**In Numbers**

**Over 10 million** people in Ethiopia are food insecure in the second half of 2017.

**3.7 million** people in the Somali Region are being assisted by WFP’s emergency relief assistance.

**1 million** children, and pregnant and nursing mothers nationwide are receiving specialized nutritious food to prevent and treat moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) from WFP.

**650,000** refugees are receiving WFP assistance.

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**Highlights**

- WFP continues to be challenged by funding shortfalls to the Refugee programme, and is currently distributing 80 percent of a full refugee food basket. Pipeline breaks leading to further reductions are expected from March 2018 if no further contributions are received.
- Insecurities related to the Oromia-Somali regional border conflict have delayed WFP dispatches to the Somali Region.

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**Situation Update**

- Currently, there are over 10 million people in need of emergency food assistance in Ethiopia. According to the Mid-Year Humanitarian Requirements Document (HRD), 8.5 million people needed food assistance in the second half of 2017. In addition, there are 4 million people that receive humanitarian assistance through the Government’s Protective Safety Net Programme (PSNP).
- WFP is providing emergency relief to 3.7 million people in the Somali Region only (including 300,000 conflict IDP’s); the Government of Ethiopia and the Joint Emergency Operation Program (JEOP), an NGO consortium are providing relief assistance to the rest of the country.
- Following the border conflict between Oromia and Somali regions, grain supplies to markets in the Somali Region are decreasing while prices in the local markets are steadily increasing.
- According to IOM some 1.6 million people in Ethiopia are displaced, with Oromia and Somali regions being the most affected regions. A total of 448,000 drought induced IDPs and 678,600 conflict-induced IDPs were identified in these two regions.
WFP Response

Relief Assistance

- WFP aims to reach 3.7 million people with emergency relief assistance (HRD+ PSNP) in the Somali Region until the end of the year. This includes assistance to an estimated 300,000 conflict related IDPs.
- WFP’s emergency relief assistance in the Somali Region consist of a combination of food and cash, depending on needs and where markets function.
- WFP’s dispatches for September (Round 6) were delayed by one month because of the change in modality, the Oromia-Somali regional conflict and inaccessible roads due to heavy rains. Similarly, the Round 7 dispatches were also delayed by a month while awaiting decisions on response modalities by the Somali Regional Government.
- In view of the vulnerable food security and nutrition situation in the Somali Region the Government of Ethiopia agreed for WFP to provide a complete relief in-kind food basket for all HRD beneficiaries under the ongoing September (Round 6).
- As of 02 January, WFP has dispatched at 88 percent and distributed 75 percent of the allocated 33,534 mt of food under Round 6 and dispatched 52 percent and distributed 9 percent of the allocated 22,356 mt of food under Round 7.
- WFP has initiated a cash pilot programme to assist an estimated 588,000 people with cash transfers in the Somali Region. The pilot aims to deliver humanitarian transfers to beneficiaries using the national safety net mechanism, in an effort to better harmonize the development and humanitarian investments in the Somali Region and to identify areas for systems strengthening as this approach is taken to scale.
- An estimated US$ 7.9 million has been transferred to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation. Distributions to beneficiaries by Bureau of Finance and Economic Cooperation, Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Bureau and Bureau of Agriculture have still to commence.

Nutrition

- As of 17 December, WFP has treated an estimated 600,000 children under five years of age and pregnant and nursing mothers for malnutrition through its Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme (TSFP) nationwide.
- WFP’s TSF caseload includes an estimated 110,000 conflict IDPs in the Oromia Region.
- In addition, WFP is implementing a four-month Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSFP) for an estimated 400,000 children under five years of age and pregnant and nursing mothers, to prevent malnutrition in the most vulnerable districts in the Somali Region.

Refugees

- Based on a market assessment showing significant increases in food prices, WFP in coordination with the Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) is revising the cash transfer to refugees from US$ 5.5 to US$ 6.5 rate in the Jijiga camps (Somali Region) from January 2018.
- WFP has distributed 60 percent of its allocated 10,766 mt for the month to 390,800 refugees; of which 147,900 (in 13 refugee camps) also received cash assistance, as of 17 December 2017.
- WFP’s Refugee operations are facing critical funding gaps from March 2018. If new contributions are not received soon additional ration cuts to the already reduced (by 20 percent) may be necessary.

Supply Chain

Logistics

- Insecurity at the Oromia-Somali regional border remains a concern. WFP is monitoring the situation closely in liaison with the humanitarian community and the Government of Ethiopia.
- The conflict situation is causing access constraints, delaying relief and nutrition dispatches and distributions, especially in the Somali Region. WFP is using alternative routes to deliver the commodities.
- WFP continues working with partners in Ethiopia, on food quality. Following the recommendation provided by WFP to the Strategic Food Reserve Agency (SFRA) to revise and update the grain food quality working procedures, SFRA implemented the new grain standard, which is aligned with the National Ethiopian Standard procedures for food quality. Since 2016, WFP started partnership with EFSRA, thought the assistance of its food quality management, pest control and local procurement.

Resourcing Update

Top Five Donors in 2017

- United States (US$ 144 million), the United Kingdom (US$ 46.6 million), ECHO (US$ 22.9 million), Germany (US$ 19.8 million), and CERF (US$ 15 million).
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*Relief and PSNP caseloads from Round 7 and Round 8 are carrying over into January and February 2018.*