



ETHIOPIA: COVID-19 Humanitarian impact Situation Update No. 11

As of 22 August 2020



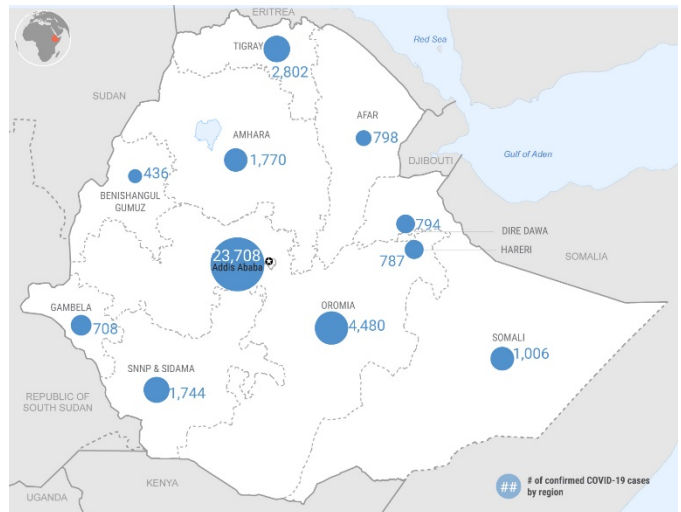
This report is prepared under the auspices of the National Emergency Coordination Center for COVID-19 response, led by the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC), supported by OCHA Ethiopia with the participation of Cluster Coordinators. This issue covers the period from 9-22 August 2020.

HIGHLIGHTS

- As of 22 August, Ethiopia reported 39,033 confirmed COVID-19 cases compared to 22,253 on 8 August. The cumulative number of recoveries has reached 14,480, while the number of deaths has increased to 662. Cases have risen exponentially in the last two weeks, with Addis Ababa counting a total of 23,708 cases followed by Oromia with 4,480 cases. (Source: MoH/ Ethiopia Public Health Institute, EPHI).

- On 14 August, President Sahle-Work Zewde called on the public for collective preventive efforts to promote proper use of face mask while announcing the official launch of MaskEthiopia Campaign in response to the WHO WearAMask Challenge. The president expressed, "let us all take part in this campaign by promoting the proper use of face masks as we all work to put a stop to this pandemic." A recent study indicates that despite the increasing community transmission, mask-wearing practice is at 76 per cent, while the handwashing practice is as low as 26 per cent.

- The Government launched the COVID-19 "ComBAT" nationwide campaign aimed to test 200,000 people for the virus in two weeks times and conduct door-to-door surveys covering 17 million citizens in the country to control the spread of the pandemic. The campaign also aims to empower and engage all relevant stakeholders and key partners in the community-led response. The National Emergency Coordination Center (NECC) is supporting this plan by coordinating and compiling the development of a joint strategy in cooperation with line ministries. It is also coordinating with regional disaster bureaus to support the strategy in the regions.
- The NECC, in cooperation with Dire Dawa city administration, established an Emergency Coordination Center to coordinate the multi-hazard response in the city.
- On 13 August, the Somali region health bureau confirmed eight (8) COVID-19 cases in two refugee camps in the region (Kabribayah and Awbare camps). Case management and control measures are being strengthened. UNHCR established two isolation centers inside the camps.
- On 19 August, World Humanitarian Day was commemorated under the theme [#RealLifeHeroes](#) in the country. The National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC), Deputy Commissioner Ato Damene Darota, and UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Dr. Catherine Sozi in their statements honored Government staff, line ministries, humanitarians, and donors for their contribution and standing with the Ethiopian Government in this challenging time and responding to the humanitarian crisis of COVID-19 pandemic, floods, food insecurity, displacement and desert locust infestation in the country.
- The National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) and WFP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for ETB 157.609 million (~US\$4,386,885) to provide cooked food for the quarantined people. According to the agreement, cooked food will be provided to quarantined people by the Ethiopian Public Health Institute, the Ministry of Science and Higher Education (for those who are hosted by universities), and Disaster Risk Management bureaus at the regional level for Quarantine Centers and Point of Entries. NDRMC will coordinate the implementation.
- Save the Children allocated ETB 42 million (~US\$1,169,015) emergency fund for COVID-19 prevention and control activities. The fund will be used as cash support, food, health care, and sanitation support to vulnerable members of the society in six (6) cities and towns, including Bahir Dar, Hawassa, Dire Dawa, Adama, and Jigjiga. Close to 5,500 family heads and additional 22,144 members of the community will benefit. (Source: <https://bit.ly/3iXldHR>)



