

# East and Horn of Africa, and the Great Lakes Region

April - June 2021



A young girl visiting her mother's small shop in Um Rakuba refugee camp in eastern Sudan, which sells soap, sweets, and other basic products. © UNHCR.

## KEY FIGURES (AS OF 30 JUNE)

**4.74 M** Refugees and Asylum-seekers

**9.99 M** Internally Displaced Persons

**92,840** Refugee Returnees in 2021

## REFUGEES & ASYLUM SEEKERS BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

### \*TOTALS BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

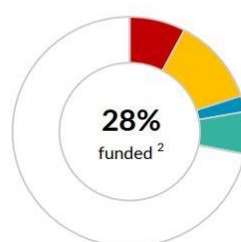
South Sudan	2.2 M
D.R. Congo	731,210
Somalia	550,848
Sudan	354,619
Eritrea	292,171
Burundi	290,961
Other	137,847
Ethiopia	136,200

\*The figures here refer to refugees and asylum seekers hosted within the EHAGL region. They vary slightly from the situation figures provided above, as the situation figures also include those hosted in non-

## FUNDING UPDATE (AS OF JUNE 2021)

**USD 1.88 Billion**

2021 financial requirements for the EHAGL region (inclusive of COVID-19).



■ Tightly earmarked  
 ■ Earmarked  
 ■ Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)  
 ■ Unearmarked (indicative allocation)  
 □ Funding gap (indicative)

## EAST HORN AND GREAT LAKES

as of 22 June 2021

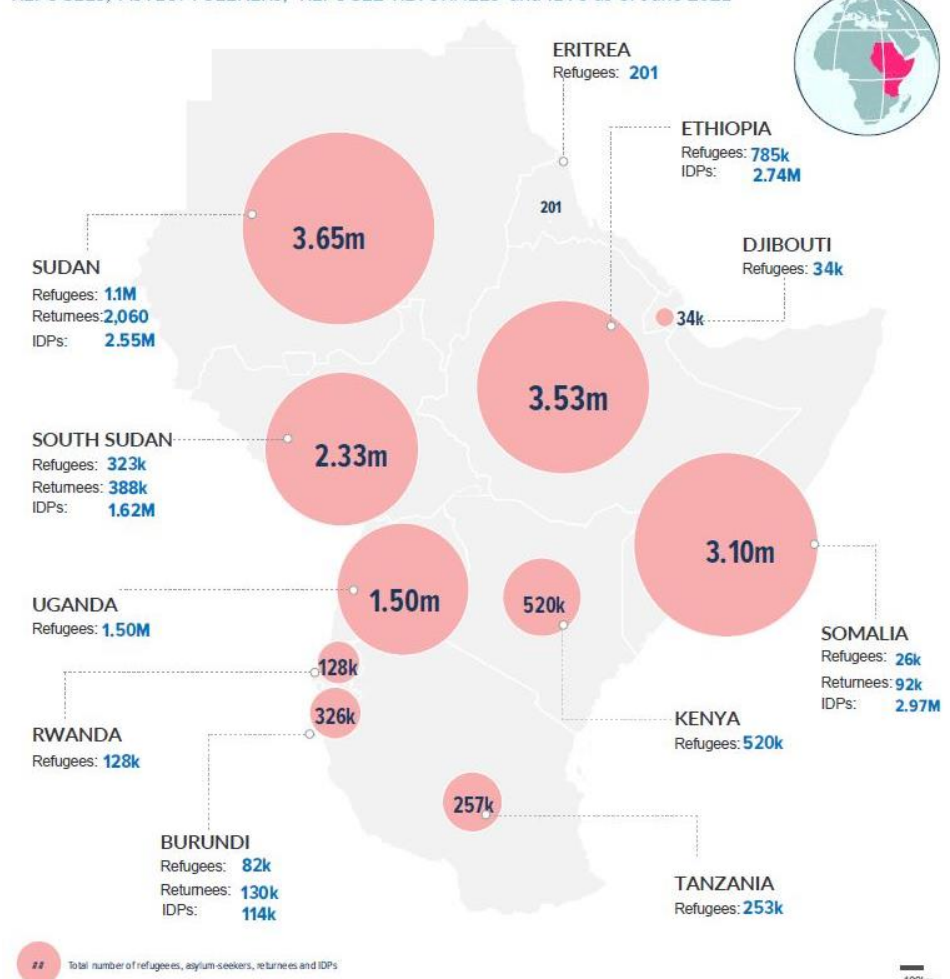
## OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

The East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes (EHAGL) region is host to some **4.74 million refugees and asylum-seekers**, the majority from South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Somalia, with significant numbers from Burundi, Sudan, and Eritrea. The region hosts 67 per cent of the refugees on the African continent and 20 per cent of the global refugee population. The region also has approximately **9.99 million IDPs**, mostly in Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Burundi, due to both conflict and natural disasters.

