

HUMANITARIAN UPDATE


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OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2025

Marburg Virus Disease Update

The Ministry of Health is leading the response on the confirmed outbreak of Marburg Virus Disease in Jinka Town, South Ethiopia Region, and has activated a full Incident Management System at federal and regional levels. Fourteen confirmed cases and nine deaths have so far been reported.

Response to South Sudanese refugees arriving in Gambela

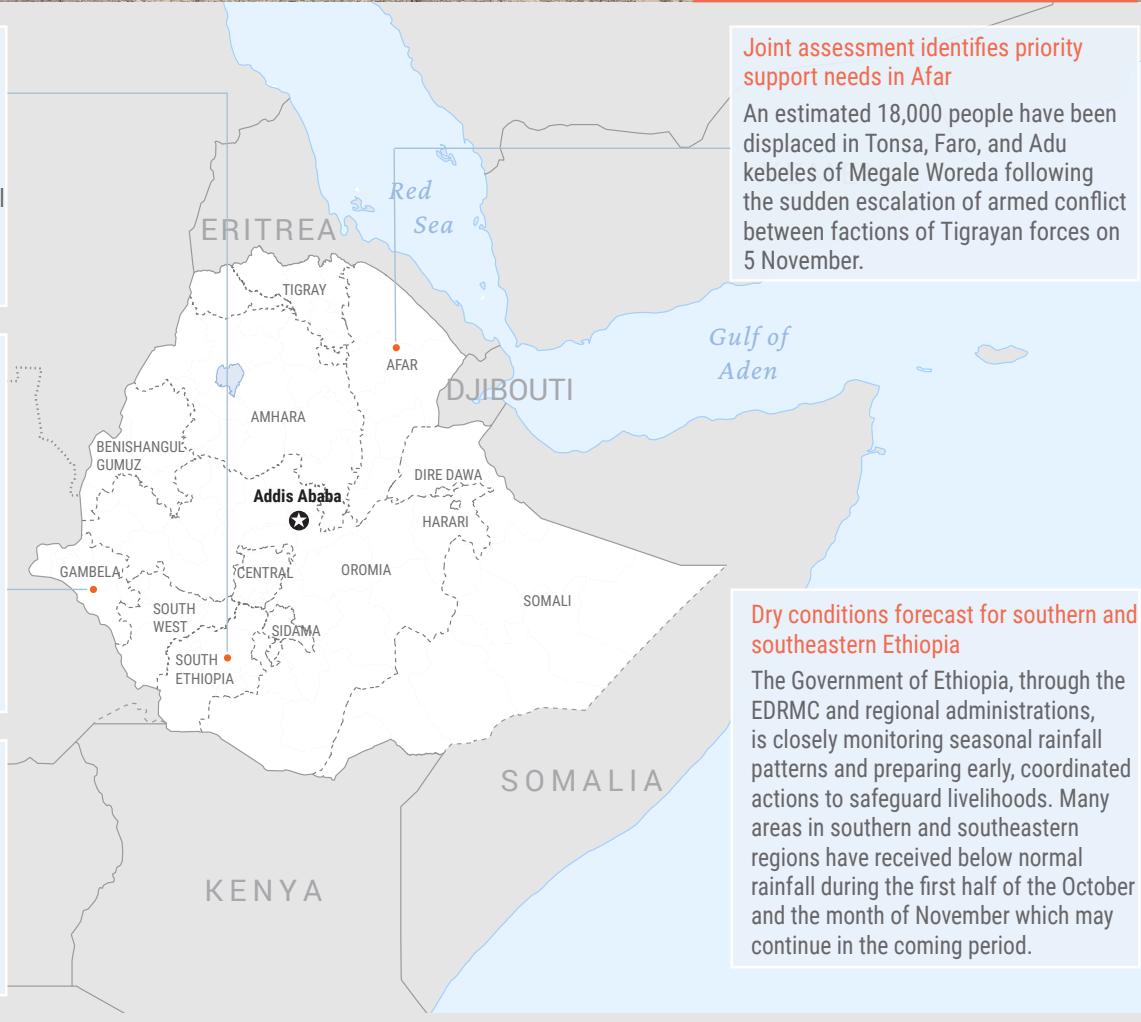
The government's continued role in providing sanctuary to those fleeing conflict in neighboring countries remains crucial. The Government's Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) and UNHCR have registered more than 49,000 refugees since July of this year. More than 20,000 of them are hosted in the Luakdong site. Shelter, WASH and education are key priorities.

Displacement situation along the Somali-Oromia border

The Federal Government, together with the Oromia and Somali Regional Governments, continues to coordinate efforts to manage displacement and support affected communities along the shared border.

