



WFP ETHIOPIA COUNTRY BRIEF

April 2026 (data as of March)

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- WFP reached 1.7 million food insecure people with 11,110 MT of food and USD 4.1 million in cash-based transfers across all activities.
- This included over 1.1 million people through its crisis response.
- Fuel shortages and insecurity continued to constrain operations. Through on-demand fuel services, WFP supported partners' immediate needs, helping to sustain operations and reach populations whose assistance was delayed.

IN NUMBERS



1.7 million people assisted



45%
Male



55%
Female



11,577 MT food distributed



USD 4.1 million cash transferred



USD 183 million (May-Oct 2026)
net funding requirements

Photo Caption & Credit: Rukya Maelin Abdu receives Anticipatory Action cash assistance in Yahob village, Somali Region, Ethiopia, following forecasts of below-average rainfall. WFP/Micheal Tewelde

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- With a population of 136 million, Ethiopia has recorded strong economic growth in recent years (7.3 percent in 2024). This economic growth is projected to continue.
- Despite this progress, humanitarian needs remain significant. Food insecurity continues to be driven by conflict, displacement, economic pressures, and climate shocks. Tensions persist in Tigray, and insecurity in Amhara, Oromia, and Somali regions continues to disrupt livelihoods and constrain the timely delivery of assistance.
- Affected populations include 1.1 million refugees and 1.9 million internally displaced persons, alongside refugee influxes from South Sudan and Sudan. Needs continue to rise due to sudden-onset emergencies (e.g., flash floods, drought) and macroeconomic shocks linked to the war in the Middle East. Fuel shortages and fertilizer supply disruptions are increasing food prices and raising concerns for food security and upcoming agricultural seasons. 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 4.5 million people with humanitarian assistance and resilience-building interventions.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Crisis Response

- In March, WFP and its partners reached 478,900 people in Somali and Gambella regions with relief assistance, prioritizing internally displaced populations (IDPs) and host communities. WFP reached 56 percent of the planned target, reflecting nationwide fuel shortages and security-related access issues. Assistance included 3,913 metric tons of food and USD 1.2 million in cash-based transfers (CBT).
- Resource constraints reduced the cereal component to 60 percent of the ration.
- WFP is currently conducting beneficiary verification and registration of 43,000 IDPs in Oromia, displaced by conflict, with cash assistance planned for April.
- In March, WFP assisted around 628,000 refugees across 30 camps and sites, reaching 71 percent of the planned caseload. Operational challenges included seasonal flooding, poor road conditions, fuel shortages, and insecurity in Gambella and Amhara regions.
- WFP provided 6,613 mt of food, with rations at 60 percent for protracted refugees and 100 percent for new arrivals from Sudan and South Sudan. Assistance also included USD 696,500 in hybrid (cash and food) support across nine camps.
- An estimated 100,000 refugees have recently entered Gambella via Akobo due to conflict in South Sudan. WFP is providing full in-kind rations to approximately 50,000 earlier arrivals in Luak Dong (since May 2025) and a further 32,000 since March 2026. WFP stands ready to support the new influx once access is secured. The total refugee population in Gambella is estimated at over 500,000.

School Meals

- In March, WFP supported 311,350 children across 1,043 schools in five regions, providing meals through both Home-Grown School Feeding and in-kind modalities. Assistance included 258 mt of food and USD 469,500 in cash-based transfers for local food procurement.
- Operational challenges constrained performance, particularly in Home-Grown School Feeding. Prolonged government procurement processes and fuel shortages delayed food delivery, leaving some schools without stocks, while teacher salary

delays in Tigray disrupted school attendance and feeding activities.

Nutrition

- For the management of moderate acute malnutrition, WFP supported 263,600 children and pregnant and breastfeeding women (70 percent of the target), providing 793 mt of specialized nutritious foods and USD 1.5 million in cash-based transfers for local food solutions across 33 districts in March.
- Pipeline breaks, especially of Super Cereal Plus, continued to disrupt distributions in March and April. This affected programme continuity and contributed to higher defaulter rates.
- In March, WFP reached 24,000 beneficiaries through fresh food vouchers to support stunting prevention across seven woredas in Afar, Amhara, Sidama, and Central Ethiopia. The vouchers (totalling USD 258,000) aim to improve access to diverse, nutrient-rich foods for pregnant and breastfeeding women and young children.
- Complementary social behaviour change activities reached over 10,000 people, reinforcing optimal nutrition practices.