Since early 2020, the outbreak of the **COVID-19 pandemic** has continued to adversely affect the livelihoods, health and wellbeing of Persons of Concern and host communities in the region, the majority of whom live in camps and settlements. The first cases of COVID-19 in the region were reported in March 2020. As of 30 June 2021, there were 663,134 confirmed COVID-19 cases amongst the general population in the 11 countries in the EHAGL Region. Refugees, IDPs and their host communities remain impacted by the economic and social effects of the pandemic and at risk of contracting the virus. Most of the countries in the region have seen multiple waves of COVID-19 and the need for preparedness remains urgent as several locations still lack adequate quarantine, testing and isolation/treatment facilities. Governments have put in place various measures to contain the spread of the virus and are periodically announcing changes to movement restrictions and other preventive measures with countries such as Rwanda and Uganda imposing a partial lockdown during the reporting period to curb surging cases of COVID-19.

In addition to the COVID-19 pandemic, the region is plagued by multiple crises. The region is facing critical levels of **nutrition and food insecurity** with three out of the ten worst food crises in the world for the past three years 2018-2020: South Sudan, Ethiopia, and Sudan. Dependency of the refugee population on humanitarian assistance for their basic needs is increasing. With limited livelihood and agricultural opportunities, in addition to food ration cuts in seven of the eleven country operations in the region, most countries are experiencing climate (droughts, flooding) and economic shocks, compounded by COVID-19 related measures.

REFUGEES, ASYLUM-SEEKERS, REFUGEE RETURNEES and IDPs as of June 2021



## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

**BURUNDI SITUATION:** By end of June 2021, countries in the Great Lakes Region were host to 276,275 Burundian refugees. The country has experienced relative political stability since the political transition in May 2020 and the overall working environment as well as political and security situation has improved. However, Burundi remains fragile with continued reports of human rights violations and COVID 19 cases on the rise.

Voluntary Repatriation of Burundian refugees continued in 2021, with 22,917 Burundian refugees returning home mainly from Tanzania, Rwanda and DRC between April and 30 June 2021. UNHCR and partners have facilitated voluntary repatriation of 42,299 Burundian refugees so far in 2021, and a total of 164,990 since 2017. Voluntary Repatriation is taking place under the framework



of Tripartite Agreements between the respective host governments, Burundi and UNHCR in which all parties have agreed to ensure returns are voluntary. Additional health screening measures and protocols have been put in place to avoid the spread of COVID-19 and UNHCR and partners continue to expand the reception capacity at transit centres in Burundi. UNHCR protection monitoring reports indicate that 49 per cent of returnee children attend school; 95 per cent of the returnees have access to drinking water; 34 per cent of the households had access to a house upon return; 81 per cent of returnee HHs report having access to land; 80 per cent of returnee households have access to health care and 72 per cent of returnee households report that household members have an identification card.

While significant investments are needed in Burundi for sustainable return, it also remains crucial to continue to provide international protection for Burundian refugees who may not opt for voluntary return and to respect their right to continue to seek asylum. In addition, much greater political and financial – especially development support – is needed to ensure that returns and reintegration are sustainable.

In April 2021, the UNHCR High Commissioner undertook a [two-day visit to Burundi](#) where he praised progress made towards helping refugees find long-term solutions in the heart of Africa's Great Lakes Region. The High Commissioner accompanied a convoy from Rwanda transporting 159 Burundian refugees returning home after years of living in exile. He spoke to families who were aware of the challenges awaiting them but expressed happiness to finally be going home. During his visit, the High Commissioner was received by Burundi's President Évariste Ndayishimiye. They discussed the importance of continuing to build conditions for refugees to return in safety and dignity. Additionally, they agreed that more support must also be given to the often-impoorished communities to which refugees are returning, for reintegration to be successful.



*Abdulbasit, 21, talks with UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi at the Emergency Transit Mechanism in Nyamata, Rwanda. © UNHCR/Will Swanson*

**SOUTH SUDAN SITUATION:** The South Sudanese refugee population, the largest in the region, remains extremely vulnerable. Whether in camps, settlements, or urban areas, over 2.2 million refugees are living in precarious conditions, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite border closures, lockdowns and other movement restrictions, there is a steady flow of new South Sudanese arrivals in asylum countries in the region. UNHCR and governments in the region have registered a total of 59,209 refugee new arrivals between 1 January and 30 June 2021. Most refugees face high levels of poverty, limited access to livelihood opportunities, and are hosted in some of the poorest regions of host countries, where communities are already struggling to meet basic needs.

Violence against humanitarian workers has increased across the country during the reported period with aid workers directly attacked and killed by criminals and armed youth groups in different parts of the country. On 7 June 2021, two aid workers working for Doctors with Africa CUAMM were killed in a roadside attack at Mabuoi village in Yirol West County, Lakes State. In two locations, humanitarian operations have been suspended pending assurances of safety and security by the government. The rising violence continues to disrupt humanitarian operations – negatively impacting livelihoods and access to food assistance, health services, water, and sanitation.

