

# ETHIOPIA

February 2022

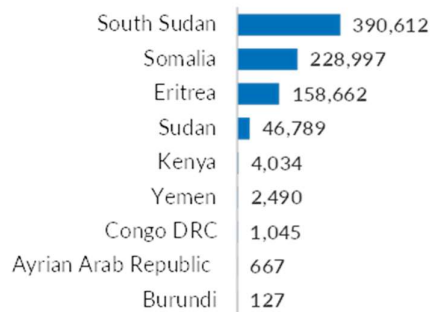
Ethiopia is the **third-largest refugee-hosting country** in Africa, sheltering **837,533** registered refugees and asylum-seekers as of 28 February 2022. The overwhelming majority originate from **South Sudan, Somalia** and **Eritrea**.

To date, **19,430** refugees have received COVID-19 vaccines, including **6,152** fully vaccinated. UNHCR, the Government's 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



*At the end of February 2022, Ethiopia hosted over 837,533 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 70,000 people in the capital Addis Ababa.*

## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

- 417 National staff
- 173 International staff
- 171 Affiliated work force & others

### Offices:

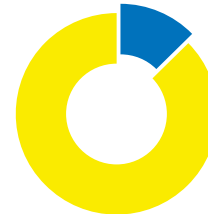
- 1 Representation Office- Addis Ababa
- 6 Sub-Offices- Assosa, Gambella, Jijiga, Mekelle, Melkadida and Shire
- 9 Field Offices- Bule Hora, Debark, Dire Dawa, Embamadre, Nekemte, Pugnido, Semera, Sherkole and Tongo
- 7 Field Units-Aysaita, Barahle, Maichew, Adigrat, Abiadi, Sheraro, and Axum

## FUNDING (As of 22 February 2022)

USD 335.3 M

Requested for Ethiopia

Funded  
**10%**



*UNHCR donated 2 grinding mills in Oromia to benefit 3,500 IDPs, enhance their livelihoods and help reduce GBV risks for women and girls. Dawit Daricha/UNHCR Feb. 2022*

## 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)'. 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.
- Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) and Immigration and Nationality Service (INS) have continued clearing birth registration backlogs in refugee camps in Gambella, Afar, Assosa, Melkadida and Jijiga, targeting a total of 96,000 children who are 3 years old and below. As of 3 February 2022, 12,337 birth registrations have been completed. This is in line with the Ethiopian Government pledge made at the High-Level Summit on Statelessness held in Geneva in October 2019 which committed "to (...) improve access to birth registration procedures, including late registration to ensure universal birth registration to refugee children". The initiative is also in line with the objectives of the UNHCR-UNICEF Blueprint partnership for joint action to strengthen 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.

### Durable Solutions

- As current conditions for voluntary repatriation are not favorable for most refugees in Ethiopia, and local integration programmes are yet to be put in place, securing resettlement opportunities remains UNHCR's top priority. While UNHCR Ethiopia has not been assigned a complete quota for 2022 yet, the planning figure is 4,550 for submissions, mostly to the United States. Since the beginning of the year, 190 individuals were submitted to various resettlement countries, but only 14 individuals

have departed so far in 2022 due to delays in the issuance of travel documents, as a result of the ongoing suspension of relevant RRS services. During February, 80 cases (147 persons) have either been counselled or directly supported on family reunification processes. Aside from family reunification, the resettlement unit plans to support complementary pathways through humanitarian admissions, scholarships, and labour mobility during the year, once RRS services resume.

