

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The Office of the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Ethiopia requested the support of the Federal Government of Ethiopia and regional states to ensure uninterrupted lifesaving assistance to 7 million vulnerable people amidst COVID-19 response.
- Ethiopia counts 43 confirmed COVID-19 cases (as of 05 April 2020) with two reported deaths. Four of the patients have recovered.

## FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

### US\$1.001 billion

Requirement for 2020 Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Plan.

	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



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## The Office of the RC/HC requests Government support to enable uninterrupted humanitarian assistance amidst COVID-19 pandemic

The Office of the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) for Ethiopia requested the support of the Federal Government and regional states to ensure uninterrupted lifesaving assistance to people in need in a letter addressed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 1 April. In addition to humanitarian operations for COVID-19 response, there are at least seven million people targeted in the 2020 Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Plan requiring sustained support.

The support requested includes 1) facilitating the movement of humanitarian personnel, 2) ensuring that international and regional borders remain open for the import of relief items and movements of humanitarian staff into the country, 3) putting in place enabling procedures to help fast-track custom clearances of relief items, 4) fast-tracking the issuance of visas for humanitarian staff involved in COVID-19 response, 5) facilitating three-month extensions of work permits for staff of Non-Governmental Organizations, and 6) ensuring flexibility for Non-Governmental Organizations to re-program funding from existing approved activities to support the COVID-19 response.

On behalf of all humanitarian partners in Ethiopia, the Office of the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator also reiterated its commitment to support the Government's response to COVID-19.

## Ethiopia expanding preparedness and response for COVID-19 as confirmed cases rise to 43

Since the first confirmed case was reported on 13 March, Ethiopia counts 43 confirmed COVID-19 cases (as of 5 April 2020) with two reported deaths. Four of the confirmed cases have recovered. While the majority of the cases reported are in Addis Ababa, Oromia and Amhara regions as well as Dire Dawa City Council have also reported cases so far.

Testing facilities continue to be expanded across the country with the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI) and Mekelle University (Tigray) currently testing, while testing will begin in Armauer Hansen Research Institute (AHRI) and National Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) (Addis Ababa), Adama, Jimma, Haromaya, Nekemt (Oromia), Bahir Dar,

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The National Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) for COVID-19 response is finalizing a COVID-19 Multi-Sectoral Preparedness and Response Plan (MSPRP).
- Testing facilities continue to be expanded across the country with the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI) and Mekelle University (Tigray) currently testing, while testing in several other facilities will start soon.
- COVID-19 pandemic is happening in a context whereby 7 million vulnerable people remain in need of humanitarian assistance (HRP 2020). These include IDPs, returnees and population affected by recurrent climate-related disasters such as drought and flooding. There are also more than 700,000 refugees residing in Ethiopia supported under the Refugee Response Plan.

Desse, Gondar (Amhara), Jigjiga University (Somali) and Hawassa (SNNP), according to EPHI. The number of confirmed cases may quickly increase with more tests conducted.

As part of the national response, an inter-ministerial task force chaired by the Prime Minister was established and, effective 16 March, the Council suspended primary and secondary schools for two weeks, further extended for another two weeks until 13 April. The Council also banned large public gatherings, closed universities and land borders (except commodity trucks and COVID response supplies). Government offices are operating with at least halved human resource capacity.

The Council also allocated Birr 5 billion to the Ministry of Health (MoH) to ramp-up interventions to contain the spread of the virus such as procurement of health supplies and public awareness and outreach). Resource mobilization is ongoing at national and regional levels. Taskforces have also been established at regional levels to manage the pandemic.

COVID-19 pandemic is happening in a context whereby 7 million vulnerable people remain in need of humanitarian assistance (HRP 2020). These include IDPs and population affected by recurrent climate-related disasters such as drought and flooding. These population require uninterrupted, multi-sector life-saving assistance from the Government and humanitarian partners. There are also more than 700,000 refugees residing in Ethiopia supported under the Refugee Response Plan.

### Government and partners released the COVID-19 Humanitarian Impact Situation Update

The first issue of the COVID-19 Humanitarian Impact Situation Update was released on 3 April. The update is prepared under the auspices of the National Emergency Coordination Center (ECC<sup>1</sup>) for COVID-19 response, led by the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC), supported by OCHA Ethiopia with participation of Cluster Coordinators. The full document can be accessed here: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/ethiopia/document/ethiopia-covid-19-situation-update-01>

## ECC finalizing COVID-19 National Emergency Response Plan for Ethiopia

The National Emergency Coordination Center (EEC) for COVID-19 response, in close consultation and partnership with the United Nations and other partners, is finalizing a COVID-19 Multi-Sectoral Preparedness and Response Plan (MSPRP). The MSPRP takes a sector-specific approach to COVID-19, including identified COVID-19-related needs in the agriculture, education, shelter and non-food items, food, health, nutrition, protection, site management, water and sanitation, refugees, and cross-cutting coordination and management) for three months. This is in addition to the 7 million people targeted in the 2020 HRP at a cost of \$1 billion.

The plan recognizes that if the COVID-19 virus continues to spread in Ethiopia it will have far-reaching health, economic, social, and political impacts. The already overstretched healthcare system will not be able to cope with a high number of COVID-19 cases. Due to lack of medical facilities, supplies, and access, patients infected with the virus might not be able to receive quality and timely treatment. At the same time, existing limited resources are likely to shift to the COVID-19 response, resulting in patients suffering from other diseases not being able to access the support they need.