Joint assessment identifies priority support needs in Afar

An estimated 18,000 people have been displaced in Tonsa, Faro, and Adu kebeles of Megale Woreda following the sudden escalation of armed conflict between factions of Tigrayan forces on 5 November.



Dry conditions forecast for southern and southeastern Ethiopia

The Government of Ethiopia, through the EDRMC and regional administrations, is closely monitoring seasonal rainfall patterns and preparing early, coordinated actions to safeguard livelihoods. Many areas in southern and southeastern regions have received below normal rainfall during the first half of the October and the month of November which may continue in the coming period.

1 Marburg Virus Disease Outbreak

On 14 November, the Ministry of Health confirmed an outbreak of Marburg Virus Disease in Jinka Town, South Ethiopia Region. In line with national emergency procedures, the Government immediately activated surveillance and laboratory systems to verify the diagnosis.

Marburg virus is a hemorrhagic fever, similar to Ebola. It causes severe bleeding, fever, vomiting, and diarrhea, with an incubation period of up to 21 days. Like Ebola, it spreads through direct contact with bodily fluids and has a fatality rate of 25–80%. There is no approved vaccine or antiviral treatment, though survival improves significantly with timely hydration and supportive care.

As of 14 December, 1,843 people have been tested, with 14 confirmed cases, nine deaths, five recoveries, and one patient currently under treatment. Three woredas are currently affected: Jinka (Ari Zone) and Male (South Omo Zone) in the Southern Ethiopia Region, and Tula sub-city (Hawassa City Administration) in Sidama Region. All confirmed cases are linked to the index case and the initial transmission chain.

The Government has activated a full Incident Management System at federal and regional levels, driving coordinated action on surveillance, contact tracing, laboratory testing, case management, infection prevention and control, and risk communication and community engagement. The deployment of mobile laboratories by the Ministry has substantially shortened turnaround times for testing, accelerating case confirmation and isolation.

The Government has launched a three-month response plan costing over US\$12 million and is working with partners to address the initial US\$10 million funding gap.

Authorities are monitoring contacts, conducting awareness campaigns with community leaders and students, and screening households and entry points into the country.

While progress is encouraging, vigilance remains critical due to the virus's long incubation period and high population movement.



2 Dry conditions forecast for southern and southeastern Ethiopia

The Government of Ethiopia, through the EDRMC and regional administrations, is closely monitoring seasonal rainfall patterns and preparing early, coordinated actions to safeguard livelihoods.

As part of its leadership, the government has signaled readiness to fully implement the food response. Partners will complement national efforts where operational support is required.

Most areas in southern and southeastern regions have received below normal rainfall during October and November. These October–December rains typically provide up to 40% of the annual rainfall that sustains pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihoods. In several areas, March–May rainfall was also below expectations.

These conditions are driven by the combined influence of La Niña and a negative Indian Ocean Dipole. Climate Hazards Center estimates show a 50–100 mm rainfall deficit across many locations between mid-September to mid-November.

Emerging impacts

Local stakeholders have reported delayed planting and poor germination in rainfed agricultural zones, alongside reduced

pasture and water availability in pastoral areas. In parts of Liban Zone, livestock stress and abnormal migration in search of water and grazing have been observed. The Somali Regional Disaster Risk Management Bureau estimates that over half a million people are currently affected by limited access to water.

Dry conditions are expected to persist through December 2025, echoing precedents seen in 2017 and 2020. The most pronounced impacts are anticipated between January and April 2026, when seasonal effects converge with market pressures.

