

ETHIOPIA

November 2021

Ethiopia is the **third-largest refugee-hosting country** in Africa, sheltering **817,068** registered refugees and asylum-seekers as of 30 November 2021. The overwhelming majority originate from **South Sudan**, **Somalia** and **Eritrea**.

10,892 refugees have received COVID-19 vaccines, including **6,152** fully vaccinated. UNHCR, the Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) and partners, continue to reinforce prevention measures in refugee camps and sites hosting Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

UNHCR continues to respond to the **situation** of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Ethiopia, leading and co-leading the **Protection** and Camp Coordination & Camp Management (**CCCM**) **Clusters** and providing protection, emergency aid and other support to **IDPs** and **IDP returnees**.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Countries of Origin

South Sudanese	383,087
Somali	218,022
Eritrean	158,300
Sudanese	46,181
Kenyan	4,034
Yemeni	2,489
Congolese (DRC)	1,039
Syrian	667
Burundian	125
Djiboutian	59
Rwanda	18
Other	3,050

At the end of October 2021, Ethiopia hosted over 817,000 refugees and asylum seekers, mainly sheltered in 24 refugee camps established in five Regional States. There is a sizeable group of refugees and asylum seekers living out of camp, including over 71,000 people in the capital Addis Ababa.

UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

414 National staff

148 International staff

176 Affiliated work force & others

Offices:

1 Representation Office- Addis Ababa

6 Sub-Offices- Assosa, Gambella, Jijiga, Mekelle, Melkadida and Shire

9 Field Offices- Bule Hora, Debark, Dire Dawa, Embamadre, Nekemte, Pugnido, Semera, Sherkole and Tongo

7 Field Units- Aysaita, Barahle, Maichew, Adigrat, Abiadi, Sheraro, and Axum

FUNDING (As of 30 November 2021)

USD 338.1 M

Requested for Ethiopia

Funded
54%



A Somali refugee child washes his hands as part of the COVID-19 prevention measures UNHCR and partners continue to reinforce in refugee camps across Ethiopia. ©UNHCR

Working with Partners

UNHCR's main government counterpart in the refugee response in Ethiopia is the Government's Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS). UNHCR works closely with 57 humanitarian and development organizations, managing the 'Ethiopia Country Refugee Response Plan (ECRRP) 2020-2021'. The ECRRP seeks to consolidate a collective multi-partner response in support of the refugees in the country. UNHCR is also part of the "Humanitarian Country Team", where various programmes are discussed strategically to ensure that the refugees' needs are effectively addressed across the UN System. UNHCR builds on well-established coordination fora, including the inter-sector Refugee Coordination Group, consisting of national and regional sectorial working groups, coordinating sector-specific responses. To foster refugee inclusion in national services and economic activities, in line with Ethiopia's commitment within the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), UNHCR is strengthening partnerships with Ethiopian line Ministries, regional and local authorities, development partners and the private sector. As part of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) cluster system for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) at national and sub-regional level, UNHCR is leading and co-leading the Protection, Camp Coordination & Camp Management (CCCM) and Emergency Shelter & Non-Food Items (ES/NFI) Clusters.

