

East and Horn of Africa, and the Great Lakes Region

October-December 2022



Odette waves goodbye to her sister as she leaves Kiziba camp in Rwanda for resettlement in Norway.

KEY FIGURES (AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2022)

4.92M Refugees and Asylum-seekers
13.49M Internally Displaced Persons
166,383 Refugee Returnees in 2022

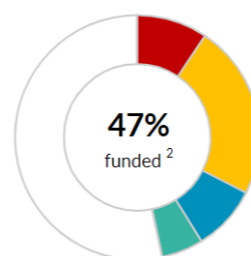
REFUGEES & ASYLUM SEEKERS TOTALS BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

South Sudan	2.21 M
D.R. Congo	783,923
Somalia	616,589
Sudan	352,972
Eritrea	330,195
Burundi	281,105
Other	162,468
Ethiopia	151,464
Rwanda	26,619

FUNDING UPDATE (AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2022)

USD 1.9 Billion

2022 financial requirements for the EHAGL region



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

**EAST HORN AND
GREAT LAKES**
as of 29 December 2022

OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

The East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes (EHAGL) region is host to some **4.92 million refugees and asylum-seekers**, as at the end of December 2022. The region also has 13.49 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) mostly in Ethiopia, Sudan, Somalia, South Sudan, and Burundi, displaced due to both conflict and natural disasters. A total 166,383 refugees returned to their countries of origin in 2022.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

SITUATIONAL UPDATES

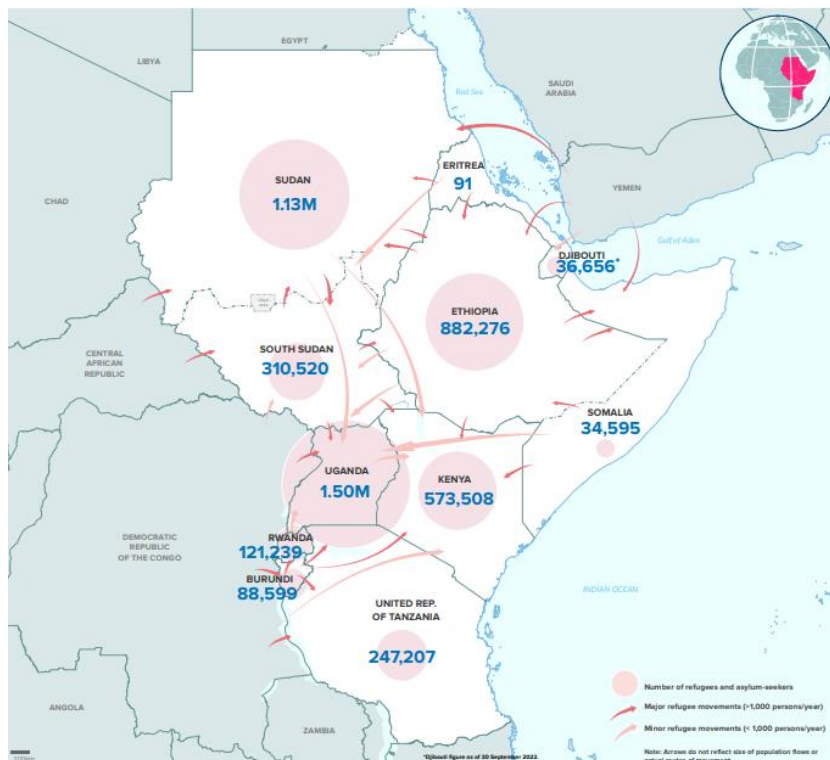
DROUGHT SITUATION: The Horn of Africa region continues to experience the longest and most severe drought on record, threatening the lives of millions. Relentless drought and high food prices have weakened many people's ability to grow crops, raise livestock and buy food. The food insecurity situation in drought affected areas is expected to persist in 2023, driving high humanitarian needs throughout the year, with a high likelihood of a sixth failed rainy season in March-May 2023. Harvests have yielded little and water sources have dried up. As conditions continued to worsen, hundreds of thousands of people have been forced to flee in search of water, pasture and assistance.

According to UNHCR's [latest dashboard](#) of displacement affected populations, by the end of December 2022, some 1.70 million had been internally displaced in Somalia and Ethiopia, while over 93,000 refugees have crossed borders from Somali and South Sudan into drought affected areas of Kenya and Ethiopia this year.¹

UNHCR's High Commissioner [undertook a mission to Kenya and Somalia](#) from 19-25 October to bring attention to critical requirements and funding gaps in the region. He called on global leaders to spare no efforts in assisting countries in the Horn of Africa to break the cycle of conflict and climate crises. In Galkacyo, Somalia, the High Commissioner met families who had trekked for days to reach displacement sites and heard stories of survival, such as leaving behind loved ones or selling their assets to feed their children, and the particular consequences for women and children. In Kenya, the High Commissioner visited refugees in Dadaab and Kakuma, meeting with local and county authorities, host community members and partners. In Dadaab, the High Commissioner saw first-hand how the drought is impacting refugees and host communities alike, and the particularly difficult situation for new arrivals. The High Commissioner met with the Presidents of both Kenya and Somalia and expressed UNHCR's commitment to supporting the countries to pursue solutions for those who have been displaced.

