

# Ethiopia – Complex Emergency

MARCH 19, 2024

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<p><b>3.5</b> MILLION</p> <p>Number of IDPs in Ethiopia</p> <p><i>IOM – September 2023</i></p>	<p><b>970,299</b></p> <p>Refugees and Asylum-Seekers in Ethiopia</p> <p><i>UN – January 2024</i></p>	<p><b>21.4</b> MILLION</p> <p>People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance</p> <p><i>UN – February 2024</i></p>	<p><b>5.6</b> MILLION</p> <p>People Targeted for Drought Response</p> <p><i>UN – December 2023</i></p>	<p><b>1.5</b> MILLION</p> <p>People Affected by Seasonal Flooding since October</p> <p><i>UN – December 2023</i></p>
--	--	--	--	--

- The 2024 Ethiopia HRP requests \$3.2 billion to meet the humanitarian needs of approximately 15.5 million targeted individuals across the country.
- USAID/BHA AtA Sonali Korde announced \$80 million in additional funding for the humanitarian response in Ethiopia, supporting the delivery of agriculture, nutrition, and protection assistance.
- Health actors recorded 526 cholera-associated deaths and nearly 38,000 suspected cholera cases across 11 regions in Ethiopia between August 2022 and March 17, 2024, amid limited WASH services.



## TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the Ethiopia Response in FY 2024

USAID/BHA<sup>1</sup> \$88,861,753

*For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 6*

**Total \$88,861,753**

<sup>1</sup> USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### 2024 Ethiopia HRP Requests \$3.2 Billion to Reach 15.5 Million People

The UN released its 2024 Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) on February 26, requesting \$3.2 billion in humanitarian assistance funding to assist 15.5 million people across the country out of the estimated 21.4 million total people in need. Climatic shocks, conflict, and disease outbreaks continue to drive displacement, humanitarian needs, and protection concerns in Ethiopia, as well as limit access to health care services, livelihoods, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities. The number of people targeted to receive humanitarian assistance in the 2024 HRP represents a nearly 40 percent decrease compared to the 2023 HRP, which requested nearly \$4 billion to reach 24.5 million people. In 2024, the HRP prioritizes agriculture, food, health, protection, and WASH assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees, as well as non-displaced populations affected by conflict, drought, and floods. Ethiopia's Oromia, Amhara, and Tigray regions contain the greatest number of people in need of assistance in 2024, including approximately 6.6 million, 4.9 million, and 3.4 million people in each region, respectively, according to the UN.

### USG Announces Additional \$80 Million in Humanitarian Assistance for Ethiopia

USAID/BHA Assistant to the Administrator Sonali Korde announced \$80 million in additional funding to assist people affected by the humanitarian crisis in Ethiopia during a March 13–16 visit to Ethiopia. This additional funding will support USAID/BHA partners providing life-saving agriculture, nutrition, and protection assistance countrywide. In particular, USAID/BHA's funding to WFP will support NGO partners treating and preventing acute forms of malnutrition for more than 1.5 million children ages five years and younger and more than 600,000 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) during FY 2024.

### Drought to Contribute to Acute Food Insecurity Through May in Northern Ethiopia

Households in northern Ethiopia's Afar, Amhara, and Tigray regions are projected to face Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity through May, as the current El Niño-driven drought—which has been inclusive of one below-average rainy season in the area—continues to disrupt livelihoods, generate crop and livestock losses, and limit populations' access to food, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).<sup>2</sup> Low food stocks resulting from the below-average October-to-early January *meher* harvest and above-average staple food prices are restricting household income and purchasing power. In Afar, where livestock is a key food and income source, low livestock herd sizes and poor livestock health due to effects of the drought, have forced affected communities to resort to harmful coping mechanisms, including displacement, to meet basic needs, according to the UN. While FEWS NET forecasts above-average February-to-June *belg* rains may slightly improve food security outcomes in some areas—providing temporary relief to drought-affected communities—it will take many years to restore livestock resources to pre-drought levels, the UN reports. Furthermore, ongoing conflict and limited access to seeds and fertilizers are also primary factors contributing to food insecurity in these regions. In response to urgent food needs among affected communities, USAID/BHA partners continue to scale up emergency food assistance. USAID/BHA partners provided food assistance to approximately 1.4 million people in Tigray, 349,000 people in Amhara, and 58,600 people in Afar

<sup>2</sup> The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a multi-partner initiative that developed a standardized scale to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries and time, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5—for acute food insecurity. IPC Phase 5 is referred to as “Catastrophe” when classifying a household and “Famine” when classifying an area. Famine conditions occur when at least 20 percent of the population in a given area face an extreme lack of food; the Global Acute Malnutrition prevalence, measured by weight-for-height z-score, exceeds 30 percent; and the mortality rate exceeds two people per 10,000 individuals per day.

between mid-January and mid-February.