Following 50% ration cuts for refugees in South Sudan first implemented in April 2021 due to funding constraints, people are starting to resort to negative coping strategies which have had a destabilising effect at the camps. On 11 June, towards the end of the

blanket supplementary feeding programmes (BSFP) distribution, refugees in Pamir camp forcefully broke into the distribution site and robbed 3.708 metric tons of CSB++ destined for pregnant and lactating women and children aged 6-23 months, claiming the nutrition supplies should be distributed to everyone. Beneficiaries are struggling to meet the other 50% of their food needs and continue to appeal to WFP to increase the ration. In addition to advocating for more funding, WFP is working with partners to identify livelihood opportunities to complement the reduced food basket and will continue to monitor the effects and consequences of these ration cuts.

In April 2021, the Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan convened a virtual follow-up meeting on the Solutions Initiative for Displacement in Sudan and South Sudan. The meeting was attended by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, as well as representatives from the EU and the US government. Over the next few months, key next steps will include national validation and adoption of the National Durable Solution Strategies and the Joint Regional Comprehensive Plan of Action. Following the convening of regional experts' review and a ministerial adoption workshop, the comprehensive strategy and plan of action will be presented for adoption at an IGAD Heads of State Summit scheduled for fall 2021.

**SOMALIA SITUATION:** Decades of civil war and instability has created UNHCR's longest refugee crisis, with more than 663,831 Somali refugees residing in Ethiopia, Kenya, Yemen and elsewhere in the region. A total of 132,792 Somali returnees from Kenya, Yemen and other countries have been recorded and assisted to date. This includes 85,241 Assisted Somali returnees from Kenya (since December 2014); 40,572 Spontaneous Somali returnees (since March 2015); 5,416 returnees from Yemen (since September 2017); 1,563 Assisted Somali returnees from other countries

The political impasse in the country was finally resolved at the end of a five-day National Consultative Summit in May between the Federal Government of Somalia and the Federal Member States in Mogadishu, resulting in the political leaders of the country reaching an agreement on several electoral issues after months of stalemate. The long-awaited agreement was highly welcomed by the international community.

The security situation in the country remains volatile with regular attacks against military bases, as well as civilians. Access in some parts of the country was further challenged by floods. In addition to conflict and insecurity, flood-induced displacement took place in several parts of the country. For example, more than 300 households were internally displaced in Hargeisa, Somaliland at the beginning of the month of May, due to flash floods caused by heavy rains. According to Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN) report, conflict and drought has displaced over 450,000 people between January and June 2021. Most of the displaced have arrived in Banadir, Bay, Middle Shabelle, Gedo, Hiraaan and Lower Shabelle regions. The displaced are in urgent need of emergency shelter and NFI according to partner assessments.

UNHCR Somalia has launched its 'Help' website for refugees and asylum seekers. This public website provides refugees and asylum-seekers in Somalia, as well as Somali refugees in the region with information on their rights and duties, and on the available assistance and services in Somalia. It also includes information on how to report fraud or sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA). The website includes information on how to apply for asylum in Somalia, where to find assistance (legal, health, educational and other kinds of support), how to contact UNHCR in Somalia, COVID-19 information, how to reunite with your family, resettlement, voluntary return to Somalia, how to submit complaint or feedback and information relating to stateless.

## **ETHIOPIA SITUATION – TIGRAY EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

The humanitarian situation across the Tigray Region continues to be deeply concerning for refugees, the internally displaced and host communities. Civilians have endured seven months of conflict with extremely limited basic services and assistance, leading to a significant escalation in humanitarian needs with new displacement ongoing. At the end of June, Tigray forces retook Mekelle and most of Tigray after the government withdrew soldiers and declared a unilateral ceasefire. However, the ceasefire was not accepted by all parties and reports of remobilization raised fears of further violence.

The Bureau of Labour and Social Affairs (BoLSA) estimates more than 1.7 million people have been displaced by the conflict in Tigray. During the reporting period, displaced persons and families continued to arrive and seek safety in the existing sites hosting internally displaced persons in Shire, Mekelle and other locations. Protection monitoring, and rapid assessments are routinely being conducted in IDP sites in Shire, Mekelle and Adigrat. 12 rapid protection assessments were also carried out in other locations in "hard-to-reach" areas. UNHCR is looking to increase its presence and visit additional locations and increase support when security allows. At the same time, it will be important to gauge IDP intentions for return where this may be newly possible and adjust programming accordingly in the weeks and months to come.

