



World Food Programme

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# WFP Ethiopia Country Brief May 2025

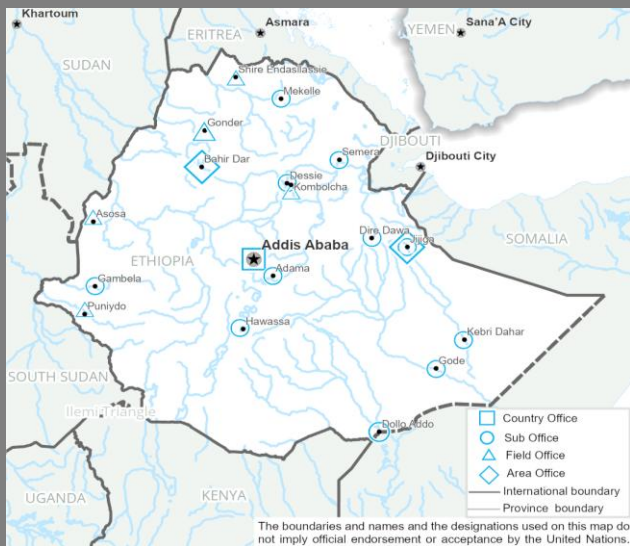


## Operational Context

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: **136 million**

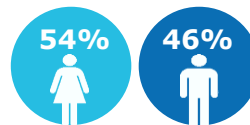
Human Development Index: **176 out of 193**

Income Level: **Low**

Chronic malnutrition: **39 percent of children between 6-59 months**

## In Numbers

**2.6 million** people assisted



**USD 1.4 million** cash-based transfers provided

**16,456 metric tonnes (mt)** of food distributed

**USD 132 million** net funding requirement for six months (June – November 2025)

## Operational Updates

### Relief Response

- WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 622,400 people, distributing 8,240 metric tons (mt) of food in HEA phase 4 and 5 and Internally Displaced People (IDP) in the Afar, Somali and Tigray regions, reaching 96 percent of the May target of 651,060 people.
- In response to Joint Emergency Operation's (JEOP) request, WFP continued to provide food assistance in eight districts that were initially planned to be handed over to JEOP as part of phase two of the transition plan across Afar, Tigray, and the contested areas of Amhara and Tigray.
- In May, WFP's relief food distribution was at 80 percent of the standard ration, with cereal rations reduced from 15 kg to 12 kg while pulse and oil components remained unchanged. Thanks to the USD 97 million contribution from the United States, WFP will continue providing food assistance at 80 percent ration levels through the end of 2025.

### Refugees Assistance

- WFP provided food assistance to 794,890 refugees, achieving 93 percent of the May target, across 29 camps and sites distributing 6,660 mt of food. This includes 24,350 children (6–23 months) and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWG) with nutritional support, representing 46 percent of the May target. Low coverage is attributed to insecurity which prevented access to some camps.
- WFP also provided school meals across 19 camps to 94,500 primary school children living in camps, distributing 265 mt of food to promote attendance and education.
- Additionally, WFP distributed 20 metric tons of fortified biscuits to 23,000 newly arrived South Sudanese refugees in the Matar and Muon camps in the Gambella region. With nearly 50,000 additional arrivals anticipated in the coming weeks, WFP has secured internal loans to continue providing general food assistance.

### Nutrition Activities

- WFP reached 325,490 children and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWG) in nine regions with 1,360 mt of specialized nutritious foods. As part of its pilot project for using voucher for management of malnutrition, WFP disbursed USD 657,820 reaching 57,310 children aged 6–59 months and PBWG enabling households to purchase local nutritious food for the management of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM).
- To prevent stunting and malnutrition among children aged 6-23 months and PBWG, WFP distributed fresh food vouchers to 53,010 people (100 percent of the target) with USD 233,910. In addition, WFP provided social and behavioural change communication (SBCC) to 9,010 women and men, reaching 67 percent of the targeted population.

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**Photo caption:** Nyarad Bimone, a 40 year old mother of six and a South Sudanese refugee receiving fortified biscuits at the Matar refugee camp in the Gambella region, ©WFP/Michael Tewelde

## 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>3.25 b</b>	<b>132m</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

- As part of the school feeding programmes, WFP provided school meals to 283,500 children in May 2025, achieving 97 percent of the plan across Afar, Amhara, Southern regions and Tigray. In Oromia, WFP complemented the government's school meal programme by providing infrastructure such as kitchens, feeding shelters, storage rooms, and training. WFP observed a low school attendance rate in the Afar region due to a significant drought that resulted in the failure of Sorghum production, prompting pastoralist families to migrate in search of water and pasture.
- The WFP Ethiopia school meal activity has not received any new funding for this year. The country office is working to secure multi-year funding to ensure the continuity of operations and achieve sustainable results.

## Livelihood Support and Climate Risk Management

- In May 2025, WFP supported 18 Rural Savings and Credit Cooperatives (RUSACCOs) in the Somali region to access loans totalling USD 53,750 from project revolving funds, bringing the cumulative disbursement to USD 148,380 since the beginning of the year
- In Tigray, WFP supported 1,485 out of 1,700 targeted households to participate on income-generating activities (IGAs) such as livestock rearing, fattening, and trading through loans acquired from microfinance institutions (MFIs).
- WFP organized market linkage forums in three districts in Somali region to connect agro-input suppliers with smallholder farmers enhancing access to agricultural inputs and strengthening market connections. Additionally, WFP conducted monthly market assessments to gather real-time data on input prices, availability, and supply trends, which informed ongoing programming and response planning.

## Cross-cutting Action

- WFP trained 228 staff from WFP and cooperating partners on gender-based violence (GBV) and child protection safe referrals across operational regions, enhancing frontline protection capacity.
- Additionally, WFP delivered training on Protection, PSEA, and Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) to 39 Woreda-level Registration and Targeting Committee members in the Somali Region, supporting inclusive targeting for the second phase of the Vulnerability-Based Targeting initiative.

## Challenges

- Due to funding shortfalls, WFP reduced the standard ration from 60 to 50 percent for approximately 1.1 million refugees. However, full rations are being maintained for newly arrived Sudanese refugees.
- WFP could not provide general food assistance—beyond fortified biscuits—to nearly 50,000 newly arrived South Sudanese refugees in Gambella. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, implementing a directive from the National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS), now requires humanitarians to obtain prior permission to visit Tigray and Afar. This has resulted in delays and cancellation of critical missions.

## 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.