UNHCR will release an updated regional drought appeal for 2023. In June 2022, UNHCR released a regional [Drought Response Emergency Appeal for the Horn of Africa](#), requesting US\$42.6 million for the remainder of 2022 to address critical humanitarian needs for some 1.5 million refugees, internally displaced people and local host communities affected by the drought in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia. By the end of the year, UNHCR had received approximately 48% of the requested amount, based on earmarked and unearmarked contributions to the three countries.

Somalia is at the epicenter of a climate emergency that is showing little signs of abating and is uprooting lives and livelihoods of millions. Five consecutive below par rainy seasons, brought about by climate change, has resulted in the longest drought the country has witnessed in more than 40 years. According to the UNHCR-led [Protection and Return Monitoring Network \(PRMN\)](#), the catastrophic drought displaced close to 1.2 million in 2022 (with additional displacement caused primarily by conflict). Thousands of Somalis have also fled to neighbouring countries to seek assistance. Many people have lost their livelihoods and their coping capacities have been stretched too thin to recover from the drought. The situation is further compounded by persistent insecurity and armed conflict, soaring food prices, and extreme poverty. These multiple shocks have exacerbated protection risks and pre-existing inequities.



¹ The nearly 50,000 new Somali arrivals to Kenya in 2022 are part of a larger group of 100,00 who arrived in the last few years and are in urgent need of shelter and other services.

UNHCR's Special Advisor on Climate Action undertook a four-day visit to Somalia between 11-14 December on the invitation of the Director of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD)'s Center of Excellence for Climate Adaptation and Environmental Protection. UNHCR with work with IGAD and other relevant stakeholders on the development of a regional climate adaptation strategy to pave the way for sustainable climate action engagements to build the resilience of affected populations.

In **Ethiopia**, the drought conditions continue to affect the lowland areas in the south and south-east of the country, where the crisis is having a devastating impact on the lives and livelihoods of pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities. In the three most drought-affected regions of Ethiopia, (Somali, Oromia and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNP)) UNHCR is prioritizing 763,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 304,000 refugees and host community members for immediate response. The vast southern reaches of Ethiopia, which border Kenya and Somalia, are on the frontline of this crisis. The people who live in places such as in the Borena Zone in Oromia region on the border with Kenya are now heavily reliant on humanitarian aid. As of December 2022, an estimated 12 million people remained food insecure, while nearly 9 million people have been targeted for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) assistance across the drought-affected areas, according to OCHA.

In **Kenya**, on 21 November, UNHCR joined the Kenyan Government in launching the [drought flash appeal](#) alongside the county and national government and other state and non-state actors in Garissa County. The event included the Kenyan Deputy President, the UN Resident Coordinator, and local area MPs, aimed at raising funds to support the drought affected ASAL (Arid and Semi-arid Lands) counties. In November, UNHCR, together with UNICEF and WFP took part in advocacy meetings with the regional County Commissioner and the Garissa Governor on matters of security and drought interventions, including on the new influx from Somalia and the subsequent re-opening of the former Ifo 2 refugee camp as a new integrated settlement.

NORTHERN ETHIOPIA SITUATION:

Ethiopia: The situation in Tigray through the months of November and December, remained calm as humanitarian agencies begun to gain access to some of the areas that had been inaccessible since August 2022. Regular UNHAS flights to Shire and Mekelle resumed in November, allowing greater possibilities to bring in urgently needed relief items. Road movements from Mekelle to Shire were finally cleared for humanitarian partners in early December, seeing the return of UN Agencies and NGO staff to Shire. The first convoy



In November, UNHCR Representative in Ethiopia meets with internally displaced people near Mai Tsebri in the Tigray region of Ethiopia. The country has an estimated 4.7 million internally displaced people (IDPs), including nearly 2 million IDP returnees, largely resulting from drought, the conflict in northern Ethiopia and localized conflicts in different parts of the country. © UNHCR/Ameha Berhe

arrived on 9 December, led by the Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator. Between 22 and 24 December, 103 trucks left Mekelle to reach Adwa and Axum.

[These humanitarian movements](#) followed the signing of the "The Declaration of the Senior Commanders on the Modalities for the Implementation of the Agreement for Lasting Peace Through a Permanent Cessation of Hostilities," on 12 November. The agreement includes four elements, including the Permanent Cessation of Hostilities, Disarmament of Tigray Armed Combatants, Protection of Civilians and Delivery of Humanitarian Aid.

On 1 November, UNHCR and the Refugee and Returnee Service (RRS) jointly facilitated the first accompanied relocation of refugees to Amhara from the Mai Tsebri camps in Tigray (Adi Harush and Mai Aini) since the start of the conflict in November 2020. UNHCR was able to relocate a total of 7,080 individuals. The Alemwach site in the Amhara region now hosts 22,286 refugees. Shelter, core relief items and food have been provided for all refugees. Medical and nutrition screening of relocated refugees continued with Medical Teams International (MTI). The newly relocated refugees also received mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) as well as medical referrals.

