






# Situation Report

Ethiopia faces escalating humanitarian crisis amid ongoing conflict and climate shocks

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| Country:              | Ethiopia  |
| Emergency type:       | Conflict  |
| Start Date of Crisis: | November 3, 2020  |
| Date Issued:          | January 15, 2025  |
| Covering Period:      | December 1 – 30, 2024   |
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## Key Indicators

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|---|--|---|--|
| <br><b>15.5 million</b><br>Total people targeted (OCHA HRP 2024) | <br><b>2.075,000</b><br>Women of reproductive age | <br><b>188,101</b><br>Estimated pregnant women | <br><b>8,300,000 million</b><br>People targeted by UNFPA ETHIOPIA HRP in 2024 |
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## Highlights

- Intense seismic activity** in the southern Afar and northern Oromia regions of Ethiopia, particularly around the Dofen and Fentale volcanoes in the Main Ethiopian Rift, has resulted in over 177 recorded earthquakes (magnitude 4.2–5.7) since 21 December. Over 90,000 people are at risk and 75,000 evacuated, while emergency shelters have been established. The earthquakes have caused significant damage, including 16 schools severely impacted, homes, and health facilities, disrupting access to basic and community services. Concerns persist over the safety

of the Kesam/Sabure Dam and the Ethiopia-Djibouti railway. Urgent gaps remain in water, sanitation, shelter, nutrition, and health services, particularly in Oromia (OCHA, 2025). UNFPA and partners are prioritizing the protection of women and children through GBV prevention and response, and mobile health teams to enhance access to critical healthcare and safety in affected areas.

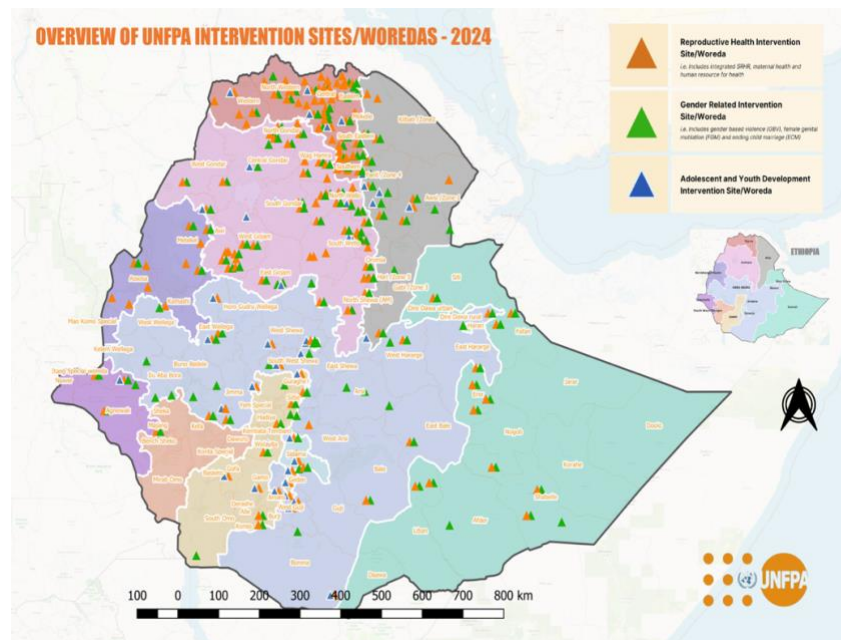
- The **ongoing conflict** in Amhara and Oromia regions, coupled with natural disasters and disease outbreaks, has created a severe public health crisis in Ethiopia, marked by internal displacement, casualties, malnutrition, and epidemics, while health responses remain critically underfunded.

## Situation Overview

- **Ethiopia’s humanitarian situation in 2024 was marked by widespread vulnerability**, with 15.5 million ([2024 Humanitarian Response Plan](#)) in urgent need of assistance due to climate-induced disasters like droughts, floods, and landslides, as well as ongoing conflict and violence in regions such as Amhara and western Oromia. The crisis was compounded by the displacement of over 1 million refugees and asylum seekers, predominantly from South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea, and Sudan, alongside 3.3 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 2.6 million IDP returnees as of December 2024 ([UNHCR, 2024](#)).
- Access to **essential health and protection services** is critically limited, with particular impacts on women, girls, and youth. Malnutrition remains alarmingly high in several regions, while ongoing armed conflicts in Amhara and Oromia exacerbate risks of gender-based violence and hinder life-saving assistance. The prolonged displacement of millions and the collapse of health and education systems further deepens vulnerabilities, including interventions to restore access to reproductive health, address protection needs, and safeguard the dignity of affected communities.
- Recent **seismic activity in the Afar and Oromia** regions has raised an urgent need for comprehensive GBV and SRH (sexual and reproductive health) responses. As communities continue to endure the destruction caused by earthquakes, there has been a growing risk of GBV, particularly in evacuation sites and temporary shelters where families are displaced and living in close quarters. This environment may heighten vulnerability to violence, exploitation, and abuse, particularly among women and children. To mitigate these risks, a community-based GBV monitoring unit has been established, and mobile health teams are providing critical reproductive health services. However, there remain significant gaps in services, particularly in Oromia, highlighting the urgent need for additional resources to ensure the protection and health of women and girls.