The UN Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin Griffiths allocated \$17 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) on February 22 to support the UN's response to drought and food insecurity in northern Ethiopia. The allocation will support affected communities with food, nutrition, and WASH assistance.

### **Cholera Outbreak Results in Nearly 38,000 Suspected Cases Amid Poor WASH Conditions Across Ethiopia**

Since the nationwide cholera outbreak began on August 16, 2022, the Government of Ethiopia (GoE)'s Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI) and USAID/BHA partner the UN World Health Organization (WHO) have recorded 526 cholera-associated deaths and nearly 38,000 suspected cholera cases as of mid-March. The total includes 77 associated deaths and approximately 6,800 new cases in 2024. Nearly 12,000 of the suspected cases during the outbreak—nearly 33 percent—occurred in Oromia, followed by the Somali Region with 9,600 cases and the South Ethiopia Regional State with 7,000 cases, according to EPHI. Health actors attribute the ongoing cholera outbreak to insufficient WASH facilities and poor hygiene practices; more than 80 percent of people living in cholera-affected districts lack access to safe drinking water due to recurrent climatic shocks and conflict, making cholera cases likely to recur and difficult to control, the UN reports. Moreover, high rates of malaria and malnutrition continue to persist across the country, increasing people's vulnerability to cholera infection, according to the UN.

Amid the rising health needs, limited funding, access constraints, and insecurity in Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, Tigray, and Oromia regions often pose an impediment to ongoing cholera response efforts. Conflict-related damage to health facilities and the reduced availability of skilled health workers are also likely leading to response gaps in affected areas, the UN reports. Despite the challenges to cholera response in Ethiopia, the EPHI and WHO deployed eight rapid response teams to six cholera-affected regions to support local health facilities in early February. In addition, USAID/BHA partner the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) supported the delivery of nearly 913,000 doses of cholera vaccinations in mid-February.

### **Insecurity in Amhara Impedes Aid Operations in January and February**

Armed clashes between the Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) and the Fano militia in Amhara continued to hinder the ability of humanitarian actors to deliver relief commodities and implement lifesaving interventions in Amhara as of mid-February, exacerbating new and existing needs. The UN categorizes most of the region as partially accessible or hard-to-reach, with roadblocks and road closures limiting vehicles movements to and within the region, particularly within the Gojam, Gondar, and Wello zones, as of late February. Additionally, a region-wide internet and mobile data blockage since the GoE's state of emergency came into effect in August 2023 has slowed response efforts, particularly humanitarian information sharing, according to the UN. While USAID/BHA partners are providing critical emergency assistance to conflict-affected populations in Amhara, the scale of reach has been limited by persistent access and security challenges.

## KEY FIGURES



### 2.3 Million

People reached by USAID/BHA-funded emergency food assistance from January to mid-February



### 16

USAID/BHA partners providing health services to populations in Ethiopia



### \$76.2 Million

In dedicated USAID/BHA support for nutrition programming in FY 2024



### 15

USAID/BHA partners providing protection services to populations in Ethiopia

## U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

### FOOD SECURITY

To address acute food insecurity in Ethiopia, USAID/BHA supports the UN World Food Program (WFP) and two international nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to provide emergency food assistance—including U.S.-sourced peas, vegetable oil, and wheat—to populations in greatest need. USAID/BHA partners also provide cash transfers to food-insecure households, enabling them to purchase food from local markets where available. Since resuming food distributions in early December, USAID/BHA partners continue to scale up life-saving food assistance, including in Afar, Amhara, Oromia, Somali, Tigray.

### HEALTH

USAID/BHA supports 16 NGOs and four UN agencies providing critical health care services—often integrated with nutrition and WASH programming—in Ethiopia by providing life-saving medical supplies and medicines, supporting mobile health units, and training community health care workers to address urgent health needs. USAID/BHA partners also support integrated mobile health and nutrition teams (MHNTs), which provide critically needed health and nutrition services to remote and hard-to-reach areas. MHNTs serve an essential function in areas where most health facilities have been damaged during conflict and ongoing insecurity continues to impede crisis-affected populations' access to health services.

### NUTRITION

USAID/BHA partners are leading efforts to prevent and treat wasting—the deadliest form of malnutrition—across Ethiopia. Working with 15 NGOs and four UN agencies, USAID/BHA supports community-centered and evidence-based programs aimed at decreasing malnutrition-related illnesses and mortality. USAID/BHA partners help strengthen prevention efforts, as well as the identify and treat wasting, particularly among children and PLW. USAID/BHA nutrition partners in Ethiopia implement life-saving nutrition services within local health systems and integrate nutrition assistance with food security, health, livelihood, and WASH interventions to prevent excess mortality and improve resilience among conflict- and drought-affected households. U.S. Department of State (State/PRM) also supports two implementing partners providing nutrition programming for refugees in Gambela and Afar.