In Afar, UNHCR and partners supported RRS and the regional authorities to identify and relocate Eritrean refugees who had been secondarily displaced due to the conflict to Serdo, Semera, Logya and other locations in the region. Some 26,000 Eritrean refugees were registered in different locations in Afar prior to the conflict. The first convoy returning refugees to the Berhale camp, which had been caught up in the conflict in [add month and year], departed from Semera and Logya on 8 November. By the end of the exercise

in mid- November, UNHCR and partners had relocated more than 900 people from Semera and Logya to Barahle. UNHCR provided cash assistance to all the refugees and IOM distributed high energy biscuits and diapers.

UNHCR continued to advocate for more conducive conditions in the affected regions, including restoring critical services such as banking and telecommunication in order to operate more effectively and efficiently.

Sudan: In November, during a three-day visit to Gedaref in Eastern Sudan, UNHCR's Representative to Sudan visited Tunaydbah and Um Gargour camps and held discussions with Ethiopian refugee leaders and youth on the recently signed agreement on the cession of hostilities and the prospects of return. Overall, the refugees' posture in all three camps – hosting some 55,000 refugees - is to "wait-and-see" and to monitor developments in their home country closely. Refugees expressed concerns about security, human rights violations and potential challenges to access essential supplies such as food and medicine, particularly in small villages and remote areas. The Representative indicated to the refugees that UNHCR will be working with relevant stakeholders to help refugees obtain information about the situation in Northern Ethiopia to enable them to make informed decisions about returns. Moreover, UNHCR will closely monitor the situation in the camps for any indication of pressure on refugees to return and at the border areas for any spontaneous returns. Refugees in all three camps indicated that the international community should guarantee the safety of refugees upon their return. The refugees also noted a preference for an organized facilitated return by UNHCR and returnee monitoring. These exchanges with refugees also continued during the month of December 2022.

BURUNDI SITUATION: By the end of December 2022, countries in the Great Lakes Region were host to 323,658 Burundian refugees. The country has experienced relative political stability since the political transition in May 2020 and the overall political, working environment and security situation have improved.

The voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees continued, with a total of 21,788 Burundian refugees being assisted to return home in 2022. Since 2017, UNHCR and partners have facilitated the voluntary repatriation of just over 207,000 Burundian refugees. Upon arrival of returnees in their areas of return, UNHCR and its partners conduct follow-up activities to review their level of reintegration. Monitoring data indicates a low capacity of returnees to access basic social services, which makes some refugees in countries of asylum reluctant to return. Despite efforts by the Government of Burundi with support from humanitarian and development actors, access to housing, land, and employment remains a major challenge. For example, over 70 percent of returnees are not satisfied with their level of food security. However, there have been improvements in the security and justice sectors (land dispute resolution) compared to previous years.

In the lead-up to the High Commissioner's Protection Dialogue, the Government of Burundi and UNHCR organized a high-level roundtable in Bujumbura on 2 November 2022, attended by UNHCR's Deputy High Commissioner. The roundtable was an opportunity to shore up support for the return and reintegration of Burundi refugees. The [roundtable's outcomes document](#) identifies 3 key areas of recommendations: a) To strengthen institutional coordination mechanisms; b) The need to leverage the technical and financial support of development cooperation actors and c) to pursue regional approaches, including by developing a Regional Roadmap for Comprehensive Solutions for Burundian Refugees for the gradual and phased approach to promotion of returns to Burundi. The Deputy High Commissioner [urged for increased international support](#) to areas and communities where Burundian refugees are opting to return home.

Following the high-level roundtable, UNHCR has worked with the Resident Coordinator and sister UN agencies to draft terms of reference for a Burundi Reintegration Fund that would be a special window of the existing Multi-Partner Trust Fund. A donor briefing was convened in Geneva in December on the margins of the High Commissioner's Protection Dialogue to discuss opportunities to support Solution for Burundi refugees through increased support to sustainable reintegration.

SOUTH SUDAN SITUATION: The South Sudanese refugee population, the largest in the region, remain extremely vulnerable. There are 2.27 million in camps, settlements, and urban areas living in precarious conditions, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the looming drought and food insecurity situation. After nearly a decade of conflict and despite efforts toward implementing the peace agreement, South Sudan continues to grapple with sporadic violence, chronic food insecurity and the devastating impact of major flooding. 6.8 million people need urgent life-saving aid within the country due to armed conflict, localized violence, dramatic flooding, worsening food insecurity and economic destabilization.

Escalating armed conflict in South Sudan's Upper Nile state has displaced at least 20,000 people since August 2022, including some 7,000 of whom have already fled to neighbouring Sudan. The armed conflict erupted in the village of Tonga in Upper Nile on 15 August 2022. Violence has since spread further in Upper Nile, northern parts of Jonglei and Unity states, including threatening the town of Kodok.

