

30 September 2025

1. Crisis overviewⁱ

4.2 / 5	n/a¹	10 million	\$2.0 billion	25%
Inform severity index	People in need of humanitarian aid (HNO 2025)	People targeted in the response plan (GHO 2025)	Required to reach the target (GHO 2025)	Of the required funding secured (FTS 2025)
199 MSEK	11 MSEK	31 MSEK	241 MSEK	
Initial allocation	Additional allocation	Flexible Funding	Total Sida funding 2025	

Ethiopia is one of the largest and most complex humanitarian crises, with 21.4 million people estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance in 2024. The main drivers of humanitarian needs are conflicts and climate-driven shocks. The crisis is multi-sectorial and affects most parts of the country with overlapping needs; including protection, health, education, water, sanitation and hygiene, food security and nutrition. There are pockets of hard-to-reach populations in many regions due to security risks for aid workers. Whilst the overall figure of people in need has decreased, evidence for this reduction is disputed, and it is likely that the humanitarian situation will not improve in 2025. Food security and nutrition will likely deteriorate in the south and south-east and in hard-to-reach areas, and will remain poor among internally displaced persons (IDPs), but will likely improve in other parts of the country not impacted by conflict. Inflation will continue to be high (around 20 per cent), further eroding purchasing power and food security, although the impact will be partly offset by expanded social safety net payments.

Data and analysis is expected to remain poor, particularly in conflict areas, and areas with severe needs will likely be missed, particularly in hard-to-reach areas. Protection abuses are expected to continue at scale and funding for GBV response in particular is set to reduce. Outbreaks of epidemic diseases such as malaria, measles and cholera occur simultaneously; indicating symptoms of systemic breakdown of basic services such as water, sanitation and child-immunisations.

¹ Credible and independent analyses indicate that approximately 19 million people are in need of emergency humanitarian aid, however figures are not accepted by the government, hence no official PiN has been published since 2024. The funding forecast for the year corresponds to around a quarter of the 2024 available funds and is enough for just under 8.3 million people.

2. Humanitarian needs & affected population

Despite the signing of Cessation of Hostilities (CoHA) in November 2022, the situation in Tigray remains dire for millions of people due to limited access to basic services, disruptions of livelihoods, and displacements. The reconstruction and rehabilitation plan for the region is severely underfunded and there is a need to restore trust in the judicial system. Humanitarian organisations have limited access to disputed areas between Tigray and Amhara, and border areas where Eritrean forces are allegedly still present. Meanwhile, internal conflicts and ethnic tensions continue to cause displacements and protection risks in other parts of the country. Clashes between the Ethiopian National Defence Forces (ENDF) and Amhara militias (Fano) continue, causing significant harm to civilians. The security in Oromia region has improved, but unlikely to change the access picture; notably in the Wollegas, North Shewa, and Guji zones. There is continued threat of cross-border incursions by Al Shabab in Somali region, and inter-communal tensions along Afar and Oromia border. After conflict in Somalia in February 2023, close to 100,000 people fled over the border to the remote Doolo zone of the Somali region of Ethiopia. The conflict in neighbouring Sudan brought 108 000 Sudanese refugees to Ethiopia in 2023-2025, hosted in the insecure regions of Amhara and Benishangul Gumuz. Conflicts drive disagreements over land rights, resources, and power between different ethnic groups, often resulting in violence targeting civilians and repeated violations of international humanitarian law (IHL).

Around 40 per cent of the Ethiopia's GDP and 70 per cent employment depend on agriculture, which is highly sensitive to climatic shocks and weather patterns. The La Niña cycle from November 2024 to March 2025 is likely to worsen food crises throughout south and south-eastern regions, contributing to dry conditions that threaten fragile food systems. As many as 19 million people are at risk, many of those whom are still recovering from the extended 2020–2023 drought and 2023 floods. Rainfalls help crop farming in some areas while damaging water, sanitation and road infrastructure and surge in cholera incidence in others. The food insecurity situation has deepened by the a rise in food prices over the last four years. Nutrition surveys and rapid assessments by UNICEF during 2024, covering 8 regions, revealed critical, serious or moderate acute malnutrition. It is estimated that 3.6 million children in Ethiopia are acutely malnourished and 1.4 million pregnant and lactating women need nutrition supplements.

