



# ETHIOPIA

## 2023 IFRC network country plan

Funding Requirement **CHF 40.9M**

Appeal number **MAAET003**

### In support of the Ethiopian Red Cross Society



**48**

National Society branches



**2,155**

National Society staff



**108,410**

National Society volunteers

### People to be reached



**800,000**

Ongoing emergency operations



**600,000**

Climate and environment



**6.2M**

Disasters and crises



**1.0M**

Health and wellbeing



**60,000**

Migration and displacement



**300,000**

Values, power and inclusion

### IFRC network multiyear focus

#### Emergency response

- Hunger crisis

#### Longer term needs

- Disaster risk reduction and resilience
- Migration and displacement

#### Capacity development

- Disaster preparedness
- Protection, gender and inclusion
- Community engagement and accountability

### Key country data

**Population** **118M**

**INFORM severity rating** **very high**

**Climate ND-GAIN Index rank** **57**

**Human Development Index rank** **173**

**Population below poverty level** **23.5%**

## Hazards



Food insecurity



Drought



Poverty



Epidemics



Civil unrest



Population movement

## Funding requirements

**Total 40.9M** CHF

Through the IFRC

**23.9M** CHF

Through Participating National Societies

**8.2M** CHF

Host National Society

**8.8M** CHF

### IFRC Breakdown

**8M** CHF

Ongoing emergency operations

### Longer term needs

**904,000** CHF

Climate and environment

**6.2M** CHF

Disasters and crises

**6.8M** CHF

Health and wellbeing

**111,000** CHF

Migration and displacement

**678,000** CHF

Values, power and inclusion

**1.1M** CHF

Enabling local actors

## Ongoing emergencies

### MDRET027

Ethiopia Hunger Crisis  
Drought

*Folded under MGR60001 Africa  
Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal*

## Participating National Societies

American Red Cross\*

Austrian Red Cross

British Red Cross

Canadian Red Cross

Danish Red Cross

Finnish Red Cross

German Red Cross

Italian Red Cross

Japanese Red Cross\*

Monaco Red Cross\*

Netherlands Red Cross

Norwegian Red Cross\*

Swedish Red Cross\*

Swiss Red Cross

Turkish Red Crescent\*



# NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

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**The Ethiopian Red Cross Society** was established in 1935. One of Ethiopia's leading humanitarian organizations, it has a network of 12 regional offices, 33 zonal branches, 132 district branches, more than 5,000 committees (Kebele Red Cross Committees) and more than 185,000 volunteers at the grassroots level. Its sheer scale enables it to reach vulnerable populations unserved by other humanitarian organizations, such as drought-affected nomadic communities.

The National Society's neutrality has earned it trust within Ethiopia's conflict areas. It was the first organization to respond to the Tigray crisis. Having established an initial needs assessment, the National Society has remained on the frontline, offering first aid and ambulance services to injured civilians and military personnel, and providing support to displaced people in coordination with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Water and emergency kits were distributed to hospitals and households in Mekelle and neighbouring areas, while essential medicines and medical equipment were deployed to hospitals and health facilities in Tigray.

In 2021, the Ethiopian Red Cross, with the assistance of the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, reached 27 million people with disaster response and

early recovery programmes, and 4.3 million people with long-term services and development programmes.

In its auxiliary role to the Government, the National Society coordinates with the National Disaster Risk Management Commission in the planning and implementation of emergency response actions. It is also a member of the National Operations Centre. As part of the Ethiopian Government's efforts to combat COVID-19, the National Society deployed 25,000 staff and volunteers who conducted house-to-house detections, screenings and handwashing demonstrations – as well as distributing information about epidemic control measures and the importance of vaccination.

As part of its strategic framework, the Ethiopian Red Cross has identified seven priorities:

- Disaster preparedness, response, risk reduction and management
- Peacebuilding and the promotion of non-violence
- Volunteer and membership management
- Resource mobilization and resource utilization
- Humanitarian diplomacy and image building
- Capacity building
- Partnership development

## IFRC NETWORK ACTION IN 2023

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### Joint situational analysis

Ethiopia's location gives it a strategic position as a jumping-off point in the Horn of Africa, close to the Middle East and its markets. Ethiopia is landlocked, bordering Eritrea, Somalia, Kenya, South Sudan, and Sudan, and has been using neighbouring Djibouti's main port for the last two decades for its international trade. With about 118 million people (2020), Ethiopia is the second most populous nation in Africa, after Nigeria. The country's growing workforce (increasing at two million per year) puts pressure on the absorption capacity of the labour market and necessitates improving current jobs while creating sufficient new jobs.

Currently Ethiopia is structured as a federal parliamentary republic and the country is divided into four administrative levels: region, zone, woreda and kebele. Ethiopia's latest national elections were held in 2021,

and Abiy Ahmed, the leader of the Prosperity Party, was declared the Prime Minister for a five-year term, after securing most seats in Ethiopia's Parliament. Ethiopia is governed through an ethno-federalist structure and is comprised of ten regions (Tigray, Afar, Amhara, Oromia, Somali, Benshangul-Gumuz, Sidama, Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples (SNNP), Gambela, Harari Peoples) and two city administrations, Addis Ababa (the capital) and Dire Dawa.

In November 2020, armed conflict broke out between the Ethiopian national government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF). The ongoing conflict, that continues to today, has resulted in many thousands killed and millions of Ethiopians internally displaced. In March 2022, the Ethiopian government declared an indefinite humanitarian truce, in order to allow the delivery of humanitarian aid into Tigray; however, in late August 2022 fighting again flared up.

