

31 March 2025

1. Crisis overviewⁱ

4.5 / 5	21.4 million	15.5 million	\$3.24 billion	47%
Inform severity index	People in need of humanitarian aid (HNO 2024)	People targeted in the response plan (HRP 2024)	Required to reach the target (HRP 2024)	Of the required funding secured (HRP 2024)
199 MSEK	-	21 MSEK	220 MSEK	
Initial allocation	Additional allocation	Flexible funding	Total Sida funding 2025	

Ethiopia is one of the largest and most complex humanitarian crises in the world, 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. While the overall figure of people in need has decreased, the 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) through 2025, 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 some 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 gender-based violence (GBV) response in particular is set to become reduced. Simultaneous outbreaks of epidemic diseases such as malaria, measles, and cholera signal a systemic failure of essential services, including water supply, sanitation, and child immunization.

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 is unlikely to change the access picture in the Wollegas, North Shewa, and Guji zones. There is a continued threat of cross-border incursions by Al Shabab in Somali region, and inter-communal tensions along Afar and Oromia border. After the 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 lead to a surge in cholera incidence in others. The food insecurity situation has deepened due to 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 second-largest refugee-hosting country in Africa. The majority of refugees live in 24 camps and sites across the country, situated in some of the least developed regions, marked by harsh weather, inadequate infrastructure, and limited administrative capacity. Conflicts with host communities occur, especially in Gambella region where refugees outnumber the local population. The refugees are mainly from South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea and Sudan. There are around 2 million IDPs, and 2.5 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. Return is often impossible due to persistent insecurity in areas of origin and a lack of essential resources.

The crisis in Ethiopia disproportionately affects women and girls, and fuels pre-existing gender inequalities. Risks such as 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 in Ethiopia, as one in five schools across the country have been damaged—nearly half in Amhara and about a quarter in Tigray. This insecure environment has increased child protection cases drastically. 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) for 2024 is 47 per cent funded, including a carry-over of USD 590 million from 2023 resulting from six month food aid suspension and GoE's USD 288 million contribution to food aid in 2024. The HRP process for 2025 is delayed due to ongoing discussions between Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and government counterparts. At present, the response is guided by tentative yet unofficial figures.

The Humanitarian Coordinator published a paper on 13 March 2025 which outlines the impact of the U.S. stop-work order on funding 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 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. The 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 USD 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).

As humanitarian needs in Ethiopia exceed available funding, partners are forced to further prioritise among the most acute needs. Partners will likely need to target only population groups

and areas that suffer from extreme severity of needs. 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 has 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 (of which 10 killed and 14 kidnapped in 2024).

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. With a budget of USD 550 million, the plan aims to address the shortcomings of previous drought responses, where early warning signals failed to trigger timely and effective action. It focuses heavily on food security and strengthening the links between humanitarian and development efforts, which were previously insufficient in preventing severe impacts on communities. 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 is essential that partners have established accountability mechanisms and meaningful engagement with affected people. Priority areas are; 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, mitigating 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. To ensure an objective prioritization of Ethiopia within Sida's global humanitarian allocation process, the needs analysis and data quality must be continuously assessed. This ongoing evaluation is essential for bridging 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 ¹
DRC + HINGO	Multi-sector, protection, NGO-coordination	12,000,000 + 1,000,000
EHF	Multisector	25,000,000
ICRC	Protection, IHL, Multi-sector	30,000,000
IRC	Protection, Multi-sector	25,000,000 ²
IRW	Protection, Nutrition, Food Security and Livelihoods	15,000,000
NRC	Protection, Multisector	20,000,000 ³
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 ⁴	ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION
NRC	5,000,000	-
FAO	13,000,000	-
MSB	3,000,000	-
TOTAL	21,000,000	-

¹ 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.

¹ Already committed in 2022

² Already committed in 2023

³ Already committed in 2023

⁴ Flexible funding includes a mix of allocations such as Rapid Response Mechanism and other flexible funding mechanisms.