



ETHIOPIA: COVID-19 Humanitarian impact Situation Update No. 3

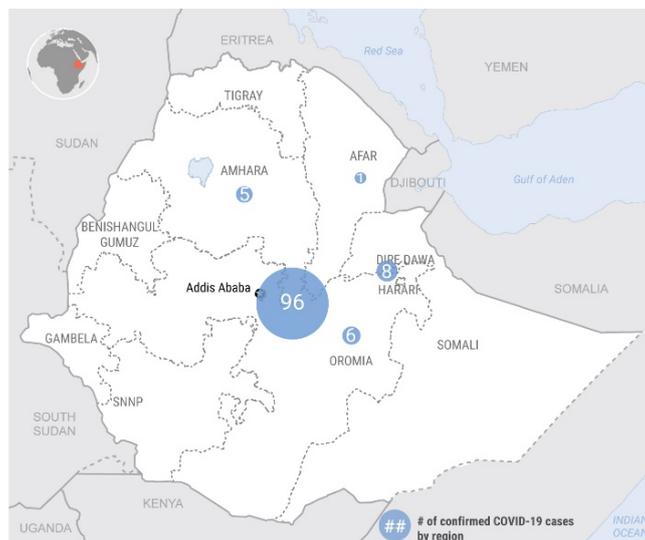
As of 23 April 2020



This report is prepared under the auspices of the National Emergency Coordination Center for COVID-19 response, led by the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC), supported by OCHA Ethiopia with participation of Cluster Coordinators. It covers the period from 14 - 23 April 2020.

HIGHLIGHTS

- As of 23 April 2020, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Ethiopia reached 116, including three deaths.
- On 11 April, the Ministerial committee released further details of the State of Emergency (SoE) declaration of on 8 April, which is expected to last for five months.
- The number of COVID-19 testing centres is increasing with the latest one opened in Hawassa in SNNPR. On 16 April, a team consisting of 12 experts from West China Hospital of Sichuan arrived in Addis Ababa to support Ethiopia and other African countries. Further, house to house COVID-19 surveillance started in Addis Ababa, Dire Dawa, and Tigray.
- On 17 April, the Federal Ministry of Transport announced the resumption of inter-regional public transports services across the country. The announcement lifted previous restrictions on public transportation imposed by regional states and Dire Dawa City Administration.
- Insecurity in Western and Southern Oromia continues to impede humanitarian access, with emergency programmes temporarily suspended in these areas, impacting as well the response to COVID-19.
- Since the end of March, over 6,000 Ethiopian irregular migrants have been deported to Ethiopia from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), Djibouti and Kenya. A daily average of 250 deportees are expected from KSA in the coming weeks. Deportees are being quarantined in a number of centres, with reported shortages of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), food, non-food items, water and adequate sanitation facilities.
- Humanitarian operations have been scaled down in Ethiopia as a result of COVID-19. According to UNICEF, the COVID-19 response is delaying some essential health services such as measles and polio immunization campaigns.
- International borders remain closed for population movements but open to critical supplies, including humanitarian goods. Internationally arriving passengers at Bole International Airport are being quarantined for 14 days at government-identified hotels. As of 20 April, a total of 3,216 people (374 international travelers and 2,842 returnees) remain under mandatory quarantine.
- UNHCR, in collaboration with WFP and ARRA (Government Agency for Refugees and Returnees Affairs) has stocked adequate food and water and sanitation facilities in refugee camps, and conducted extensive community mobilization in refugee camps.
- UNODC, in collaboration with OHCHR, UNICEF and ICRC have translated and distributed over 30,000 COVID-19 related guidelines to prisons, health authorities and children's remand centres.
- On 14 April, the Government of Ethiopia and the World Food Program (WFP) opened the Addis Ababa Humanitarian Air Hub inside the Bole International Airport. COVID-19 supplies, equipment and humanitarian workers will be transported from the hub across 32 countries in Africa. The Addis Ababa Humanitarian Air hub is part of a United Nations initiative to scale up procurement and distribution of protective equipment and medical supplies for the COVID-19 response.



