

## ETHIOPIA EMERGENCY SITUATION

31 May 2022



*Mabret, is a UNHCR-supported social worker who offers counselling services to those forcibly displaced by the Tigray conflict*  
© UNHCR/Olga Sarrado Mur

### Key Developments

#### ETHIOPIA

Between 1 April to 31 May, 1,270 trucks transporting 49,235 metric tons of humanitarian cargo and 644,483 liters of fuel arrived in Mekelle. This includes 32 UNHCR trucks transporting fuel, core relief items (CRIs) and medicines. These supplies are however still not enough to meet the immense needs of the affected population in the region. According to [OCHA](#), 100 trucks with humanitarian supplies are needed daily, to attain the scale needed. Lack of fuel to sustain relief operations in Tigray remains a critical bottleneck hindering onward distribution of relief supplies from Mekelle to other areas. Currently, priority for use of fuel is given to the distribution of food supplies.

On 22 May, [WFP](#) stated that over 10,000 tons of food and other critical supplies had arrived in Tigray. The convoys that arrived include the largest so far, involving 163 trucks. In addition, WFP and partners will continue to scale up deliveries with the return of over 100 trucks that had been in Tigray since July 2021.

## Ethiopia Response

*The humanitarian situation across northern Ethiopia continues to seriously impact refugees, the internally displaced and host communities. Civilians have endured over one year of conflict with extremely limited basic services and assistance available, leading to a significant escalation in humanitarian needs with ongoing new displacements. The security situation remains volatile, affecting civilians and constraining humanitarian actors on the ground, despite the announcement of a humanitarian truce.*

On 13 May, UNHCR's Regional Director for the East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes (EHAGL) conducted a virtual donor briefing on the Northern Ethiopia situation for key donor partners, including some representatives of Permanent Missions in Geneva, donors at the regional level and some donor capitals. The Regional Bureau Director provided a briefing from her recent missions to Sudan, Ethiopia, and Eritrea, highlighting the current humanitarian situations as well as UNHCR's response. Also discussed were UNHCR's efforts in contingency planning and preparedness.

## Eritrean Refugee Response

### TIGRAY

UNHCR partners resumed operations in the two camps of Mai Ani and Adi Harush following an improvement in the security and access into the region as well as UNHCR's selection of new partners. Innovative Humanitarian Solution (IHS) commenced child-friendly space activities and established child protection community-based structures including child welfare committees and children's clubs in both camps. UNHCR's partner Rehabilitation and Development Organization (RaDO) resumed functions at the rehabilitation center and took in nine persons living with disabilities. RaDO also conducted home visits to persons with specific needs to conduct care assessments.

Refugees continue to receive protection counselling at the reception centre in Mekelle. Since its inception in March 2022, over 120 refugees and asylum-seekers have accessed these counselling services. The main and recurring protection issues raised during the protection counselling include the lack of food and absence of registration and identity documentation. The refugees have expressed unwillingness to return to the refugee camps in Mai Aini and Adi Harush.

During the week of 16 May, UNHCR met with 156 households of the Eritrean community in Mekelle. Many are asylum-seekers including some that had crossed to seek family reunification after the border opened in 2018. Of the total, some 102 households have one or more specific need, and 20 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) were identified among them. UNHCR plans to provide cash assistance to these households and support with family reunification where possible.

### AFAR

Heavy rainfall and storms in Afar destroyed most of the unoccupied tents in Serdo refugee site. UNHCR, together with partner Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA), have expedited the construction of the planned 1,000 weather friendly shelters to accommodate the refugees.

On 11 May, UNHCR relocated all the 665 IDPs living in the Semera Industrial Park to the Agatina IDP site, following sensitization activities which included a site visit together with community leaders. UNHCR provided transportation to IDPs, transported their belongings, and facilitated the relocation process. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Afar Regional Police is being drafted to establish clear mechanisms and responsibilities and enhance the protection and safety of the IDPs.

## AMHARA

As of 30 May, the Eritrean refugee population in Alemwach stood at 11,130 individuals, most of whom have relocated themselves from the camps in Tigray. Over 4,400 individuals were registered in one month and additional refugees are expected to arrive. Efforts have been made to ensure all refugees on the site have access to shelter upon arrival.

