

HIGHLIGHTS

- As of 21 June, the country counted 4,532 confirmed cases, including a record 399 new cases on 20 June. Of the total caseload, 1,213 people have recovered, while 74 people have died.
- Addis Ababa remains the epicenter of the pandemic constituting 71 per cent (3,230) of the total reported cases (as of 21 June).
- Reports from field offices indicate that inadequately equipped quarantine centers and distant test labs remain obstacles in the COVID-19 coordination and response.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

US\$1.65 billion

Total COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 revised requirement for the remainder of the year

US\$1.14 billion

Non-COVID-19 Requirement

US\$506 million

COVID-19 Requirement

People targeted	
Non-COVID-19	6.7 million
COVID-19	9.8 million



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COVID-19 - Ethiopia updates

The worst of COVID-19 pandemic is yet to come, warns Ethiopia's Premier

The daily report of new COVID-19 cases continues to spike. The first quarter of June registered three times the number of cases reported during the previous two months and a half. Community transmission is contributing to the rapid spread of the virus in recent weeks as most of the confirmed cases neither have a history of travel nor a contact with a known confirmed case. As of 21 June, the country counted 4,532 confirmed cases, including the record high new cases of 399 on 20 June. Of the total caseload, 1,213 people have recovered, while 74 people have died.

Addis Ababa remains the epicenter of the pandemic constituting 71 per cent (3,230) of the total reported cases (as of 21 June), (see regional breakdown in the table above. Source: EPHI).

Region	Total case reported	Currently admitted
Addis Ababa	3,230	2,220
Afar	66	31
Amhara	273	209
Benishangul Gumuz	6	-
Dire Dawa	45	33
Gambella	9	8
Harari	34	30
Oromia	247	197
Somali	388	301
SNNP	52	46
Tigray	182	168

Lack of logistics in regional quarantine centers and distant test labs remain obstacles to COVID-19 response

Reports from field offices indicate that inadequately equipped quarantine centers and distant test labs remain obstacles in the COVID-19 coordination and response. Some quarantine centers have been reported to lack access to water, food, personal protective equipment (PPE) and electricity. COVID-19-related awareness raising, and capacity building have also been limited. With the rapid increase in confirmed cases, health facilities are reportedly overstretched, while quarantine centers are full or nearing their full capacity.

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- The National Emergency Coordination Center (ECC), led by NDRMC, has deployed multi-sector assessment teams to assess regional COVID-19 quarantine centers (QC) and points of entry (PoEs) this week (15-20 June). The findings will help strengthen regional COVID-19 coordination structures and response capacity.
- The Ministry of Health is working to secure about 130 million medical masks for health professionals amidst the global shortage of supplies.
- The Prime Minister warns that the worst of COVID-19 is yet to come in the coming few months, called on all to stand in solidarity in the face of this pandemic.

Accordingly, the Government of Ethiopia announced amendments to the State of Emergency regulations that were put in place in April 2020 as part of the COVID-19 prevention and control measures. According to the announcement made at the end of last week, the amendments include: 1) all travelers arriving at Bole International airport who can bring certificate of negative PCR SARS-CoV-2 test done up to 72 hours before arrival to Ethiopia, will be allowed to self-quarantine at home for 14 days. Samples will be taken by government health officials upon arrival; 2) all travelers with NO certificate of negative PCR SARS-CoV-2 test results as well as returnees will be quarantined for 7 days in the designated sites, tested, and then self-isolate for additional 7 days at home; 3) individuals suspected for COVID-19 or who tested positive with mild or no symptoms will be asked to self-isolate at home if they have the capacity. Individuals who do not meet self-isolation criteria will be isolated in non-clinical facilities; 4) for all deaths at home or in health facilities, funeral and burial arrangements can be held by family at their preferred burial ground. Sample will need to be collected from the dead body, although there is no longer requirement to wait for the test result before the burial. The earlier regulation of a maximum of 50 people gathering holds.