Source: EPHI

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

- The first progress report of the Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP) for COVID-19 was released on 1 July with a requirement of US\$7.32 billion. As of 22 August, the funding requirements for COVID-19 response have risen to US\$39.76 billion out of which US\$506 million is allotted to Ethiopia. As of 22 August, \$10.26 billion (19.9 per cent) has been funded. For further updates: <https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/952/summary>

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Humanitarian needs in Ethiopia have increased as a result of COVID-19, the impact of the desert locust infestation, floods, and changes to the displacement landscape.

The spread of coronavirus disease is increasing at an alarming rate in the country. Ethiopia is now the leading country in East Africa with the highest number of infected people. Several health personnel in Tigray, Dire Dawa, and Harari regions have reportedly been infected with the corona virus, particularly those working in quarantine centers. The shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) is reportedly the primary cause. Overall, lack of testing, protection, and treatment supplies and insufficient infrastructure in quarantine and isolation centers and wrong perception amongst community members on risk and infection source of the virus is reportedly affecting the COVID-19 response efforts in most parts of the country.

On the other hand, low adherence to preventive measures was seen even amongst people with a good understanding of risks. A recent assessment by Ohio State University, Global One Health, & RESOLVE to Save Lives + Frontiers showed that 82 per cent of respondents were aware of the main symptoms, particularly fever and dry cough. In comparison, 96 per cent were aware of transmission mechanisms. However, mask-wearing practice is at 76 per cent, while the handwashing practice is as low as 26 per cent.

As of 18 August 2020, close to 159,557 people were affected by flooding in Afar, Oromia, SNNP, Amhara, Gambella, and Somali regions, of whom 133,576 were displaced. Houses were destroyed, livelihoods were lost, WaSH and other public infrastructures were damaged. Overall, floods during *kiremt* rainy season (June-September) are expected to affect more than 2 million people and displace 435,000 people. The National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC), in collaboration with humanitarian partners, is currently working on flood preparedness and operational response measures. The NDRMC has supported the regional governments to address the current displacement by providing food, NFI, boats, and helicopter in support of ongoing flood-response operations. Critical gaps identified include ES/NFIs, boats, and finances to cover the full operation. Based on the National Meteorology Agency (NMA) weather outlook, average and above-average rainfall is expected through August in the south-western, western, and central parts of the country.

The return of Ethiopian from abroad continues. According to IOM, Ethiopia received more than 25,500 returnees between 1 April and 13 August (6,173 from Djibouti, 5,982 from Somalia, 5,082 from Sudan, 3,162 from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), 1,060 from Kenya, 1,024 from Kuwait, 650 from Lebanon, and some more from other countries). At least 1,830 returnees are currently in quarantine centers. The Government, with support from IOM and other partners, is providing direct assistance to the returnees in quarantine facilities, including registration, food, water, NFIs, and onward transportation assistance.

According to the EAST AFRICA Food Security Alert (FEWS NET) report released on 13 August, food security across the Eastern Horn of Africa is likely to deteriorate in late 2020 due to below-average rainfall from October to December. Based on already high levels of acute food insecurity and the vulnerability of eastern Africa to crop failure and reduced livestock productivity during below-average rainfall seasons, food security outcomes will likely deteriorate through at least early 2021 in southern and southeastern Ethiopia. Two consecutive poor seasons would likely result in rapidly worsening acute food insecurity. Crop losses will reduce local food availability and contribute to rising food prices leading up to and after the January/February 2021 harvests. The reduction in labor income, combined with anticipated rising staple food prices is expected to limit household purchasing power. As a result, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are expected in southern and southeastern Ethiopia. Food assistance needs are already high, due to recurrent climatic shocks, the economic impact of COVID-19, and the desert locust upsurge, as well as long-term deterioration in macroeconomic conditions in Ethiopia. Although uncertainty exists for long-range seasonal forecasts, Government and humanitarian actors should plan for heightened food assistance needs through at least early 2021 and possibly through late 2021. Source: <https://bit.ly/32sh7kv>

