



World Food Programme

SAVING
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WFP Ethiopia Country Brief October 2025



Operational Context

Ethiopia, with a population of over 135 million people, has recorded strong economic growth in recent years, with annual growth of 7.3 percent in 2024. The Government has also advanced large-scale environmental efforts through the Green Legacy Initiative, mobilising resources for nationwide tree-planting and broader climate-resilience efforts.

Despite this progress, humanitarian needs remain significant. Around 10.2 million people are expected to require humanitarian assistance in 2025. Food insecurity is driven by conflict, displacement, economic pressures, and climate shocks. Insecurity and displacement in regions such as Amhara and Oromia continue to disrupt livelihoods and complicate assistance delivery. The Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission estimates around one million internally displaced people. Ethiopia also hosts more than one million refugees and asylum seekers from South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea, and Sudan, with continued new arrivals further increasing needs and operational demands.



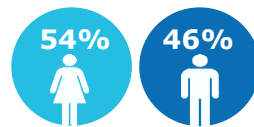
Population: **135 million**

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 3.0 million in cash-based transfers provided

9,871 MT of food distributed

USD 277 million net funding requirement for the next six months (November 2025 - April 2026)

Operational Updates

Relief Response

- In October, WFP and partners provided full rations (15 kg cereal, 1.5 kg pulses and 0.45 kg oil per person per month) to 169,500 people, reaching 97 percent of the planned caseload with 2,030 MT of food and USD 984,200 in cash-based transfers (CBT). Access challenges caused by insecurity and extreme weather condition resulted in distribution delays. WFP continues to maintain operation efficiency while safeguarding its and partner's staff.
- Due to funding shortfalls, WFP reduced its Quarter-4 (October-December) relief target from 750,800 to 354,600 people, limiting assistance to five districts in the Somali Region. By focusing on fewer districts, WFP ensures that households in these areas receive full rations, thereby avoiding ration cuts for the most vulnerable. A significant portion of those excluded from WFP's target will receive support from the Government of Ethiopia. The response covers conflict-affected IDPs in Qoloji camps and recently displaced communities along the Somali-Oromia border.

Refugees Assistance

- In October, WFP provided food and cash assistance to 780,800 refugees across 30 camps and sites, distributing 1,840 MT of in-kind food assistance and USD 313,960 in CBT.
- Due to funding constraints, WFP reduced refugee ration sizes in October from 60 to 40 percent for 780,000 refugees, while maintaining full rations for over 70,000 new arrivals from Sudan and South Sudan. These reductions critically undermine refugees' nutritional needs and increase the risk of malnutrition and negative coping strategies, such as skipping meals, selling limited assets, child labour, or early marriage. Refugee influx from neighbouring countries continue to grow, placing additional pressure on already overstretched resources.

Nutrition Activities

- In October, WFP reached 328,710 children and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls with 1,840 MT of specialized nutritious foods. RUSF stock-outs across hubs due to delayed local production constrained dispatches, with supplies only arriving in the final week of the month.
- Through the Voucher for Treatment (VFT) pilot project, WFP assisted 44,985 beneficiaries for the management of moderate acute malnutrition across seven regions, disbursing USD 717,300 to support access to locally available nutrient-dense foods. Data collection for the research component continued across the voucher, cash, and specialized nutritious food pillars.
- WFP continue to face significant shortages of nutritious commodities due to delays in local production and sourcing, having an impact on distribution. To address the commodity shortage at a strategic level, WFP is advocating for the expansion of cash assistance programs, similar to the Voucher for Treatment (VFT) initiative.

Contact info: Jurian Steeghs, jurian.steeghs@wfp.org;

Country Director: Zlatan Milisic

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

Photo caption: Habiba Osman Maalin, 20, a mother of two, an IDP from Degah-Turtur Village, is seen walking with food back to her shelter after receiving WFP food assistance. She is one of many displaced by ethnic conflict along the Somali and Oromia regional borders.

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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	277 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 October, WFP supported 317,500 children across five regions through the Home-Grown School Feeding and in-kind modalities, distributing 218 MT of food and transferring USD 451,550 as cash-based transfer.
- Following continued seismic activity in Afar region, WFP and the Bureau of Education assessed earthquake damage in the Berhale and Kuneba district, confirming the loss of 4.34 MT of food at one school due to a storage collapse.
- WFP strengthened its partnership with the Ministry of Education, which recognized WFP's role in the national school feeding programme and endorsed the policy framework and Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) implementation guidelines developed with WFP's support.

Livelihood Support and Climate Risk Management

- In October, WFP-supported livelihood interventions across multiple regions strengthened resilience and generated USD 132,250 in income for households vulnerable to conflict and climate shocks.
- In the Gambella region, using WFP-supported tractors, 100 smallholder farmers cultivated more than 22,000 hectares, while over 113 households across three woredas harvested 364 MT of maize—achieving a 45 percent increase in productivity. In the Somali region, WFP-supported irrigation schemes produced 70.22 MT of fodder and other vegetables. In the Tigray region, WFP improved water access through the construction of boreholes and a river-diversion system, enabling irrigation across more than 250 hectares and supporting nearly 600 households.

Cross-cutting Action

- As part of its continued capacity-building efforts, WFP completed the pilot Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) e-learning module, which will be rolled out to partners across regions, and further delivered PSEA Training of Trainers to 19 financial service providers. In October, Self Help Africa, a WFP cooperating partner, finalized the PSEA Capacity Strengthening Implementation Plan and achieved full PSEA capacity. Additionally, the Country Office successfully ran the “Say No to SEA” awareness campaign, securing full staff participation and strong leadership commitment.

Supply Chain

- As part of the Track and Trace initiative, which provides end-to-end visibility and accountability across the supply chain, WFP continued rolling out training for new Cooperating Partners on the Stock Management Solutions to strengthen monitoring from the point of origin to the destination.

Challenges

- WFP's emergency response continues to be constrained by funding and commodity shortfalls, affecting some of Ethiopia's most vulnerable populations. The shortfall coincides with the peak of the lean season (July - September), when households—particularly in pastoralist areas of southern and southeastern Ethiopia—face sharply reduced access to food.
- With a funding gap of **USD 277 million** from November 2025 to April 2026, WFP's ability to sustain operations and respond to any sudden-onset shocks remains critically limited, with significant pipeline breaks expected by end of 2025 and beginning of 2026.

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.