

HIGHLIGHTS

- COVID-19 cases are increasing steadily with the country registering 111 confirmed cases as of 20 April (of 7,953 people tested), including three deaths and 16 recoveries.
- The Government and partners continue to step up preparedness and response measures with the Government assumption that nearly a quarter of the population will likely be infected by the virus.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

US\$1.001 billion

Requirement for 2020 Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Plan.

	People in need	People targeted
Food/Non-food	8.4 M	7 M
SAM	544K	444K
MAM	3.9 M	3.1 M
IDPs	1.01M	1.01M
Returnees	1.78 M	1.78 M



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Ethiopia: COVID-19 Highlights

It has been over a month since the first confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported in Ethiopia. Cases have since increased steadily with the country registering 111 confirmed cases as of 20 April (of 7,953 people tested), including three deaths and 16 recoveries. Most cases remain traced to travel, and the testing efforts concentrated in the ports of entry. The Government and partners continue to step up preparedness and response measures with the Government assumption that nearly a quarter of the population will likely be infected with the virus.

State of Emergency declared amidst rising number of confirmed cases

On 8 April, Ethiopia declared a nationwide State of Emergency (SoE) for five months in order to intensify efforts to control the spread of COVID-19 pandemic. Details of the SoE, later announced by the Council of Ministers, prohibits amongst others any public gathering of more than four people, with social distancing rule enforced, bans visits to prisons (except for legal representation), and the closure of all border activities (except cargo and freight transport). The declaration also forbids exaggerated or understated COVID-19 information by Government and private media. The National Election Board of Ethiopia has also indefinitely postponed the general elections that were scheduled for August 2020.

An estimated \$1.76 billion required to deal with the health and secondary impacts of COVID-19 for three months

The Government of Ethiopia, through the National Emergency Coordination Center (ECC)¹, has finalized the National COVID-19 Multi-Sector Preparedness and Response Plan (MSPRP). The plan requires an estimated \$1.76 billion to deal with the health and secondary impacts of COVID-19 for three months (April -June 2020). Regional states are also developing their response plans. The Government of Ethiopia has allocated an initial ETB5 billion (\$140 million) and continues its local resource mobilization drive. Donors and international organizations have also supported (in cash and in kind) the national efforts.

¹ The ECC was established to coordinate the multi-sector response to the pandemic. The ECC, which is led by the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC), is supported by all sector bureaus and humanitarian partners. Similar coordination centres are established in all regions.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The United Nations has joined the Government of Ethiopia in calling for a temporary halt of the deportation of irregular Ethiopian migrants to at least give Ethiopian authorities time to safely organize the migrants' repatriation.
- The United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres called for all stakeholders to ensure humanitarian access and opening corridors for the safe and timely movement of goods and personnel.
- The UNSG also called for mobilizing strong and flexible funding for the COVID-19 Response Plan and existing humanitarian appeals.

Addis Ababa Humanitarian Air Hub to coordinate COVID-19 response for 32 African countries

On 14 April, the Government of Ethiopia and the World Food Program (WFP) have opened a new hub at Bole International Airport from which COVID-19 supplies, equipment and humanitarian workers will be transported across 32 countries in Africa. The Addis Ababa Humanitarian Air Hub is part of a United Nations initiative move to scale up procurement and distribution of protective equipment, and medical supplies for the COVID-19 response in Africa. The first cargo flight arrived from the United Arab Emirates on 13 April carrying medical supplies, including aprons, face shields, gloves, goggles, gowns, masks and thermometers procured by the United Nations World Health Organization (WHO).



Photo credit: WFP

Deportation of Ethiopian migrants amidst COVID-19 pandemic

The United Nations has joined the Government of Ethiopia in calling for a temporary halt of the deportation of irregular Ethiopian migrants to at least give Ethiopian authorities time to safely organize the migrants' repatriation. The call was channeled through several avenues, including through an open letter by the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Ethiopia, Dr. Catherine Sozi. In a separate interview with Reuters, Dr. Sozi had warned that "large-scale migratory movements which are not planned make the transmission of the virus much more likely to continue. We are therefore calling for the temporary suspension of large-scale deportations,"

Some 5,000 irregular Ethiopian migrants were reportedly deported to Ethiopia over the past two weeks, putting additional strain on Government COVID-19 control measures. The deportees came from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (2,900 individuals), from Djibouti who came through the Dewale entry point (2,019 individuals) and Kenya through the Moyale entry point (331 individuals). A daily average of 250 deportees are expected from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the coming weeks.

All deportees are quarantined for 14 days before being supported with their onward transportation to their respective hometowns. The federal Government as well as regional authorities and the Dire Dawa administration are supporting the quarantined deportees with basic necessities with partners support, but significant gaps remain, including non-food item supplies.