UNHCR and Protection Cluster members continue to set up more protection desks in IDP sites – with a total so far of 15 protection desks established in Shire and 22 in Mekelle as of June 2021. Training of staff and partners on how to run the protection desks is being scaled up. Through these desks, IDPs have access to information, psychosocial counselling, and protection referrals to other key services. The most pressing needs identified from the protection desks include shelter and non-food items, and unaccompanied

minors and separated children in need of family tracing and reunification. Many have also reported gender-based violence incidents and feelings of insecurity in the sites.

In Mekelle, a total of 3,430 emergency shelters have been completed at Sabacare IDP site as of June 2021 by UNHCR and other Shelter partners. The Shelter Cluster in Mekelle formed a committee to assess alternative housing options for IDPs, including renting unoccupied buildings. Shelter, CCCM and Protection Clusters are working with IDP leaders to undertake a joint assessment to determine the total number of houses available, the extent of works to be done on incomplete buildings and the average rental cost.

UNHCR plans to pilot a Cash-Based Initiative for rent of shelters for IDPs for a period of six months. 440 households will be targeted in Shire and Mekelle. Partners in the Cash Working Group – which meets twice a week in Mekelle – are currently implementing multi-purpose cash interventions.

UNHCR continues to identify and register Eritrean refugees – including those who were displaced from Hitsats and Shimelba camps – in Tigray, Afar, and Addis Ababa. By June UNHCR has identified and verified 13,687 Eritrean refugees who had been previously registered in Hitsats and Shimelba camps.

ARRA, the Government refugee agency, resumed the relocation of refugees from Shire to Mai Aini and Adi Harush, transporting around 50 refugees a week in May. As of 25 May, a total of 8,359 refugees from Hitsats and Shimelba had arrived in Mai Aini and Adi Harush camps. New arrivals are provided with emergency shelter, Core Relief Items, and food upon arrival in the camps. UNHCR, ARRA and partners are moving ahead with plans to establish a third camp at Dabat in the Amhara region with an estimated capacity for 20,000-25,000 people. The official designation of the land was finalised at the end of June.



*Many refugees in Tunaydbah have found innovative and resourceful ways to begin rebuilding their lives. Surafuel, 54, has set up a kiosk shop.*

**SUDAN:** Sudan hosts 1.1 million refugees, and 2.5 million individuals are internally displaced (IDPs). Recently, the country has witnessed new displacements from Ethiopia and within the Darfur States.

The arrival of refugees from the Tigray region into Sudan has continued with fewer than 30 per day since May. Since 9 November 2020, more than 54,000 total arrivals from Ethiopia have been registered in Eastern Sudan, with more than 40,000 refugees relocated to Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah camps further inland. Refugees continue to arrive mainly at Hamdayet transit center with fewer number of new arrivals to Village 8. Except for family reunification and medical cases, relocation of refugees from border areas to the two camps remains on hold since late February pending Government agreement to resume. UNHCR is closely following up.

With the onset of the rainy season, extreme weather including strong winds, heavy rain and hail in late May and early June resulted in damage to nearly 4,000 out of 10,000 household tents, shared latrines, and other facilities in the Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah camps housing refugees from Tigray in eastern Sudan. Partners undertook rapid damage assessments, provided materials to repair or replace damaged tents, and replenished lost and damaged food stocks and NFI. Following protests by refugees in Tunaydbah camp on 8 June, UNHCR met with refugee representatives to discuss their concerns and the mitigation actions being taken. With extreme weather expected through the end of the rainy season in September or October, scaling up flood-preparedness measures remains an urgent priority.

UNHCR and partners are currently finalizing construction and rehabilitation of some 60 kilometers of roads to both Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah, which is critical to ensure access to the camps as well as to about 15 host community villages throughout the rainy



season. UNHCR is digging drainage systems in the two sites to mitigate the risks of further flooding. Partners are constructing semi-permanent schools, permanent latrines, and showers. However, accelerating the work is challenging because of continuing storms.

UNHCR and 31 UN and NGO partners are calling for US\$ 182 million in the recently released [updated interagency appeal](#), an increase of US\$ 33 million. The revised appeal incorporates additional funding requirements to carry out infrastructure improvements to the camps, including construction of more durable traditional shelters, and to meet the protection and basic needs of the Ethiopian refugees until the end of the year. So far 46 percent of the required amount has been received.



© UNHCR/Assadullah Nasrullah  
 UNHCR and partners are finalizing construction and rehabilitation of some 60 kilometres of roads in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah - critical to ensure access to the camps and about 15 host community villages throughout the rainy season.

The security situation in Darfur remains unpredictable and UNHCR is experiencing operational challenges which are hindering service delivery. Key security challenges include rising criminality and carjacking, as well as intercommunal clashes which are preventing UNHCR and other agencies from carrying out missions outside of state capitals. Other operational challenges include lack of police capacity to provide armed escorts, lack of cleared accommodation in remote field locations, and lack of security assessments in locations where UNHCR conducts protection monitoring. In addition to reduced access and freedom of movement brought about by the withdrawal of UNAMID and therefore lack of patrolling and the diminishing capacity of local police to provide armed escorts, there is also a gap in security information which agencies rely on for assessments.

