

Ethiopia

Humanitarian Situation Report No. 4

unicef for every child

July to August 2026

Highlights

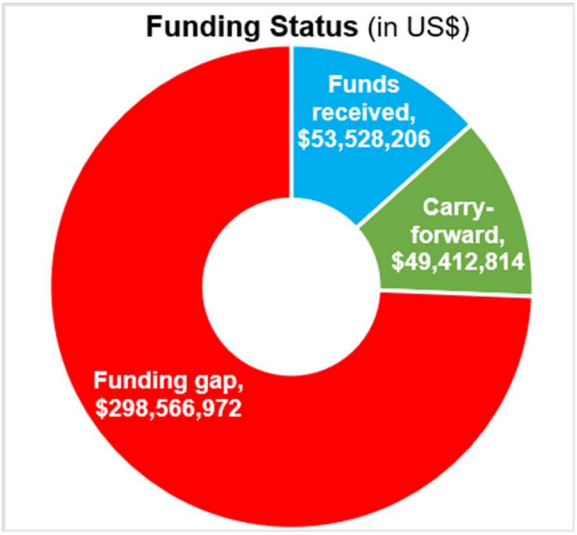
- The security situation in northern Ethiopia remained highly concerning, with insecurity disrupting humanitarian access and essential services.
- UNICEF supported the admission of 112,960 children with severe acute malnutrition for treatment during July–August 2026.
- UNICEF-supported primary health care reached 570,489 women and children during July–August 2026.
- An additional 437,203 people gained access to safe drinking water through UNICEF-supported interventions.
- UNICEF and partners supported 39,949 children to access education in emergencies.
- UNICEF provided mental health and psychosocial support to 23,528 children and caregivers.
- UNICEF's 2026 HAC appeal of US$401.5 million remained 74 per cent unfunded as of 31 August 2026.

Situation in Numbers

1,129,183
Total Refugees and Asylum Seekers*

UNICEF Appeal 2026

US$ 401.5 million



Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF's 2026 Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal for Ethiopia requires US$401.5 million. As of 31 August, US$102.9 million (26 per cent) was available, including US$49.4 million carried over from 2025, leaving a funding gap of US$298.6 million (74 per cent). Additional funding is urgently needed to sustain life-saving assistance and essential services for crisis-affected children and families.

UNICEF thanks its donors, including Belgium, Canada, the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), Cyprus, the European Union, Ireland, Japan, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom, United States Foreign Assistance, and private-sector donors contributing through UNICEF National Committees.

**UNHCR Operational data portal, last updated 31 August 2026*

Despite substantial funding gaps, UNICEF continued to deliver significant humanitarian results during July–August 2026 through complementary donor support, including resources outside the HAC appeal, integrated programming and resources carried forward from 2025. In addition to US$49.4 million in carry-over funding, supplies procured previously and stocks pre-positioned at the beginning of 2026 helped maintain essential services. Interventions also reinforced one another: safe water and sanitation help reduce disease risks, while health, nutrition, education and protection services address interconnected needs. Together, these factors help explain the results achieved despite the funding shortfall. However, substantial humanitarian needs remain unmet, and additional funding is required to sustain services, replenish stocks and build a minimum three-month buffer of financing and essential supplies for rapid response when new emergencies arise or access is interrupted. As of publication, UNICEF is closely monitoring the evolving conflict in northern Ethiopia and its potential to increase humanitarian needs and operational demands. Implications for access, needs and the response will be reported in the next reporting period.

Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

Insecurity continued to restrict humanitarian access and disrupt essential assistance[1], particularly in northern Ethiopia. Reported incidents involving the seizure of humanitarian vehicles, harassment of aid workers and damage to public facilities affected the delivery and continuity of services for crisis-affected communities.

Food insecurity remained severe across drought-affected agricultural and pastoral areas. According to the August 2026 FEWS NET projections[2], Crisis (IPC Phase 3) conditions were expected to persist through January 2027, with some households facing Emergency (IPC Phase 4) conditions. Rainfall deficits exceeding 50 per cent of average levels in several areas delayed planting, weakened crop prospects and reduced pastoral livelihoods, particularly in northern, central and eastern Ethiopia. High food prices, declining incomes and reduced agricultural employment further constrained household access to food. Although seasonal harvests and rainfall could offer temporary relief, significant food consumption gaps were expected to persist.

Climate-related risks were also increasing, with El Niño conditions expected to strengthen during the remainder of 2026. The Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission's October–January Bega flood alert[3] and IGAD's El Niño call to action[4] highlighted the potential for above-average rainfall, particularly in southern and eastern Ethiopia. While improved rainfall could support water and pasture recovery, heightened risks of flooding, displacement, disease outbreaks and damage to infrastructure and livelihoods underscored the need for preparedness and early action.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Reporting note: The results presented in this report are consolidated at the national level. Region-specific achievements, including those supported by geographically targeted donor contributions, are reflected in these totals but are not individually detailed. Additional information on regional results is available through UNICEF's programme and donor reporting.