Social Protection

- WFP led the development of a joint initiative with ILO and UNICEF on social protection capacity building using the TRANSFORM approach. The initiative strengthens capacity at federal, regional, and district levels, embedding core competencies to meet needs across the short, medium, and long term. It aligns with United Nations Cooperation Framework (UNCF) 2026 priorities to strengthen Ethiopia's social protection system.

Resilience

- In March, WFP supported over 27,000 households across Afar, Amhara, Gambella, Somali, and Tigray through resilience and livelihood interventions, strengthening smallholder production, market access, and climate-adaptive practices.
- Agricultural production and market activity increased, with progress in irrigation schemes and crop production generating income, including about USD 4,300 from watermelon and USD 3,400 from onions in Gode. Greater use of mechanization and post-harvest technologies also supported higher productivity and reduced losses.

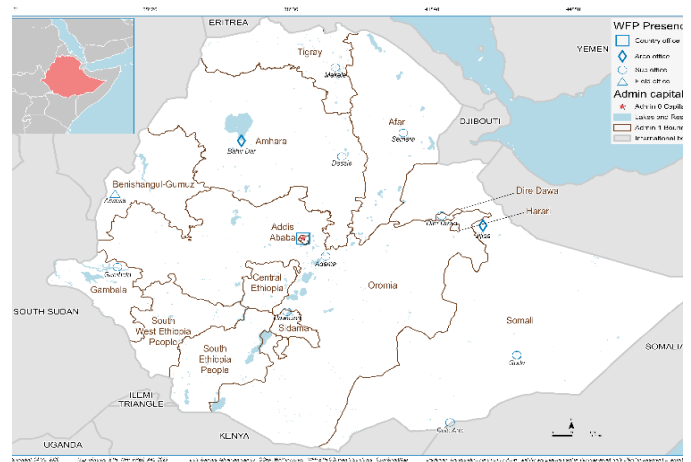
- Financial inclusion and livelihood diversification continued to improve, with savings groups mobilizing more than USD 14,000 in March and issuing loans to support income generating activities, alongside training in climate smart agriculture, business development and vocational skills.
- WFP also strengthened anticipatory action in Somali Region by supporting community early warning focal points across nine sites, improving local capacity to monitor climate risks and trigger early responses to droughts and floods.

Gender/Protection/Inclusion & Accountability to Affected Populations

- WFP maintained accountability to affected populations through improved two-way communication channels, including SMS messaging and expanded call centre access (now accessible to Safaricom users), enabling communities to receive information and provide feedback.
- In April, WFP managed 2,626 feedback cases (59 percent submitted by women), with 94 percent resolution rate.

Supply Chain and Logistics

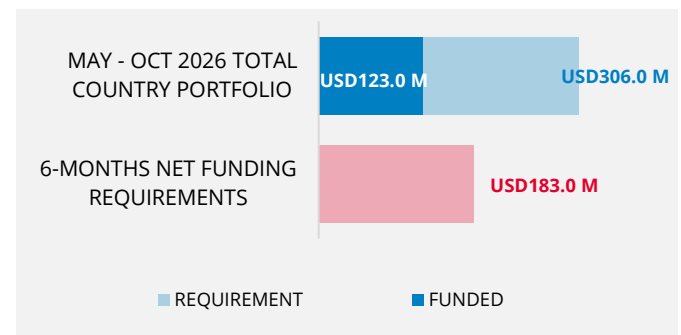
- WFP strengthened supply chain partnerships and national capacity by contributing to the Senselet Project workshop in Adama, supporting public health supply chain workforce development, and by continuing engagement with government and partners to improve logistics and service delivery.
- Following landslides and flash floods on 11 March in Gamo Zone in South Ethiopia, WFP supported a government led emergency response that reached more than 18,500 people. Through the Logistics Cluster, WFP provided mobile storage units and logistics equipment to the regional Disaster Risk Management Commission, improving storage capacity and enabling timely distribution of relief supplies.
- Supply chain operations continue to face fuel constraints that affect dispatch timelines and commodity movements. WFP received requests from around 40 partners for about 240,000 litres of fuel under on demand services and was able to cover most immediate needs, helping partners reach populations whose assistance had been delayed.



FUNDING OVERVIEW

Country Strategic Plan (2026-2030)

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



Thanks to our donors:

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