

Ethiopia

IOCC began working in Ethiopia in 2001, partnering closely with the Ethiopian Orthodox Church Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission (EOC-DICAC). In the years since, IOCC has also worked with international and local NGOs in Ethiopia, as well as the Ministries of Health, Education, and Agriculture.

Emergency Response



In response to the humanitarian crisis in Tigray, IOCC has received UNOCHA funding for an emergency nutrition project in the Northern Afar region, beginning in January 2023. IOCC is screening for and treating moderate to severe acute malnutrition, conducting community outreach to conflict-affected communities, and promoting effective infant and young child feeding practices in emergencies (IYCF-E). The project applies Community-Based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) and IYCF-E approaches to reduce morbidity and mortality caused by malnutrition among children under 5 years of age, pregnant and lactating women, and vulnerable populations, including chronically ill individuals and persons with disabilities. IOCC has implemented similar activities serving thousands of children and pregnant and lactating women in the Amhara region, including treating malnutrition and delivering high-value supplementary food rations.

Beginning in 2020, IOCC worked with the Ethiopian Orthodox Church to support families and communities across northern Ethiopia affected by the Tigray conflict, providing food assistance, hygiene items, blankets, and other nonfood household items to help families rebuild assets lost during displacement and fighting.

To combat the effects of ongoing drought, in 2021 and 2022 IOCC supplied emergency nutritional support via three-month rations of high-nutritional-value food to more than 1,600 people, including children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women. In 2022, the rehabilitation of two boreholes in Amhara provided access to potable water for 25,000 people. In 2019, IOCC capped natural springs and built distribution points and cattle troughs—improving access to safe, sustainable water and reducing the risk of both water-borne diseases and COVID-19 as the pandemic took hold. More than 4,000 individuals benefitted from this. Between 2011 and 2015, IOCC implemented numerous emergency WASH-related projects, including assistance for drought-affected communities, internally displaced people, and refugees in Ethiopia. Drought response in 2015 included improving access to water for over 20,000 people through the construction of reservoirs, rainwater-harvesting structures, and water distribution points. In 2015, IOCC delivered 2 million liters of water via truck for livestock consumption and installed 5 five-thousand-liter water-storage tanks in Amhara.

In 2011–2015, IOCC provided emergency services for Somali and South Sudanese refugees hosted in Ethiopia’s southern and western camps. Through this programming, 26,000 Somali refugees gained access to potable water, hygiene kits, and improved latrines; more than 4,000 South Sudanese refugee households received nonfood items and improved latrines, and over 1,000 unaccompanied children, youth, pregnant women, and elderly persons received psychosocial support. Some 41,000 refugees and members of host communities gained access to potable water, and IOCC built and equipped a school for 500 Somali teens.

Food Security & Agriculture | Sustainable Livelihoods

In 2023, IOCC began work to improve livelihood and health conditions of vulnerable adolescent girls and women in Woldiya, a highly conflict-impacted city in North Wollo Zone of Amhara Region. Funded by Orthodox Church Aid and Missions FILANTROPIA and Finland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the project is providing skills development and training for adolescent girls and women; generating awareness on gender, health, and social issues; and promoting self-employment by providing start-up capital and materials.

Starting in 2021, IOCC began providing agricultural support across Amhara in response to destructive desert locust infestations. The project is supporting over 600 households through unconditional cash assistance, and nearly 500 households have received crop and vegetable seeds. The six locust-affected communities received fruit tree seedlings, banana suckers, and forage tree and grass seeds. The response has also enclosed three overgrazed and eroded parcels of land (five hectares each) to protect them from animal grazing and to regenerate soil fertility.

In 2013, IOCC completed a 2.5-year \$1.9 million pilot project funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) through a partnership with the World Council of Credit Unions. The project, implemented with EOC-DICAC, focused on building the resilience of smallholder farmers. The project provided needs-based agricultural training and technical support and improved agricultural inputs to 35,000 smallholder farmers in Amhara, Oromia, and Tigray. Various rural and agricultural infrastructures were rehabilitated, improved, or constructed—among them, improved seed and vegetable stores, barns, and cooperative offices, irrigation wells, canals, and other structures.

In addition, spring-water caps were constructed and enhanced by soil, water, and environmental conservation activities. In another agriculture and food security project in Amhara and Oromia, IOCC improved childhood nutrition by establishing school gardens and training students on their management. The program reached 1,400 individuals.



THROUGHOUT THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, IOCC continued its projects around the world while taking steps to protect staff, partners, and beneficiaries. All projects are continuously evaluated for multiple risk factors, and appropriate modifications made. IOCC ensures that all staff and beneficiaries receive information about COVID-19, including testing locations, and integrates this information into ongoing projects, as indicated by local health authorities.

Health



In 2023, with funds from Orthodox Church Aid and Missions FILANTROPIA and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, IOCC started a four-year expansion of its podoconiosis prevention and treatment program in eight districts of the Amhara region.

