

## Summer 2020 at IFA

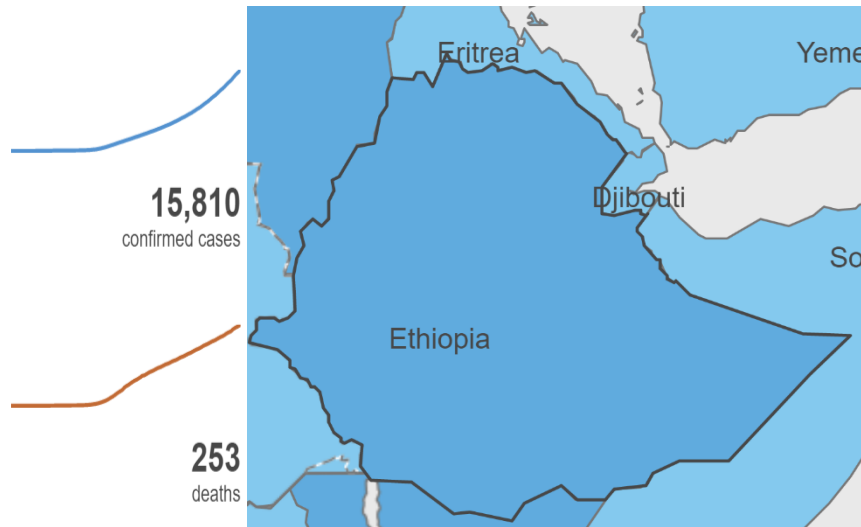
Summer in Ethiopia is known as “Kiremet” – it’s the season when the temperatures drop, and the country is deluged with heavy rains that sometimes cause flashfloods and mudslides in some parts of the country.

Summer 2020 has brought both joy and sorrow to IFA and the country. It’s the unforgettable summer that we witnessed Ethiopia overcoming much to successfully the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (the GERD) that is the largest dam in Africa and the sixth largest in the world. What a privilege to be part of such palpable joy and pride.



Summer 2020 also has brought the threat of COVID 19 much closer as its impact is striking Ethiopia with the rise in infection and death rates. COVID-19 is a menace to even the developed world; the challenge it poses in Sub-Saharan Africa is even worse as it affects health, food security, the economy and education. The vulnerable communities IFA serves are some of the hardest hit. The magnitude will worsen as we take UNICEF’s prediction into consideration – they stated that the malnutrition rates may rise by 24%!

Ethiopia has yet to reach the COVID 19 peak – the first outbreak was reported



on 31 March with four cases, by the end of July we have reached 15,810 confirmed cases.

Considering these needs IFA has continued its work despite schools being closed, while observing the necessary social distancing guides, IFA together with school management and district officers was able to coordinate the distribution of monthly take home rations for 250 families. These families have children who were deprived of school meals. Additionally, IFA continues to provide face masks as part of its repurposed sanitation program.



IFA seeks to scale up these interventions as there are many more families to be supported on our waiting list. Those who can partner in our work can make donations that will enable us to purchase the necessary food staples at 15 USD per child per month.



**Please help IFA ease the pain of these difficult times.**