Over the past 15 years, Ethiopia's economy has been among the fastest growing in the world, and it is still the fastest growing economy in the region. However, it is also one of the poorest, with a per capita gross national income of US\$890. Ethiopia aims to reach lower-middle-income status by 2025. Ethiopia's real gross domestic product (GDP) growth slowed down in 2019/20, and further in 2020/21, due to COVID-19; however, agriculture, where over 70 per cent of the population are employed, was not significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The lowland pastoralist areas cover around 60 per cent of Ethiopia, where most people depend on livestock and to a lesser degree on crop production for their livelihoods, but the system is out of balance and the proportion of the lowland population able to secure a viable living from pastoralism is falling due to climate change (source: [World Bank Ethiopia Country Overview last updated April 21, 2022](#)).

The consistently high economic growth over the last decade resulted in modest gains in poverty reduction in both urban and rural areas. However, inequality has increased in recent years. Though employment and income levels have been recovering since the huge drop at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, vulnerability to poverty is expected to increase due to many Ethiopians moving to more vulnerable types of employment such as self-employment, casual employment and family work. Moreover, poverty is likely to

have increased due to the conflict in Tigray, which later expanded to the neighbouring regions of Amhara and Afar, disrupting people's livelihoods and farming activities. The World Food Programme estimated that in November 2021, 9.4 million people needed humanitarian food assistance in northern Ethiopia because of the conflict. The drought in the southern pastoral areas, including Somali and parts of Oromia, and rising food prices, are expected to further increase poverty (source: [Ethiopia Poverty and Equity Brief, April 2022](#)).

Frequent severe weather events, alongside long-term impacts of climate change, undermine agriculture and pastoral livelihoods, significantly affecting food security, which is becoming life-threatening. The 2022 drought is the worst in forty years, severely affecting seven million people in the southern and eastern parts of the country. The flooding in 2020 destroyed the homes and harvests of millions of vulnerable people, illustrating the deadly results of the intersection of climate change, chronic vulnerabilities, conflict, and the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, Ethiopia experienced the worst locust invasion in decades and its effects have contributed to threatening the food security and livelihoods of millions of Ethiopians. Low access to water supplies, as well as to sanitation and hygiene facilities, and poor hygiene practices, remain major challenges. Communicable, maternal, neonatal, and nutritional diseases still cause most deaths.

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## Ongoing emergency response

For real-time information on emergencies, see [IFRC GO page Ethiopia](#)

- Appeal number: MDRET027 Ethiopia Hunger Crisis
- Appeal launch date: 29 March 2022
- End date: 28 February 2024
- 6.8 million people affected
- 800,000 people to be assisted

In March 2022 the IFRC launched an Emergency Appeal to support the Ethiopian Red Cross response to the country's acute needs following an exceptional period of drought, flood shocks and locust outbreaks that have devastated Ethiopia's agriculture, rangelands and water resources. An estimated 6.8 million people are facing high levels of food insecurity, while more than three million face water shortages. Without further action, there will be a steady increase in malnutrition levels and related diseases, as well as an increased risk of epidemics.

Following a further deterioration of the food security in a number of countries in Africa, the IFRC launched a regional Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal in October 2022. The regional Appeal aims to scale up immediate and life-saving response to the crisis currently affecting the region, and Ethiopia is one of the priority countries supported. Under the regional Appeal, the Ethiopian Red Cross will expand action started since March 2022.

The Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal sits within the IFRC's Pan-Africa Zero Hunger Initiative, which informs the long-term food security and livelihood plans of National Societies in Africa. The initiative takes a holistic approach, combining rapid support for food security and livelihoods with its long-term strategy of working towards zero hunger and more sustainable development. The regional Emergency Appeal focuses on responding to the immediate needs of people affected, and its approach facilitates the transition to longer-term programming. Upon the completion of the Appeal, the IFRC – together with the Ethiopian Red

Cross – will continue its long-term work through the Zero Hunger initiative programming. This will be integrated into the Ethiopia country plan in 2024.

## Short description of the emergency operational strategy

The Emergency Appeal supports the National Society in Ethiopia in its response to the country's climate-induced hunger crisis. The phases of intervention span from life-saving humanitarian responses to promoting early recovery initiatives tackling recurring acute and chronic food crises.

## Areas of emergency response by sector

### Integrated assistance – livelihoods and multi-purpose cash

Rural families require immediate humanitarian assistance to meet their daily food needs. The National Society is facilitating 5,000 smallholder farmers to take climate-smart action to safeguard their livelihoods and assets, including technical support and resources in the way of tools and stocks. The National Society is also assisting communities who will benefit from improved stocking and management of seeds, seedlings and harvested crops. By protecting and adapting vulnerable communities, it is working towards diversifying food production and nutritional intake.

Furthermore, multi-purpose cash and voucher assistance is being rolled out to 20,000 of the most vulnerable food-insecure households, to increase their purchasing power and meet their basic needs.

### Health and care – including water, sanitation and hygiene

The Ethiopian Red Cross is addressing malnutrition and the sustainable reduction of its related risks. In a bid to improve nutrition practices at a community level, it is continuing to establish referral systems that provide therapeutic outpatient programmes and targeted supplementary feeding programmes. It is also strengthening infant and young child feeding, providing psychological first aid for mothers and caregivers, and implementing improved care practices. The introduction of an Epidemic Control for Volunteers network will support vulnerable communities in the early detection of epidemics and diseases.

Water, sanitation and hygiene activities focus on access to safe water and support a sustainable reduction in the risk of water-borne diseases. An extensive hygiene promotion campaign is educating 500,000 people on the immediate and early recovery needs of people

affected by this crisis. This includes training households in the use of water storage, filters and treatment. In public places and water points, the National Society is installing toilets and handwashing stations.