According to FAO Desert Locust (DL) situation report published on 18 August, the forecast that the conducive climatic conditions (above-average rainfall) and the massive presence of DL in Yemen will lead to an increase of DL presence from September 2020 onwards, which is a threat to northeast Ethiopia. Similarly, the Inter-governmental Authority on

Development (IGAD), predicted that the rainy season (*kiremt*) will create favourable breeding conditions for the locust in Ethiopia, which calls for coordinated efforts to combat the pest from doing irreversible harm and spreading to other countries in the region. If not controlled on time, the country that is already food insecure will add millions more to those needing food assistance. Of a total US\$79 million DL crisis appeal in May 2020, FAO Ethiopia has only received \$47.3 million, of which \$30.9 million is for control operations and \$16.4 million for safeguarding livelihoods. FAO marked that the timing of funding is critical for both pillars of the appeal and any delay in scaling up field operations will likely lead to a further expansion of DL and deterioration in food security.

2020 HRP - FUNDING STATUS

Contributions by sector as per the updated 2020 HRP financial requirements (as of 3 August 2020)

In-country 2020 HRP Funding Update



| Sector/Cluster | Funding Received (in million US\$) | % Overall Covered | Requirements (in million US\$) |
|--|------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Food | 291.9 | 38% | 773.4 |
| Nutrition | 65.5 | 26% | 252.6 |
| Health | 15.1 | 8% | 195.0 |
| ESNFI | 5.0 | 5% | 105.4 |
| WASH | 14.2 | 15% | 95.5 |
| Agriculture | 5.9 | 8% | 73.7 |
| Logistics | 3.8 | 6% | 59.7 |
| Protection | 10.7 | 22% | 47.6 |
| Education | 2.8 | 8% | 35.4 |
| Coordination | 4.5 | 38% | 12.0 |
| Sector not specified | 39.8 | - | - |
| Multiple sectors (breakdown not specified) | 56.4 | - | - |

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 ON HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE – BY REGION

Afar, Amhara and Tigray regions

Situation Overview

- As of 22 August, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Afar region reached 798, Amhara 1,770, and Tigray 2,802.
- In the Tigray region, several health personnel are reportedly infected with coronavirus, mostly in quarantine centres (QCs). A shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) is allegedly attributed to the prevalence.
- COVID-19 cases are increasing at an alarming rate in Mekelle city and other zonal cities, through community transmission.
- On 12 August, Shire Endasilassie city (northwest zone) commenced door to door assessment and random testing in hotels, cafes, restaurants, and the like.
- Given the alarming community transmission, the regional COVID-19 taskforce enforced the use of face masks in public places in all parts of the Tigray region.
- The price of staple foods and goods are increasing. This due to the political tension, as well as the impact of COVID-19 in all the regions.
- In the Amhara region, COVID-19 cases have increased, especially in points of entry (PoEs) such as Metema in West Gondar and Bati in North Wello. The Regional Health Bureau reported a shortage of PPE to prevent and control the COVID-19 pandemic in the region.
- As of 13 August, the overflow of Awash River and flash floods affected 11 *woredas* in the Afar region.

Humanitarian Impact

- The Tigray communication bureau reported a critical shortage of necessary equipment to respond to COVID-19 infection and asked for support in this regard.
- Low community engagement may accelerate community transmission of COVID-19 in all the regions.
- At least 67,885 people were affected, and 40,731 people displaced as a result of the flooding in Afar.