Multi-sector assessment teams deployed to assess regional quarantine centers and points of entry last week

The National Emergency Coordination Center (ECC), led by NDRMC, has deployed multi-sector assessment teams to assess regional COVID-19 quarantine centers (QC) and points of entry (PoEs) last week (15-20 June). The selected sites include, Dewale PoE and QC, Togo Wujale PoE and Jigjiga University QC in Somali region; Dire Dawa University QC; Semera University QC and Galafi PoE in Afar region; Moyale QC and PoE (both Oromia and Somali sides); Metema PoE and Gendewha QC in Amhara region; Gambella University QC and Pagak PoE in Gambella region; and Assosa University QC and Kurmuk PoE in Benishangul Gumuz region.

The assessment is expected to come up with detailed analysis of needs, response and gaps at quarantine centers and points of entry. The findings will help strengthen regional COVID-19 coordination structures and response capacity. Humanitarian partners have supported the organization, logistics and the implementation of the assessment.

A similar assessment conducted in four quarantine sites in Addis Ababa made on 7-8 May 2020 had identified major gaps and areas of further improvement, including the need to improve response coordination, address the lack of proper waste management, mobilize adequate number of social workers and MPHSS professionals, improve the support to unaccompanied migrant children, provide uniform package of risk communication for all sites, and provide adequate training/support and personal protective equipment to all staff working at the sites. Corrective measures are being taken.

Some 130 million medical masks required for the coming 4 months, MoH

According to the Ministry of Health (MoH), at least 130 million masks are needed for the coming four months to contain the spread of COVID-19 in the country. The ministry is working to secure the medical masks for health professionals amidst a global shortage of medical masks.

Government warns that the worst of COVID-19 pandemic is yet to come

In a public statement given on 12 June, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed warned the public that Ethiopia is yet to see the worst of COVID-19 pandemic. He emphasized that the COVID-19 pandemic in Ethiopia is anticipated to be much worse during the *kiremt* season (June-September). The Prime Minister called on competing political parties, private sector, civic society, media elites, religious leaders, elders, and other members of society to stand in solidarity in the effort to control the worsening COVID-19 pandemic. Only through collective effort can the country mitigate the anticipated post-COVID-19 food insecurity and overcome the likely economic challenge/recession.

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



Oromia - 6955 Amhara - 6981 Afar - 6220 Dire Dawa - 6407 For additional info
Somali - 6599 Tigray - 6244 SNNPR - 6929 Gambella - 6184 8335 or 952

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Government and humanitarian partners are finalizing a national Flood Contingency Plan for the *kiremt* (June to September) rainy season. The Contingency Plan is based on the recently released climate outlook for *kiremt* 2020 season by the National Meteorological Agency (NMA).
- An estimated 2 million people are expected to be affected by flooding during the season, of whom close to 500,000 are likely to be displaced. Sectors/clusters are currently preparing flood-related requirements for the *kiremt* season.
- Some 20,774 IDPs are still seeking humanitarian assistance to make ends meet in Siraro *woreda*, West Arsi zone, Oromia region. Four rounds of emergency food were delivered to the IDPs since the displacement was first reported by the zonal and *woreda* authorities; but the suspension of emergency food distribution in the last five months has worsened the situation and the local community can no longer support the IDPs' needs due to their depleting resources.

Government and partners scaling up efforts to address non-COVID-19-related humanitarian needs across the country

Flood Task Force finalizing national Flood Contingency Plan for the *kiremt* (summer) rainy season

The Government and humanitarian partners are finalizing a national Flood Contingency Plan for the *kiremt* (June to September) rainy season. The Contingency Plan is based on the recently released climate outlook for *kiremt* 2020 season by the National Meteorological Agency (NMA). According to the report, western, south-western and much of central Ethiopia are expected to receive normal-tending to above-normal rainfall during the season. There is also a high likelihood for normal rains across the eastern half of the country. The season is expected to start and cease on time, while localized heavy rains in July and August are likely to cause flooding in flood-prone areas.

The Contingency Plan aims to mitigate the adverse impact of anticipated floods in parts of the country through guiding preparedness measures as well as resource mobilization drive. An estimated 2 million people are expected to be affected by flooding during the season, of whom close to 500,000 are likely to be displaced. Sectors/clusters are currently preparing flood-related requirements for the *kiremt* season. Meanwhile OCHA is discussing with NDRMC on ways to strengthen flood early warning systems to enable preparedness and an early action in the face of recurrent seasonal flood incidents affecting communities across the country, especially those along river beds.