The second issue of the COVID-19 Humanitarian Impact Situation Update was released last week

The second issue of the COVID-19 Humanitarian Impact Situation Update was released on 3 April laying out the humanitarian impact of COVID-19 across the regions, ongoing responses and challenges. The report covers new needs resulting from the pandemic as well as the impact of the at least 7 million vulnerable Ethiopians in need of uninterrupted, multi-sector life-saving assistance from the Government and humanitarian partners (HRP 2020). These include IDPs and population affected by recurrent climate-related disasters such as drought and flooding.

The update is prepared under the auspices of the National Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) for COVID-19 response, led by the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC), supported by OCHA Ethiopia with the participation of Cluster Coordinators. The full document can be accessed here: <https://bit.ly/2K7ba3r>

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- A desert locust impact assessment, jointly conducted by the Government of Ethiopia and partners, revealed that swarms of locusts have hugely affected the lives and livelihoods of communities across affected regions in the country. The infestation has damaged some 500,000 hectares of cropland, bringing an additional one million people into the humanitarian caseload.
- The assessment report came out at the time when the East African region is bracing for a second wave of desert locust swarms that is expected to be 20 times larger than the first wave.

United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres calls for funding for COVID-19 and other humanitarian response and for global ceasefire

On 8 April, the United Nations Secretary-General (UNSG), Antonio Guterres, delivered a statement to the UN Security Council highlighting three priorities in the global fight against COVID-19 pandemic. The UNSG called for all stakeholders to ensure humanitarian access and opening corridors for the safe and timely movement of goods and personnel. This follows his call for an immediate global ceasefire on 23 March urging “all warring parties to silence the guns in order to help create conditions for the delivery of aid, open up space for diplomacy and bring hope to places among the most vulnerable to the pandemic.” Secondly, the UNSG called for mobilizing strong and flexible funding for the COVID-19 Response Plan and existing humanitarian appeals. He stressed that resources for one should not replace or divert from the other. He also reminded that protecting the most vulnerable populations and those least able to protect themselves remains a priority. “International humanitarian, human rights and refugee law continue to apply, even – and especially – in challenging times like these.”

One million left food insecure due to desert locust infestation: joint assessment report

A desert locust impact assessment, jointly conducted by the Government of Ethiopia and partners, revealed that swarms of locusts have affected the lives and livelihoods of communities across several regions in the country. The infestation has damaged some 500,000 hectares of cropland, bringing an additional one million people into the humanitarian caseload. Due to desert locust invasion and damage on crops and pasture, the Household Economy Analysis (HEA) shows that nearly one million people should be included in the emergency food assistance plans. Desert locust has damaged different crops but the worst affected was cereal, especially sorghum where 113 639 hectares were affected followed by maize (41 341 ha) and wheat (36 188 ha).

Oromia region is the worst affected with a total cereal loss of 1 228 352 quintals (122 835 MT) on 41 051.4 hectares of cropland followed by Somali region with a cereal crop loss of 1026 132 quintals (102 613 MT) on 90 076 ha of cropland. Tigray region comes third with 843 241 quintals (84 324 MT) lost on 40 577 ha of land. Vegetables, legumes, chat, coffee, and fruits were also affected in Afar, Oromia, SNNP and Somali regions.

Other findings include poor food consumption, worsened household diet, increase in negative coping strategies, increasing reliance on markets for food and increase in market prices, negative “Terms of Trade” in Afar, Somali and Oromia regions—mainly because of very high cereal prices. There is a sign of lower cereal stock against stagnant or falling livestock prices. The sale of livestock will likely erode the resilience of livestock keepers. The majority of the assessed households had no or very limited cereal food stock barely a month after completing the *meher* harvest.

At least 173 *woredas* across seven out of the nine regions of Ethiopia have been affected by desert locust since the infestation began in late 2019, causing a significant threat to food security. Out of the affected *woredas*, the assessment targeted 1,600 households in 64 *kebeles* across 32 *woredas* of Afar, Amhara, Oromia, SNNP, Somali and Tigray regions, as well as Dire Dawa City administration. The assessment report came out at the time when the East African region is bracing for a second wave of desert locust swarms that is expected to be 20 times larger than the first wave.

