

HIGHLIGHTS

- COVID-19 cases are increasing steadily with the country registering 133 confirmed cases as of 03 May (of 19,857 people tested), including three deaths and 69 recoveries.
- The National Strategic Committee for COVID-19 response has cautioned against the negligence observed on citizens in respecting precautionary measures to prevent the spread of the pandemic.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

US\$1.00 billion

Requirement for 2020 Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Plan

US\$1.76 billion

Requirement for National COVID-19 Multi-Sector Preparedness and Response Plan

KEY FIGURES

	People in need	People targeted
Food/Non-food	8.4 M	7 M
SAM	544K	444K
MAM	3.9 M	3.1 M
IDPs	1.8 M	1.8 M
Returnees	1.0 M	1.0 M



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Ethiopia: COVID-19 Highlights

The number of COVID-19 cases in Ethiopia reached 133 (as of 3 May, or week 12) out of 19,857 individuals tested across six regions of the country. The number of people who have recovered reached 69, while the number of deaths remains at three. The national capacity for testing has grown to 18 for each 100,000 persons or an average of 1,000 a day in 25 testing centers throughout the country.

The ongoing influx of irregular migrant deportees and returned migrants to Ethiopia through different points of entry is challenging the national COVID-19 prevention and control measures. As of 28 April, there were some 9,480 registered deportees and returned migrants. The individuals are put under a 14 days mandatory quarantine upon arrival. Some of the confirmed cases in the past week are from this group who were being followed-up in quarantine centers. Lack of adequate personal protective equipment (PPE) for health professionals, facilities to isolate symptomatic cases, hot meal as well as hygiene and sanitary materials are reported key challenges in the quarantine centers across the country.

PM warned against negligence in respecting precautionary measures

Meanwhile, Prime Minister, Abiy Ahmed, Chairperson of the National Strategic Committee for COVID-19 Response cautioned against the negligence observed on citizens in respecting precautionary measures to prevent the spread of the pandemic. The national committee instructed Addis Ababa Transport Bureau to resolve the congestions seen due to lack of transport services.

COVID-19 pandemic forces Ethiopia to postpone national election

On 30 April, the Ethiopian parliament ratified the decision of the National Election Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) to further postpone the national election beyond 29 August 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic. The parliament passed the matter unto the Legal, Justice, and Administrative Matters Committee to examine the decision and come up with a proposed solution. Prior to parliamentary discussion, consultations were held between the Government of Ethiopia and competing political parties on the postponement of the election. Four constitutional options were put forward by the Government to address issues related to the postponed national polls: 1) Dissolving the House of Peoples Representatives (Parliament), 2) Declaring State of Emergency, 3) Constitutional amendment, and 4) Claiming Constitutional interpretations. On 5 May 2020, the parliament discussed the four options and voted for constitutional interpretation for the postponement of the national election.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The ongoing influx of irregular migrant deportees to Ethiopia is challenging the national COVID-19 prevention and control measures. The deportees are entering the country through different points of entry (land crossing and by air).
- According to the federal COVID-19 Emergency Coordination Center, there were some 9,480 reported deportees across the country as of 28 April. Addis Ababa received the highest number (3,496) mainly from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, followed by Tigray (1,513), Somali (1,437), SNNP (1,070), Oromia (448), Amhara (415), Afar (392) and Benishangul Gumuz (59) regions as well as Dire Dawa City Council (750).
- Efforts have been stepped up to strengthen coordination between the Risk Communication and Community Awareness (RCCE) section of the national Public Health Emergency Operation Centre (PHEOC), the Community Awareness Branch of the national Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) and the UN Communication Group (UNCG).

Resource mobilization for COVID-19 response continues, but huge gaps remain

As COVID-19 pandemic continues to negatively impact the economy of countries, the board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) IMF board provided loan worth US\$411 million to Ethiopia to help relieve the pandemic's effects on its fast-growing economy. So far, ETB1.9 billion (\$567 million) has been locally mobilized for the COVID-19 preparedness and response in the country.