So far in 2020, some 470,163 people were affected, of whom 301,284 were displaced by flooding due to spring/*gu* rains across Somali, Oromia, Afar, SNNP, and Harari regions as well as Dire Dawa City Council.

Nearly 21,000 IDPs in six *kebeles* of Siraro *woreda* need immediate humanitarian assistance



Figure 1 IDPs in Shello Balela kebele, Kella site, Siraro Woreda.
Photo Credit: OCHA/Yomif

respective hometowns following the appeasement of the conflict later in the same year. However, the remaining IDPs are still seeking humanitarian assistance to make ends meet. Four rounds of emergency food were delivered to the IDPs since the displacement was first reported by the zonal and *woreda* authorities; but the suspension of emergency food distribution in the last five months has worsened the situation and the local community can no longer support the IDPs' needs due to their depleting resources.

A recent inter-agency field mission identified that some 20,774 people remain displaced within the host community across six *kebeles* in Siraro *woreda*, West Arsi zone, Oromia region.

In May last year, some 36,000 people were displaced following localized inter-communal conflict along the border between Siraro *woreda* of Oromia region and Hawassa zuria and Bilate zuria *woredas* of SNNP. Of these, some 15,406 IDPs have returned to their

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- Fitsum is an NGO Affairs Coordinator at Borena zone Finance and Economic Development Office, Oromia region. Fitsum's primary responsibility is to ensure that zonal and/or district line departments work in close partnership with NGOs, provide support and create conducive working environment, and engages them in pertinent Government decision making and NGO issues.
- Fitsum has been working to address the humanitarian needs of Borena zone, including the recurrent drought, desert locust infestation, and COVID-19, which requires extraordinary coordination. He has also been supportive in facilitating the provision of basic services to IDPs and returnees in Bale zone. He gave strict and tireless support to Moyale cash response to more than 5000 beneficiaries from OCHA fund through Goal Ethiopia implementation.
- "The impact of COVID-19 pandemic in increasing humanitarian needs as people's livelihood has been affected, especially those dependent on daily labor. After the onset of COVID-19, labor-intensive activities have declined and people's movement has been restricted, leaving daily laborers in survival challenge. Other segments of the community are also being affected since the cost of living is drastically increasing," remarked Fitsum.

The precarious security situation in West Arsi, particularly in Siraro *woreda*, resulted in limited humanitarian presence in the area although Siraro is amongst the humanitarian priority 1 *woredas*. Food, health, nutrition, shelter and NFIs, WaSH, and protection are among the priority needs that should be addressed immediately.

The story of Fitsum: Government and humanitarian partners' collaboration is key to address the multi-faceted humanitarian challenges in the country

Apart from being one of the main responders to natural and man-made hazards in the country, the Government of Ethiopia leads the coordination of humanitarian response from federal to district levels, including the coordination to the current COVID-19 pandemic. The Government has shown its commitment to work with humanitarian partners who support the response by dedicating focal points to implementing actors such as NGOs. Ato Fitsum Degemu is one of them.

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Fitsum's department is continuously providing support to partners and humanitarian actors in addressing the organization's ultimate goals by organizing coordination meetings, sending reminders, responding to queries and facilitating field visits and leading teams and attending as participant.

Fitsum has been closely following NGOs performance by ensuring that they are working in accordance with agreed commitments, including evaluation of NGO assistance. Fitsum has organized and led Government-NGO forum at the zonal level, confirmed that the earmarked fund is secured and used for the intended purpose, provided memorandum of understanding (MoU), while appraising the project document in case the funding agency and other stakeholders are in need of such letters before the actual project agreement comes into effect. Generally, Fitsum is providing very good leadership with NGO partners and collaboration with UN agencies such as OCHA, IOM, UNICEF, WHO and UNDP.

