



Over the past two months, UNHCR and its partners distributed life-saving aid items to some 90,000 internally displaced people in the Afar, Amhara and Tigray Regions. ©UNHCR



## Protection

**Documentation of Eritrean refugees:** In Addis Ababa, UNHCR, in collaboration with the Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) continues to locate, through biometric verification, registered refugees who had been displaced from the former Shimelba and Hitsats camps and other locations in the Tigray region. Between 4 August and 25 November, a total of 14,266 families composed of 17,172 persons were verified and issued new ID cards; 6,415 refugees under age of 14 were issued proof of registration documents. The three-year documents will enable refugees to access assistance, protection and services, and open bank accounts. UNHCR has started transferring a one-off cash assistance on the bank accounts of those already verified to cover their basic needs for three months.

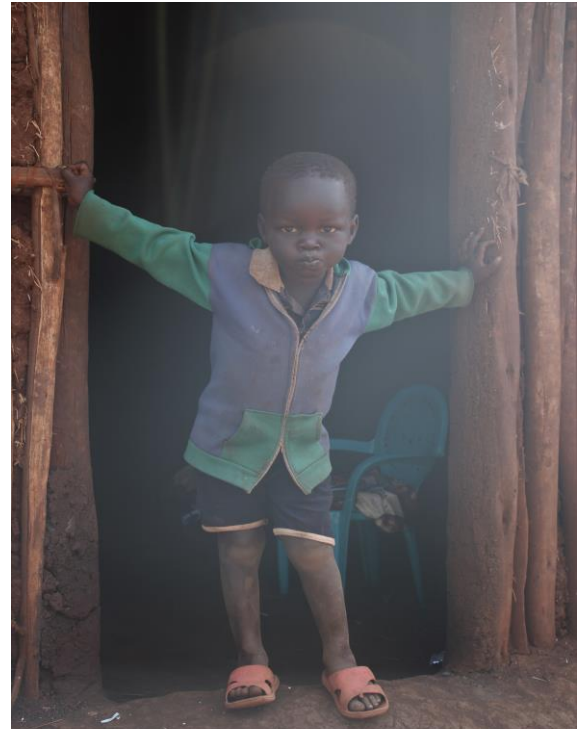
**Over 9,000 Somali refugees registered in 2021:** So far this year, UNHCR registered 9,391 new arrivals from Somalia who entered Ethiopia through the Dollo Ado and other border crossing points. Most have been relocated to different refugee camps in the Melkadida area, including 730 over the past couple of weeks. All of the new arrivals were provided with basic humanitarian supplies to help them rebuild their lives in the refugee camps, while those still at the Dollo Ado Reception Center are being offered basic assistance and services such as health and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). Meanwhile, UNHCR and the Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) are working on a plan to relocate nearly 9,000 new arrivals from South Sudan currently at the Pagak Reception Centre.

**16 Days of Activism:** The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence was marked in different refugee camps in the country, with a series of activities that are aimed to raise awareness and promote gender equality through the participation in the campaign of both female and male members of the refugee and host communities. Launched on 25 November under the theme “Let peace prevail, End Violence Against Women and Children Now!”, the campaign has featured several events such as panel discussions,

Q&As and cultural performances. A photo exhibition by refugees in Gure-Shembola camp, Benishangul-Gumuz region, organized in the camp, was opened at the conclusion of the campaign on 10 December 2021, coinciding with the Human Rights Day. Entitled “This is Our World”, the exhibition consists of 20 photographs taken by young refugees who have been given hands-on photography training. The photos reflect their everyday life in the camp, highlighting their hopes for a better future. The exhibition will be closed on 20 December.

**Operationalization of the One-Stop-Shop in Bambasi camp:** The One-Stop-Shop (OSS) in Bambasi refugee camp in the Benishangul-Gumuz region has started to provide all services that are essential for the protection of refugees. The services include new birth registrations, renewal and issuance of proof of registration documents and ID cards, and registration of refugees who had missed the comprehensive registration conducted in all refugee camps from 2017 to 2019. OSS Bambasi is one of the 27 facilities across Ethiopia that are aimed to serve both the refugee and local communities surrounding the camp and that are at different stages of construction.

**North Ethiopia Emergency response:** The conflict that started in Tigray 13 months ago and has since spread to two other regions of Northern Ethiopia (Afar and Amhara) has led to the displacement of over three million people and left over nine million people in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. Despite the constraints, including a volatile security situation, lack of unhindered access, scarcity of cash and fuel, and limited electrical power and telecommunications services, particularly in Tigray, UNHCR has over the past two months assisted approximately 90,000 internally displaced people in the three regions with the distribution of essential aid items, including buckets, blankets, jerry cans, mosquito nets, soap, sleeping mats, kitchen sets, and plastic sheets. Approximately 5,500 people have received solar lamps, while 8,000 women and girls have received dignity kits. Tents for shelter were distributed to almost 600 IDPs. In cooperation with 12 partners in the three regions, UNHCR has also provided counselling to over 2,500 people and psycho-social support to approximately 2,000 children, including unaccompanied minors and separated children. Please find regular Ethiopia country and regional UNHCR updates on the emergency response in Northern Ethiopia at: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/rbehag1>



*A young child poses for photo at the entrance to his family's camp house in Gure-Shembola refugee camp in Ethiopia's Benishangul-Gumuz Region. The picture is part of the photo exhibition in the camp. ©Baling Moses*



## Education

**Inclusion of refugees in national education system:** Starting this academic year, the Gambella Regional Education Bureau (REB) has taken over the management of the Mekod model secondary school in Gambella, which serves as a pilot project for the integration of refugees in the national education system. A total of 1,796 students, including refugees, have enrolled in the school, attending classes from the 9th to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. 438 of them are female students.