West Darfur continued to witness clashes between opposing communities in the second quarter of the year. In April, [1,860 people crossed into neighboring Chad](#), joining the 4,000 refugees who fled violence in West Darfur at the beginning of the year. In addition, between 18-20 May, some 400 households from Guelou and Tendelti villages in Sudan crossed the border seeking asylum in Chad. Although the situation remains volatile and unpredictable, soon after most of the reported displaced returned to Sudan following a slight improvement in security in their villages area and few decided to remain at the border area. UNHCR maintains close cross-border communication and protection monitoring between Sudan and Chad.

UNHCR with the Sudan Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) and the partners agreed to adopt a new IDP population figure from the recent verification exercise conducted in 48 out of 97 gathering sites in El Geneina. The total number has dropped from 150,000 to 107,000. The remaining gathering sites will be verified as well.

**KENYA:** Kenya hosts 515,466 refugees and asylum-seekers (225,227 in Dadaab; 208,538 in Kakuma Refugee Camp and Kalobeyei Settlement; and 81,701 in urban areas). In addition, Kenya counts approximately 16,320 stateless persons. Most refugees and asylum-seekers are from Somalia and South Sudan, with smaller populations from DR Congo, Ethiopia, Burundi, Sudan, Uganda, Eritrea, and Rwanda.

In April, following the announcement by the Government of Kenya (GoK) of their intention to close Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps within a short timeframe, UNHCR shared with the Government of Kenya [a proposed set of sustainable and rights-based measures](#) aimed at identifying solutions for refugees living in the Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps in Kenya. UNHCR's plan, in support of the Government of Kenya, includes:

- Enhanced voluntary repatriation in safety and dignity, while considering the movement restrictions related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- Provision of alternative-stay arrangements to refugees from the East African Community (EAC). This would represent a major opportunity for refugees to become self-reliant and contribute to the local economy.
- Acceleration of the issuing of national ID cards to over 11,000 Kenyans who have previously been identified as registered in the refugee database, and continuation of the vetting process for others in similar circumstances.
- Resettlement to third countries for a small number of refugees who are not able to return home and face protection risks.

World Bank Socioeconomic Impacts of COVID-19 in Kenya as of June 2021: The Kenya COVID-19 rapid response phone survey (RRPS) for households was structured as a bimonthly panel survey that monitors the socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic and targets Kenyan nationals, refugees, and stateless people. The third RRPS sample consisted of urban and camp-based refugees as well as stateless people registered by UNHCR. The sample aims to be representative of the refugee and stateless populations in Kenya. It comprises five strata: Kakuma refugee camp, Kalobeyei settlement, Dadaab refugee camp, urban refugees, and Shona stateless, where sampling approaches differ across strata. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a strong impact on the livelihoods of both Kenyan and refugee households, even though employment and income levels are recovering. A second lockdown was announced in five counties on 24 March 2021, after Kenya recorded a strong increase in the number of COVID-19 infections. The second lockdown resulted in another surge in food insecurity. While access to education worsened again due to renewed school closures, health services remained widely accessible to the population.

Key results of the COVID-19 RRPS tracking the socio-economic impacts of the crisis carried out in May 2020 and June 2021 indicate that: Kenyans, as well as the refugee and stateless population are well informed about the preventive measures to avoid COVID-19 infections, and compliance with hygiene measures against the virus increased again during the second lockdown. Most interviewed people will be willing to take a COVID-19 vaccine, but many are concerned about potential side effects. One-half of the Kenyan population is anxious due to the fear of contracting COVID-19 and potential employment losses.

**RWANDA:** UNHCR High Commissioner, Mr. Filippo Grandi, conducted a mission to Rwanda between 24 - 27 April where he met Rwanda's President, Paul Kagame, and other ministers to discuss the current refugee situation in the country and region. The High Commissioner praised the Government of Rwanda for welcoming refugees and asylum-seekers being evacuated from Libya, and for their continued solidarity and generosity, giving hope to vulnerable asylum seekers and refugees in Africa in dire need of protection and safety.

Following the eruption of the Mount Nyiragongo volcano in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) on 22 May, around 8,000 Congolese displaced by the eruption crossed the border and received humanitarian support from the Government of Rwanda and UNHCR. UNHCR continues to provide assistance to those who were displaced by the eruption of Mount Nyiragongo. In June, UNHCR built two community warehouses in South and North Kivu Provinces to decongest schools and churches and provided IDPs living in collective centres with core relief items (tarpaulins, washing soaps, dignity kits, blankets, mats, individual solar lamps, jerrycans etc.)