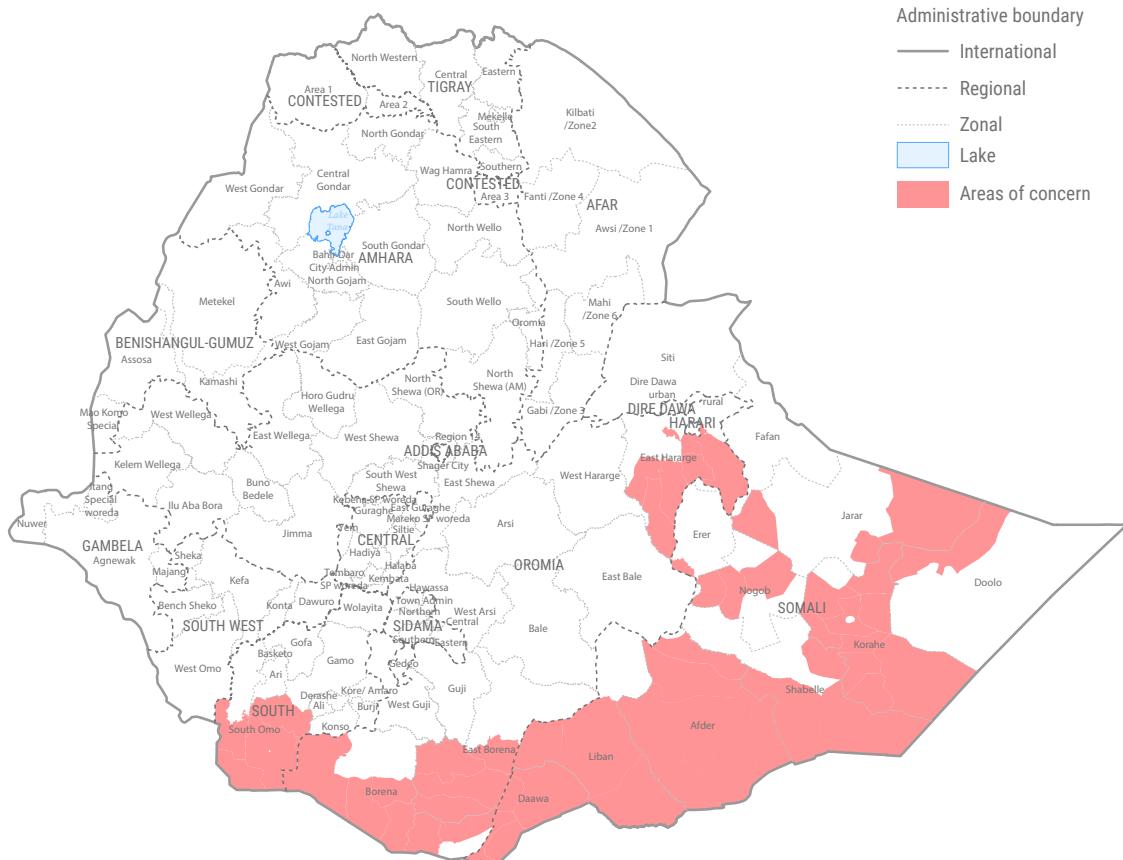
Preparedness and early action

Ahead of the season, the EDRMC issued a drought alert requesting partners to initiate anticipatory action. WFP and FAO have undertaken targeted anticipatory activities in line with government guidance. Attention is now shifting toward early response planning.

On 24 November, the Somali Region President underscored the importance of scaling up lifesaving support in food, water and health services. Detailed discussions are ongoing on how to align partner support with government planning and internal resource mobilization efforts.

Drought Monitoring (October - November 2025)

*The boundaries and names shown and the designations on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations
Source: Ethiopia Meteorological Institute and others.*



3 Displacement situation along the Somali-Oromia border

The Federal Government, together with the Oromia and Somali Regional Governments, continues to coordinate efforts to manage displacement and support affected communities along the shared border.

Renewed inter-communal tensions in mid-July 2025 in at least seven border woredas resulted in displacement, casualties and localized damage to infrastructure. Based on estimates from district Disaster Risk Management Offices, approximately 288,000 people were displaced across both regions (151,000 in Oromia and 136,000 in Somali Region).

Oromia Region

Local authorities report that population movements in Dhas Woreda have continued to evolve, influenced by security concerns, dry conditions, and household livelihood decisions. Three previously established IDP sites (including Kakalo hosting more than 15,000 people) are no longer occupied. A nearby health facility remains functional and continues nutrition screening for surrounding communities.

Some households have reportedly relocated closer to markets and livelihood opportunities in the Woreda capital; others have dispersed among host communities. A small spontaneous settlement of around 25 shelters, predominantly women, children and elderly with significant livestock presence, has emerged 5 km from the capital, possibly reflecting proximity to water and grazing areas.

To encourage safe and sustainable returns, the local government has initiated peace dialogues between Oromo and Somali communities, and has highlighted the importance of additional support to alleviate drought impacts affecting both displaced and host populations.

Government and partners are coordinating the response across sectors:

- **Food:** JEOP reached over 107,000 IDPs in Arero, Wachile and Dhas with sorghum, pulses and oil in November
- **Nutrition:** Over 14,000 children and 10,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women received nutrition targeted support
- **Other services:** Several NGOs are assisting with emergency shelter, WASH, health and protection support.
- Further discussions are ongoing with the EDRMC regarding assistance for IDPs in Gumi-Eldelo.

Somali Region

Approximately 1,300 households remain in the Lay Woreda site, with a slight decrease mainly due to livestock migration caused by dry conditions. IDPs continue to express readiness to return when security improves.

Local authorities are working to maintain stability and support humanitarian access.

Government and partners are coordinating the response across sectors:

- **Food:** In September, WFP reached over 103,000 people, completing 99% of planned distributions. WFP aims to support 354,641 individuals by December, including host communities, IDPs in sites and camp-like settings, and newly displaced households.
- **Some water and health activities** have been temporarily reduced due to funding constraints, and discussions are underway on how best to address these gaps.
- **Shelter and cash assistance** reach 20% and 8% of affected households respectively, with efforts underway to expand coverage.
- In Dawa Zone, the pause in water trucking has affected approximately 92,000 IDPs facing water scarcity; plans to restore access are being explored with regional authorities.



