

### HIGHLIGHTS

- As confirmed cases of COVID-19 surpass 100,000-mark surveillance, testing and treatment scales down in various locations due to lack of or due to dwindling resources (testing kits).
- The humanitarian impact of the ongoing conflict between federal and Tigray regional forces is increasing as the days progress. Several thousands of people are reported displaced in Tigray fleeing conflict



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## COVID-19 - Ethiopia updates

### 1.58 million samples tested, 104,427 cases registered

As of 19 November, Ethiopia counts 104,427 cases nationwide. With 64,983 recoveries and 1,607 deaths, there are currently 37,835 active cases, including 316 severe cases on treatment. Addis Ababa continues to account for the highest percentage of the caseload, followed by Oromia, Tigray and Amhara regions. Overall, the country conducted 1.58 million sample tests so far.

## Tigray Humanitarian Situation Update

The humanitarian impact of the ongoing conflict between federal and Tigray regional forces is increasing as the days progress. Several thousands of people are reportedly internally displaced within Tigray region, but due to communication and movement restrictions, the UN could still not verify the extent of the displacement. Similarly, Ethiopians crossing the border to Sudan is increasing. The displaced population is mainly crossing through three border entry points at a daily average arrival rate of 4000. More than 30,000 people have so far fled to Sudan. The protection of populations impacted by the conflict



Figure 1 Tens of thousands of refugees are crossing the border from Ethiopia to Sudan, fleeing conflict in Ethiopia's Tigray region. Many of them arriving in Hamdayet Reception Center where humanitarian partners are responding to their immediate needs. WFP has been on ground since day one, providing emergency food and logistics support. 17 November 2020. WFP/Leni Kinzli

## 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

The protection of populations impacted by the conflict

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- The total 'top priority' funding requirements to facilitate the minimum preparedness activities to response to the projected needs between November 2020 and January 2021 is US\$ 96.9 million. Considering available resources, the outstanding requirements is \$75.7 million
- The desert locust, coupled with flooding that has also destroyed crops as well as the economic impact of COVID-19 pandemic, especially on the most vulnerable sections of society, threatens deepening food insecurity in the country.

remains an overarching humanitarian concern. In addition to safety, ensuring civilian access to vital goods and services is a priority to humanitarian partners.

Meanwhile, humanitarian partners finalized a Humanitarian Preparedness Plan projected to target 1.98 million people with multi-sector assistance in Tigray, Afar and Amhara regions. The 1.98 million target includes existing humanitarian caseload and additional 1.1 million people expected to need assistance as a result of the conflict.



Figure 2 Breakdown of the targeted population

The total 'top priority' funding requirements to facilitate the minimum preparedness activities to response to the projected needs between November 2020 and January 2021 is US\$ 96.9 million. Considering available resources, the outstanding requirements is \$75.7 million (see breakdown in the table below). Protection mainstreaming will be promoted across all sectors by incorporating protection principles in humanitarian assistance and promoting access, safety and dignity in humanitarian assistance. While additional in-house capacities can be mobilized, regional and international support is required, both in terms of technical and financial support to ensure effective and timely humanitarian assistance to the evolving humanitarian context in northern Ethiopia.

Sector	Total requirement (US\$ Millions)	Outstanding requirements (gap) (US\$ Millions)
Education	2.9	2.9
ES/NFI	18.5	15.3
Food	36.9	26.6
Health	9.8	8.7
Logistics	5.0	4.5
Nutrition	8.5	3.1
Protection	2.6	2.1
WaSH	12.8	12.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 96.9 M</b>	<b>\$ 75.7 M</b>

Figure 3 Sector breakdown of the overall and outstanding requirements of the Humanitarian Preparedness Plan

Read more on this on the Tigray Region Humanitarian Situation Update No.3 at <https://bit.ly/3pBOtle>

## Threats to food security: Desert locust and flooding

According to a recent Government report, desert locust infestation in July has damaged 365,015 hectares of cropland, including 283,172 hectares in East and West Hararge zone of Oromia region (impacting 499,505 farmers) and 81,843 hectares in Oromo Special Zone, South Wollo, and North Wollo zones in Amhara region (impacting 795,774 farmers). Separate reports indicated that similar infestations have destroyed 95 hectares of cropland in Afar region, as well as 132,596 hectares of cropland and 283,457 hectares of pastureland in Amhara region. Widespread locust breeding activities is currently witnessed in eastern Ethiopia. While, few immature swarms persist in Afar region, the immature swarms between Jijiga and Degehabur in Somali region are more of concern, as some are maturing. With this development, the epicenter of the locust seems to have moved from northern Ethiopia to

