



cesvi

Ethiopia Emergency Response

SitRep. #1

Reporting period: January – 15 March 2026

Country of reference: Ethiopia

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1. KEY FIGURESⁱ



138.9M
total population



18.9M
people in need



3.3M
IDPs



10.2M
people experiencing
high food insecurity



1.1M
refugees hosted

2. CESVI RESPONSE STRATEGY

CESVI's strategic response in **Ethiopia** is grounded in an integrated, multisectoral approach aligned with the **humanitarian-development-peace nexus**. This framework is designed to address acute humanitarian needs while strengthening the resilience of communities affected by conflict, displacement, and recurrent climate shocks. Operating in a complex environment characterised by protracted displacement, environmental stress, and fragile livelihoods, CESVI combines life-saving assistance with longer-term recovery and resilience pathways, adapting its interventions to evolving needs.

Present in Ethiopia since 2018, CESVI delivers interventions across key sectors including **agriculture** and **livestock support**, **Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)**, **livelihoods** and **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)**. The current strategy prioritises supporting climate-affected pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities and vulnerable displaced populations by protecting essential assets, restoring livelihoods, and improving access to basic services. These efforts are accompanied by measures to enhance local capacities to manage future shocks.

A central component of CESVI's approach is the development of an **Integrated Anticipatory Action (AA) framework**, enabling early intervention before crises escalate while ensuring continuity across anticipatory measures, emergency response, and longer-term recovery. By combining early warning systems, market-based approaches, climate-smart livelihood support, and community-centred planning, CESVI aims to reduce vulnerability, safeguard livelihoods, and strengthen communities' adaptive capacity to climate and conflict-related shocks. **Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)**, **preparedness**, and **resilience-building** are therefore embedded across all interventions, alongside targeted efforts to strengthen the capacities of local institutions, authorities, and community structures. By reinforcing both institutional systems and community networks, CESVI supports sustainable development outcomes while maintaining the flexibility

to scale up rapid humanitarian response when new emergencies occur. This is crucial to ensuring **locally driven, sustainable service delivery**.

Protection mainstreaming and **inclusive programming** are embedded across all interventions to ensure equitable access to assistance for vulnerable groups, such as displaced populations, women, children, and persons with disabilities.

Overall, this integrated approach enables CESVI to respond to evolving humanitarian needs while simultaneously addressing the structural drivers of vulnerability, positioning communities and local systems to better withstand future crises while meeting urgent present needs.

MAIN SECTORS OF INTERVENTION



Agriculture & Value Chain Development



Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)/ Anticipatory Action (AA)



Water, Hygiene & Sanitation (WASH)

SUB-SECTORS OF INTERVENTION



Food Security & Livelihoods



Multi-purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)



Protection
(mainstreamed throughout all activities)

3. CESVI ASSISTANCE IN NUMBERS



- 1,858** Households accessed voucher-based livestock treatment services to improve herd health and productivity.
- 27,121** Livestock received treatment through the voucher intervention.
- 6,776** Households reached through mass livestock vaccination campaigns.
- 223,291** Livestock were vaccinated to reduce disease risks and prevent mortality.
- 200** Households received improved agricultural seeds to support crop production during the planting season and strengthen household food security.

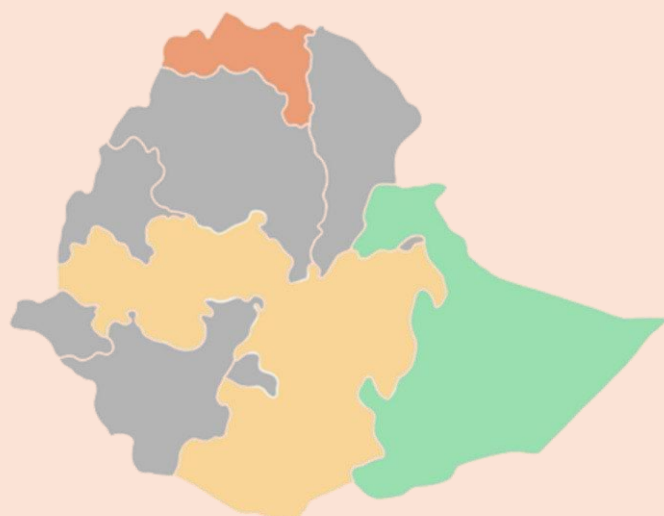


1,145 Households received MPCA *across two phases* to meet immediate basic needs and mitigate the impact of anticipated shocks.

