



UNHCR conducted National Learning Summit on LEGO Foundation funded project on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. LEGO Foundation supported Learning through Play (LtP) project intended to facilitate access to play-based learning opportunities in Gambella and Benishangul-Gumuz Regions that support refugee children in their holistic development (cognitive, emotional, creative, problem solving, critical thinking). UNHCR/Eugene Sibomana March 2022.



**Protection**

**UNHCR delivers six metric tons of lifesaving medicines to Tigray:** In March, UNHCR delivered 6 metric tons of medicines to Shire in Tigray region, of which 3.2 metric tons of medicines were handed over to health centers in Mai Aini and Adi Harush refugee camps on 18 March. UNHCR also delivered the remaining 2.8 metric tons of lifesaving medicines to local health facilities in Hitsats, Mai Tsebri as well as the St Merry Hospital in Axum between 22-30 March. All these institutions were out of stock of replenished medications for four months.



UNHCR OIC in Shire handing over medicines to health workers in Mai Aini camp @UNHCR/March 2022

**Commemoration of March 8, International Women's Day:** March 8, International Women's Day (IWD), was marked in different refugee and IDPs camps in the country, with various activities that aimed to raise awareness of communities on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and related issues, with both female and male members of the refugee, IDP and hosting communities. This year, the IWD was celebrated

under the theme "Gender Equality Today for Sustainable Tomorrow". As part of the celebrations, several events were organized including panel discussions, Q&As and cultural performances. In Gambella, UNHCR, the Government Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) and other humanitarian actors joined the refugee community to participate and attend the main event in Nguenyiel refugee camp. During the event, UNHCR conveyed key messages to the refugee community underscoring the need to mainstream gender equality and women



*South Sudan refugee women in Nguenyiel Camp celebrating International Women Day*

empowerment in all sectors, in a meaningful way. UNHCR urged partners and refugee structures to ensure the promotion of women's rights and participation in all aspects of society. In Awbarre, Shedder, and Kebribeyah camps in the Somali region, the IWD was marked with activities organized in collaboration of UNHCR, RRS and partners Rehabilitation and Development Organization (RaDO, IRC), the refugee central committees (RRCs) and women's associations. The activities included music and dance, youth skits, mass community awareness campaigns and panel discussions with community-based organizations and partners. In the Oromia region, UNHCR in collaboration with East/West Wollega Zone Women, Children and Youth Affairs Office marked the IWD with the distribution of visibility materials including 300 t-shirts and banners featuring UNHCR's key messages on this year's IWD theme. Banners were also placed at public places in Nekemte (East Wollega) and (Gimbi) West Wollega. Furthermore, UNHCR delivered blankets, sleeping mats and mosquito nets to vulnerable IDP women.

**UNHCR conducts national PSEA workshop in Addis Ababa:** The National Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Workshop was held in Addis Ababa from 23 to 24 March. The workshop brought together 28 PSEA focal points representing all UNHCR offices in the country. The focus of the workshop was the new learning programme on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and Sexual Harassment. Following the workshop, the participating PSEA focal points will conduct trainings for UNHCR staff in their respective offices.

**Joint UNHCR, UNICEF, RRS, INS missions:** In March, the Ethiopian Immigration and Nationality Service (INS), RRS, UNICEF and UNHCR conducted joint field missions in Afar, Gambella, Assosa and Somali regions to assess the progress made in the attempt to clear the backlog in birth registrations. As of 4 March 2022, 17,900 birth registrations have been completed across all camps in the country.

**Provision of free legal aid services to IDPs in Oromia region:** In West Wollega Zone (Mandi/Mana Sib, Gimbi Nejo) UNHCR through Wollega University reached 272 individuals (105 female) with counselling, legal writing and representation services, while 909 IDPs (422 female) participated in legal aid awareness sessions. During March, in East Wollega (Nekemte, Gida Ayana Haro Limu and Sib, Sire), the Wollega University provided free legal aid services consisting of representation, counselling, and legal writing to 87 individuals (48 female); 430 IDPs (236 female) benefited from legal awareness sessions. In



Bule Hora, UNHCR in collaboration with Dilla University provided free legal aid services, including consultancy, preparation of legal documents and court litigation representation, to 144 vulnerable returnees (74 female) in free legal aid centres established in returnee Woredas of Gedeo and West Guji zones.

**UNHCR/RRS relocate 4,000 refugees to camps in Afar and Somali regions:** As part of the emergency response in the Somali region, in March, 308 refugee households comprising 1,374 individuals were relocated from the reception center in Dolo Ado town to the five refugee camps in the area. UNHCR and partners briefed the new arrivals on available services in the camps and support on adequate referral pathways. Majority of the refugees were reunified with their family members in the camps. UNHCR also underscored the need to decongest the Dollo Ado reception center in view of the upcoming seasonal rains that are likely to flood the reception center and its surroundings, with a negative effect on the public health situation. In the Afar region, 2,614 refugees (1,773 households) have been relocated to Serdo refugee site from Afdera/Samara: UNHCR issued proof of registration (POR) to 94% of the arrivals, while 52% received refugee IDs.