In November, UNHCR's Representative led the first inter-agency visit to the village of Adidiang since it was attacked on 7 September, with some 4,000 civilians who had been sheltering there forced to flee to Malakal and its site for internally displaced people under the protection of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). The site was originally set up nearly 10 years ago to host up to 12,000 internally displaced people but some 37,000 are accommodated there – already overcrowded before the

recent arrivals. Survivors of the Adidiang attack reported that dozens were killed or wounded, while others drowned in the river when trying to escape the attack. UNHCR also led a further interagency mission to Diel in Jonglei. Contingency plans were revised in December in Ethiopia, Sudan and Uganda to brace for new influxes due to the worsening situation in Upper Nile.

SOMALIA SITUATION: At the end of December 2022, there were 686,368 Somali refugees in neighbouring countries. Somalia is also host to 34,595 refugees and asylum-seekers, mainly from Ethiopia, Yemen and Syria. The security situation in Somalia remained tense and unpredictable resulting in fatalities, injuries, and displacement within the country. The armed conflict between the coalition of Somali National Army (SNA), local clan militias, and international security partners against the non-state armed group continued on multiple fronts, including Hiran, Middle Shabelle, and Galgaduud regions.

According to the [UNHCR-led Protection and Return Monitoring Network \(PRMN\)](#), more than 1.8 million individuals have been displaced internally within Somalia in 2022 - a staggering increase from 2021, when some 874,000 Somalis were internally displaced. The significant increase can be attributed to the worsening drought conditions in Somalia and the region. The vast majority, some 65% of the newly displaced in 2022 were displaced due to drought. The displaced families faced multiple protection risks and identified food, shelter, livelihoods, health, and water as their priority needs. More information can be found on the new online portal for the UNHCR-led Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN) <http://prmn-somalia.unhcr.org/>.

On 5 December, the UNHCR Deputy Representative delivered a Keynote Address on the opening day of a three-day Somalia National Dialogue on Forced Displacement, which was sponsored by the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and co-facilitated by the National Commission for Refugees and IDPs (NCRI) and Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation (MoIFAR). The workshop's objective was to reflect on the state of forced displacement in Somalia and the existing policy and institutional frameworks in light of the changing and emerging contexts and global trends and frameworks; review the progress of the implementation of the regional and global commitments under the Nairobi Declaration and its thematic areas, the pledges on the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), and the Global Refugee Forum (GRF); identify good practices, opportunities, and areas where Somalia requires further support in responding to forced displacement; and build synergies and strengthen collaboration between development and humanitarian actors in addressing forced displacement.

In December, UNHCR Somalia received two boat movements carrying a total of 303 Somali refugee returnees in Berbera arriving from Yemen through the Assisted Spontaneous Return (ASR) programme. All movements were conducted in partnership with the National Commission for Refugees and IDPs (NCRI) in Mogadishu, and the National Displacement and Refugee Agency (NDRA) in Somaliland, while ground and air travel from Berbera to Mogadishu was supported by IOM. Since 2017, UNHCR and IOM have collaborated to support 6,007 Somali refugees to return home from Yemen through the ASR programme. In addition, five other self-managed boats carrying 32 Yemeni refugees and 14 spontaneous Somali returnees were also received in Berbera port.

COUNTRY UPDATES

ETHIOPIA: Ethiopia is the third largest refugee-hosting country in Africa, sheltering over 882,276 refugees by the end of December 2022, mainly from South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea and Sudan.

At the beginning of December, UNHCR published a national [assessment report](#) on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in the refugee camps and sites in Ethiopia, which has helped to identify harmful norms, understand barriers to services for GBV survivors as well as risks of sexual exploitation and abuse. The findings revealed that GBV and the underreporting of GBV cases remain the priority concerns requiring urgent attention. The assessment, which also covered Accountability to Affected People (AAP), will better support evidence based GBV interventions. In addition, its findings will inform programming and planning at the national, regional, and field levels.

During the last quarter of 2022, UNHCR and partners provided shelter support and Core Relief Items (CRIs) to over 400,000 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.

The Gambella region is highly prone to flood hazards occurring every year usually between August and October due to several characteristics, including the land's topography, excessive rain in neighboring regions and overflow of major rivers. Floods occurred in August 2022 and continued through October 2022, affecting 11 out of 14 woredas and Gambella town (regional capital) and has displaced 37,040 households/185,200 individuals and affected 15,927 households/79,631 individuals across Gambella region. Assessment missions found that homes and infrastructures have been damaged and destroyed, the livelihood of people impacted, crops damaged and livestock killed by the floods. UNHCR has been providing CRIs and shelter support for the displaced whose homes have collapsed due to heavy wind and rain.

There are a limited number of service providers to the IDP response in Gambella as most are responding to the refugee situation, due to the high number of South Sudanese refugees in the Gambella region. The lack of residence ID/Kebele ID for identifying beneficiaries in need of assistance is a big challenge to humanitarian partners. The Gambella Sub-National Protection Cluster has however developed a one-pager on recommendations to manage challenges in the delivery of assistance to IDPs without identity documents in the region.