To meet the immediate water needs of 200,000 people, the National Society is rehabilitating and protecting water sources and distribution, and providing training on water treatment chemicals and water trucking.

### Protection and prevention

The National Society is promoting the safe and fair provision of services, by taking gender and other diversity factors into consideration. Data which is disaggregated by sex, age and disability is being made available, and the distribution of multi-purpose cash and livelihood protection is linked to efforts to raise awareness among households.

The National Society is training its staff and volunteers on gender and inclusion, protection against sexual exploitation and abuse, disability inclusion, child safeguarding, and protection against sexual and gender-based violence. Further coordination with local stakeholders such as health staff, teachers and social services is establishing referral pathways for cases of child protection and sexual and gender-based violence.

Protection and prevention measures are also mobilizing vulnerable communities to conduct their own risk assessments and provide resilient mitigation strategies. This means that households can protect their own livelihoods and food production systems.

Risk mapping, holistic monitoring and an integrated analysis of agricultural and livelihood indicators are used in relief operations. Risk reduction technologies and practices, such as crop breeding, seed production, conservation agriculture, fodder conservation, and an adjustment of the cropping calendar, are being implemented within communities to enhance food security.

The National Society is also prioritizing an organizational contingency planning response, and coordination planning, with national and regional authorities and stakeholders.

### Community engagement and accountability

The engagement and involvement of all stakeholders, especially affected communities, is paramount throughout the emergency response. The National Society conducts consultations and regular surveys within communities to assess their satisfaction with the services provided, and any adaptations are made accordingly.



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## Strategic priorities

### Climate and environment

Ethiopia is frequently affected by natural hazards, exacerbated by the growing impact of climate change. Most commonly, seasonal changes cause severe drought or destructive floods. The impact of these crises is immense for a country that relies heavily on its natural resources and a much-needed rainy season to grow its crops and livestock.

With a growing population and an infrastructure that lacks the capacity to manage natural resources, Ethiopia is struggling to cope with – and recover from – climate and environmental crises. As a result, it experiences soil erosion, deforestation, desertification, the deterioration of land, and the loss of biodiversity and wildlife. Recurrent droughts and floods impede the Ethiopian agricultural sector, destroy livestock and ruin livelihoods on a huge scale.

The consequences of insufficient rain, coupled with high temperatures, are particularly stark in the southwest – Oromia, Somali, and the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region (SNNPR) – where eight million people remain dependent on humanitarian assistance. Successive droughts have caused a reduction of up to four per cent in Ethiopia's GDP, while rain-induced soil erosion is estimated to have lost a further one per cent.

Continued urbanization and attempts to grow industry and productivity have also affected Ethiopia's environment and natural resources. This includes the exploitation of forests, lake fisheries and agricultural lands, which in turn have contributed to deforestation, overfishing, and the degradation of agricultural areas and forests, as well as pollution and the unsustainable use of water resources.

Ethiopia has the fifth largest intervention area, 13.2 million hectares, under the Great Green Wall Initiative. The IFRC's Tree Planting and Care initiative contributes to national plans to plant six billion trees per year, as part of the annual Green Legacy Initiative to curb the effects of climate change and deforestation in Ethiopia.

The Ethiopian Red Cross is part of the IFRC [Global Climate Resilience Programme](#), which aims to build locally led climate-smart disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts, to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts, and build community-level climate resilience. The programme aims to support 500 million people in

100 of the most vulnerable countries, focusing on the least supported and marginalized communities. This holistic, multi-year programmatic approach consists of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction and anticipatory action and preparedness; (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change; (3) addressing climate displacement; and (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

### Main actions and areas of support

The Ethiopian Red Cross, in partnership with the Government, is leading annual tree planting events, which will increase tree cover and contribute to reduce adverse climate effects in Ethiopia. These events aim to adapt to and mitigate climate change through the planting and care of multi-purpose trees. This with continental, subcontinental and national plans and strategies.

The National Society and its partners will focus on rehabilitating degraded land areas in Boran and Wollo, to develop stronger resilience against drought. This includes planting drought-resilient seedlings, constructing rainwater harvesting ponds for agro-pastoral communities, and supporting pasture management skills and activities.

The National Society's plan links the emergency response to long-term community resilience in drought-affected areas. It will implement a holistic and coordinated approach to building preparedness and resilience projects that align with the IFRC Strategy 2030, the Pan-African initiatives, and other regional and global plans.

### Statistics

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By 2030, Ethiopia aims to **increase national forest coverage 16 to 30 per cent** (National Development Plan 2021–2030)

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### Disasters and crises

Ethiopia is increasingly vulnerable to natural hazards, which have an impact on the country's population. The INFORM Country Risk Profile ranks Ethiopia's risk of humanitarian crisis and disaster as very high. Hazards include droughts, flash floods, river floods, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

Flash floods and seasonal river floods are becoming more frequent and widespread. Since the 1970s, Ethiopia has experienced a series of recurring droughts. In 2011, an estimated 4.5 million people found themselves dependent on food assistance following the drought in the Horn of Africa. The death of livestock, due to pasture failures and a lack of water in southern and southeastern Ethiopia, caused serious food shortages. Climate change and human-induced factors, such as civil unrest, make the situation worse in the regions most impacted by drought and desertification.

The country has faced major conflict in the North mainly affecting the Tigray and Amhara regions, together with inter-regional and ethnic resourced based fighting between communities in other regions, including Beshangul, Oromia, SNNPR, Afar and Somali regions. This consequentially resulted in huge needs among affected communities.

