



ETHIOPIA: COVID-19 Humanitarian impact Situation Update No. 15

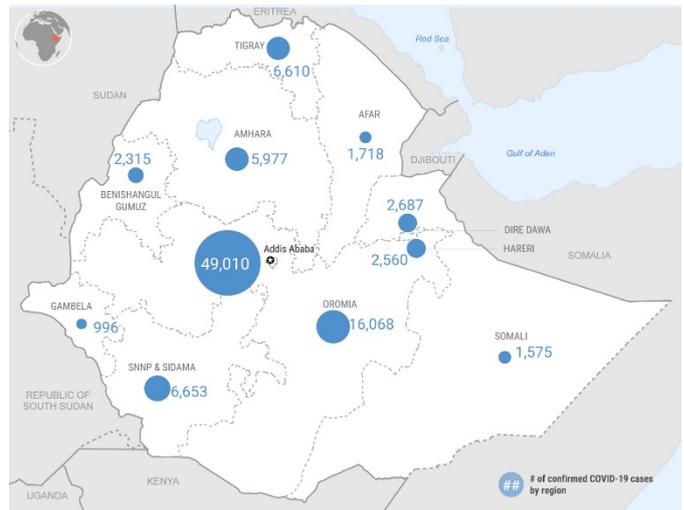
As of 31 October 2020



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 19 - 31 October 2020.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Ethiopia's cumulative COVID-19 cases reached 96,169, with over 1,469 deaths and 52,517 recoveries as of October 31 (of 1.4 million samples tested). There were 42,181 active cases as of the same day.
- According to the Attorney General's office statement, the Government will jail people for up to two years for not wearing face masks in public (although this is the very last resort should other constructive measures fail to bear fruit).
- On October 30, the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI) organized an orientation session on the revamped Government COVID-19 directive (also known as Directive No.30/2020) for relevant staff from NDRMC/Emergency Coordination Center (ECC), the Ministry of Peace, and WHO.
- The Ministry of Education (MOE) aims to distribute 50 million facemasks to 46,000 schools across the country in preparation for school reopening.
- Ethiopia's economy grew by only 6.1 per cent, which is lower than the 9 per cent growth projected in the fiscal year 2019-2020.
- In March, the closure of schools to stop the spread of COVID-19 led to a rise in child marriage, child labour, and gender-based violence.
- An estimated 6.7 million people are projected to be highly food insecure between October and December 2020, according to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report.
- Over 35,800 new migrants arrived from different countries between April 1 and October 13.
- As of October 31, \$3.37 billion (35.3 per cent) is mobilized against the \$12.89 billion global appeal for COVID-19 response.
- As of October 26, the Ethiopia 2020 humanitarian appeal is only 49.4 per cent funded, including \$187 million Government allocation. Of the total appeal, 374 million is for COVID-19-related multi-sector response.



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.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

As of October 31, Ethiopia reported 96,169 confirmed COVID-19 cases compared to 89,137 on October 18, still making it the fourth country in Africa with the highest number of cases, next to South Africa, Morocco and Egypt. The number of deaths has increased to 1,464 and the number of recoveries to 52,517. Cases have risen exponentially in the last two weeks, with Addis Ababa counting a total of 49,010 cases, followed by Oromia with 16,068 cases. The country has so far conducted 1,481,369 sample tests. (Source: MoH/ Ethiopia Public Health Institute, EPHI).

The National Emergency Coordination Center (NECC) in collaboration with relevant line ministries and humanitarian partners continue to support return migrants in Ethiopia by providing accommodation and transport to area of origin. In the last two weeks, around 1,940 return migrants arrived in the country.

Ethiopia, Africa's second-most populous country, declared a six-month State of Emergency (SoE) in April 2020 to curb the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, which expired and was lifted in September. However, preventive measures, such as physical distancing, mask-wearing, and handshaking remain forbidden. According to the Attorney General's

statement, the new law permits fines and imprisonment of up to two years (as a very last resort) and a fine ranging from ETB 1000 to 200,000 for anyone who breaks the restrictions. The Ministry of Health voiced concern that low-level adherence to COVID-19 preventive measures amongst the population, especially after lifting of the SoE, risks further community transmission.