Source: EPHI
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COVID-19 NATIONAL AND REGIONAL HOTLINES

Addis Ababa 8335/952; Afar 6220; Amhara 6981; Dire Dawa 6407; Oromia 6955; SNNP: 6929; Somali 6599; Tigray: 6244

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Humanitarian partners in Ethiopia continue scaling up activities to COVID-19, in close collaboration with Government counterparts at all levels. On 14 April, the Ministerial Committee issued a decree providing further detail on the application of the country-wide State of Emergency (SoE) issued on 8 April. These include reduction of carrying capacity of private and public vehicles to 50 per cent, banning of public gatherings, restrictions of recreational and sports events. Other provisions include ban on unauthorized dissemination of COVID-19 related information, clarifications in terms service providers in public places to ensure social distancing, and role of public institutions to ensure prevention measures and flexible working arrangements for their employees.

Following the proclamation of the SoE, a number of regional Governments have revised their movement restriction measures. Restrictions on public transportation were revised in Dire Dawa, Amhara, Oromia and SNNP regions allowing the resumption of public transport at reduced 50 per cent capacity. The Regional Governments of Afar, Amhara, Benishangul, Gambella, SNNP, Tigray, Somali regions have developed COVID-19 Response plans, Oromia region is finalizing its own.

The risk COVID-19 to the population in areas affected by violence or inter-community tensions is very high, given that these are underserved in terms of government presence and provision of services to the population, and have a reduced number of aid partners and operations. In these areas, access to health care is compromised due to the dysfunctionality of health structures or lack of health workers, while limited access to water and sanitation hampers the implementation of basic COVID-19 prevention measures, such as frequent hand-washing.

Partners are stepping up the response to COVID-19 through public awareness raising campaigns, procurement of hygiene materials and installation of hand-washing stations throughout the country. There are concerns regarding the critical shortage of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), sanitizers, and masks for health as well as aid workers. The coordination of procurement of PPEs at the global level is managed by WHO Global Cell. In Ethiopia, please refer any question to Laurent Hieu Phung-Bothorel (phungbothorella@who.int), WHO Ethiopia Task Force, and Wilbert Shihaji (shihajiw@who.int), Health Cluster Coordinator. For any logistic issues/ bottlenecks related to the import of COVID-19 materials in Ethiopia, please contact Annemaud Drugeon (annemaud.drugeon@wfp.org) from WFP Ethiopia Supply Chain team.

Protection partners have emphasized the importance to consider the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic beyond primary health and hygiene considerations. Stigmatization of those affected by the virus, for example, as well as containment measures (such as movement restrictions and gathering limitations) may increase protection risks for already vulnerable groups. In particular, stay-at-home orders may heighten the risk of GBV for women and girls at home, while women and girls in quarantine sites are also at risk. Children are at heightened risk of psychological distress, exploitation and abuse due to the closure of schools and potential absence/hospitalization/death of parents/caregivers.

Women, girls, boys, and men, especially persons with disabilities, older persons and those who have long-term chronic illness will all be impacted differently by the pandemic, and therefore the inter-sectoral response must take into account the different needs of these groups. Partners have reported that protection capacity building activities (including those on human rights and protection mainstreaming) with local authorities and service providers have been suspended. Other activities are being modified or adapted in order to ensure continuity of essential services while mitigating risk of harm to the target population. For protection related issues, please contact, Kayla Pries (kayla.pries@drc.ngo), Protection Cluster Co-ordinator.

Current facilities to sustain the 14-day quarantine to prevent the spread of COVID-19 are stretched. Meanwhile, over 6,000 irregular Ethiopian migrants have so far been deported to Ethiopia over the past three weeks, from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (2,757 individuals), Djibouti (2,267), Kenya (441), Sudan (415), Somalia (338) and UAE (100). High-level advocacy by the Government has been ongoing with departing countries for a temporary halt of the deportation. The UN has called for a temporary suspension of deportations in light of COVID-19.

