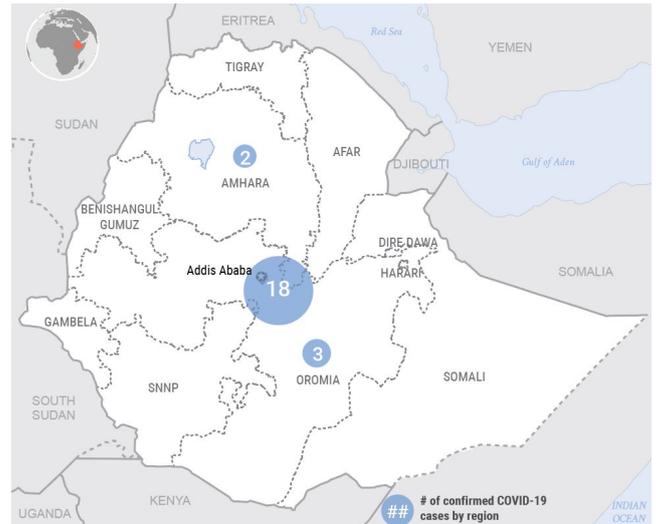


This report is prepared under the auspices of the National Emergency Coordination Center for COVID-19 response, led by the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC), supported by OCHA Ethiopia with participation of Cluster Coordinators. It covers the period from 13 March to 31 March 2020.

HIGHLIGHTS

- COVID-19 is the latest humanitarian challenge faced by the Government of Ethiopia and humanitarian partners in the country. On 13 March 2020, the first case was confirmed, and as of 31 March, there were 26 confirmed cases, including 20 in Addis Ababa, two in Amhara region (Bahir Dar and Addis Kidam), three in Oromia region (Adama) and one in Dire -Dawa.
- Seven million people targeted under 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan require uninterrupted food and non-food assistance to survive.
- On 16 March, the Ethiopian Prime Minister announced several measures including a two-week ban on mass gathering, school closure, and border closure further extended for two-week from 30 March onwards.
- Regions have taken strict measures to control the spread of the pandemic. Measures include banning all travel and mass gathering.
- Government at all levels is committed to enable the provision of humanitarian assistance to people in need.
- As of 30 March, Ethiopian Airlines suspended flights to at least 80 international destinations, to minimize the magnitude of the COVID-19 spread and with possible impact on humanitarian supply chains and movement of international medical teams.
- The National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) has activated an Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) to coordinate the multi-sector response to the outbreak. Similar coordination centers or taskforces have been established in all regions.
- IDPs, including those residing with host communities, are highly vulnerable to COVID-19 due to their living condition.,
- The Logistic Cluster, led by NDRMC and WFP, has been reactivated to coordinate demands for COVID-19 emergency supplies in the country, and ensure ability to transport goods throughout the country.
- On 26 March, a global COVID-19 response plan was launched by the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, and principals of WHO – UNICEF – and OCHA. The Plan covers a 9-month period (to be updated monthly) and requests US\$ 2 billion to address the first-line response to the pandemic.
- A national COVID-19 response plan is being finalized by Government and partners, a multi-sector response for the next three months.



Source: EPHI
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

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

COVID-19 outbreak is happening at a time in Ethiopia when 7M people remain in need of humanitarian assistance (HRP 2020). These include IDPs, returnees, and resident population who remain vulnerable and require support from Government and the international community to meet their life saving needs. There are 700,000 refugees residing in Ethiopia supported under refugee response plan.

Major drivers of humanitarian needs in Ethiopia include climate induced disasters, conflict displacement and disease outbreaks. In addition, the worst desert locust reported in 25 years hit Ethiopia and neighboring countries in late 2019 and continues to affect many in 2020 including Somali, Amhara, Tigray, SNNP and Oromia regions affecting 162 woredas further and worsened the food security situation. If not contained, the desert locust will lead to huge livelihood losses and food insecurity to many communities in Ethiopia.

Government has been implementing several measures to mitigate the impact of multiple shock and hazards. Moreover, humanitarian partners are committed to support the government response to COVID-19, ensuring that critical humanitarian activities are sustained. Partners are actively implementing precautionary measures to ensure the safety of aid personnel as well as the population. To this end, partners are undertaking a thorough analysis of each programme/ activity, and prioritizing / reallocating resources to the COVID-19 response through a “phased approach” as per the level of analysis/ recommendations of the Ministry of Health and WHO.

