



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Ethiopia 

## COUNTRY BRIEF

March 2026 (data as of February)

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- WFP assisted over 1 million people through its crisis response, including 0.8 million refugees.
- Emergency assistance levels are currently at 60 percent of the food basket due to funding shortfalls.
- WFP supported over 350,000 people through resilience and livelihood activities, strengthening food systems, market access, and income opportunities.

### IN NUMBERS



**1.7 million** people assisted in February 2026



**45%**  
Male



**55%**  
Female



**11,247 MT** food distributed



**USD 2.8 million** cash transferred



**USD 195 million** (March – Aug 2026) net funding requirements

**Photo Caption & Credit:** Fatuma Abdu, 23, mother of two receiving targeted supplementary food for children in Afar, Ethiopia. WFP/Micheal Tewelde

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

- Ethiopia, with a population of 136 million people, has recorded strong economic growth in recent years, with GDP expanding by 7.3 percent in 2024. The Government has also advanced large-scale environmental efforts through the Green Legacy Initiative and continues to invest in national systems to expand access to basic services and strengthen social protection.
- Despite this progress, humanitarian needs remain significant. Food insecurity continues to be driven by conflict, displacement, economic pressures, and climate shocks. While the 2022 peace agreement ended large-scale conflict in Tigray, ongoing insecurity in Amhara, Oromia, parts of Tigray, and Somali regions continues to disrupt livelihoods and constrain the safe and timely delivery of assistance.
- Affected populations include 1.1 million refugees and 1.9 million internally displaced persons, alongside continued refugee influxes from South Sudan and Sudan. Needs continue to rise due to sudden-onset emergencies such as flash floods and drought. Malnutrition remains alarmingly high, affecting 4.4 million children and pregnant and breastfeeding women.
- Needs continue to outpace available resources, and funding gaps are restricting the scale and continuity of lifesaving support. In 2026, WFP plans to reach 4.6 million people with humanitarian assistance and resilience-building interventions.

## OPERATIONAL UPDATES

### Crisis Response

- In February, WFP and partners provided in-kind and cash assistance to over 230,000 people in the Somali region, reaching 98 percent of the planned target. Assistance included 1,614 metric tons (MT) of food and USD 0.9 million in cash-based transfers (CBT), prioritizing populations affected by displacement and other shocks. Due to resource constraints, the cereal component of the food basket is reduced to 60 percent of the ration in March.
- WFP provided high energy biscuits to 36,000 IDPs in Gambella City and surrounding districts, with distribution of a standard food basket starting from March for a three-month cycle.
- In February, WFP assisted 819,815 refugees across 30 camps and sites, providing 8,563 MT of general food assistance at 60 percent of the monthly entitlement. New arrivals from Sudan and South Sudan continued to receive full rations. WFP also provided nearly 10 MT of specialised nutritious food to 2,354 children under five and pregnant and lactating women to prevent and treat malnutrition.
- Insecurity, seasonal flooding, and poor road conditions affected commodity movement in some regions.

### School Meals

- In February, WFP supported 354,629 children (80 percent of the target) across five regions through the Home-Grown School Feeding and in-kind modalities, distributing 147 MT of food and transferring USD 436,010 in cash-based transfer to the Ministry of Education for local food procurement.
- Operational constraints affected performance, particularly for in-kind school meals. Delays in clearance of imported vegetable oil disrupted school feeding in Tigray, while broader logistics and pipeline challenges slowed distributions and reduced overall reach.

### Nutrition

- In February, WFP supported 250,000 children and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (58 percent of the target) with 924 MT of specialized nutritious foods and USD 689,387 in vouchers to support local food solutions for the management

of moderate acute malnutrition. Pipeline challenges for specialized nutritious commodities, particularly Super Cereal Plus, persisted across regions, affecting programme continuity and quality and contributing to increased defaulter rates.

- In February, WFP supported 14,634 beneficiaries in Amhara Region with fresh food vouchers, disbursing USD 87,976 to improve access to diverse, nutrient-rich foods for pregnant and breastfeeding women and young children, contributing to improved diet quality and stunting prevention. Complementary social behaviour change activities reached 7,376 people, reinforcing optimal nutrition practices.

