

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The spread of COVID-19 is still steadily increasing with the country registering 317 cases as of 17 May 2020. The daily report of confirmed cases has spiked since the first week of May, half of it associated with travel, of which a small percentage issued from quarantine centers for migrant returnees.
- The influx of returning/deported migrants from neighboring countries and the Middle East continues to put increasing pressure on the Government surveillance and management capacity, especially at border crossing points.

## FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

### US\$1.001 billion

Requirement for 2020 Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Plan.

### US\$1.76 billion

Requirement for the 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	544 K	444 K
MAM	3.9 M	3.1 M
IDPs	1.78 M	1.78 M
Returnees	1.01 M	1.01 M



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## COVID-19 - Ethiopia updates

### Cases continue to steadily increase; spike particularly seen since early May

Two months after the first case of COVID-19 was reported in Ethiopia, the spread of the virus is steadily increasing with the country registering 317 cases as of 17 May 2020. 113 people have recovered, while the number of deaths remain five. The daily report of confirmed cases has spiked since the first week of May. The first two cases were also reported from Benishangul-Gumuz region last week.

Overall, 50.8 per cent of the cases have a travel history, 31.5 per cent of the cases had contact with a case, while the remaining 17.6 per cent of the cases do not have an identified source of infection. Meanwhile, the national testing capacity has reached more than 4000 a day as new laboratories continue to expand in the regions. The African Union has also established a lab facility for its staff. Overall, 57,254 individuals were tested across the country, of whom 4,225 were tested over the last 24 hours.

The influx of returning/deported migrants from neighboring countries and the Middle East continues to put increasing pressure on the Government surveillance and management capacity, especially ports of entry such as airports and at border crossing points. More specifically, identified challenges include porous borders/informal entry points, management of quarantine centers and lack of adequate supplies for staff and those quarantined, inadequate logistics support as well as the lack of uniform risk communication package across all quarantine centers.

On 14 May, the National Disaster Risk Management Commission-led Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) endorsed a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for COVID-19 response for returning migrants. The SOP aims to standardize the response to returning migrants across the country, as well as ensure a coordinated approach by all stakeholders during all phases of intervention, including pre-departure, points of entry, quarantine period,

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The National Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) conducted an assessment of quarantine centers in four sites of Addis Ababa to determine the structural adequacy, functionality and service capacity in the sites. The report forwarded several recommendations for improvement.
- The Ministry of Peace is currently leading an assessment team to quarantine centers, points of entry and isolation centers in the regions to assess their functionality and challenges in the overall COVID-19 response.
- Flooding due to seasonal rains continues to affect hundreds of thousands of lives and livelihoods in Somali, Afar, SNNP, and Oromia regions as well as Dire Dawa City Council. Overall, the country counts at least 470,000 affected people and 300,000 displaced as of 16 May 2020.

post-quarantine period and reintegration of returning migrants. The SOP is a living document, which will be updated based on developing situation.

According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Ethiopia received more than 11,800 migrant returnees/deportees, including some 3,000 from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 3,827 from Sudan, 3,332 from Djibouti, 1,336 from Somalia, and 505 from Kenya.

### ECC releases results of multi-sector assessment of COVID-19 quarantine centers in Addis Ababa

On 7-8 May 2020, the National Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) conducted an assessment of quarantine centers in four sites of Addis Ababa to determine the structural adequacy, functionality and service capacity in the sites. Using tools developed with consultation with line ministries and partners, the assessment looked into coordination mechanisms, infrastructure setting, human resources, NFIs, food and water safety, protection and MPHSS, health follow-up, and risk communication and community engagement in quarantine centers and at points of entry.

The assessment report identified significant improvements in terms of coordination and service provision, as well as major gaps and areas of further improvement. Recommendations include: 1) improve the coordination link between the quarantine sites and the ECC; 2) address the lack of proper waste management in most sites; 3) mobilize adequate number of social workers and MPHSS professionals; 4) improve the support to unaccompanied migrant children; 5) provide uniform package of risk communication for all sites; and 6) provide adequate training/support and personal protective equipment to all staff working at the sites.