**TANZANIA:** President Samia Suluhu Hassan [announced](#) in June that embassies and international institutions in Tanzania will be allowed to import COVID-19 vaccines for their citizens and employees, with the vaccine delivery controlled by the Ministry of Health.

In neighbouring Mozambique, UNHCR continued to receive concerning reports of the systematic forced return of Mozambican families fleeing into Tanzania and urged neighbouring countries to respect access to asylum for those fleeing violence and conflict in northern Mozambique. Many have attempted to cross the river that marks the border with Tanzania to seek international protection. According to Mozambican border authorities, more than [9,600 displaced people](#) have been forcibly returned through the Negomano border point since January this year. Some 900 were pushed back into Mozambique in just a few days from 7 to 9 June. UNHCR teams have been supporting people arriving in a desperate condition, many separated from their family members.

The northern Mozambique border area where those returned from Tanzania are currently sheltering is remote and extremely difficult to access. UNHCR has called on all parties to allow free movement of civilians fleeing violence and conflict, in search of safety and assistance, including to respect and fully uphold the right to cross international borders and seek asylum and appeals to both governments to respect the principle of family unity by sparing no efforts to ensure that family members are traced and reunited as soon as possible.

**UGANDA:** Uganda hosted 1,498,442 asylum-seekers (23,130) and refugees (1,475,312) as of 30 June 2021, with 94 per cent living in settlements in 13 of Uganda's 135 districts and 6 per cent in Kampala. Sixty-six per cent of the refugees are from South Sudan (923,565), thirty-one per cent from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (433,147) and four per cent from Burundi (51,066). Since the beginning of June, over 5,000 Congolese have reportedly crossed to Uganda fleeing conflict and violence in Ituri. Despite COVID-19 related border closures, Uganda has continued to apply exceptions and allowed people in need of protection and life-saving assistance to enter the country at Ntoroko and Bundibugyo, in mid-western Uganda.

The Government of Uganda launched the multi partner "[Jobs and Livelihoods Integrated Refugee Plan](#)" (JLIRP) in May 2021 in line with the spirit of the Global Compact for Refugees (GCR). The plan envisions self-reliant and resilient refugee and host community households in refugee hosting districts by 2025. The JLIRP will contribute to resilient, sustainable and inclusive development of refugees and host communities through the improvement of social cohesion; increasing economic opportunities by strengthening market systems; increasing household income, food and nutrition security and agricultural output for in-country and export markets;

increasing productive coping strategies; increasing access to vocational and technical education; and improving social protection key to socio-economic inclusion of refugees and host communities in refugee hosting districts.

The High-Frequency Phone Survey for refugees in Uganda (URHFPS) tracked the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) crisis on refugees throughout three rounds. The World Bank (WB) in collaboration with the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) launched and conducted the URHFPS. The data [resulted from the third round](#), conducted in February and March 2021. This [UNHCR/World Bank phone survey](#) revealed the devastating toll of COVID-19 on the living conditions of refugees in Uganda and highlights the need for strengthened support to refugee communities, to mitigate the suffering inflicted by the pandemic. Half of the refugees participating in the survey were projected to live under the poverty line – compared to 44 per cent before the COVID-19 pandemic. About 36 per cent did not have access to medicines when needed and were unable to access enough drinking water.

**WORLD REFUGEE DAY:** On 18 June, ahead of World Refugee Day, the World Food Programme warned that millions of refugees are looking to a future of uncertainty and hunger as the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have led to funding shortages for emergency operations. [The statement](#) added that the increasing funding gaps intersect with rising food prices and fewer opportunities for refugees to supplement their food assistance as informal economies shrink due to COVID-19 lockdowns. In the EHAGL region, funding shortfalls have forced WFP to cut monthly assistance for over 3 million refugees by up to 60 percent, affecting 72 percent of refugees in the region. Rations have been cut by 60 percent in Rwanda, 50 percent in South Sudan, 40 percent in Uganda and Kenya, 23 percent in Djibouti and 16 percent in Ethiopia.

UNHCR and Twitter commissioned Afghan Canadian artist Hangama [Amiri to create the emoji for World Refugee Day](#), celebrated each year on 20 June. It is the first time the emoji has been designed by a refugee. The design features a blue heart cupped between two hands to symbolize protection and solidarity. UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi's [message](#) on World Refugee Day emphasised that this day should serve as a stark reminder to politicians of the need to do more to prevent and resolve conflict and crises; of the imperative to protect people irrespective of their race, nationality, beliefs, or other characteristics; of the need to speak out and fight injustice, instead of fueling division and fomenting hate; to resolve to find pragmatic and lasting solutions to crises instead of blaming others or vilifying victims; and, that leaders need to step up and work together to solve today's global challenges.