To address the increasing laxity towards COVID-19 preventive measures among citizens and residents, especially after lifting of the SoE, the Government revamped the COVID-19 directive (also known as Directive No.30/2020). On October 30, the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI), the agency responsible for issuing such directives, organized an orientation session for relevant staff from the NDRMC/Emergency Coordination Center (ECC), the Ministry of Peace and WHO. The session aimed to not only shed light on the details and intentions of the directive but to also collect inputs from participants to enrich the document. The EPHI is planning to carry out similar orientation sessions for relevant stakeholders, including religious institutions. EPHI expects to address questions such as "what does the lifting of the SoE entail" and "why people should continue to adhere to WHO COVID-19 prevention guidelines."

According to School Improvement Program Director at the Ministry of Education, the closure of schools in March to stop the spread of COVID-19 led to a rise in child marriage, child labor, and gender-based violence. The Government has set up a network of committees to identify children forced into work or marriage during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to a national survey published in 2018, about 16 million children aged between 5 and 17 are engaged in child labor across Ethiopia, including about 60 million under 18. According to UNICEF, about 40 percent of girls are married before the age of 18, with 15 million child brides in Ethiopia, despite the Government's progress to tackle early marriage in recent years. (Source: <https://tmsnrt.rs/3kOMMnV>).

The Ministry of Education finalized its preparation to distribute 50 million face masks to 46,000 schools to resume classes in the Ethiopian academic year. This measure is aimed at combating the spread of the COVID-19 virus in schools. All schools, including higher education in Ethiopia, was interrupted due to the outbreak of COVID-19. The State Minister of Education Nebil Mehid said additional 500,000 face masks will also be provided to teachers throughout the country. (Source: <https://bit.ly/2TFik06>).

On October 19, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmad disclosed that in the fiscal year 2019-2020, Ethiopia's economy grew by only 6.1 per cent, less than the 9 per cent projected by the Ministry of Finance in June. According to the Prime Minister, the first eight months of the fiscal year registered progressive economic growth. However, COVID-19 affected the remaining four months of the financial year.

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. The new wave of desert locusts, exacerbated by economic hardships resulting from COVID-19 restrictions, and flood will likely amplify food insecurity unless urgent action is taken to assist the affected communities.

2020 HRP - FUNDING STATUS

Contributions by sector as per the updated 2020 HRP financial requirements (as of 31 October)

In-country 2020 HRP Funding Update



Sector/Cluster	Funding Received (in million US\$)	% Overall Covered	Requirements (in million US\$)
Food	549.0	92.5%	593.4
Nutrition	73.0	28.9%	252.6
Health	27.4	14.0%	195.0
WASH	20.5	19.9%	103.4
ESNFI	8.7	8.6%	101.1
Agriculture	5.9	7.9%	74.0
Protection	8.7	18.2%	47.6
Education	2.1	5.8%	35.2
Logistics	3.8	16.2%	23.4
Coordination	4.0	33.3%	12.0
Sector not specified	83.6	-	-
Multiple sectors (breakdown not specified)	73.0	-	-

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 October 31, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Afar region reached 1,718, Amhara 5,977, and Tigray 6,610.
- The Tigray regional government allows entry into the region on condition that one brings a certificate of negative RT PCR test done up to 186 hours (seven days) and self-quarantine at home for two days.
- In the Tigray region, grade 12 students resumed classes on October 19. The region has not received face masks from the Ministry of Education.

Humanitarian Impact

- In the Tigray region, the late delivery of face masks for schools may increase the risk COVID-19 transmission in schools.

Actions Taken

- The Tigray regional government, in collaboration with Mesebo Cement factory, purchased 3.4 million face masks worth ETB 2.8 million (~\$73,640) for distribution to schools to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Eastern Oromia, Dire Dawa, Harari, Somali region

Situation Overview

- As of October 31, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Dire Dawa city administration reached 2,687, Harari 2,50, and Somali region 1,575.
- Due to non-compliance with COVID-19 preventive measures like physical distancing, use of face mask and hand washing, the risk communication team scaled down community mobilization activities in the Somali region.
- Jijiga University has been closed for quarantine in preparation to resume classes at the University. The Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) is exploring options, through IOM, to construct an alternative temporary shelter for quarantine at Togwajale point of entry.

Humanitarian Impact

- Togwajale returnees currently have no place for quarantine/shelter.

