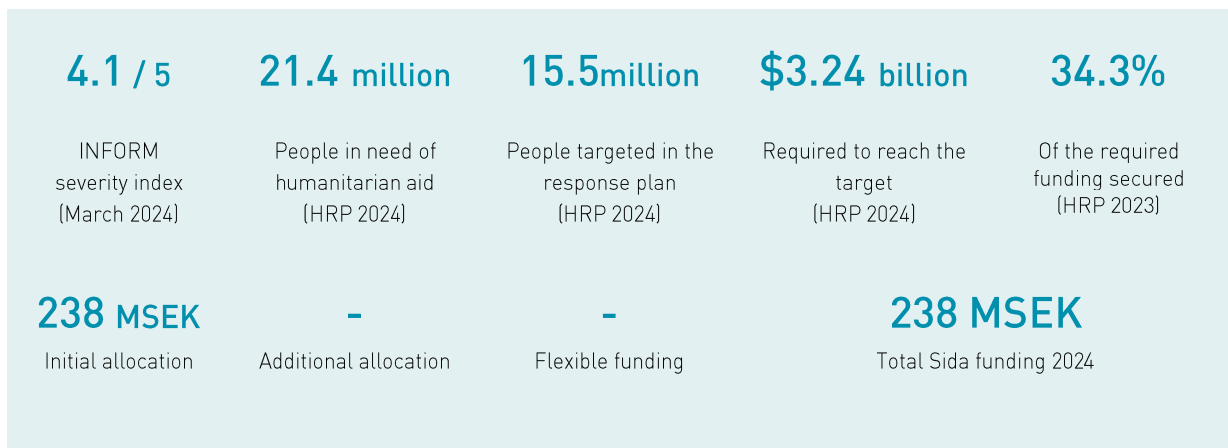


1. Crisis overviewⁱ



Ethiopia is one of the largest scale 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 in Ethiopia is multi-sectorial with overlapping needs, including protection, food security and nutrition. All parts of the country are affected and there are pockets of hard-to-reach populations in most regions.

Following the signing of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement in November 2022, fighting in Tigray has subsided although several parts of the agreement are yet to be implemented. The agreement also caused increased tensions in the Amhara region, contributing to wider instability. Several other regions are also affected by ethnic or inter-communal tensions and fighting. Despite improved rains in the south and southeast, the impacts of the 2020-2023 drought persist, contributing to negative coping strategies and a high prevalence of malnutrition. Effects of El Niño are expected to further increase rainfalls and replenishment of water sources, but also increase risks of floods and landslides. Ethiopia hosts close to one million refugees including significant arrivals from Sudan and Somalia in 2023 and an estimated 4.6 million people are internally displaced (HRP 2024). There are outbreaks of epidemic diseases including measles and cholera; symptoms of breakdown of basic services such as water, sanitation and child-immunisations.

2. Humanitarian needs & affected population

While there have been no active clashes in Tigray since the signing of a Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (COHA) in November 2022, the situation 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 in Tigray, including West Tigray, some areas bordering Amhara, and border areas in the north where Eritrean forces are 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 regional militias have spread across Amhara. In August 2023, the federal government declared a six-months state of emergency in the region, which has contributed to access constraints in the area. In Oromia, most notably in the Wellegas, North Shewa and Guji zones, violent attacks from groups affiliated with the Oromia Liberation Army (OLA) and fighting with government-aligned forces continue, with mass-displacement as a consequence. In the Somali region, there is a continued threat of cross-border incursions carried out by Al Shabab as well as inter-communal tensions along the border with Afar and Oromia regions. Since a conflict broke out in Somalia's contested Laascaanood town in February 2023, close to one hundred thousand people have fled over the border to the remote Doolo zone of the Somali region. Disagreements over land rights, resources, and power between different ethnic groups have been a driver of conflicts in Benishangul-Gumuz. These conflicts have been marked by violence targeting civilians and repeated violations of international humanitarian law.