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- The Ethiopia Humanitarian Fund launched the 2020 first-round standard allocation for \$23.2 million. The allocation responds to the 'critical funding requests' of clusters against the prioritized 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan requirements.
- Amongst others, specific life-saving activities prioritized for funding include access to safe water, establishment of sanitation facilities, support to health and nutrition services, responding to the shelter and other needs of IDPs/returnees, and response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic including decongesting of overcrowded shelters. Protection services for IDPs and other groups with specific needs are also prioritized for funding

EHF Allocation and Flexibility Guidance in the context of COVID-19 pandemic

On 8 April, the Ethiopia Humanitarian Fund (EHF) launched the 2020 first-round standard allocation for \$23.2 million. The allocation responds to the 'critical funding requests' of clusters against the prioritized 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) requirements, with funding allocated to the highest priority sectors of Agriculture (\$1.1 million), Education (\$1.5 million), Health (\$3.8 million), Emergency Shelter/NFI (\$4.5 million), Nutrition (\$4 million), Protection (\$2.5 million) and WaSH (\$3.8 million). An additional \$2 million is provided to the Logistics Cluster to support its activation and create an augmented logistics capacity in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, particularly related to transportation and pre-positioning of supplies and warehousing.

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Locations that experience ongoing skirmishes between government and armed groups, and that host large numbers of displaced people as well as returnees in East and West Wollega zones, East and West Hararge zones, Guji zone, West Guji zone and Bale zone of Oromia region; Awi and Central zones in Amhara, Metekel and Kamashi zones in Benishangul Gumuz; South Omo, Gamo Gofa and Sidama zones in SNNPR and Somali region are recommended for a prioritized response.

A guidance paper that provides flexibility measures for the country-based pooled funds was also circulated. The guidance addresses a broad range of issues, including operational modalities and project management that will allow key stakeholders to continue providing life-saving assistance in the context of COVID-19 pandemic. The document lays out flexibility measures for ongoing allocations/projects such as the provision of projects' cost extensions to include critical activities responding to the pandemic subject to technical reviews and endorsement. Other flexibility measures such as the provision of no cost extension (extending of project durations) and flexibility of reporting timelines are also included. The online Grant Management System (GMS) has been updated and adjusted to allow all these changes.

Life As An IDP in Enjibara Town, Awi zone, Amhara region

In September 2019, some 11,000 people fled inter-communal violence that broke out in Dongola *woreda*, Metekel zone, Benishangul Gumz region and settled in Enjibara Town, Awi zone, Amhara region. Ato Semeneh Begara and his family were amongst the internally displaced people (IDPs).

Ato Semeneh, a 55 five year-old man and currently the representative of the IDP community in Enjibara Town recalls the first day he and the other IDPs arrived in the town: "We were warmly welcomed by the community in Enjibara. However, we were settled in an overcrowded building where there was no sanitation facility nor water supply."

It was only few days after their arrival that Ato Semeneh and the other IDP parents experienced another traumatic event. For lack of sanitation and proper shelter, many



Ato Semeneh, representative of the IDP community in Enjibara Town. Photo credit: OCHA Ethiopia

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- “We were warmly welcomed by the community in Enjibara. However, we were settled in an overcrowded building where there was no sanitation facility nor water supply.”

- On behalf of the IDPs, Ato Semeneh requested the Government and humanitarian partners to scale up their support with regular food and nutrition assistance as well as other basic services as soon as possible. He also called on the Government to ensure peace and security in their places of origin so that they can return and resume their lives.

IDP children, including Ato Semeneh’s sons suffered from acute diarrhoeal diseases and respiratory tract infections. “At the beginning, I was very afraid that I might lose my sons due to the illness. But thank God they fully recovered after receiving treatment for seven days,” Ato Semeneh said.

At present, “most IDPs are not willing to return to their place of origin due to ongoing insecurity and the absence of livelihood opportunities there,” he said. Most of the IDPs have lost everything. Ato Semeneh himself had lost 70 hectares of fertile land, and his house was destroyed by the perpetrators during the violence.

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Since September 2019, nearly 23,000 people were displaced from Kamashi and Metekel zones of Benishangul Gumz region to different sites within Awi zone, Amhara region.

2020 HRP Funding Update

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

HRP



US\$ 1.001
BILLION

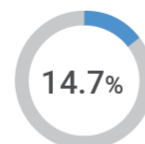
FUNDING RECEIVED

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS



US\$ 146.8
Million

LEVEL OF FUNDING



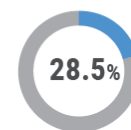
UNMET REQUIREMENTS



US\$854.4
Million

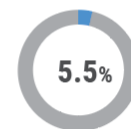
Sector/Cluster	Funding Received	% Covered	Requirements
Food	113.9M	29%	399.5M
Nutrition	-	0%	193.4M
ES/NFI	-	0%	95.8M
Health	1.3M	1%	94.3M
WASH	5.9M	7%	79.7M
Agriculture	0.4M	1%	54.0M
Protection	-	0%	42.4M
Education	-	0%	30.0M
Coordination	2.3M	19%	12.0M
Sector not specified	21.3M	-	-
Multiple sectors (breakdown not specified)	1.7M	-	-

FOOD



US\$ 285.6M
Unmet
requirements

NON-FOOD SECTORS



US\$ 568.9M
Unmet
requirements

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