

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Field reports indicate that COVID-19 surveillance, testing and treatment have been suspended or significantly reduced in various locations due to lack or dwindling financial and in-kind resources.
- Results from the ComBAT campaign revealed that people between the ages of 15 and 34 are the most affected age group by COVID-19 infection, and people over 60 years show the highest risk of death.



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## COVID-19 - Ethiopia updates

### Dwindling resources impacting COVID-19 surveillance, testing and treatment

Field reports indicate that COVID-19 surveillance, testing and treatment have been suspended or significantly reduced in various locations due to lack of or due to dwindling resources (testing kits). Several quarantine and isolation facilities have closed, while others are operating at sub-standard capacity without adequate personal protective equipment, as well as WaSH facility and food service. Home isolation of positive cases has proportionally increased as a result, but without proper follow-up and surveillance activity provided. This increases the risk of wide-spread COVID-19 community transmission.

As of 1 November, Ethiopia counts 96,583 cases nationwide. Meanwhile, the total recovery number increased to 53,452, while the death toll increased to 1,478. At least 336 patients are currently receiving intensive care. Overall, Ethiopia conducted 1.48 million sample tests so far.

### Low-level adherence to COVID-19 preventive measures amongst the population risks further community transmission

Results from the ComBAT campaign that was conducted nationwide between 7 August and 6 September revealed that people between the ages of 15 and 34 are the most affected age group by COVID-19, with the majority of the positive cases (34 per cent) between 25-34 years.

Meanwhile, most deaths occurred amongst patients of 60 and above years of age.

Age group	% of positive cases
<b>25-34</b>	34%
<b>15-24</b>	23%
<b>35-44</b>	17%
<b>45-59</b>	12%
<b>60+</b>	7%

Age group	Death rate
<b>60+</b>	52.9%
<b>45-59</b>	17%
<b>35-44</b>	13%

## FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

### US\$1.44 billion

Total COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 revised requirements

### US\$1.06 billion

Non-COVID-19 requirements

### US\$374.2 million

COVID-19 requirements

People targeted	
Non-COVID-19	8.1 million
COVID-19	7.8 million

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- There is still a deplorably low level of adherence to COVID-19 preventive measures amongst the population, which further decreased following the expiration of the Government State of Emergency.
- Increasing WaSH stations, supporting mask wearing advocacies as well as financial and technical support for the production and dissemination of information and behavior change communication materials are some of the areas requiring partners' support.
- A two-week multi-sector assessment conducted by the INGO Action Against Hunger at the end of September revealed significant humanitarian needs of conflict-affected people in Kellem Wollega zone, Oromia region.

Looking at the sex breakdown, 62 per cent of the cases are male, while 38 per cent are female.

While the assumption before the campaign was that the cases were concentrated in urban areas, the campaign revealed that almost all *woredas* in the country are affected, albeit at different rates.

There is still a deplorably low level of adherence to COVID-19 preventive measures amongst the overall population, which further decreased following the expiration of the Government State of Emergency. This is despite a recent Government regulation that states that people not wearing mask or not maintaining physical distancing risk up to two years in prison.

The Risk Communication and Community Engagement pillar within the Government Emergency Operation Center (EOC) is finalizing a six-months plan to address these gaps, with the intention to ensure the ownership of the response by all stakeholders and putting a feedback mechanism in place for immediate action.

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**Background:** The ComBAT campaign was a nationwide community mobilization and testing and prevention campaign initiated by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed to curb the spread of the pandemic through active public participation. In addition to undertaking wide range COVID-19 testing, the mobilization was expected to serve as a national platform to create public awareness on protective measures, contributing to stopping the spread of the pandemic. Launched with the ambitious target to reach 17 million households, the one-month campaign eventually reached 7.9 million households (41.6 million people). In addition, risk communication and community engagement coordination platforms were established or revitalized across 1,051 *woredas* and 24,601 stakeholders reached with training/orientation.

## Overwhelmed humanitarian response capacity in Kellem Wollega zone, Oromia region

A two-week multi-sector assessment conducted by the INGO Action Against Hunger at the end of September revealed significant humanitarian needs of conflict-affected people in Kellem Wollega zone, Oromia region. Health and nutrition services are partially interrupted due to lack of medical and nutritional commodities and insecurity/or the fear of it. Nutrition services, including the treatment of severely malnourished children, have been limited over the past two years and nutrition training for health staff has not been conducted for professionals in the area due to insecurity, contributing to the nutritional deterioration in the zone.

There is a critical shortage of water supply in the zone, also due to damaged infrastructure affecting households and public service providers such as schools and health posts. Conflict-related distress and trauma, including gender-based violence are also issues that need to urgently be addressed.

Looking at the food security situation, insecurity-induced interruption of agricultural activities, which is a main source of income for much of the population in the area, the resultant increase in food prices and the decreased household purchasing power have contributed to the deteriorated food security.

