



World Health
Organization

Ethiopia

Ethiopia: Landslide in Gofa Zone, South Ethiopia Region Situation Report

July 30 2024

No 2



15,515

Affected
Population*



257

Dead bodies identified



38

Total injuries and
treatment
provided



\$1.6 million

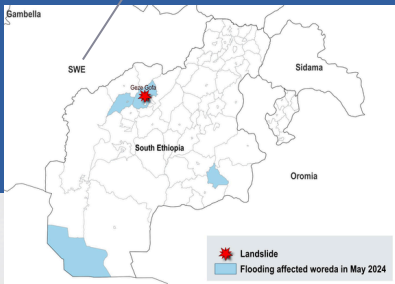
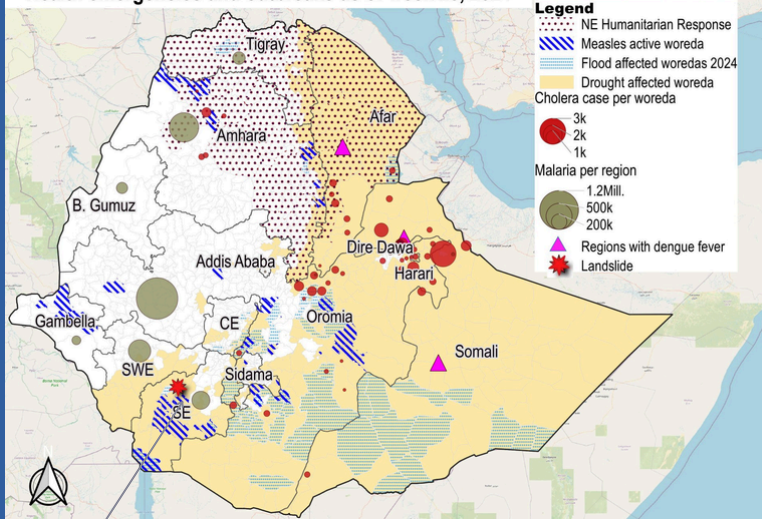
Funding Request



Highlights

- Landslide in Geza Gofa Woreda, Gofa Zone, Southern Ethiopia on 21–22 July 2024.
- At least 257 were reported dead, and over 15,000 were affected.
- Immediate needs: food, Emergency Shelter/Non-Food Items (ES/NFI), Water, Sanitation, Hygiene (WaSH), and health supplies.
- Ongoing search and rescue operations; death toll expected to rise.
- Multiple emergencies in the area including malaria, measles, communal conflict, drought, and floods.
- Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed Ali and First Lady Zinash Tayachew visited the incident site to pay their respects to the families and community affected by the Gofa Zone landslides.
- The Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission (EDRMC), together with regional and woreda governments has established an Emergency Coordination Center at woreda level to coordinate the humanitarian response.

Health emergencies and outbreaks as of week 28, 2024



Situation

- Southern Ethiopia is a flood-prone region already affected by multiple emergencies, including malaria, measles, and cholera. The warm atmosphere caused by climate change has led to extreme rainfall, increasing the risk of such incidents. These challenges underscore the gravity of the situation.
- Heavy rains on 21 and 22 July 2024 in the mountainous area in two kebeles of Geza Gofa Woreda in Gofa Zone, South Ethiopia Region, resulted in a landslide. As of 25 July, at least 257 people were reportedly dead, and more than 15,000 had been affected. The situation is urgent and requires immediate attention.
- Among the deceased are the kebele chairperson, a member of the local police, health extension workers, and personnel from the Bureau of Agriculture who were on-site providing support after the initial incident on Sunday, 21 July.
- Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed Ali and First Lady Zinash Tayachew visited the incident site to pay their respects to the families and community affected by the Gofa Zone landslides.
- Ethiopia Declares Three Days of Mourning after Landslide Tragedy.