34 Participants attended training sessions on disaster preparedness, resilience, and livelihood protection.

4. CESVI RESPONSE CAPACITY

1. Rapidly respond to climate- and conflict-related shocks, building on established field presence and previous drought response capacity.
2. Integrate anticipatory action with emergency response and livelihood protection, enabling communities to strengthen self-reliance.
3. Leverage partnerships with local organisations and INGOs to enhance access, coordination, and operational efficiency in hard-to-reach contexts.



IN DETAILS

- **Geographic Reach:** CESVI has maintained a continuous presence in Ethiopia since 2018. Operations are currently focused on Oromia, with ongoing assessments and re-engagement efforts being conducted in Tigray. Previous interventions have also involved the Somali Region.
- **Institutional recognition and coordination:** CESVI is officially registered with Ethiopian authorities since 2018 and operates in compliance with national regulations, maintaining close coordination with local authorities, partners, and humanitarian platforms to ensure alignment with sector standards and effective implementation.
- **Professional staff and operational structure:** CESVI operates through a coordination office in Addis Ababa. Its field presence is supported by specialised programme, MEAL, logistics, security, and administrative staff. Ongoing recruitment, national staff capacity strengthening, and regional technical deployments reinforce operational readiness and quality implementation.
- **Community engagement:** Interventions are implemented in partnership with local organisations and community structures, strengthening localisation, access, and community trust and acceptance while also enhancing local capacities for a sustainable response.
- **Operational capacity and sectoral expertise:** CESVI brings demonstrated experience in climate-shock response, agriculture and livestock protection, cash-based assistance, and DRR, as demonstrated by past successful drought response interventions in Borena (Oromia Region, Ethiopia). This contributes to protecting the livelihoods of vulnerable pastoral households.

- **Security management:** A country security strategy is in place and movement protocols are applied in accordance with area-specific security requirements, ensuring safe access and operational continuity.
- **Donor portfolio:** CESVI interventions in Ethiopia are supported by institutional donors including the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) and the Italian Ministry of Interior, complemented by internal organisational funding to sustain operations and enable timely response to emerging needs.

5. COORDINATION MECHANISMS

Institutional Coordination

The Ethiopia coordination mechanism for emergency response is a government-led structure integrated with international humanitarian systems to manage climate shocks, conflict, and health crises.

Federal Level Coordination:

1. Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission (EDRMC): The lead government agency responsible for overall humanitarian coordination and disaster risk management. UNOCHA provides support to the EDRMC and facilitates the international cluster approach.

2. Ministry of Agriculture (MoA): Leads the Agriculture Cluster and coordinates food security assessments. Responsible for streamlining early warning indicators for pastoral and farming communities.

3. Ministry of Water and Energy: Leads the WASH Cluster to provide safe water supply and sanitation during droughts or floods.

4. Ministry of Women and Social Affairs (MoWSA): Focuses on the protection of vulnerable groups, such as women and children.

Regional Level Coordination:

CESVI has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with the following key bureaus:

- Oromia Bureau of Finance
- Oromia Water and Energy Bureau
- Oromia Bureau of Agriculture

Coordination meetings are conducted at zonal level, ensuring structured reporting and alignment with the regional response framework.

CESVI is also committed to participating in the following clusters and working groups:

- Agriculture Cluster
- WASH Cluster
- Cash Working Group (CWG)

NGO Coordination

INGO Coordination Group for Ethiopia.

Alliance 2015: a coalition of seven European NGOs focused on coordinating humanitarian and development action in crisis contexts. Alliance2015 promotes operational synergies, information sharing, and complementarity among its members.