Health

During July–August 2026, UNICEF-supported health services reached 570,489 women and children with essential primary health care; 68,677 children under 15 received supplemental measles vaccination; and 54,629 live births were delivered in UNICEF-supported facilities. In Amhara, 15 cholera cases were reported and treated, with no deaths. The 2026 Health HAC requirement was US$46.8 million, with a 76 per cent funding gap.

In Tigray, services reached 165,983 women and children across 29 project woredas; rehabilitation of 46 health facilities was more than 98.5 per cent complete and solar electrification was completed in 22 facilities. In Amhara, services reached 199,419 women and children, while 28 of 83 planned health facilities were solarized; three of five EU-supported renovation sites were complete, with work continuing at Shemshua and Jerba health centres. In Somali, mobile teams provided 17,184 consultations, and 805 essential health and malaria kits were delivered to

[1] HC Press Statement on northern Ethiopia situation_30 Sept 2026
[2] FEWSNET Ethiopia - Food Security Outlook Update_ August 2026 - January 2027

[3] Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission National Bega Flood Alert No. 2 for Bega Season (October – January)
[4] IGAD high-level call to action on El niño preparedness, anticipatory action and resilience, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

22 priority woredas. Monitoring in 11 woredas recorded 12,806 primary health care consultations and 1,801 malaria cases treated. UNICEF also supported chikungunya response measures, including supplies, vector control, community communication and coordination. In Afar, renovations of 22 EU-funded health facilities were complete and awaiting handover. Other primary health care delivery included Oromia, South/Central Ethiopia and Sidama, Benishangul-Gumuz and Gambella.

Priorities for September–December 2026: UNICEF will prioritize essential health interventions for children and women in communities most affected by conflict, displacement, drought and disease outbreaks, with particular attention to populations facing humanitarian access constraints.

2026 HAC indicator	Annual target	July–Aug result	Cumulative to 31 Aug	Target achieved
Women and children accessing primary health care	3,551,184	570,489	2,485,940	70%
Children under 15 vaccinated against measles (supplemental dose)	682,917	68,677	460,509	67%
Live births delivered in UNICEF-supported health facilities	313,254	54,629	217,664	69%
Individuals treated for cholera/acute watery diarrhoea	30,223	15	15	0.05%

Nutrition

During July–August 2026, UNICEF-supported nutrition services screened 13,011,997 children under five and approximately 2.8 million pregnant and breastfeeding women for acute malnutrition. A total of 112,960 children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were admitted for treatment: 11,853 for inpatient stabilization and 101,107 for outpatient treatment. Of 83,123 children discharged, 77,215 recovered (92.9 per cent); the reported death and default rates were 0.7 and 2.8 per cent respectively. Preventive interventions included infant and young child feeding (IYCF) counselling for 387,655 individual mothers, vitamin A supplementation for 1,353,881 children, deworming for 419,764 children, and iron and folic acid supplementation for 156,395 pregnant women.

Operationally, UNICEF and partners expanded active case finding and treatment in Somali region, including screening 15,008 children in Gashamo alongside a measles campaign. In South Ethiopia, Karat Primary Hospital was supported as a nutrition Centre of Excellence. Priorities for September–December are prevention of wasting, early detection and continued treatment in high-burden and crisis-affected areas, supported by resource mobilization. The nutrition component of the 2026 HAC appeal requires US$76.8 million and faced a 52 per cent funding gap as of 31 August. Of approximately 1.39 million cartons of ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) secured, 57 per cent came from outside the 2026 HAC, including prior-year stocks, government support and in-kind contributions. This helped protect treatment continuity, but did not close funding gaps for service delivery, mobile teams, logistics and prevention. RUTF, F-75 and F-100 supplies had been secured through October 2027. Resource-mobilization developments include CIFF support of US$4.2 million and UK National Committee/Band Aid support of GBP500,000. US State DHR funding of US$13 million was confirmed in early October and is a post-reporting-period development; it is excluded from Annex B as of 31 August.