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Since the Government imposition of a 14-day quarantine for all people coming to Ethiopia on 20 March, several quarantine centers have been established and continue to expand. There are 17 quarantine centers in Addis Ababa alone, including in 7 universities and in 11 designated hotels. Health screening and mandatory quarantine are being implemented in all the regions and points of entry, albeit with limitations.

### For information and case-reporting find below COVID – 19 Hotlines:



## Flooding leaves more than 470,000 people affected, including more than 300,000 displaced

Flooding due to seasonal rains continues to affect hundreds of thousands of lives and livelihoods in Somali, Afar, SNNP, and Oromia regions as well as Dire Dawa City Council. Overall, the country counts at least 470,000 affected people and 300,000 displaced as of 16 May 2020.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The number of affected and displaced has drastically increased since the National Flood Taskforce released its first Flood Alert in the first week of May reporting 219,698 people affected and 107,267 displaced. More specifically, flood impacts were reported in Liben (Dolo Ado and Bokolmanyo), West Guji (Gelanna and Bule Hora), Borena (Moyale), Guji (Liben), and Bale (Ginir, Gololcha and Gasera) zones last week.
- The Government and humanitarian partners are currently addressing the food and non-food needs of affected/displaced population, albeit with limitation.
- Given the rapid increase in the scale and severity of flood incidents across the country, the National Flood Taskforce agreed to develop an Emergency Flood Preparedness and Response Plan for the remainder of the *belg*/spring season. The document is expected to be released early this week.

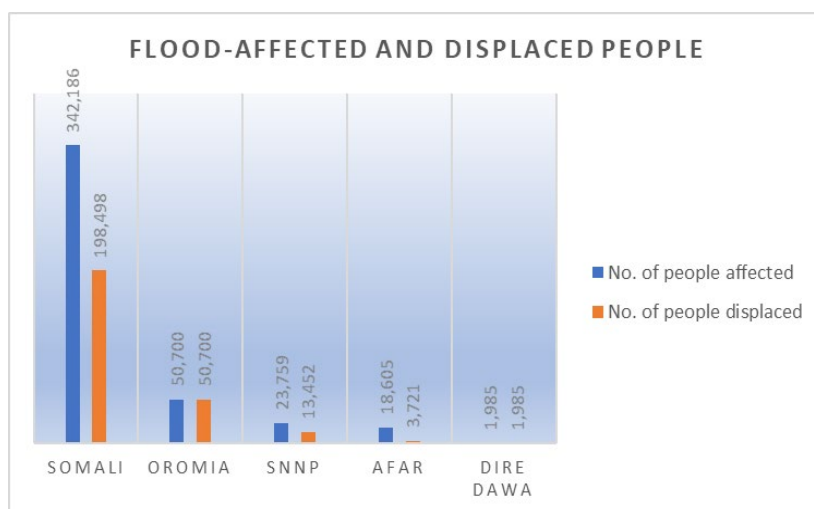
The situation is particularly severe in Somali region where some 342,000 people are affected (some 198,000 displaced) in 26 *woredas* across nine zones. Of these, 247,000 affected

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Flood Alert in the first week of May reporting 219,698 people affected and 107,267 displaced. More specifically, flood impacts were reported in Liben (Dolo Ado and Bokolmanyo), West Guji (Gelanna and Bule Hora), Borena (Moyale), Guji (Liben), and Bale (Ginir, Gololcha and Gasera) zones last week.

The Government and humanitarian partners are currently addressing the food and non-food needs of affected/displaced population, albeit with limitation. The Somali Regional Government requested the Federal Government, through the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC), for boats and military helicopters to rapidly distribute supplies to flood-affected communities in the hard-hit and unreachable areas in Shabelle zone. Similarly, the Afar Regional DPFSCO is only supporting half of the flood-affected households with food and non-food items from prepositioned relief items. The region requested additional supplies from NDRMC the cover all identified needs.



