

ETHIOPIA CANNOT AFFORD MISSING THE PLANTING SEASON 2024

USD 148 million is urgently required to provide timely agricultural inputs to communities

The Agriculture Task Force (ATF) in Ethiopia is urging the international community and all stakeholders to consider the importance of timely funding of the agriculture programmes. Emergency agriculture interventions are critical in the coming months, as the country has been facing years of multi-faceted crisis, including a three years' prolonged drought which has caused massive livestock losses. The population now ranks among the most vulnerable worldwide. ATF partners are calling for immediate action, as failure to provide effective agricultural and livelihoods support will increase the severity of food insecurity conditions and cause further aid dependency and likely irreversible consequences.



13 M
people in need



9.1 M targeted



USD 322.5 M
Financial ask for
the year 2024



URGENTLY
USD 148 M
Financial requirements
January to May 2024

Planning to fight and prevent severe food insecurity? Invest in food production and support emergency agriculture!

- Improving timely delivery of agricultural inputs like seeds, tools and fertilizer.
- Prioritizing resources for season-related activities.
- Ensuring funding is made available with reasonable time ahead of the start of the season for agencies to initiate procurement and pre-positioning.
- Leveraging ongoing procurements and top ups to shorten the procurement process.
- Using cash and vouchers to accelerate activities implementation.
- Promoting Cash Plus approach, especially for returnees and IDPs with access to land.
- Guaranteeing quality agricultural packages do respond to the needs of overlapping shocks.
- Forecasting necessary anticipatory actions with regard to drought and flood .
- Exploring strategies – through a dedicated taskforce – to facilitate the use of improved locally produced seeds over imported seeds to reduce the major cost driver for the sector.
- Appropriate agriculture packages that will effectively respond to the urgent and acute needs of overlapping shocks.

It's time to act now!

The upcoming Meher season (June – September) offers an opportunity to prevent further deterioration of the humanitarian situation. However, according to the Ethiopia priority humanitarian response and critical funding gaps, about 3.5 million people do not have the capacity to access seed and fertilizer due the impact of the El Niño induced drought.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, approximately **150 000 tonnes (75%)** of the demand for improved **cereal seed varieties** is available through the formal seed system for the **2024 planting season**. Regarding fertilizer, the anticipated demand for the 2024 planting season stands at **2.3 million tonnes**. Currently, the government has **procured 1.99 million tonnes, with 1.73 million tonnes already being within the country**. The Ministry of Agriculture has granted authorization to the Ethiopian Agriculture Business Cooperation (EABC) to sell fertilizer to the humanitarian community for distribution to vulnerable farmers across Ethiopia.

Given this situation, the humanitarian community is asking for immediate support in order to facilitate access to seeds and fertilizers for these vulnerable communities through:



Directly procuring seeds from seed enterprises and fertilizer from EABC for distribution to vulnerable farmers.



Provide farmers with vouchers that they can redeem for seed and fertilizer at cooperatives.



Offering unconditional cash enables farmers to purchase seeds and fertilizers from local sources including cooperatives.

Importantly, vegetable seeds registered in Ethiopia can be imported, providing additional options for diversifying seed sources.



ATF partners are calling on the international community and partners to immediately release the USD 148 million required to carry out emergency livelihood interventions to:

- Ensure seeds & fertilizers supply in a timely manner and maximize agricultural production during the Belg season and Meher seasons ([Seasonal Calendar 1](#) - [Seasonal Calendar 2](#)).
- Guarantee livestock support and maintain survival and productivity of breeding stock in the drought.
- Slow down the marching food insecurity and destitution of the most vulnerable, support emergency agriculture and save lives.