**Support to and registration of children at risk in Gambella:** A total of 119 children at risk, including unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) in Nguenyiel, Pugnido-II and Tierkidi refugee camps, were registered in the Child Protection Information Management System Plus (CPIMS+)/Primero following identification by caseworkers and child protection committee members. Best Interest assessments (BIAs) were conducted for children with special needs who were placed under foster care. Designated caseworkers will follow up, ensuring further support to children according to their individual specific needs. In Pinyudo 2, Pagak, and Nguenyiel camps, 15,207 children below the age of 5 were screened by UNHCR's partner Action against Hunger (AAH) In Shedder camp, UNHCR through its child protection partner IRC conducted different psychosocial assistance activities with 309 children (121 girls) by organizing outdoor and indoor play activities such as drawing, storytelling and table tennis.



## Education

**German Embassy and UNHCR mark 20 years of DAFI scholarships in Ethiopia:** On 23 March, the German Embassy in Addis Ababa in cooperation with UNHCR and the Association of Ethiopians Educated in Germany (AEEG) organized a high-level event to mark the 30th anniversary of Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI) worldwide, as well as 20 years of programme implementation in Ethiopia. Students of the DAFI Alumni, Ethiopian Government representatives, partners and donors gathered to exchange knowledge and experiences from the participation in DAFI programme so far, but also to present ideas for its implementation in the future. In the last 20 years, more than 2,000 refugees in Ethiopia have benefitted from the DAFI scholarships, including 1,000 who have already graduated.



*An Eritrean refugee (DAFI Alumni) speaking on behalf of all the Alumni at the 30th anniversary of DAFI in Addis Ababa. UNHCR/Eugene Sibomana March 2022.*

**3rd ministerial IGAD meeting in Addis Ababa:** UNHCR, represented by the Special Envoy to the Horn of Africa, Ambassador Mohamed Affey, UNHCR Representative to Ethiopia, Mamadou Dian Balde and the education team in Addis Ababa, participated in the 3rd Ministerial Meeting on Education of the Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD) from 28 to 30 March in Addis Ababa, under the motto "Accelerating Access to Inclusive and Quality Education for Refugees, Returnees, IDPs and Host Communities: Shared Responsibilities for Better Results Amidst the COVID-19 Crises". As a core member

of the IGAD Djibouti Declaration process, UNHCR has a leading role in advocating for the inclusion of refugees into the national education systems.

**120 students in Awbarre camp pass Ethiopian university entrance exam:** Out of 129 eligible refugee students who took part in the Grade 12 National Examination in Awbarre, 120 students have scored the national university entrance grade. The successful students are considered for potential DAFI scholarships to be enrolled in universities across Ethiopia.

**National Learning Summit on Learning through Play:** On 31 March, UNHCR conducted a National Learning Summit on a Learning through Play (LtP) project funded by the LEGO Foundation. LEGO Foundation has supported this project aimed to enhance the holistic development (cognitive, emotional, creative, problem solving, critical thinking) of refugee children through access to play-based learning opportunities in Gambella and Benishangul-Gumuz Regions. The project introduced new technology called SolarSPELL (Solar Powered Educational Learning Library) enabling the learners to access offline digital content relevant to the Ethiopian Curriculum.

### **Shelter & CRIs**

**Support to refugees and IDPs:** In Benishangul-Gumuz and Afar regions, UNHCR through its shelter partner Action for the Needy in Ethiopia (ANE) completed the construction of 60 emergency communal shelters and installation of 741 family tents at the reception areas at Tsore and Serdo sites as an immediate response to meet the basic needs of refugees who were relocated to those sites. Additionally, UNHCR through its partner ANE has so far set up 285 emergency shelters (out of allocated 600) at Agatina and Guya sites in Afar region in support of IDPs.

In first three months of 2022, UNHCR has distributed basic relief items to over 23,000 IDP families in Afar, Tigray, Amhara and Somali regions.

### **Health**

**COVID-19 response:** Refugees have been included in the Government's COVID-19 vaccination plan. A total of 34,485 refugees have received COVID-19 vaccines so far, including 30,065 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:** In the Somali region, a campaign on measles vaccination was conducted in March, for children under the age of 10 years old in the five refugee camps and at the Reception Center in Dollo Ado as part of the region-wide measles outbreak control strategy covering ten woredas in Liben and Afdere zones. The campaign was conducted for five days starting on 15 March 2022 during which 54,424 refugee children including 52,181 in the camps and 2,243 at the reception center were vaccinated. In Melkadida, UNHCR donated thermal cycler (i.e. Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) machine or DNA amplifier) to Dollo Ado hospital to support and facilitate COVID-19 testing service for both Ethiopian nationals and refugees. UNHCR has also provided fuel and logistics to facilitate measles campaign and general operation of the Dollo Ado hospital.

