



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Ethiopia Country Brief September 2025

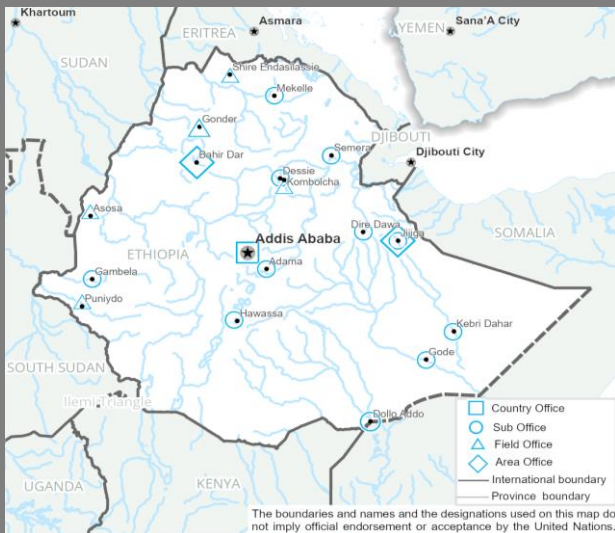


Operational Context

Food insecurity in Ethiopia is driven by a combination of conflict, displacement, economic pressures, and climate shocks. While the peace agreement ended active conflict in the Tigray region, division amongst political factions and non-government armed groups in other regions, particularly in Amhara and Oromia, has increased risks and costs for WFP. This makes it more challenging to deliver food safely and on time to the most vulnerable populations.

Although estimates vary, around 10.2 million people in Ethiopia are expected to require humanitarian assistance in 2025. Fueled by insecurity, displacement remains a concern, with the Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission (EDRMC) estimating around one million internally displaced people (IDPs).

Ethiopia hosts more than one million refugees and asylum seekers from South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea, and Sudan. The influx of new refugees from South Sudan and Sudan continues to be a priority.



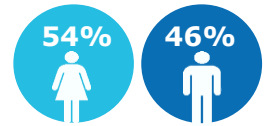
Population: 126 million

Human Development Index: 176
out of 193

Income Level: Low

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

In Numbers



1.9 million people assisted

USD 4.7 million in cash-based transfers provided

14,740 mt of food distributed

USD 230 million net funding requirement for six months
(October 2025 - March 2026)

Operational Updates

Relief Response

- In September, WFP and partners provided a full standard ration (15 kg cereal, 1.5 kg pulses and 0.45 kg oil per person per month) to over 375,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other vulnerable people living in districts classified as Phase 4 under the Household Economy Analysis (HEA) in the Somali Region. This included 121,000 newly displaced families from the Somali-Oromia border affected by ethnic conflict, which continues to exacerbate food insecurity, particularly in the Dawa and Liban zones of the Somali Region.
- WFP distributed 4,260 mt of food and USD 950,000 in cash-based transfers (CBT), reaching 65 percent of the planned caseload. Heavy rains and insecurity contributed to delays, with distributions spilling over into October with the aim of achieving 100 percent under the cycle.

Refugees Assistance

- In September, WFP provided food and cash assistance to 765,522 refugees across 30 camps and sites, achieving 78 percent of the monthly target (due to registration of new influxes) and distributing 8,331 mt of in-kind food assistance and USD 676,005 in CBT. To reach those affected by registration delays, distributions were extended into October. About 20 percent of refugees received hybrid assistance (in-kind + cash), while the remainder received in-kind assistance as planned.
- To prevent and manage malnutrition in camps, WFP provided specialised nutritious food through targeted supplementary feeding for 13,776 beneficiaries, including 11,021 children under five and 2,755 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWG). An additional 3,700 beneficiaries (2,960 children and 740 PBWG) received support through blanket supplementary feeding.
- WFP provided full rations to 54,000 newly arrived South Sudanese and 14,000 Sudanese refugees while maintaining a 60 percent rations for the rest of the refugee population, despite planned ration cuts to 40 percent planned from October due to funding shortfalls.

Nutrition Activities

- In September, WFP reached 402,046 children and PBWG (86 percent of the target) with 2,067 mt of specialised nutritious foods, including RUSF and CSB++. A shortage of RUSF at the Hawassa hub disrupted dispatches and contributed to underachievement in some areas.
- Despite operational challenges in the Voucher for Treatment (Vt) pilot, WFP reached 101,471 beneficiaries across seven regions in collaboration with Regional Bureaus of Health and the Ministry of Health, disbursing ETB 162.9 million (about USD 2.8 million) to enable households to access local nutrient-rich foods for acute malnutrition management.
- A regional Vt refresher training in Adama reviewed progress, addressed bottlenecks, and strengthened the capacity of 96 frontline workers from 14 woredas in Oromia.

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

Photo caption: Children displaced by clan conflict eat cooked sorghum after receiving food assistance for the first time in two months. They are from Dhagah Turtur village, an area bordering the Oromiya region, and are now gathered at the Wely-Seleman site in the Liben Zone of Ethiopia's Somali 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	230 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

- With the resumption of the school year, WFP supported school feeding in the Tigray, Afar, Amhara, and Oromia regions. However, implementation was delayed in some areas due to low community contributions caused by drought (East Hararge, Oromia), insecurity (Adi Arkay, Amhara), and children's engagement in agricultural activities (Tigray).
- WFP advanced Home-Grown School Feeding by transferring funds to regions to procure food for the September 2025 –January 2026 semester. Farmers' cooperative unions were contracted to supply locally sourced food in 240 schools, with quality checks underway to ensure compliance with national standards.
- WFP distributed scholastic materials to 30,000 students in Afar and delivered non-food items and agricultural inputs to strengthen safe cooking and school gardens in Afar and Oromia.

Livelihood Support and Climate Risk Management

- In Amhara, 8,661 households benefited from savings groups, while 1,778 households accessed around USD 250,000 in revolving loans to expand income-generating activities. In parallel, 1,515 households established home gardens to improve access to fresh vegetables and nutrition.
- In Tigray, microfinance provided USD 34,000 to cooperative unions to strengthen market participation during harvest and supported 1,688 households to invest in livestock, resulting in 4,680 animals purchased and a 43 percent herd increase.
- In the Somali region, irrigation and milling generated around USD 4,200 in income in September, while newly completed ponds will provide water for about 8,000 livestock per month, helping protect pastoral households from drought impacts.

Cross-cutting Action

- WFP managed 1,848 cases through the Complaints and Feedback Mechanism in September, with 99 percent closed and 94 percent resolved at first contact, mainly through the call centre.
- WFP finalized the agreement for the WFP-UNHCR shared helpdesk pilot and launched Community Engagement Action Plan consultations in all regions, except Amhara due to security issues.

Supply Chain

- 2,500 mt of Super Cereal locally produced by Quarit successfully passed WFP Food Safety and Quality inspection and is now being loaded into WFP stores, injecting USD 3.1 million into the economy through local procurement.
- WFP's recycling initiative collected 48 mt of empty oil tins in September, generating over USD 11,000 and close to USD 332,000 since the start of the project (May 2024).

Challenges

- WFP urgently requires USD 230 million from October 2025 to April 2026 to sustain its emergency operations. From October, refugee rations are being cut from 60 to 40 percent, and relief coverage is being reduced from 15 to 5 districts due to funding shortfalls. Without additional funding, WFP will be forced to reduce its nutrition caseload of one million people by more than a quarter.

Donors (Alphabetical order):

Canada, Denmark, the European Commission, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, 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.