### Social Protection

- In February, WFP participated in the final Productive Safety Net Programme Phase V (PSNP5) Joint Implementation and Review Support mission in Afar and Somali regions, which provided an opportunity to identify entry points for collaboration under PSNP6.

### Resilience

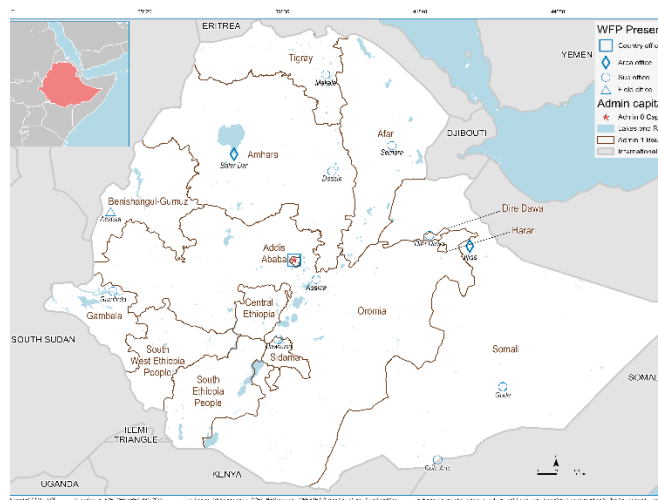
- In February, WFP supported over nearly 355,000 people through livelihood interventions and resilience-building activities across Afar, Amhara, Gambella, Tigray, and Somali regions, supporting smallholder farmers to increase production and incomes.
- In Afar, vegetable production generated significant income (up to ETB 9.6 million in Berhale), while irrigation infrastructure development and water harvesting systems continued to expand, supporting both crop production and pastoral livelihoods.
- WFP strengthened market access and food systems through partnerships with cooperative unions and government institutions, including ongoing aggregation of sorghum in Tigray and engagement on large-scale irrigation development in Somali Region, positioning farmers to benefit from improved value chains and increased production.
- Financial inclusion and livelihood diversification activities expanded, with savings groups mobilizing over ETB 1 million and disbursing loans to support income-generating activities, alongside training and technical support to enhance resilience and sustainable livelihoods.

## Gender/Protection/Inclusion & Accountability to Affected Populations

- In February, WFP strengthened gender, protection, and inclusion across operations, advancing gender analysis in priority agricultural value chains and scaling up partner capacity through targeted training on protection, disability inclusion, and accountability to affected populations.
- WFP maintained strong accountability to affected populations, resolving 96 percent of 2,164 feedback cases received through community feedback channels, supporting continuous improvement in programme delivery and communication.

## Supply Chain

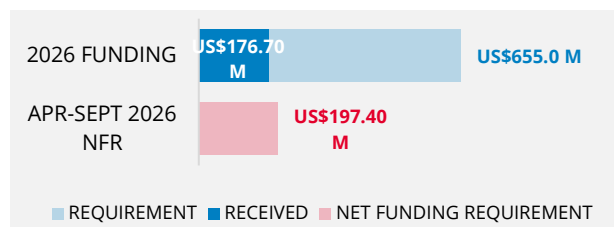
- In February, WFP strengthened partnerships through On-Demand Services (ODS), convening a workshop with around 30 humanitarian and UN partners to showcase its supply chain, engineering, and logistics services and identify opportunities to enhance collaboration and service delivery. WFP also advanced capacity strengthening through a high-level exchange with the Ministry of Transport and Logistics, highlighting innovations such as fleet monitoring systems and greener supply chain solutions, including electric trucks.
- WFP improved food safety and quality assurance by supporting supplier upgrades, with enhanced cleaning capacity observed in Adama for the 7,500 MT sorghum order, resulting in significantly improved impurity removal and compliance with standards.
- In February, UNHAS facilitated humanitarian access by transporting 228 passengers and 328 kg of cargo across 3 destinations through 45 flights (sorties), supporting timely and safe movement of personnel and supplies.



## FUNDING OVERVIEW

### Country Strategic Plan (2025-2030)

[WFP Ethiopia Country Strategic Plan \[web link\]](#)



### Thanks to our donors:

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