With over one million refugees, Ethiopia is the third-largest refugee-hosting country in Africa. The majority of refugees reside in 24 camps and sites around the country, which happen to be amongst the least developed regions; characterised by harsh weather conditions, poor infrastructure and low administrative capacity. Conflicts with host communities occur, especially in Gambella region where refugees influxes in 2025 have brought the refugee population to almost the same level as the local population. Refugees in Ethiopia come mainly from South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea and Sudan. As of August 2025 there are around 1.9 million IDPs, and 2.8 million returnees are mostly from the recent northern conflict. IDPs are scattered over at least five regions, and require proper shelter, protection and access to livelihoods in and around some 4,500 host community settings. IDPs often reside in congested sites, makeshift

camps, schools and communal buildings. Returns are often not possible due to ongoing insecurity in areas of origin and lack of resources.

The crisis in Ethiopia disproportionately affects women and girls, and fuels pre-existing gender inequalities. Risks such as gender-based violence (GBV), child-marriages and female genital mutilation have increased. Sexual violence as a means of warfare is used by several warring parties in Ethiopia. Opportunistic conflict-related sexual violence also occurs frequently, for example during village raids. Women and girls are at risk of engaging in negative coping strategies such as survival sex, begging, and selling of relief items. Men and boys are also exposed to risks of violence and recruitment to armed forces. An estimated eight million children are out of school as one out of five schools in Ethiopia are damaged, including almost half in Amhara and about a quarter in Tigray. This insecure environment has increased child protection cases immensely. Furthermore, conflict-affected people risk being killed or injured by unexploded ordinances, often left in and around school buildings used by armed groups as temporary sites.

3. The humanitarian response

The Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and Humanitarian Need Overview (HNO) processes for 2025 have been in a state of delayed due to ongoing discussions between HCT and government counterparts. There are tentative, yet unofficial figures, that guide the response currently.

USAID initially indicated a USD 600+ million top-up before December 2024, however after the January freeze, HC published a paper on 13 March 2025 which outlined the impact on country level funding crisis and coping strategy. Ethiopia was the second-largest recipient of non-military U.S. foreign assistance in recent years, with the U.S. historically contributing nearly two-thirds of the HRP, 55 per cent of as in-kind food assistance. The freeze, followed by waivers, termination orders, and partial rescindments, has had a significant impact. While life-saving programs were nominally exempted, ongoing issues with the payment system have prevented NGOs from paying staff and vendors (including transporters of lifesaving commodities). A recent survey indicates 75 organizations have faced direct disruptions. 55 per cent of activities interrupted were life-saving. Impacts include staff reductions, program scale-downs, suspended partnerships, and office closures. Sectors hardest hit are Health, Protection, WASH, Nutrition, and Agriculture. The HCT envisions three scenarios: the best-case scenario a USD 1 billion HRP (with USD 450 million from the U.S., USD 250 million from other donors, and USD 300 million from the Government of Ethiopia) and development funding around 50–60 per cent. The most likely scenario anticipates an \$800–900 million HRP with USD 250 million from the U.S. The worst-case scenario foresees a USD 600–700 million HRP and USD 100 million from the U.S. and a significant reduction in development funding (less than 25 per cent). In September 2025, the amount received from the US is approximately USD 117 million.

As humanitarian needs in Ethiopia exceed available funding, partners are forced to further prioritise the most acute needs. Partners will likely need to target population groups and areas that suffer from extreme severity, in accordance with valid and impartial needs assessments. Additional priorities include cholera prevention and control, nutrition, and support to facilitate voluntary returns of displaced populations in a safe and dignified manner. Particularly, GBV is under-addressed while the needs are escalating, due to sensitivity and lack of awareness.

