

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Government and partners are finalizing the result of a nationwide assessment to gauge the impact of desert locust infestations on livelihoods and food security. At least 173 *woredas* across seven out of the nine regions of Ethiopia have been affected by desert locust since the infestation began in late 2019, causing significant threat to food security.
- NDRMC is planning to activate an emergency coordination center for the desert locust response and will support the Ministry of Agriculture to set up emergency operation centers at national and regional levels.



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Preliminary findings of a desert locust impact assessment reveal significant impact on livelihood and food security

The Government and partners are finalizing the result of a nationwide assessment to gauge the impact of desert locust infestations on livelihoods and food security. At least 173 *woredas* across seven out of the nine regions of Ethiopia have been affected by desert locust since the infestation began in late 2019, causing significant threat to food security. Out of the affected *woredas*, the assessment targeted 1,600 households in 64 *kebeles* across 32 *woredas* in Afar, Amhara, Oromia, SNNP, Somali and Tigray regions, as well as Dire Dawa City Administration.

In addition to understanding the challenges that crop producers and animal keepers have experienced due to desert locust infestation, the assessment result will help estimate additional humanitarian needs in both food and non-food sectors. Final results of the assessment is expected to be released by mid-March 2020.

Preliminary findings indicate decreased food availability at household level. The findings also indicate low market supply of food items and subsequent increase in market price compared to the same time last year. Livestock sales have increased to generate additional income to buy food and supplementary animal feed. At the same time, livestock body conditions have deteriorated, and livestock price have declined, negatively affecting the terms of trade. More specifically, the price of cereal has increased by an estimated 50 per cent as of February



Figure 1 The spread of desert locust in Ethiopia. Source: FAO

FIGURES

	People in need	People targeted
Food/Non-food	8.4 M	7 M
SAM	544K	444K
MAM	3.9 M	3.1 M
IDPs	1.01M	1.01M
Returnees	1.78 M	1.78 M

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

US\$1.001 billion

Requirement for 2020 Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Plan

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- Hundreds of thousands of people recently displaced due to insecurity in Guji, West Guji and West Wollega zones of Oromia region are left without adequate assistance for several months. IDPs who remain at the Millennium Park, Dire Dawa City Council, are also facing a similar situation.

2020 compared to the same time last year. Meanwhile, the price of livestock (both camels and shoats) have dropped by slightly more than 30 per cent during the same period.

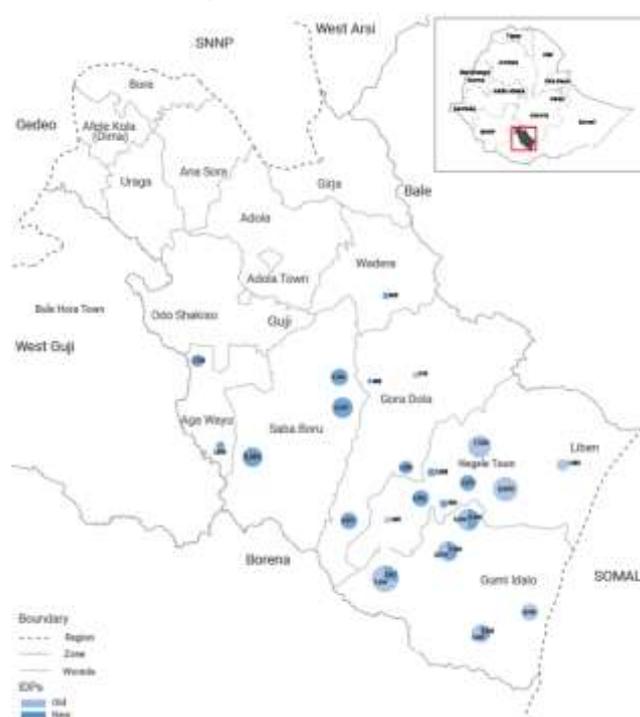
Affected households require food assistance for sustenance between March and July. Ministry of Agriculture requested partners support to respond to critical gaps in livestock feed, crop seeds, forage seeds, livestock restocking, and vaccination and treatment.

Meanwhile, the National Disaster Risk Management Commission is planning to activate an emergency coordination center for the desert locust response and will support the Ministry of Agriculture to set up emergency operation centers at national and regional levels. The financial requirements for the desert locust response, which includes control measures, livelihood interventions, and coordination has increased from the initial estimate of US\$6 million in January 2020 to \$51.5 million in February due to an upsurge of infested areas and damages caused.

Insecurity and lack of assistance leave IDPs in Guji, West Guji and West Wollega in limbo

Some 200,000 IDPs in Guji, West Guji and West Wollega zones of Oromia region are left without adequate assistance for several months due to insecurity. About 3,000 IDPs who remain at the Millennium Park, Dire Dawa City Council, are also facing a similar situation.