Actions Taken

- The Catholic Church has supported the Adigrat quarantine center (Tigray) with equipment, believed to minimize its dire shortage of PPE.
- Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and IOM have provided NFI support to the Shire quarantine center (Tigray).
- NDRMC, in collaboration with Afar regional government, distributed emergency food assistance to flood-affected people in Gelalo and Koredura *kebeles*, Aysaita *woreda*.
- The Afar regional government, in collaboration with NDRMC and the Ethiopian Defense Forces (EDF), evacuated nearly 7,080 people by helicopter from Aysaita and Afambo *woredas* to safe locations within the *woredas*.
- Somali regional Government donated 566 quintals of rice, 300 cartons vegetable oil, 500 plastic sheets, 620 blankets, and 350 kg of wheat flour to flood-affected people in Afar.
- NDRMC, in collaboration with Afar regional government, has provided one round emergency food assistance for flood-affected people in the region.
- For the prevention of COVID-19, Afar WaSH sub-national Cluster submitted a request to support 98,000 IDPs.

Eastern Oromia, Dire Dawa, Harari, Somali region

Situation Overview

- As of 22 August, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Dire Dawa city administration reached 794, in Harari 787, and in Somali 982.
- In Qoloji IDP camps, 17 patients who tested positive for corona virus were isolated in the Jigjiga Isolation Centre; nine (9) patients are currently in quarantine, while eight (8) others are missing and being traced.
- High risk of COVID-19 spread has been identified in the congested IDP sites of Darso (Dolobay), 02 Kabele (Qoohle of Afder), Qoloji (Babile), 01 Kabele (Gashamo of Jarar), Mindeya (Goro Baqaqsa of Liban), Haruun (Guradamole of Liban), Bohol Hagare (Adadle of Shabelle, Asbuli (Erer of Siti), Fadhato and Hariso (Gablalu of Siti) of Somali region.
- On 12 August, the Somali regional Government officially launched the COVID-19 ComBAT campaign. The region has received the required supplies to implement the campaign on 10 and 17 August.
- At least 21 health professionals in Dire Dawa and 28 health professionals in the Harari region reportedly confirmed positive for COVID-19.
- Dire Dawa Health Bureau opened two new treatment centers (one for police and one for prisoners) in two selected high schools in the city. There are now four (4) treatment centers operating in the city.
- All the six *woredas* in the Harari region are reportedly identified as hotspots for the COVID-19.
- In the Harari region, over 300 new cases were confirmed positive from 9,185 samples tested. Due to the high turnout of confirmed cases and lack of space in isolation centers, 70 confirmed cases were advised for self-isolation.
- A massive test campaign has been started in East and West Hararge zones (Oromia) and the Harari region.
- In the East Hararge zone (Oromia), 40 new cases were confirmed positive from 2,043 samples tested. The total confirmed cases reached 115.
- In the West Hararge zone (Oromia), one new case was confirmed positive from 711 samples tested. Total confirmed cases reached 36.
- UNICEF will provide technical support on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) to humanitarian agencies working in IDP sites and refugee camps.
- Flash flood in Shabelle and Siti zones of the Somali region have affected people in Mustahil, Kalafo, Ferfer Tuliguled (150 households-HHs), Hadagale (73 HHs), Erer, and Gablalu (677 HHs).

Humanitarian Impact

- The absence of humanitarian partners in the Harari region is affecting the overall COVID-19 response efforts.
- A critical gap of resources reported in all the regions is affecting the response to the pandemic.
- COVID-19 has impacted businesses as well as the daily labor jobs in East and West Hararge, including the Harari region.
- The number of COVID-19 confirmed cases are increasing amongst health professionals.
- A total of 5,829 HHs are affected by flooding in the Shabelle and Siti zones of the Somali region, including 3,478 HHs displaced.

