

HIGHLIGHTS

- Ethiopia registers 128,316 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 113,374 recoveries, and 1,994 deaths as of 10 January

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

COVID-19 knows no race, nationality or ethnicity.

It does not discriminate, and neither should you.



The only way to fight this virus, is in unity and solidarity.

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COVID-19 - Ethiopia updates

1.85 million samples tested, 128,316 cases and 1,994 deaths registered

As of 10 January, Ethiopia counts 128,316 COVID-19 cases nationwide, with 113,374 recoveries, 12,946 active cases, and 1,985 deaths. There are some 200 patients currently in the intensive care unit. Ethiopia is the third country with the highest absolute number of COVID-19 cases in Africa, next to South Africa and Morocco. An average 10 per cent positivity rate reported in recent weeks indicates a continued expansion of community transmission. Testing capacity has significantly decreased since October 2020 and is now only targeting high-risk groups (with less than 5,000 tests per day being performed). Thus it is likely that trends in stabilization of cases does not reflect the true picture of the situation because of low testing rate as well as challenges with reagents availability and calibration of machines. In addition, no information is available from Tigray Region where no testing has been taking place due to the ongoing conflict since 04 November 2020. Shortage of reagents mainly in Benishangul Gumuz, Gambella, Dire Dawa, Harari, and Somali Regions also contributed to low testing rate. Addis Ababa continues to account for the highest percentage of the cases followed by Oromia, Tigray and Amhara Regions. While most of the cases have so far been concentrated in Addis Ababa and other major towns, in recent weeks and contrary to trends so far, several districts across the country are reporting increasing numbers of confirmed cases. Overall, the country conducted more than 1,850,100 tests, representing nearly 2 per cent of the population.

Key strategies health partners are adopting include: revitalization of the national Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) plan to address low adherence, reinforcement of preventive measures as school are re-opening, revitalization of COVID-19 activities in Tigray Region and IDP settings to sustain laboratory testing in all regions. It remains key to intensify preventive and control measures in 2021 and monitor a possible upsurge of cases, including monitoring of the new COVID-19 variants. Enhancing epidemiological surveillance to inform response actions and decision making is also crucial.

Low level of adherence and resistance by the public to COVID-19 prevention measures, disruption of COVID-19 response in Tigray due to conflict and five other regions due to shortage of reagents and calibration of machines (particularly in Somali Region), delay of enrollment of confirmed cases to treatment centers, fatigue of public, burnout of health workers, low motivation of response teams, insecurity and limited access to some parts of

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- The two joint Government-humanitarian partners' needs assessment missions that deployed in Tigray on 20 have witnessed a dire humanitarian situation with poor access to services and limited livelihoods
- The newly established Tigray Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) highlighted that more than 4.5 million people in the region need emergency food assistance, including 2.2 million IDPs.
- An intercommunal violence in Metekel Zone of Benishangul Gumuz Region has left more than 101,000 people to be displaced from Bullen, Dangur, Dibate, Guba, Mandura and Wombera *Woredas* between July 2020 and 04 January 2021.
- There are currently over 259,000 IDPs in Amhara, displaced from Benishangul Gumuz and Oromia regions due to intercommunal violence and also due to the current Tigray conflict. Over 40 per cent increase was seen from the previously estimated figure in October 2020.

the country, concern of possible outbreak of new COVID-19 variant strain, and inadequate funding remain to be challenges and areas of concern in COVID-19 response in the country.

Humanitarian snapshot

Tigray update: More than 4.5M need emergency food aid, including 2.2 million IDPs

Although humanitarian workers are gaining access to some areas with improving security situations, there are still inaccessible areas due reports of localized fighting in rural areas and in the peripheries of Mekelle, Shiraro and Shire Towns. OCHA and the Logistics Cluster continue to closely work with Government to streamline staff and cargo clearance mechanism in Tigray Region. The two joint Government-humanitarian partners' needs assessment missions that deployed in Tigray on 20 December 2020 have witnessed a dire humanitarian situation with poor access to services and limited livelihoods. Meanwhile, the Tigray Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) on their 1st meeting on 1st January 2021 highlighted that more than 4.5 million people in the region need emergency food assistance, including 2.2 million IDPs. Since the conflict erupted in early November only 77,000 people, mostly in Mekelle and its surroundings, and 25,000 refugees in two camps (Mai Ayni and Adi Harush) received food support from partners. Protection concerns abound, including reports of gender-based violence. The interruption of COVID-19 surveillance and control activities for over a month in the region, coupled with mass displacements and overcrowded conditions in displacement setting is feared to have facilitated massive community transmission of the pandemic. The latest Tigray Situation report is available here: <https://bit.ly/3q9gN44>

