



World Food Programme

SAVING
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WFP Ethiopia Country Brief April 2025

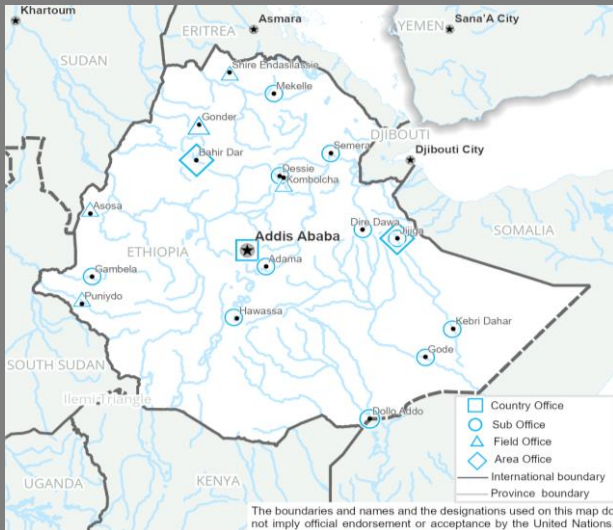


Operational Context

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 approximately 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**

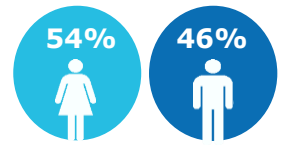
In Numbers

2.7 million people assisted

USD 3.4 million cash-based transfers provided

19,996 mt of food distributed

USD 244 million net funding requirement for six months (May–October 2025)



Operational Updates

Relief Response

- WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 881,430 people in HEA phase 4 and 5 and Internally Displaced People (IDP) in the Afar, Somali and Tigray regions, reaching 93 percent of the April target of 951,810 people. WFP distributed 8,995 metric tons (mt) of food.
- In April, WFP was compelled to reduce ration size back to 65 percent of the standard ration from 80 percent in February, providing 9 kg of cereals, 1 kg of pulses and 1.1 kg of oil. The lack of funding persists with WFP anticipating a pipeline break in June 2025. Further cuts may be necessary.

Refugees Assistance

- WFP assisted 797,370 refugees across 29 camps and sites achieving 92 percent of the April target through food and hybrid (cash and food) modalities, distributing 8,560 mt of in-kind food and USD 847,510 in cash-based transfer (CBT).
- As part of the WFP CBT expansion strategy, WFP reached 44,660 people with USD 847,510 across nine camps in the Afar, Benishangul-Gumuz and Somalia regions with a hybrid (cash and food) transfer modality.
- Furthermore, WFP reached only 41 percent of the targeted people in refugee camps with nutrition support due to a shortage of nutrition food in the country. Despite this, in April, WFP reached 20,250 children (6-23 months), pregnant and breast-feeding women and girls (PBWG) with nutrition support. Furthermore, WFP provided school meals to 78,560 primary school children across 19 camps with 210 mt of food to promote school attendance and education outcomes.

Nutrition Activities

- WFP reached 488,720 children and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWG)—76 percent of the target—across nine regions, delivering 2,020 metric tons of specialized nutritious foods. However, WFP Ethiopia continues to face funding shortfalls and shortages of nutritious food.
- As part of the ongoing cash for supplementation of malnutrition pilot project (voucher for treatment), WFP disbursed voucher valued at USD 1.9 million to 67,940 children aged 6–59 months and PBWG enabling communities to purchase locally available nutritious food for the management of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM).
- To prevent stunting and malnutrition among children aged 6-23 months WFP distributed fresh food vouchers to 81,120 households with children below two years and PBWG reaching 100 percent of the target with USD 447,390. In addition, WFP provided social and behavioural change communication to 9,010 women and men, reaching 75 percent of the targeted population.

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

Photo caption: Students wait in line to receive meals from the school feeding program at Sele Primary School, located in the conflict-affected Tigray region. ©WFP/Michael Tewelde

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	244 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

- In April, WFP provided school meals to 220,000 children, achieving 81 percent of the plan. Following the phased transition of the USDA McGovern-Dole programme in Ethiopia and shift to local sustainable school meals, most of the school children were supported through the home-grown school meals across 676 schools in the Afar, Amhara, Tigray and Southern Ethiopia regions.
- WFP intended to reach 794,000 school children in 2025, however due to resource shortfall, only 30 percent of schools are assisted with school meals.

Livelihood Support and Climate Risk Management

- To improve access to water for agriculture, WFP rehabilitated approximately 3.3 kilometers of an existing irrigation canal in Gewane and Amibara districts in Afar. This canal supports over 1,000 households, which includes close to 5,000 farmers, covering an estimated farmland of 300 hectares. A similar initiative is underway in the Somali region.
- As part of WFP's efforts to strengthen resilience and livelihoods through improved productivity, WFP provided input and technical support to 122 smallholder farmers who collectively harvested 105 mt of maize, 26 mt of teff, and 20 mt of watermelon valued at USD 74,850.

Cross-cutting Action

- To mitigate cases of gender-based violence (GBV) and support the delivery of safe and survivor-centred assistance, WFP provided a "Safe Referrals for Disclosure of GBV and Child Protection Concerns" training to 28 cooperating partners (CPs). Of these, 23 (82 percent) have submitted a protection risk roll-out plan, and three CPs have already implemented the training to their staff. This training has enhanced understanding of child protection, gender-based violence, and the ability to provide psychosocial first aid and safe referrals, which is critical to humanitarian operations.
- WFP also took part in a discussion led by the World Bank regarding the evaluation of the women-only transfer modality. While both women and men generally view transfers made exclusively to women positively, the shifts in intrahousehold dynamics- particularly regarding access to and control over resources- continue to pose a significant risk of increased intimate partner violence.

Supply Chain

- As part of its commitment to empower local economies, prevent malnutrition, through a market-based assistance, WFP has registered an additional 280 retailers under its Fresh Food Voucher programme. In April, WFP monitored 390 retailers in Amhara and Southern Ethiopia to ensure performance.

Challenges

- WFP will reduce the ration size from 60 percent of the standard food basket in April to 50 percent in May for refugee camps due to funding constraints. Despite these challenges, WFP continues to provide newly arrived Sudanese refugees with a full ration.
- WFP is facing imminent pipeline breaks in its nutrition operation, with a super cereal pipeline break expected in May due to a shortage of nutritious food in the country. Additionally, WFP's relief response has further reduced rations from 80 percent in March to 65 percent in April. Furthermore, the response operation for earthquake-affected people was paused in March despite significant food insecurity.

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.