Ethiopia

December 2022

Ethiopia is the third largest refugee hosting country in Africa, generously sheltering over **880,000** refugees, mainly from South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea and Sudan. The majority are women and children who need special care and attention.

UNHCR is a key partner in the government-led Inter-Agency response to the plight of IDPs, leading the **Protection** and co-leading the **Camp Coordination & Camp Management** (CCCM) Clusters. UNHCR is also active in the Shelter/NFI, Logistics and Health Clusters.

UNHCR is supporting people affected by conflict & the worst drought in **40 years**. It's also helping the government & communities to build resilience against natural hazards, such as recurrent droughts and flooding.

KEY INDICATORS

2.5M IDPs reached with protection & multi-faceted assistance in 2022.

180,000 refugees are attending pre-primary, primary, secondary, and tertiary education.

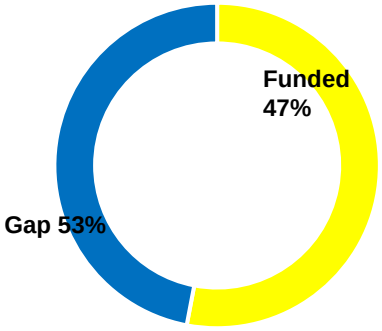
50,000 IDPs in Northern Ethiopia assisted to voluntarily return home.

18% of all camp-based refugees have access to alternative cooking energy.

FUNDING (AS OF 29 DECEMBER)

USD 335.3 million

requested for Ethiopia



Registered Population **882,276**

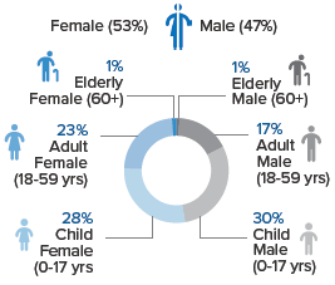
Households **208,119**

880,056 Refugees | 2,220 Asylum seekers

4 Average family size

Country of origin & Demography

	Individual	%
South Sudan	409,621	46%
Somalia	251,895	29%
Eritrea	162,993	19%
Sudan	48,693	5%
Kenya	4,034	
Yemen	2,476	
DR Congo	1,060	
Syrian Arab Republic	668	
Other	836	
Total	882,276	



Children (0 -17 yrs) 513,921 (58%)

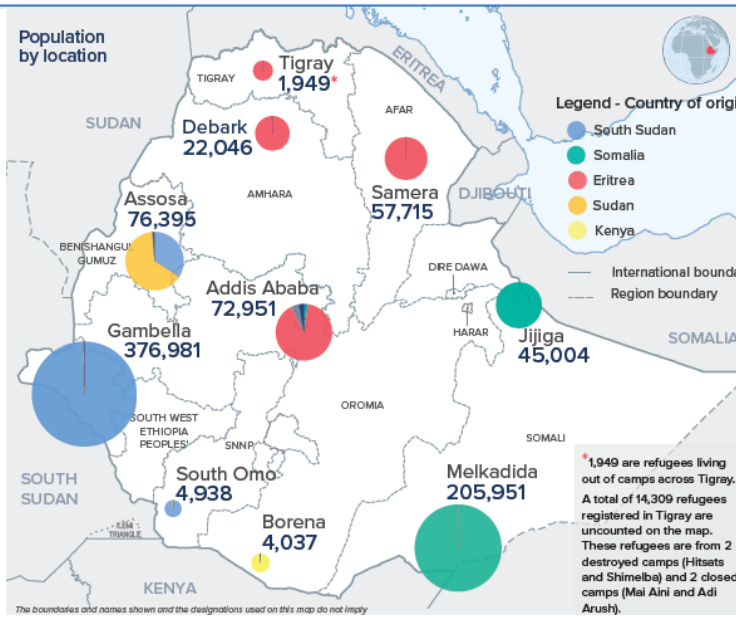
Women & Children 727,722 (82%)

Persons with Disabilities 2,261

Adolescents and Youth (12-24 yrs) 296,567 (34%)