### Shelter

- Access to adequate shelter remains below the standard with only 45% of the camp-based refugee families living in adequate dwelling by end of February. UNHCR and partners are poised to finish the construction of all planned 5,231 emergency shelters and 2,343 transitional shelters, plus maintenance of 2,078 transitional shelters to improve shelter coverage across all camps. By the end of the month, 4,133 emergency shelters and all the planned transitional shelter construction and maintenance works have been completed. This means that 98 % of all shelter solutions planned for 2021 are now completed. Furthermore, under the general site operation, construction and maintenance work has been conducted on 30 of the planned 31km of roads in camps in the Benishangul-Gumuz and Gambella regions, as well as in the Alemwach refugee site in the Amhara region. In addition, construction of 33 (out of 36) cross-drainage structures, have been completed in those locations.
- UNHCR and its partners are working together to install basic services including shelter, water points and latrines at the new Tsore Temporary site to accommodate refugees from Tongo and Gure-Shembola camps in Benishangul, as well as in Serdo site in Afar region to shelter Eritrean refugees who had to flee the Barahle refugee camp due to escalating hostilities beginning of the month. As an immediate response to the most pressing needs of refugees who were relocated to the Tsore temporary site, UNHCR through its shelter partner constructed 60 emergency communal shelters and installed 32 family tents at the site. UNHCR is now working on the provision of emergency shelters, at a household level, with all the required WASH and communal/public facilities in Tsore temporary site. At the new site in Serdo, Afar, site layout for erecting family tents is ongoing: in February, 52 tents (out of the planned 1,000) have been set up. Efforts are ongoing to explore options for shelter through consultations with and inclusion of refugees to ensure that families can move from their emergency shelters in due course.
- In the Amhara region, the development of the Alemwach site continued, with construction of 28 (of the planned 36) communal shelters completed, while the remaining 8 are at an advanced stage of construction. Once completed, the shelters are expected to accommodate 4,000 Eritrean refugees from the two refugee camps in the Tigray region. In 2022, UNHCR will focus to provide transitional shelter solutions with the required infrastructure and public facilities, so that families will be able to move to their household shelters without a protracted stay in the reception center.
- Under the Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items (ESNFI) Cluster, UNHCR continues to respond to shelter and core relief items needs of IDPs in nine regions of the country. Since 2021, provision of 170 durable shelters to relocated and returning IDPs has been ongoing in Gedo (SNNP) and West Guji (Oromia), where 70 are at final stage of construction, while the construction of 100 shelters remains on hold due to security reasons. In the Afar region, UNHCR through its partners provided six communal shelters (out of planned 15) with communal kitchens to IDPs from Abala housed in a collective center in Samara, Afar. Additionally, UNHCR is preparing site layout for the construction of two new sites to accommodate IDPs in Samara and in Guya, 50km from Samara. Meanwhile, UNHCR is working on the provision of emergency shelters for IDP families at the new site in Guya. In Tigray, UNHCR completed construction of 52 duplex shelters at Hibret collective center to accommodate 104 households. UNHCR is also supporting IDPs to self-build shelters within various collective centers in Shire by providing plastic sheet cladding. A total of 25 shelters have been completed through this initiative.
- In 2022, UNHCR will continue to provide durable shelters to returned and relocated IDP families also in Somali, Oromia and SNNP regions. IDP families in the nine regions will be assisted through provisions of emergency shelter and core relief items.

### Education

- UNHCR provides education services to refugees in partnership with the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) and different Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). During the current academic year,

a total of 171,447 refugee students are enrolled in pre-primary (52,486), primary (102,383) and secondary (16,578) levels of education. These preliminary figures do not include data from the Afar region which are still under compilation. A total of 1,527 refugees are currently enrolled in different public universities across Ethiopia benefitting from scholarship programmes offered by the Governments of Ethiopia and Germany (DAFI scholarships).

- In line with the Government's commitment made at the first Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in 2019 to provide quality and accredited skills training to 20,000 refugees and Ethiopian nationals by 2024, a total of 3,071 individuals, including 1,055 refugees and 2,016 Ethiopians have benefitted from accredited skills trainings with linkage to the labor market.
- Only 49 percent of primary school teachers in refugee camps have the requisite qualifications to teach, while the teacher-to-pupil ratio stands at 1:83 for primary and 1:66 for secondary schools. Moreover, the average class size in the primary and secondary schools is 109 and 97, respectively, which is far below the acceptable minimum standard. Additional 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 secure adequate provision of textbooks and to construct additional classrooms within existing school premises.

### Health

- UNHCR is working with the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) and partners to ensure sustainable and efficient healthcare for refugees by promoting their full inclusion into regional and national health plans, funding mechanisms and health services, and to foster collaboration on health sector response with development partners, in line with the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), its Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) and the Multiyear Multi-Partners Strategy (MYMPS).
- UNHCR, in collaboration with 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 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.
- Together with the RRS, Regional Health Bureaus, and other health partners, UNHCR 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. As part of the UN Inter-agency COVID-19 response to the IDP situation, UNHCR provides PPEs and sanitation materials, equipping isolation and quarantine centers and sensitizing community on the risks of the pandemic.
- In line with the criteria of prioritization set by the Ethiopian Ministry of Health, 19,430 refugees have received COVID-19 vaccine, including 6,152 fully vaccinated.
- UNHCR, the Ministry of Health (MoH), Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI), Regional Health Bureaus (RHBs), RRS, WHO, UNICEF and IMC successfully responded to – and contained - the Measles outbreak that was declared in mid-January in the Dollo Ado Refugee Reception Centre and in refugee camps in the Somali Region.

