

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Some 7.8 million people continue to seek humanitarian assistance in the remainder of 2019
- Somali region seeks nearly US\$9 million to respond to the needs of more than 27,000 households affected by recent flooding

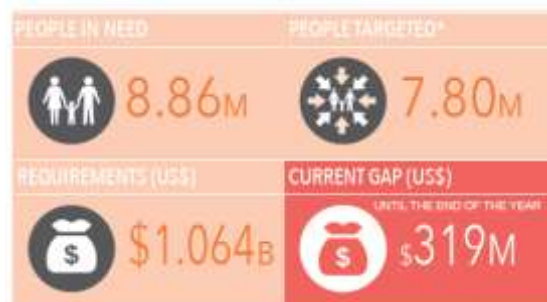


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## Some 7.8 million people continue to seek humanitarian assistance in the remainder of 2019: MYR

The Mid-Year Review (MYR) of the Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for 2019 indicates 7.8 million people will continue requiring humanitarian assistance until the remainder of the year. The needs require a total of US\$1.064 billion, out of which the outstanding net requirements to address identified non-food needs for the remainder of the year is US\$319 million. The Government and humanitarian partners have been dealing with the triple challenges of drought impact in the eastern and south eastern parts of the country, localized flooding and the still significant humanitarian and recovery needs of IDPs, returnees and host communities. However, increased engagement and support is required from the Government and international humanitarian actors to address the gaps in the prioritized needs identified through the MYR exercise.



In terms of response, from January-June, a total of 7.9 million people have received assistance through at least one type of humanitarian intervention. Out of these people reached, 4.5 million people have received at least one type of non-food assistance; which corresponds to 62 per cent of the original target.

## Somali region flood response plan seeks some ETB253 million (≈US\$8.6 million)

Heavy *Deyr/meher* rainfall in most parts of Somali region and *kiremt* rains in the highlands of Oromia region caused flooding due to the overflow of Genale and Wabi Shebelle rivers and related tributaries. So far, 18 *woredas*/districts in 7 zones have been affected by floods according to reports from the region, Shabele, Afder and Liban being the most flood-prone zones in the region. The recent flooding affected a total of 27,356 households, displaced some 16,660 households, washed away a total of 11,337 hectares of standing crops (maize,

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- Desert locust swarms continue to threaten lives and livelihoods, mainly in Afar and Somali regions

sorghum) and killed a total of 6,172 livestock heads consisting of camel, shoats and donkeys.

The affected *woredas* include Babile in Fafan zone, Kalafo, Mustaxil, Adadle, East Emay and Fer-fer in Shabele zone, Lasdenkeyre in Qorahay zone, Elweyne in Nogob zone, Charati in Afdher zone and Dollo Ado in Liban zone.

Based on initial reports from zones and *woredas*, the regional Disaster Risk Management Bureau (DRMB) has been responding to the needs of affected communities since the onset of the flooding. So far, the DRMB distributed some 600 quintals of rice, 600 quintals of maize, 500 partial NFIs for 500 households and 20 bundles of clothes. However, the DRMB could not cover all the needs of the affected population as these surpass the resources available. Reports from rapid multi-agency flood assessment, particularly in Shabelle, indicated a very critical situation in Mustahil where the number of affected people is increasing daily and the situation is getting dire.

Meanwhile at least 22 people were killed in a landslide in Konta district, Dawro Zone, SNNPR, after heavy rains pounded the area on 13 October. The heavy rains that resulted in waves of mud destroyed five homes, killing residents and animals. Local officials fear more incidents will happen if the rains continue and asked the federal and state governments to intervene. A landslide triggered by heavy rains killed five family members last month in the same area. Reports from the Amhara region also indicated hailstorms and landslide damaged planted crops in Efrata, Asagirt, Tarama Ber, Mida Oromo, Ambasel, Andabet, Enemay and Achefer *woredas*. In Gozamin *woreda*, a landslide damaged 415 hectares of crops, some 120 houses and social infrastructures, including one school and one church.