Operations in the region marked World Refugee Day (WRD) on 20 June 2021 with the theme *"Together we heal, learn and shine"*. The WRD celebrations included various activities such as UNHCR Staff and twenty-five athletes in **Rwanda** participating in the Kigali Marathon in recognition of the resilience of refugees who travel kilometers to reach the first point of safety. In Sherkole Refugee Camp in Beneshangul-Gumuz region in **Ethiopia**, refugee children and youth performed a martial art show at a WRD event that took COVID-19 precautions into consideration. In **Djibouti** and **Burundi**, the operations commemorated WRD but with fewer refugees in attendance and with limited physical engagements due to COVID-19 restrictions. A football tournament final was held between Nyarugusu refugee camp and the host community in Kigoma, **Tanzania** as part of the WRD celebrations. In **Uganda**, UNHCR and the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) hosted a debate on refugee inclusion.

**REGIONAL NGO CONSULTATIONS:** The UNHCR Regional Bureau for East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes organized a virtual three-day event for NGO partners from 28-30 June. The common theme for the regional NGO consultations *"Localization of humanitarian action and engagement with communities in the COVID-19 context"* was addressed during the first day (28 June). The session assessed how localization has been operationalized in the EHAGL region, discussed good practices of local NGOs, including refugee-led organizations contributing to COVID-19 prevention measures and community-based protection initiatives, and identified steps to further empower local actors. The second day was dedicated to a stocktaking exercise on the implementation of the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) pledges made by NGOs, with a particular focus on forced displacement financing since the GRF using country case studies from Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia. An interactive session, co-chaired with the Regional Durable Solution Secretariat (ReDSS), presented an opportunity for NGOs to showcase their progress, challenges, and opportunities vis-à-vis GRF pledges.

A side event was organized on the Poverty Alleviation Coalition to discuss the socio-economic inclusion of refugees and other persons of concern using the graduation approach in refugee settings. The event gathered 141 participants from international, regional, and local NGOs. The discussion highlighted the importance of the Graduation Approach in helping PoCs build resilience against the socio-economic shocks that resulted from the pandemic. The third and final day of the consultations was dedicated to a session on UNHCR's Strategic Framework for Climate Action and collaboration with NGOs in Sub-Saharan Africa to address related challenges, including climate-induced displacement.



## Financial Information

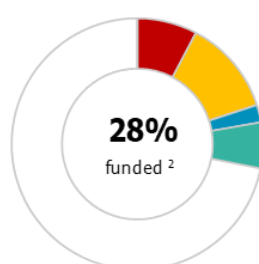
UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to the **East and Horn of Africa, and the Great Lakes Region**, as well as to those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.

Total contributions to **the region, inclusive of COVID-19 contributions** amount to **USD 529 million**.

### FUNDING UPDATE | 2021

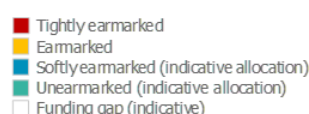
**\$ 1.881 billion**

UNHCR's financial requirements 2021 <sup>1</sup>



### EAST HORN AND GREAT LAKES

as of 22 June 2021



### CONTRIBUTIONS <sup>3</sup> | USD

	Unearmarked	Softly earmarked	Earmarked	Tightly earmarked	Total
United States of America	-	7,880,000	149,239,592	5,014,416	162,134,008
European Union	-	-	-	28,229,924	28,229,924
Denmark	-	-	12,516,566	8,998,406	21,514,972
Japan	-	-	1,061,033	18,397,912	19,458,945
Germany	-	6,462,985	-	3,174,523	9,637,507
Sweden	-	1,799,424	7,077,735	-	8,877,159
Canada	-	2,223,987	6,314,535	-	8,538,523
Netherlands	-	-	2,059,951	6,282,078	8,342,029
Qatar	-	-	-	8,205,404	8,205,404
United Kingdom	-	-	810,811	6,646,911	7,457,722
Republic of Korea	-	-	2,922,754	3,187,167	6,109,921
Finland	-	4,778,973	-	-	4,778,973
Switzerland	-	-	4,605,937	-	4,605,937
UNO-Fluechtlingshilfe	-	3,839,285	450,601	-	4,289,886
UN Peacebuilding Fund	-	-	-	4,281,009	4,281,009
Education Cannot Wait	-	-	-	3,619,408	3,619,408
Ireland	-	-	2,389,486	1,194,743	3,584,229
France	-	1,008,206	2,286,049	-	3,294,256
IKEA Foundation	-	-	-	2,958,995	2,958,995
Norway	-	-	2,742,899	64,421	2,807,319
Unilever (UK)	-	-	96,652	2,431,247	2,527,898
China	-	2,000,000	-	-	2,000,000
The Mastercard Foundation	-	-	-	1,656,699	1,656,699
The Lego Foundation	-	-	-	1,656,566	1,656,566
UN Children Fund	-	-	-	1,318,908	1,318,908
Remon L Vos	-	-	-	1,272,433	1,272,433
Austria	-	-	-	1,182,796	1,182,796
UN Programme On HIV/AIDS	-	220,500	64,200	876,678	1,161,378
CERF	-	-	-	1,150,398	1,150,398
UN MPTF South Sudan Rsrif	-	-	-	1,035,976	1,035,976
Industria de Diseño Texti S.A. (Inditex)	-	-	-	997,408	997,408
Luxembourg	-	305,998	597,372	-	903,369
IGAD	-	-	528,854	313,441	842,295
Profuturo	-	-	-	745,257	745,257
Toyota Tsusho Corporation	-	-	-	694,579	694,579
Italy	-	-	-	586,166	586,166
"la Caixa" Banking Foundation	-	-	-	479,279	479,279
Latter-day Saints Charities	-	-	-	472,225	472,225
Czechia	-	-	-	455,996	455,996
Novo Nordisk Foundation	-	327,004	-	-	327,004

