



WFP Ethiopia Country Brief

February 2025

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



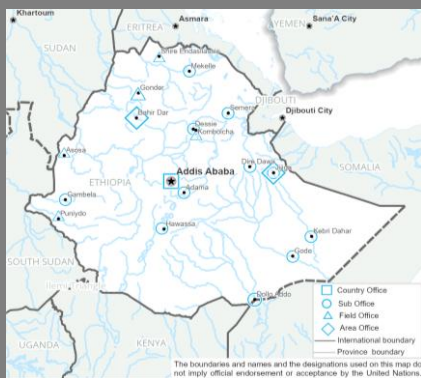
Operational Context

Ethiopia, home to 130 million people—40 percent of whom are under age 15 and 20 percent living with a disability—faces persistent socio-economic challenges. Despite strong GDP growth from 2004 to 2019, per capita income remains low at USD 1,020, life expectancy is 65 years, and 68.7 percent of the population lives below the national poverty line.

The country is grappling with multiple, overlapping crises, including conflict, drought, flooding, earthquakes, inflation, and an influx of refugees. Food insecurity remains severe, with an estimated 10.2 million people affected and acute malnutrition rates exceeding the 15 percent emergency threshold in several regions. The humanitarian situation is further strained by malaria and cholera outbreaks, as well as widespread school closures that have left nearly 8 million students—mostly in Amhara—out of school due to conflict. Ethiopia also hosts over one million refugees, with new arrivals from Sudan and South Sudan increasing pressure on already limited resources.

While the peace agreement ended active conflict in Tigray, tensions are rising again, and armed clashes in Amhara and Oromia have heightened risks and operational costs for humanitarian agencies, including WFP. These challenges make it increasingly difficult to deliver food assistance safely and on time.

Despite these obstacles, WFP remains committed to supporting Ethiopia's most vulnerable populations. Its efforts align with national priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 17 (Partnerships), ensuring that food and nutrition assistance reaches those in need.



Population: 130 million

Human Development Index: 176 out of 193

Income Level: Low

Chronic malnutrition/stunting: 39 % of children 6-59 months

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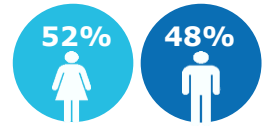
Further information: wfp.org/countries/Ethiopia and @WFP_Ethiopia X account.

Photo caption: Ash Sired, 40, seen harvesting onion from an irrigation scheme powered by a WFP solar-powered water pump, which supplies water to the entire Ellan village in Gode.

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In Numbers

2.5 million people assisted



USD 1.5 million cash-based transfers provided

18,517 metric tonnes (MT) of food distributed

USD 228 million net funding requirement for six months (March – August 2025)

Operational Updates

Relief Response

- WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 658,936 people, 91 percent of the targeted 723,420 in the Afar, Amhara, Somali, Tigray, and Oromia regions. This support included the distribution of 6,511 metric tons (MT) of food and the disbursement of USD 394,209 through cash-based transfers (CBT).
- An estimated 1.34 million people in WFP operational areas are in need of food assistance in the first quarter of 2025 (January to March) according to the Household Economic Assessment (HEA). Due to limited resources, WFP is prioritizing acutely food-insecure people in HEA Phase 4 and Phase 5 woredas, as well as internally displaced persons and returnees.
- Due to resource shortfalls, WFP provided 65 percent of the standard ration in February, distributing 9 kg of cereals, 1 kg of pulses, and 1.1 kg of vegetable oil. A return to full rations is not expected soon without additional funding.
- In response to continuing seismic activity in Afar and Oromia, WFP provided 81,120 people with pulses, oil and cash to address the immediate food security needs of those impacted by the earthquakes.

