



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
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LIVES

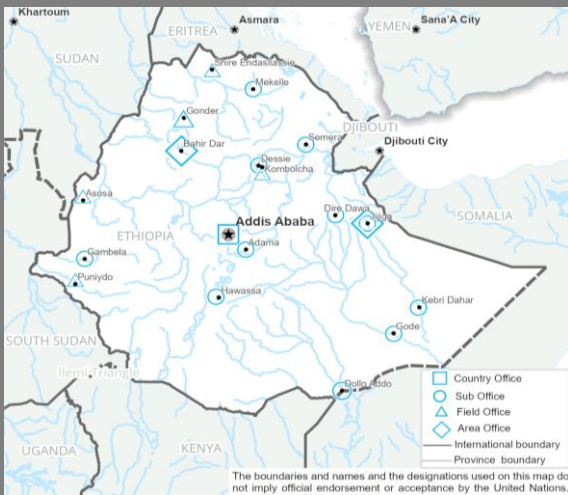
# WFP Ethiopia Country Brief November 2025



## Operational Context

Ethiopia, with a population of 136 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.



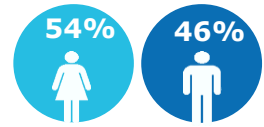
Population: **136 million**

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

Income Level: **Low**

Chronic malnutrition: **43 percent of children between 6-59 months**

## In Numbers



**1.9 million** people assisted

**USD 2.9 million** in cash-based transfers provided

**9,050 mt** of food distributed

**USD 229 million** net funding requirement for six months (December 2025 - May 2026)

## Operational Updates

### Relief Response

- In November, WFP and partners assisted over 225,300 people in the Somali region through both in-kind food and cash support. This represents 65 percent of the planned target, delivered via 1,900 metric tons (mt) of food and USD 908,010 in cash-based transfers (CBT). Despite funding constraints, WFP provided a full standard ration to a reduced target of the most vulnerable food-insecure households, focusing on IDPs and populations in HEA Phase 4 and Phase 5 and conflict-affected areas. The reduced 390,000 people in the region are being partially assisted by the Government of Ethiopia.
- Strong indications of severe drought and food insecurity in Somali region, combined with border tensions and insecurity, prompted WFP to conduct a sole identification exercise. This process identified 25 priority districts for Q1 (January–March 2026) that had vulnerable communities, including those in IDP camps, covering an estimated 700,000 people. In November, WFP operations faced delays due to insecurity and took a strategic decision to conduct two-month distribution (November & December).

### Refugees Assistance

- In November, WFP provided in kind and cash assistance to 555,650 refugees across 30 camps and sites, distributing 4,540 mt of in-kind food and USD 479,920 in CBT. WFP continued to provide 40 percent ration equivalent to 900 Kcal per person per day as compared to the 2,100 due to resource shortages, while new arrivals from South Sudan and Sudan were prioritized with a full standard ration.
- By the end of November, an estimated 28,000 additional refugees arrived from South Sudan, bringing the total number of newly arrived South Sudanese refugees to 78,000. WFP provided fortified biscuits and continues to advocate for funding to ensure further support. However, this influx is placing additional pressure on an already overstretched resource pipeline and the host communities.

### Nutrition Activities

- In November, WFP supported 373,420 children and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls with 2,270 mt of specialized nutritious foods, representing 87 percent of the November targeted 427,180 individuals. Persistent shortages of Ready-to-Use Supplementary Food (RUSF) caused delays in nutrition programming outreach in southern areas, including Sidama, South Ethiopia, and parts of Oromia.
- Through the Voucher for Treatment (VfT) pilot project, WFP supported 80,000 beneficiaries across seven regions, delivering targeted support for the management of moderate acute malnutrition. The programme disbursed USD 6.4 million, empowering households to access locally available, nutrient-dense foods while strengthening local markets and improving nutrition outcomes.

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**Photo caption:** Habiba Osman Maelin, 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)
<b>6.31 b</b>	<b>3.25 b</b>	<b>229 m</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

- In November, WFP supported 410,500 children across five regions through the Home-Grown School Feeding and in-kind modalities, distributing 346 mt of food and transferring USD 737,937 in cash-based transfer to the Ministry of Education for local food procurement.
- In Southern Ethiopia, schools in Male woreda that were closed due to the Marburg outbreak have reopened following the implementation of preventive measures. However, 69 Home-Grown School Feeding-supported schools in Gngatom, Benatsemay, and Dassenech remain temporarily closed as a precaution and are expected to reopen in December once contingency measures are in place.

## Livelihood Support and Climate Risk Management

- In November, WFP supported over 261,800 people through livelihood interventions and resilience-strengthening activities across Afar, Amhara, Gambella, Tigray, and Somali regions. In Gambella and Somali, these initiatives generated more than USD 34,500 in income, primarily from crop sales, contributing to improved household income and resilience.
- In Afar, WFP strengthened livelihoods and food security by building practical agricultural skills across communities. A total of 10,000 people received training across climate-smart agriculture, improved livestock rearing and fattening, and post-harvest management, with an additional 152 trainees certified in agribusiness skills through Gewane Agricultural TVET College.

## Cross-cutting Action

- WFP developed the new Gender Strategy aligned with the Country Strategic Plan (CSP)-2026-2030, aimed at strengthening gender mainstreaming and enhancing programme inclusivity. This strategy reflects WFP's commitment to ensuring interventions are equitable and responsive to the diverse needs of affected communities.

## Supply Chain

- To strengthen operational oversight and accountability, WFP rolled out Fleet Finder tracking system nationwide in November. In parallel, WFP conducted retailer contract verification, deactivate inactive partners, with reconciliation of the electronic voucher while reconciliation for paper voucher is scheduled for early December.
- WFP expanded the use of a digital payment system (Telebirr) for fuel purchases rolling out the initial pilot to improved supply chain efficiency and compliance. This enables compliance with government regulations and improving access to fuel for fleet operations across sub-offices, while WFP ensures ongoing technical support to facilitate system adoption.

## Challenges

- With a funding gap of **USD 229 million** from December 2025 to May 2026, WFP's ability to sustain operations and respond to sudden-onset shocks remains critically limited, with significant pipeline breaks expected as of January 2026.
- Despite constraints, WFP reached over 5 million people as of November, including support to newly arrived South Sudanese refugees. However, WFP operations in Ethiopia continue to face high operational risks due to insecurity across Amhara, Gambella, Tigray, Oromia, and Somali regions, coupled with regional political volatility. To ensure the effective use of limited resources, relief activities in Somali region were reduced, and priorities were adjusted in response to nutrition commodity shortfalls.

## 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.