Country-Based Pooled Funds	-	-	-	300,000	300,000
Australia for UNHCR	-	288,265	-	-	288,265
BOREALIS AG	-	-	-	230,426	230,426
Samsung Engineering Co., Ltd	-	-	-	230,000	230,000
Transsion Holdings	-	-	-	225,982	225,982
Private donors Canada	-	166,423	-	18,557	184,980
Stichting Benevolentia	-	-	-	179,211	179,211
Agility Logistics	-	-	-	175,650	175,650
Private donors Republic of Korea	-	4,335	66,939	82,679	153,952
Laboratorios Vifias	-	-	-	146,489	146,489
International Olympic Committee	-	-	-	142,667	142,667
The Big Heart Foundation	-	-	-	133,125	133,125
Band Aid	-	-	-	129,144	129,144
Fast Retailing Co., Ltd. (UNIQLO)	-	-	-	120,897	120,897
USA for UNHCR	-	-	-	119,300	119,300
Microsoft Corporation	-	-	-	111,152	111,152
Liechtenstein	-	110,375	-	-	110,375
International Humanitarian and Charity Organization	-	-	-	110,014	110,014
Private donors United Kingdom	-	32,789	-	75,171	107,960
Private donors USA	-	100,000	-	-	100,000
Migration MPTF	-	-	-	70,000	70,000
Other private donors	-	393,031	54,876	150,820	598,727
<b>Sub-total</b>	-	<b>31,941,579</b>	<b>195,886,841</b>	<b>120,332,652</b>	<b>348,161,073</b>
Indicative allocation of funds and adjustments	86,155,430	10,427,101	59,126,041	25,017,279	180,725,850
<b>Total</b>	<b>86,155,430</b>	<b>42,368,680</b>	<b>255,012,882</b>	<b>145,349,931</b>	<b>528,886,923</b>

Methodology: Unearmarked funding is allocated and reallocated multiple times during the year to allow UNHCR to fund prioritised activities. This funding update includes an indicative allocation of funds so as to accurately represent the resources available for the sub-region. The contribution earmarked for East Horn and Great Lakes shown above are combined with an indicative allocation of the softly earmarked and unearmarked contributions listed below. This allocation respects different levels of earmarking. Adjustments relate to programme support costs and carry-over.

#### OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS <sup>4</sup> | USD

United States of America 17.6 million | Canada 8.5 million | Private donors Australia 4.9 million  
Spain | Norway | Malta | Holy See | France | Private donors

#### UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS <sup>5</sup> | USD

Norway 80 million | Sweden 66.9 million | Netherlands 36.1 million | Private donors Spain 35.4 million | Denmark 34.6 million | Germany 26 million | France 20 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 17.9 million | Switzerland 16.4 million | Ireland 12.5 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Private donors Japan 10.9 million  
Algeria | Armenia | Australia | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Holy See | Iceland | Liechtenstein | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Portugal | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Singapore | Thailand | Turkey | Uruguay | Private donors

#### Notes:

1. The financial requirements for East Horn and Great Lakes are for the operations in Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania.
2. The percentage funded (28%) and total funding amount (\$528,886,923) are indicative based on the methodology described above. This leaves an indicative funding gap of \$1,352,248,315 representing 72% of the financial requirements.
3. Contributions to East Horn and Great Lakes are shown by the earmarking modality as defined in the Grand Bargain.
4. Due to their earmarking at the region, or to a related situation or theme, the other softly earmarked contributions listed are those which can potentially be used in East Horn and Great Lakes. Where a donor has contributed \$2 million or more, the total amount of the contributions is shown.
5. Contributed without restrictions on its use, unearmarked funding allows UNHCR critical flexibility in how best to reach refugees and other populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk. Where a donor has contributed \$10 million or more, the total amount of the contribution is shown.

For more information: <http://reporting.unhcr.org>

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