KENYA: As of 31 December 2022, Kenya was host to 573,508 registered refugees and asylum-seekers including 233,661 in Dadaab and 248,929 in Kakuma Refugee Camp and Kalobeyei Settlement. A further 100,000 new arrivals to Dadaab in recent years who were profiled for assistance were pending formal registration. Most refugees and asylum-seekers are from Somalia and South Sudan, with smaller populations from DR Congo, Ethiopia, Burundi, Sudan, Uganda, Eritrea, and Rwanda.

UNHCR Dadaab hosted the visit of the Kenyan Commissioner for Refugee Affairs and the UNHCR Representative to Kenya, from 14-16 December. The visit provided an opportunity to discuss the registration of new arrivals living on the outskirts of the existing camps and the establishment of a new settlement at Ifo 2, a camp that had been closed in 2016. During a meeting with the refugee leaders, the Commissioner termed the living conditions of the new arrivals as a “human catastrophe”.

In Kakuma and Kalobeyei in Turkana, the Reception Centres witnessed an influx of new arrivals towards the end of 2022, predominantly from South Sudan and Burundi, on account of drought and other factors. There is also an increase in the number of onward movers, predominantly Burundi refugees travelling from Uganda through Busia and Malaba border points, and from Tanzania through the Sirare border point. In separate interviews, the Burundian onward movers cited their reason for onward movement to Kakuma from Uganda due to food insecurity. The cases from Tanzania cited a harsh and restrictive protection environment. The Burundians said they are unwilling to return to their country of origin due to a lack of integration prospects, land, insecurity and enforced disappearances. New arrivals from South Sudan and Ethiopia, as well as onward movers of Burundian nationality, are stretching resources in Kakuma and Kalobeyei Reception Centres.

On 12 December, Kenya's President [announced](#) that the Government will initiate modalities to recognize the Pemba people as citizens of Kenya. The registration and issuance of individual citizenship documentation will enable the Pemba to fully contribute to Kenyan society and access their fundamental human rights on par with other nationals. This includes access to education, health care, social protection, financial services and the formal labour market.

UNHCR, together with partners, will continue providing technical and operational support to the Government to ensure stateless populations are registered as Kenyans and are able to swiftly obtain



Laila Rashidi, a 48-year-old mother of 10 from the Pemba community in Kenya collects a birth certificate for her son. © UNHCR/Charity Nzomo

documents, including birth certificates, registration certificates, and national IDs. Kenya has recently made important strides in efforts to resolve statelessness by recognizing as citizens thousands of other previously stateless people, including those from the Makonde and Shona communities and others of Indian descent. This latest decision reinforces the Government of Kenya's commitment to fulfil its pledges made at the [High-Level Segment on Statelessness in October 2019](#).

RWANDA: Rwanda hosted about 127,000 refugees and asylum-seekers at the end of December 2022. The population of concern includes mainly persons from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (60%) and Burundi (40%). About 91% of refugees in Rwanda are hosted in refugee camps.

Due to fighting in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) since October, asylum seekers from the DRC have been fleeing to Rwanda's eastern province. In December, UNHCR received 1,112 Congolese individuals at the Kijote Transit Centre (TC). The asylum seekers were subsequently transferred to Mahama refugee camp. UNHCR continues to work with the Government of Rwanda and partners to provide food and core relief items to all new asylum seekers. UNHCR also continues to identify gaps in the response and procure items not available in storage. The new arrivals in Mahama underwent nationality assessments conducted by the Ministry in charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA), Directorate-General of Immigration and Emigration (DGIE) and the National Id Agency (NIDA).

Between 19-21 December, UNHCR supported a cross-border mission of Burundian government officials to Rwanda, led by the Government of Rwanda. The aim of the mission was for the Burundian Government to better understand the interests of Burundian refugees in Rwanda to return. The delegation was led by the Burundian Permanent Secretary of Internal Affairs together with the governors from Kirundo, Kayanza and Bururi, the Director General in charge of repatriation, as well as the First Secretary and Military attaché from the Burundian Embassy in Rwanda. The delegation met with Burundian urban refugees in Kigali and camp-based refugees in Mahama refugee camp.

In December, UNHCR continued to support Burundian refugees to return home as part of the durable solutions sought for Burundian refugees in Rwanda. On 14 December, the 13th convoy successfully repatriated 76 Burundian refugees. In 2022, UNHCR repatriated a total of 932 Burundians, and 30,457 Burundians have been repatriated since August 2020.

