

Ethiopia has continued to witness conflict and drought-induced displacement throughout the reporting period. Throughout the course of the three months, the security situation in Oromia, Benishangul-Gumuz, and Gambella regions has deteriorated triggering further displacements. Inter-Agency assessments and protection monitoring reports have shown that continued conflict and intercommunal violence have impacted the wellbeing of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), IDP returnees, and other vulnerable populations, leading to growing unemployment and socio-economic disparities. Conflict over scarce resources and climate effects remain largely unaddressed in those locations.

UNHCR continues to collaborate in the Government-led Inter-Agency response to the plight of the forcibly displaced, in line with its 2022-2026 strategic directions focussing on the following three areas of intervention:

1. Provide quality protection support and services to Internally displaced persons (IDPs).

2. Address basic needs of IDPs through shelter, core relief items and camp management activities enhancing their protection.

3. Support IDPs in achieving a durable solution of their choice to their displacement.

Overview

UNHCR is present across the nine IDP-hosting and provides ad hoc response in other parts of the country as necessary. In coordination with its partners, UNHCR has reached over 1.373,536 million people over the last three months, including through protection services, distribution of material assistance and shelter interventions.



Dignity kits (sanitary pads, underwear, and soap) were provided to 30,558 IDP women and girls of reproductive age in Afar, Amhara and Tigray, in coordination with Camp Coordination Camp Management (CCCM), WASH, Shelter/Non-Food Items, Protection monitoring and GBV sectors, also, in Northern Ethiopia, UNHCR identified through vulnerability screening, monitoring and rapid assessment of IDPs, over 12,190 persons with specific needs for targeted assistance

Detailed Operational Response

Amhara region

- Over 406,853 IDPs benefitted from protection services, provided through UNHCR protection desks, protection and detention monitoring, group discussions, mental health and psychosocial support, and material assistance (such as core relief items, dignity kits and emergency shelter support).
- UNHCR conducted a series of capacity-building sessions within the Amhara region, benefitting government officials, partners and IDPs to enhance understanding of the rights of IDPs, improve protection support and ensure adequate and quality interventions.
- To meet the increasing shelter needs, UNHCR pitched 16 communal shelters in Zarema, 24 in Kulichmeda, 35 in the new Tirkir site in Sekota, eight in Gerado and two large communal shelters near Woinshet paper factory for the newly arriving IDPs from Oromia region and 120 communal shelters in Jara site. Furthermore, cash assistance was provided to 440 households in Kelala for the repair of their damaged houses.
- UNHCR scaled up its GBV response. Through 17 sessions engaging 204 men in GBV prevention, UNHCR created awareness of GBV and understanding of existing power imbalances, inequalities, root causes, contributing factors, and impacts of GBV in the community. Participation of men was ensured in the sessions in order to understand their attitudes, knowledge, and beliefs that are the root causes and contributing factors to different forms of violence in the community.

A single mother of 4 in the Weleh site, Sekota (Amhara)

“My children and I walked for 12 hours from Tsagdje to Sekota, and we slept in the streets. I am grateful for the shelter and the blankets we have received protecting us from the very cold weather”,

Tigray region

- UNHCR and its partners reached over 635,782 IDPs and returning IDPs with protection services, shelter, core relief items and other forms of assistance. UNHCR is strengthening its CCCM response to bring the 53 it manages sites to an acceptable standard; already communal shelters are being disaggregated by gender, shelters are being upgraded in Hitsats, trench excavation is ongoing in Hibret IDP site to prevent flooding while three communal kitchens, equipped with 48 electric injera baking stoves, and connected the national power grid are benefiting 5,120 IDPs of the 7,000 in the Selekleka IDP site.
- Additionally, UNHCR has facilitated voluntary returns of 35,000 IDP from different parts of Tigray to their area of origin in central, north-western, and eastern zones of the region. IDPs willing to return received CRIs and transportation in the form of cash (CBI). A Post Monitoring return mission conducted in Samre, Mekelle allowed UNHCR to assess the IDP reintegration process and challenges.

Afar region

- UNHCR and its partners reached over 227,328 IDPs with various forms of assistance. For better protection and assistance, UNHCR relocated 738 Tigrayan IDPs to the new site at Agatina, in Samara. Since November 2021, approximately 9,600 persons of Tigrayan ethnicity (7,755 adults and

A former trader woman who lost all her savings hidden under the floor of her house in Berhale (Afar)

“Our shops and houses have been totally looted, but we are happy to be back home! We need your support to restart our livelihood activities,”

1,854 children) have been relocated by Afar authorities to two IDP sites (Samara IDP site and Industrial Park).