In Serdo refugee site in the Afar region, three temporary rooms were set up (two for Out-Patient Department /OPD consultations and one mini drug store). RRS started to provide emergency medical services to newly relocated refugees from the Barahle camp. Medicines were transported from Aysaita camp to Serdo site in support of refugees housed there. UNHCR also facilitated the transport of medicines and medical supplies from Addis Ababa to Serdo site, where RRS health staff are providing medical counselling to refugees. While maternal and child health care services (ANC, delivery, EPI, family planning services) are being provided at the government health center at Serdo, cases that require specialized services were referred to Dubti hospital in Wollo in the Amhara region.

On 13 March, six metric tons of essential medicines and medical supplies donated by UNHCR in support of refugees, IDPs and host communities in Shire region were airlifted from Addis to Mekelle. The medicines arrived in Shire on 13 March and were delivered to the health centers in Mai Aini and Adi Harush camps, Hitsats, Mai Tsebri as well as at Axum hospital. Refugees from the Alemwach refugee camp, in the Amhara region, are receiving medical care at Dabat health center and Dabat primary hospital, as per agreement between RRS and both health facilities. Refugees who need specialized medical care are being referred to hospitals in Debarke and Gondar.

In Gambella region, UNHCR's Operational Partner MSF-Holland has gradually resumed services in Kule refugee camp on 7 March. While outpatient department, routine immunization, maternity, TB/HIV clinic services have been made available to refugees by end of March, return to full services is expected to resume by the end of April 2022. Additionally, UNHCR's Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) partner in Gambella, International Medical Corps (IMC), supported by the RRS, in March, conducted 24 sessions of peer-to-peer education on SRH/HIV at community level for refugees. Community health workers visited 2,154 refugee households and reached 10,705 individuals through community-based activities. To strengthen prevention of sexually transmitted infections (STI), HIV/AIDS and unintended pregnancies, 22,690 condoms were distributed in four refugee camps and surrounding communities in Gambella. In the same region, 612 refugees tested for HIV, with 13 new HIV positive cases identified—all of whom were enrolled to antiretroviral (ART) care and treatment.



## WASH

**General WASH Services:** In March, an average of 15 litres/per person/day of potable water was provided to refugees across all camps in Ethiopia – a reduction that is *inter alia* due to a water system breakdown in Kebribeyah.



## Livelihood

**Support to IDPs:** In Bule Hora, as part of assistance to Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs), UNHCR's partner Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) in collaboration with relevant Government line offices distributed 258 sheep to 129 vulnerable women-headed households in support of income-generating activities in Gedeb and Yirgachefe woredas of Gedeo Zone and Abaya and Hambala Wamana woredas in West Guji Zone.

**Support to Refugees:** In March, the Solutions Initiative on Economic Empowerment officially kicked off in the Gambella region in collaboration with UNHCR, WFP, Development Alternatives Incorporated (DAI)/Strengthening Host and Refugee Populations in Ethiopia (SHARPE), RRS and the Gambella Regional Government. The initiative foresees that WFP and DAI introduce mechanisms to expand crop production with commercial and small-holder farmers with the goal to procure food locally. In Addis Ababa, 382 refugees from 69 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which were founded by refugees with the business development support from Women in Self Employment (WISE), received training within the Refugee Urban Project, funded by UNHCR. In addition, four of these SMEs were granted seed capital to start business operations. WISE also started to link some 500 refugees to employment opportunities through internships.

**CRRF support to local authorities in Somali region:** As part of continued European Union Trust Fund (EUTF) support to build capacities of regional and local governments in refugee-hosting areas local government institutions to coordinate, lead, and monitor the implementation of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), UNHCR handed over to the Bureau of Finance in Jijiga a furnished "CRRF resource center", four motorcycles and IT equipment in support of streamlining the CRRF agenda in the region

**Refugees and host community beneficiaries in Dollo Ado and Bokolmayo woredas receive onion seeds:** As part of the efforts to support livelihoods and economic inclusion in the Somali region, UNHCR in collaboration with RRS, as well as Dollo Ado and Bokolmayo woredas facilitated onion seed distribution to eight agricultural cooperatives across existing irrigation sites. So far, a total of 580kg of onion seeds have been disseminated to 378 farmers (half host community, half refugee beneficiaries) in eight agricultural cooperatives.

**Refugee cooperatives contribute in ploughing and preparation of land in Somali region:** Farm mechanization cooperatives, supported by UNHCR's livelihood partners, participated in ploughing and preparation of 106 hectares of land in Melkadida, Kobe, Kole and Buramino I sites, parallel to the preparation of planting bed and field canal rehabilitation. Farmers have also begun with transplanting onion seedling from early established nurseries at Kobe and Melkadida farms. Land ploughing activity continued at Heliweyn and Buramino farms.

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

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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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