

Resumption of food distributions for refugees in Ethiopia

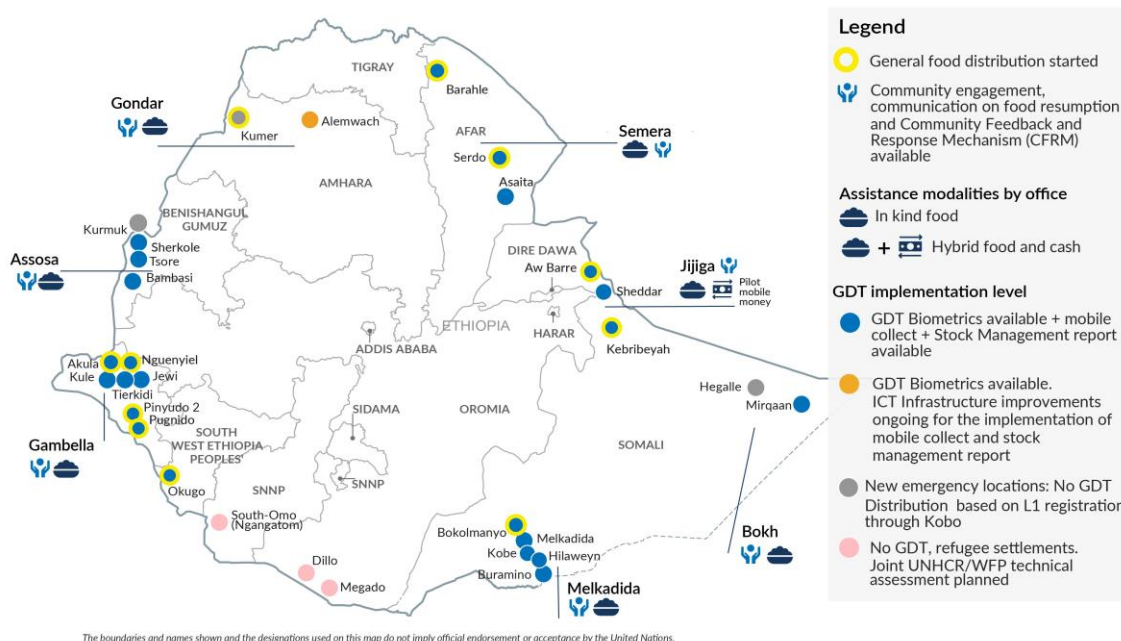
General context

Since USAID announced the resumption of food assistance to refugee populations on 6 October, UNHCR, WFP, Ethiopia’s Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) and its partners have worked intensively to prepare for food distributions in all refugee locations in Ethiopia.

There are 29 refugee camps, sites and settlements across Ethiopia hosting 946,682 refugees, with some 878,320 being dependent on food assistance. As of 19 October, distributions have already begun in 11 locations. They have been completed in five camps in the Somali, Afar and Gambella regions, while they are on-going in five camps/sites of the same region and Amhara. So far, some 110,000 refugees have been reached.

Total refugee population¹ 946,682 individuals 224,291 households	Refugees targeted for the food distributions 878,320 individuals 203,339 households	Total refugee locations targeted² 29 Refugee locations where GDT³ + Mobile collect + stock available 22
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Implementation overview, protection related activities and assistance modalities



¹ As of 30 September 2023.

² 21 camps; 1 site (Alemwach) and 7 settlements (Kumer, Akula, Dillo, Megado, South-Omo, Mirqaan and Hegale)

³ Global Distribution Tool (GDT) is a corporate UNHCR tool that helps operations use biometrics to verify the identity of beneficiaries during the distribution of food and other types of assistance. Currently, the GDT is available in 22 refugee locations in Ethiopia.