6. PARTNERSHIP AND LOCALISATION

Localisation and partnership are central to CESVI's operational approach in Ethiopia, ensuring that interventions are contextually relevant, sustainable, and grounded in local ownership. CESVI works closely with **national** and **community actors** to strengthen **local capacities** while enabling effective humanitarian delivery in complex and hard-to-reach environments.

A key component of this approach is CESVI's strategic partnership with Positive Action for Development (PAD), a national Ethiopian Civil Society Organisation with extensive operational presence across multiple regions, including Oromia, Somal Region, Amhara, Afar, and Benishangul-Gumuz. PAD's strong technical capacity, nationwide reach, and established relationships with local authorities make it a high-level strategic partner for CESVI. Through this collaboration, CESVI benefits from PAD's deep contextual knowledge and local trust, while supporting the strengthening and internationalisation of PAD's institutional capacity.

In parallel, CESVI is expanding its partnership network to include smaller **community-based organisations** (CBOs) through a **"local-first" engagement approach**, particularly in fragile or hard-to-access contexts. This tiered partnership model enables CESVI to combine technical leadership, donor compliance oversight, and programme quality assurance with the social acceptance, access, and trust of local actors. By working with grassroots organisations for last-mile implementation and community engagement, CESVI enhances its ability to deliver inclusive assistance even in volatile areas where access for international staff may be constrained.

Capacity strengthening is an integral component of **CESVI's localisation strategy**. Through mentorship missions, technical training, and the sharing of operational standards, CESVI supports national and local partners to strengthen programme management, monitoring systems, and specialised competencies in sectors such as MPCA and emergency response. This approach promotes locally led humanitarian action while ensuring adherence to international quality and accountability standards.

Community participation and accountability are also embedded across partnerships through CESVI's Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) and safeguarding frameworks. A dedicated MEAL structure, led by a senior expert and supported by field-level staff, integrates monitoring, safeguarding, and community feedback mechanisms to **ensure that concerns and protection risks are identified and addressed** through formal reporting channels. This system extends to national partners, aligning monitoring tools, safeguarding protocols, and reporting standards with CESVI procedures, thereby enhancing data quality, risk mitigation, and transparency, while contributing to the institutional strengthening of local partners.

7. MAIN CHALLENGES AND OPERATIONAL CONSTRAINTS

- **Volatile security environment:** Ongoing sub-national conflicts in regions such as Oromia, Amhara, and border areas, combined with administrative requirements for permits and movement approvals, create an unpredictable operating environment that can delay humanitarian access to affected populations. CESVI mitigates these constraints through continuous security monitoring, coordination with local partners, and adaptive operational planning.
- **Logistical constraints:** Periodic shortages of fuel at government distribution points pose challenges for humanitarian operations, potentially affecting mobility. CESVI mitigates this through advance planning and contingency logistics arrangements.
- **High operational pressure due to recurrent crises:** The combination of repeated drought cycles and displacement increases operational demands and strains available response resources, affecting prioritisation and scalability of interventions. CESVI addresses this by focusing on targeted high-impact interventions, strengthening coordination and partnerships, and integrating anticipatory action approaches to maximise efficiency of available resources.
- **Funding gaps and financial constraints:** Significant funding shortfalls across the Ethiopia response, combined with foreign exchange limitations affecting procurement and supply chains, create operational uncertainty and represent a risk to programme continuity. CESVI mitigates these constraints through proactive donor engagement, diversification of funding sources, and financial planning measures, to the extent that this is feasible and that conditions allow.
- **Administrative and regulatory requirements:** Compliance with national regulatory frameworks, including registration procedures, reporting obligations, and strict coordination requirements with authorities, can extend timelines for programme implementation. CESVI addresses these constraints through sustained institutional engagement, adherence to compliance standards, and dedicated administrative and legal support to ensure operational continuity.