Figure 1 Landslide incidence in Konta district

## Continuing desert locust swarms threatens people's lives and livelihoods in affected areas

Survey and control of desert locust hopper bands and swarms by the Food and Agriculture Agency (FAO) indicated that a total area of 28,800 hectares of land was invaded by desert locust swarms between August and September of which 17,400 was intercepted and 10,616 was controlled. In 2014 desert locust had limited breeding sites in Somali region whereas in 2019 the breeding sites expanded to Afar. The locust swarms that will leave these breeding sites could cause incalculable vegetation loss (forest, pasture and crops). Moreover, the breeding sites are adjacent to the major crop-producing regions of Eastern Ethiopia (Amhara, Oromia, Tigray and, Somali). Thus, the swarms will have serious implications on food and livestock feed security. The most severely desert locust affected areas in Somali region is Dollo zone particularly Galadi district. It was affected by swarms that came from Buro areas of neighboring Somali land. The areas thus far affected are rangeland around the purely pastoral areas. The locust expansion can have devastating implications to livestock feed both in terms of pasture and browse as the areas have received good rainfall since October and every place is green.



Figure 2 Desert locust in Gashamo Woreda of Somali region. Photo Credit: FAO

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Agriculture said it is taking preventive measures to control desert locust within and outside of Afar and Somali regions and called for stakeholders to collaborate to end the threat posed by the swarms. Although the desert locust, which migrated from Somalia and Yemen, has been spotted across different parts of Ethiopia, mainly in parts of Afar, Amhara, Somali, Tigray, Oromia, and Dire Dawa, the locust has currently retreated to Afar and Somali regional states due to the unfavorable rains in Amhara, Tigray, Oromia and Dire Dawa according to Mr. Belay

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- Growing food insecurity reported in some lowland areas of Amhara region.
- Partners agree on a roadmap to a collective action on Accountability to Affected Populations

Fentanew, Plant Protection Acting Team Leader at the Ministry. The Ministry has reportedly sprayed about 2,693 liters of chemicals to control the locust, which covers 42 *woredas* in the Afar and Somali regions. According to FAO, the grasshopper has produced hopper bands that covered more than 174 square kilometers and are consuming approximately 87,000 metric tons of green vegetation every day. It is estimated that about 30 million hoppers can land on one-kilometer square area. For more on this: <https://bit.ly/31pVOOf>

## Call for strong partnerships to end malnutrition in Ethiopia: World Food Day

As World Food Day was marked in Ethiopia, stakeholders called for stronger partnerships in fighting malnutrition and promoting healthy diets. Speaking at the event that was held at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) campus in Addis Ababa, Dr. Eyasu Abraha, Senior Advisor to the Minister of Agriculture called upon stakeholders to "work together to combat all forms of malnutrition and create a healthy and wealthy population." Dr. Abraha said increasing agricultural production and productivity and reducing post-harvest losses were some of the priorities of the government of Ethiopia, intended to address food insecurity and malnutrition. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Director-General, Qu Dongyu said, "Farmers, governments, researchers, the private sector and consumers, "all have a role to play in making healthy and sustainable diets accessible and affordable to everyone." For more on World Food Day: <https://bit.ly/2MjXoMK>

Meanwhile, the Addis Ababa City Administration started providing free meals for 300,000 students at state-run junior schools in Addis Ababa since October 2019. The school feeding scheme is believed to help students from dropping out of school.

## Growing food insecurity reported in some areas of Amhara region

Reports from the Amhara region indicate that food insecurity is growing in some lowland areas of Wag Himra, North Wollo, North Gondar and Central Gondar zones, following consecutive localized poor performance of rainy seasons in the identified areas of the region. Livestock deaths and unseasonal livestock migration are also reported. The Amhara Regional Government has requested the support from the federal Disaster Risk Management Commission to assist some 126,000 people in affected districts. A response plan is currently being drafted by the region.

## Partners agree on a roadmap to a collective action on Accountability to Affected Populations

On 16 October 2019, the Inter-Agency Accountability Working Group (IAAWG) together with support from OCHA Ethiopia organized a full day workshop on Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP). While concluding the workshop, participants agreed on a common understanding of areas of added value of collective action in the humanitarian response as well as on a roadmap for collective action on Accountability to Affected Communities (AAP) for the overall Ethiopian humanitarian response. A total number of 40 participants from INGOs and UN agencies with staff from both the field and country offices attended. The participants contributed to the discussion with a wide range of areas of expertise, including protection and migration, gender, children's rights and health.

