash assistance increased, supported by contributions from ECHO and Canada. The shift has improved household flexibility, diversified diets, strengthened local markets, and enhanced dignity by providing greater choice.
- Since 21 December 2024, heightened seismic activity in the Afar and Oromia regions, with over 200 earthquakes recorded, has prompted WFP to provide relief support to affected people. Complementing the government's response, WFP provided 33.01 metric tons (MT) of vegetable oil to 73,361 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in January.

### Refugees Assistance

- WFP provided food assistance to 798,164 refugees (92 percent) of the planned caseload across 29 camps and sites, distributing 9,158 MT of in-kind food and USD 298,577 in cash assistance.
- Of those assisted, 77 percent in 20 camps received fully in-kind support, while 23 percent in 9 camps received a hybrid (cash and food) transfer.
- Recently arrived Sudanese refugees (2 percent of the caseload) received full rations due to their critical food and nutrition status, while the rest received 60 percent rations.

### Nutrition Activities

- WFP provided 2,450 MT of specialized nutritious foods to 251,875 children under five and 247,529 pregnant and breastfeeding women under the acute malnutrition treatment programme in nine regions. Through the voucher modality, 7,450 beneficiaries received USD 65,724 to purchase locally available nutritious foods.
- As WFP transitions all priority 1 woredas (those with the highest malnutrition rates) into the Integrated Management of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) programme, training health staff is essential. The Amhara team—supported by the CO team—conducted a Training of Trainers (TOT) for 49 participants from the Health Bureau and NGOs, who will train health extension workers for implementation.

## 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>256 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.

## School Meals

- WFP provided school meals to 265,050 children in January 2025, achieving 96 percent of the plan. Of these, 198,744 children received home-grown school meals in southern Ethiopia and Amhara.
- Seismic activity near Awash Fentale disrupted school meals for 2,028 children in 16 schools (15 in Awash Fentale and one in Dulecha), displacing students and families from hotspot areas to safer locations.
- In Amhara, Bugan Woreda is facing a severe humanitarian crisis due to insecurity, significantly affecting education. Of the 19,391 primary school students expected to enroll in September 2024, only 7,140 (37 percent) registered, while attendance has dropped to below 20 percent.

## Livelihood Support and Climate Risk Management

- In Gambella region, 85 farmers (45 refugees and 40 host community members) completed the harvest from a 60-hectare joint farming project, producing 11,900 kg of sorghum while strengthening peaceful coexistence. Several training sessions were launched in January to enhance productivity and resilience, including pest management training for 130 development agents and woreda officials in Gambella and various climate-smart agriculture and livestock management trainings benefiting 1,887 participants in Somali region.
- In Afar, five smallholder farmers sold 2.05 MT of vegetables to vendors supplying school meals in Hanruka and Ambiara woredas, encouraging more farmers to tap into market linkages facilitated by WFP.
- **Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs)** and Rural Savings and Credit Cooperatives (RuSACCOs) expanded across multiple regions. In Gambella, 313 VSLA groups saved ETB 6.2 million, with ETB 2.1 million disbursed as loans, while in Somali, 43 VSLA groups transitioned into RuSACCOs, receiving ETB 7 million in grants. Additionally, 47 groups in Jijiga accumulated ETB 5.3 million in savings, with ETB 3.1 million distributed as loans. In Tigray, six new VSLAs were established, bringing the total to 60 groups, while in Afar, three new all-female VSLAs increased the total to 34 groups.

## Cross-cutting Action

- Gender, Protection, and Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) insights were integrated into the earthquake response plan for Afar and Oromia.
- The "Humanitarian Food for Family" communication campaign sensitizing communities on the intended use of food and nutrition assistance was launched in Gambella and Afar, with materials translated into multiple local languages.
- The Community Feedback and Response Mechanism (CFRM) team managed 2,620 cases in January 2025, with 51 percent received via the call center and 49 percent through helpdesks. Complaints made up 61 percent of cases, followed by requests for information (19 percent) and requests for assistance (16 percent).

## Funding

- With ration cuts already taking place and more planned, WFP faces an immediate funding gap of USD 256 million (February-July 2025).

## Challenges

- Increasing methane emissions and seismic activity in Awash Fentale, Afar, raise concerns about a volcanic eruption.
- Armed confrontations, abductions, extortions, and road blockages in regions like Amhara and Oromia continue to cause operational challenges. The security environment is further complicated by Al-Shabab activities in the Somali region, communal violence, and reports of ISIS elements in the country.

## Donors (Alphabetical order):

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