UNHCR Rwanda received the 12th Evacuation Convoy from Libya on 15 December. This was the fifth evacuation flight to Rwanda in 2022, bringing the total number of evacuations for the year to 629 people (the highest number in one year since the inception of the Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM) in 2019). The flight in December consisted of 174 refugees and asylum seekers aged between one month old and 70 years from six different nationalities: Eritrea (82), Sudan (57), Ethiopia (23), Somalia (7), Guinea (4) and South Sudan (1). Since 2019, a total of 1,453 refugees and asylum seekers have been evacuated from Libya. As of beginning of December 2022, 809 refugees from the ETM had departed for resettlement. There are currently 665 refugees and asylum seekers awaiting durable solutions in the ETM.

On 5 December, UNHCR, MINEMA and the World Bank held the Jya Mbere (Social Economic Inclusion of Refugees and Host Communities) joint Discussion Series, the first of a series on development responses to forced displacement. The Discussion Series, which were introduced by the UNHCR Representative and the Minister of MINEMA, was attended by over 100 participants and featured presentations on the social and economic impacts of refugees on host communities. The event was followed by a weeklong mission with UNHCR, MINEMA and the World Bank team responsible for the Jya Mbere project to UNHCR Huye Field Office and Kigeme refugee camp to discuss the implementation and progress of the Jya Mbere project with the Government. During the mission, the delegation met with the Nyamagabe District authorities, who expressed appreciation for the Jya Mbere project's long-term investment in socio-economic infrastructures and environmental protection, as well as the capacity building of the local institutions to better serve both refugees and host communities.

SUDAN: Sudan hosts one of the largest refugee populations in Africa and by the end of December 2022 hosted over 1.1 million refugees. South Sudanese refugees make up the majority of the population, while others have fled violence and persecution in neighbouring countries, including Eritrea and Ethiopia. Most refugees (62%) live in out-of-camp settlements, host communities and urban areas, while others (38%) stay in 24 camps (10 in East Sudan, 1 in Blue Nile State, 10 in White Nile State, 2 in East Darfur State and 1 in Central Darfur State). In addition, the country has a total population of 3.7 million internally displaced, mostly in the Darfur region that has experienced a volatile security situation for almost two decades.

UNHCR and UNDP, as co-chairs of the North Darfur Area-Durable Solutions Working Group, supported the North Darfur State Ministry of Finance, Economy and Manpower to convene a three-day Durable Solutions workshop in El Fasher from 5-7 December. The workshop brought together representatives from the North Darfur State Government and Line Ministries, UN Agencies, NGOs and INGOs to present, discuss and validate the draft North Darfur Durable Solutions Strategy, conduct a prioritization exercise to guide government planning to achieve durable solutions objectives, and identify areas of support and collaboration from UN agencies and NGOs. The workshop resulted in validating the draft strategy and drafting of 'action plans' for priority durable solutions interventions. Following the workshop, UNHCR and UNDP will work with the above mentioned Ministry to refine the action plans and explore how international organizations in North Darfur can complement and support the priority activities.

Seasonal rains in White Nile state have caused widespread devastation with the rivers overflowing since October 2022. Following the longest rainy season - July to October - people in White Nile state have struggled with flooded areas that have displaced over 1,350 families. In addition to displacement of people and destruction of homes, floods in Sudan often contribute to regional food insecurity by killing livestock and damaging crops.

Fighting in South Sudan's Upper Nile state has seen the recent arrival of some 7,000 South Sudanese into Sudan. Over 2,000 South Sudanese refugees have arrived in South Kordofan and some 5,000 have arrived in White Nile state. UNHCR in South Sudan and Sudan are in close contact to monitor the situation. UNHCR and the Commissioner for Refugees (COR) have been leading the

response and coordinating protection activities, including biometric registration, provision of hot meals, accommodation, protection monitoring, border monitoring and the relocation of the new arrivals from the border. Upon arrival in the camps, they are provided with basic services including shelter. In South Kordofan, all the new arrivals in Al Leri locality have been registered by UNHCR and COR.

One of the key outcomes of the Sudan Livelihoods strategy (2023-2025) is to promote a whole of society approach for inclusion of refugees into existing livelihoods opportunities and services through engagement with the private sector and other partners to facilitate access to markets, investments, finance, jobs, skills, and services. On 4 October, UNHCR Sudan and the Regional Bureau organized a workshop with the private sector in Sudan with the aim to explore the context, challenges and opportunities. The workshop also aimed to identify key private sector partners and other stakeholders for continuous engagement when implementing livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions for refugees and asylum seekers. UNHCR also held separate discussions with the Minister of Labour who wanted to introduce the work of the Ministry especially on research linked to labor markets and entrepreneurship and explore enhancing the Ministry's engagement with UNHCR. It was observed that the main barriers to advancing financial inclusion are the prevalence of extreme poverty, where refugees, IDPs and the host population have very limited income, and high exposure to shocks, including climate related disasters. The second major barrier is the ongoing sanctions on Sudan, which makes the Central Bank of Sudan (CBOS), and the commercial banks extremely risk averse to expanding services to the lower income market. Advancing financial inclusion for the people we serve in Sudan will not be possible without looking at the entire population and working with all stakeholders on financial inclusion at the policy level, practitioners' level, financial education level, and financial products that target displaced persons as well as the Sudanese low-income market.