### Main actions and areas of support

The Ethiopian Red Cross has responded to the crisis in northern Ethiopia, and its humanitarian consequences across other parts of the country, since its onset in November 2020, including as part of IFRC Emergency Appeal MDRTIGRAY, which ends in December 2022. By mid-2022, approximately 175,000 people (35,000 households) affected by the crisis have been reached through the Emergency Appeal. Following the de-escalation of violence, the Ethiopian Red Cross has conducted recovery assessments to determine the changing dynamics, including emerging needs related to recovery, durable solutions, enhanced community resilience, and social cohesion, as displaced people have begun to slowly return to their places of origin.

The Ethiopian Red Cross will continue to provide support to people affected by the crisis under this plan. This includes the distribution of food, animal fodder and non-food items to meet the immediate needs of vulnerable communities. Aid includes constructing emergency shelters and repairs of damaged houses, and providing multi-purpose cash grants for affected people. Employing climate-smart livelihoods will enable sustainable food security and enhanced quality of life in disaster-affected areas. The Ethiopian Red Cross will also improve economic resilience through training and knowledge in alternative livelihoods. It will distribute sheep to improve the economic situation of vulnerable women and people with disabilities in West Arsi. Cash transfers for livelihood restoration will cover the cost of farm implements, tools, agricultural inputs

and transportation. Health and water sanitation and hygiene interventions are embedded into the next section of this plan.

The Ethiopian Red Cross, with the support of the IFRC network, also provides multi-faceted assistance to people affected by other crises and hazards in the country. Between 2020 and 2022, the National Society has conducted response operations supported by the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund for epidemics, civil unrest, floods, population movement, food insecurity and elections preparedness.

The Ethiopian Red Cross is well equipped to respond to disaster situations. It has a roster of national disaster response team members, and branch disaster response teams' presence across the country. An emergency operations centre located at the headquarters in Addis Ababa supports communication and coordination with branches. To increase its capacity to rapidly address emergencies, the National Society is strengthening its disaster response teams, search and rescue teams, and emergency operations centres. It will develop and disseminate policy and procedures in critical areas, including staff safety and security, and continue to monitor its interventions.

### Statistics

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An estimated **13 million people require food aid** in conflict-affected Tigray, Afar and Amhara

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### Health and wellbeing

Ethiopia's health care sector faces widespread maternal mortality, malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. In addition, the nation is plagued by acute malnutrition and a lack of access to clean water and sanitation. Although child mortality rates have declined in recent years, one in 15 children do not survive beyond their fifth birthday. Chronic infantile malnutrition and diarrheal disease remain the leading causes of mortality in children under five.

Ethiopian health institutions are limited in number and insufficiently funded, and they lack sufficient medical supplies. Rural and urban areas do not offer the same access to health care services, and with more than 50 per cent of Ethiopia's population living more than 10km away from the closest health facility, treatment is often out of reach due to a shortage of transportation.

Ethiopia has achieved its millennium development goal of ensuring that 57 per cent of its population has

access to safe drinking water. However, a third of its people, especially in rural areas, have limited access to safe drinking water, an inadequate supply of chemical water treatment, and insufficient water storage.

Access to improved sanitation remains at 28 per cent nationwide, up from three per cent in 1990. An estimated 97 million people do not practice effective sanitation, so improved practices and shared knowledge are needed to see impactful change.

The Ethiopian Red Cross has a fleet of 562 ambulances that are strategically located in different areas to respond to emergencies. Additionally, the National Society has a functional network of 50 pharmacies and drug outlets across 12 regions, offering thousands of people medicines at affordable prices.

### **Main actions and areas of support**

Emergency medical services are crucial to the Ethiopian Red Cross. In 2023, it will seek to import 30 new ambulance vehicles and procure first aid kits for 600 ambulances, critical equipment including stretchers and oxygen, and base stations and communication equipment. It also needs to cover running costs and maintenance. The National Society will conduct 100 first aid training courses for branches working in areas affected by violence and conflict.

With support from the IFRC network, the National Society will directly support local hospitals and health centres, including in northern Ethiopia, by providing medical and personal protective equipment, and training on psychosocial support. It will also strengthen capacities in maternal and neonatal care, infant and child health care, and sexual reproductive health rights for health extension workers.

Furthermore, the Ethiopian Red Cross plans to provide direct health support to vulnerable individuals, including displaced people and returnees. This includes psychosocial support, community-based health and first aid, community health insurance for 960 vulnerable people, and education support for 800 students in need.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programming is a major intervention area for the National Society in Ethiopia. With the support of several partners, it plans to construct inclusive public latrines, rehabilitate other latrines, and provide financial support for maintenance and community-led construction. It will also work with schools and health centres to establish water storage, distribution systems, latrines, disinfection materials and handwashing stations. Showers and waste disposal

units will feature in health centres, and new school WASH clubs will promote best practice.

To achieve this, the National Society will improve tools and resources for effective WASH work, including a revised WASH strategy, curriculum and training manual. It will also conduct research on household water treatment.

The National Society will run hygiene promotion training, including risk communication and community engagement. Its hygiene awareness campaigns – using mobile vans, radio spots and loudspeakers – will spread the message, as will mass sanitation campaigns and the celebration of major events such as World Handwashing Day.

Hygiene materials and non-food items will be provided for people in need of home care services and for those impacted by disasters. The National Society will make dignity kits available to those affected by conflict, and roll out menstrual hygiene management kits to 1,200 female students.

The Ethiopian Red Cross also plans to rehabilitate ponds, install solar-powered water pumping systems and construct water points and hand-dug wells. It aims to establish local water use committees, and engage woreda water offices to oversee construction, water point management and maintenance.

The National Society will strengthen its capacities in emergency water supply, including training in water storage and treatment, and the provision of purification chemicals.