More than 101,000 IDPs and 28,000 returnees not getting enough assistance in Metekel Zone, BSG Region

An intercommunal violence in Metekel Zone of Benishangul Gumuz Region has left more than 101,000 people displaced from Bullen, Dangur, Dibate, Guba, Mandura and Wombera *Woredas* between July 2020 and 04 January 2021. Over 20,000 people crossed to Amhara Region, in Awi Zone, Guangua *Woreda* in Chagni Town. Humanitarian access and life-saving assistance to these IDPs and 28,000 returnees is becoming extremely challenging due to the continuing insecurity situation in the zone although the establishment of a command post and deployment of the Ethiopian Defense Force (EDF) has led to a security improvement in most areas. The regional Government has been providing limited life-saving assistance since July 2020 using armed escorts. The Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) and Action for the Needy in Ethiopia (ANE) a local NGO, have also distributed food and NFIs in Bullen and Dibate *Woredas*. Clusters at sub-national level have been mapping resources but so far insecurity has not allowed transporting staff and commodities to affected areas. Few NGOs like ANE, The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and ERCS who opened office in Gilgelbeles Town, the capital of Metekel Zone relocated their staff to Chagni Town in Amhara Region due to tense security situation around Gilgelbeles. The federal Government is in the process of establishing an Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) in Metekel Zone to coordinate the humanitarian response to the IDPs.

Over 259,000 IDPs in Amhara Region need urgent humanitarian aid

According to the regional Government officials, there are about 259,000 people displaced from Benishangul Gumuz and Oromia Regions due to intercommunal violence and also due to the current Tigray conflict. Over 40 per cent increase was seen from the previously estimated figure in October 2020. Of the total figure, more than 100,000 people were displaced due to the recent Tigray conflict. From this, more than 55,000 IDPs are living within the host community and about 45,000 are staying in 17 collective sites in a crowded situation. Number of IDPs is expected to keep on changing due to new arrivals. The NDRMC with regional DPFSPCO has distributed limited emergency food assistance. In the same areas free medical service is an arrangement – exemplary actions since no solid guidance provided from RHB on IDPs health service provisions and water trucking response going on in the affected population, generally IDPs do not have adequate access to basic services such as water and sanitation, education, health, ES/NFIs, shelter/housing or livelihoods. The regional Government in collaboration with partners agreed to update the response plan based on the new updated IDP figures. The federal and the Amhara Regional Governments

established an Incident Command Post (ICP) in Gondar to coordinate information and resources for the IDPs. UN-OCHA also established Sub-Cluster ICCG at the regional level in which all UN agencies and NGO partners working in the region are members.

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- Some 1,873 cases and 53 deaths of cholera were reported in 8 *Woredas* in Dawro Zone, and 2 *Woredas* of Bench Sheko Zone by the last week of December 2020.
- Joint Multi-Agency Emergency Needs Assessment report in conflict stricken Konso Zone and surrounding *Woredas* of SNNP Region reveal pressing needs in food, NFIs, health and WaSH as well as shelter and protection.

Cholera outbreaks in four regions

Response interventions are ongoing in Gambella, SNNPR, Sidama, Oromia, and Afar Regions which have registered active cases of cholera. Some 1,873 cases and 53 deaths were identified in 8 *Woredas* in Dawro Zone, and 2 *Woredas* of Bench Sheko Zone by the last week of December 2020. Oral Cholera Vaccination (OCV) was completed in 3 *Woredas*. WHO is providing technical and operations, including community engagement, surveillance, OCV, and training in both Gambella and SNNP Regions. While UNICEF is providing WaSH and Risk Communication and Community Engagement activities. NGOs such as IRC, PIN, Transform PHC are operating in SNNP Region and MSF Holland is operating in Gambella Region. Preventative and control measures, including risk communication, awareness creation and education, WaSH, surveillance, case management, and targeted (reactive) are ongoing in SNNPR, Gambella, Oromia, and Sidama Regions.

High case fatality rate, weak partner coordination at zonal and *woreda* levels, limited operational capacities of partners, security and limited access to the affected populations remain challenges to the response in SNNP Region. Presence of refugees in the *Woreda* (11,000), shortage of water treatment chemicals, and issue of cross border surveillance along South Sudan are major challenges in Gambella Region.

