

Ethiopia

Humanitarian Response

Situation Report #1

06 October 2020

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- In Ethiopia, Project HOPE is working to improve HIV care and treatment and reduce maternal, neonatal, and child mortality in addition to providing humanitarian assistance and response to COVID-19 and other health emergencies.
- Project HOPE has reached 4,327 internally displaced persons (IDPs) from 748 households with handwashing supplies and health education with support from USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance. Under the same project, 246 health care workers have been trained on COVID-19 to date.
- In April, Project HOPE procured 56,400 N95 masks which were delivered to health facilities across all 11 regions of Ethiopia.
- In partnership with the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Studies at the Watson Institute of Brown University, Project HOPE has trained nearly 200 health care workers in COVID-19 preparedness and response through a cascade training model.

Ethiopia Quick Facts

- 16.5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance
- Drought, displacement, floods and disease outbreak result in critical humanitarian need
- 79,000+ confirmed COVID-19 cases*
- 1,230+ COVID-19 deaths
- 9.8 million in need of COVID-19 related assistance

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Ethiopia has experienced encouraging economic growth in recent years; however, continues to face significant challenges. Conflict-related displacement, disease outbreaks, rain shortfalls in parts of the country and floods in others remain key drivers of humanitarian needs in Ethiopia in 2020. At the beginning of the year (January 2020), the government of Ethiopia officially released the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) laying out prioritized multi-sector humanitarian needs in 2020. This annual joint Government and humanitarian partners' document indicated that 7 million

people require emergency food and non-food assistance at a cost of USD 1 billion during the year.

Prior to COVID-19, Ethiopia faced significant challenges from natural disasters and ongoing conflicts as well as a high rate of maternal mortality, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDs and malnutrition. It has one of the highest numbers of internally displaced persons (IDP) in the world. Since COVID-19, the humanitarian situation in the country has escalated with ongoing transmission exacerbated with outbreaks of cholera and measles, decimation of food crops by locusts, and flooding. As of June 2020, the country has seen a sharp increase in the number of daily confirmed cases as well as deaths. To date, Ethiopia has confirmed more than 79,000 COVID-19 cases and 1,230 deaths (*<https://www.covid19.et/covid-19/>).

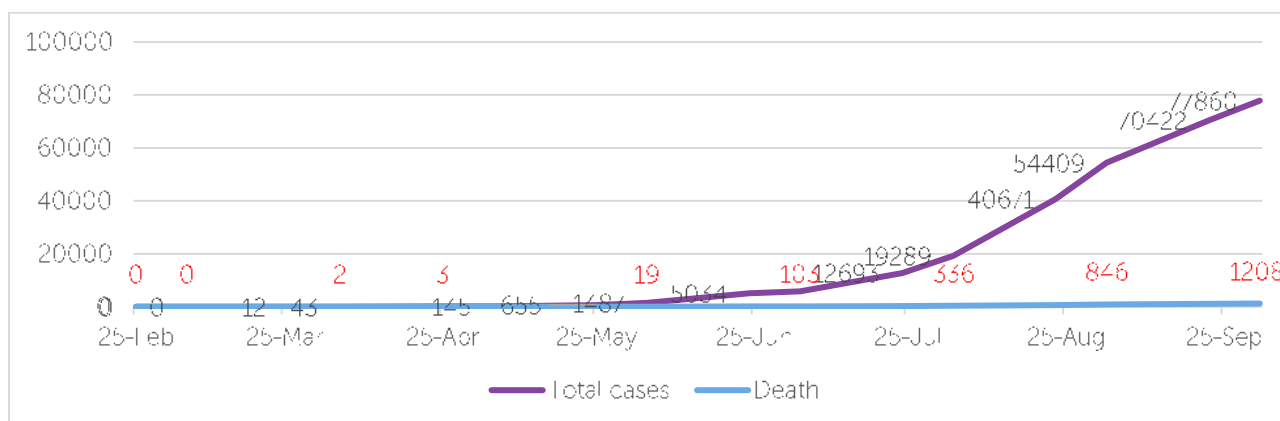


Figure 1. COVID-19 total confirmed cases and death as of October 2, 2020.
Source: Worldometers¹

In May of 2020, the government of Ethiopia revised the HRP to state that 16.5 people in the country were in need of humanitarian assistance and, of these, 9.8 million were in need of COVID-19 related assistance. The government shared COVID-19 response priorities and needs which included: providing surge capacity in the form of health workers to cover increased patient numbers and disease surveillance needs; procuring and distributing medicines, medical supplies, laboratory supplies; and strengthening referral mechanisms so that people get the required care on time.

