



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Ethiopia Country Brief

December 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.



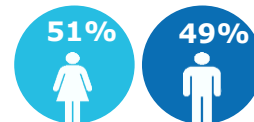
Population: **136 million**

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

Income Level: **Low**

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

## In Numbers



**5.6 million** people assisted in 2025 with **213,442 MT** of food and **USD 40.3 million** in cash-based transfers

**2.2 million** people assisted in December 2025 with **11,917 MT** of food and **USD 2.7 million** in cash-based transfers

**USD 179.9 million** net funding requirement for six months (January - June 2026)

## Operational Updates

### Relief Response

- In December, WFP and partners provided in kind and cash assistance to over 334,654 people in the Somali region, reaching 96 percent of the planned target with 7,113 metric ton (MT) of food and USD 987,600 in cash-based transfers (CBT).
- WFP conducted a Rapid Assessment and Monitoring Analysis to prioritize acutely food-insecure populations in the Somali region for the January–March period. Based on this assessment, 14 woredas have been identified as requiring emergency food assistance, including areas affected by below-normal October–December rains and those hosting internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Qoloji camps.

### Refugees Assistance

- In December, WFP provided in-kind and cash assistance to 681,854 refugees across 30 camps and sites, distributing 10,617 MT of in-kind food and USD 958,110 through cash-based transfers. Due to resource shortages, WFP continued to provide a 40 percent ration, equivalent to approximately 900 kilocalories per person per day, compared to the standard 2,100 kilocalories, while new arrivals from South Sudan and Sudan were prioritized with a full standard ration.
- Ongoing conflict in eastern South Sudan is driving an influx of refugees into the Gambella region, further straining an already limited resource pipeline and worsening food insecurity in refugee camps. In addition, insecurity in the Amhara and Gambella regions has delayed the movement of commodities from hubs to camps, causing further delays in food distribution.

## Nutrition Activities

- In December, WFP supported 446,003 children and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls with 1,883 MT of specialized nutritious foods, representing 93 percent of the December targeted 473,088 individuals. Pipeline challenges for specialized nutritious commodities persisted across the country, with partial breaks in both CSB++ and RUSF affecting programme continuity and quality. This disruption contributed to higher defaulter rates in December.
- Through the Voucher for Treatment (VfT) pilot project, WFP supported 7,421 individuals, delivering targeted support for the management of moderate acute malnutrition. The programme disbursed around USD 110,900, empowering households to access locally available, nutrient-dense foods while strengthening local markets and improving nutrition outcomes. As a result of funding constraints, WFP was forced to reduce coverage for 2026, scaling down interventions from 62 woredas in 2025 to 33 woredas.
- WFP has completed 60 of the 62 planned flospans to improve nutrition commodity storage across Oromia, Amhara, Somali, and Afar. The final two remain on hold due to security constraints.

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**Photo caption:** Students eating WFP's Home-Grown School Feeding Programme at Asboda Primary School, located in the Semera–Logiya City Administration of the Afar Region.

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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>6.47 b</b>	<b>3.25 b</b>	<b>179.9 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 December, WFP supported 429,273 children across five regions through the Home-Grown School Feeding and in-kind modalities, distributing 616 MT of food and transferring USD 737,937 in cash-based transfer to the Ministry of Education for local food procurement.
- To strengthen the nutritional quality of school meals, school gardening initiatives are being rolled out in 28 schools across 14 woredas in Afar. Schools were selected based on access to irrigation water and cultivable land to ensure sustainability. The initiative also promotes environmental stewardship and provides students with hands-on agricultural learning opportunities. A detailed needs assessment has been completed, and essential gardening tools and vegetable seeds have been procured and are ready for distribution, enabling schools to commence and sustain gardening activities.

## Livelihood Support and Climate Risk Management

- In December, WFP supported over 258,623 people through livelihood interventions and resilience-strengthening activities across Afar, Amhara, Gambella, Tigray, and Somali regions.
- In the Somali Region, eight farmers harvested 4,221 kg of fresh fodder and 1,243 watermelon fruits from WFP-constructed irrigation sites, generating USD 798 in revenue. In Amhara, 1,135 households harvested 410 quintals of improved wheat, teff, and sorghum across 278.5 hectares, contributing to strengthened food security and household incomes.
- In Tigray, 137 livelihood groups comprising 3,053 members have cumulatively mobilized USD 9,500 in savings and disbursed USD 10,300 in loans to 729 members. These investments have strengthened access to finance, diversified livelihoods, and improved household incomes, including a 68 percent increase in small ruminant holdings.

## Cross-cutting Action

- WFP developed a Community Engagement Action Plan (2026–2030) to provide a coherent framework for community engagement across all operations, addressing previously fragmented approaches and ensuring consistency in how communities are informed, consulted, and involved. The plan aligns internal and external engagement efforts, strengthens accountability to affected populations, and supports more inclusive and context-sensitive engagement.

## Supply Chain

- To connect academic learning with practical logistics operations, a delegation of 51 participants from Bahir Dar University, including instructors and 49 Logistics and Supply Chain Management students, visited the WFP Adama warehouse. Organized in collaboration with the Kühne Foundation under the LEARN Logistics programme, the visit enabled participants to gain first-hand exposure to WFP warehouse operations, with WFP staff sharing insights on food sourcing, transportation, and inventory management.

## Challenges

- With a funding gap of USD 179.9 million from January to June 2026, WFP's ability to sustain operations and respond to sudden-onset shocks remains critically limited, with significant pipeline breaks expected as of February 2026.
- WFP operations continue to face significant challenges from limited resources, pipeline disruptions, and conflict-related insecurity. Despite these constraints, approximately 2.2 million people were reached as of December.

## 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