IDPs, returnees, migrants, deportees in collective sites with limited access to water and sanitation (WASH) and health services remain particularly vulnerable to COVID-19. The humanitarian community has drafted a policy recommendation for IDP-inclusive COVID-19 response in Ethiopia, which recommends the inclusion of IDPs in COVID-19 related preparedness and response planning, accountability to all categories of the IDP population, and sustaining life-saving activities for IDPs, returnees and host communities. In Somali region, on 9 April, IOM site management team visited the region's largest IDP site - Qoloji camp where IDPs live in overcrowded conditions. There is still a significant shortage of WASH kits and facilities in the sites, with inadequate communal latrines, water and food distribution points, and limited health facilities available.

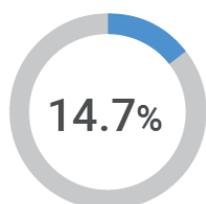
On the logistics side, Ethiopian Airlines has significantly reduced the number of passenger flights, cancelling approximately 80 passenger locations, while continues operating cargo flights. The borders to neighboring countries are closed to population movements, but open to the movement of cargo. The Logistics Cluster is not yet activated, once it is activated and funding available (US\$ 60 Million required), downstream deliveries by air or surface transport will take place. In the meantime, partners report that private transporters are concerned about traveling to specific locations due to COVID-19.

2020 HRP FUNDING STATUS

Contributions as per the 2020 HRP financial requirements, by sector (as of 9 April 2020)

US\$1.001 billion requested

LEVEL OF FUNDING



All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS - <http://fts.unocha.org>) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: fts@un.org

Sector/Cluster	Funding Received	% Covered	Requirements
Food	113.9M	29%	399.5M
Nutrition	-	0%	193.4M
ES/NFI	-	0%	95.8M
Health	1.3M	1%	94.3M
WASH	5.9M	7%	79.7M
Agriculture	0.4M	1%	54.0M
Protection	-	0%	42.4M
Education	-	0%	30.0M
Coordination	2.0M	17%	12.0M
Sector not specified	21.6M	-	-
Multiple sectors (breakdown not specified)	1.7M	-	-

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE – BY REGION

Afar, Amhara and Tigray regions

Situation Overview

- In Afar, the regional health bureau and EPHI have set up a COVID-19 screening center at the border with Djibouti located at Galefi kebele, Elidarra woreda (Zone 1). The regional health bureau and WHO are making arrangements to set up an isolation center at the border entry point. Currently, the Semera University is hosting 27 deportees from Djibouti under quarantine. All commercial truck drivers and others moving across the border are screened for COVID-19 at the Galefi entry point. To date, 226 Ethiopian nationals have been deported from Djibouti.
- In Amhara, on 14 April, previous movement restrictions in Addis Selam, Bahir Dar, Enjibara and Tilina cities were lifted, after 14 days without registering any COVID-19 case. This measure has facilitated the resumption of partners' movements and operations, including the dispatch of food to some districts in North Gonder and North Wollo.
- In Tigray, the regional government has extended the region's SoE declared on 26 March three months further. Tigray remains the only Region with mandatory testing and 14-days' quarantine for people moving from other parts of the country. As of 12 April, the region started a 14-days mandatory quarantine for passengers arriving at Mekelle, Axum, Shire an Humera Airports. Local business owners in Mekelle and Eritrean diaspora community donated facemasks worth 174,000 Birr (US\$ 5,000) to refugees and asylum seekers in the region.

Humanitarian Impact

- In Afar, partners report shortages of food, water, health care, NFIs at the Gelefi entry point as well as lack of ambulance services to transport suspected cases. Partners also note the lack of PPE for health workers at the border entry point as in health facilities in the woreda.
- In Tigray, with the exception of commercial trucks, all vehicles – including humanitarian partners – require permission from the command post to move (Focal person in Tigray administration: Ato Gerezegiher Aregawi, 091 402 8158).