On 31 May, UNHCR and Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) launched the relocation of refugees from the Haik Turkish site in Dessie city. The first convoy of 55 refugees out of the 127 living in the site arrived in Alemwach on 01 June. UNHCR continues the verification of the refugees and plans the relocation of the 72 remaining refugees in coordination with RRS soon. The Haik site also hosts 1,989 Tigrayan IDPs whose movement is highly restricted.

The Head of the UNHCR Shire Sub-Office met with refugees from the Mai Tsebri camps who are living in Alemwach, to understand the difficulties encountered during their transit as well as their most pressing needs. During the discussions, refugees expressed concerns about fellow refugees still in Tigray who are unable to make their way to Alemwach due to different vulnerabilities (elderly, disabled, pregnant women) or because they cannot afford to pay their way. The refugees were reassured of UNHCR's efforts to ensure that refugees are relocated from Mai Aini and Adi Harush in a safe and dignified manner. UNHCR is also exploring with RRS the best option to relocate these refugees.

In collaboration with the RRS, a UNHCR-UNICEF mission was organized in the Alemwach site under the Blueprint for Joint Action initiative which aims at enhancing access for refugee children, their families, and host communities to essential services in the key areas of education, water, sanitation and hygiene, and child protection. The aim of the mission was to identify key priorities in the four sectors of WASH, Education, Child Protection, Health and Nutrition to better respond to the basic needs of refugees and host communities following the settlement approach. The key findings of their mission will be presented to UNICEF, UNHCR and RRS management for further deliberations.

## BENISHANGUL-GUMUZ REGION

Protection services continue to be provided to Persons with Specific Needs, including psychosocial support. Psychoeducation and awareness were conducted for four family care givers while five refugee women received mental health support in the RRS health center. Additionally, during the week of 16 May, child therapy sessions were conducted for 15 refugee children and awareness sessions on protection topics were also provided to 62 individuals, including 40 women.

To enhance social empowerment and build savings and credit capacities of refugee women, UNHCR and partners provided safe kits and saving passbooks to fifteen self-help groups for savings and loans purposes. Each of these groups comprises of 15 to 25 refugee women who contribute 10 to 25 Ethiopian birr (ETB) on a weekly basis. The programme will allow them to access small loans without collateral.

New enrolments into the Tsore Aremula general secondary school are currently progressing with additional 96 (50 girls) refugee students enrolled during the first week of June, bringing the total to 358 (105 girls) students. There is, however, a need to improve the water facilities in the school since potable water is unavailable and students are leaving classes in search of drinking water.

To better address the deforestation challenges around Tsore refugee camp, UNHCR, RRS and partner NRDEP (Natural Resources Development and Environmental Protection) formed a task force to implement different environmental initiatives such as the engagement with local authorities to initiate a tree planting campaign aligned with the "Green Legacy" initiative.

## Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

In May, UNHCR met with the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) to review the human rights situation of IDPs notably at Semara and Agatina IDP sites in Afar region to collect data on basic security concerns and other human rights issues, including movement restrictions. EHRC will continue advocating for an end to the violations with the Disaster Prevention and Food Security Coordination Office (DPFSCO) and Police Commissioner and through focus groups discussions with IDPs in the two sites.

IDPs continue to arrive in Debre Birhan in Amhara region from Western Shewa in Oromia and East Wolega. As of 3 May, the two IDP sites, China camp and Woynshet paper factory, hosted more than 20,320 IDPs (6,786 households). In Woynshet paper factory, UNHCR and partners distributed solar lamps to IDP representatives for use in communal shelters since the electricity is yet to be installed in the newly constructed shelters. Another 139 IDPs benefited from community outreach sessions held at both IDP sites.



**Protection:** Following the agreement to start relocating IDPs from Industrial Park and Semera IDP sites to Agatina IDP site, UNHCR is coordinating with the DPFSCO and the Police Commissioner to seek clarity on the security guards requested to provide protection for the IDPs. UNHCR drafted an MoU detailing the roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders supporting the relocation exercise. Local partner, the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) has begun sensitization campaigns on the relocation among IDPs as well as identification of people with specific needs.