Regions setting up quarantine centers amid continuing arrival of deportees/returnees

The ongoing influx of irregular migrant deportees/returnees to Ethiopia is challenging the national COVID-19 prevention and control measures. The deportees/returnees are entering the country through different points of entry (land crossing and by air). In response, the Government is expanding quarantine and isolation centers at ports of entries, including in Afar and Somali regions.

In Somali region, the deportees/returnees are quarantined for 14 days upon arrival in Jigjiga University, Dawanle Railway Company Warehouse, and Moyale Primary Schools, while the establishment of temporary quarantine centers is ongoing in Tog Wachale (Dawanle, Moyale and Tog Wachale are the identified entry points). In Afar region, the deportees/returnees are quarantined in Semera University and in four additional facilities at points of entry in Afambo, Elidar, Galafi, and Logia.

The Government of Ethiopia, with support from partners, is providing food, non-food items, WaSH and health services as well as transportation assistance from points of entry to quarantine centers and from quarantine centers to their areas of origin. Several limitations are however reported. The quarantine centers in Somali region are reporting gaps, including food/hot meals, individual core relief items, hygiene kits, dignity kits, MCH and nutrition needs for pregnant and lactating women and children under five years of age, as well as lack of quarantine management capacity. The lack of resources to support deportees/returnees with transportation to their place of origin is also a challenge. Meanwhile in Afar region, shortage of personal protective equipment, food, clothing and lack of transport service were reported.

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While some of the deportees have completed their mandatory quarantine and departed to their areas of origin, a significant number still remain in the quarantine centers.

COVID-19 Risk Communication and Community Awareness

Efforts have been stepped up to strengthen coordination between the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) section of the national Public Health Emergency Operation Centre (PHEOC), and the Community Awareness Branch of the national Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) and the UN Communication Group (UNCG). UNICEF is co-leading the RCCE, while several other UN agencies and NGOs are also directly supporting the RCCE. Meanwhile, the INGO Plan International is supporting the ECC's Community Awareness Branch and fast-track its operationalization.

HIGHLIGHTS

- When inter-communal conflict erupted in Moyale town, Seke, together with her husband and four children, took refuge with her relatives in a nearby village called Gambo in Kenya. And when the tension subsided and things started to return to normal in her hometown, Seke and her family returned to Ethiopia only to find all their belongings destroyed.
- The family's fate changed for the better when the INGO Goal Ethiopia started its unconditional cash support program with funding received from the Ethiopia Humanitarian Fund (EHF). By March 2020, Seke's earning had increased three-fold and her family's living condition improved.

All regions have developed their respective RCCE plans with the support from partners. The plans focus on reaching the most at-risk communities through existing platform, including Health Extension Workers (HEW), religious and community leaders and community influencers. Regarding Community Awareness, there are also several activities currently ongoing by Government and partners to sensitize the public on COVID-19 risks and preventive measures with the engagement of respective community members. Some of these activities include house-to-house surveillance and awareness by Health Extension Workers (HEWs), dissemination of information materials in local languages (including in refugee camps), community radio programs and collaborations with religious and community leaders. Enhanced media and communication efforts are required to change the negligent behavior that is still being observed in people's day to day activities.

Struggling to restart life: The story of Seke Anbessa, an IDP woman from Moyale



Photo credit: OCHA Ethiopia

In December 2018, inter-communal conflict erupted in Moyale town (Borena, Oromia region) displacing hundreds of residents, including across the border to Kenya. Seke Anbessa, a 50-year-old woman was one of them.

For one month, Seke, together with her husband and four children, took refuge with her relatives in a nearby village called Gambo in Kenya.

When the tension subsided and things started to return to normal in her hometown, Seke and her family returned to Ethiopia only to find all their belongings destroyed.

Before the displacement, Seke used to run a small business (locally known as *Gulit nigd*). Upon return, her business was gone and she and her family were left without shelter and livelihood.