### PROTECTION

While partners integrate protection considerations into all USAID/BHA- and State/PRM-supported activities, USAID/BHA is also funding 15 implementing partners responding to conflict-, drought-, and flood-

generated protection needs across Ethiopia. Partners are expanding gender-based violence (GBV) case management support, training social workers and community-based case workers, and providing dignity kits containing items to address the specific needs of women and girls to GBV survivors. Partners are also providing mental health and psychosocial support services to conflict-affected communities. In addition, State/PRM supports implementing partners in Ethiopia to provide protection services to IDPs and refugees.



9

USAID/BHA partners providing shelter and settlements support in Ethiopia

## SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

USAID/BHA continues to support crisis-affected populations in Ethiopia with emergency shelter assistance through nine implementing partners. With USAID/BHA funding, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) provides construction, maintenance, and repair assistance for emergency shelters at IDP sites, as well as site management capacity building and emergency shelter kits. Partners are also distributing relief commodity kits—which include bed mats, blankets, and wash basins—to recently displaced individuals. In addition, State/PRM supports the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to provide shelter assistance to IDPs and refugees.



**\$1.4 Million**

In dedicated USAID/BHA support for WASH programming in FY 2024

## WASH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM support WASH programming across Ethiopia to prevent and respond to communicable disease outbreaks and to avert illness-related acute malnutrition in children and mothers. USAID/BHA supports IOM, UNICEF, and 26 NGO partners providing critical WASH assistance in Ethiopia, including conducting hygiene awareness-raising sessions, providing safe drinking water to people in need, and rehabilitating water systems destroyed by conflict. USAID/BHA partners are also training local health workers to prevent and treat suspected cholera cases in their communities.

## CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Populations across Ethiopia struggle with the confluence of recurring climatic shocks, persistent conflict, widespread food insecurity, and reduced access to livelihoods. These ongoing challenges contribute to sustained humanitarian needs.
- USAID/BHA continues to respond to acute needs resulting from persistent dry weather in parts of Ethiopia, with five consecutive seasons of poor rainfall between 2020 and 2022 in southern lowland parts of the country leading to severe drought. Critical water shortages in drought-affected areas have significantly undermined food security, livelihoods, and livestock conditions. Moreover, El Niño-induced heavy rainfall and associated flooding in late 2023 have destroyed critical infrastructure, displaced households, heightened the risk of waterborne disease transmission, and led to the loss of livelihoods.

- Intercommunal conflicts in Ethiopia have exacerbated humanitarian needs, generated displacement, and impeded humanitarian access since 2018. Lingering conflict in northern parts of Ethiopia stems from the after effects of fighting between the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) and the ENDF in several locations across Tigray from 2020 to 2022 that later expanded to neighboring Afar and Amhara. On November 2, 2022, GoE and TPLF officials signed the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA)—as well as a follow-up agreement on November 12, 2022—outlining steps for establishing unfettered humanitarian access to Tigray by air and road. Security conditions in northern Ethiopia have improved following CoHA and follow-up agreement, allowing for the resumption of robust humanitarian assistance operations across Afar, Amhara, and Tigray. However, armed group activity continues to restrict access in some areas, such as in Amhara, where clashes between the ENDF and Fano militia have been ongoing since August, and Oromia, where the Oromo Liberation Army continues to clash with the ENDF and Fano militia.
- Sustained life-saving assistance and interventions aimed at building resilience are critical to help conflict-affected households meet their basic needs and rebuild assets.
- On October 20, 2023, U.S. Ambassador Ervin J. Massinga renewed the declaration of humanitarian need (DHN) for Ethiopia for FY 2024 to assist vulnerable populations adversely affected by armed conflict and climatic shocks, including ongoing drought and flooding.

### USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE ETHIOPIA RESPONSE IN FY 2024<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
Center for Victims of Torture (CVT)	Protection	Tigray	\$2,000,000
iMMAP	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA), Humanitarian Policy, Studies, Analysis, or Applications	Amhara, Oromia, Sidama, Tigray	\$1,500,000
International Potato Center (IPC)	Agriculture	Tigray	\$2,000,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
UN Development Program (UNDP)	HCIMA	Addis Ababa, Amhara, Tigray	\$999,914
Vétérinaires Sans Frontières/Germany (VSF/G)	Agriculture, Multipurpose Cash Assistance, WASH	Afar	\$3,000,000
WFP	Nutrition	Countrywide	\$76,181,398
	Program Support		\$180,441
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE ETHIOPIA RESPONSE IN FY 2024</b>			<b>\$88,861,753</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of March 16, 2024.

## PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [interaction.org](https://www.interaction.org).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed, often in the affected region; reduce the burden on scarce resources, such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space; can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [cidi.org](https://www.cidi.org)
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://www.reliefweb.int).

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)