### Food Security and Nutrition

- In 2022, UNHCR will focus on coordination, collaboration and strategic engagements with stakeholders to enhance food security, meet nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive needs for persons of concern (PoCs) and hosting communities, respond to emergency needs of the PoCs in food and nutrition, and to build capacities and systems strengthening food and nutrition delivery, together with partners.
- **Emergency Response Food and Nutrition:** Refugees are prioritised for food and nutrition assistance in conflict-affected areas in Benishangul Gumuz (Assosa camps), Afar (refugees from Barhale) and in Somali region (new arrivals in Melkadida and Dollo Ado reception center). A total of 22,500 refugees received general food rations in Mai Aini and Adi Harush camps in February 2022.

- **Nutrition Programmes:** UNHCR and RRS continue to coordinate with UN agencies (UNICEF and WFP) and partners to improve the nutrition status of refugees through preventive and curative programmes. Delivery of nutrition assistance to refugees in Mai Aini and Adi Harush camps in the Tigray region remains a challenge.
- **Food assistance:** Due to WFP funding shortfalls, the current food basket for refugees reaches only 60% (1262kcal/p/d) of the minimum standard of 2,100 kcal per person/day. UNHCR, WFP and RRS are coordinating further food assistance to refugees.

#### **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. In February, an average of 18 litres/per person/day of potable water was provided to refugees across all camps.
- Currently, only 40% of the refugee population in Ethiopia have access to adequate sanitation facilities, requiring more investment in this area. UNHCR is working with partners to improve the situation, including through the joint UNHCR-UNICEF Blueprint initiative.
- 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/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.
- Key sector priorities include integration of WASH services into local government structures, strengthening of WASH support to institutions such as schools and health facilities, and timely provision of emergency WASH services.

#### **Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance**

- In February, the organization for Women in Self- Employment (WISE) has completed the training and awarding of business grants to 69 refugees and host community members, as part of the small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) under the Refugee Urban Project funded by UNHCR. These activities will directly benefit 381 persons who will participate in various economic sectors to include businesses in beauty services, manufacturing and trade, food and restaurant services, entertainment, IT services, photo studios and others. WISE also facilitated employment readiness and life skills trainings for 500 refugees and initiated linkages to employers through internship modalities.

#### **Access to Energy**

- UNHCR continues to promote safe and reliable access to energy, for cooking, lighting, and powering, as it is a basic need for everyone, and necessary for economic development. Energy and Environment are one of the priority sectors for UNHCR and the Government of Ethiopia. Access to alternative sources of energy is one of the unmet needs for refugees and their hosting communities alike. Access to clean cooking fuel is critically low, at a coverage rate of 11%. Due to lack of alternatives, refugees have few options beyond exploiting the natural resources surrounding the camps; possibilities for income generation are austere. Often, refugees are compelled to gather wood to cook and construct makeshift shelters. This has culminated in deforestation and environmental degradation. Through coordination and multi-actor engagement to implement environmentally friendly energy resources in refugee camps, access to clean cooking fuel and technologies will be scaled-up to 20% by the end of 2022. UNHCR priorities in this sector in 2022, include expansion of household lighting coverage, scale-up of biomass briquette production, piloting fuel and improved stove markets, and an increase in the effective use of national grid electricity for cooking, lighting and productive use. Attention will be given to green electricity, replacing diesel-powered generators to power basic services and community infrastructures. As part of the Natural Resource Management and Rehabilitation Programme, UNHCR, in close collaboration with partners, will raise and plant this year up to one million trees during the rainy season as part of the response to deforestation and environmental degradation.

## External / Donors Relations


### **UNHCR is grateful for the direct contribution to the UNHCR Ethiopia Operation in 2022**

Japan| Netherlands |IKEA Foundation | Spain| European Union| Germany | Luxembourg| Mastercard International Incorporated| UN Foundation| UN Children's Fund|

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

Sweden 77.6 million | Netherlands 37.2 million | Denmark 35.6 million | Germany 27.6 million | Switzerland 18.4 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Ireland 11.8 million

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### **LINKS**

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