In Amhara region, UNHCR established two protection desks in Haik and Kutabaro through partner EECMY. The establishment of four other protection desks are underway in Maken Salam, Dagan, Jara, and Dalenta IDP sites. These protection desks are planned to target the most heavily populated areas with IDPs in South and North Wollo. Following the heavy rain on 29 April, a shelter assessment indicated that 1,986 of 3,537 shelters constructed in Sabacare 4 IDP site in Mekelle need urgent repairs. UNHCR and partner Action for the Needy in Ethiopia (ANE) began maintenance work. A total of 16,350 IDPs have been relocated to Sabacare 4 since September 2021 and are currently living in the site. Relocation from different schools in Mekelle is also ongoing.

In Sheraro, UNHCR's partner International Rescue Committee (IRC), alongside International Medical Corps (IMC), reached 882 IDPs from 17 IDP sites with awareness-raising sessions on gender-based violence (GBV) root causes, consequences, and benefits of early reporting.



**Shelter and Non-food Items:** UNHCR assisted 5,893 IDPs in Debre Berhan during the second week of May with relief items. Warm clothes were distributed to 3,885 individuals in the Woynshet paper factory and Kebele 03 IDP sites; 1,984 women received dignity kits in the China camp and Woynshet sites; 24 IDPs received solar lamps for night lighting in the new hangers in paper factory.

UNHCR and Development Expertise Center (DEC) began to provide core relief items to newly arrived IDPs and returnees in north and south of Wollo, targeting 23 Woredas and targeting 34,755 individuals (6,981 households). A total of 7,040 IDPs (1,408 households) have benefited.

During the week of 16 May, UNHCR received core relief items and emergency shelters in Mekelle, including 1,700 family tents, 5,000 plastic sheets and 5.4 metric tons of medical supplies to support IDPs and refugees in Tigray. On 18 May, UNHCR, through partner DEC, provided NFIs to 1,535 individuals (526 households) in Hawelti IDP site in Mekelle, all of whom were vulnerable IDPs severely impacted by the conflict in Tigray.

Following a relocation in Afar of 665 Tigrayan IDPs living in Semera Industrial Park to Agatina IDP site, the Protection Cluster distributed energy biscuits to all the IDPs living in the site, and a food distribution scheduled

for the last week of May by ICRC. UNHCR is also in discussions with WFP and partners for urgent provision of food going forward.



**Camp Coordination and Camp Management:** On 25 – 26 May, UNHCR, in collaboration with the National CCCM cluster, organized a CCCM training in Dessie to capacitate the newly deployed UNHCR CCCM partner DEC to North Wollo, South Wollo and North Shewa with basic CCCM skills. The training was attended by twenty participants including nine women and allowed for a shared understanding of roles and responsibilities of site management, in accordance with international principles and standards. The training further aimed at developing awareness and competence in using guidelines and tools to contribute to effective responses in displacement sites.

On 20 May, a total of 1,769 IDPs (308 households) were relocated by authorities, Protection and CCCM clusters from two collective centers to the new planned Ex-UNIME site in Adigrat. The cluster also provided a basic CCCM capacity building training to partners and local authorities in Adigrat. A total of twenty-five participants, including twenty participants from the local authorities attended the training.

## Sudan Response

Amidst growing concerns that a major offensive may resume in western Tigray, the Ethiopia Contingency Plan is being reviewed. Currently, Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah are full, and despite several months of advocacy, no additional land to accommodate more refugees has been made available by the State authorities. As a backup plan, Babikri camp, which currently hosts some 2,500 Ethiopians of Qemant origin, is being prepared to receive any additional refugees from Ethiopia in a separate annex with a capacity for up to 18,000 people.

Between 11 – 18 May, a total of 152 Ethiopian refugees (55 households) arrived in the Blue Nile region via the Manchaleng border point and were registered and relocated to Camp 6, with NFIs, food, and shelter packages provided to them. A total of 171 individuals also arrived at the Gedaref-Tallia border and will be transferred to Babikri camp once the ongoing assessment along the Tallia border by the Commissioner for Refugees (COR) is completed. The recent inter-communal fighting at the Tsore Refugee Camp in Benishangul Gumuz has resulted in a significant increase in Sudanese refugee returnees arriving at the Blue Nile, Kurmuk border point. According to current estimates, up to 1,500 individuals moved to Kurmuk as of 16 May. The Commissioner for Refugees (COR), UNHCR and partners have been supporting the emergency response activities including registration, verification, protection, NFI assistance, and transportation to the return areas. An interagency response plan is also being activated.