In Ethiopia, Project HOPE is operating in regions with pre-existing and complex challenges that are also reporting alarmingly high number of cases of COVID-19. Many parts of the Somali region are currently experiencing floods that resulted in the loss of lives and livelihoods. One of Project HOPE's operational areas (Sitti zone of Somali region) is currently affected by heavy floods affecting about 1,525 households. Of these 973 households are destroyed/damaged and members are displaced from their residential area. Many of the households in the area have lost their houses, crop lands, livestock and trade such as shops and stores. As the intensity of the damage is beyond the capacity of the regional government, it is

¹ <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/country/ethiopia/>

calling for partners to support in the area of relief food, emergency shelter and NFI, emergency health services including prevention and control of communicable diseases, detection and treatment of acute malnutrition and others.

PROJECT HOPE'S RESPONSE

Project HOPE is currently implementing the PEPFAR-funded USAID Community HIV Care and Treatment program as well as the USAID-funded Transform: Health in Developing Regions project, which aims to increase access to maternal, neonatal, and child health services. When COVID-19 began to escalate in the country, Project HOPE coordinated with the Ministry of Health and its network of partners across 11 regional states, including the Somali Region, to respond to increasing needs among health facilities and high-risk communities. Highlights of our response in Ethiopia are below.

Improving COVID-19 Prevention, Preparedness and Case Management in the Somali Regional State and Dire Dawa City Administration

Project HOPE is currently implementing a six-month project to strengthen COVID-19 prevention, preparedness and case management for health systems in Somali Regional State and Dire Dawa city administration, with support from USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance. The project aims to support 327 outpatient health facilities and 68 inpatient facilities across the Fafan, Sitti, Jarar and Erar Zones as well as Dire Dawa City. The COVID-19 situation in these areas is even more complex as they host high numbers of IDP in communities where the risk of transmission is high and that are currently experiencing floods and heavy seasonal rains. Somali Regional State also borders three countries and there is high cross-border movement and direct transport routes making it particularly susceptible to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The main components of the project include; Health Workforce Development, Surveillance and Contact Tracing ; Infection Prevention and Control including provision of PPE to targeted health facilities, Risk Communication & Community engagement; Behavioral Change Communication (BCC) on Water Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH); and Distribution of WASH items such as soaps, sanitizers, and hand washing facilities.

According to the baseline health facility assessment and Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice (KAP) survey conducted in 15 health facilities and among 428 internally displaced persons (IDPs) , 37% of IDPs reported that they have difficulty of getting reliable source of information about COVID-19. They also reported poor practice of COVID19 preventive measures that included not wearing of face masks or frequently touching mouth, eyes, or nose. In addition, all health facilities had no access to N95 masks and face shields. Only 16.2% of the health workers were trained about infection prevention & control (IPC), and stock-out of personal protective equipment (PPEs) was quite common. About 79% of the health workers required training on IPC, case management, and surveillance.

To address the gaps, Project HOPE has distributed handwashing supplies and health education in two IDP communities of Dire Dawa City, reaching **4,327 beneficiaries** (Female=2,207, Male= 2,120) from **748 households**. In addition, 35 handwashing stands, 35 infrared thermometers, 4 megaphones, 7112 bottle of sanitizer, 54, 318 bar soaps are propositioned to be distributed in the

targeted IDP sites and health facilities in Somali region and Direredawa city administration.

Project HOPE has trained **246 health workers** to date, including doctors, health officers, nurses and midwives, from health facilities in the project locations. This is part of an effort to train more than 600 health care workers in targeted health facilities across the project geographic areas.

Distribution of 54,600 N95 Masks

In April, Project HOPE procured **56,400 N95 masks** for health facility partners in Ethiopia with support from Latter-day Saint Charities. The Ministry of Health in Ethiopia held a formal hand-over ceremony for the masks with Project HOPE and developed a joint distribution plan. The masks have since been delivered to health facilities in all 11 regions of Ethiopia with the highest proportion to Somali, Amhara and Oromia regions.

Equipping Health Care Workers with COVID-19 Training and Case Management Tools

Project HOPE partnered with training institutions and health facility partners in Ethiopia to train a cadre of **32 Master Trainers** in its COVID-19 Preparedness and Response curriculum, developed in partnership with Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Studies at the Watson Institute of Brown University. These Master Trainers were from specialized hospitals, case treatment centers, health centers and universities from different regions. To date, these Master Trainers have cascaded the training to more than **246 health care workers**.

In partnership with the Weitzman Institute, Project HOPE supported the expansion of its ConferMed electronic consultation (e-consult) platform to clinicians treating patients with COVID-19 in Ethiopia. Project HOPE collaborated with the Federal Ministry of Health to train on the use of the platform eight physicians with specialties in pulmonology, critical care, infectious disease and emergency care from Eka Kotebe Hospital, the country's largest COVID-19 treatment center. These physicians are now able to conduct e-Consults with experts in the United States who can help support care and treatment of complex COVID-19 cases in Ethiopia.

Contact Information

Dr. Dawit Tsegaye
Chief of Party & Country Representative
dtsegaye@projecthope.org
+251-116-622123
+251-911-240131

Asayehegn Tekeste
Director of Program Implementation
ATekeste@projecthope.org
+251-116-622123
+251-911-460817