SOUTH SUDAN: South Sudan hosted a total of 310,000 refugees and asylum-seekers by the end of December 2022, mainly from Sudan and the DRC and has over 2.2 million IDPs. Additionally, about 2.3 million South Sudanese are refugees in the neighbouring countries of Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Sudan and Democratic Republic of Congo.

Between 21-25 November, UNHCR in South Sudan facilitated a mission of 11 donor partners (including Belgium, Canada, European Union, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Saudi Arabia and USA). The objective of the mission was to bring donors to witness the multiple challenges faced by South Sudan, as well as the opportunities in areas where refugees are returning. Donors visited various refugee, IDP and returnee sites in Jamjang, Mangala and Torit. They also held meetings with government counterparts including Commissioner for Refugees, The Directorate of Civil Registry, Nationality, Passports and Immigration as well as local authorities in the localities visited.



In Old Fangak, Jonglei State, South Sudan, two children cross an abandoned and partially submerged village using an old canoe. ©UNHCR/Samuel Otieno

Donors were able to see the complexity of the issues in assisting refugees and displaced persons in South Sudan and observed the degree of aid dependency in the country. The visit also highlighted the need to make difficult prioritization decisions when responding to so many different people in need.

To enhance access to quality education for refugees, UNHCR and the World Bank conducted a field assessment mission to Maban. The assessment focused on the functionality of government Teachers' Training Institutes (TTIs), the roles of the government in the education of refugee, and political and community sensitivities in relation to access to education. Refugee and host community education stakeholders in Maban recommended the need for teachers' remuneration and the establishment of teachers' training institutes in refugee hosting areas to promote human capital and as well boost education quality.

South Sudan **fac**ed **record-breaking rains and floods** for a fourth consecutive year, with two-thirds of the country experiencing flooding. Over 900,000 people have been directly impacted as waters have swept away homes and livestock, forcing thousands to flee, and inundated large swathes of farmland, worsening an already dire food emergency. Boreholes and latrines have been submerged, contaminating water sources and risking outbreaks of diseases. UNHCR has scaled up its support to vulnerable populations in hard-to-reach areas of South Sudan through mobile protection response teams. However, many roads have been inaccessible and alternative means of transport are scarce.

Bentiu, the capital of Unity State continued to be completely surrounded by floodwaters. All roads in and out were impassable and only boats and the airstrip served as lifelines for humanitarian aid to reach 460,000 people already displaced by a mix of both flooding and conflict. Camps for internally displaced were below the water level, and protected from floodwaters only by dikes – large, compacted mounds of earth – erected by the United Nations, the government, and the inhabitants themselves.

In Malakal, the ongoing floods have continued to cause a new wave of displacement in Wadakona, Pigi and Canal areas. Coupled with the insecurity situation, movements of humanitarians to assess the affected population to provide humanitarian service has significantly decreased. Needs are surging for food, shelter, water and sanitation supplies as stocks of basic items are running out. South Sudan is also one of UNHCR's most underfunded crises having received less than half of the US\$214.8 million needed in 2022. Underfunding has prevented UNHCR from increasing support to internally displaced people, including flood response and mitigation.

TANZANIA: By December 2022, Tanzania hosted 247,207 refugees and asylum-seekers, mainly from Burundi and the DRC and most reside in the Nduta and Nyarugusu refugee camps in the country's Kigoma region.

The operation received a first “come-and-tell” mission to Tanzania from 28 November to 1 December 2022 by authorities from Burundi. The mission's objective was to inform refugees in Tanzania on the current conditions in return areas in Burundi and to strengthen information sharing. The mission was led by the Deputy Minister of Interior and Rural Development, and other seven Senior Government officials including Governors of Gitega and Rutana Provinces, the Director of Repatriation, Inspector General of the National Police and the Acting Consular General. The delegation was accompanied by ten former Burundian refugees from Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, and Rwanda. The Burundian delegation held mass meetings with the refugees in both camps and questions and answers sessions, where they provided a detailed briefing on the return conditions in Burundi, especially on security, livelihoods, education, shelter, land-related matters, and other public and social services. The former refugees also shared their experiences about their return to Burundi. The information shared is expected to help Burundian refugees to make an informed decision on voluntary repatriation.

UNHCR handed over newly constructed schools and latrines at Nyanzaza (Kasulu), Maloregwa (Kibondo) and Nyanzige (Kakonko) – in Kigoma region, with the participation of the office of the Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS) and Kigoma Regional Education. One of UNHCR's Global Compact for Refugees' key objectives is to ease the pressure on host communities, and these new classrooms will support the districts in providing quality education to students and create a better teaching environment for teachers. These schools and latrines are part of the commitment by the UNHCR Representative towards the Regional Commissioner of Kigoma in 2021, to support the expansion of school infrastructures among host communities in the areas receiving refugees.