In Gedaref, 42 new arrivals were recorded in May who entered Sudan via Taya (29), Hamdayet (8) and Gallabat (5). In Blue Nile State, 878 new arrivals were recorded in May.



**Protection:** Some 1,647 refugees have returned from Tongo and Gure-Shembola camps in Ethiopia. Some of the refugee returnees told UNHCR that they had initially moved to Tsore camp but subsequently decided to return to Sudan due to limited services in the camp. So far in 2022, a total of 3,461 individuals have returned from Ethiopia. Of the total number of refugee returnees, 148 are South Sudanese. The increase in returns and arrivals in Blue Nile could also be due to people hurrying to move before the start of the rainy season, which will cut off the border area for several months.

The participatory assessment data collection activities begun in Babikri and continued in Tunaydbah. Gender-based violence (GBV), child protection, education, community participation, livelihoods, and other services such as health and WASH were identified as thematic areas for the focus group discussions. This participatory assessment in all Ethiopian refugee camps is scheduled to end on 15 June.



**Camp Coordination and Camp Management:** Pre-disaster kits continue to be distributed in refugee camps with 2,450 kits distributed in Tunaydbah and 553 in Babikri. WFP has issued contracts for the rehabilitation of access roads to Tunaydbah (El Fao-Tunaydbah and Mafaza-Tunaydbah). The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) also begun the construction of two communal shelters in Babikri and in Tunaydbah as a contingency measure, in the event of destruction of family shelters.

In Blue Nile's camp 6, UNHCR, COR, and ACTED, are conducting a joint assessment on refugee shelters that have recently been damaged due to the strong winds/storms. The affected families will receive new tents or have their existing tents and Tukuls repaired.

## KENYA

### NEW ARRIVALS AND BORDER DYNAMICS

**Kakuma and Kalobeyei:** By the end of May, a total of 55 Ethiopians were residing in the Kakuma and Kalobeyei reception centers (47 in Kakuma and 8 in Kalobeyei), most of whom cited insecurity as the main reason for seeking asylum.

**Daadab:** UNHCR legal partner Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) continues to conduct border monitoring exercises and reported the arrival of over 40 Ethiopians during the month of May, who came through the Wajir and El Wak border points and reported to have arrived in Kenya in search of economic opportunities and food. Since the beginning of the year, 348 Ethiopians have been recorded to have crossed into the country through the Mwingi, Mandera, El Wak and Wajir border areas, including 12 asylum-seekers.

## SOMALIA

### NEW ARRIVALS AND BORDER DYNAMICS

In May, UNHCR and partner Legal Clinic continued to conduct weekly border monitoring missions along the Ethiopian border. Joint border monitoring missions have been conducted at Baligubadle and Goryo-Awal border with Ethiopia and indicate that the situation at the border remains calm, and no movements have been recorded of persons in need of asylum in Somaliland.

During the last week of May, UNHCR Dollow, through the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), recorded 196 individuals crossing the border between Ethiopia and Somalia. 81 individuals were outgoing to Ethiopia and 132 were incoming to Somalia. Between Kenya and Somalia, 320 individuals were recorded to have crossed the border, with 155 individuals departing to Kenya, whereas 165 individuals were entering Somalia. The reasons for movement were cited as conflict and drought.

## SOUTH SUDAN

### NEW ARRIVALS AND BORDER DYNAMICS

UNHCR and the South Sudan Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA) are discussing *prima facie* recognition of Ethiopians who are fleeing conflict in Ethiopia. This would not include the former Ethiopian peacekeepers who sought asylum in South Sudan who will undergo separate RSD procedures.

The total number of registered Ethiopian asylum-seekers in the Upper Nile (Maban) region is currently at 220 individuals. Based on the interviews conducted by CRA and UNHCR on 23 May, the asylum-seekers stated that they came from Ethiopia's Southern part of the Tigray region in Allamata and described that the area had been destroyed by war and people are starving due to lack of food, especially in the areas of Allamata, Maisho, Khoram Makwani in Southern Tigray, and Mikel, Shire, Adigrat, Aksum, Umrah, and Ezra in the Northern part of Tigray.



