



ETHIOPIA FACT SHEET



COVID-19 RESPONSE

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, the U.S. Government's total pandemic-related commitment to Ethiopia now exceeds \$180 million. Through the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Department of Defense, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the United States is working closely with Ethiopia's Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Peace, the Ethiopia Public Health Institute (EPHI), the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC), and other international and local partners to provide life-saving support and help Ethiopians withstand the impacts of COVID-19.

U.S. government assistance aligns with the government of Ethiopia's coronavirus response priorities across health, agriculture, education, food security, protection, and humanitarian assistance programs. Over the past 20 years, the United States' long-term investments in Ethiopia amount to more than \$13 billion in total assistance – with nearly \$4 billion in health alone – highlighting the American people's long-standing partnership with Ethiopia.

OUR COMMITMENT TO ETHIOPIA'S RESPONSE

U.S. health professionals from the Centers for Disease Control and USAID based at the U.S. Embassy to Ethiopia are working side-by-side with the dedicated Ethiopian health care professionals and the broader Ethiopian government to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. CDC epidemiologists and laboratorians are advising Ethiopian counterparts on how to improve surveillance and diagnostic testing to ensure a comprehensive picture of the outbreak.

Together with Ethiopia, we are improving:

- Case management to strengthen clinical care while minimizing the risk of onwards transmission to others.
- Infection prevention and control to prevent and control infections in health-care facilities.
- Laboratory strengthening to help lab systems conduct large-scale testing for COVID-19.

- Availability of critical care equipment, including ventilators and oxygen concentrators, to help Ethiopian health workers treat patients more effectively.
- Workforce capacity to strengthen health workers' ability to better handle high numbers of COVID-19 patients.
- Public health screening to help Ethiopia implement emergency plans to screen people arriving at various points of entry, including Bole International Airport.
- Communications and media campaigns to help educate the Ethiopian public on steps they can take to prevent and respond to the spread of the virus.
- Surveillance and rapid response support to enhance COVID-19 case identification, investigation, and contact tracing.
- Continued operations at Hawassa Industrial Park to preserve jobs and repurpose manufacturing facilities to produce personal protective equipment for domestic and regional use.
- Delivery of humanitarian assistance to ensure it continues to reach those in need, including refugees and internally displaced persons, U.S. coronavirus assistance ensures proper safety and hygiene measures at food distribution sites, including adequate water and sanitation facilities.

ILLUSTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

Surveillance, Contact Tracing, and Capacity Building

- Provide EPHI technical assistance and equipment to develop COVID-19 surveillance and contract tracing protocols, strengthen case finding, build a tracing database, and improve their data analysis capabilities.
- Advise the GOE on best practices for conducting surveillance activities that will accurately reflect the current epidemic and priorities for conducting COVID-19 laboratory testing given global supply shortages.
- Support EPHI and the regions to procure COVID-19 testing supplies; and to ensure the verification of testing materials, workflow plans, specimen collection, training, and resource and workforce management.
- Assist the GOE with a public messaging campaign promoting ways to reduce the risk of contracting or spreading the virus.
- Provide technical advice and support to Bole International Airport officials, including a COVID-19 isolation space, an increased number of health authorities at the airport, and improved health-screening processes.
- Provide training on COVID-19 mitigation to Ethiopian Airlines crewmembers (more than 2,500 individuals to date).

Technical and Strategic Advice on the National and Regional Responses

- Deploy technical experts to EPHI and the Ministry of Health to ensure the GOE implements scientifically based response strategies to the COVID-19 crisis.
- Embed U.S. infectious-disease epidemiologists, physicians, laboratory scientists, and data analysts within the national EOCs to provide technical expertise to improve laboratory testing, epidemiology and surveillance, infection prevention and control, and planning.
- Work directly with regional health bureaus to ensure continuity of disease-control programs and protect vulnerable patients during the COVID-19 emergency.

- Work directly with the Ethiopian National Defense Force to maximize its contribution to the health provider work force and security response throughout the crisis.

Donor Coordination and Humanitarian and Development Assistance

- Partner with donors, multilateral partners, and the GOE to ensure a coordinated response.
- Work with the Ministry of Health, EPHI, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to digitize information around the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Continue assistance programs in health, education, agriculture, food security, water, sanitation and hygiene, democracy and governance, and humanitarian assistance.
- Maintain life-sustaining food assistance and treatment of malnutrition to preserve public health for vulnerable populations. Fifteen million Ethiopians require food assistance in 2020 with an additional 10 million expected to need the same due to the impacts of COVID-19.
- Provide COVID-19 related humanitarian programming.