Source: OCHA Ethiopia, 16 May 2020



Flood in Suftu, Dolo Ado, Somali region. Photo Credit: OCHA Ethiopia

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During the meeting held on 13 May, the National Flood Taskforce also agreed to prepare a Flood Alert and Contingency Plan for the upcoming *kiremt*/summer rainy season (June-September) to enhance preparedness and mitigate the worst of the impact. The National Meteorological Agency (NMA) will avail the weather outlook for the *kiremt*/summer rainy season at the end of May based on which the Flood Alert and Contingency Plan will be developed.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Some 60,000 IDPs in Awi zone (Amhara region) are targeted by the regional authorities to be returned to Metekel zone, in Benishangul Gumuz region. The IDPs had fled inter-communal conflict and have been residing in Awi zone since 2019
- The Amhara region authorities reported that the organized return is being conducted in consultation with their counterpart in Benishangul Gumuz region as well as in consultation with IDP representatives.
- Discussions with IDPs revealed that even though they are eager to return to their homestead, they said that assistance being providing in areas of return is inadequate.
- Operational partners in Ethiopia are adapting their response to immediate life-saving needs posed by natural and man-made disasters in the context of COVID-19 restrictions, and the collective responsibility to respond to and prevent further spread of the virus.

## Some 60,000 IDPs returning from Amhara to Benishangul Gumuz region

According to the Amhara Region Disaster Prevention, Food Security Program, and Areas in Need of Special Support Coordination Commission (DPFSP/ANSSCC), 60,000 IDPs in Awi zone (Amhara region) are targeted to be returned to Metekel zone, Benishangul Gumuz region. The IDPs had fled inter-communal conflict and have been residing in Awi zone since 2019. At least 4,274 IDPs have so far been returned, while the remaining 55,726 IDPs (5,090 in North Gonder, 41,309 West Gonder, and 9,468 in Awi zone) will be returned over the course of the next few weeks of May.

The Amhara region authorities reported that the organized return is being conducted in consultation with their counterpart in Benishangul Gumuz region as well as in consultation with IDP representatives. Some IDPs are also seen boarding private buses to return on their own. Discussions with IDPs revealed that even though they are eager to return to their homestead, they said that assistance being providing in areas of return is inadequate. The three months food ration provided by Government only consists of cereals, and excludes the other components (oil, pulse and corn soya blend) in a relief food basket. IDPs also request assistance to access WaSH, health and nutrition services, support in agricultural inputs to resume their livelihood upon return, as well as assurance for better safety and security in their respective villages.

During the regional UN forum on COVID-19 meeting held on 15 May, the forum agreed for a team comprised of OCHA, UNICEF, WFP and IOM to discuss the issue with the regional government, request for the inclusion of partners in the return planning and implementation process and to set up a system whereby the IDPs can be tested for COVID-19 before return.

## Focus Story: Humanitarian partners adapting response operations during COVID-19 pandemic

Changes and restrictions brought by COVID-19 pandemic requires individuals, organizations and governments to continuously adapt to new ways of working to ensure the continuation of essential services and programs. In line with the global commitment made by the humanitarian community to “continue/adapt operations” during COVID-19, humanitarian partners in Ethiopia are doing the same. At present, partners are supporting the Government of Ethiopia to respond to man-made and natural disaster-induced life-saving needs, as well as delivering on the collective responsibility to respond to and prevent further spread of the virus. Humanitarian partners are also adjusting their response to the rules and regulation outlined in the national State of Emergency, which runs until the end of August 2020.

To this end, operational partners are undertaking various response activities in line with the change in context. For example, IRC is flexing programmatic focus towards COVID-19 life-saving activities through allocating more resources to expand existing emergency WaSH programs in SNNP region to include COVID-19 components.



Awareness raising on precautionary measures against COVID-19. Photo Credit: Mercy Corps

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Physical distancing, handwashing and other COVID-19 prevention measures are applied through all programs/activities at country office and field level. Physical distancing is being applied during distribution of relief supplies to IDPs and other beneficiaries. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and sanitation materials are provided to frontline workers, as well as to quarantine centers and members of communities.

Some partners are minimizing non-essential activities. For instance, UNFPA in Gedeo re-designed its humanitarian and development/sexual and reproductive health nexus project to accommodate COVID-19 responses by shifting 20 per cent from the development component to COVID-19 response.

