



World Health
Organization

Ethiopia

Ethiopia: Earthquake

Afar, Amhara, and Oromia Region

Situation Report

January 17 2025 No 1



80000

Affected Population



>60000

Individual affected to
relocated



0

Death



2

Total injuries



WHO delivered essential emergency medical supplies

Highlights

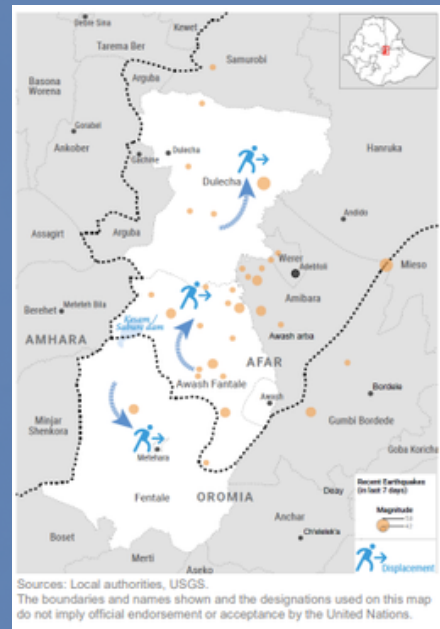
- Current seismic activity levels significantly exceed the historical average.
- Evacuation of more than 60,000 individuals to relocation sites from high-risk areas is underway.
- Two individuals reported injured due to ongoing seismic events.
- Nine health facilities have sustained severe or partial damage.
- Multi-Cluster Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) is underway.
- The Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission (EDRMC), together with regional and woreda governments has established the humanitarian response including health coordination mechanisms.
- Four mobile clinics deployed to maintain essential health services in affected areas.
- Essential medicines and lifesaving drugs have been delivered and prepositioned to support ongoing health response efforts.

Situation

- Over 80,000 people were affected across Afar and Oromia regions due to earthquakes (60,000 from Afar, 20,000 from Oromia).
- Multi-Sector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) launched on January 8, 2025 to evaluate impact and damage; ongoing scientific assessments to guide early warning.
- Zonal Incident Command Posts (ICPs) established in Awash and Metehara; local authorities, United Nations (UN), and NGO partners actively engaged.
- Women, children, and people with disabilities face heightened risks, particularly in Awash Fentale.

Response Action

- Two thousand households in Dulecha and Awash Fentale received emergency shelter and Food, nutrition and non-food items (NFIs). Protection services, Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and dignity kits pre-positioned.
- Three mobile health teams requiring targeted protection were deployed for screenings; 4 mobile clinics providing health while and nutrition services are providing at IDP sites. Common conditions include Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), upper respiratory tract infection (URTI), and malaria.
- Two individuals were injured; 16 schools in Afar were severely damaged, while 21 were partially damaged, 8 schools were severely damaged, and 6 were partially damaged. A total of 7,211 students were affected. 7 health facilities impacted.
- A total of 472 bed nets were distributed, and educational outreach was conducted for 204 households.
- One hospital in the Gebirasu zone with 138 health professionals, 38 dedicated to IDP response.
- Door-to-door active case searches conducted; cholera risk remains high, but no outbreaks reported.
- Air sediment and groundwater samples were collected to assess health impacts.
- A Rapid Response Team of 12 experts and 3 mobile health teams deployed to support the response.



WHO Ethiopia @WHOEthiopia · Jan 13
Seismic activity continues in Ethiopia, with 18 earthquakes (4.4–5.8 magnitude) recorded Jan 8–10, 2025.

WHO is working with the government & partners to assess risks & strengthen health response efforts for affected communities.

Earthquake Alert

Afar, Amhara and Oromia regions of Ethiopia

Seismic activity continues across parts of Afar and Oromia, particularly in Awash and Dulecha districts. Between 8 and 10 January, 18 earthquakes, ranging from 4.4 to 5.3 in magnitude, have been recorded, bringing the total number of tremors to about 50 in the past week. The strongest, a magnitude 5.8, occurred at a depth of 10km, on 4 January, near the Dofen mountains. Its effects were felt as far away as the capital city, Addis Ababa. (OCHA)

KEY IMPACTS	PEOPLE AFFECTED	IMMEDIATE NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Damage to homes, health facilities, schools, and roads.• Kesem Sugar factory inoperability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Over 80,000 people affected• 30,000 relocated and evacuations ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food, water, and shelter for displaced populations.• Emergency health services
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deploying experts for rapid assessments and	

WHO Response Activities

- Partnered with the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI), Ministry of Health (MoH), and Regional Health Bureaus (RHBs) in Afar and Oromia to design and implement health preparedness and response plans at national and field levels.
- Worked with the Health Cluster and key partners to conduct a rapid assessment.
- Deployed a surge team consisting of four surveillance officers, one data manager, two WASH/IPC officers, two emergency response coordinators, one MHPSS expert, and one operations support and logistics expert to provide technical support across all response sectors.
- Delivered essential emergency medical supplies (IEHK, PaedSam, malaria drug kits) to treat 20,000 individuals for three months, dispatched to Afar Regional Health Bureau for ongoing health support.
- Collaborated with EPHI, MoH, and RHBs to establish the Early Warning and Response System (EWARS), develop surveillance tools and reporting templates for IDP site clinics and conduct active case searches in IDP camps and host communities.



Pic 2: Coordination meeting

Response Needs

- **Strengthening Early Detection and Response:** Improve EWARS for timely detection of disease outbreaks.
- **Essential Health Services:** Ensure continued delivery of vital health services to vulnerable populations.
- **Preventive Health Campaigns:** Implement cholera and measles prevention efforts to reduce outbreak risks.
- **Water and Sanitation Needs:** Address water supply gaps and accelerate sanitation infrastructure to ensure clean water and hygiene at IDP sites.
- **Gender-based violence (GBV) Support:** Establish private consultation rooms for GBV survivors to receive confidential care.
- **Healthcare Worker Support:** Provide adequate resting areas, amenities, and facilities for healthcare workers to ensure effective service delivery.
- **Logistics and Security:** Strengthen logistics systems and advocate for improved security to facilitate timely resource distribution and service provision.
- **Nutrition Needs:** Conduct nutrition screenings and ensure the distribution of essential supplies to prevent malnutrition, especially among children.
- **Shelter and Disease Prevention:** Improve shelter conditions to support bed net usage and reduce the risk of vector-borne diseases.
- **Data and Coordination:** Standardize reporting systems for accurate data on IDP numbers and needs, ensuring coordinated response efforts.

WHO in Action



Pic 3: Experts deployed for rapid assessments and technical support.



Pic 4: Collaborating with the Health Cluster and key partners for a rapid assessment



Pic 5: WHO delivered essential emergency medical supplies

References

UNOCHA. (2025, January 11). Ethiopia – [Flash Update #2](#): Update on the Seismic Situation in Afar and Oromia. Prepared with the support and collaboration of IASC cluster coordinators and partners.

Dofen Mountain (Afar Region, Ethiopia) Volcano in the Area of Ongoing Quakes Starts Erupting Jets of Steam." VolcanoDiscovery, 11 Jan. 2025, <https://www.volcanodiscovery.com/dofen/news/261475/Dofen-mountain-Afar-region-Ethiopia-volcano-in-the-area-of-ongoing-quakes-starts-erupting-jets-of-st.html>.

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