Main Activities

Protection

- Together with RRS, UNHCR coordinates activities aimed at protecting and assisting refugees and asylum-seekers in Ethiopia, as well as finding and promoting sustainable solutions. The UN Refugee Agency works to strengthen refugee protection through the expansion of improved community-based and multi-sectorial child protection, and programmes addressing gender-based violence (GBV). In addition, UNHCR is engaged in providing protection and assistance to IDPs and IDP returnees in different parts of the country, in collaboration with the authorities, national and international partners, including NGOs and UN agencies.
- UNHCR provides technical support to RRS in the registration and status determination of new arrivals. To that end, an advanced biometric registration system (BIMS) is used, providing more reliable means for a more effective identification and protection of refugees and asylum-seekers.
- UNHCR is working with UNICEF on a model and transformative "Blueprint" partnership to secure refugee children a fair deal in line with the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), and as reflected in Ethiopia's commitments made at the Global Refugee Forum (GRF). The main objectives of the "Blueprint" encompass strengthening existing national child protection systems, including those for birth registration; developing the capacity of national partners on refugee protection; and integrating refugee children in national child protection systems.
- UNHCR is strongly committed to ensure consistent and effective communication with refugee communities. It is actively using refugee social media groups to communicate with refugee communities, regularly disseminating vital information on COVID-19 prevention measures.
- As part of the ongoing COVID-19 prevention campaign, UNHCR set up a Protection Helpline for refugees and asylum-seekers in Addis Ababa to continue to provide services related to protection, resettlement and access to asylum. The helpline numbers have been disseminated to the concerned communities in eight different languages through various communication channels, including social media and community-based structures.
- As part of the ongoing verification of Eritrean refugees who have self-relocated to Addis Ababa since the beginning of the conflict in Tigray, 14,266 families, consisting of 17,172 persons, have been registered, including 9,000 from the former Hitsats and Shimelba camps. All were issued with ID cards or other proof of registration documents, allowing them to reside in Addis Ababa for three years. Cash assistance has already been extended to 14,314 individuals.
- In the first nine months of 2021, UNHCR and its partners reached over 1 million IDPs, IDP-returnees and members of the host community through a coordinated response in nine of the country's ten regions. The response included protection monitoring and support, construction of shelters, distribution of basic relief supplies and legal counselling. Despite the constraints, including a volatile security situation, lack of unhindered access, scarcity of cash and fuel, and limited electrical power

and telecommunication services, particularly in Tigray, UNHCR over the past two months assisted approximately 90,000 internally displaced people in Afar, Amhara and Tigray regions with the distribution of essential aid items. Approximately 8,000 women and girls received dignity kits, while counselling was extended to over 2,500 people and approximately 2,000 children, including unaccompanied minors and separated children, received psycho-social support. UNHCR has strengthened its response in the Amhara region by deploying staff in Gondar, Debre Birhan and Bahir Dar, where UNHCR also leads the Protection Cluster.

Durable Solutions

- As current conditions for voluntary repatriation are not favourable for most refugees in Ethiopia, and local integration programmes are yet to be put in place, securing resettlement opportunities remains UNHCR's top priority. So far in 2021, UNHCR has projected **2,208** individuals for resettlement, with 1,671 processed as at the end of November. Departures were facilitated for **975** refugees to different countries. UNHCR also supported **633** refugees in various aspects of their family reunification cases. So far this year, **148** refugees have travelled to Italy through the Italian Humanitarian Corridor. In addition, **54** students have embarked on various scholarship schemes to Italy and Germany.
- Since the start of the voluntary repatriation of Ethiopian refugees from Kenya in February 2020, UNHCR, together with the governments of Ethiopia and Kenya, facilitated the return of 956 individuals, with more expected to return in the coming weeks and months. In November, UNHCR provided reintegration cash assistance to 306 people who had, in May and June, spontaneously returned from Sudan to different parts of northern Ethiopia. During the month of November, UNHCR also supported a former refugee who voluntarily returned from Rwanda.

Shelter

- Access to adequate shelter remains below the standard with only 44% of the camp-based refugee families living in adequate dwelling. UNHCR and partners continue to work to increase the number of shelters in all refugee camps through the planned construction of 5,226 emergency shelters and 2,332 transitional shelters, as well as by maintaining 2,060 transitional shelters in 2021. So far this year, 2,853 emergency shelters and 1,134 transitional shelters were provided to refugee families. In addition, maintenance work was done on 1,181 transitional shelters in different refugee camps.
- The development of Alemwach site in the Amhara region has continued, with 36 of the planned construction of 40 communal shelters at different stages, including 26 that are almost completed. The site is expected to accommodate some 25,000 Eritrean refugees who are currently sheltered in two camps in southern Tigray region.
- Under the Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items (ESNFI) Cluster, UNHCR continues to respond to the emergency shelter and core relief items needs of IDPs in the northern and other parts of the country. Durable shelter support is also being provided to relocated and returning IDPs in Gedo (SNNP) and West Guji(Oromia), Fafan and Liban(Somali), east and west Hararge (Oromia). Some 600 families in east and west Wollega zones (Oromia) regions have been supported with cash assistance for rent for a 12-month period. . So far this year, 750 emergency shelters have been constructed in IDP sites in Shire and Mekelle, with plans underway to scale up the construction. In Gedo and West Guji areas in the south, 180 durable shelters have been provided for IDP returnees. Also, 215 durable shelters have been provided to relocated and returning IDP families in different parts of the Somali and Oromia regions.

