

# Ethiopia – Complex Emergency

MAY 9, 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>972,835</b></p> <p>Refugees and Asylum-Seekers in Ethiopia</p> <p><i>UN – April 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>2.7</b> MILLION</p> <p>People Likely Affected by Floods in May 2024</p> <p><i>UN – April 24</i></p>
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- During an international donor conference on April 16 in Geneva, Switzerland, the USG pledged nearly \$154 million in additional funding for the humanitarian response in Ethiopia.
- Climate-related shocks as a result of El Niño continue to exacerbate multi-sector humanitarian needs and affected millions of people in Amhara’s Region’s Gondar and Oromo zones, as well as in central Ethiopia.
- Armed clashes continue to drive displacement in Amhara, Oromia, and Tigray regions and impede humanitarian relief operations.



<b>TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING</b>	USAID/BHA <sup>1</sup>	\$200,548,699
For the Ethiopia Response in FY 2024	State/PRM <sup>2</sup>	\$19,430,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$219,978,699</b>

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

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

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### USG Pledges \$154 Million in Humanitarian Assistance for the Ethiopia Humanitarian Response

On April 16, during a donor conference in Geneva, USAID Deputy Administrator Isobel Coleman pledged nearly \$154 million in additional funding for the humanitarian response in Ethiopia to address urgent needs resulting from climate shocks, conflict, and insecurity. This assistance includes more than \$134 million through USAID/BHA and more than \$19 million through State/PRM; with this pledge, the USG has provided nearly \$220 million in humanitarian assistance to support the Ethiopia response, and is planning an additional \$22.9 million in aid, bringing total U.S. Government (USG) humanitarian assistance to \$243 million thus far in FY 2024. This funding will support interventions targeting a portion of the more than 21 million individuals who require urgent assistance in Ethiopia, including an estimated 3.5 million internally displaced people (IDPs). The El Niño-induced drought, compounded by additional challenges such as delays in planting, has exacerbated humanitarian needs in Ethiopia, particularly in the northern highlands, affecting millions of people and their livestock. The USG remains the largest humanitarian donor to Ethiopia, providing more than 60 percent of the total funding contributions to the 2024 Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) as of April 22, according to the UN. Nevertheless, the 2024 Ethiopia HRP faces significant funding shortfalls, having received approximately \$287 million—just 9 percent—of the total \$3.2 billion required for the year as of the same date.

### FEWS NET Forecasts Emergency and Crisis Levels of Food Insecurity From May to September

Ethiopia faces a third consecutive year of increasing food needs, with populations in the central, eastern, northern, and southern parts of the country projected to experience Emergency—IPC 4—and Crisis—IPC 3—levels of acute food insecurity from May to September, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).<sup>3</sup> Populations in western Afar, northeastern Amhara, and Tigray regions face the greatest risk of Crisis or worse conditions, with planned levels of food assistance unlikely to overcome the scale of need, FEWS NET reports. Depleted food stocks following a below-average October-to-January *meher* harvest, high food prices, and limited livelihood opportunities due to years of conflict have resulted in increased dependence on food assistance and social support mechanisms—such as the Government of Ethiopia’s (GoE) Productive Safety Net Program, remittances, and assistance from community members—in these regions. Notably, the conflict in Tigray between 2020 and 2022 decimated agricultural production in the region, resulting in 81 percent of smallholder farmers losing their crops, 48 percent of farmers losing farm tools, reduced land utilization for vegetable production, and the damage or destruction of at least 10 percent of irrigation infrastructure, according to the World Vegetable Center. High levels of acute food insecurity are also projected in the southern and southeastern pastoral areas of Oromia and Somali regions, where the droughts between 2020 and 2023 decimated livestock herds, and flooding in late 2023 hindered pastoralists’ ability to recover, according to FEWS NET. Despite projected moderate improvements in food security in these regions from June to September following a favorable *gu* rainy season in early 2024, displaced persons and other extremely vulnerable populations will likely continue to face Emergency outcomes due to limited access to food production and livelihood opportunities. However, USAID’s resumption of food assistance since December 2023 has mitigated the risk of increased hunger-related mortality, FEWS NET reports.

To address food needs, USAID/BHA partners the UN World Food Program (WFP) and Catholic-Relief

<sup>3</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.

Services (CRS)-led Joint Emergency Operation (JEOP) continue to distribute monthly general food assistance, reaching more than 2.1 million people in Afar, Amhara, Oromia, Somali, and Tigray in March. In addition, WFP reached nearly 9,000 Sudanese refugees arriving in Amhara's Awlala, Kumer, and Metema areas during March. Since January, WFP has provided general food assistance to more than 30,000 Sudanese individuals arriving through the Kurmuk transit center in Ethiopia's Benishangul-Gumuz Region.