2026 HAC indicator	Annual target	July–Aug result	Cumulative to 31 Aug	Target achieved
Children under five screened for acute malnutrition[5]	8,000,065	13,011,997	13,582,967	170%[6]
Children with SAM admitted for treatment	763,879	112,960	441,380	58%
Children receiving vitamin A	5,919,401	1,353,881	4,405,042	74%
Mothers receiving IYCF counselling[7]	1,785,758	387,655	901,211	50%
Pregnant women receiving iron/folic acid	1,935,358	156,395	395,532	20%

[5] To avoid cumulative reporting for this indicator, the highest figure from the January–August results is used for end year reporting to prevent double counting.
[6] *The screening target was set below the national programme target, explaining achievement above 100 per cent*

[7] The IYCF reporting-period result uses the highest monthly figure to minimize double counting, rather than the sum of monthly participation episodes

WASH

During July–August 2026, UNICEF and partners supported 437,203 people to access safe drinking water, 219,082 people to access appropriate sanitation services, and 394,641 people with handwashing facilities or services. Critical WASH supplies reached a further 31,691 people. Cumulative achievements to 31 August stood at 976,037 people accessing safe water, 426,830 accessing sanitation, 836,498 accessing handwashing services and 344,248 receiving critical WASH supplies. The WASH component of the 2026 HAC appeal requires US$129.8 million and faced an 84 per cent funding gap as of 31 August.

Operationally, safe-water interventions reached 147,399 people in Somali, 135,757 in Oromia and 79,653 in Amhara. In Tigray, rehabilitation of the Cheleqot water scheme advanced from 44 to 82 per cent completion, while the Edaguna scheme was completed and awaiting handover. In South Ethiopia, interventions reached more than 60,595 people. Work also supported WASH services in schools and health facilities. Priorities for September–December are access to safe water, rehabilitation and continuity of water systems, hygiene and sanitation services, essential WASH supplies and preparedness in crisis-affected areas.

2026 HAC indicator	Annual target	July–Aug result	Cumulative to 31 Aug	Target achieved
People accessing safe drinking water	3,569,074	437,203	976,037	27%
People accessing appropriate sanitation	675,266	219,082	426,830	63%
People accessing handwashing services	1,754,836	394,641	836,498	48%
People receiving critical WASH supplies	1,533,266	31,691	344,248	22%

Child Protection

UNICEF and partners provided community-based mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to 23,528 people during July–August 2026, including 19,681 children and 3,847 caregivers. Gender-based violence prevention and response interventions reached 91,366 people, including 52,317 through cross-sectoral risk-mitigation measures. Child protection services also supported children separated from their families and children affected by violence.

In Gambella, 1,790 unaccompanied and separated children received family-based care support, and 4,443 children benefited from case-management services. In Amhara, 230 GBV survivors received comprehensive services. Explosive ordnance risk education reached 6,978 people across Afar, Amhara, Oromia and Tigray; 6,762 dignity kits were distributed in Amhara and Oromia; and cash support reached 906 vulnerable children in Amhara. The combined child protection and GBV in emergencies HAC requirement was US$52.6 million, with a 78 per cent funding gap as of 31 August.

2026 HAC indicator	Annual target	July–Aug result	Cumulative to 31 Aug	Target achieved
Children/caregivers accessing MHPSS	215,917	23,528	116,270	54%
Unaccompanied/separated children receiving care or reunification	16,523	1,790	4,845	29%
Girls/boys experiencing violence receiving services	53,052	4,443	15,462	29%
People reached through GBV risk mitigation/interventions	180,032	91,366	289,484	161%

Education

During July–August 2026, UNICEF and partners supported 39,949 children to access education in emergencies and provided learning materials to 47,123 children. A further 3,843 children and adolescents participated in skills development programmes, while 3,681 teachers and facilitators received training in basic pedagogy. Against annual HAC targets, cumulative results to 31 August reached 202,665 children accessing education, 179,378 receiving materials, 72,323 participating in skills development and 17,006 teachers and facilitators trained.

In Amhara, home-based learning supported 2,798 conflict-affected children. School-readiness interventions reached 3,289 children in Benishangul-Gumuz and 2,538 in Afar. UNICEF and partners also supported essential

learning materials, inclusive learning, and referrals and case management in coordination with Child Protection. In Gambella, transport support helped maintain attendance at Jewi refugee secondary school, the only operational refugee secondary school reported in the region. Partners in southern Ethiopia flagged climate-related risks to continuity of education. September–December priorities are enrolment and school readiness, provision of essential learning materials, teacher development and continuity of learning in conflict- and climate-affected areas. The education component of the 2026 HAC appeal requires US$35.2 million and faced an 84 per cent funding gap as of 31 August.