Education

- Preliminary data show that since the resumption of school for the new academic year in October, 175,556 refugee students have been enrolled in pre-primary, primary and secondary levels of education, representing only 41percent of the Gross Enrolment Rate (GER). Compared to the previous year's enrolment rate, 13 percent less students were enrolled, attributable to COVID-19 related challenges and the conflict in the Tigray Region which forced the closure of schoolsIn .
- Only 49 percent of primary school teachers in refugee camps have the requisite qualifications to teach, and the teacher to pupil ratio stands at 1:83 and 1:66 for primary and secondary schools, respectively. Moreover, the average class size in the primary and secondary schools is 109 and 97,

respectively, which is far below the acceptable minimum standard. Resources are required to enhance the qualification of teachers both through formal enrolment in colleges and on-job training, together with recruitment of additional teachers. Funding is also needed to expand access to textbooks and construct additional classrooms within existing school premises.

Health

- UNHCR, in collaboration with the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) and partners, facilitates access to primary, emergency secondary and tertiary healthcare services for refugees and asylum-seekers. While primary health services are often provided in health facilities that are located in the refugee camps, patients requiring advanced medical attention are referred to regional or federal health facilities. In urban settings such as Addis Ababa, UNHCR covers the cost of medicines and health check-ups for refugees.
- In line with the criteria of prioritization set by the Ethiopian Ministry of Health, 10,892 refugees have received COVID-19 vaccine, including 6,152 who were fully vaccinated.
- UNHCR, together with RRS, Regional Health Bureaus, and other health partners, implements activities to help prevent COVID-19 infections and to mitigate its consequences in refugee camps and other locations sheltering refugees. Activities include risk communication and community engagement, training of health personnel, case identification and management, contact tracing and referrals, distribution of personal protective equipment (PPEs) and essential medicines and equipment to strengthen health services. UNHCR is also part of the UN Inter-agency COVID-19 response to the IDP situation, providing PPEs and sanitation materials, equipping isolation and quarantine centers and sensitizing community on the risks of the pandemic.

Food Security and Nutrition

- **Nutrition Programmes:** UNHCR and RRS Continue to coordinate with partners to improve the nutrition status of refugees through preventive and curative programmes. Monthly strategic refugee health and nutrition meetings are conducted to help coordinate and follow up on activities. All programmes continue to be run effectively, except in Mai Aini and Adi-Harush camps in the Tigray region due to access challenges.
- **Food assistance:** In November, refugees in refugee camps across the country have received only 60 % of the minimum standard of 2,100 kcal per person/day, down from 80% previously, due to funding shortfalls. In October, WFP, UNHCR and RRS have appealed for \$68 million to avoid further ration cuts.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** UNHCR has completed its annual nutrition survey in three of five refugee camps in the Benishangul-Gumuz region namely, Sherakole, Tsore and Bambassi. Results show a Global Acute Malnutrition rate (GAM) of 11.4% in Bambasi, which is high, and 5.1% and 7.6% in Sherakole and Tsore camps, respectively. UNHCR, in collaboration with RRS, continues to address the needs through multi-sector programming with partners and other key stakeholders.

Water and Sanitation (WASH)

- UNHCR works with partners to provide access to clean water and sanitation and improve hygiene practices through the construction and upgrading of WASH facilities and awareness raising. An average of 18 litres/per person/day of potable water was provided to refugees across all camps during the reporting month.
- As part of the development of Alemwach site in the Amhara region, construction of 20 showers, 20 latrines and five water points was completed.
- UNHCR and partners continued with the implementation of the COVID-19 prevention and hygiene promotion activities, such as the provision of safe water supply, monthly blanket distribution of soap (500g per person per month), installation of handwashing facilities and routine community sensitization on personal and environmental hygiene in all the refugee camps. To date, 34,817 hand-washing stations have been installed in different refugee camps