Women (18-55 yrs) 197,688 (23%)

Unaccompanied and Separated Children 40,674



Operational Context

Conflict, drought, inflation, and high food prices have had a cumulative devastating humanitarian impact across the country, driving millions into displacement. According to the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) latest Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), there were 2.73 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 1.88 million returning IDPs in the country, all of them requiring urgent humanitarian support and solutions[1]. The two-year conflict in Northern Ethiopia has been the major cause of displacement and has put more than 9 million people in Tigray, Afar and Amhara regions in need of urgent humanitarian assistance. While new displacements continue in several parts of Ethiopia, UNHCR is encouraged by the AU-led peace agreement between the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) which has ended active combat in Northern Ethiopia and led to the gradual restoration of services and humanitarian operations in Tigray. In the Oromia, Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' (SNNP) and Somali regions, UNHCR is responding to the humanitarian needs of IDPs and host communities that have been impacted by the worst drought to hit the regions in 40 years.

Notwithstanding its internal challenges, Ethiopia is home to over 880,000 refugees and is providing protection and services to those in need. The country is also creating conditions for self-reliance and inclusion of refugees in national development plans and services, such as health and education. UNHCR is working with government partners, development actors, international financial institutions, donor countries, the private sector and others to engage in long-term socio-economic investments in refugee-hosting areas, benefitting both refugees and the communities hosting them.

Main achievements

PROTECTION

Protection support to over 2.3 million IDPs in Ethiopia: In 2022, UNHCR provided multi-faceted assistance to **2.5 million** internally displaced persons (IDPs) throughout the country, including **2.3 million** who benefitted from protection and solutions-related support. Shelter kits and core relief items were distributed to over **1 million** IDPs, and some **50,000** were assisted to voluntarily return to their homes. Additionally, UNHCR distributed dignity kits to more than **155,000** women and girls, while over **15,000** received mental and psychosocial health services. Close to **100,000** received cash assistance to help them meet some of their urgent basic needs.

16 Days of Activism: UNHCR and its governmental and non-governmental partners commemorated the '16 days of activism to end Gender-Based Violence' (GBV), across the refugee camps and sites as well as in Addis Ababa, under the global theme, "**UNITE! Activism to end violence against women and girls**". The campaign also pushed awareness raising messages around several special days such as World Aids Day, International Day of Persons with Disabilities, and International Human Rights Day. Activities held included mass awareness raising, such as through 'coffee and tea' discussions, voluntary HIV/AIDS testing, capacity building sessions, panel discussions, sports events as well as hiking and recreational activities. In Ethiopia, conflict, climate change, and displacement increase the risks of Gender-Based Violence for refugee and displaced Ethiopian women and girls. UNHCR continues to provide survivors with medical, psychosocial, and legal support. The publication of UNHCR's first national GBV assessment report coincided with the campaign period and the findings will help strengthen our GBV mitigation measures.

Mainstreaming Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (**MHPSS)**: A gap analysis on mainstreaming MHPSS services into child protection strategies and action plans was completed. Aimed at mapping the current MHPSS Minimum Service Package (MSP) and identifying gaps in implementation, the process involved Child Protection and MPHSS Focal Points from Assossa, Melkadida, Jigjiga, Gondar, Gambella and Addis Ababa. The results, which revealed a compliance rate of 94%, will be used to create a "roadmap" to cover the gaps and prioritize activities for mainstreaming MHPSS services into child protection programming.

[1] *The number of IDPs and IDP returnees don't include those in Tigray region due to access constraints at the time of data collection.*

EDUCATION

School enrollment: As of December 2022, almost 180,000 refugees have been enrolled in different levels of education, including 48,617 in pre-primary, 111,776 in primary, and 15,539 in secondary schools. Over 4,600 others have been attending their tertiary education in different parts of the country under the scholarship programmes offered by the governments of Ethiopia and Germany (DAFI).