Partners are prioritizing activities such as COVID-19 information/ awareness sharing, re-programming and scaling up health and water and sanitation interventions. Partners are putting in place mitigation measures to ensure the continuity of critical activities in refugee/ IDP sites, emergency food and non-food distributions, locust etc. Face-to-face meetings, mass gatherings, workshops, etc., have been suspended. They restricted all missions/ travels in/ out Ethiopia as well as within the country, and kept limited teams on the ground to ensure business continuity. A number of COVID-19 guidance documents have been prepared globally and nationally to support partners’ operational response to COVID-19. An information sharing platform has been created to make these documents accessible, together with various operational updates that will be coming out, through the following link: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/ethiopia/covid-19> .

2020 HRP FUNDING STATUS

Contributions as per the 2020 HRP financial requirements, by sector (as of 30 March) <i>US\$1.001 billion</i> requested	Sector/Cluster	Funding Received	% Covered
	Food 	83.7M	21%
	Nutrition 	-	0%
	ES/NFI 	-	0%
	Health 	1.3M	1%
	WASH 	5.9M	7%
	Agriculture 	0.4M	1%
	Protection 	-	0%
	Education 	-	0%
	Coordination 	0.7M	6%
	Sector not specified	17.5M	-
	Multiple sectors (breakdown not specified)	1.7M	-

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

IMPACT OF COVID-19 - HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Afar, Amhara and Tigray regions

Situation Overview

- On 26 March, the Tigray Regional State declared a region-wide state of emergency to prevent the spread of COVID-19. All travels within the region have been banned for 15 days. A ban was put for all social activities, mass gatherings
- On 30 March, Amhara regional state command post put travel restrictions to the region and within the region.
- On 31 March, Afar authorities restricted all public transport within and outside the region.
- In Afar, Amhara, Tigray, and Somali regions multi sectoral steering committee, was established to coordinate COVID-19 response.

Humanitarian Impact

- Partners have suspended multi-sectoral needs assessments requiring multi-agency participation.
- Field monitoring missions have been suspended.
- Task forces and cluster meetings (Education, ES/ENFI, Protection) have been temporarily suspended.

Actions Taken

- The regional Government of Tigray has assured partners that humanitarian response will not be interrupted. They are ready to facilitate continued humanitarian assistance/ operations.
- Strategic coordination meetings at regional level (Afar, Amhara, Tigray) have been established.
- NGO partners are proceeding with life-saving activities with maximum precaution. Food distributions in refugee camps are ongoing, with mitigation measures put in place.

Eastern Oromia, Somali and Harari region

Situation Overview

- High population density in IDP sites represents a high risk (e.g. IDP resettlement sites in Mieso, Gumbi Bordole and Dire Dawa City). Shelters are overcrowded and many people are living in congested dwellings.
- Somali region is vulnerable to COVID-19 due to route/ movements along the axis Addis Ababa - Djibouti and Somaliland. In addition, Somali region health system faces serious capacity gaps, with shortages of staff and medical supplies.
- On 30 March, OCHA received reports regarding increased number of people who arrived/ departed from Kenya, Uganda, and South Sudan to Moyale and some 1500 Ethiopians deported from Djibouti arriving in Dire Dawa.

Humanitarian Impact

- Staff are unable to reach duty stations due to travel restrictions, impacting capacity of some medical NGOs.
- Coordination with government counterparts, especially sector bureaus is challenged by limited communication systems.
- Coordination meetings such as zonal and working group (DSWG) meetings have been suspended.

Actions Taken

- Regional EOCs were activated in Somali and Oromia and meetings are convened every other day.
- In Oromia Somali and Harari regions multi sectoral steering committee, was established to coordinate COVID-19 response.
- Free COVID-19 telephone hotlines were established in Somali region (6599) and Oromia region (6955).

Southern Oromia, SNNPR

Situation Overview

- Personal protection equipment and sanitation materials in markets / health facilities have run out in many locations.
- Bale, Borena, and Guji zone host a large number of IDPs, highly vulnerable due to limited resources, insecurity and only few partners on the ground. COVID-19 will lead to additional scale down of operations.

