

Alert note

Ethiopia, Landslide Crisis 13th March 2026.

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Date completed: 13th March 2026
Forum: ACT Ethiopia Forum
Type of emergency: Landslide
Date of emergency (if rapid onset): 11th March 2026

Funding Survey

If the forum indicates a plan to launch an appeal, we request that funding members please fill out this [survey form](#), which will help the **Emergency Steering Committee** assess the funding environment for this response. Please respond to this survey *within 24 hours of Alert publication*.

<p>1. The nature of the emergency</p> <p>In the Gamo Zone area in Southern Ethiopia, several landslides occurred in the early morning of 11th March 2026, triggered by several days of heavy rain and flash floods. The disaster occurred in the highland areas where saturated slopes gave way after heavy, intense rains.</p> <p>There is an indication of continued heavy rains in the region, and the South Ethiopia Regional State Government has issued warnings and announced that all people living in high-risk areas are required to move to safer locations. IGAD climate predicts that the March-April-May rainy season has a chance of above average rainfall affecting the Horn and East Africa region (Reuters).</p>
<p>2. The impact and scale of the emergency</p> <p>This is a medium-scale emergency affecting Gamo Zone, Gacho Baba Woreda, Southern Ethiopia Regional State where several homesteads have been buried under mud and debris by the landslides. The disaster hit multiple Woreda (districts), including Gacho Baba, Bonke, Kamba Zuria, and West Abaya in Gamo Zone. Mazo Doysa Kebele has experienced a significant loss of life.</p> <p>According to Al Jazeera, 128 persons are missing, and 80 bodies have been found, and many more are believed to be buried under mud and debris (Reuters). The affected Southern Regional State is a remote highland area, and the landslides have caused widespread damage to homes, infrastructure, and farmland. The affected communities were already facing environmental risks, fragile infrastructure, resulting in the loss of life, displacement, destruction of homes and livelihoods, requiring humanitarian assistance.</p> <p>The Gamo community is the affected people, who live in challenging, steep, remote mountainous terrain in the Southern Ethiopia Regional State. The Gamo mainly practice agriculture and are predominantly rural with a population of more females than males (PMC).</p> <p>Homes and farmlands and infrastructure have been destroyed, displacing 3,480 people, most of whom have lost their homes and assets, with thousands still at risk (Dawan Africa 12, March 2026).</p> <p>The disaster is likely to cause a disruption to agricultural activities and have an impact on food security, according to the Gamo Zone Ethiopian Red Cross Branch office (WRAL News).</p>
<p>3. Local and national capacity</p> <p>The government of Ethiopia is mobilizing resources in coordination with regional authorities (Reuters). Residents and community members were the first responders who had already begun searching for buried bodies in the mud and debris. Local police and disaster response teams are also involved in rescue efforts, and one person was rescued alive (WRAL news).</p> <p>The Gamo Zone disaster response office is coordinating the response, and rescue activities are ongoing. The Ethiopian Red Cross Society has initiated the provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance, such as Non-Food Items (blankets, cloths, and basic household items), to displaced families.</p> <p>Temporary arrangements are being made by the local government and Ethiopian Red Cross Society to provide emergency medical care for the injured, while the more severely affected are taken to the nearest health facility for care.</p>
<p>4. Key needs and gaps</p>

There is an urgent need for emergency shelter to support the displaced families, the provision of safe water, sanitation facilities, and food assistance.

Since the area is remote, there are insufficient health services, limiting access for injured persons to receive medical attention. Due to the damaged infrastructure, there is a need for protection of women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities due to their vulnerability, and they may face psychosocial trauma and gender-based violence.

The lack of early warning and risk mitigation measures offers the risk of additional losses due to landslides requiring urgent monitoring and preventive measures.

The recommendation is to rapidly scale up multi-sectoral assistance, coordinate the response among government and non-government actors targeting interventions focused on providing emergency shelter, food, WASH, health services, protection programming, and multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA). Without accelerated response, the affected population faces increased vulnerability to disease, malnutrition, psychosocial distress, and further loss of life.

Please indicate whether you are considering:

	Indicate your intention with an X below
Rapid Response Fund (<i>intended for small and medium-scale emergencies</i>)	X
Appeal (<i>intended for large-scale emergencies</i>)	

5. Forum Capacity and members intention to Respond

ACT Member	Geographical focus	Sectors of expertise and experience
Ethiopian Orthodox Church Development and Interchurch Aid Commission (EOC-DICAC)	Gamo Zone of Southern Ethiopia (Gacho Baba and Bonke Woreda).	Food, MPC, WASH, health and nutrition, Protection, Gender
Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus Development and Social Services Commission (EECMY-DASSC)	Gamo Zone of Southern Ethiopia ((Gacho Baba and Bonke Woreda).	NFI kits, Emergency Shelter, Multi-Purpose Cash assistance.

6. Potential responses

To meet basic needs, reduce protection risks, and promote psychosocial recovery among affected populations, EOC-DICAC and EECMY-DASCC plan to implement the following activities:

EOC-DICAC

- Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) to address the urgent needs of affected populations.
- Mental health and Psychosocial support activities to support in healing trauma and shock.
- WASH-NFI kits, including dignity kits for adolescent girls and women of reproductive ages

EECMY-DASCC

- NFI kits, Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance, Emergency Shelter.