Actions Taken

- The Somali Region ECC, in collaboration with the federal government and partners, established an Incident Command Post (ICP) to respond to the pandemic.
- On 16 August, the Somali Regional Health Bureau (SRHB) started the implementation of the ComBAT campaign with a collection of 150 samples in Moyale woreda, which is under ranking-4, according to COVID-19 vulnerability analysis.
- UNICEF/Somali Regional Health Bureau is planning to provide WaSH NFIs to IDPs and health facilities serving IDPs in Qoloji, as well as training to 120 inter-agency standing committee (IASC) network members.
- UNICEF and the Islamic Affair Supreme Council are engaging with Muslim leaders and elders in Qoloji camps to raise awareness on the COVID-19 to enable a smooth and successful ComBAT campaign in these camps. UNICEF and the Islamic Affair Supreme Council have so far provided IEC materials in quarantine centre, distributed IEC materials in markets, major roads, in towns, and rural communities.
- The INGO Concern Worldwide is undertaking Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) targeting 23,818 people in Salahad and Lagahida *woredas* of Erer zone (Somali region). The activities include community awareness creation, distribution of IEC materials for health facilities, procurement and distribution of soaps, installation of hand washing materials.
- The INGO Mercy Corps is carrying out COVID-19 response activities, including surveillance, infection and preventive control, risk communication, and community engagement, in Ararso *woreda* of Jarar zone, Tuliguled, and Jijiga Town of Fafan zones, Somali region.
- Islamic Relief engaged in surveillance and contact tracing activities, provide IPC supplies to the health facilities and isolation centre, distributed IEC and COVID-19 awareness sessions in Jijiga, Somali region.
- The INGO Lutheran World Federation (LWF) provided handwashing facilities and health equipment to the health institutions and quarantine centres, including PPE kits and RCCE and IPC activities in the point of entry in Togwachale, Somali region.
- IOM is providing transportation supports, hot meals, distribution of IEC materials, and awareness-raising to the quarantine centres at Ayishia, Togwachale, Jijiga, and Moyale and PPE kits for 14 medical staff and 40 supportive staffs at the PoE and quarantine centers, Somali region.
- UNHCR established an isolation center in Kabribayah and Awbare Refugee camps (Somali region), where eight COVID-19 cases tested positive.

Southern Oromia, and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region (SNNPR)

Situation Overview

- As of 22 August, the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in SNNPR/SIDAMA reached 1,648.
- On 9 August, the SNNPR Deputy President launched the "ComBAT" campaign aimed to strengthen the COVID-19 case detection capacity of the region.
- In Guji and Bale zones (Oromia), the COVID-19 Task Force has resumed its coordination and other activities, including the promotion of and follow up on protective measures.
- In West Guji, COVID-19 centres (QCs, ICs, and TCs) are not adequately operational due to water, light, food, and PPE shortages, as well as lack of equipment and supplies, including for logistics (seven vehicles) for the zonal Health Department for testing, and monitoring and staff transport purposes.
- West Guji zonal EOC has still not been established reportedly due to the lack of office space (or rent) and equipment/supplies (necessary office supplies, printer, connectivity, etc.).
- In East Bale, there is no COVID-19 treatment centre, while community awareness is low (no risk communication and coordination, including limited PPE and food supplies in quarantine centres).
- In Guji, there is no operational test lab closer than the one in Adama (500 km away); PPE and COVID-19 awareness are limited. WaSH facilities, safe water, and food are unavailable in some QCs/ICs (compelling people to go into an unsupervised self-isolation).
- In Borena, border control remains loose, with limited door-to-door COVID-19 awareness-raising, community-based surveillance, and unenforced SoE regulations. Food (including hot meals) for QCs and TCs is insufficient. Water schemes maintenance is required, as well as COVID-19 budget for the running of TCs and other centres. Shelter/tents and water supply are urgently needed in Miyo QC.
- In West Arsi, limited coordination, PPE and community compliance with protective measures continue to affect counter-COVID-19 efforts; the absence of health extension workers or health service delivery staff from their duty stations (e.g. in Ganta Health Centre in Dodola *woreda*) add to the hardship.
- At least 15,424 people have been displaced in the ongoing floods across a few SNNP zones.

- In Silte zone, around 3,600 people were displaced by the floods in the *woredas* Silti (3,000) and East Silti (600).

Humanitarian impact

- In SNNPR, gaps in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic in the region have been identified in terms of logistics, capacity building, the standards of quarantine and isolation centers, expansion of laboratories, and improved strategies on Risk Communication and Community Engagement and support at PoEs.
- Continuous rainfall across Gedee, Guji, Bale, East Bale, and West Arsi has affected rural roads, blocking vehicles.