Cash-Based Interventions (CBI)

- UNHCR continues to provide monthly cash assistance to eligible urban refugees in Addis Ababa to cover their basic needs, with an additional amount for extra hygiene and sanitation support for the prevention of COVID-19. Eritrean refugees who have self-relocated from Tigray due to the conflict have also been provided cash assistance to meet their basic needs. There are ongoing efforts to expand this assistance modality to different refugee and IDP hosting areas in Ethiopia. Cash assistance is also being implemented to support IDPs in the Tigray and Benishangul-Gumuz regions, as well as to support reintegration of Ethiopian refugees who have voluntarily returned from Kenya and other countries.
- In Awbare and Sheder refugee camps near Jijiga, UNHCR has already piloted the viability of CBI, and is working to scale up the service to 400 households. Some 100 refugee households have already received cash-based assistance so they can locally purchase materials for the construction of shelters. Second and third rounds of instalments would be released in phases to facilitate completion of the construction. By providing cash directly to beneficiaries to build their shelters, UNHCR reduces support costs and ensures that refugees have more control over the final design. In addition to shelter component, a roll-out of more CBIs is planned in the coming months, including for the local purchase of school uniforms and women's underwear.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- In the Gambella region, 460 households are supported in agriculture and livestock-related economic activities as part of agricultural and resilience projects supported by UNHCR and UNICEF. Implemented by Mother and Child Development Organization (MCDO) in consortium with International Rescue Committee (IRC), the projects have supported refugee and host community households, on 50 hectares of maize fields. The projects are also supporting 37 farm businesses from refugee and host communities. Under the global [MADE51](#) partnership, 100 refugee women artisans have been supported to produce bracelets for an international brand UNIQLO in partnership with Entoto Beth Artisans, a social enterprise based in Addis Ababa.
- In the Melkadia area of the Somali Region, refugees and host community members who are engaged in livestock enterprises, including livestock traders, meat and milk vendors, have generated over ETB 1 million in revenues, motivating them to keep improving their business. UNHCR, RRS and livelihood partners provided 4,015 kg of maize seeds and 1,605 kg of sesame seeds to agriculture cooperatives across nine irrigation sites, helping them cover 274 hectares of land with maize and another 15 hectares with sesame.
- In the Benishangul-Gumuz region, skilled refugees have been engaged in the renovation of the office of the Refugee Central Committee (RCC), which is the refugees' elected leadership in Tsore camp. In the same camp, a grinding mill is being installed for the benefit of refugees and their hosts. Approximately 90 percent of the work has been completed to date.

Access to Energy

UNHCR is part of the multi-actor partnerships working to improve refugees' access to energy for cooking, lighting and other purposes. The demand for clean cooking energy remains high with only less than 11% of the refugee households accessing alternative cooking energy solutions to date. To address the severe shortage, multiple energy projects are being implemented, mainly in camps in the Afar, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella and Somali (Melkadida) regions, including expansion of the briquette production initiative and grid connected electricity. A new briquette production machine has been installed in Aysaita refugee camp with a capacity to produce 14,000 pcs of briquettes per day from local Prosopis plant; 2,563 fuel-saving stoves were distributed to refugees in the same camp. In five refugee camps of the Benishangul-Gumuz Region, over 560,000 pieces of briquettes were distributed among vulnerable refugee households..

External / Donors Relations


UNHCR is grateful for the direct contribution to the UNHCR Ethiopia Operation in 2021

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Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2021

Norway 80 million | **Sweden** 75.4 million | **Private donors Spain** 62.6 million | **United Kingdom** 40.4 million | **Netherlands** 36.1 million | **Denmark** 34.6 million | **Private donors Republic of Korea** 31.9 million | **Private donors Japan** 27.7 million | **Germany** 26 million | **Japan** 23.4 million | **France** 20.2 million | **Switzerland** 16.4 million | **Private donors Italy** 15.7 million | **Private donors Sweden** 14.4 million | **Ireland** 12.5 million | **Belgium** 11.9 million | **Italy** 10.7 million

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