Situation in Guji zone



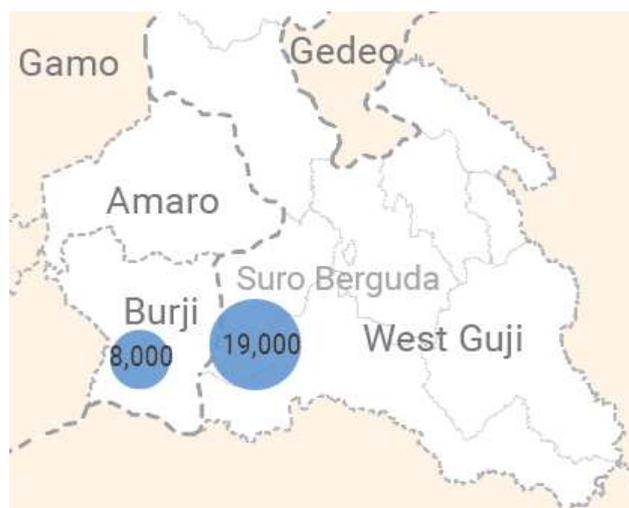
More than 120,000 displaced people remain without adequate assistance due to limited partner presence and security-related access constraints in some localities of Guji zone. Oromia region had requested federal government support to distribute relief food for 80,000 IDPs. Food distribution started on 7 March 2020 following the deployment response and verification teams on the ground. A recently completed response matrix for Guji zone identified non-food gaps at a value of US\$11.2 million. OCHA has been flagging the gaps in response at the inter-cluster coordination and EHCT forums and is exploring possible funding mechanisms to allow partners to scale up the response. Eight

partners are currently operational in the area, and additional partners expressed plans to step in. Protection concerns are also increasingly being reported with heightened insecurity. In Aga Wayu, Gumi Eldelo and Seba Boro *woredas*, some 38,000 IDPs remain inaccessible, and some other 17,000 IDPs are partially inaccessible due to security concerns.

Situation in West Guji zone

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- The Deputy City Manager of Dire Dawa reiterated to a joint OCHA-World Bank mission that the IDPs in the Millennium Park will not be evicted from the park before sustainable solutions are found.



For the past three years, communities in Suro Berguda *woreda* have clashed with Amaro and Burji communities (SNNP region) over water and land resources. A year ago, an estimated 27,000 people were displaced in Suro Berguda (19,000) and Amaro/Burji (8,000) *woredas*. The IDPs live in a deplorable condition in 14 spontaneous sites. An inter-agency assessment conducted between 11-12 February 2020 identified critical humanitarian and protection concerns, particularly in accessing basic services, including WaSH,

health and shelter response. The INGO World Vision Ethiopia is the only partner present and assisting HRP beneficiaries in the area.

Situation in West Wollega

The critical humanitarian challenge in West Wollega zone is lack of access to IDPs due to the lingering insecurity in the area where more than 50 per cent of the *kebeles* are not accessible and communication (phone, internet) has been interrupted for the past two months. The last food assistance to the IDPs was distributed in October 2019 and most partners have suspended activities and have withdrawn staff due to the security challenge. Only one INGO, ACF, is currently present in the zone.

Situation in Millennium Park, Dire Dawa

Some 3,048 IDPs are still sheltering at the Millennium Park in Dire Dawa, but assistance remains limited and intermittent. A joint OCHA-World Bank mission on 9 March discussed with the Dire Dawa City Council on ensuring sustainable solutions for the IDPs. The Deputy City Manager said the City Council is working with Somali regional authorities for sustainable solutions for the IDPs and reiterated that the IDPs will not be evicted from the park until a solution is put in place. He also told the mission that the attempt to relocate the IDPs to the neighboring Youth Recreation Center was cancelled because the IDPs rejected the suggestion due to lack of basic services and limited space in the new site. The City Council Disaster Risk Management Office on its part expressed concerns over gaps in humanitarian assistance for the IDPs and requested scaled-up support from the federal Government and humanitarian partners. Meanwhile, the City Council will finalize a durable solution plan for the IDPs and share the final document with the World Bank.

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- At the Member States briefing in Geneva on 28 February, Ethiopia calls for continued humanitarian support and scaled-up durable solutions for IDPs
- The European Union (EU) has launched a €26 million decentralized risk management project that aims to strengthen households, communities and local authorities to manage and adapt to disasters and risks. The four years' project will be implemented in Oromia, Amhara, SNNP, and Somali regional states and will help consolidate the capacity of regions in preventing disasters.

Ethiopia calls for continued humanitarian support and a scaled-up durable solutions for IDPs at Member States briefing in Geneva

On 28 February 2020, Ethiopia's National Disaster Risk Management Commission Commissioner, Mitiku Kassa and the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Ethiopia, Dr. Catherine Sozi, provided an overview of the humanitarian situation in Ethiopia to the Permanent and Observer Missions to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva. The briefing was made in the context of the recently launched 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan.

Speaking on behalf of the international humanitarian community in Ethiopia, Dr. Sozi highlighted the complex humanitarian landscape in the country, as well as possible future threats that risk to further aggravate the humanitarian situation if not soon controlled, including the unprecedented desert locust infestation and possible pre-and post-election tensions.

"7 million Ethiopians are in acute need and are targeted for life-saving multi-sector assistance in 2020 at a cost of \$1 billion.

