

URGENT APPEAL TO HELP FAMINE VICTIMS IN AMHARA, ETHIOPIA

Vereniging van Amhara's in Nederland (VAN)

(Association of Amhara's in The Netherlands)

January 2025



Source: [East African Review, The Silent Crisis, 20 December 2024](#)

Please take Action:

Give attention to these suffering innocent people. Act now and stand with them!

- Raise awareness, share this appeal as much as possible.
- Support this and similar initiatives of VAN.
- Donate to aid efforts on the ground via 'Vereniging van Amhara's in Nederland'. IBAN: NLO7 INGB 0108 1617 81 (Reference: Donation Bugna and Wag Hemra 2025).

VERENIGING VAN AMHARA'S IN NEDERLAND (VAN)

Vereniging van Amhara's in Nederland (VAN) is a non-profit organization established with the objective of strengthening social interaction among Amhara's living in The Netherlands and to support the Amhara people in Ethiopia through humanitarian initiatives.

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Although, it is difficult to get an accurate description of the situation as some of the affected areas are under conflict, it is without doubt that the humanitarian crisis in the Amhara region of Ethiopia has reached alarming levels, with millions facing acute food insecurity, thousands of children, mothers and elderly dying or facing acute malnutrition.

The only hope for the people in these areas are the few local and international NGOs trying to deliver aid. To help the people in need, many groups of Ethiopian diaspora in different countries are taking initiatives to send aid to the victimized areas.

With innate understanding of the dire situation in the Amhara region, VAN is also engaged in fund-raising activities to support the victims. All the administrative expenses related to these activities are covered by the members of VAN.

VAN sends the aid collected by means of these initiatives to the victims in cooperation with local aid NGOs working on the ground in the area. VAN does not only send the aid, but also does its best to ensure that the aid is correctly and fairly distributed.

THE CURRENT FOOD CRISIS

Ethiopia is a country in East Africa with an estimated population of 134 million. It is a country with ample natural resources, has good weather for Agriculture, and is placed strategically to foster fast economic growth. Unfortunately, because of internal conflicts, drought, high rate of inflation, displacement and natural disasters the country has been marred with food insecurity problems. In the past few years severe famine conditions being recorded in multiple regions including Afar, Amhara, Central Ethiopia, Oromia, Somali, Sidama, SNNP and Tigray [[2024 Global Report on Food Crisis](#)].

Drought and famine are recurrent issues facing Ethiopia.

In 2023, 19.7 million Ethiopians faced high level of food insecurity [[2024 Global Report on Food Crisis](#)]

In 2024, 15.8 million people faced hunger and needed food assistance [[WFP, Ethiopia, 20 October 2024](#)]

In Amhara Region alone 2.3 million people required immediate food assistance in 2024 [[WFP, 6 February 2024](#)].



The food shortage in Amhara region tends to worsen in 2025 as the conflict in the region continues in which crops and livestock are being destroyed by government forces using heavy artillery.

Based on The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), the food shortage in Amhara region has reached Phases 3 (Crisis) and phase 4 (Emergency). Phase 3 implies households face food consumption gaps, forced to sell assets or reduce intake to survive. Phase 4 (Emergency) indicates widespread malnutrition is evident, and immediate action is needed to prevent further loss of life.

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A recent survey conducted by Woldia university in northern Wollo (Bugna woreda and Wag hemra Zone) underscores the urgent need for food aid in the area. According to the survey the area is facing one of the most severe droughts in recent history: 161328 people (40% of the total population of the area) are in need of food aid, out of which:

- 4484 are children under 5 with cases of Severe Acute Malnutrition;
- 19536 are children under 5 with cases of Moderate Acute Malnutrition, and
- 10566 pregnant and lactating women with cases of Moderate Acute Malnutrition. [Woldia University Survey Team, Executive Summary]

The alarming food shortage in the area is multiplied by a severe shortage of water supply. Communities primarily rely on water springs, which often tend to seasonally dry up. The people have to therefore walk long distances (three- to four hours on the average) in search of water. Moreover, there are no water purifying techniques in place, leading to serious hygiene issues (Woldia University Survey Team, p. 7, 15).

The healthcare sector is critically under-resourced, medicines are extremely scarce. Chronic illnesses are therefore poorly managed (ibid, page 9).

The cumulative effects of these challenges have led to significant mortality rates among children and pregnant women, heightened psychological distress, and ongoing vulnerability within the community (ibid, Page II).

In reaction to these challenges:

Most residents have reduced their meals from two per day to one per day (Woldia University Survey Team, p. 7).

Begging, and relying on social support networks are being exercised (Woldia University Survey Team, p. 42).

People migrate to urban areas.

Local communities donate food to the most affected neighbors (Woldia University Survey Team, p. 43).

International food aid organizations such as the World Food Programme (WFP), UNICEF, and ORDA, are back in action since September 2024. This has provided some relief, particularly for children suffering from malnutrition. However, the support is claimed to be not enough given the scale of the problem. (ibid, p. 8, 16).

Local NGO's such as PAD, ORDA, EMwA and WDA are also active in the area. However, the **ability** to scale up their response is further hindered by lack of resources (UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 2-6 Dec 2024, page 11).

As to OCHA, people affected by natural and man-made disasters in the area have not received significant response to date. Additionally, they have struggled to obtain information on how to access various forms of assistance, such as food, nutrition and cash aid, and they have expressed dissatisfaction with the assistance provided (ibid).

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