

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Federal Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) have called for immediate action to control a new Desert Locust infestation in the country.
- The swarms have produced hopper bands that have covered more than 174 square kilometers (in 56 *woredas* and 1085 *kebeles*) and are consuming approximately 8,700 metric tons of green vegetation every day.



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Desert locust infestation continues to threaten agricultural production in four regions

A Desert Locust infestation has been ravaging crop and pasture-land, as well as trees and other vegetation since June 2019 in parts of Afar, Amhara, Somali and Tigray regions. The swarms have produced hopper bands that have covered more than 174 square kilometers (in 56 *woredas* and 1085 *kebeles*) and are consuming approximately 8,700 metric tons of green vegetation every day. It is estimated that about 30 million hoppers can land on a one-kilometer square area. The desert locust invasion is likely to cause innumerable loss of green vegetation and needs substantial support from all partners to undertake massive control and preventive measures according to the Ministry of Agriculture.



Figure 1 Desert locust infestation in Raya Kobo Woreda, Amhara region.

In Afar region, the Desert Locust is spreading to Gewane and Amibara *woredas*. Over 21,000 hectares (across 15 *woredas*) was aerially sprayed. The spread of Desert locust is being contained in Raya Kobo and Habru *woredas* of the Amhara region via aerial spray and traditional methods of control. The same operations are being applied in Dewe Harewa *woreda* of the Oromo Special zone, Amhara region. In Somali region, a new wave of Desert

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- The joint Government and partners need-based targeting exercise completed in October identified most vulnerable returnees and IDPs in six *woredas* of West Guji zone for a prioritized response.
- Amhara region launches a three-month drought response plan for 126,000 food-insecure people in four zones.
- The Amhara regional government requested the support from the Federal Government and partners to address the identified multi-sector needs

Locust infestation was reported in Sitti and Fafan zones. Though the Federal and regional agriculture sector offices and the the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) are responding to the invasion, it is not yet under control. In Tigray region, Desert Locust infestation has been reported in the South, South East, East, and West zones.

The Federal Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and DLCO-EA have called for immediate action to control a new Desert Locust infestation in the country. Sani Redi, Agriculture Sector State Minister, Ministry of Agriculture called on development partners to support the Government's efforts to control the invasion. According to FAO, at least US\$900,000 is required to meet the resource gap in the Desert Locust intervention and control operation. Pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities in affected areas have had poor food security and nutritional situation before the infestation.

Joint Government-partners' need based targeting completed in West Guji zone

The joint Government and partners' need-based targeting exercise that was conducted in six IDP and returnees-hosting *woredas* (Bule Hora, Birbirs Kojowa, Hambela Wamena, Abaya, Gelana, and Kercha) in West Guji zone was completed in October 2019. The targeting exercise covered some 137 *kebeles* across the six *woredas*, and identified some 575,000 beneficiaries, including some 9,000 IDPs, the largest IDP count (5,691) being in Kercha *woreda*.

Similarly, a need-based joint targeting was conducted in Gedeo zone between 29 May – 6 July 2019 covering 36 *kebeles* in four *woredas* (15 *kebeles* in Gedeb *woreda*, nine *kebeles* in Kochere, one *kebele* in Wonago and 11 *kebeles* in Yirgachefe). The joint targeting identified some 145,000 in need of assistance in Gedeo zone.

Following the implementation of the Government's plan to return, rehabilitate and relocate IDPs, Government and humanitarian partners have been exercising a need-based joint targeting in Gedeo and West Guji zones to target the most vulnerable returnees and IDPs for a prioritized response.

Preparedness ahead of possible impact of Tropical Storm Kyarr in Somali region

Tropical storm Kyarr's strength has weakened over the weekend (2-3 November) as it makes way towards East Africa. According to the UK MetOffice, "as of 31 October, the forecast track was a little further south than it was looking in recent days, and this reduced the threat of heavier rain and flood risk for Yemen, but also extended the heavy rainfall threat southwards across much of Somalia and eastern Ethiopia into the Juba and Shabelle river basins. The forecast suggests widespread rainfall totals of 25-50 mm with isolated peaks of up to 150-200 mm over the next 10 days, which are likely to cause flooding. These forecast rainfall totals are unusually high for this time of the year. The average monthly rainfall in the area for November ranges from 5-10 mm in northern Somalia to 100 mm in eastern Ethiopia."

On 2 November, OCHA held a meeting with the Somali Disaster Risk Management Deputy Bureau Head and Early Warning and Response Director, and agreed on a couple of action points, including for the regional government to disseminate early warning information for communities using government structures and local media. Following discussions with relevant line bureaus in Somali region on preparedness measures, the regional bureau will notify OCHA and partners should there be a need for external support.

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- The National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) has dispatched food and non-food assistance to people displaced by unrest in Dodola Town of West Arsi zone and Sebeta Town in the outskirts of Addis Ababa.
- When the inter-ethnic tensions flared in 2018, however, she became the victim of ethnic-based violence and attacks.
- “I had received several threats prior to the attack, but I believed that the community whom I trusted would rescue me in case of any unlawful acts. However, I was wrong and it cost me a lot because my neighbors who came to my rescue were also attacked by the protestors,” said Menbero.