Since 2010, IOCC has worked closely with the Ethiopian Ministry of Health and regional health bureaus on the prevention and treatment of podocooniosis (nonfilarial elephantiasis, a disfiguring, disabling neglected tropical disease), with the goal of eliminating the disease in Ethiopia. Community interventions include education on the importance of shoe-wearing, self-care methods, and hygiene; and through a private partnership, over 850,000 primary-school children received shoes. The projects prioritize training for health professionals and patients in podoconiosis prevention and treatment. Thus far, over 76,000 Ethiopians have received treatment and knowledge on disease management; over a million have received awareness education through community events and public campaigns; and more than 1,400 midlevel government healthcare workers have been trained on disease identification, management, and related issues. IOCC has also supported the treatment of lymphatic filariasis and provided integrated trachoma programming.

In collaboration with EOC-DICAC, IOCC implemented a \$15.4 million program funded by USAID/PEPFAR on HIV/AIDS prevention, awareness, care, and support in 153 districts throughout the country. IOCC also implemented a five-year, USAID-funded HIV/AIDS prevention program focused on stemming mother-to-child transmission, in collaboration with IntraHealth in 57 health center coverage areas. The program reached over 12 million Ethiopian men and women with general HIV/AIDS prevention and awareness messages.



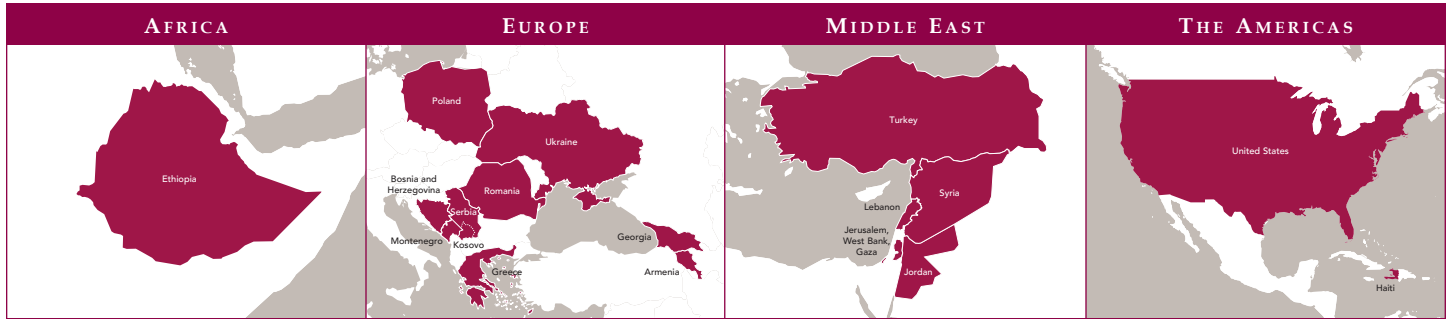
Addressing the Needs of Persons with Disabilities



Between 2009 and 2018, IOCC received multiple awards from USAID to increase the employability of adults with disabilities and improve the quality of wheelchair-service provision. The projects provided training, start-up capital and equipment, increased public and private awareness to dispel misconceptions about disabilities, and connected project participants to job resources and employers. In all, 220 company and NGO personnel were trained, and job fairs reached over 170 adult job seekers with disabilities and nearly 400 employers. Psychosocial training and counseling

were provided to 145 people with disabilities, and over 100 individuals were trained in computer technology. Through two additional consecutive awards from USAID, IOCC further expanded efforts to meet the needs of persons with disabilities. These projects increased wheelchair provision, improved the capacity of wheelchair technicians leading to improved quality, and supported income-generating activities of wheelchair users. The project reached over 3,400 adults and children with wheelchair services, 92 healthcare workers with training on the World Health Organization Basic and Intermediate Wheelchair Service Training Package, and provided more than 1,300 persons with disabilities financial support for business start-ups.

Active Worldwide Programs



- Ethiopia
- Armenia
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Georgia
- Greece
- Montenegro
- Poland
- Romania
- Serbia including Kosovo
- Ukraine
- Jerusalem, West Bank, Gaza
- Jordan
- Lebanon
- Syria
- Turkey
- Haiti
- United States



● Emergency Preparedness & Response	150,044
● Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene (WASH).....	40,362
● Sustainable Livelihoods.....	2,869
● Food Security & Agriculture.....	129,203
● Health	607,594
● Other (Education, Nonfood Items, Shelter, Protection)	2,917

IN 2023, IOCC SERVED 932,989 PEOPLE WORLDWIDE

IOCC was established in 1992 and is the official humanitarian organization of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States. IOCC provides emergency relief and development assistance to those in need worldwide, without discrimination, and strengthens the capacity of the Orthodox Church and local NGO and community partners. Its global operations are managed from its headquarters in Baltimore, Maryland, in the United States, with field offices in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, East Africa, and the US. Since its founding, IOCC has distributed more than \$800 million worth of aid in over 60 countries around the world, and has extensive experience implementing programs in partnership with United States government agencies (USAID, BHA, PRM) and the United Nations (UNICEF, WFP, UNHCR, OCHA), as well as with European and international donors.



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