Refugees Assistance

- WFP provided food assistance to 797,627 refugees, achieving 93 percent of the planned caseload across 29 camps and sites, distributing 8,978 MT of in-kind food and USD 291,179 in cash assistance.
- Of those assisted, 78 percent in 20 camps received fully in-kind support, while 22 percent in 9 camps received a hybrid (cash and food) transfer.
- Refugees received rations at 60 percent of the standard food basket, except for newly arrived Sudanese refugees, who received full rations.
- In February 2025, approximately 71,513 refugee children enrolled in primary schools across 19 camps received school meals.
- A total of 23,845 people (19,345 children under five and 4,500 pregnant and breastfeeding women) received nutritious commodities through targeted supplementary feeding, while 23,537 people (17,867 children aged 6–59 months and 5,670 pregnant and breastfeeding women) were reached through blanket supplementary feeding.

Nutrition Activities

- To rehabilitate moderately malnourished children and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBW) in nine regions, WFP provided 2,407 MT of specialized nutritious foods to 595,808 people under the management of moderate wasting programme. Through the voucher modality, 38,196 beneficiaries received USD 343,761 to purchase locally available nutritious foods
- Reaching 73 percent of the February target, allocations primarily consisted of Ready-to-Use Supplementary Food (RUSF) for children under five due to an ongoing Super Cereal Plus shortfall – due to both unavailability of the product in the country and a funding issue.
- For the prevention of stunting and malnutrition among PBW and children aged 6–23 months, WFP distributed fresh food vouchers to 46,925 people (100 percent of the target, while providing social and behavioural change communication to 9,008 women and men, reaching 70 percent of the target.

Country Strategic Plan (2020 - 2025)

Total Requirement (In USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
6.31 b	3.25 b	228 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.

School Meals

- WFP provided school meals to 283,454 children in February 2025, achieving 95 percent of the plan. Of these, 192,595 children received home-grown school meals in southern Ethiopia and Amhara.
- A funding shortfall of approximately USD 7.2 million is affecting the February–June 2025 semester, limiting WFP's ability to reach 128,000 children in Afar and Oromia and 147,000 children in Tigray under the emergency and McGovern-Dole school feeding programmes.
- The Government of Ethiopia has confirmed that nearly 8 million students are currently out-of-school—primarily in the Amhara region, but also in other areas. Conflict remains the main driver of school closures, raising concerns that prolonged insecurity in Amhara and Oromia may worsen the education crisis.
- In Amhara region, the regional education cluster has prioritised 1.8 million school children for emergency school feeding. WFP plans to reach 228,480 school children in 2025, but no resources have yet been secured to support this scale-up.

Livelihood Support and Climate Risk Management

- In the Somali and Afar regions, WFP delivered a range of capacity-building activities, including climate-smart agriculture, post-harvest management, and financial literacy training, reaching over 850 participants—about a third of them women. In Dolo Ado, a 37kW solar-powered irrigation pump was handed over to smallholder farmers, supporting sustainable cultivation on 100 hectares.
- In Tigray and Afar, livelihood activities continued to scale. In Tigray, 385 individuals received livelihood training, with many initiating small ruminant or poultry farming and petty trade. In Afar, farmers supplied 84,000 kg of produce to schools, benefiting over 4,000 students, while maize and sorghum harvests progressed in Gode and Dolo Ado despite flood-related losses.

Cross-cutting Action

- A Training of Trainers on safe referrals for gender-based violence and child protection was held for 48 WFP and cooperating partner staff (73 percent female), aimed at strengthening frontline protection capacity.
- The Community Feedback and Response Mechanism (CFRM) case closure rates declined from 95 to 82 percent, prompting WFP to review and strengthen follow-up.

Funding

- With ration cuts already taking place, WFP faces an immediate funding gap of USD 228 million (March – August 2025).

Challenges

- WFP reduced relief rations to 65 percent due to critical funding shortfalls; furthermore, imminent pipeline breaks for nutrition and refugee are further straining response capacity amid ongoing humanitarian crises.
- Insecurity continues to disrupt operations, particularly in Amhara and Oromia regions, where armed conflict, attacks on convoys, and abductions have escalated. Rising tensions in Tigray and with Eritrea are also contributing to an increasingly volatile environment. In Somali region, several suspected Al-Shabaab and ISIS operatives were arrested, underscoring ongoing insecurity and the threat posed by terrorist elements.

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.