Inclusion of refugees in national education system: UNHCR has continued to work closely with the Ministry of Education, Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) and the World Bank to ensure the inclusion of refugees into the national education system in line with the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and relevant commitments by the Government of Ethiopia. As a pilot, the transfer of three refugee secondary schools in the Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella and Somali regions to the administration and management of the respective Regional Education Bureaus has started and will continue in 2023.

HEALTH

Basic healthcare: UNHCR, RRS and partners continue to provide basic health services for refugees, including in urban locations. The overall health status of refugees has remained stable with no disease outbreaks recorded during the reporting period.
Immunizations: In the Gambella and Jijiga camps as well as Alemwach site, UNHCR and partners provided immunizations to more than **20,700** children during the month. They include measles vaccination, Vitamin A supplements and deworming medication.

Donation of vaccine refrigerators: In December, UNICEF donated five vaccine refrigerators to UNHCR for use in the five refugee camps in the Melkadida area of the Somali region. The electric and solar-powered refrigerators are expected to improve the vaccine efficacy and the cold chain system of the health centers.

Support to drought-affected communities: In response to a cholera outbreak in Kersadulla and Guardhamole localities of the Somali region, UNHCR provided support to the authorities to reduce the impact of the epidemic on the communities, including those displaced by the worst drought in decades. Resources provided by UNHCR helped train health workers on cholera outbreak management, facilitated monitoring missions by technical teams from the regional office in Jijiga and contributed to mass awareness activities to stop the outbreak.

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Nutrition programmes: In 2022, UNHCR and partners provided nutrition support to refugees and asylum-seekers in 41 nutrition centers established across 21 refugee camps and sites. During the year, some 40,000 children have been admitted and treated for acute and moderate malnutrition, while over 200,000 children under the age of 5, and over 140,000 pregnant and lactating women have been enrolled in the Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programmes (BSFP) to prevent deterioration in their nutrition status.

Nutrition surveys: UNHCR conducted annual nutrition surveys in different refugee camps and sites, as well as in the host community area adjacent to the Alemwach site in Amhara. The findings reveal an increase of the Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate to 15.5% from 12.2% in 2021. The Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) rate rose to 2.9% from 1.8% in 2021. The worsening nutrition situation is due to the combined effects of ration cuts, global economic shocks, COVID-19 and conflict. As of December 2022, due to generous donor support, the monthly food ration for refugees has increased from 50% to 84%, improving the nutritional status of refugees. However, this level can only be maintained until March 2023, and there remains a need to find solutions for the high levels of food insecurity at both the immediate and long-term.

Support to drought-affected communities: In response to the worst drought hitting a large part of the country, UNHCR has scaled up support to affected communities in the Oromia, Somali and Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's (SNNP) regions. It includes cash support to the most vulnerable families to address their urgent basic needs; a pilot wheat production in Melkadida to enhance food security in the area, as well as the promotion of income generating activities through the distribution of goats in the Oromia region.

WATER AND SANITATION

Water supply: UNHCR and its partners have continued to provide sustainable water supply for refugees across the country through an effective management of water systems and the maintenance of associated infrastructure. However, owing to several factors, including population growth, technical challenges and resource constraints, the average daily potable water supply per person remains low at 15 liters against the minimum standard of 20 liters. During the year, the water systems in Bambasi and Shedder refugee camps have been solarized, reducing operational cost and the adverse impact diesel-operated generators would have on the environment. The solarization of the systems has also ensured uninterrupted delivery of water for refugees and surrounding host communities in the two locations.

Sanitation: The sanitation coverage in the refugee camps and sites remains low at 40% against the minimum standard of ≥ 85%, calling for more investment in this area. Emergency Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services have continued to be provided in Alemwach, Serdo and Tsore (extension). This involved construction of emergency latrines and extension of water points and pipeline networks.