81 percent are women and children. At least 81 implementing partners in Ethiopia stand ready to scale up operations if backed by adequate and timely funding," Dr. Sozi stated.

"Ethiopia has for decades been grappling with recurrent drought and seasonal flooding, the frequency and intensity of which have been gradually increasing. Since late 2017, the country has also been dealing with the unfortunate consequences of inter-community conflict," Commissioner Mitiku noted. While the immediate focus of the Government of Ethiopia is to provide life-saving multi-sector humanitarian support to people in need, Commissioner Mitiku highlighted Ethiopia's commitment to reduce the vulnerability of Ethiopians and to turn them into resilient communities able to withstand shocks.

"The vast majority of displaced people who have either returned to their homestead or resettled elsewhere require recovery and rehabilitation support, conflict-affected areas require grass root peace building initiatives, and recurrently drought-affected communities require sustainable water solution and livelihood support. These communities are unlikely to achieve food self-sufficiency in the immediate future without sustained recovery and resilience building investment," he added.



Figure 2 Ethiopia delegation at the MS briefing, 28 Feb. 2020 Geneva. Photo Credit: OCHA

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- Tsegay was only eight years old when he was taken together with his family from his drought-hit hometown in Tigray region to Kelem Wollega zone of Oromia region during the Government resettlement program in 1985. He was since called Kelem Wollega home and lived there for 37 years, until one fateful night on 10 December 2019 when armed men attacked his community
- Tsegay said, “I don’t expect the situation in West Wollega to resolve any time soon, so we have no hope of returning to our home in the near future.” Tsegay urged Government and humanitarian organizations to support him and his family with food, shelter and NFI, as well as support them with restarting their livelihoods.

The plight of Tsegay and his mother as an IDP in Alamata, Tigray region

Tsegay was only eight years old when he was taken together with his family from his drought-hit hometown in Tigray region to Kelem Wollega zone of Oromia region during the Government resettlement program in 1985. He was since called Kelem Wollega home and lived there for 37 years, until one fateful night on 10 December 2019 when armed men attacked his community.

“The armed groups broke into my house and dragged me out. The perpetrators started beating me and demanded to give them all that I possessed at gunpoint,” says Tsegay. He gave them the money he had in his pocket and his mobile phone. Shootings broke out, at which point Tsegay ran for his life, leaving his house and belongings behind. He was luckily enough to have reached the Ethiopian defense forces’ camp and survived. Surviving family members later joined him.

The family had temporarily taken refuge in a church called Cherkos for a week, then traveled to Tigray Alamata in the second week of January 2020 to take the donation collected by church members in the area.

Unable to return home due to continued insecurity and threat, he traveled to Addis Ababa with his 40 nuclear and extended family members, again with the help of the host community

Tsegay and his family are currently living in a partially constructed building site, without adequate food and other basic support. The *woreda* office and host community have provided them with cereals and partial NFI supplies. Tsegay said, “I don’t expect the situation in West Wollega to resolve any time soon, so we have no hope of returning to our home in the near future.” Tsegay urged Government and humanitarian organizations to support him and his family with food, shelter and NFI, as well as support them with restarting their livelihoods.





ETHIOPIA

Overview of funding towards the Humanitarian Response Plan

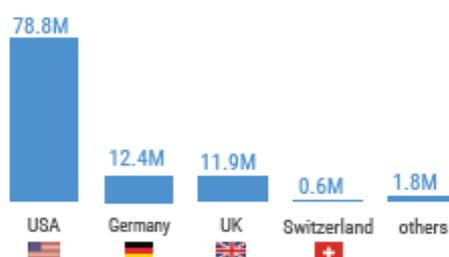
As of 25 February 2020

In-country 2020 HRP Funding Update

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS	FUNDING RECEIVED		LEVEL OF FUNDING	UNMET REQUIREMENTS
HRP	International Donors	Government of Ethiopia		
 US\$ 1.001 BILLION	 US\$ 105.6 Million		 10.5%	 US\$895.6
As per FTS				
US\$ 1.001 BILLION	US\$ 105.6 Million		10.5 %	US\$ 895.6

Sector/Cluster	Funding Received	% Covered	Requirements	Food
Food	 83.2M	21%	399.5M	 21% US\$ 316.3M Unmet requirements
Nutrition	-	0%	193.4	
ES/NFI	-	0%	95.8	Non-food sectors  4% US\$ 579.3M Unmet requirements
Health	1.3M	1%	94.3M	
WASH	5.9M	7%	79.7M	
Agriculture	0.4M	1%	54.0M	
Protection	-	0%	42.4M	
Education	-	0%	30.0M	
Coordination	0.6M	5%	12.0M	
Sector not specified	12.6M	-	-	
Multiple sectors (breakdown not specified)	1.7M	-	-	

Funding provided by donor



All data is provided by the Financial Tracking System (FTS): <https://fts.unocha.org>, which records all humanitarian contributions, (cash, in-kind, multilateral and bilateral) to emergencies. FTS reflects funding flows received against HRP as reported by donors and/or partners.

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