Hudet IDP site, Daawa zone, Somali Region. ©UNOCHA

Response to South Sudanese refugees arriving in Gambela

The government's continued role in providing sanctuary to those fleeing conflict in neighboring countries remains crucial.

The Government's Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) and UNHCR have registered more than 49,000 refugees from South Sudan since July of this year.



South Sudanese refugees collect their food rations from the distribution area at the entrance of the Luakdong site in Gambela. © UNHCR

With support from partners, over 20,000 refugees have been relocated from border entry points to the new Luakdong site. Road access has been completed and camp development is accelerating, with priorities focused on shelter, WASH services, and education.

The refugees - mainly women and children - fled fighting between the SSPDF and the White Army in Nasir County, Upper Nile State, many crossing the Baro River through Burbiey into Wanhoa Woreda in the Nuer Zone of the Gambela Region. Some community members have relocated further inland due to gunfire exchanges targeting civilian on the Ethiopia side of the river.

Food assistance by WFP has reached about 60,000 people with general food assistance in September/ October, including 10,000 new arrivals who received fortified high energy biscuits. New arrivals are being temporarily hosted in Tormorok while registration and relocation continue. For the November/December cycle, distributions are currently ongoing.

Nyantut, 16, a refugee from Nasir County in South Sudan, received food at the Yawuol food distribution point in Gambela Region. WFP distributes a full food rations including maize, split peas, vegetable oil, salt, super cereal (CSB+). © WFP



5

Joint assessment identifies priority support needs in Afar

A rapid Multisectoral Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) led by authorities and partners from 15–18 November found that approximately 18,000 people have been displaced in Tonsa, Faro, and Adu kebeles of Megale Woreda following the sudden escalation of armed conflict between factions of Tigrayan forces on 5 November.

The assessment highlighted that most families are staying in two overcrowded collective centers, and identified urgent needs for food, clean water, sanitation, basic health services (including mosquito nets), shelter materials, and temporary learning spaces for around 2,400 students.

Authorities are coordinating with partners to prioritize support.



Displacement in Tonsa, Faro, and Adu kebeles of Megale Woreda, Afar region

6

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

New Ethiopia Humanitarian Fund allocation

The Ethiopia Humanitarian Fund has finalized a US\$16.5 million Third Reserve Allocation to deliver urgent multisectoral assistance to over 1 million displaced people, returnees and unregistered refugees from South Sudan. 64% of the funding was channeled directly to local partners through 15 projects, confirming the strong localization efforts of the Fund.

The allocation targets high-severity IDP sites, fragile return areas in Eastern Tigray and Western Oromia, and refugee-hosting communities in Gambela, prioritizing cash-based interventions and area-based coordination to ensure dignified, efficient and sustainable outcomes.

Two Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) activations took place in October and November.

Following the 11 October 2025 earthquakes in Afar (Berhale and Konoba woredas), the Ethiopia Rapid Response Mechanism* activated rapid, life-saving assistance. A Tier 1 response was launched on 15 October, reaching over 7,000 people with multi-purpose cash assistance and emergency shelter and non-food item support. Following additional assessments, a Tier 2 response began on 29

October, targeting more than 40,000 people across 12 kebeles. Assistance is being delivered by DanChurchAid, the Norwegian Refugee Council, Première Urgence Internationale, and the Ethiopian Red Cross Society through coordinated, multi-sectoral interventions, including cash, water, sanitation and hygiene, protection, health and nutrition, and emergency shelter and non-food items.

*Funded by ECHO, FCDO, and Irish Aid.

The SWAN** consortium, funded by the Ethiopia Humanitarian Fund, delivered essential shelter, non-food items, and WASH support to affected communities along the Somali-Oromia border and at the Jara IDP site in Amhara Region. It also provided nutrition screening and referrals for vulnerable children and pregnant and breastfeeding women. In Tigray, the RRM supported cholera prevention and rapid response activities, strengthening access to safe water and sanitation. Overall, the intervention helped restore safety, dignity, and access to basic services for approximately 47,000 people, with assistance delivered between 72 hours and 90 days from project activation.

**SWAN consortium is a frontline emergency response system composed of four INGOs: Save the Children International, World Vision International, Action Against Hunger, Norwegian Refugee Council with implementation supported by local partners.

Cover photo: A man and his child are pictured together in their village in Kori district, Afar Region. A shepherd who relies on his goats for income, he hopes his village will soon have better improved health services, adequate veterinary supplies, and a reliable source of clean water.
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For further information, please contact:

Strategic Communications Unit
ocha-eth-communication@un.org



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