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- Violent incidents, including attacks by armed groups and inter-communal clashes continue to be reported mainly in western and southern Oromia, eastern Benishangul Gumuz region and SNNPR, leading to casualties and displacements.

eastern Ethiopia as the hopper bands in the North have moved to Eritrea and good rainfall in eastern Ethiopia has created favorable breeding conditions. The situation would have been much worse without the control operations that have increased over the month of October, treating an estimated 335,453 hectares of land across Ethiopia.

The desert locust, coupled with flooding that has also destroyed crops as well as the economic impact of COVID-19 pandemic, especially on the most vulnerable sections of society, threatens deepening food insecurity in the country. According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report, about 6.7 million people (in seven regions) are expected to be highly food insecure, in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), or worse between October and December 2020.

## CERF announces US\$100 million to fight hunger

On 17 November, UN humanitarian chief Mark Lowcock announced the allocation of US\$100 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) “to help people feed themselves in countries most at risk from the growing hunger epidemic caused by conflict, economic decline, climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic”. While \$80 million will be apportioned between six countries (Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, South Sudan and Yemen), “an extra \$20 million has been set aside for anticipatory action to fight hunger in Ethiopia, where droughts could exacerbate an already fragile situation.”

### **The anticipatory action for drought response has not been activated in Ethiopia yet.**

The activation will depend on the March-May *gu* rains forecast in the pastoralist areas, to see if it meets the trigger. The anticipatory action framework dictates that one of the following two conditions should be met to meet the trigger:

- 1) At least 50 per cent probability of below average rainfall from at least two seasonal rainfall forecasts
- 2) Drought named as a driver of the deterioration of the situation in food security report

## Localized violence in western and southern parts of the country continue to impact communities

Violent incidents, including attacks by armed groups and inter-communal clashes continue to be reported mainly in western and southern Oromia, eastern Benishangul Gumuz region and SNNPR, leading to casualties and displacements.

On 1 November, an armed attack in Dilla village, Guliso *woreda*, West Wellega zone reportedly affected some 200 households and killed 32 civilians, leaving several others injured and between 700 to 1000 people displaced. The zonal DRMO has so far dispatched 30 quintal of wheat, 50 liters of vegetable oil, some plastic sheets and kitchen items to the community; and has called for humanitarian partners for urgent additional support.

On 15 November, the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) announced that an estimated 34 people were killed by “a gruesome attack” on a passenger bus on 14 November in Dibate *woreda* of Benishangul Gumuz region. The passenger bus was traveling from Wonbera to Changi (Debate *woreda*). “The latest attack is a grim addition to the human cost which we bear collectively. Reports of the swift intervention of government security forces to prevent further escalation thereof is encouraging,” EHRC Chief Commissioner Daniel Bekele is quoted as saying in a report the commission published on its social media page.

Similar reports of violence are received from Konso zone, SNNPR this week leading to displacement, loss and injuries.

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- Since October 2020, some 1,000 Ethiopian migrants returned to Ethiopia from the Gulf states, mainly from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Egypt, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM).
- When we met Ato Amare Deresse (68), he was standing at the place where his house once stood. Now there are only ruins following recent flooding that impacted the entire community in the area.

Humanitarian partners, in collaboration with authorities continue to find ways to meet the multi-sector humanitarian needs of affected communities.

## Migrant returnees from Gulf States

Since October 2020, some 1,000 Ethiopian migrants returned to Ethiopia from the Gulf states, mainly from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Egypt, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Of the total returnees, 49 are unaccompanied children.

While those who presented a negative RT PCR COVID-19 test result of 5 days or 120 hours were assisted with onward transportation, those with expired test results were subjected to self-quarantine in accordance with the new COVID-19 regulation that came into effect on 5 October 2020. IOM is providing US\$50 per day per person to support them with hotel fees to self-quarantine, and to cover their transportation cost to their respective areas of origin (except to Tigray region where roads/air access remains blocked). A bulk sum of ETB4500 is also given for each returnee as part of an economic package support. Psychosocial support is also available by the Ethiopia Public Health Institute and the Ministry of Peace. Referral systems with NGOs working in such areas are also in place for serious cases.