**Protection:** Upper Nile (Malakal): The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) protection team conducted Spontaneous Refugee Returnee monitoring in the border crossing points in Kieckun, Burebiey, Kuich, Nyengore and Doma of Ulang Nasir, Longechuk and Maiwut Counties. The team recorded 535 individuals (320 females and 215 males) refugee returnees.

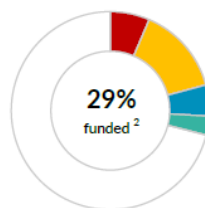
Upper Nile (Malakal): The integrated team of UNHCR CCCM/Protection in collaboration with ADRA and the local authorities in Nasir distributed NFIs to 105 (85 females and 20 males) most of whom were vulnerable households in Nasir town. The beneficiaries were identified by ADRA in coordination with the community leaders based on the Persons with Specific Needs' (PSNs) selection criteria. UNHCR worked closely with ADRA to screen and determine the vulnerability of the selected PSNs.

## Funding Overview



FUNDING UPDATE | 2022

**\$205.4 million**  
 UNHCR's financial requirements 2022 <sup>1</sup>



**ETHIOPIA  
 EMERGENCY**  
 as of 7 June 2022

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

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

	Unearmarked	Softly earmarked	Earmarked	Tightly earmarked	Total
Japan	-	-	9,240,000	-	9,240,000
European Union	-	-	-	250,498	250,498
Other private donors	-	76,767	-	-	76,767
<b>Sub-total</b>	-	<b>76,767</b>	<b>9,240,000</b>	<b>250,498</b>	<b>9,567,265</b>
Indicative allocation of funds and adjustments	6,330,008	10,351,695	20,261,088	12,983,493	49,926,283
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,330,008</b>	<b>10,428,462</b>	<b>29,501,088</b>	<b>13,233,991</b>	<b>59,493,548</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 country. The contributions earmarked for Ethiopia Emergency 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 83.7 million | Sweden 5.8 million | Private donors Australia 3.7 million | Switzerland 3.6 million | Republic of Korea 2.9 million | Netherlands 2.6 million | Private donors Germany 2.6 million | France 2.1 million

Japan | Luxembourg | Norway | Spain | UN Peacebuilding Fund | UN Programme on HIV/AIDS | Private donors

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

Sweden 99.3 million | Norway 72.5 million | Netherlands 37.2 million | Denmark 35.6 million | Private donors Spain 32.7 million | Germany 27 million | Private donors Japan 21.8 million | France 18.5 million | Switzerland 18.4 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 16.4 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Ireland 11.8 million | Italy 10 million

Algeria | Armenia | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Kuwait | Liechtenstein | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Saudi Arabia | Singapore | Thailand | Turkey | Uruguay | Private donors

#### Notes:

- The financial requirements of the Ethiopia Emergency include requirements in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan.
- The percentage funded (29%) and total funding amount (\$59,493,548) are indicative based on the methodology described above. This leaves an indicative funding gap of \$145,928,340 representing 71% of the financial requirements.
- Contributions to the Ethiopia Emergency are shown by the earmarking modality as defined in the Grand Bargain.
- Due to their earmarking at a related region, sub-region, country or theme, the other softly earmarked contributions listed are those which can potentially be used for the Ethiopia Emergency. Where a donor has contributed \$2 million or more, the total amount of the contribution is shown.
- 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>

Follow us on @UNHCRgov

## Contacts

**Joyce Wayua Munyao-Mbithi**, Senior Donor Relations Officer, Regional Bureau for the East, Horn of Africa and Great Lakes, Nairobi - [munyao@unhcr.org](mailto:munyao@unhcr.org)

**Kabami Kalumiya**, Reporting Officer, Regional Bureau for the East, Horn of Africa and Great Lakes, Nairobi - [kalumiya@unhcr.org](mailto:kalumiya@unhcr.org)

**Natalie Ndunda**, Reporting Associate, Regional Bureau for the East and Horn of Africa, and the Great Lakes, Nairobi - [ndundan@unhcr.org](mailto:ndundan@unhcr.org)