The fight against COVID will be reinforced through a continent-wide initiative between the IFRC and Africa CDC to invest in building resilient public health security infrastructure in Africa. Under the USD 39 million Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative funded by Mastercard Foundation, the IFRC and African National Societies are building a programme that aims to ensure that 60 per cent of African people are vaccinated against COVID-19. The partnership between the Mastercard Foundation and Africa CDC will support the procurement and delivery of tens of millions of COVID-19 vaccines and hasten economic recovery on the continent. Under this programme, the Ethiopian Red Cross will deliver critical risk communication and community engagement activities to vulnerable communities, in support of COVID-19 vaccine uptake. Other programme partners will provide procurement and logistics services to a central warehouse (UNICEF), in-country logistics (World Food Programme), managing COVID-19 vaccination centres



(Amref Health Africa and GHSS) and safety surveillance (Akros). Across Africa, the National Societies will work with partners in the Saving Lives and Livelihoods programme to achieve its objective of reaching at least 60 per cent of the continent's population with COVID-19 vaccines.

## Statistics

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**60–80 per cent of communicable diseases** in Ethiopia are attributed to limited access to safe water and inadequate sanitation

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**One in 15 Ethiopian children** do not survive beyond their fifth birthday

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## Migration and displacement

In Ethiopia, an estimated 4.5 million people are internally displaced by conflict, intercommunal violence, disasters and the adverse effects of climate change. Despite the country's state of emergency being formally lifted at the end of February 2022, civil unrest, climate shocks and a failing economy continue to affect livelihoods. This has forced much of the population to flee or become dependent on humanitarian assistance.<sup>1</sup>

Most internal displacements are caused by intercommunal violence and conflict, such as the expansion of the Tigray conflict into the Afar and Amhara regions. Other violent events include the northern crisis, notably in the Benishangul Gumuz, Oromia and Somali regions. Climate change and environmental disasters – successive droughts and floods – have led to further displacement in the Afar, Gambella, Oromia and Somali regions, and the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region (SNNPR).

Ethiopia hosts more than 820,000 refugees and asylum seekers who have fled from South Sudan, Somalia and Eritrea, making Ethiopia the second-largest host country in Africa. The 26 camps hosting these refugees lack essential services and require urgent humanitarian assistance. Most refugees left their homes with barely any belongings and walked long distances over harsh terrain, and large numbers of displaced children suffer acute malnutrition. Almost half of the refugees are women and girls, and 59 per cent are children. More than 70,000 others reside in the country's capital of Addis Ababa as urban refugees.

## Main actions and areas of support

The Ethiopian Red Cross is part of the IFRC's three-year [Global Route Based Migration Programme](#), which aims to improve the safety and dignity of people on the move along deadly and dangerous land and sea-based migration routes across Africa, the Americas, Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. The programme aims to support 4.7 million people on the move and people in host communities annually, through three operational pillars: (1) improving access to assistance and protection, including through humanitarian service points (2) strengthening National Society capacities, and (3) local to global humanitarian diplomacy.

The National Society and its partners are committed to assisting refugees and displaced people in Ethiopia. They will support displaced children living on the streets of Addis Ababa, through family reunion or alternative care arrangements. The children will be offered vocational training, and peer and psychosocial support.

The National Society will encourage refugees and people who are internally displaced to integrate back into the community, with the help of job skills training, psychosocial support, safe spaces, non-food items, hygiene items and dignity kits. It will also work on prevention measures, including trafficking and migration-related risk education, risk of exploitation, life skills and career planning.

## Statistics

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There are approximately **4.5 million internally displaced people** in Ethiopia

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Ethiopia hosts **more than 820,000 refugees and asylum seekers**

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## Values, power and inclusion

The compounding crises in Ethiopia – from floods to conflicts and the COVID-19 pandemic – have severely affected 30 million people, of which more than 12.4 million are children. The most vulnerable populations include women and children living in conflict areas, where there is inadequate access to basic services such as health and sanitation, and a lack of social welfare and justice.

<sup>1</sup> Analysis in this section is supported by the Red Cross Red Crescent Global Migration Lab: <https://www.redcross.org.au/globalmigrationlab/>

Ethiopia's many emergencies have led to an increase in the number of displaced people, and the disruption of access to essential services. This has left communities vulnerable and in need of humanitarian protection and assistance. In a displacement context where social cohesion is weak, conflicts are more frequent and profound. Exclusion becomes the norm, and this leads to extreme violence and discrimination, which diminishes efforts to restore the safety, health and human potential to which disadvantaged people are entitled.

Migrants are particularly vulnerable in the East and Horn of Africa. Recent assessments report that on the migratory routes across the Horn of Africa, 79 per cent of migrants experienced or witnessed one or more abuses, including extortion, sexual violence and torture.

Nearly eight million people in Ethiopia, nine per cent of the population, live with some form of disability. Of these people, up to 2.2 million people (2.4 per cent) have very severe difficulties, and about 30 per cent are children and young people under the age of 25. Evidence shows that children who live with disabilities are far less likely to start school than those without.

### Main actions and areas of support

The Ethiopian Red Cross is working with its partners to ensure protection, gender-sensitive programming and inclusion in several important areas. It plans to provide essential basic and menstrual hygiene items to displaced women and girls. It will provide menstrual hygiene facilities and establish girl-friendly spaces in secondary schools. Furthermore, school clubs will work to promote hygiene, peace and disability inclusion.

The National Society will strengthen partnerships to support awareness campaigns that promote good hygiene and prevent female genital mutilation, child marriage, and sexual and gender-based violence.

It will also partner with the regional disability association to provide basic mobility aids such as wheelchairs, point sticks and hand crutches, along with disability access facilities, including ramps, accessible material and interpretation services.