8. CESVI OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

a) Situation update

As of early 2026, Ethiopia continues to face a **complex humanitarian crisis** driven by the convergence of armed conflict, climate shocks, large-scale displacement, disease outbreaks, and economic pressures, with humanitarian needs expected to rise further during the year. While security conditions in the capital of Addis Ababa remain relatively stable, conflict dynamics and fragmented insecurity across regions such as Amhara, Oromia, Somali, and the Afar-Tigray corridor contribute to an unpredictable operating environment and **uneven humanitarian access**.ⁱⁱ

Multiple shocks have reversed development gains across regions, leaving **millions in need of multisectoral humanitarian assistance** across food security, WASH, protection, and health sectors.ⁱⁱⁱ Simultaneously, displacement levels remain high nationwide. By late 2025, more than 3.5 million people were displaced due to conflict, climatic shocks, and inter-communal violence.

Climate shocks continue to compound vulnerabilities, particularly in southern and eastern pastoral and agro-pastoral areas. Below-normal rainfall during the latest Bega season (October-

January) and **recurrent drought conditions** in regions including Somali, Oromia, and Afar lead to water shortages, livestock stress, and deteriorating food security conditions.^{iv} In Somali Region alone, more than 500,000 people are reported to face limited access to water, as consecutive failed rainy seasons continue to erode livelihoods and coping capacities.

Nutrition and public health indicators remain of significant concern. **Malnutrition is above the emergency threshold nationwide**; in particular, 4.4 million women and young children urgently need treatment.^v Public health risks remain exceptionally elevated in displacement-affected and underserved areas, with **recurrent outbreaks of cholera, malaria, and measles** placing additional strain on an already overstretched health system, particularly in contexts with poor sanitation and limited access to basic services.

Refugee movements continue to add pressure to already stretched services; Ethiopia currently hosts more than 1.1 million refugees and asylum seekers.^{vi} New arrivals from neighbouring Sudan continue to require reception support and humanitarian assistance in contexts where funding gaps remain significant.

In this context of protracted crisis and recurrent shocks, humanitarian needs are expected to remain high throughout 2026, particularly among pastoral, agro-pastoral, displaced, and conflict-affected populations.


b) Geographic coverage

CESVI's operational presence in Ethiopia is currently centred in Oromia, with plans to re-establish activities in the Somali Region following the closure of previous interventions. In parallel, CESVI is re-engaging in Tigray, one of the most unstable and sensitive areas of the country. There, assessments are ongoing, as CESVI is committed to establishing a presence in this frontline area, where needs are most acute and access remains constrained.



c) Priorities of intervention detected per sector

Significant unmet needs remain across displacement-affected, drought-prone, and refugee-hosting areas in Ethiopia. As an integral part of its 2026 strategy, CESVI is expanding **integrated, multisectoral interventions** by combining WASH services, and nutrition, alongside other sectors to address overlapping vulnerabilities more effectively.

The following table outlines priority sectors, objectives, and key activities requiring donor support to address critical gaps and scale up humanitarian response capacity.

Sector	Objective	Activities	Needed Resources
 Agriculture & Value Chain Development	Protect, restore, and strengthen the productive capacities and livelihoods of populations affected by displacement, conflict, and climatic conditions to improve food security, resilience, and self-reliance. MPCA is part of this approach, enabling crisis-affected	1. Emergency Agricultural and Livestock Support: Provision of essential agricultural inputs (e.g. drought-tolerant seeds, tools, fertilisers, and fast-growing vegetables) and livestock assets (e.g. veterinary care, feed distribution, restocking of small ruminants). 2. Water Access for Agriculture and Livestock: Rehabilitation of water sources (e.g. boreholes and shallow wells), water trucking in	€2,140,000

