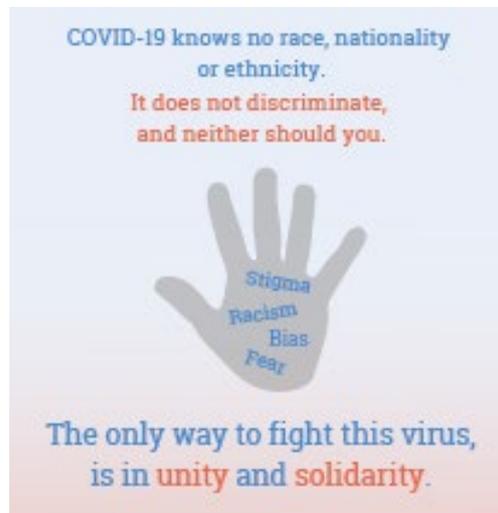


HIGHLIGHTS

- Ethiopia records 141,453 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 125,531 recoveries, and 2,145 deaths as of 6 February
- There is high uncertainty in Tigray Region given that no surveillance activities have been carried out since 4 November 2020



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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

COVID-19 - Ethiopia updates

COVID-19 cases surpass 140,000 in Ethiopia as tests near 2 million

As of 6 February, Ethiopia has recorded 141,453 COVID-19 cases nationwide, with 125,531 recoveries (88.7 per cent recovery rate), 13,775 active cases and 2,145 deaths. From the 6,002 RT-PCR tests conducted on 4 February, 974 new confirmed COVID-19 cases were registered, a record high in 2021. A total 318,450 contacts have been registered, of which 290,325 completed the mandatory 14 days follow up and were discharged. Currently, 1,180 contacts are under follow up of which 1,150 were traced today, yielding a follow up rate of 97.3 per cent. Ethiopia still has the fourth highest number of COVID-19 cases in Africa, after South Africa, Morocco, and Egypt.

75.2 per cent of the cumulative 141,453 COVID-19 cases nationwide have been reported in Addis Ababa and Oromia Regions, with Addis Ababa accounting for nearly 55 per cent of the active COVID-19 cases. There is high uncertainty in Tigray Region given that no surveillance activities have been carried out since 4 November 2020, the point at which the Region recorded hundreds of active cases. The lack of prevention measures put IDPs and refugees living in overcrowded settings and humanitarian aid workers at heightened risk of contracting and spreading the disease. COVID-19 quarantine, isolation, treatment and testing facilities are closed or not fully operational due to the lack of essential resources and support. There is a need for more resources for the COVID-19 prevention and coordinated response to contain the spread of the virus.

Tigray conflict updates

The security situation in Tigray remains concerning and unpredictable, with continued reports of sporadic fighting, including violence against civilians, in most parts of the Region. The situation is particularly volatile in rural areas to which a large number of people are believed to have fled.

Access remains particularly limited in remote and rural areas. Humanitarian partners have not been able to have full access to the Central, Eastern, North Western, South and South Eastern parts of the Region. An inter-agency meeting conducted in Shire on 1 February

HIGHLIGHTS

- Despite progress in food response with a cumulative 1.8 million people reached in Tigray as of 4 February, the humanitarian response, particularly the nonfood response, remains drastically inadequate compared to the dire needs on the ground.
- WFP accepted requests from the Government to provide emergency food relief assistance to up to 1 million people, as well as launching a BSF intervention to assist up to 875,000 nutritionally vulnerable children and pregnant and lactating mothers
- The Government of Ethiopia is reportedly working to restore peace and security in Metekel Zone of Benishangul Gumuz Region (BGR) to return around 180,000 people who have been displaced within and outside the Zone.
- Desert locust invasions in Afar, Amhara, Oromia, Somali, Sidama and SNNP Regions continue to devastate crops and pasture, with a particular increase of swarm movement observed in Oromia (East Harerge, Bale, Borema, Arsi) and SNNP (South Omo) in recent weeks.

highlighted an alarming situation with partners denied access to the northwestern *woredas* and *kebeles*, including Sheraro.

Despite limited progress in food response with a cumulative 1.8 million people reached as of 4 February, the humanitarian response particularly on non-food items, remains drastically inadequate compared to the dire needs on the ground. On the Government response, the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) has reportedly reached 1,443,595 people with food aid, while Joint Emergency Operation Programme (JEOP) reached 366,923 people.