- The Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission (EDRMC), together with regional and woreda governments has established an Emergency Coordination Center at woreda level to coordinate the humanitarian response. Senior EDRMC team deployed to the area, including the Commissioner of EDRMC, are providing leadership. United Nations and partner-deployed teams are supporting the ECC.
- The number of displaced individuals has risen to 600.
- Local authorities report over 15,000 people affected, with the ECC targeting over 5,600 vulnerable individuals for immediate evacuation to safe spaces. 13,717 people from 17 kebeles in the district are expected to be relocated
- Among the affected, over 1,300 children under five and 427 pregnant and lactating women are in critical need of nutrition support.
- The Government's relocation plan includes rehabilitation elements, such as temporary shelters in relocation areas while sustainable shelter solutions are sought.

Office of the Prime Minister - Ethiopia @PMEthiopia · Jul 27
 Prime Minister @AbiyAhmedAli and First Lady Zinash Tayachew paid their respects in person to the families and community of victims of the Gofa Zone landslides which claimed the lives of a confirmed 231 people so far.
 #PMOEthiopia



Dr Matshidiso Moeti @MoetiTshidi · Jul 26
 The devastating landslides in southern Ethiopia have affected over 15,000 people, leaving them in urgent need of assistance. @WHO is supporting the gov't emergency efforts and has deployed a team of first responders, and medical supplies & equipment to assist 10,000 people.



You and Ethiopian Public Health Institute

Response Needs

- Food, Emergency Shelter/Non-Food Items (ES/NFI), Water, Sanitation, Hygiene (WaSH), and health including medical supplies.



WHO Response Activities

Coordination

- As part of WHO Coordination mechanism for emergencies, a teleconference between WHO Ethiopia, WHO Regional Office, and WHO HQ was conducted on 24 July to review the ongoing emergency, strategize how to respond, and mobilize funds for the response. An initial draft proposal and budget of approximately \$1.6M have been developed for submission to various donors for consideration. WHO has started engaging various donors.
- WHO joined a joint team led by OCHA for a rapid assessment to gauge needs and inform response and resource mobilization.
- Seven (7) multidisciplinary surge teams from WHO were deployed to the affected area. (Health cluster coordinator, public health officer, health information officer, logistics officer, surveillance, and Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS))
- WHO will deploy an additional three (3) mental health experts, including two from The African Health Volunteers Corps-strengthening and Utilizing Response Groups for Emergencies (AVoHC-SURGE), to provide psychosocial support. Furthermore, the Zonal health department, with support from WHO, will conduct training and capacity-building on mental health and psychosocial support.

- WHO will support with establishment of three (3) temporary health facilities in the relocation site.
- Rented two vehicles to support field operations.

Emergency Medical Team (EMT)

- The Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI) mobilized the National EMT, in collaboration with WHO, deploying a team equipped with a trauma kit and basic ambulance consisting of a General Surgeon, Emergency Physician, General Practitioner, and two Nurses.
- Additionally, the national EMT is also mobilizing a team of MHPSS professionals as a specialized care team.

The Emergency Medical Team are actively responding by

- Engaging stakeholders and conducting comprehensive assessments for informed care.
- Providing primary clinic services, trauma care, and specialized care.
- Donated WHO medical supplies to restore health and hope in the affected area.
- Participating in evacuation and relocation site assessments.

Medical supplies

Dispatched medical supplies worth over \$50,000 from its contingency warehouse. The total weight of the shipment is approximately 10 metric tons, aimed to reach around 10,000 individuals.

1. Interagency Emergency Health Kits
2. Cholera Treatment Kits
3. Trauma and Emergency Surgical Kits
4. Pneumonia Kits
5. Anti-Scabies Ointment (Permethrin)
6. Medical Devices and Equipment
7. Personal protective equipment (PPEs)

Partners on the Ground

- Disaster Risk Management Commission (DRMC): Mobilized emergency shelters. Established and operational, led by EDRMC and OCHA.
- United Nations Agencies: WHO, OCHA, UNICEF, WFP, IOM.
- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs): SWAN consortium comprised of Save the Children, WVI, Hunger against Action, NRC
- Red Cross

A draft multisectoral response and recovery plan are prepared including health and nutrition.