Access improved considerably in Tigray, although some areas remain hard to reach, notably western Tigray and areas bordering Eritrea. In Oromia's Wollega zones, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella and Amhara, continued or new hostilities create temporary but recurring access difficulties. Access restrictions include bureaucratic impediments like taxation of imported goods and visa restrictions for aid workers, poor transport infrastructure, and frequent road closures due to insecurity. National forces and armed groups often act without concern for humanitarian staffs' safety and security, consequently hampering the affected populations' access to assistance and services. Since the beginning of 2020, 56 aid workers have lost their lives in Ethiopia (10 in 2024, 14 kidnapped).

A Call for Anticipatory Action was launched in September 2024, foreseeing drought impacts of La Niña on pastures and crops until March 2025, drawing lessons from previous droughts in Ethiopia. The plan is budgeted at \$550 million, and is a remedy of sorts for the failure of previous drought response when the early warning information did not lead to enough early action, nor quick enough to prevent severe negative effects on communities, heavily focused on food and links between humanitarian and development interventions were insufficient. The El Niño is expected to increase other seasonal rainfalls, which replenishes water sources but also increases risks of floods and landslides.

4. Sida's humanitarian allocation

Sida's portfolio addresses lifesaving needs of women, men and children affected by climate-driven shocks, disease outbreaks, conflict and violence. Sida requires that all interventions are informed by up-to-date needs assessments and it will be essential that partners have established accountability mechanisms and meaningful engagement with affected people. Priority will be on protection, health, food security, malnutrition, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). Cash transfers is a key modality for access to food and other services, as a counter-weight to in-kind food distributions. Sida prioritises partners that have protection as a core component of their programme or have stand-alone protection interventions, with special attention on preventing and addressing GBV, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), risks for young women and girls and child protection. Sida expects all partners to contribute to strengthening the humanitarian system, i.e. through constructive participation in clusters and other coordination fora. The needs analysis and data quality must be continuously assessed in order to make objective prioritisation of Ethiopia within Sida's global humanitarian allocation process; to close the gap between reported needs and actual needs. This is done systematically through close monitoring of information by Sida's analyst, desk officer and the Embassy.

INITIAL ALLOCATION (SEK)		
PARTNER	SECTOR	INITIAL ALLOCATION
AAH	Protection, Health, WASH, Nutrition	20.000.000 ²
DRC + HINGO	Multi-sector, protection, NGO-coordination	12.000.000 + 1.000.000
OCHA EHF	Multisector	25.000.000
ICRC	Protection, IHL, Multi-sector	30.000.000
IRC	Protection, Multi-sector	25.000.000 ³
IRW	Protection, Nutrition, Food Security and Livelihoods	15.000.000
NRC	Protection, Multisector	20.000.000 ⁴
UNHCR	Protection, Refugees	25.000.000
UNICEF	Protection, WASH, Nutrition, Education	26.000.000
TOTAL		199,000,000

FLEXIBLE FUNDING & ADDITIONAL ALLOCATIONS 2025 (SEK)		
PARTNER	FLEXIBLE FUNDING[1]	ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION
NRC	5.000.000	-
AAH	2.000.000	
FAO	13.000.000	-
MSB	4.480.000	-
UNHCR	-	11.000.000
OCHA Field Office	5.600.000	-
Premier Urgence Intl	877.000	-
TOTAL	30.957.000	11.000.000

ⁱ The 2025 initial allocation of humanitarian funding is based on Sida's humanitarian allocation analysis methodology. The analysis reflects the current humanitarian situation across crises and is being updated continuously with the latest available data. The information in the HCA is based on reports, data, and information from partner organisations and other entities, as well as observations from field visits and dialogue with partners.

² Already committed in 2022

³ Already committed in 2023

⁴ Already committed in 2023

[1] Flexible funding includes a mix of allocations such as Rapid Response Mechanism and other flexible funding mechanisms.