Following engagements with the Government, the World Food Programme (WFP), on 6 February, accepted requests from the Government to provide emergency food relief assistance to up to 1 million people as well as launching a blanket supplementary feeding intervention to assist up to 875,000 nutritionally vulnerable children and pregnant and lactating mothers. Regarding logistics support, WFP has agreed to augment the transportation capacity of the Government and partners to deliver humanitarian assistance into and within Tigray, especially in rural areas.

Government prepares to return more than 180,000 IDPs in Metekel zone if security allows

The Government of Ethiopia is reportedly working to restore peace and security in Metekel Zone of Benishangul Gumuz Region (BGR) to return people who have been displaced within and outside the Zone. More than 180,000 people remain displaced due to escalating inter-communal conflict involving unidentified armed groups (UAGs), with 70 per cent of the IDPs displaced in the last two months. Interviews with IDPs who have fled to other Regions reveal an extremely distressing situation, with indiscriminate killings of civilians on ethnic grounds. Approximately 75,000 IDPs crossed into Awi Zone of Amhara Region, and many took shelter in Changi Ranch collective site. The federal Government is working with Amhara and Benishangul Gumuz regional Governments and the Command Post in Metekel to facilitate the return of IDPs should the security situation improve. The return process will also involve peace and reconciliation activities with communities in Metekel Zone.

The security situation, however, remains highly volatile, restricting humanitarian space and preventing the urgent scale up of response. Ongoing insecurity in Bulen *woreda*, for example, prevented a UNSS-led Security Risk Assessment in Metekel (14-27 January) from covering the *woreda*, which hosts about half the new IDPs in the Zone. Of further concern, the *woredas* with the highest security risks currently host the highest number of IDPs: 49,000 in Bulen, 33,000 in Dibate, and 15,000 in Wenbera.

Since the escalation of violence in July 2020, the regional Government and humanitarian partners have been providing limited life-saving assistance, including food and partial NFIs. Huge gaps, however, remain. In addition to the tense security situation complicating humanitarian access, the regional DRMC reported logistics challenges in transporting items from Assosa (BGR) into Metekel Zone.

Desert locust threatens food security across five affected Regions

Desert locust invasions in Afar, Amhara, Oromia, Somali, Sidama and SNNP Regions continue to devastate crops and pasture, with a particular increase of swarm movement observed in Oromia (East Harerge, Bale, Borema, Arsi) and SNNP (South Omo) in recent weeks.

The Agricultural Task Force of Somali Region recently released a report highlighting that 88 out of the 93 *woredas* in the Somali Region have been affected by desert locust infestations. New generation of swarms has been observed in Doolo, Jarar, Shabelle, and Korahe Zones while mature swarms continue to be present across the Region. The infestation also affected crops and pasture in Fafan and Siti Zones. The FAO response teams found that 458,000 hectares of the 1.3 million hectares surveyed have been affected by the infestation and 264,000 hectares have been treated.

HIGHLIGHTS

- “The perpetrators caught us in Korka kebele, Daleti village and started attacking us. They horribly slaughtered three of my granddaughters in front of our eyes. I had no power to save them,” said Mohammed.
- “It was extremely challenging for me to continue the journey with my two remaining granddaughters, aged 5-10, and my daughter who is pregnant and reach to a safe place.”
- Mohammed and his family who are living in a traumatic situation and they seem not to overcome it soon. They seek immediate and sustainable support in Menta Whuha as they never have any intention of going back to their places of origin.”

Oromia is the second most affected Region by desert locust infestation. In particular, East and West Hararge Zones have been hit by four rounds of infestations since the 2019 *Belg* season, while a new generation of immature swarms has been reported in 19 of 20 *woredas* in East Hararge and 14 of 15 *woredas* in West Hararge in December 2020. Such developments have severely exacerbated the food security and livelihood situation in the area, to the extent that communities report having no seeds to sow in the upcoming *Belg* and *Meher* seasons. 173,684 households in East Hararge urgently need 23,000 quintals of emergency seeds in the upcoming *Belg* season, while 130,578 households in West Hararge are in need of 17,000 quintals. Moreover, 6,361 households across the 60 *kebeles* in priority 1 *woredas* of Bale Zone urgently need emergency seed assistance, as well as the 6,000 affected households in 23 *kebeles* across 4 *woredas* of Guzi Zone.

In the Afar Region, desert locust infestations have affected over 210,000 hectares across 18 *woredas* in three zones, of which 90,000 hectares have been controlled.

In SNNPR, locust infestations were reported in South Omo, Gofa, Konso, and Gamo Zones as well as Ale and Derashe special *woredas*, affecting around 8,000 hectares of crop and grazing land.