All IFRC programmes should provide dignity, access, participation and safety, so the IFRC will support the National Society to apply its minimum standards on protection, gender and inclusion in Ethiopia. It will support the National Society in mapping out combined sexual and gender-based violence and child protection referral pathways, and create a referral pathway to health, psychosocial support, protection, and legal and case management services. It will provide training for staff and volunteers on addressing sexual and gender-based violence, survivor case management, disability inclusion and child protection.

To best evaluate its practices, the National Society will develop community feedback mechanisms and train personnel on their use. It will conduct campaigns and hold seminars with local officials, and empower champions of the community, so that their voices inform policy and programming decisions.

### Statistics

Nearly **eight million people** in Ethiopia live with some form of disability

Compounding crises continue to affect more than **12 million children**

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## Enabling local actors

The Ethiopian Red Cross is committed to institutional strengthening and has twice carried out the self-assessment section of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process, first in 2011 and later in 2014. That part of the OCAC process is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole, in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities.

The National Society is also committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process, and is at the action and accountability phase. The PER

approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyze the strengths and gaps of their preparedness and response mechanisms, and ultimately take necessary actions to improve them.

Based on its strategic plan for 2020–2025, the Ethiopian Red Cross worked with its partners to create a National Society development road map with a countrywide focus. The road map aligns the National Society with Ethiopia's development priorities, and Movement partners have indicated which areas they are interested

in supporting. There are six priorities identified in the National Society development road map:

- Branch development
- Membership and volunteer development
- Financial sustainability
- Partnerships and resource development
- Human resources and leadership development
- Digitalization, image building and communications

The IFRC and partners support will enable the Ethiopian Red Cross to maintain an organization that can deliver relevant, good quality and sustainable services in full respect of the Fundamental Principles.

## Engaged

Effective communication is crucial if the National Society in Ethiopia is to portray a positive image to the public and its stakeholders. It recognizes the importance of utilizing media tools and outlets, engaging with partners and stakeholders, and improving its humanitarian diplomacy efforts to be a stronger voice for vulnerable people. A robust humanitarian diplomacy and communication plan will contain appropriate links to national, pan-African, and international climate and humanitarian policies.

The National Society plans to digitalize operations and processes to attain efficiency and improve the turnaround time of processes like procurement and information sharing. A key objective is to use digital transformation to improve speed and the scale-up of activities. The National Society wants to experiment with new technologies, innovations, digital practices and culture to bring people together. The National Society also aims to move several processes to electronic systems, including human resources, document management, e-signature, procurement and cash transfers.

## Accountable

At the very core of the National Society's development is the capacity building of staff, volunteers, members, governance and communities at the grassroots level. With greater professionalism comes accountability, while improved organizational performance and programme delivery at the headquarters and at branch level will ensure humanitarian and development success. Community feedback mechanisms will ensure that the voices of affected communities are heard, and that the National Society has real-time feedback on the performance and conduct of its personnel.

Under this priority, the Ethiopian Red Cross seeks to improve the way it engages and works with its partners, as well as building financial sustainability and increasing its financial income base. It plans to be more accountable and improve on finance development, while being risk averse. Furthermore, it will enhance its assets and property management activities, with the intention of ensuring financial self-reliance.

## Trusted

Staff management and welfare is challenging, given the ever-changing external environment, and the Ethiopian Red Cross experiences frequent staff turnover as a result. This means it is losing quality personnel, and this might affect the implementation of its strategic goals. The National Society would like to invest in stronger human resources policies and practices, to create a more favourable working environment for its staff. It also aims to strengthen the leadership of its governance and management at all levels – ensuring accountability and transparency.

The National Society seeks to enhance its membership and volunteer management, improving the systems it uses to manage, care for and account for volunteers, and increasing its membership. This will be achieved through strengthening volunteer capacities, increasing safety and, together with the volunteers, exploring new ways of working, including structured urban volunteering. This may result in a revision of the volunteer policy and reward and recognition system that eventually increases retention of this important workforce. The National Society is also keen to increase its membership engagement and recruitment.

By strengthening branches, the National Society in Ethiopia will ensure timely and relevant humanitarian services at the grassroots level, while creating a network of strong sub-business units that are effective and self-sustaining at the community level. The National Society plans to construct six new warehouses and rehabilitate three facilities at the headquarters and at branch levels, and increase the stock of pre-positioned food and non-food items.

A programme coordinator will strengthen IFRC coordination services, focusing on facilitating an effective Federation-wide response, including information management, planning monitoring evaluation and reporting, and operations coordination. In the field, an operations manager will support the National Society and its partners in the implementation of emergency response activities.

# THE IFRC NETWORK

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## The IFRC

**The IFRC** re-established its presence in Addis Ababa in 2021, and provides support to the National Society in delivering services, advocating on behalf of vulnerable people, and strengthening its capacity. The IFRC facilitates international support to the National Society's emergency response activities, coordinates the membership and supports the network's global and regional initiatives. It also provides wider humanitarian diplomacy in international circles on the situation in Ethiopia and the action of the National Society. IFRC also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme.

In recent years IFRC supported the Ethiopian Red Cross through a number of Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) and Emergency Appeal operations in relation to population movement, civil unrest and elections preparedness, drought, floods, disease outbreaks and food insecurity. One Emergency Appeal and one DREF operation were launched in 2022, crossing over to 2023. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the IFRC, through its global Appeal, has supported the National Society for its COVID-19 response and for the immunization rollout programme in Africa.