R-WASH validation workshop: On 12 December, a high-level validation workshop was held in Addis Ababa for the project Support for the Implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees in Ethiopia (S4G). Organized by GIZ and attended by senior officials from the Ministry of Water and Energy, the Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS), the Somali Regional Water Development Bureau, the German Development Bank (KfW), UNHCR and UNICEF, the workshop participants discussed and validated a comprehensive action plan for the S4G project to support the German-funded R-WASH project in the Somali region. Upon completion, the project will see refugees, IDPs and host communities benefit from integrated water supply in line with the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) through a utility-based water system. As part of S4G, GIZ has brought on board a GCR Advisor to facilitate the realization of the R-WASH project, including through improving coordination between and among the different actors, piloting a training and qualification program, setting up a knowledge management mechanism, awareness creation for refugee-inclusive national systems, and the development of a sustainable approach for the utility. S4G is commissioned by the German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

Support to drought-affected communities: In response to the worst drought hitting a large part of the country, UNHCR and its partners are improving water systems in the Somali region, rehabilitating shallow wells in Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's (SNNP) region, and distributing water containers and soap and setting up latrines in the drought-affected regions. In Filtu woreda of the Somali region-one of the worst impacted by the drought-UNHCR in partnership with UNICEF is working to improve the water supply system in the area, benefitting over 167,000 IDPs and host communities in the area.

SHELTER AND CRIS

Shelter for refugees: UNHCR and partners constructed and maintained over 10,400 shelters for refugees in 2022, including 8,000 emergency and over 2,500 transitional shelters. Nevertheless, the shelter gap remains wide, with 60% of the refugee households continuing to be accommodated in emergency and old and overcrowded transitional shelters, which can lead to protection risks, such as GBV. More resources are needed to improve the shelter coverage and enhance the safety and protection of refugees. Most of the emergency shelters were used to accommodate new arrivals and relocated refugees in camps and sites in the Somali, Gambella, Afar, Amhara and Benishangul Gumuz regions.

Shelter for IDPs: During the last quarter of 2022, UNHCR and partners provided shelter support and Core Relief Items (CRIs) to over 400,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Afar, Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Tigray, Oromia, SNNP, Gambella and Somali regions. Overall, in 2022, UNHCR provided CRIs and shelter support to over 1 million IDPs, returning IDPs and host communities affected by conflict, drought, and flooding, improving their safety and protection. UNHCR's intervention represents 30% of the 3.5 million people reached by the Emergency Shelter/Non-Food Items (ES/NFI) Cluster.

ACCESS TO ENERGY

Cooking energy: Together with RRS and Regional Government, UNHCR secured more than 8,000 tons of eucalyptus fuel wood for distribution to refugees in the Benishangul Gumuz region for cooking purposes. This will enhance the protection and wellbeing of refugees, particularly women and girls, by avoiding the need for them to travel long distances to collect firewood, which often exposes them to protection risks. Three additional communal

kitchens in camps in the Afar and Benishangul-Gumuz regions were connected to the national power grid electricity, benefitting more than 300 households.

Solarization & tree planting: The health centers in Ngunyyiel camp and in Itang, Gambella were solarized, helping them to provide efficient health services to 110,000 refugees and 20,000 host communities. During the year, more than 830,000 indigenous and fruit tree seedlings were raised and transplanted across all refugee camps and hosting communities as part of environmental rehabilitation and natural resource management. UNHCR expressed its support for the Green Legacy Ethiopia initiative by participating in a tree planting at Gulele Botanic center in Addis Ababa.

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

Inclusive development activities: In the Somali region, UNHCR and RRS, with support from IKEA Foundation, continued to promote inclusive long-term development and climate adaptation through investments in the agriculture, livestock, and energy sectors. Over 50 cooperatives have been supported in 2022 benefitting over 2,000 refugee and host community households. The agriculture and livestock cooperatives generated over **USD$300,000** during the last production season. In the Benishangul-Gumuz region, over 12,000 refugees and members of the host community have accessed employment through agriculture initiatives during the year. Similarly, in the Gambella region, local authorities have made available 300 hectares of agricultural land for use by refugees and host communities.

Refugee Artisans: In collaboration with JRS, refugees from Eritrea, Burundi and the DRC were supported to produce artisanal products that were also distributed to donors and partners as part of a holiday gift. UNHCR is working with partners to facilitate market access for the artisans, including through MADE51, UNHCR's innovative, market-based model that promotes economic inclusion of refugees in global value chains.