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- When asked about exemplary NGOs whose good experiences are to be shared, Fistum responded, “most of them are doing incredible jobs but, Helvetas, AAH, Care Ethiopia, and Goal Ethiopia are to be mentioned as front liners.” He also mentioned Action for the Neediest, the only local NGO, as a best practice.
- Fitsum concluded the interview with OCHA team with this recommendation: “I would encourage other NGOs and all humanitarian actors to replicate the best practices of NGOs I mentioned above so that communities affected by multiple crises in Borena zone and beyond can receive better response.”

Common challenges humanitarian organizations are facing and the support given by Government to resolve the problem are, access issues due to the presence of Unidentified Armed Groups in certain areas; budget inadequacies; geographically remote project locations, mostly within 100-150 km distance and with limited or no mobile network for communication; mismatch between allocated budget and the number of beneficiaries and inability to address the felt needs of the communities; and recurrent drought, which affects the livelihood of the pastoralist communities amongst others. The current burning issue is COVID-19. All humanitarian actors are forced to convert their allocated budget to COVID-19 response and some EHF fund users also deducted 2-4 per cent of their budget for COVID-19 response. But the scarcity of budget couldn't allow most actors to respond as they ought to do.

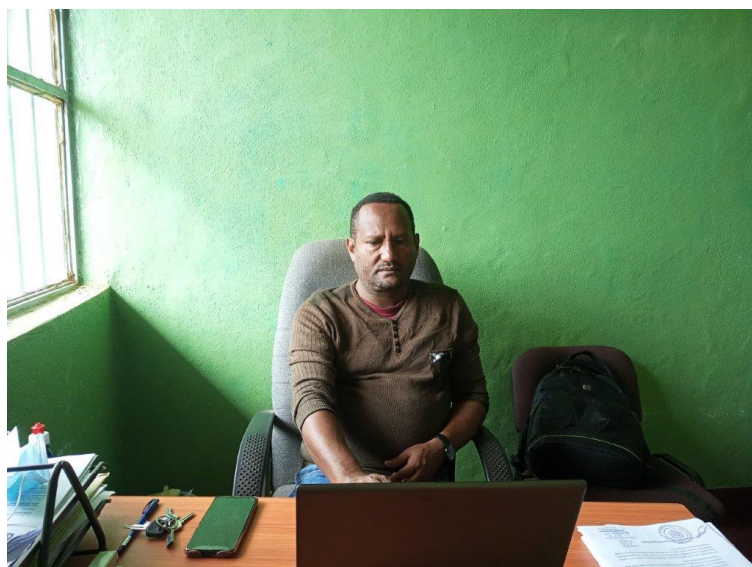


Photo credit: OCHA, Fitsum in his office.

When asked about exemplary NGOs whose good experiences are to be shared, Fistum responded, “most of them are doing incredible jobs but, Helvetas, AAH, Care Ethiopia, and Goal Ethiopia are to be mentioned as front liners.” He also mentioned Action for the Neediest, the only local NGO, as a best practice.

More specifically, Fitsum mentioned the NGO AAH's nutrition support for children under-5 and pregnant and lactating women. The NGO also equipped the quarantine centers and provided capacity building trainings to health experts, he said. He appreciated Care Ethiopia's provision of 600,000 birr worth of personal protective equipment (PPE) for COVID-19 response and capacity building trainings to health experts, as well as GOAL-Ethiopia's locust infestation response in hard-to-reach Teltele *woreda* and its COVID-19 response in community sensitization and provision of WaSH facilities and sanitation materials. Helvetas' Crisis modifier project and a Joint Implementing Partners Project, which is currently supporting locust prevention and control is benefiting 3,300 households. The latter is also implementing COVID-19 response activities reprogrammed fund. Action for the Neediest, the only local NGO, is doing well on refugees in Mega and Dillo *woreda* on livelihood, natural resource management and relief-based interventions.

Areas that NGOs need to improve in their operations according to Fistum include execution of activities within the defined time frame, minimize administration costs, conduct in-depth monitoring for timely decision if things are getting out of track amongst others.

Ato Fitsum concluded the interview with OCHA team with this recommendation: “I would encourage other NGOs and all humanitarian actors to replicate the best practices of NGOs I mentioned above so that communities affected by multiple crises in Borena zone and beyond can receive better response.”