- Additionally, UNHCR donated three motorcycles to the local authorities to facilitate access to 175,270 IDPs in various areas of Afar. Between April and June,
- UNHCR and partners conducted multi-sectoral assessments in 10 IDP sites across Afar (Harsuma, Guya, Afdera, Dubti, Abala, Erebt, Koneba, Megale, Berhale), reaching 435,000 IDPs and returnees through focus group discussions.

IDP Mother of six children at Gidhibka IDP site in Jigjiga Suburbs (Somali).

“My family had to share jerry cans for water collection with my fellow IDP families who UNHCR assisted in the recent past, but today, I received two jerry cans and a bucket among other items. It will help my family to collect and store water. Leaving everything behind, it was not dignified to move around in search of a water container and borrow it from my IDP neighbours who also have equal needs considering the little assistance they received in the recent past”

Gambella region

- UNHCR, and its partners assisted over 609 IDPs with protection services while providing training to partners’ staff on pertinent on protection (Humanitarian & protection principles, protection monitoring & Tools, Protection mainstreaming, IDPs & Challenges they face, major causes of internal displacement and guiding principles on internal displacement etc.)

Wollega zone of Oromia region and Kamashi zone of Benishangul-Gumuz regions,

- Over 51,289 IDPs benefited from protection interventions through free legal aid, assistance to GBV survivors, psychosocial counselling, case management, community dialogue and reconciliation, and material assistance.
- UNHCR and its implementing partners organized a series of capacity building training on peace building and reconciliation, humanitarian principles, CP/GBV, HLP rights, and the Kampala Convention benefitting local government counterparts, IDPs and members of host communities. Through protection cluster UNHCR advocated with the authorities to address some protection and sectoral gaps in the IDP response.

“After being displaced from Begi woreda (West Wollega) I lost my husband. I was on the verge of losing my husband’s properties, but the legal aid officers represented me and my children at court. I and my children received the inheritance and private properties.”

West Guji and Gedeo zones of Oromia and SNNP regions,

- UNHCR and its partners supported over 19,867 IDPs and IDP returnees with protection counselling, legal aid and awareness-raising, referrals, GBV support, targeted assistance, and capacity building training.
- Through partners, 119 women-headed households and persons living with various disabilities benefited from multipurpose cash support as well as provision of goat and sheep as livelihoods support.

32-year-old IDP Returnee, Yirgachefe woreda, Gedeo zone.

“The day I was visited by the social worker was a turning point in my life; thanks to the support I received; my children now have food on the table and access to school.”

UNHCR’s field office Dire Dawa

- Reached over 14,454 IDPs, returning and relocated IDPs with protection services. Additionally, three village community banking (VICOBA) groups have been established in SITI zone Somali region, Jeedhane relocation sites, to fund income-generating activities as well as to address the members’ urgent protection concerns. The three groups have 261 members in total and have been able to save ETB 87,600 from various income generating activities.

- The operation is currently constructing 100 durable shelters for those who have returned to their areas of origin. The second phase of the construction cycle for 50 shelters in West Hararge Gumbi Boredee woreda has been completed, and the third phase of construction for 50 shelters in the SITI zone's Jeedhane relocation site has begun (building a wall with split wood), which will be followed by mud plastering.

37 IDP Women at Jeedhane

"I felt like I was born again when I got this two-room house that is more than enough for my children." Conflict caused damage to my home. I lost everything. I had been subjected to extreme weather as well as wild animal attacks and perpetrators."

Somali region Jijiga area

- UNHCR continues to respond to the needs of IDPs displaced by conflicts and drought, reaching over 16,388 with emergency lifesaving core relief items consisting of plastic sheets, jerrycans, kitchen sets, laundry soap, heavy duty buckets, mosquito nets, blankets, solar lanterns, dignity kits and winter clothing. Additionally, to extend access to water to IDPs affected by drought and surrounding host communities, UNHCR provided trucked water in Qoto-roble of Kebribeyah woreda, Aw-barre and Gidhibka IDP site in the suburbs of Jijiga city.

In Melkadida,

- UNHCR assisted over 2,935 IDPs with protection counselling and established Community Conflict Resolution Committees (CCRC) in all 7 IDP sites, while strengthening the committees in Filtu, Bifeta 2, and Bokolow IDP sites.

Benishangul Gumuz region

- UNHCR and partners assisted over 6,159 IDPs with protection counselling, shelter, CRIs, specialized wheelchair support, CCCM services including basic protection training to government counterparts, and reconciliation dialogue.

"UNHCR and partners have provided us shelter and NFIs. Give us livelihood support so we do not depend on the government to provide us food, supply that comes once in 6 months."

UNHCR is grateful for the contribution to the UNHCR Ethiopia IDP Operation in 2022**For further information, please contact:**

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