Amhara region launches a three-month drought response plan for 126,000 food-insecure people in four zones

The Amhara regional Government issued a drought response plan for people suffering from the impact of drought due to poor summer/*kiremt* rains in Central Gondar, Northern Gondar, North Wollo and Wag Himra zones. Reports from Amhara region indicate that food insecurity is growing in affected areas following consecutive localized poor performance of rainy seasons. Livestock deaths and unseasonal livestock migration are also reported.

The regional government launched a three-months response plan to provide food aid for the affected people. According to the Drought Response Plan issued by the Amhara Disaster Prevention, Food Security Program on 23 October, the region has requested the federal government to assist some 126,000 people for the next three months in addition to the existing 756,000 emergency food aid beneficiaries targeted in the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan. The regional government also requested the support from partners to address the identified multi-sector needs.

NDRMC dispatching food supplies to people affected by recent political turmoil

The National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) has dispatched food and non-food assistance to people displaced by unrest in Dodola Town of West Arsi zone. Cereals, Corn Soya Blend (CSB), oil, biscuits, and non-food items were sent to nearly 3,400 people, who are currently sheltered in two churches in the town. Similar assistance was sent to more than 1000 individuals who were displaced in Sebeta Town, in the outskirts of Addis Ababa. The displaced received food, clothes, mats, and cooking materials.

The political unrest that erupted in Addis Ababa and in Ethiopia's Oromia region on October 23 quickly devolved into ethnic and religious clashes, claiming the lives of at least 80 people, injuring hundreds and leading to significant losses of property. The government of Ethiopia stated that more than 400 people have been arrested in Ethiopia during investigations into this violence.

The story of Menbero, a 52-year-old IDP woman in Mekelle, Tigray region

Mrs. Equar G/Michael Menbero is a 52-years-old IDP woman who lives with her two sons in Mekelle. She was displaced from Dessie city (Amhara region), a place where she had lived for 28 years. Both sons, 15 and 17, were born and raised in Dessie and only speak Amharic. Mrs. Menbero has not heard from her husband since the displacement occurred towards the end of 2018.

Mrs. Menbero was born in Tigray region but life circumstances led her to move to Dessie and establish her life there. According to Menbero, “life in Desie was amazingly comfortable and she felt at home” for she had established a wonderful relationship



Figure 2 Menbero, an IDP in Mekelle, Tigray. Photo Credit: OCHA/Redae

HIGHLIGHTS

- The 2019 HRP is 74 per cent funded, including contributions from the Government of Ethiopia for the food sector.
- Life-saving non-food sector programs remain underfunded

Sector/Cluster	% Covered
Food	136%
Nutrition	54%
WASH	20%
Health	11%
ES/NFI	20%
Agriculture	30%
Education	25%
Protection	50%
Coordination	56%
Sector not specified	-
Multiple Sectors (break down not specified)	-

with the community there. In fact, she had been an elected cabinet member by the community.

When the inter-ethnic tensions flared in 2018, however, she became the victim of ethnic-based violence and attacks. She, and her two children were one day suddenly attacked by a group of men and their house was damaged. Due to the severity of the injury incurred by the attackers, Menbero was hospitalized for several weeks in Mekelle Aider Hospital. "I had received several threats prior to the attack, but I believed that the community whom I trusted would rescue me in case of any unlawful acts. However, I was wrong and it cost me a lot because my neighbors who came to my rescue were also attacked by the protestors," said Menbero.

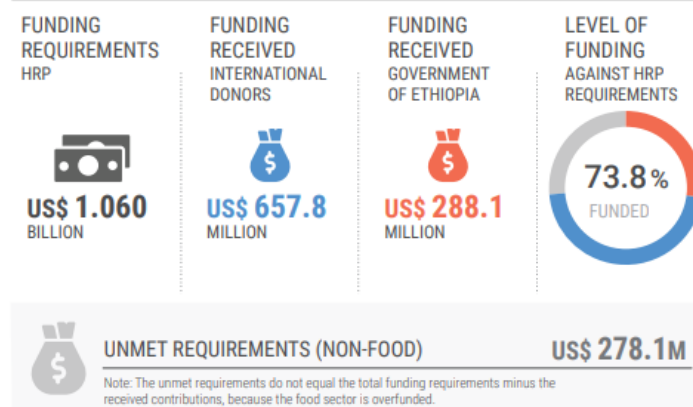
Currently, Mrs. Menbero is an IDP representative in one of the Mekelle IDP collective centers. She had been brought to the collection center by the Mekelle city administration after she had suffered for months due to lack of shelter and had dwelled at Saint Mary's church. She and one of her boys are under ART (Anti Retro Viral) treatment. She mentioned that "living with HIV/AIDs under the current circumstance is a double challenge" for she lacks enough food and faces social stigma.

Menbero is also deeply worried about her husband, whose whereabouts she does not know following their sudden displacement.

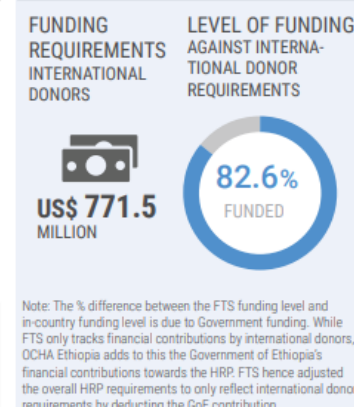
She is not optimistic about the future and she does not believe that the situation in Dessie would soon normalize to be able to go back there. Instead, she chose to send her children to school and live her life in Mekelle.

Humanitarian funding update, as of 30 October 2019

In-country HRP Funding Update



HRP Funding Update as per FTS



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