- In Tigray, new restrictions for cargo movements apply to all incoming transport from other regions, which require a police escort until the off-loading point. Truck drivers from other regions staying longer than one day must stay in designated places/ hotels until they depart, with accommodation provided free of charge.
- Partners with operations involving cross-regional movements between Amhara and Tigray have reported the suspension of some critical activities such as water trucking to refugee camps, with drivers unable to proceed as a result of Tigray's region mandatory quarantine measures.

Actions Taken

- In Amhara region, partners have resumed operations thanks to easing of movement restrictions.
- In Tigray, initial restrictions to some partners and activities (prioritizing COVID-19) able to operate in Shire refugee camps were eased enabling more partners' operations and movements.

Eastern Oromia, Dire Dawa, Somali region

Situation Overview

- Oromia region has lifted restrictions on urban transportation, with capacity limited to 50 per cent.
- In West Hararge, international aid workers faced intimidation and harassment related to COVID-19.
- On 13 April, 42 Ethiopian migrants deported from Kenyan arrived in Dawa zone, Somali region, and were put under quarantine in Moyale primary school. Partners have reported a lack of clarity regarding the Somali regional government counterpart responsible of deportees.

Humanitarian Impact

- In East Hararge, authorities in Kurfa Chale Woreda, advised humanitarian personnel against travelling home during the Easter holiday noting they would have to follow a 14-day mandatory quarantine upon return.
- Moyale international border (Kenya) only allows movement of essential commodities and humanitarian supplies. Partners have reported limitations for the movement of aid personnel.
- The Dollo Ado border crossing (Somalia) remains open for commercial transport. The Togo Wuchale border crossing (Somalia/ Somaliland) is closed to public transport, only allows movements of basic commodities like food and fuel.
- Increase in food insecurity reported in Dire Dawa partly due to COVID-19 related restrictions, including the disruption of food transportation, and people's loss of job opportunities. Dire Dawa city administration estimates that over 70,000 people could require food assistance.
- The dispatch of second round of food in Somali region is delayed due to challenges with private transporters resulting from COVID-19 movement restrictions.

Actions Taken

- COVID-19 Awareness raising activities scaled up through the Hararges using all available means of communication.
- Intensive house to house surveillance for case searching is going on in Dire Dawa.
- In Somali region, quarantine centers established at Jijiga University, Dawanle and Moyale to host deportees/ returning migrants from Djibouti, Somalia and Kenya. As of 17 April, 1,103 migrants were hosted in these centers.

Southern Oromia, SNNPR

Situation Overview

- In Southern Oromia's Guji zone, partners have reportedly halted humanitarian operations, including to COVID-19, in Aga wayu, Gora Dola, Gumi Eldelo, Liban, and Seba Boru woredas as a result of insecurity.
- In Borena zone, security restrictions for UN agencies in Guchi and Wachile woredas (lasting for more than one year) are impacting response activities to COVID-19.
- In West Guji, insecurity is impacting relief operations in some areas of Bule Hora, Abaya, Gelana, Suro Berguda (boundary areas between Burji and Amaro Woredas in SNNPR) and Melka Soda woreda. Local authorities are concerned about unintended community gatherings as a result of partners' activities.
- SNNP regional administration has revised restrictions on public transport permitting operators to transport passengers at 50 per cent capacity. The region has allocated 70 million Birr (US\$ 2.1Million) to the COVID-19 response.

Humanitarian Impact

- Partners report the lack PPE, hygiene materials, mattresses, bed sheets, blankets, WASH kits and food in quarantine and isolation facilities.
- Partners are reporting difficulties in transporting goods within the region due to the reluctance by transport service providers related to COVID-19. For instance, partners have reportedly struggled to transport non-food items from Hawassa to Negele.
- Closure of accommodation and limited services are impacting humanitarian personnel. This is forcing partners to minimize staff movements and /or suspend their operations, for instance in Ginir town, Bale zone.

Actions Taken

- Humanitarian partners in Guji and Bale zones (16 NGOs, 10 in Guji and six in Bale) are scaling up efforts against COVID-19 in support to government counterparts' activities.