Over the past years, approximately 24 million people in Ethiopia have been affected by the worst drought in recent decades. Decent rainfall in 2023 resulted in improved agricultural and livestock production, particularly in the south and southeast. However, drought conditions endure in many areas, and the impact of previous failed rain seasons is likely to persist for a long time. Further, some previously drought-affected areas in the south and east are now inundated due to above average rainfalls likely linked to El Niño, resulting in damaged WASH infrastructure and a potential surge in cholera incidence. Significant numbers of immature desert locusts breeding in Ethiopia's northern regions have prompted alerts of potential swarms, and some five million people in the Afar, Amhara and Tigray regions are reportedly affected by drought-like conditions, which could have a devastating effect on next year's crop production. The food security situation is further compounded by two factors. Firstly, food prices in Ethiopia have increased by 187% over the last four years, fueled by supply issues linked to the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine. Secondly, the disclosure of food diversion schemes prompted a suspension of food assistance in June 2023 that lasted six months.

In the past, data on food security in Ethiopia has not been sufficiently vetted, leading to difficulties in estimating the true scale and severity of the needs. While nutrition data are also scarce, a set of surveys conducted during the 2023 fall found that the prevalence of global acute malnutrition was very high or critical in almost all of the locations assessed in the Somali,

Amhara, Afar, Oromia and Tigray region, surpassing the emergency threshold. Among Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in Tigray, more than one in four children met the criteria for global acute malnutrition. Altogether, it is estimated that 3.4 million children in Ethiopia are acutely malnourished and 1.4 million pregnant and lactating women are in need of nutrition supplements.

With close to one million refugees, Ethiopia is the second-largest refugee-hosting country in Africa. The majority of refugees reside in one of the 24 camps and sites around the country, areas that are amongst the least developed regions in the country and are characterized by harsh weather conditions, poor infrastructure and low administrative capacity. Conflicts with host communities persist, especially in Gambella region where refugee numbers exceed population numbers. New arrivals fleeing the armed conflict in Sudan keep crossing the borders into Amhara and Benishangul-Gumuz. Ethiopia also has close to 4.6 million internally displaced people and 2.5 million returnees, mostly from the recent northern conflict. Many of the internally displaced reside in congested sites, such as makeshift camps, schools and communal buildings.

The crisis in Ethiopia disproportionately affects women and girls, and fuels pre-existing gender inequalities and risks such as sexual and gender-based violence, child-marriages and female genital mutilation. Sexual violence is used by several warring parties in Ethiopia as a means of warfare. More opportunistic conflict-related sexual violence also occurs frequently, for example during village raids. Because of breakdown in justice structures compounded by fear of retaliation, there is little to no accountability for cases of sexual and gender-based violence. Affected people are also 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 such as violence and recruitment to armed forces. An estimated 7.7 million children are out of school. One out of five schools in Ethiopia are damaged, out of which almost half in Amhara and about a quarter in Tigray. Conflict-affected people are at risk of 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

In 2023, only one third of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) was funded. Most of the top 10 humanitarian donors have indicated that they will reduce their funding for Ethiopia in 2024 considerably; all in all it is predicted that humanitarian funding may drop by half. Food assistance will be deprioritized by many donors, and likely to drop by 70% from 2023 levels. While the HRP for 2024 will target 15.5 million people, it is a risk that funding will reduce to a level last seen in 2015 when only 4.5 million people were targeted. Any transition to resilience and development support will take time to scale up.

As the humanitarian needs in Ethiopia dwarf the available funding, partners will need to further prioritise their responses to focus on the most acute needs in areas where intersectoral severity is at least extreme. Resumption of food distribution in a principled and accountable manner will be a top priority. The Office of the Inspector General of WFP has conducted an

investigation of food distribution in Tigray and there is an ongoing investigation in Gambela and Somalia. Additional priorities for the 2024 HRP include cholera prevention and control, nutrition, and support to facilitate voluntary returns of displaced populations in a safe and dignified manner.

Since the end of the hostilities in Tigray, access has considerably improved there, although some areas remain hard to reach, notably Western Tigray and areas bordering Eritrea. In Wellegas, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella and Amhara, continued or new hostilities create temporary but recurring difficulties of access. Access barriers also include bureaucratic impediments like taxation of imported goods and visa restrictions for aid workers, poor transport infrastructure, and frequent road closures due to insecurity which restrict movements of both humanitarian actors and relief materiel as well as hamper affected populations' ability to access humanitarian assistance and services. The government's practice of announcing state of emergency in response to regional conflicts further complicates the humanitarian response. Safety and security risks for aid workers are adding to this. 48 aid workers have lost their lives in Ethiopia since the beginning of 2020. Altogether, this is limiting the capacity of the humanitarian community to provide services to remote, hard-to-reach areas which are home to some of the most in need populations in the country. The complex operating environment calls for sustained humanitarian diplomacy and continuous dialogue with a wide range of stakeholders including civil and military authorities, security forces, non-state armed groups and community leaders.