Despite the significant needs, the worsened security environment since June 2019 has been affecting humanitarian operations in the area. At present, four *woredas* in Kellem Wollega zone are labelled as "safe", three as "moderately safe" and the remaining four as "unsafe". With the Government providing services for the communities in the four "safe" labelled *woredas* and with only one partner present in the zone through a development program in

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- Attacks by unidentified armed groups in Bench Sheko zone, SNNPR displaces more than 6,000 people and causes several deaths.
- The newly displaced people presently sheltered in school facilities in Befttu Town require humanitarian support. Food, shelter and NFIs are the priority needs identified.
- The National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) officially announced the activation of the Drought Working Group (DWG). The group was established under the National Early Warning Technical Working Group (NEWTWG), and will work on drought early warning, preparedness and response activities in coordination with all stakeholders.

a handful of *kebeles*, humanitarian presence and operations need to be urgently scaled up in order to respond to the humanitarian gaps identified in the zone.

## New conflict-induced displacement in Bench Sheko zone, SNNPR

On 19 October, unidentified armed groups (UAGs) reportedly killed at least 12, injured five and displaced hundreds of civilians/farmers in a village in Gura Ferda *woreda* of Bench Sheko zone (SNNP region). By 22 October, the number of casualties increased to at least 31 people and the number of displaced to 1,480 persons. By 26 October, the situation significantly exacerbated, with an estimated 6,700 people displaced from three *kebeles* (Yeneka, Shoppe and Ojenet) of Gura Ferda to the *woreda*'s capital (Befttu). While the cause of the attack is not conclusively known, the area is home to a long-standing inter-communal conflict over land ownership. High Government officials, including the Chief of Staff, the speaker of the House of Peoples' Representatives and the State Minister of Peace have visited the area and established a committee to investigate the cause. The situation is currently calm with additional security forces deployed to the area to maintain peace and security.

Meanwhile, the more than 6,000 newly displaced people, presently sheltered in school facilities in Befttu Town require humanitarian support. Food, shelter and NFIs are the priority needs identified. The local community and the Ethiopian Red Cross Society were the first to respond, although the assistance was limited. Following the request for support by the Bench Sheko zonal Disaster Risk Management Office, the National Disaster Risk Management Commission have dispatched at least 800 quintals (80 tons) of emergency food, along with NFI kits including: plastic sheets (1,129 pieces), plastic plates (2,259), iron pots (1,162), jugs/vessels (1,903) and kettles (1,129). Blankets remain the priority unaddressed need. The assistance has covered an estimated 60 per cent of the affected/displaced population. While the Government have not requested humanitarian support, additional and coordinated humanitarian response might be required at short notice. In addition to preparedness to dispatch basic humanitarian support, the need to engage in peace building and reconciliation efforts is crucial to address the root cause of the long-standing conflict.

## NDRMC activates a Drought Working Group

On 20 October, the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) officially announced the activation of the Drought Working Group (DWG). The group was established under the National Early Warning Technical Working Group (NEWTWG), and will work on drought early warning, preparedness and response activities in coordination with all stakeholders. Under the leadership of NDRMC, the DWG aims to include as members all relevant Government sectors (MoH, MoE, MoWIE, MoA), the Ethiopia Space Science and Technology Institute (ESSTI), the National Meteorological Agency (NMA), and partners (OCHA, WFP, UNICEF, FAO, WHO).

The working group was activated following NMA's weather forecast for *bega* (October-January) season. According to the forecast, there is a likelihood for continued negative Indian Ocean Dipole as well as 75 per cent chance of La Niña, favoring dry conditions during the season. More specifically, NMA projects a "dry *bega* season to dominate much of the south and south-eastern parts of the country in ONDJ 2020/21, while less likely expected negative episode will weaken *belg*/spring 2021 rainfall. 2020/21 is expected to be drier than the previous two years, which were under ENSO-warm and positive IOD condition." This will have an impact on the food security of the pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities in southern and south-eastern Ethiopia.

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- One day, the Government forces gave communities in Odda Dima *kebele* and surrounding a very short notice to pack up and leave the area to safer grounds until the security operation terminates. On that very day, this young mother was laying on her bed with her one-day old baby in her arms. Having given birth the previous night, she had still not recovered her strength.
- While she expressed gratitude to God for being alive, along with her children, she implored for support to recover from the loss of their livelihood and to access other basic needs.

Meanwhile, normal to above normal rainfall is expected over most of north-western, western and south-western parts of the country; while frost is likely to occur across the highlands of north, north-eastern, eastern and southern highlands.

## Voices from affected communities

### Displaced with a one-day-old baby

Giving birth and enjoying the new-found bundle of joy is the dream of every happily expectant mother. But this 30-year-old woman from Odda Dima *kebele* (Guji zone, Oromia region) was not fortunate enough to experience this joy.

Insecurity in her neighborhood had gradually worsened following intensified Government security operation against unidentified armed groups (UAGs) in Guji zone. One day, the Government forces gave communities in Odda Dima *kebele* and surrounding a very short notice to pack up and leave the area to safer grounds until the security operation terminates. On that very day, Seida (name changed), a young mother was laying on her bed with her one-day old baby in her arms. Having given birth the previous night, she had still not recovered her strength.