## **Recurrent Climate Shocks Drive Multi-Sector Needs in Ethiopia**

Flooding and drought-like conditions resulting from the El Niño phenomenon have exacerbated multi-sector humanitarian needs and affected millions of people in Amhara's Gondar and Oromo zones and the Central Ethiopian Region (CER)—one of the three regions comprising the former Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples Region—in 2024, according to the UN. In Oromo, an estimated 245,000 people require food assistance due to drought-like conditions, while access to clean water is limited after climate-related shocks damaged more than 40 water supply systems as of April. Meanwhile, approximately 34,200 children ages five years and younger and nearly 34,500 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) in Gondar affected by the ongoing El Niño drought were acutely malnourished as of February, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Of the nearly 63,000 children ages five years and younger screened for malnutrition in Central Gondar's East Belesa, Kinfaz, and West Belesa *woredas*, or districts, approximately 18,000 children were experiencing moderate acute malnutrition and nearly 1,700 children were experiencing severe acute malnutrition as of February. In CER, more than 49,000 people, including IDPs, are in need of emergency food assistance in the first half of 2024, UNHCR reports.

## **Conflict Drives Displacement, Impedes Humanitarian Assistance Delivery in Parts of Amhara, Oromia, and Tigray**

Hostilities between armed actors in Amhara, Oromia, and Tigray continued to drive displacement and humanitarian needs and hindered the ability of humanitarian actors to deliver life-saving assistance in April, according to the UN. In Tigray's Southern Zone, clashes between Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) and Amhara local militias in the Chercher, Raya Alamata, and Raya Bala *woredas*, as well as in Korem town, on April 13 and 14 displaced populations to nearby areas and prompted the Ethiopia National Defense Force (ENDF) to intervene and de-escalate, according to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project. Displaced individuals likely require urgent humanitarian assistance, according to relief actors. These clashes were the first in Southern Zone since November of 2022, when the Pretoria Agreement, or Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA), was signed by the GoE and the TPLF. Both the GoE and President of the Interim Regional Administration of Tigray Getachew Reda have denounced these violent clashes and called for all sides to respect the Pretoria Agreement. Additionally, in Amhara, home to approximately 670,000 IDPs, clashes continued in April between the ENDF and Fano militias in Awi, Central Gondar, North Shewa, South Gondar, and West Gojam zones, according to the UN. The ENDF similarly engaged in armed conflict with the Oromia Liberation Army in Oromia's East Wollega and Shewa zones during the month.

While the UN categorizes most of Oromia and Tigray as accessible with minimal security risks for humanitarian partners as of March 18, parts of both regions are considered hard-to-reach. In Oromia, the town of Shambu is designated as partially accessible while its surrounding areas to the northeast and northwest are hard-to-reach. The northern border between Tigray and Eritrea is also considered hard-to-reach while humanitarian operations west of the Tekeze River near the town of Humer may face some restriction of movement. Amhara is predominately classified as partially accessible or hard-to-reach, indicating aid workers may face potential delays or cancellations in relief operations due to

violence and risks of being detained, relocated, or threatened.

## KEY FIGURES



**2.2 Million**

People reached with USAID/BHA-funded emergency food assistance in March.



**17**

USAID/BHA partners providing health services to populations in Ethiopia



**\$115 Million**

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

## U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

### FOOD SECURITY

To address acute food insecurity in Ethiopia, USAID/BHA supports WFP and two international nongovernmental organizations (INGOs) 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, and Tigray.

### HEALTH

USAID/BHA supports 17 NGOs and four UN agencies providing critical health care services—often integrated with nutrition and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) activities—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 where 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. State/PRM also supports two implementing partners providing targeted nutrition services for refugees suffering from malnutrition, as well as ante and post-natal maternal care in Afar and Gambela regions.



15

USAID/BHA partners providing protection services to populations in Ethiopia

## 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 UNHCR to provide shelter assistance to IDPs and refugees.



**\$4.8 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, the UN Children's Fund (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 aftereffects of fighting between the 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 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 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>1,2,3</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
Action Against Hunger/USA (AAH/USA)	Agriculture, Health, Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA), Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Benishangul-Gumuz, Oromia, Somali	\$6,000,000
CRS	Agriculture; Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food; Local, Regional, and International Procurement; Nutrition; WASH	Countrywide	\$48,489,159
	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food, U.S. In-Kind Food Aid; Nutrition—U.S. In-Kind Specialized Nutrition Products	Countrywide	\$19,168,519
Center for Victims of Torture (CVT)	Protection	Tigray	\$2,000,000
Development for Peace Organization (DPO)	MPCA, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Amhara, Oromia, Somali, Tigray	\$2,000,000
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA)	Countrywide	\$300,000
Swiss Church Aid (HEKS/EPER)	Agriculture, MPCA, Protection, WASH	Somali	\$2,500,000
iMMAP	HCIMA, HPSAA	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, MPCA, WASH	Afar	\$3,000,000
WFP	Nutrition	Countrywide	\$38,100,000
	Nutrition—U.S. In-Kind Specialized Nutrition Products	Countrywide	\$71,098,398
	Program Support		\$392,709

<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$200,548,699</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
Implementing Partner	Health, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$3,500,000
UNHCR	Camp Coordination and Camp Management, Education, Health, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$15,930,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$19,430,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE ETHIOPIA RESPONSE IN FY 2024</b>			<b>\$219,978,699</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/BHA plans to provide an additional \$22.9 million in FY 2024, totaling approximately \$243 million in humanitarian assistance from the USG as announced on April 16.

<sup>2</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of May 9, 2024.

<sup>3</sup> Estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

## 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)