Joint Multi-Agency Emergency Needs Assessment report in conflict stricken Konso Zone and surrounding *Woredas*

A multi-agency assessment team was deployed in Konso Zone and Alle *Woreda* as well as in Derashe and Amaro Special *Woredas* (14 – 24 Dec 2020) of SNNP Region to identify the emergency needs of more than 157,000 people displaced as a result of a reignited intercommunal conflict between communities in Konso Zone and its surrounding districts in November 2020. The conflict largely owes to the dismantling of the former Segen Hizboch Zone of SNNP Region into Konso Zone and Alle, Derashe, and Burji special *Woredas*, where Special *Woredas* are demanding the same zonal status given to Konso.

The coincidence of the latest community violence with maturity and harvesting stages of *meher* crops led to enormous damage, destruction, looting, and theft to standing crops and food stocks, leading to food insecurity where food assistance is required to 75,853 people in Konso Zone and 15,751 people in Alle Special *Woreda* for six months (January-June 2021), according to the assessment report.

Complete and partial damages to health posts in both Konso Zone (6) and Alle *Woreda* (3) prevented the health centers from providing routine immunization services. A significant shortage of water in the area is worsening the hygiene and sanitation conditions in the IDPs locations as well as in the host community which could potentially result in the occurrence of cholera or other water-related diseases. Malnutrition is rising due to low coverage in screening where only 6.2 per cent in Segen Zuriya, 30 per cent in Kolme cluster and 59.8 per cent in Karat Zuriya were screened in November. Currently, 2,258 pregnant and lactating women and 2,025 under five children in Konso are in the Targeted Supplementary Feeding Program, receiving spell MAM treatment.

Shortage of water due to damages to water supply system and sanitation facilities (16 in Konso and 4 in Alle) coupled with very crowded living conditions of IDPs (30-40 people in 20-meter square area) has put IDPs in a very poor hygiene condition. IDPs are traveling between 10-15 kilometers to collect water and 1-3 kilometers to search open field for defecation. There are no basic utensils, water containers, soaps, and washing materials in IDPs shelter, leading to reports of diarrhea, eye disease and scabies among both Konso and Ale IDPs. Huge protection concerns are also reported including very limited assistance given to 84 women who gave birth during the conflict in Konso, Derashe and Alle Zones.

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- “The damage was very huge where around 350 thatched and 150 and corrugated iron sheet roofed houses were burnt. There were also lootings of livestock and domestic animal and also damage on field crops and food stocks,” said Zerfu.
- Zerfu said, “IDPs children and mothers are at-risk of facing malnutrition if the present inadequate food and no-food assistance continues. Shortage of drinking water is resulting in diseases such as scabies and diarrhea. IDPs are also getting more and more frustrated as they stay long in displacement settings and some of them require psycho-social support.”

In the Konso Zone, schools which could accommodate some 2,950 students were damaged/robbed completely (4), partially (3) or closed (5) due to the displacement of communities to other areas. Six other schools which could serve 8,400 students have become IDPs sites for the displaced communities. There was no registration of students in two schools at the start of the academic year as communities around Segen/Gumayde refused to send their children to schools due to insecurity. Similarly, one school was burned, five others were partially damaged, and one school was closed in Alle Special *Woreda*.

Most of the IDPs in Konso and Alle had lost their houses and properties completely during the conflict and need immediate shelter and NFIs support. Among 672 displaced households in Fuchucha, 606 households lost their houses completely and are living within the host community. All residents of Gato 01 village have moved to places like Baide, Tishmale and Karat as the village was destroyed completely. Some 353 households from Oshko *Kebele* moved to Gelabo IDP site and they have lost their houses and household properties. A total of 2,613 houses of which 294 are iron sheets and 2319 thatched roof houses were damaged/burned in the six affected *Kebeles* of Alle.

Assessment report in Derashe and Amaro *woredas* also indicated that displaced communities are facing similar problems and need immediate humanitarian support.

The Story of Zerfu Lakew, a DRM expert working with IDPs in Gato Town, Konso Zone

Mr. Zerfu Lakew, 29, is a Disaster Risk Management expert working with IDPs in Gato Town, the capital of Konso Zone. Asked how the recent conflict started, he said, “The conflict happened on 13 November 2020 when people from Derashe ethnic group came and destroyed Gato Town and attacked the ‘Kusumie’ tribe. They also destroyed Fuchucha, Bayede and Teshemalle *Kebeles* in Konso Zone.” He recalls that some 24,000 people were displaced from the three *Kebeles*. The displaced people who initially went to Karat Town were resettled to schools in Bayede *Kebele*. There are also some who are sheltering in houses which are owned by individuals and used for market days.

“The damage was huge where around 350 thatched and 150 corrugated iron sheet roofed houses were burnt. There were also lootings of livestock and domestic animal and also damage on field crops and food stocks,” added Zerfu. Zerfu calls for humanitarian actors to respond to immediate needs of food, household utensils/NFIs, shelter materials, medical and water services.