Actions Taken

- WHO and Somali Regional Health Bureau (RHB) have planned to boost risk communication, case management, and fundraising in the region.
- RACIDA (regional NGO) supported 1000 households with COVID-19 materials in Mubarak and Hudet *woredas* of Daawa zone, Somali region.

Southern Oromia, Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' region (SNNPR) and Sidama region

Situation Overview

- As of October 31, the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in SNNPR reached 3,670 and Sidama 2,983.
- In the West Guji zone, the community continues to disregard prevention measures despite intensive sensitization/awareness-raising campaigns.
- In the Borena zone (Oromia), 177 COVID-19 cases have been reported in the zone. No new cases were reported in the past two weeks, and quarantine centres are empty due to lack of resources.
- In the Bale zone (Oromia), a total of 308 COVID-19 cases have been reported. The number of East Bale cases is unknown as the testing and case follow-up are completely neglected in the zone, due to lack of resources and general perceptions.
- In the SNNP region, a high number of COVID-19 cases are found in Wolayita, Gamo, Gedeo, Guraghe, and South Omo zones that contributed with 64.5 per cent of the total caseload (Wolayita zone contributed with 27 per cent).
- The exponential rise of cases of COVID-19 in the Wolayita zone, including other hazards (cholera, malnutrition, and flood) and poor adherence to public health interventions by the public, are major challenges.

- In the Sidama region, most COVID-19 cases are found in Hawassa Town, Boricha, Hawassa Zuria, and Aleta Chuko *woredas*.

Humanitarian impact

- In Western Oromia, partners are not reporting their COVID-19 and related activities to the zonal health cluster focal point, affecting overall coordination in preventing and addressing COVID-19.

Actions Taken

- In the West Guji zone, IOM provided training on COVID-19 for 17 health workers in Dugda Dawa *woreda*.
- In the West Guji zone, MCMDO (NGO) provided training on COVID-19 for 12 health workers in Kercha Hospital (six) and Bule Hora Town (six).
- IOM, MCMDO, and GOAL are conducting social mobilization on COVID-19 preventive measures to reach out to 31,550 people in all returnee *West Guji zone woredas*.
- IOM conducted health promotion activities targeting 1,821 individuals in six sites of Kercha *woreda* (West Guji zone), with a primary focus on COVID-19, environmental, and personal hygiene.
- WHO, MCMDO and ZHD trained 12 health workers on COVID-19 case management and surveillance in Kercha and Bule Hora *woredas* (West Guji zone).
- In the West Arsi zone, IRC conducted COVID-19 screening and health education for 304 people at Nansebo *woreda*. Besides, IRC targeted 3,404 people with COVID-19 awareness and prevention activities in Dodola *woreda*. It also supported health facilities in COVID-19 screening and transportation of supplies for around 3,000 people in Dodola and Nansebo *woredas*.
- In the Bale zone, IRC conducted WaSH and COVID-19-related orientation for 37 (19 females and 18 males) community hygiene volunteers, health extension workers, *kebele* chairman, and managers at Sammu, Sara, Haragobana, and Tullu IDP sites of Medda Welabu *woreda*.
- USAID-Transform allocated ETB 1.5 million (~\$39,450) to support integrated COVID-19 and essential health services in six zones and nine *woredas* in SNNP; as well as ETB 450,000 (~\$311,835) for infection prevention/hand sanitizer, scrub suit, heavy-duty glove, apron, and liquid soap in relation to COVID-19 and essential service response.
- UNICEF transferred \$722,479 to the SNNP Regional Water Bureau (RWB) for flood, COVID-19 and cholera response.

Western Oromia, Benishangul Gumuz (BGR), and Gambella regions

Situation Overview

- As of October 31, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Gambella and BGR regions reached 996 and 2,315 respectively.
- In Gambella, classes resumed on October 19 in 257 schools, while 86 schools damaged by the flood in Nuer, Agnuak, and Itang special *woreda* may take time to re-open.

Humanitarian impact

- According to the BGR Health Bureau, the spread of COVID-19 has increased due to the community's unwillingness to follow the COVID-19 safety measures, as they believe that the pandemic does not exist.

Actions Taken

- World Vision donated medical items worth ETB 1 million (~\$39,450) to Benishangul Gumuz Health Bureau.

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 Afar, Amhara, Somali, SNNP and Dire Dawa, the national ECC is planning to expand this coordination mechanism to other regions.
- 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>