## UNFPA Response

In 2024, UNFPA Ethiopia has significantly expanded its humanitarian initiatives to address the pressing sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and gender-based violence (GBV) needs across 11 regions. This expansion is in response to multiple crises, including the influx of refugees and returnees from neighboring countries, particularly South Sudan. The organization has been instrumental in providing essential SRH services, such as maternal and newborn care, family planning, and GBV prevention and response programs, ensuring that vulnerable populations receive critical support during challenging times. As of December 2024, UNFPA reached over 203,563 individuals with essential lifesaving **SRH services** and



information, delivering crucial support to communities nationwide. This included over 26,746 individuals provided with family planning services, 33,205 mothers provided with maternal and newborn health services, including over 37,000 Pregnant and Lactating Women (PWL) screened for acute malnutrition, with 19,471 supported with nutritional supplements in affected regions. Additionally, 145 healthcare professionals were trained in various sexual and reproductive topics, including provision of youth-friendly SRH services, among others.

**Gender-based violence (GBV)** remained a critical issue in communities affected by conflict and climate shocks. The breakdown of social structures and limited access to GBV services heightened the risks faced by women and girls, increasing their vulnerability. In response, UNFPA scaled up integrated GBV/SRH response services through multiple service points - 63 Women and Girls' Friendly Spaces, 32 supported One-Stop Centers, 19 Safe Houses, and other government-led service delivery points. Only in December 2024, UNFPA has reached 142,402 women and girls with comprehensive GBV services and information, including 21,403 individuals supported with mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS), and 1,476 women and girls benefitting from dignity kits and sanitary pads for menstrual health management. These efforts were complemented by UNFPA's robust humanitarian coordination presence, leading the GBV AoR at national and regional levels with MoWSA and the Bureaus of Women's Affairs.

## Results Snapshot



## Coordination Mechanisms

- UNFPA has continued to participate in various humanitarian coordination platforms, including the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) and Health and Protection Clusters. It also continues to lead the GBV sub-cluster and SRH Working Groups at the national and sub-national levels.
- As of December 2024, UNFPA Ethiopia has **mobilized a total of USD 21,338,413 million within the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus** programming from Denmark, Canada, CERF, Korea, Sweden, PRM, and Itochu Corporation in 2024. The resources will be largely used to scale up interventions within the humanitarian, development, peace nexus. Additionally, new partnerships with UNHCR, JICA and GIZ were forged to further enhance impact and collaboration.
- **As the GBV AoR lead, UNFPA** supported the Federal Ministry of Women and Social Affairs in approving the rollout of the GBV Information Management System (GBVIMS) in Ethiopia on December 12, 2024. This milestone, achieved through high-level discussions between MoWSA and UNFPA, underscores a shared commitment to strengthening GBV reporting and support services. The rollout will be guided by a Steering

Committee, with UNFPA providing financial and technical assistance, as well as lessons learned from similar initiatives in Africa. Regular technical team meetings and quarterly updates will ensure effective implementation.

- **As the SRH TWG lead, UNFPA**, in collaboration with the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI) and the partners of Technical Working Group (SRH TWG), facilitated the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for SRH basic training for 31 service providers responding to conflict-affected populations nationwide. Additionally, MISP for SRH Training of Training (ToT) was conducted for 26 regional Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, Adolescent Health and Nutrition (RMNCAH) coordinators and partners.
- **As the co-lead of the YPS TWG**, UNFPA supported the Tigray Regional Taskforce on Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) in their December 2024 meeting, where they finalized their 2025 work plan. Additionally, preparations are underway for the High-Level National Conference on YPS, scheduled for February 4, 2025.

## Funding Status

In 2024, our resource mobilization efforts require **\$48,200,085 USD** to achieve our goals, as outlined in the **UNFPA Preparedness and Humanitarian Response Plan 2024**. As of September 2024, UNFPA Ethiopia has received **\$21,3 Million USD** from our generous donors.

We extend our sincere gratitude to BMGF, Canada, CERF, Denmark, ITOCHU Corporation, Japan, Norway, PRM, Spain, Sweden, KOICA, USAID, and the World Bank/UNOPS for their crucial support. Their contributions are vital in advancing our mission to ensure rights and choices for all in Ethiopia.