4. Sida's humanitarian allocation

The focus of the response is to address the lifesaving needs of women, men and children affected by climate-driven shocks, disease outbreaks, conflict and violence. All interventions need to be informed by up-to-date needs assessments and it will be essential that actions have established accountability mechanisms and meaningful ways to engage with affected people. Priority will be on food security, malnutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). Cash transfer is a key modality to provide for food and other needs, and will help replace an unsustainable dependency on in-kind food distribution. Special attention is put on preventing and addressing protection issues, including sexual and gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health and rights, risks for young women and girls and child protection. Protection should be mainstreamed as a core component of any programme and stand-alone protection interventions needs to be scaled up. Given the complexity, scope and uncertainty of the development of the multiple crises, the response is mainly implemented by partners who are able to access and operate in multiple regions and address the different multi-sectoral needs depending on gender, age and location. Programmes targeting people with the most severe needs and who live in the hardest to reach areas will be prioritised. In areas with protracted needs, exit strategies are important, including advocacy to bring in resilience partners. Sida expects from its partners that they contribute to strengthening the humanitarian system, i.e. through constructive participation in clusters and other coordination fora.

INITIAL ALLOCATION 2024				
PARTNER	SECTOR	2024	2025	2026
AAH	Protection, Health, WASH, Nutrition	20,000,000 ¹	20,000,000	-
Islamic Relief	Protection, Nutrition, Food Security and Livelihoods	10,000,000	-	-
EHF	Multi-Sectoral	40,000,000	-	-
ICRC	Protection, Multi-Sectoral	50,000,000	-	-
IRC	Protection, Multi-Sectoral	28,000,000	25,000,000	-
NRC	Protection, Multi-Sectoral	20,000,000	20,000,000	-
UNHCR	Protection, Refugees	25,000,000	-	-
UNICEF	Protection, WASH, Nutrition, Education	45,000,000	-	-
TOTAL		238,000,000	65,000,000	-

5. Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus

The new Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator is initiating a decentralised and area-based nexus coordination set-up to break the current aid silos and the programming disconnect between Addis Abeba and the field. The resource mobilisation strategy for that is in the making, but could include a Trust Fund. The Development Partners Group and the Humanitarian Country Team have established a Nexus Accelerator Working Group in 2023, incubated by the Resident Coordinator Office, with an executive committee to which Sweden is a member.

Sweden's development cooperation strategy for Ethiopia in 2022-2026 has a robust portfolio of contributions with in-built flexibility for contingencies and crises modifiers. The strategy includes a nexus approach to bridge the gap between development and humanitarian aid in areas with chronic and protracted needs. Through a partnership with UNICEF, Sida is contributing to the World Bank's Productive Safety Net Programme, which provides social protection to 10 million persons who are among the poorest. Sida is co-funding the IOM-FAO-UN Habitat consortium for Durable Solutions in Somali and Oromia regions. Sida is also supporting an NGO consortium (Mercy Corp, Danish Refugee Council) that provides financial, labour market, and agriculture services, protection and support to small and medium sized enterprises in the northern regions. While WFP's 5 year "from Relief to Resilience" project came to an end with mixed results, an alternative Food Security project is planned with an

¹ Already committed in 2022.

INGO consortium (AAH, IRC, DRC). Sida's nexus approach avails as well in the areas for gender equality and human rights and for peacebuilding.

The potential for additional nexus-oriented contributions is countless: self-reliance of refugees, durable solutions for IDPs, disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR), mine action, reconstructive surgery, physiotherapy and socioeconomical reinsertion for war-wounded and people living with disabilities, more comprehensive case management of survivors of sexual and gender-based violence including socioeconomic and psychosocial support, etc.ⁱⁱ

ⁱ The 2024 initial allocation of humanitarian funding is based on Sida's humanitarian allocation analysis methodology. The methodology was updated during 2023 to more clearly inform an allocation of funding that is proportional between crises, in line with Humanitarian and Good Humanitarian Donorship principles. Key changes in funding levels between the initial allocations for 2023 and 2024 for specific crises are therefore not only reflecting changes in the humanitarian situation but also changes in the analysis methodology. The analysis reflects the current humanitarian situation across crises and is being updated continuously with the latest available data, thereby allowing future allocations to be informed by how indicators have changed since previous allocations. 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.