**School enrolment rate:** Preliminary data show that since the resumption of school for the new Ethiopian academic year in October, 175,556 refugee students have been enrolled at the pre-primary, primary and secondary levels of education, representing only 41percent of the Gross Enrolment Rate (GER) for refugees. Compared to the previous year's enrolment rate, there is a drop by 13 percent, attributable to COVID-19 related challenges and the conflict in the Tigray Region, forcing the closure of schools.

**Challenges and way forward:** Only 49 percent of primary school teachers in the 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. As a way forward, resources are needed to enhance the qualification of teachers both through a formal enrolment in colleges and on-job training, together with recruitment of additional teachers. Resources are also needed to expand access to textbooks and construct additional classrooms within existing school premises.

## **Shelter & CRIs**

**Support to Refugees:** UNHCR and partners in the shelter component completed the construction of 110 emergency shelters and the same number of family latrines in the Tsore refugee camp in the Benishangul-Gumuz region. In the same camp, construction of new transitional shelters and maintenance of existing ones is ongoing using the Cash-based Intervention (CBI) assistance model, i.e., beneficiaries receive cash assistance to pay for the construction materials and cover labour cost. In the five camps in Melkadida, Somali region, 709 out of the planned 1,500 emergency shelters have been completed to temporarily accommodate new arrivals. Communal shelters are being constructed at Alemwach, a location in the Amhara region that is being developed into a refugee site to accommodate 25,000 Eritrean refugees from Adi-Harush and Mai Aini camps in Tigray region. To date, UNHCR's partner Innovative Humanitarian Solutions (HIS) has completed the construction of 20 showers, 20 latrines and five water points. Additionally, four hangars have been constructed, while another two are at the final stages of completion.

**Support to IDPs:** In the Gedeo and West Guji areas in the southern part of the country, 187 out of the planned 200 shelters are in their final phase of completion, including 40 that are ready for occupation. Constructed in partnership with Action for the Needy in Ethiopia (ANE), the shelters will be provided to the most vulnerable IDP returnees in the two zones of the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples (SNNP) and Oromia regions. In Dire Dawa, UNHCR in coordination with the Regional Disaster Risk Management Bureau (DRMB) and the City Administration, distributed basic non-food aid items to 777 households, consisting of 3,489 individuals. Vulnerable displaced people, including those who have agreed to voluntarily relocate from the Dire Dawa IDP Site to various locations in the Somali Region, received sleeping mats, blankets, kitchen sets, plastic tarpaulins, jerry cans, laundry soap, mosquito nets and plastic buckets. Nearly 5,000 internally displaced people in Bulbuli, Jenferare, and Faduni IDP sites in the Benishangul-Gumuz Region received similar sets of basic relief items.

## **Health**

**COVID-19 response:** Refugees have been included in the Government's COVID-19 vaccination plan. A total of 10,892 refugees have received COVID-19 vaccines, including 6,152 fully vaccinated. UNHCR, the RRS and partners continue to reinforce prevention measures in the refugee camps and sites hosting Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

**General Health Services:** 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.

**Vaccinations against polio:** A total of 9,078 refugee children under the age of 5 in Bambasi, Sherkole and Tsore camps in the Benishangul-Gumuz region have been vaccinated against polio, as part of the Regional Health Bureau's region-wide vaccination campaign. The number represents 93% of the refugee children who need to be vaccinated against polio. Similarly, 24,000 refugee children under the age of 5 in the Melkadida area have been included to benefit from the ongoing anti-polio vaccination campaign in the



Somali region. In the Awbarre camp in the Jijiga area, Somali region, a total 1,594 refugee children under the age of 5 have been vaccinated against polio.



## WASH

**General WASH Services:** UNHCR works with partners to provide access to clean water and sanitation and improve hygiene practices through awareness raising, upgrading water systems, supporting the construction of latrines and solid waste management. An average of 18 litres of water per person/day was provided across all the camps during the reporting month. As part of the preparation and development of the new Alemwach refugee camp site in Dabat, Amhara region, UNHCR and partners are constructing emergency WASH facilities at the reception area, including water points, latrines and bathing facilities.



## Livelihood

**Cultivation of maize and sesame fields in Melkadida:** In the Melkadida area of the Somali Region, 274 hectares of land has been cultivated with maize plants, while sesame has been planted on an additional 15 hectares of land as part of the livelihoods activities run by agricultural cooperatives managing nine irrigation sites. UNHCR, Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) and partners involved in the promotion of self-reliance projects in the area have ensured the provision of 4,015 kg of maize seeds and 1,605 kg of sesame seeds to the farmers from the refugee and host communities.

**Financial literacy for female entrepreneurs:** Two hundred female entrepreneurs, including 100 refugees and 100 members of the host community in and around the five camps in the Melkadida area, were given training on financial literacy to help them better manage their business and incomes. The training covered financial planning, managing money and financial savings. The training was aimed at equipping participants with basic financial knowledge and business management skills to improve financial decision-making, book-keeping and saving practices.

**Animal fattening for income generation:** In Abaya, Hanbela and Gelana woredas of the Oromia region's West Guji Zone, 136 sheep were distributed to 68 vulnerable women-headed households struggling to rebuild their lives after returning to their places of origin. The distribution has encouraged the women to engage in livestock fattening as a means of earning their livelihoods. In the Gambella region, 50 vulnerable hosting community households around the Okugo refugee camp received goats to engage in income-generating activities. Similarly, UNHCR, in collaboration with the West Hararghe Disaster Risk Management Bureau (DRMB) and Women and Children's Affairs Office (WCAO), distributed 176 goats and 10 bulls to 65 IDP households, 570 persons in Gendebuno and Tulu IDP sites, and to 20 orphan children from the host community in Meiso, to support their drive for self-reliance.

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

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