Overall, some 10,000 migrant returnees are expected to arrive this year. More resources are required to enable a more sustainable recovery and livelihood support for the returnees.

## Voices from affected communities

### Flooding leaves a retiree homeless

When we met Ato Amare Deresse (68), he was standing at the place where his house once stood. Now there are only ruins following recent flooding that impacted the entire community in the area.

Ato Amare was 18 years old when he started work at the Metehara Sugar Factory. Now retired, he has been living with his family in the now demolished house in a place called Tureta Sefer (literally meaning neighborhood of the retirees).

Ato Amare recounts the flooding incidents as followed: “when the flood started, I was in the hospital undergoing a surgery on an infected gall bladder. Later, when I came back to the village, it was surrounded by water. I found my house demolished, and all my belongings, including the cattle, were washed away by the flood”.



Figure 4 Ato Amare amidst flood-caused ruins. Photo credit: OCHA

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- “I have nowhere to go,” he despaired “I hoped to live in this house I built with my hard-earned money until the day I die. My dream was crushed in one day. I am asking for support to rebuild my home and restore my hope,” he said.
- The Ethiopia 2020 humanitarian appeal is 59.8 per cent funded, including \$187 million Government allocation.

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Ato Amara and his family, which includes his three sons, are currently sheltered at the local Youth Recreation Center.

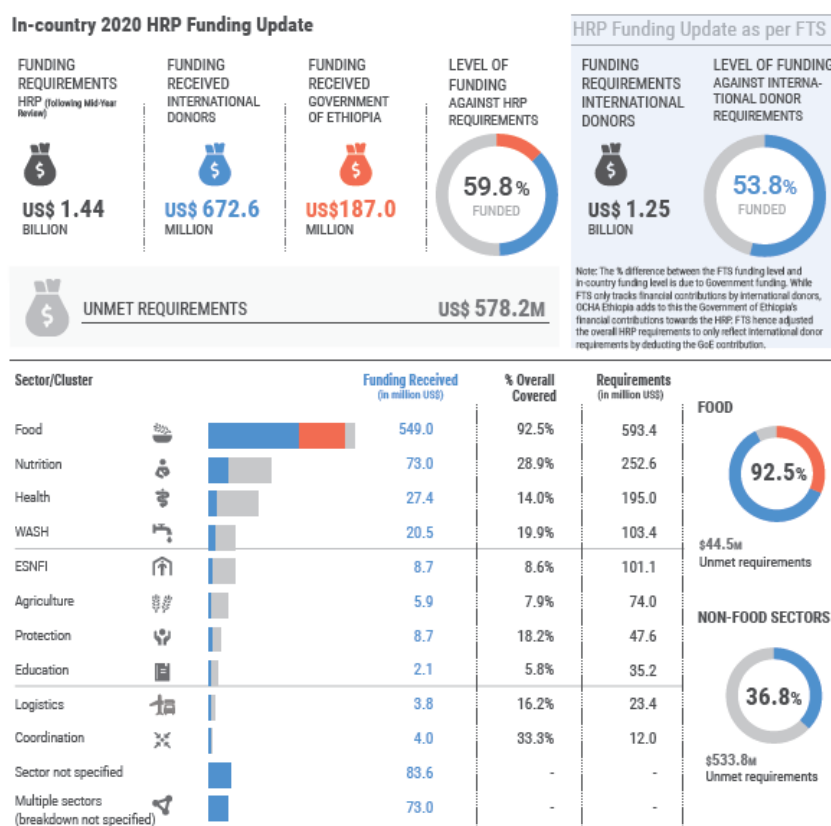


Figure 5 House demolished by flooding. Photo credit: OCHA

## HRP Funding Update as of 9 November 2020

The Ethiopia 2020 humanitarian appeal is 59.8 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.

The Humanitarian Preparedness Plan finalized this week to respond to unforeseen needs following the recent development in northern Ethiopia and the annual Ethiopian Humanitarian Response Plan will be merged in 2021.



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