## IFRC membership coordination

The IFRC coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing common priorities; co-developing common strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space, mobilizing funding and other resources; clarifying consistent public messaging; and monitoring progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need incorporate clarity of humanitarian action, development assistance, and the auxiliary role efforts to reinforce the role of National Societies in their respective countries.

The National Society in Ethiopia is part of the IFRC network's New Way of Working initiative, which is being piloted in 14 countries. This aims to establish a new model of membership coordination, which will instill change in the ways in which the IFRC network works together, effectively placing the National Society in the country at the centre. The initiative prioritizes effective coordination and optimizes the power of working

as one IFRC network by sharing resources, learning and common standards, to achieve greater impact. Particular attention is given to collective planning to ensure that the National Society's in-country partners participate in one multi-year country plan. This means that resources and expertise are used in a complementary and efficient way.

The Ethiopian Red Cross is also part of the four IFRC Pan-African Initiatives focusing on Tree planting and care; Zero Hunger; Red Ready; and National Society Development. These initiatives are reflected under the relevant sections of this plan.

The IFRC Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal promotes a Federation-wide approach to the emergency response, inclusive of all participating National Societies present in southern Ethiopia. These are Austrian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, the Netherlands Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross. It builds on their expertise, capacities and resources as active members in the targeted areas.

In addition to IFRC members channeling overall support to sister National Societies through the IFRC, participating National Societies providing long-term support to the Ethiopian Red Cross and with a presence in Ethiopia are the following:

**Austrian Red Cross** focuses on sustainable, localized services and support through National Society development and reduced disaster risk and impact. Using its domestic expertise, it is supporting the Ethiopian Red Cross to enhance the quality of emergency medical services and to develop water, sanitation and hygiene capacity and services. In 2022, the Austrian Red Cross has six ongoing projects in 10 zonal branches. Together with the Canadian Red Cross, it supports people affected by violence and those displaced in Tigray through its Humanitarian Assistance to Conflict-Affected Populations project in the Amhara Region. Aid includes multi-faceted financial assistance to cover the immediate lifesaving needs of the most affected households and emergency medical services, particularly ambulance assistance. Through immediate financial support, the project ensures the continuity of the Ethiopian Red Cross emergency health services.

**Danish Red Cross** has been present in Ethiopia since the 1980s. It helped to establish the Ethiopian Red Cross pharmacy programme, which still exists today. Much of

## Participating National Society Support - Bilateral

| Name of Partner NS    | Funding Requirements | Climate | Disasters and crises | Health and wellbeing | Migration | Values, power and inclusion | Engaged | Accountable | Trusted |
|-----------------------|----------------------|---------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|---------|-------------|---------|
| Austrian Red Cross    | CHF 1.22M            |         | ●                    | ●                    |           | ●                           | ●       |             | ●       |
| British Red Cross     | CHF 0.48M            |         | ●                    |                      |           | ●                           |         | ●           |         |
| Canadian Red Cross    | CHF 0.98M            | ●       | ●                    | ●                    |           |                             |         | ●           | ●       |
| Danish Red Cross      | CHF 1.00M            |         | ●                    |                      | ●         | ●                           |         | ●           |         |
| Finnish Red Cross     | CHF 3.03M            | ●       | ●                    |                      |           | ●                           | ●       |             |         |
| German Red Cross      | CHF 0.68M            |         | ●                    |                      |           |                             |         | ●           |         |
| Italian Red Cross     | CHF 0.37M            |         |                      | ●                    | ●         |                             |         | ●           |         |
| Netherlands Red Cross | CHF 0.30M            | ●       | ●                    | ●                    |           | ●                           | ●       | ●           | ●       |
| Swiss Red Cross       | CHF 0.15M            |         | ●                    | ●                    | ●         |                             |         | ●           |         |

### Total

8.20M

Danish Red Cross's engagement with the Ethiopian Red Cross is linked to migration-related challenges, such as supporting the reintegration of returnees, assisting with quarantine arrangements during the COVID-19 pandemic, and providing cash, shelter and non-food items to internally displaced people. In the coming years, the Danish Red Cross plans to support emergency preparedness and response, logistics, branch capacity, and the mainstreaming of mental health and psychosocial support.

**Finnish Red Cross** cooperates on long-term development projects, emergency response and National Society development. Funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, the Towards Resilient Communities in Afar project began in 2016 and focuses on water, sanitation and hygiene, health, livelihoods, community-based disaster management and branch development. It is implemented in the woredas, or districts, of Dubti, Kori and Telalak in Ethiopia's Afar region. Its Safer Access Framework focuses on perception, acceptance, access and security-related challenges for branches working in insecure and insensitive environments.

**German Red Cross** has had a presence in Ethiopia since the 1950s. It cooperates with the Ethiopian Red Cross on basic needs, shelter, settlements, non-food items, water, sanitation and hygiene, branch development, National Society development, and cash and voucher assistance. It has recently focused much of its work on the Benishangul-Gumuz region, although it supports emergency response in other areas too. The German Red Cross is also supporting the Ethiopian Red Cross response capacity through warehouse renovations and construction, strengthening disaster response teams, training staff and volunteers, and funding key positions in the headquarters and at a regional level.

Italian Red Cross collaborates with the Ethiopian Red Cross on water, sanitation and hygiene, migration, first aid, psychosocial support and emergency response. The collaboration formally began in March 2010, with a delegation that was in the country for four years. The Italian Red Cross returned to Ethiopia in January 2021, with a new regional office in Addis Ababa. Ethiopia is now a priority country for Italian development cooperation. In 2021, it provided humanitarian cargo for the Ethiopian Red Cross, including drugs and medical equipment, for distribution in Tigray and the Amhara



regions. It is also distributing cash to displaced people in Amhara and plans to support the salaries of 80 staff in a Tigray hospital following an interruption to the country's banking systems since July 2021.