Actions Taken

- In Guji, the INGO GOAL Ethiopia delivered IPC training for 30 frontline health professionals in Liban, Gumi Eldelo, and Goro Dola.
- In Bale, GOAL Ethiopia delivered 3,000 surgical masks, 180 bottles of alcohol, and 16 infrared thermometers in Dello Menna, Medda Wellabu, and Arena Buluk *woredas*.
- SHARE Bale Consortium delivered ETB 4.5-million (~US\$125,000) worth of PPEs for COVID-19 prevention.
- Authorities received ETB 272,000 (~US\$7,550) to address COVID-19 in Berbera and Goro.
- Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus allocated ETB 1.2 million (~US\$33,340) to tackle COVID-19 in Medda Welabu *woreda*.
- The Federal / SNNP Regional DRMC delivered 86.9 tons of food (84.3 tons of food and 2.6 tons of oil), 438 pieces of plastic sheet, and one boat for the flood-affected population in South Omo.
- The Ministry of Women, Children, and Youth delivered ETB one million (~US\$27,785) worth of floor, corrugated iron sheets, foam, etc. in Shashamane town, Oromia.
- The INGO Save the Children International supported the measles campaign through covering DSA for 24 HWs; as well as mobilized 12,397 community members on COVID-19 prevention in five *woredas* of Bale and East Bale.

Western Oromia, Benishangul Gumuz (BGR) and Gambella regions

Situation Overview

- As of 22 August, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Gambella region reached 708 and 436 in BGR.
- According to the BGR Health Bureau, all the *woredas* have confirmed COVID-19 cases except Dibati, Bullen, Pawi, Bellojigonfof, and Dangur *woredas*.
- On 17 August, Gambella Health Bureau launched COVID-19 ComBAT campaign for voluntary-based testing aimed to strengthen the COVID-19 case detection capacity of the region.
- As of 17 August, in East Wellega zone (Oromia), a total of 190 COVID-19 cases were confirmed in Nekemte Town, Gida Ayana, Limu, Haro Limu, Ebentu, Kiremu, Guto Gida, and Diga *woredas*. Also, 17 peoples from West Shoa, 18 from Kellem Wellega, and 14 peoples from North Shoa were infected with the virus within a week. The majority of the recent cases reported in Nekemte Town are bank workers and bajaj drivers.
- The East Wellega zonal administration relaxed the restriction on public transport to Gida Ayana, Limu, Haro Limu and Ebentu *woredas* after setting an SOP and sensitization at *woreda* -level to control the spread of the disease.
- About 280 households have been displaced by floods in Shenkor *kebele* and 02 *kebele* of Meti Town.

Humanitarian impact

- Shortage of PPE for health staff, lack of essential drugs and equipment in isolation and treatment centres such as biohazard bags, mechanical ventilators, and oxygen in BGR, have been reported.

Actions Taken

- In the BGR, the RHB is engaged in community mobilization activities and raising awareness among people for proper usage of facemask and maintaining physical distance.
- World Vision Ethiopia (WVE) trained 22 health, education, and child services staff on COVID-19-related Child protection, including GBV and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.
- UNHCR donated 200 pieces of soap, 29 sleeping mats, 100 mosquito nets, 20 buckets, and 29 blankets to Kamashi zone Women and Children Affairs for 29 COVID-19 patients, including vulnerable women and children in Kamashi Town.
- UNHCR, in collaboration with West Wollega Zonal Women, Children and Youth Affairs, distributed 438 pieces of soap, 147 sleeping mats, 112 mosquito nets, 50 buckets, 147 blankets, 32 jerry cans, and 43 kitchen sets to secondarily displaced people (32 vulnerable households and 147 individuals) in Tole *kebele* (Gimbi *woreda*).

GENERAL COORDINATION

COVID-19 – National / regional response coordination

- At a Federal level, the COVID-19 response is coordinated by the ECC and is led by NDRMC Commissioner.
- After establishing the regional ECCs in Amhara and Somali regions as well as in Dire Dawa, the national ECC is planning to expand this coordination mechanism to the other areas.
- A detailed **list of contacts** of key Government counterparts and OCHA focal points, can be found in the following link: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/ethiopia/document/ethiopia-covid-19-humanitarian-response-coordination-5-may-2020-en>