But she had no other option. She, together with her community members fled with very few belongings to relatively safer ground in Dibe. Her mother was with her supporting her with the infant, while her husband was traveling separately with their livestock. It was a long, hard full day journey. But arriving to their destination as IDPs in Dibe did not give her relief. Life was gruesome she recalled, “lack of proper rest, adequate food, shelter and uncomfortable floor mats and inadequate health care made life very hard. It affected my physical and emotional well-being” she said. While she expressed gratitude to God for being alive, along with her children, she implored for support to recover from the loss of their livelihood and to access other basic needs.



IDPS in Dibe, Guji zone, Oromia region. Photo credit: OCHA

**Background:** The security situation in parts of Guji zone, Oromia region has worsened since April 2020 with increased scale and scope of security operations by Government defense forces against unidentified armed groups. The insecurity has impacted humanitarian operations and is causing protection and other concerns. Guji zone is home to some 120,000 internally displaced people, including 40,000 displaced in 2017 as a result of the inter-community conflict between Oromia and Somali region, and an additional 80,000 displaced by re-newed insecurity since mid-2019. There is still no agreed IDP data between local authorities and federal authorities. An ongoing verification exercise in March 2020 with federal counterparts was interrupted as a result of COVID-19.



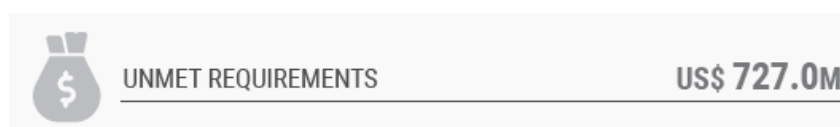
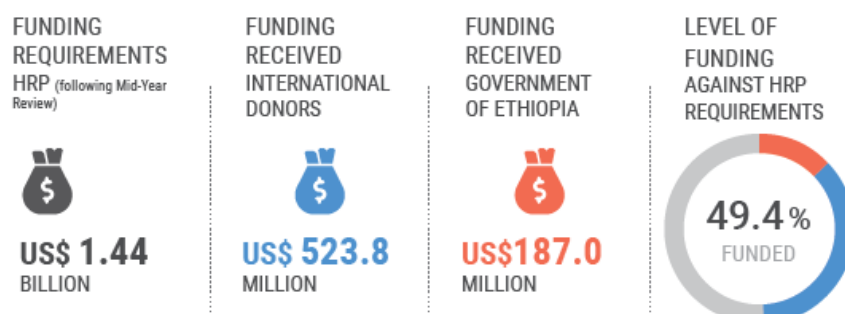
## HIGHLIGHTS

- Despite rising humanitarian needs, the Ethiopia 2020 humanitarian requirement of US\$1.44 billion is only 49.4 per cent funded, including \$187 million Government allocation.

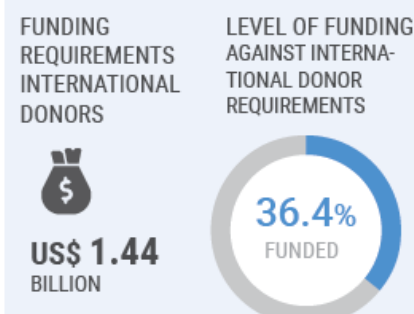
## HRP Funding Update as of 26 October 2020

Despite rising humanitarian needs, the Ethiopia 2020 humanitarian appeal is only 49.4 per cent funded, including \$187 million Government allocation. Without urgent additional funding, needs will deepen, and women, children, the elderly, people with disabilities, and displaced people will be forced to resort to negative coping mechanisms, which will exacerbate their situation. Multiple clusters are facing pipeline breaks, which will have dire consequences for people in need of assistance and protection.


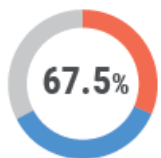





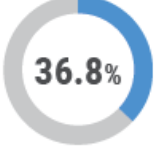






## In-country 2020 HRP Funding Update



## HRP Funding Update as per FTS



Note: The % difference between the FTS funding level and in-country funding level is due to Government funding. While FTS only tracks financial contributions by international donors, OCHA Ethiopia adds to this the Government of Ethiopia's financial contributions towards the HRP.

Sector/Cluster		Funding Received (in million US\$)	% Overall Covered	Requirements (in million US\$)	
Food		400.5	67.5%	593.4	<b>FOOD</b>  <b>67.5%</b> <b>\$193.0M</b> Unmet requirements
Nutrition		72.7	28.8%	252.6	
Health		27.1	13.9%	195.0	
WASH		19.8	19.2%	103.4	
ESNFI		8.7	8.6%	101.1	
Agriculture		5.9	7.9%	74.0	<b>NON-FOOD SECTORS</b>  <b>36.8%</b> <b>\$534.0M</b> Unmet requirements
Protection		5.0	10.4%	47.6	
Education		2.1	5.8%	35.2	
Logistics		3.8	16.2%	23.4	
Coordination		4.0	33.3%	12.0	
Sector not specified		96.3	-	-	
Multiple sectors (breakdown not specified)		65.1	-	-	

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