It was concluded that in providing humanitarian assistance, the principle of accountability to affected population needs to be in the forefront and guide the response. It was, therefore, agreed that it is essential that the people affected by crises are included in decision-making, their voices are heard and their ideas taken into account. It is of equal importance to enable the communities to provide feedback and incorporate it in future assistance. If communities themselves are involved in the process, we increase the chance that the response is relevant, timely, effective and efficient.

## Government and partners celebrate IDDR Day

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- “As we celebrate this year’s IDDR, many Ethiopians continue to face the impacts of climate change and conflict-induced mass displacement, and other extreme weather events,” said Commissioner of NDRMC.
- Alemitu Jabo hoped to reunite with her husband whom she missed when she together with her children suddenly ran out from Elfarda *kebele* to Kercha town. Unfortunately, they have not met again since then and she never heard anything about him.

The International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) was celebrated for the 10<sup>th</sup> time in Ethiopia with the presence of Government officials and the international humanitarian community on 14 October 2019. The theme for this year was centered around “Building to Last”. Marking the day aimed to continue creating awareness to each and every citizen in the country and encourage them to take part in reducing disaster risk and building disaster resilient communities. “As we celebrate this year’s IDDR, many Ethiopians continue to face the impacts of climate change and conflict-induced



Figure 3 Participants of IDDR workshop. Photo Credit: NDRMC

displacement, and other extreme weather events,” said Ato Mitiku Kassa, Commissioner of the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC). On his video message, the UN Secretary General, Mr. António Guterres said, “In the coming decade, the world will invest trillions of dollars in new housing, schools, hospitals and infrastructure. Climate resilience and disaster risk reduction must be central to this investment. There is a strong economic case for such steps: making infrastructure more climate-resilient can have a benefit-cost ratio of about six to one. For every dollar invested, six dollars can be saved.”

## The story of Alemitu Jabo, an IDP in Chitu *kebele*

Alemitu Jabo, 35, had to be displaced two times from Kercha *woreda*, Elfarda *kebele* of West Guji zone. During the first displacement, her husband and their 6 children were altogether and they returned to their place of origin because the situation had calmed down. However, the conflict erupted again in Elfarda *kebele* forcing ethnic Gedeos to flee to Kercha town. This time, Alemitu fled with the children, but her husband was not with them because he was out



Figure 4 Alemitu who shelters at the FTC in Chitu *kebele* has never heard about the whereabouts of her husband since the time of displacement

working in one of the farms. She had hoped to find him in Kercha town. Unfortunately, they have not met again since then and she never heard anything about him. She thinks he might have been killed in the bushes on the way to Kercha. Alemitu was pregnant when she fled Elfarda and gave birth to her 7<sup>th</sup> child in an IDP setting in Chito. She does not want to return to her place of origin because the *kebele* officials have destroyed her coffee and false banana trees and have already built a health center on her farmland. She said she did not receive any assistance since February 2019. Out of the 7 children, three of them do daily labor in Chito to support her. The remaining four sit with her in the *kebele* Farmers Training Center (FTC). One the children in particular looks malnourished.

## Humanitarian funding update, as of 01 October 2019

The 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan of US\$1.3 billion was 62.8 per cent funded as of 01 October 2019, including \$537 million in international donor funding and \$288 million in Government of Ethiopia funding.

Looking at the sector funding breakdown, the food sector is the highest funded (93 per cent), also because the Government of Ethiopia funding went entirely to the food sector. The other critical, life-saving sectors remain highly underfunded, least of which is the health sector (7 per cent).

The Mid-Year-Review of the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) presents a funding requirement amounting to US\$319 million to address identified non-food needs for the remainder of the year.



### By Sector (US\$)

Sector/Cluster	% Covered	Funding Received	Requirements
Food	93%	555.9M	600.3M
Nutrition	58%	117.8M	202.9M
Health	7%	10.5M	143.0M
WASH	17%	22.3M	133.7M
ES/NFI	13%	14.5M	112.2M
Agriculture	16%	10.2M	63.3M
Education	19%	8.3M	44.6M
Protection	59%	7.9M	13.4M
Sector not specified	-	34.9M	-
Multiple Sectors (break down not specified)	-	42.1M	-

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