Humanitarian Impact

- In Guji zone, the joint IDP beneficiary verification exercise has been suspended aid.
- In Guji, construction, installation of trench latrines are suspended (daily laborers not willing to work).

- In Bale and Guji, community outreach activities such as CMAM trainings, infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practice, food cooking demonstration, etc. have been suspended.

Actions Taken

- In Guji sustained advocacy with Government to continue with emergency food distribution to new IDPs, i.e. some 80,000 since June 2019.
- JEOP partners have adapted food distribution approaches (favoring house-to-house for vulnerable groups).
- Distribution of OTP/ SC and TSFP and medical consultation to IDPs is ongoing, with new movement protocol.
- Health partners continue to respond to cholera outbreak with some adjustments.
- IOM – SMS monitoring is ongoing though downscaled and complaint/feedback mechanism, service mapping is being conducted remotely.
- In SNNP multi sectoral steering committee, was established to coordinate COVID-19 response.

Western Oromia, Gambella, and Benishangul Gumuz region

Situation Overview

- Metekel Zone has established a committee on COVID-19 led by the chief administrator. A health centre in Metekel zone is designated for isolation and treatment of cases of COVID-19 while preparation is ongoing in Kamashi Zone. Humanitarian access remains a challenge in parts of West and Kalem Wellega due to insecurity.

Humanitarian Impact

- Planned multi-sectoral needs assessment to secondary displaced in East and West Wellega was suspended.
- Community engagement (mass) related project activities is suspended.
- CCD (Collaborative Cash Delivery) project activities are suspended due to prohibited public gatherings.

Actions Taken

- Communications blackout in Western Oromia which has been in place since January 2020 was finally lifted on 31 March. This will increase people's access to COVID-19 information.
- In East Wellega, a Task force has been established chaired by Zone administrator and Mayor of Nekemte.
- In Gambella, a COVID-19 Emergency Preparedness Plan was developed and a committee chaired by the Regional President is established.
- Partners are stepping up one-on-one hygiene promotion activities, and public awareness on COVID-19.
- INGOs maintain WASH, Child Protection and Nutrition activities with maximum precaution.
- Partners in Gambela and BGR are working on protective measures to ensure service delivery in refugee camps.
- In Gambela and Benishangul Gumuz regions multi sectoral steering committee, was established to coordinate COVID-19 response.

Addis Ababa and Dire - Dawa City Administrations

Situation Overview

- As of 31 March, 2020: 20 confirmed cases
- City Government of Addis Ababa established multi sectoral Committee for COVID -19 response
- Measures taking including banning mass gathering and crowd public transport.

Humanitarian Impact

- Established multi sectoral coordination meetings disrupted
- Local rehabilitation centers have been impacted

Actions Taken

- Volunteers mobilized to create awareness and resource mobilization;
- Market regulation and stabilization measures;
- Provide sanitation and hygiene materials
- In Addis Ababa and Dire-Dawa regions multi-sectoral steering committees established to coordinate COVID-19.

GENERAL COORDINATION

Overall humanitarian coordination

- The overall humanitarian coordination in Ethiopia is led by the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC). The NDRMC leads federal level Disaster Risk Management Technical Working Groups (DRMTWGs) and hosts a series of specialized task forces that work jointly with the IASC clusters.
- The DRMTWG is the umbrella forum that brings all actors together at the technical level, including government and donor representatives. The Government and humanitarian partners continue to strengthen regional DRMTWGs, as well as zonal-level coordination platforms to bring the coordination closer to the affected population.
- At a strategic level, NDRMC Commissioner and the Humanitarian Coordinator co-chair a Strategic Multi-Agency Coordination (S-MAC) forum to deliberate on humanitarian response operations and address challenges.

COVID-19 response coordination

- 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. Coordination centers/taskforces have been established in all regions.

Regional COVID-19 Coordination (as of 31 March):

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 malmajio234g@gmail.com
Oromia	Regional EOCs in 5 locations	Regional Bureau heads	Office of the President	Name: Gemechu Shumi Phone: 0993822229 Email: milkigeme@gmail.com
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	
Dire-Dawa	COVID-19 Steering Committee	City Bureau heads	City Mayor	