Seke recalls those challenging days like this: "we had no water, we barely had enough food to feed the family and we had no spare cloth to wear." Seke and her family struggled to survive with the food support from Government, and some plastic sheets they received from partner organizations to cover the roof of her burned house.

The family's fate changed for the better when the INGO Goal Ethiopia started its unconditional cash support program with funding received from the Ethiopia Humanitarian Fund (EHF).

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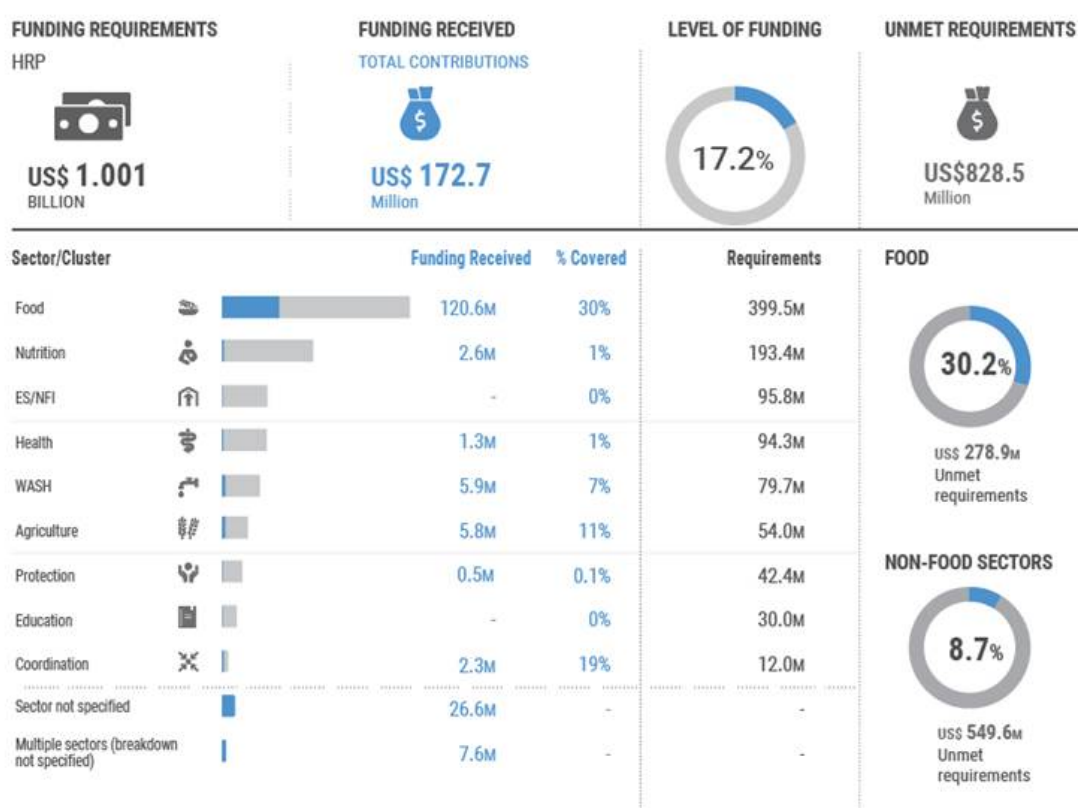
- The 2020 Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Fund of US\$1 billion is 17.2 per cent funded, including 30.2 per cent for the food sector and 8.7 per cent for the non-food sector.

“When I was informed that I am a candidate for unconditional cash support, I opened a bank account and received two thousand and five hundred Ethiopian Birr,” said Seke. Seke used part of the money she received to buy some household items like bed sheet. She also bought some educational supplies to send her four children back to school in September 2019. With the remaining money, Seke re-lived her previously owned small business and started to earn her living and supporting her family.

By March 2020, Seke’s earning had increased three-fold and her family’s living condition improved. Even though Seke does not know the name of the organization that provided the means to recover from the impact of the conflict and lost livelihood, she is very much thankful to it and named it “the blessed organization.”

2020 HRP Funding Update

In-country 2020 HRP Funding Update



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