2026 HAC indicator	Annual target	July–Aug result	Cumulative to 31 Aug	Target achieved
Children accessing education	374,093	39,949	202,665	54%
Children receiving learning materials	322,880	47,123	179,378	56%
Children/adolescents accessing skills development	122,364	3,843	72,323	59%
Teachers/facilitators trained in basic pedagogy	33,988	3,681	17,006	50%

Social Protection

UNICEF and partners supported 8,047 conflict- and drought-affected households, representing 37,189 people, with shock-responsive cash transfers during July–August 2026. This included 6,100 households (27,454 people) in Amhara and 1,947 households (9,735 people) in Somali. Disability-related top-up assistance reached 843 beneficiaries. Additional support included case management and referrals for 2,882 beneficiaries, GBV services for 2,124 people, and PSEA information for 4,157 people.

Operationally, UNICEF worked with regional government partners to deliver cash assistance and support complementary protection and referral mechanisms. In Amhara, the grievance redress mechanism addressed all 692 complaints received. The social protection component of the 2026 HAC appeal requires US$41.1 million and faced a 71 per cent funding gap as of 31 August.

2026 HAC indicator	Annual target	July–Aug result	Cumulative to 31 Aug	Target achieved
Households receiving humanitarian cash transfers	88,000	8,047	52,735	60%
Women-headed households receiving cash transfers	31,125	5,600	32,533	105%

Social and Behaviour Change (SBC) and Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP)

During July–August 2026, UNICEF and partners reached 9,380,257 people with life-saving information through social and behaviour change (SBC), risk communication and community engagement, and accountability to affected populations. Reflective dialogue activities engaged 449,608 people, while 536 frontline workers received training. Feedback mechanisms recorded input from 4,034 people. Community concerns included school rehabilitation and safe learning, access to essential services and supplies, implementation delays, transparency in beneficiary selection and misinformation related to immunization.

UNICEF continued to integrate feedback and community engagement into the humanitarian response and to share concerns with relevant programme teams for follow-up.

2026 HAC indicator	Annual target	July–Aug result	Cumulative to 31 Aug	Target achieved
People reached with life-saving information	45,040,780	9,380,257	31,293,686	69%
People engaged in reflective dialogue	5,051,544	449,608	2,338,226	46%
People providing feedback through AAP mechanisms	75,976	4,034	23,547	31%

Human Interest Stories (HIS) and External Media

UNICEF Ethiopia continued to produce compelling advocacy and communication content, shedding light on the needs of children, women, and their communities affected by the multiple humanitarian crises across the country. Through compelling stories and multimedia content, UNICEF highlighted critical emergency response for vulnerable populations affected by conflict, displacement, climate shocks, and disease outbreaks.

During the reporting period, UNICEF Representative Aboubacar Kampo signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Kifiya Financial Technology to expand access to digital financial services for vulnerable women and youth-led enterprises, supporting economic resilience and social inclusion.

The UNICEF Communication team continued to document and amplify the impact of UNICEF programmes across humanitarian and development settings. Coverage includes the reconstruction of schools in conflict-affected areas of Afar, Oromia, and South Ethiopia regions. Additionally, the team highlighted UNICEF's response to create safe spaces for girls in schools, improve access to clean and safe water, promote positive sanitation and hygiene practices, expand access to essential health services for young people, promote nutritious school meals to support children's well-being, support mothers in providing nutritious food for their families, and equip women entrepreneurs with the skills and resources they need to build sustainable livelihoods.

Finally, the UNICEF Communication team continues to advocate on international days such as , World Breastfeeding Week, International Youth Day (here, here and here), World Humanitarian Day, and World Water Week (here and here).

Donor contributions to UNICEF's humanitarian response were also recognized on social media, including support from Sida and the Dutch MFA.

For more content, please check: Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn, Instagram, and www.unicef.org/ethiopia

UNICEF 2026 Ethiopia Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) Appeal

2026 HAC Funding Status

Funding figures as of 31 August 2026 (US dollars). Contributions confirmed after this date are excluded.

Sector	2026 HAC requirement	2026 funds received	2025 carry-over	Total available / funding gap
Health	46,808,000	2,183,944	9,118,152	11,302,096 / 76% gap
Nutrition	76,755,000	24,723,144**	11,962,101	36,685,245 / 52% gap
Child Protection, GBViE	52,579,000	7,525,593	4,272,632	11,798,225 / 78% gap
Education	35,249,000	590,319	5,138,692	5,729,011 / 84% gap
WASH	129,788,000	10,360,982	11,003,749	21,364,731 / 84% gap
Social Protection	41,117,000	4,126,921	7,917,488	12,044,410 / 71% gap
Cross-Sectoral (SBC, AAP, PSEA)	19,212,000	4,017,303		4,017,303 / 79% gap
Total	**401,508,000**	**53,528,206**	**49,412,814**	**102,941,021 / 74% gap**

*** The October 2026 US State DHR contribution of US$13 million for Nutrition is not reflected in this 31 August funding snapshot.*

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