2020 HRP Funding Update

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- The revised requirement of \$1.65 billion seeks to address the food and non-food needs of 16.5 million people, including 9.8 million targeted for COVID-19-related interventions at a cost of \$506 million.

- As of 9 June, 18.7 per cent of the new requirement of \$1.65 billion was funded, including 25 per cent towards non-COVID-19 requirements and 3 per cent towards the identified multi-sector COVID-19 requirements

- “COVID-19 is our immediate focus. However, we will not lose sight of the multi-faceted and simultaneous humanitarian challenges across the country, including food insecurity, desert locust, floods and protracted displacement. All these are further compounded by the pandemic,” said Ato Mitiku Kassa, Commissioner of NDRMC.

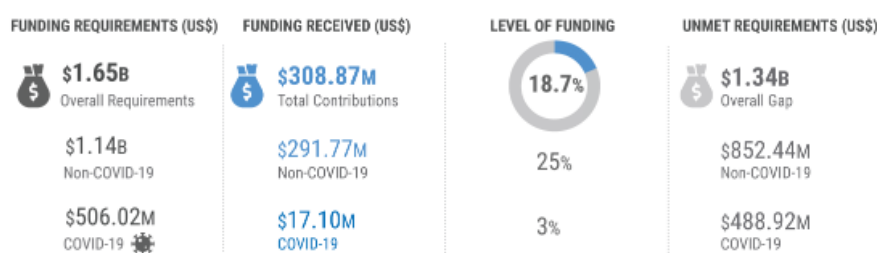
- “The country needs urgent additional financing to not only control the pandemic before it further spreads across the country, but to also mitigate the adverse impact of COVID-19 on the already dire humanitarian context,” said The UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Dr. Catherine Sozi.

The revised humanitarian requirement jointly released (on 9 June 2020) by the Commissioner of the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) and the Humanitarian Coordinator for Ethiopia identifies doubled humanitarian needs since the release of the 2020 HRP on 28 January. The spike in humanitarian needs is mainly due to COVID-19-related multi-sector impact, deepened food insecurity and livelihood loss as a result of the spread of the desert locust infestation, and new displacements due to conflict and flooding. The revised requirement of \$1.65 billion seeks to address the food and non-food needs of 16.5 million people, including 9.8 million targeted for COVID-19-related interventions at a cost of \$506 million.

“COVID-19 is our immediate focus. However, we will not lose sight of the multi-faceted and simultaneous humanitarian challenges across the country, including food insecurity, desert locust, floods and protracted displacement. All these are further compounded by the pandemic,” said Ato Mitiku Kassa, Commissioner of NDRMC. The UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Dr. Catherine Sozi emphasized the steadfast support international partners need to provide to the Government and people of Ethiopia more than ever. “The country needs urgent additional financing to not only control the pandemic before it further spreads across the country, but to also mitigate the adverse impact of COVID-19 on the already dire humanitarian context,” said Dr. Sozi. The full document can be found here: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/ethiopia/>

As of 9 June, 18.7 per cent of the new requirement of \$1.65 billion was funded, including 25 per cent towards non-COVID-19 requirements and 3 per cent towards the identified multi-sector COVID-19 requirements, (see breakdown in the graph below).

In-country 2020 HRP Funding Update



Sector/Cluster	COVID-19 (in million US\$)	Non-COVID-19 (in million US\$)	% Overall Covered	Requirements (in million US\$)	FOOD
Food	0.6	151.4	20%	773.4	19.6% \$621.5M Unmet requirements
Nutrition	5.7	48.3	21%	252.6	
Health	-	7.7	4%	195.0	NON-FOOD SECTORS 17.9% \$719.9M Unmet requirements
ESNFI	-	-	0%	105.4	
WASH	0.3	9.4	10%	95.5	
Agriculture	-	5.8	8%	73.7	
Logistics	-	-	0%	59.7	
Protection	-	1.1	2%	47.6	
Education	-	1.0	3%	35.4	
Coordination	-	2.8	23%	12.0	
Sector not specified	-	44.2	-	-	
Multiple sectors (breakdown not specified)	10.6	20.1	-	-	

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