Similarly, desert locust affected 54 *kebeles* in 12 *woredas* of Sidama Region, although significant damages on crops and grazing lands have not yet been reported, according to the regional DRMC.

The plight of IDPs in Menta Whuha Town, Awi Zone, Amhara Region

OCHA Ethiopia team spoke to members of the displaced community during its mission [on 06 February] to assess the situation of IDPs in Menta Wuha Town, Gwangwa *Woreda*, Awi Zone, Amhara Region. Among the more than 75,000 people displaced Metekel Zone of Benishangul Gumuz Region to different *woredas* of Awi Zone, Gwangwa *Woreda* hosts more than 20,000 IDPs, with majority of them in Menta Wuha Town.

The IDPs in Menta Wuha Town are displaced mainly from Dibate and Bulen *Woredas* of Metekel Zone and are currently living within the host community either with relatives or renting houses.

Mohammed, 65, is one those IDPs who witnesses the horrific experiences of ethnic-based killings in Metekel. Mohammed

remembers how peacefully he used to live with his daughter and her families in Albasa *kebele*, Dibate *woreda* before the violence.

“When the attack happened back in November 2020, we were out in the field. We started to flee our area hoping to escape the attack. However, the perpetrators caught us in Korka *kebele*, Daleti village and started attacking us. They horribly slaughtered three of my granddaughters [11-16 years of age] in front of our eyes. I had no power to save them,” said Mohammed.



Figure 1 Ranch IDP site, Chagni, Awi Zone. Photo Credit: OCHA

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Ethiopia 2020 humanitarian appeal is 64.1 per cent funded, including \$187 million Government allocation and \$735 million by the international community
- The \$116.5 million plan targeting 2.3 million people in Tigray, Amhara and Afar with life-saving assistance between November 2020 and January 2021 is 65 per cent funded, leaving an outstanding gap of almost \$40.3 million, as of 25 January.

Mohammed added, “I thought they would finish all of us any time. It was extremely challenging for me to continue the journey with my two remaining granddaughters, aged 5-10, and my daughter who is pregnant, and to reach a safe place.” What made the matter worse was the fact his son-in-law decided to remain in Galesa Town, Dibate *woreda*, losing any hope of survival.

Mohammed and his family are living in a traumatic state, and they wonder if they will ever overcome it. They seek immediate and sustainable support in Menta Whuha as they have no intention to ever go back to their places of origin.

Support to IDPs in Awi Zone remain very low and need urgent attention by the Government and the humanitarian community.

HRP Funding Update

The Ethiopia 2020 humanitarian appeal is 64.1 per cent funded as of 19 January, including \$187 million (13 per cent) Government allocation and \$735 million (51.1 per cent) by the international community. Additional needs due to increased conflicts and community violence are currently stressing the clusters’ pipelines. Multiple clusters are facing pipeline breaks, which will have dire consequences for people in need of assistance and protection.

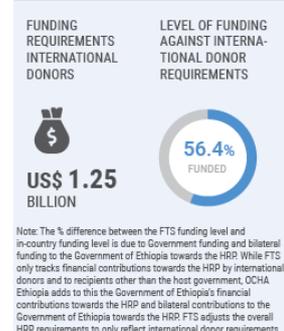
Meanwhile, resource mobilization around the Humanitarian Preparedness Plan (HRP) in response to the conflict in Tigray Region is ongoing, while partners are moving forward with its implementation with available resources. The \$116.5 million plan targeting nearly 2 million people in Tigray, Amhara and Afar with life-saving assistance between November 2020 and January 2021 is now 65 per cent funded, leaving an outstanding gap of almost \$40.3 million as of 25 January 2021.

The Northern Response Plan and the annual Ethiopian Humanitarian Response Plan will be merged in 2021.

In-country 2020 HRP Funding Update



HRP Funding Update as per FTS



Sector/Cluster	Funding Received (in million US\$)	% Overall Covered	Requirements (in million US\$)
Food	581.1	97.9%	593.4
Nutrition	101.8	40.3%	252.6
Health	33.4	17.2%	195.0
WASH	30.4	29.4%	103.4
ESNFI	10.0	9.8%	101.1
Agriculture	5.9	7.9%	74.0
Protection	11.7	24.7%	47.6
Education	2.6	7.4%	35.2
Logistics	3.8	16.2%	23.4
Coordination	4.0	33.3%	12.0
Sector not specified	64.9	-	-
Multiple sectors (breakdown not specified)	72.5	-	-

FOOD
97.9%
\$12.3M Unmet requirements

NON-FOOD SECTORS
40.4%
\$503.4M Unmet requirements

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