	<p>households to meet basic needs in a timely and dignified manner while supporting local market functioning.</p> <p>Target Population: 9,040 households (49,250 people)</p>	<p>critical areas, and promotion of water harvesting techniques (e.g. ponds, micro-catchments).</p> <p>3. Climate-Resilient Livelihoods: Training and support for practices like conservation agriculture, small-scale irrigation, and drought-resistant fodder. Support for alternative and varied income opportunities and community assets (e.g. poultry, cash-for-work).</p> <p>4. Capacity Strengthening: Strengthening local systems (e.g. cooperatives, community animal health workers, producer groups).</p>	
 <p>WASH</p>	<p>Ensure equitable access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene services for crisis-affected populations, reducing public health risks, while strengthening community-based management systems.</p> <p>Target Population: 40,000 people</p>	<p>1. Anticipatory Actions (Pre-Crisis): Early warning dissemination, pre-positioning of WASH NFI supplies, and preventive maintenance of water points.</p> <p>2. Emergency Response (Acute Phase): Life-saving interventions such as water trucking, distribution of water treatment and dignity kits, emergency sanitation (e.g. installation of semi-permanent latrines and handwashing stations), and hygiene promotion.</p> <p>4.Recovery (Early Recovery & Resilience): Restoration of durable WASH infrastructure (e.g. solar-powered water systems, deep boreholes, school and health facility latrines), and strengthening of community management systems through training and Community-Led Total Sanitation.</p>	<p>€4,800,000</p>
 <p>Shelter & Non-Food Items^{vii}</p>	<p>Provide safe, dignified shelter solutions and essential household items to displaced populations and vulnerable host communities.</p>	<p>1. Anticipatory Actions: Preparedness measures such as drainage planning, NFI stockpiling and pre-positioning, and infrastructure reinforcement.</p> <p>2. Emergency Response: Rapid construction of emergency</p>	<p>€6,500,000</p>

	<p>CESVI's integrated Shelter-WASH supports the transition to durable settlements.</p> <p>Target Population: 2,000 households (10,000 people)</p>	<p>shelters, installation of latrines, distribution of shelter-linked hygiene kits, and water trucking to shelter sites.</p> <p>3. Recovery: Transition to more durable shelters solutions and household-level sanitation, alongside the expansion of solarised water systems, establishment of WASH-Shelter committees made up by refugees themselves, and construction of permanent WASH facilities in schools and health posts located in the settlement.</p>	
 <p>DRR / AA</p>	<p>To reduce disaster risks and humanitarian needs among crisis-affected households by strengthening their preparedness, anticipatory capacity, and resilience.</p>	<p>CESVI integrates DRR and AA across other sectors of interventions.</p> <p>Activities include the strengthening of community-based early warning systems, support to contingency planning for drought response, rangeland rehabilitation, and soil and water conservation measures to reduce land degradation.</p>	<p>Streamlined throughout other activities.</p>
 <p>Protection</p>	<p>Ensure humanitarian assistance is delivered safely, equitably and in a manner that protects the rights and dignity of affected populations.</p>	<p>Protection is implemented as a cross-cutting priority integrated across all sectors rather than as a stand-alone intervention, ensuring that each and all CESVI activities are delivered in a safe, inclusive, and dignified manner.</p>	<p>Streamlined throughout other activities.</p>
Total			€13,440,000

9. FUNDING UPDATE

In the absence of an updated Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP), humanitarian coordination and funding in Ethiopia continue to rely on international cooperation mechanisms, including pooled funds and bilateral donor contributions.

Funding Recap 2025			
	<u>Requirements</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>%</u>
Ethiopia	\$2BN	\$704.5M	%35.2
Funding mechanisms			
Ethiopia Humanitarian Fund^{viii}			
Established in 2006, it is a rapid and flexible pooled funding mechanism managed by OCHA. Under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator, it enables the timely allocation of resources against priority humanitarian needs identified at country level, supporting coordinated response efforts even in hard-to-reach and underserved areas. The Fund primarily supports local, national, and international NGOs responding to critical emergencies across Ethiopia. In 2025, key allocation priorities included AA and gender-based violence (GBV) programming. Currently, \$2.4 million of the \$104.4 million pledged for 2026 has been received.			
EU Humanitarian Assistance to Ethiopia (DG ECHO)^{ix}			
The European Union, through DG ECHO, remains a key donor in Ethiopia. In 2026, the EU plans to allocate \$42.8 million for humanitarian assistance and \$2.9 million for disaster preparedness, for a total of \$45.7 million. Funding will support multi-sector life-saving interventions across health, nutrition, protection, and assistance to displaced and conflict-affected populations, alongside measures to strengthen preparedness for climate-related shocks.			