<sup>1</sup> The ECC is established to coordinate the multi-sector response to the pandemic and similar coordination centers are established in all regions. All sector bureaus and humanitarian partners are supporting these coordination hubs.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The Government of Ethiopia lifted internet and telecom services shutdown in West Wollega in a bid to fight the rising COVID-19 pandemic in the country
- Aleta Wondo was the place he called home for 43 years until one fateful day took all his life's earnings and belongings away, and along with it, his hope.
- Ato Hailermariam called on the Government and humanitarian partners to provide durable solutions for all the IDPs struggling to make ends meet. Most pressing needs include shelter, NFI, and provision of startup capital to help IDPs restore their lives and livelihood.

## Communications services resume in Western Oromia amid COVID-19 pandemic

During discussions with residents of Kellem Wollega zone in the last week of March, the Deputy Chief Administrator of Oromia region, Mr. Shimelis Abdissa, said significant achievements were made in restoring peace and stability in the area. The Government promised to respond to the needs and concerns raised by the residents, including development projects such as road, potable water, electricity, as well as restoring internet and mobile services. Communication lines (phone and internet) were cut in Western Oromia since early January 2020, when Government security forces ramped-up operations against unidentified armed groups in the area. Human Rights Watch (HRW) had also said in a statement on 20 March that "access to timely and accurate information is essential in a time of crisis, especially as Ethiopia simply does not have the infrastructure to cope with a coronavirus outbreak." The Government lifted the internet and telecom services shutdown on 31 March. Pause of security operations, especially amidst the COVID-19 outbreak, has been an advocacy point with the Government of Ethiopia, including by the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Ethiopia. For more on this, go to: <https://bit.ly/2wMqmAd>, <https://bit.ly/2UYjx6o>, <https://bit.ly/3dQ8e8X>.

## The story of Ato Hailemariam Hagos, an IDP from Tigray

Aleta Wondo was the place he called home for 43 years. Born and raised in Irob *woreda* of Tigray region, Ato Hailemariam Hagos was deployed to Aleta Wondo (SNNP region) fresh out of college as a horticulture expert in 1979. Young and energetic, he built his career and his life in his new-found community until one fateful day took all his life's earnings and belongings away, and along with it, his hope.

Two years ago on 24 June 2018, Ato Hailemariam and his two sons fled to safety back in Tigray region when inter-communal violence broke out in his community. A mob of young men demolished his house, cropland and looted his belongings. He ran for his life. But the pain still lingers two years after the incident. He broke down in tears several times when recounting the incident. "I always thought Aleta Wondo was my home. But I was proved wrong. I lost everything," he said.

At present, Hailemariam and his two children live with his elderly sister in a 24 square meter dilapidated house in Irob *woreda*. He is struggling to make ends meet by growing vegetables on the 6\*60 square meter plot of land given to him by the Irob *woreda* administration. Although inconsistent, he also gets monthly relief food rations. Of added stress is the fact that his 17 year-old son is not going to school due to the long distance he has to travel to reach the nearest public school. His son has a disability in his right hand and leg due to birth deformity, and is being treated through a medical insurance scheme which his father enrolled in to address his medical needs.



Figure 1 Hailemariam with his son Dagim, displaced from Aleta Wondo. Photo Credit: OCHA/ Redae

There are at least 120,000 registered IDPs in Tigray region in nine collective sites in and around Mekelle. New IDPs continue to trickle into the region from different parts of the country. Ato Hailermariam called on the Government and humanitarian partners to provide durable solutions for all the IDPs struggling to make ends meet. Most pressing needs include shelter, NFI, and provision of startup capital to help IDPs restore their lives and livelihood.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The 2020 HRP of US\$ 1 billion is 11.1 per cent funded (as of 30 March)
- As per the trend in past years, most of the funding is for the food sector (21 per cent), while the non-food sectors are overall 5 per cent funded. Critical life-saving sectors such of nutrition and ES/FI, as well as the protection and education sectors have not received funding.



## ETHIOPIA

## Overview of funding towards the Humanitarian Response Plan

As of 30 March 2020

## In-country 2020 HRP Funding Update

## FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

HRP

US\$ 1.001  
BILLION

## FUNDING RECEIVED

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS

US\$ 111.1  
Million

## LEVEL OF FUNDING

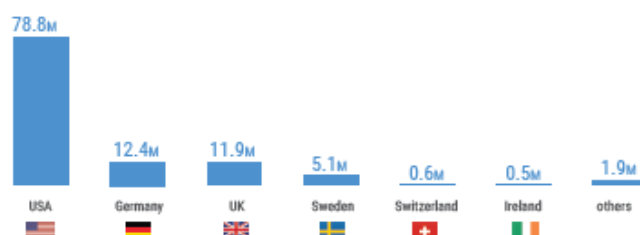


## UNMET REQUIREMENTS

US\$890.1  
Million

Sector/Cluster	Funding Received	% Covered	Requirements	FOOD
Food	83.7M	21%	399.5M	<p>21%</p> <p>US\$ 316.3M Unmet requirements</p>
Nutrition	-	0%	193.4M	
ES/NFI	-	0%	95.8M	<p>NON-FOOD SECTORS</p> <p>5%</p> <p>US\$ 574.3M Unmet requirements</p>
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	0.7M	6%	12.0M	
Sector not specified	17.5M	-	-	
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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