Western Oromia, Benishangul Gumuz (BGR) and Gambela regions

Situation Update

- In West Wellega, a COVID-19 task force chaired by zonal administrator has been established, coordinating the woredas and overseeing six technical committees (social mobilization, surveillance, regulatory, WASH, case treatment center, and logistics).
- COVID-19 preparedness and response plan prepared by East Wellega zone health office, BGR Health Bureau and Gambella Peoples Regional State Health Bureau. On 20 April, BGR Health Bureau reported that 35 Ethiopian nationals returned from the Republic of Sudan had been tested and quarantined in Assosa Town.
- Gambela and BGR regional administrations have completed their COVID-19 response plans and are currently engaged in resource mobilization.

Humanitarian Impact

- Due to COVID-19 movement restrictions, humanitarian organizations have significantly scaled down field missions and meetings, which has negatively affected the flow of information.
- Reduced economic activities in Nekemte town linked to the COVID-19, have left youth formerly engaged in different economic activities without any income.
- Partners report concerns regarding visiting health facilities as a result of COVID-19. As a result, there has been a reduced number of children screened and treated for severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in the Wellegas.

Action taken

- In East Wellega, Nekemte referral hospital is under preparation for COVID-19 treatment. In addition, six isolation centers are established at Wellega university, Cheleleki health center in Nekemte town, Nekemte specialized hospital, Gida Ayana hospital, Sir Hospital and Arjo hospital. Partners are working to support those centres with WASH non-food items (NFIs) and kitchen utensils (INGO Save the Children).
- In West Wellega, Gimbi hospital is being prepared as COVID-19 treatment center, and 141 staff of the hospital received training on COVID-19 response. Six isolation centers are identified and some materials like masks, boots, distributed for Gimbi hospital, Aira hospital, Bube hospital, Begi hospital, Nedjo hospital and Mendi hospital.
- The Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (Nutrition Cluster) has revised temporary case management guidelines in light of COVID-19, and translated them in local language. The guidelines are meant to be distributed upon agreement with ZHO in case of a complete lockdown.
- Partners in East and West Wellega zones, Benishangul and Gambella regions are involved in COVID-19 response, including public sensitization, social mobilization, hygiene promotion and distribution of non-food items.
- IOM activities to support IDP returnees continue, with COVID-19 prevention measures incorporated.
- UNHCR has provided NFIs such as blankets, sleeping mats, soaps, Jerri cans, buckets, and mosquito nets to the zonal health office of East and West Wellega and Belojiganfof woreda of Kamashi zone.
- UNICEF, in West and East Wellega, as a preparedness measure, has pre-positioned therapeutic feeding (TFP) supplies at zonal health offices to cover three months.

Addis Ababa

Situation Overview

- On 13 and 14 April, Addis Ababa City Administration provided COVID-19 materials to Tigray regional health bureau worth Birr 1 million (over US \$33,000) and to Afar region worth Birr 15 million (around US\$ 455,000).
- On 17 April, the Ministry of Transport introduced a new regulation to control private vehicle mobility based on plate-numbers. Those with particular conditions can apply for a special pass.

Humanitarian Impact

- MSF-Spain has noted it is facing difficulties in providing health care to Ethiopian deportees at the Bole International Airport due to COVID-19 restrictions. In addition, it is currently studying ways to support quarantine sites in Addis.

Actions Taken

- UNICEF and IOM have provided thousands of dignity kits, soap, recreation kits, and tents, as well as blankets and other essential non-food items to returnees (including irregular migrants/ deportees) in support to the Government.

GENERAL COORDINATION

COVID-19 – National response coordination

- At Federal level, the multi-sector COVID-19 response is coordinated by the Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) led by the Commissioner of the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC). All sector bureaus and humanitarian partners are supporting the center.
- At regional level, coordination centers/taskforces have been established (*see contact information further below*).