Humanitarian funding to Ethiopia is largely concentrated among a limited number of government donors. The United States remains the largest contributor, with approximately \$112 million in reported funding, followed by the United Kingdom (\$9.7 million), the Netherlands (\$7.9 million), Canada (\$6.3 million), Germany (\$6.3 million), and Italy (\$5.6 million).^x

Funding has, for the first two months of 2026, primarily focused on multi-sector assistance (\$26 million), alongside significant allocations to health (\$10.8 million), WASH (\$9.5 million), nutrition (\$8.5 million), food security (\$7.3 million), and protection (\$6.8 million).^{xi}

10. CALLS FOR ACTION

As Ethiopia continues to face a complex humanitarian crisis driven by conflict, displacement, climate shocks, and economic pressures, humanitarian needs are projected to remain high throughout 2026. Severe funding shortfalls are constraining the ability of humanitarian actors to sustain life-saving assistance despite ongoing efforts by humanitarian partners and national actors. The current situation reflects the compounding effects of recurrent shocks and structural vulnerability, thus requiring coordinated action across the HDP continuum. Strengthening the alignment between emergency response, early recovery, and resilience is essential to prevent further deterioration and to reduce future humanitarian needs.

The refugee response further increases pressure; funding gaps place critical food assistance and basic services at risk for both refugee and host communities. Without urgent action, humanitarian partners risk being unable to sustain life-saving assistance, further exacerbating

the vulnerability of these populations. Therefore, building on its operational presence and sectoral expertise, CESVI urges:

- **Donors and the International Community to:**
 - Address severe humanitarian financing gaps by increasing flexible, predictable, timely, and multi-year funding to support life-saving interventions across all sectors; ensuring continuity of assistance for vulnerable populations is crucial.
 - Prioritise integrated humanitarian assistance that combines emergency response with early recovery and resilience programming, particularly in refugee-hosting areas and in drought- and displacement-affected regions.
 - Support AA and DRR approaches to mitigate the impact of recurrent climate shocks, preventing and reducing future humanitarian needs.
 - Ensure sustained investment in livelihood protection and climate-resilient systems to safeguard productive assets and strengthen self-reliance, especially among more vulnerable households.
 - Engage with national authorities to address obstacles to the movement of humanitarian actors and to lift access restrictions that hinder early recovery and prevent the restoration of essential services.
 - Strengthen coordination and complementarity among humanitarian, development, and peace actors to maximise collective impact and support sustainable solutions in an increasingly fragile context.
- **National and local authorities to:**
 - Strengthen disaster preparedness, early warning systems, and response capacities to mitigate the impacts of droughts and any other climate- or conflict-related shock.
 - Facilitate humanitarian access and operational continuity in affected regions, including through measures to address logistical constraints such as fuel availability and transport movement.
 - Reinforce basic service delivery systems and support to displacement-affected and refugee-hosting communities to strengthen resilience, social cohesion, and national response capacity.
- **Humanitarian organisations to:**
 - Scale up and prioritise coordinated, multisectoral interventions addressing overlapping vulnerabilities across food security, WASH, livelihoods, shelter, and protection.

NOTES

ⁱ https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/where/africa/ethiopia_en

ⁱⁱ <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/ethiopia/ethiopia-humanitarian-update-october-november-2025>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.unocha.org/ethiopia>

^{iv} <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/ethiopia/ethiopia-humanitarian-update-october-november-2025>

^v <https://www.wfp.org/emergencies/ethiopia-emergency>

^{vi} <https://www.wfp.org/news/refugee-response-ethiopia-breaking-point-11-million-lives-risk-funds-dry>

^{vii} While not part of the current response, this is an area planned for future engagement.

^{viii} <https://www.unocha.org/ethiopia-humanitarian-fund>

^{ix} https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/funding/hip2026/echo_-hf_bud_2026_g1000_ta_v1.pdf;

https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/funding/hip2026/echo_-hf_bud_2026_g1000_v2.pdf

^x <https://fts.unocha.org/countries/71/summary/2026> as of February 2026.

^{xi} <https://fts.unocha.org/countries/71/summary/2026> as of February 2026.



CESVI Foundation ETS

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