COVID-19 awareness raising campaigns (risks and prevention) are also adjusted to the context and mainstreamed in all activities to maximize outreach and to sustainably bring behavioral changes. For example, 19 partners in Bale and Guji zones support COVID-19-related events, including logistics support for local government counterparts. Save the Children International's education project in SNNP region broadcasts key COVID-19 messages through local media using eight local languages. The INGO also provides logistics support for health authorities in Konso zone.



*Maintaining physical distancing as Mercy Corps provide WASH and NFI for IDPs in Gumi Eldelo woreda, Guji zone, Oromia. Photo Credit: Mercy Corps*

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Coordination and other humanitarian meetings are mostly held virtually. In cases where virtual

meeting is not possible, essential face-to-face meetings are conducted with limited number of participants, and with the mandatory wearing of face masks and maintaining required physical distances.



*Maintaining physical distancing as Mercy Corps provide WASH and NFI for IDPs in Gumi Eldelo woreda, Guji zone, Oromia. Photo Credit: Mercy Corps*

## 2020 HRP Funding Update

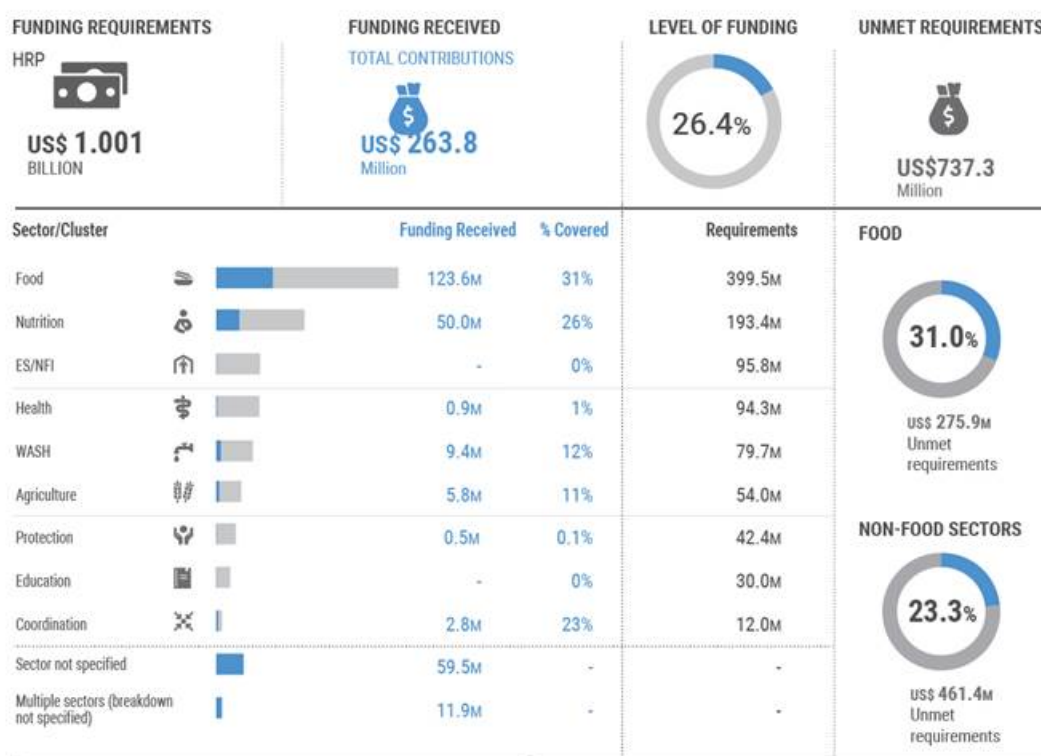
### HIGHLIGHTS

- The 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan is 17 per cent funded, including 30 per cent for the food sector and 8.7 per cent for the non-food sector. A revision of the sector requirements is currently being finalized to reflect additional needs due to COVID-19 pandemic, flooding and desert locust infestation amongst others.

The 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan of US\$1 billion is 26.4 per cent funded, including 31 per cent for the Food Cluster and 23.3 per cent for the non-food clusters. Several life-saving clusters have received no to minimal funding, including protection, education, nutrition and ES/NFI.

A revision of the sector requirements is currently being finalized to reflect additional needs due to COVID-19 pandemic, flooding and desert locust infestation amongst others.

### In-country 2020 HRP Funding Update



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