COVID-19 – International response coordination (OCHA)

- National: Saeed Mohamoud Hersi (Mob: +251 91 250 2696 | E-mail: hersis@un.org)
- Addis Ababa: Felix Omuu (Mob: +251 91 121 6462 | E-mail: omunu@un.org)
- Afar, Amhara, Tigray regions: Hamidu Jalloh (Mob: +251 91 155 0047 | E-mail: jallohh@un.org)
- Eastern Oromia/ Somali region: Abdikadir D. Hussein (Mob: +251 91 505 9487 | E-mail: daud@un.org)
- Southern Oromia, SNNPR: Jelena Madzarevic (Mob: +251 91 147 3875 | E-mail: madzarevic@un.org)
- Western Oromia, Gambella, Benishangul Gumuz: Clever Maputseni (Mob: +251 90 320 0836 | E-mail: maputseni@un.org)

COVID-19 – Regional hotlines/ Emergency numbers

Region	Office location	Hotline	Land line or Mobile no.
Federal	Addis Ababa	8335 or 952	0112765340
Amhara	Dessie / Komb / Bahir Dar	6981	0918724470 (Dr. Hiwot)
Afar	Semera	6220	0912296308 (Mr. Abdul Mohamod)
Benishangul Gumuz	Assosa		0911704307 (Mr. Asmite)
Gambela	Gambela	6184	0913349861 (Mr. Leziale)
Oromia	Adama / Nekemte	6955	0911043813 (Dr. Birhanu)
SNNP	Hawassa	6929	0912098350 (Mr. Hanibal)
Somali	Jijiga and Gode/KBD	6599	0911360393 (Mr. Abubeker)
	Dollo Ado	6599	0915763452 (Mr. Nur Ali)
Tigray	Mekelle / Shire	6244	0914426106 (Dr. Abenezer)
Harari	Harar		0910455505 (Dr. Fathi)
Dire Dawa	Dire Dawa	6407	0912135451 (Dr. Ibrahim)

COVID-19 – Regional response coordination

Region	Forum activated	Participants	Leadership/ Chair	Focal Person
Amhara	COVID-19 Emergency Committee	Regional Bureau heads and partners	Regional head of EPHI	Name: Dr. Melkamu Abitie Phone 0953599319 Email: melkamuab@gmail.com
Afar	COVID-19 Task Force	Regional Bureau heads and partners	Regional President	Name: Yassin Habib Phone: 0911936340 Email: yashabhel@gmail.com
Benishangul Gumuz	COVID-19 Steering Committee	Cabinet members and health partners	Regional President	Name: Firehiwot Abebe head Phone: 0912063481 Email: frehiwotz@yahoo.com
Gambela	No formal forum activated yet. However, the health cluster developed a COVID-19 plan	Health cluster members worked out a COVID-19 plan	Regional Health Bureau/ WHO co-chairs	Name: Mr Kan Gatluak Phone: 0911117660 Email: kan_khot@yahoo.com malmajok234g@gmail.com
Oromia	COVID-19 Steering Committee	Regional Bureau heads	Office of the President	Name: Gemechu Shumi Phone: 0993822229 Email: milkigeme@gmail.com
	Regional EOC	Regional Bureaus and partner agencies	ODRMC	
SNNP	COVID-19 Task Force	Regional Bureau heads	Regional President	Name: Mr. Erestu Yirdaw Phone: 0462209166 Name: Mr. Tilahun Kebede Phone: 0935408643
Somali	Regional EOC	Regional Bureau heads and partners	Regional HB	Name: Dr Mutar Muse Phone: 0915752699 Email: mukktarov84@gmail.com
Tigray	Regional EOC	Regional Bureau heads and partners	Regional Health Bureau	Name: Rieye Esayas Phone: 0932501042 Email: esayas1978.sm@gmail.com
Harari	Regional Taskforce	Regional Bureau heads	Regional President	Name: Ibsa Ibrahim Phone: 0914947880
Dire Dawa	COVID-19 Steering Committee	City Bureau heads	City Mayor	Name: Kadir Juhar, Deputy Mayor Phone: 0914994686

[End]