When describing the consequences of lack of assistance, Zerfu said, “IDPs children and mothers are at-risk of facing malnutrition if the present inadequate food and no-food assistance continues. Shortage of drinking water is resulting in diseases such as scabies and diarrhea. IDPs are also getting more and more frustrated as they stay long in displacement settings and some of them require psycho-social support.”

Almost all of the IDPs need to return to their places of origin and start life afresh. However, they fear the security situation is still fragile.

“They need assurance from Government that security is fully restored before they return. They also need continued humanitarian assistance as well as recovery support in their places of origin,” he added.



Figure 1 Zerfu Lakew, a DRM expert in Konso. Photo Credit: OCHA/Mesfin Shikur

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Ethiopia 2020 humanitarian appeal is 63.5 per cent funded, including \$187 million Government allocation
- The \$116.5 million plan targeting nearly 2 million people in Tigray, Amhara and Afar with life-saving assistance between November 2020 and January 2021 is only 46 per cent funded, leaving an outstanding gap of almost \$63.4 million, as of 22 December.

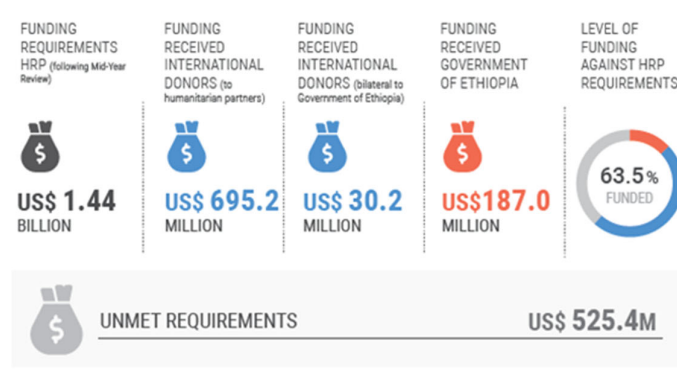
HRP Funding Update as of 22 December 2020

The Ethiopia 2020 humanitarian appeal is 63.5 per cent funded, including \$187 million (13 per cent) 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 vulnerability. Multiple clusters are facing pipeline breaks, which will have dire consequences for people in need of assistance and protection.

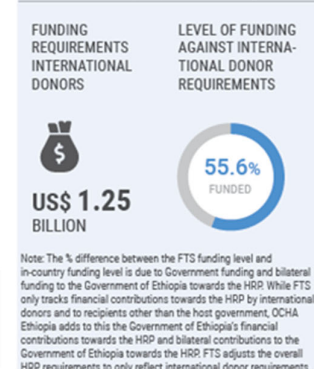
Meanwhile, resource mobilization around the Humanitarian Preparedness Plan (HRP) in response to the conflict in Tigray Region is ongoing, while partners are moving forward with its implementation with available resources. The \$116.5 million plan targeting nearly 2 million people in Tigray, Amhara and Afar Regions with life-saving assistance between November 2020 and January 2021 is now 46 per cent funded, leaving an outstanding gap of almost \$63.4 million, as of 22 December.

The Humanitarian Preparedness Plan and the annual Ethiopian Humanitarian Response Plan will be merged in 2021.

In-country 2020 HRP Funding Update



HRP Funding Update as per FTS



Sector/Cluster	Funding Received (in million US\$)	% Overall Covered	Requirements (in million US\$)
Food	581.0	97.9%	593.4
Nutrition	83.2	33.0%	252.6
Health	32.9	16.9%	195.0
WASH	30.4	29.4%	103.4
ESNFI	9.9	9.8%	101.1
Agriculture	5.9	7.9%	74.0
Protection	11.1	23.2%	47.6
Education	2.1	6.0%	35.2
Logistics	3.8	16.2%	23.4
Coordination	4.0	33.3%	12.0
Sector not specified	76.6	-	-
Multiple sectors (breakdown not specified)	71.5	-	-

FOOD 97.9% Funded

NON-FOOD SECTORS 39.3% Funded

\$12.4M Unmet requirements

\$512.9M Unmet requirements

For further information, please contact:

Malda Nadew, Head, Strategic Communication Unit - OIC, nadew@un.org, Tel. (+251) 953852223
Mengistu Dargie, National Public Information and Reporting Officer, dargie@un.org, Tel. (+251) 911742381
Alfred Nabeta, OCHA Operations and Advocacy Division, New York, nabeta@un.org
Twitter - https://twitter.com/OCHA_Ethiopia, **Facebook** - <https://www.facebook.com/OCHAinEthiopia/>