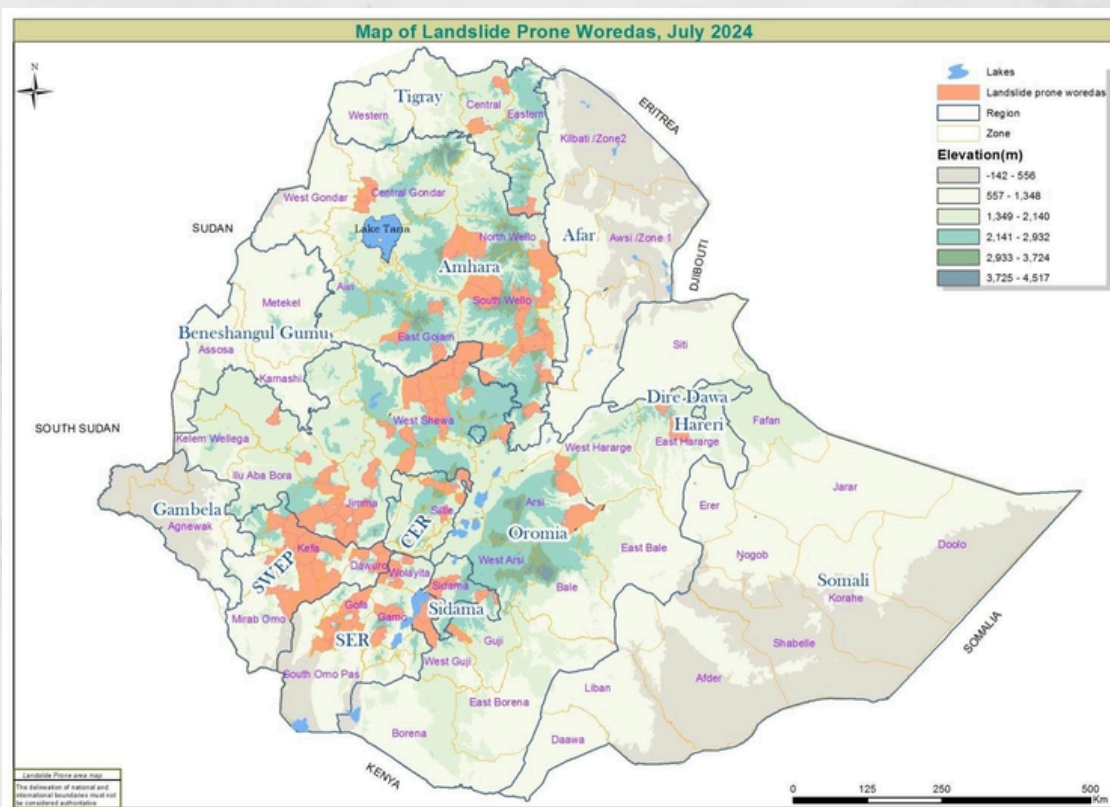


Coordination meetings to review partner mapping and strategize operation.

Alert on Landslide Prone Areas in Ethiopia to Strengthen Health Sector Preparedness and Response Activities

According to the alert shared by the Ethiopia Disaster Risk Management Commission (EDRMC) on flood-prone areas in Ethiopia to strengthen preparedness and response activities for the health sector:

Region	Zone	Woreda
Amhara	7	22
Central Ethiopia	4	5
Oromia	10	34
Sidama	1	4
South Ethiopia	2	14
South West Ethiopia	5	18
Tigray	2	3
Total	31	100



Similar Incidents Reported:

Affected District: Wensho Woreda, Central Sidama Zone

Impact:

- 6 people died
- 6 severely injured and admitted to Yirgalem Hospital

Note: A team has been deployed to the area, and further updates will be communicated.



Coordination meetings

Sources

*OCHA

South Ethiopia Regional Health Bureau

Ethiopia Disaster Risk Management Commission (EDRMC)

Contact

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