Microcredit for Refugee led businesses: UNHCR and its partner Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) have conducted a mapping of refugee-led small enterprises in Addis Ababa to identify those eligible for a credit support in 2023. A local microfinance provider and a bank have also been identified to help provide credit facilities for over 50 refugee-led enterprises during the new year. Women-led enterprises will be prioritized to ensure gender parity.

DURABLE SOLUTIONS

Resettlement: Facilitating resettlement as a protection tool and durable solution remains UNHCR's top priority in Ethiopia. In 2022, UNHCR submitted 3,150 refugees for resettlement, successfully meeting the quota-based target for the year. 338 refugees departed to their resettlement destinations, including 68 who left in December. 251 others were supported to be reunified with their family members in Canada and Europe. UNHCR also assisted two students to travel to the University of Barcelona in Spain where they were awarded scholarships. Approximately 1,200 cases are still pending due to delays in the issuance of exit visas.
Voluntary return: In 2022, UNHCR provided cash assistance to 285 former Ethiopian refugees who mostly returned home on their own from several countries, including Sudan and Yemen. The support is meant to help them reintegrate with the communities while they rebuild their lives.

Working in partnership

Together with its main government counterpart, the Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS), UNHCR coordinates the response to the refugee situation in the country, extending protection, providing assistance and promoting sustainable solutions. UNHCR works closely with 80 partners in the refugee response and is part of the Humanitarian Country Team, where refugee programmes are discussed strategically to ensure their needs are adequately presented and addressed across the UN System. UNHCR builds on well-established coordination fora, including the inter-sector Refugee Coordination Group together with national and regional sectorial working groups. Committed to pursuing refugee inclusion in national services and economies, as per the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), UNHCR is furthering partnerships with Ethiopian line Ministries, regional and local authorities, development partners and the private sector.

UNHCR is an active part of the government-led Inter-Agency response to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), leading and co-leading the Protection and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Clusters, contributing to the shelter and non-food items clusters, and strengthening sub-national coordination with better information sharing and communication. It distributes emergency aid supplies and related support to IDPs and IDP returnees across the country.

Financial situation

Ethiopia's is one of UNHCR's 12 most important operations globally that have suffered severe underfunding as reflected in the 2022 Underfunded Report. As of 29 December, it has received **USD 177.4 million**, representing only **53%** of the requirements. UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors that have contributed to its work, as well as those that have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked or broadly earmarked funds.

Contributions to the UNHCR Ethiopia Operation in 2022

USA |Germany| Japan| Denmark| United Arab Emirates | Netherlands| IKEA Foundation| European Union| Italy| Canada| Spain| Education Cannot Wait| Country-based Pooled Funds| "la Caixa" Banking Foundation| France| Sweden| Ireland| Austria| Switzerland| Band Aid| Republic of Korea| UNO-Fluechtlingshilfe| Luxembourg| Iceland| UN Children's Fund| UN Foundation| UN Programme on HIV/AIDS| Coop Italia| UPS Corporate| Laboratorios Vinas| Norway| Other private donors.

Other softly earmarked contributions in 2022

United States of America 29.3 million | Private donors Germany 19.7 million | Private donors Australia 12.2 million | Canada 7.8 million | Private donors USA 7.4 million | Private donors Spain 2.7 million | Germany 2.4 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 2.2 million France

Unearmarked contributions in 2022

Sweden 99.3 million | Norway 72.5 million | Private donors Spain 72.1 million | Private donors Japan 59.1 million | United Kingdom 40.1 million | Netherlands 37.2 million | Denmark 35.6 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 34.4 million | Private donors USA 29.9 million | Germany 24.4 million | Japan 21.7 million | Private donors Italy 19.2 million | France 18.5 million | Switzerland 18.4 million | Private donors Canada 13.6 million | Private donors Sweden 13.3 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Ireland 11.8 million | Italy 10 million

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