**The Netherlands Red Cross**, which works across the disaster management cycle, putting communities at the centre of its work. It has been a partner of the National Society in Ethiopia since 1936 and opened a delegation in Addis Ababa in 2014. In 2020, the Netherlands Red Cross adopted a new international strategy that prioritizes water management, prevention and response to natural hazards and man-made disasters, financial sustainability of partner National Societies, and digitalization. The Netherlands Red Cross geographical focus is the Somali region, Tigray and northern Amhara, Oromia, and the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region (SNNPR). It supports the Ethiopian Red Cross to sustainably plan, prepare for, and implement emergency response and long-term resilience programming for vulnerable communities.

**Swiss Red Cross** focuses on National Society development and disaster risk management. In 2022, it supported the development of two projects in Ethiopia: an emergency drought response in Moyale, and a community preparedness and resilience intervention in five branches. The Swiss Red Cross also supports Ethiopian Red Cross's disaster response activities, including the recent flood and drought responses and displacement.

The National Societies providing remote support to the Ethiopian Red Cross are the following:

**British Red Cross** has been supporting the Ethiopian Red Cross since November 2020 with emergency response funding, rapid response surge delegates and technical expertise. Since 2021, it has been engaging with the IFRC network (including the Netherlands Red Cross) and the UK Government's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. The British Red Cross sits on the Ethiopian National Society's development and steering committee and provides technical support on anti-trafficking and early action protocol development for several long-term programmes. It intends to scale up support for Ethiopia from 2023, continuing to work through the Netherlands Red Cross and pursuing funding options. Programming will focus on long-term recovery programmes in integrated food security, livelihoods, National Society development, protection, gender and inclusion, cash and voucher assistance, and emergency response. Furthermore, the British Red

Cross will continue to support innovative approaches to the response preparedness programme in Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda, focusing on forecast-based financing, early action protocol, and early warning early action initiatives.

**Canadian Red Cross** and the Ethiopian Red Cross established their bilateral partnership in 2014, and Canadian Red Cross has contributed to excellent localized emergency response structures. With critical financial support and technology investments from Canada, the Ethiopian Red Cross has significantly improved its decentralized humanitarian response system, and established community-led preparedness and response committees. The Canadian Red Cross supports the strategic leadership of the Ethiopian Red Cross in its response to climate-related disasters, violence and health emergencies. The 2014–2019 Capacity Strengthening for Emergency Response in Africa project made a significant contribution to Ethiopian Red Cross's readiness capacity. It created a more systematic approach to operations, increased decentralization, and strengthened the inclusion of gender equality and diversity in policies, operations and actions. The project also increased local resources for disaster preparedness, response and risk management.

The Canadian Red Cross remains committed to offering further support as Ethiopia's humanitarian needs continue to grow. In August 2022, it submitted a proposal to Global Affairs Canada for the Climate Change Adaptation initiative in Ethiopia, Somalia and South Sudan. It is a three-year initiative that aims to increase the resilience of pastoralists, agro-pastoralists and smallholder farmers to climate change and climate disasters, particularly women and young people in rural and semi-urban communities. It will be implemented in areas where there is a high vulnerability to climate change and no other significant support, and where results can be achieved in a relatively short timeframe. It will be implemented through the three National Societies in Ethiopia, Somalia and South Sudan, with technical support from the Netherlands Red Cross and ACTED in South Sudan and Somalia. Other local partners include the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Climate Change, the Ministry of Agriculture, and local women- and youth-led organizations. The project is expected to reach a total of 1.4 million people (810,929 females and 596,216 males) across the three countries, with a total budget of CAD16 million.

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## Movement coordination

The coordination and cooperation of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in Ethiopia is governed by Movement partners, and the Ethiopian Red Cross plays a central role. As well as the active participation of representatives from the IFRC network and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), there are regular strategic and operational meetings to plan and coordinate Movement support to the National Society's emergency response operations and long-term programming. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles, and the newly adopted Seville Agreement 2.0.

The IFRC's Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal is organized along similar lines, enabling a collective response to the needs of vulnerable people and communities affected by the climate-induced food crisis in southern Ethiopia.

The ICRC has been present in Ethiopia for nearly 40 years, providing humanitarian assistance and protection to people affected by conflict and internal strife. It currently has sub-delegations in Mekelle, Shire, Jijiga, Nekemte and Gondar, with an antenna in Harar. It supports the Ethiopian Red Cross preparedness and response to the needs of people affected by conflict and violence.

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## Coordination with other actors

In 2022, the Ethiopian Red Cross increased its network of external partners, including UNICEF, OFDA/USAID, Global Alliance and local banks. Most of the funding support was focused on community services and interventions, with little going to the National Society's development needs. These opportunities have nevertheless increased the National Society's financial capacity to deliver humanitarian services throughout the country.

The Ethiopian Red Cross coordinates with the National Disaster Risk Management Commission in the planning and implementation of emergency response actions, and together they lead the national early warning task force and cash working group. The National Society is

a member of the National Operations Centre. It is also part of the humanitarian country team and participates in inter-agency working group meetings, which focus on cash, food security, nutrition, emergency shelter and non-food items, protection and education.

There are many international organizations responding to the drought in Ethiopia. They operate under robust strategy and planning coordination measures, as set out by the Federal Government and regional governments. The authorities have also developed a drought response plan, which serves as the basis for partner engagement in emergency, recovery and resilience-building activities.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Global Plan and Country Plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Donor response](#) on IFRC website
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\)](#) data
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)



**The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)** is the world's largest humanitarian network, with **192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** and around **14 million volunteers**. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

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