Key improvements in protection and data management

- Heightened communication with communities:** UNHCR, in partnership with WFP, and their collaborating partners, RRS and refugee leaders have completed the dissemination of key messages, to inform about resumption of GFD and next steps at Food Distribution Points (FDPs) to refugees in all locations, except Oromia and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples (SNPP).
- Strengthened feedback and response mechanism:** Specific mechanisms deployed by the Protection Help desk at FDPs. To date, 292 complaints were recorded, mainly relating to refugees not receiving in-kind commodities or cash and lack of items to carry the food. While 102 complaints have been closed, 190 are still in the process of being resolved. The expansion of the Community Feedback and Response Mechanisms (CFRM) tool and harmonization of the various tools is underway.
- Enhanced referrals and adjudication:** Litigation desks established at FDPs for facilitated referrals of urgent protection cases and prompt resolution of biometric adjudication cases or changes in the food collectors, esp. for people with specific needs.
- Reinforced data management:** Biometric data and Global Data Tool is being used in all refugee locations. Only individuals with biometrics can access food assistance. In alignment with the data sharing agreement with WFP and the revised Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), UNHCR has provided WFP with refugees beneficiary data to enable the planning of the GFDs, which will take place in November 2023.
- Social Cohesion-** The resumption of food aid has brought relief and positively impacted peaceful coexistence between the refugees and host communities. During the pause, refugees resorted to negative coping mechanisms, including looting, theft, and intruding on farms or crops, to survive and feed themselves and their families. These were the main causes of tensions between communities. UNHCR continues to closely monitor the impact of the resumption of food assistance on social cohesion.



Admission- Semera; Afar Serdo camp @UNHCR

Food distributions: state of play by refugee location

Locations		Start date for the dispatch of food	Start date of the GFD	Expected end date of GFD	Refugee population	Comments
Somali region						
Melkadida	Bokolmayo	9 Oct	13 Oct	19 Oct	33,3042	Completed.
	Melkadida	12 Oct	20 Oct	27 Oct	43,371	Food is still being transported from WFP's warehouse in Jijiga. The limited number of cooperating partner staff will impact the duration of GFD
	Kobe	17 Oct	tbc	tbc	39,195	
	Buramino	tbc	tbc	tbc	51,261	
	Hilaweyn	tbc	tbc	tbc	48,556	
Jigjiga	Kebribeyah	6 Oct	7 Oct	11 Oct	18,043	Completed
	Aw-barre	15/16 Oct	17 Oct	20 Oct	13,387	On-going
	Shedder	21/22 Oct	23 Oct	27 Oct	14,700	
	Mirqaan	17 Oct	tbc	tbc	42,325	

	Hegalle	17 Oct	tbc	tbc	28,930 ⁴	
Gambella region						
Gambella	Pinyudo II	10 Oct	11 Oct	18 Oct	11,563	Completed
	Pinyudo I	10 Oct	12 Oct	26 Oct	52,008	On-going
	Akula	12 Oct	12 Oct	13 Oct	1,946	Completed
	Okugo	13 Oct	20 Oct or 23 Oct	24 Oct	14,163	The start date was delayed due to operational challenges
	Nguenyiel	16 Oct	18 Oct	8 Nov	113,680	On-going
	Jewi	16 Oct	20 Oct	3 Nov	68,914	
	Kule	23 Oct	25 Oct	8 Nov	53,753	
	Tierkidi	23 Oct	27 Oct	10 Nov	73,525	
Benishangul Gumuz						
Assosa	Kurmuk	tbc	tbc	tbc	16,461	
	Tsore	tbc	tbc	tbc	43,380	
	Sherkole	tbc	tbc	tbc	20,555	
	Bambasi	tbc	tbc	tbc	15,296	
Amhara						
Amhara	Alemwach	16 Oct	25 Oct	tbc	22,046	
	Kumer	15 Oct	16 Oct	20 Oct	9,712	
Afar						
Afar	Serdo	9 Oct	10 Oct	13 Oct	8,745	Completed, though with limited turn out
	Berhale	13/14 Oct	15 Oct	26 Oct	26,396	
	Assayita	18/19 Oct	20 Oct	02 Nov	23,198	
SNNP						
SNNP	South-Omo (Ngangatom)	tbc	tbc	tbc		UNHCR / WFP assessment mission to Arbaminch
Oromia						
Oromia	Dillo	tbc	tbc	tbc		UNHCR / WFP joint assessment mission to Arbaminch.
	Megado	tbc	tbc	tbc		

Next steps

- **Reinforcement of infrastructure capacities in some locations:** Waiting sheds to protect refugees from exposure to harsh weather conditions (intense heat and rain) are needed in some locations.
- **Multiple protection tools at FDPs:** UNHCR is leading on harmonization of the tools with the various partners involved.
- **Visibility materials:** Although banners and posters were in place at the FDPs as part of the efforts to strengthen communications with communities, additional materials are to be produced to ensure increased awareness of the GFD and related issues.

⁴ L1 registered population + contingencies (WFP planning figures)