UNHCR supported the Africa Chapter of the International Association of Refugee and Migration Judges (IARMJ) to hold a Regional Conference in Arusha, Tanzania. The theme of the conference was access to asylum and justice. The conference, which took place from 16-18 November, was preceded by a two-day intensive training where delegates discussed issues related to access to asylum, refugees, statelessness, the right to nationality and forced internal displacement. The participants to the conference, who came from other African nations and beyond, were mainly judges, magistrates, officials involved in the refugee adjudication process, refugee experts/ researchers and members of the academia plus representatives from the Ministry of Home Affairs - Refugee Services Department Tanzania. Closing remarks from the Deputy Minister of Constitutional and Legal Affairs highlighted the challenge of minimal resource allocation to countries hosting refugees. The IARMJ Africa Chapter adopted the Arusha Declaration of 2022 which, *inter alia*, underscored the importance/critical role of the judiciary in ensuring the due process of the law (ad minimum judicial/due process) in access to asylum and the refugee determination process at the end of the conference.

UGANDA: By the end of December 2022, the registered refugee and asylum-seeker population stood at over 1.52 million.

The L2 UNHCR Emergency declaration for Uganda ended on 31 December. Nevertheless, the situation remains unpredictable. Cumulatively, in 2022, Uganda received a total of 144,299 new arrivals (47,620 from South Sudan and 96,679 from the DRC). Of those, some 45,000 refugees from the DRC (47%) and some 42,000 from South Sudan (86%) opted to be registered and relocated to the settlements. It is presumed that the others returned to their country of origin or remained in Uganda under the protocol on the free movement of persons in the region. Refugees from South Sudan continue fleeing from hunger, floods, and inter-communal tensions, while those from DRC are fleeing from fighting between armed groups in the Eastern part of the country. Throughout the year, South Sudan new arrivals remained more or less constant while those from DRC had peaks linked to specific clashes across the border which to date remains unstable. The continued relocation to the settlements remains strained by the lack of funding to

increase the absorption capacity and expand the delivery of services including extremely poor roads conditions following the ongoing heavy rains in the country.

Uganda discharged its last Ebola patient on 2 December, and no new patient has been confirmed since then. Uganda went through two incubation cycles of 21 days to be declared Ebola free². The Ministry of Health had declared an Ebola Virus Disease outbreak in Mubende and Kyegegwa districts on 20 September.

REGIONAL UPDATES

Updates from the Office of the UNHCR Special Envoy (SE) for the Horn of Africa: As part of his mandate to conduct high level political advocacy, the UNHCR Special Envoy (SE) for the Horn of Africa met with various high-level officials of different governments in the reporting period. The SE travelled on mission to Kuwait where he met with high level government officials and advocated towards support to the worsening situation in the Horn of Africa region particularly in response to the current drought situation as well as establishing strategic partnership towards the durable solutions initiatives in the region (the Sudan-South Sudan Solutions Initiative and the Revitalization of the Nairobi Process for Somalia). The SE also travelled to Saudi Arabia where he met with governmental officials, inter-governmental organizations like Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) as well as the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and underscored the importance of expanding the existing strategic partnership between UNHCR and Saudi Arabia to include the Horn of Africa and advocated for the inclusion of refugees in different available tertiary scholarships.

As resource mobilization and stakeholders' engagement is an integral objective that supports the operationalization of the political advocacies, the SE has been exerting efforts to engage with various stakeholders including non-traditional donors, private sectors and diplomatic missions to increase awareness and add weight towards inclusion policies as well as to fundraise. As a result of the SE's engagement with the Presidency of Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB) to include refugees in their Scholarship scheme, YTB is providing full scholarships for ten refugees in Kenya as a pilot project — the application and selection process is currently underway. Furthermore, the scholarship grant announced by Direct Aid Association Kuwait for 40 refugees in Kenya and IDPs in Somalia was another success in terms of enhancing education opportunities for the refugees. The grant will allow the refugees to study in Direct Aid's Universities in Kenya, Somalia and Tanzania.

Solutions Initiative for Sudan and South Sudan: The High Commissioner facilitated a side meeting at the margins of the Executive Committee in October 2022 whereby the two Governments of Sudan and South Sudan, together with the meeting participants expressed their strong support and commitment to being part of the Solutions Initiative and the identification of tangible solutions opportunities at the operational level while the political track is ongoing. Several delegates — including those representing the EU, US, UNDP and the WB also reiterated their commitment to the Solutions Initiative.

The new EU/International Partnerships (INTPA) regional allocation to the Regional Bureau kickstarted a new two-year project supporting the Solutions Initiative for Sudan and South Sudan. The project will support community-based assessments to guide the Solutions Initiative in "Pockets of Hope" counties, intentions surveys that generate comparable data to inform planning and durable solutions, a regional study on the risks of statelessness and advances solutions for refugees from Sudan and South Sudan through the revitalization of the 2012 Four Freedom Agreement, and improve access to information and efficiency on procedures to access civil registry and nationality documentation. Furthermore, the project will improve access to comprehensive information on the conditions of return to support evidence/driven planning for return and reintegration, support legal and documentary assistance for refugees of South Sudanese origin in Sudan and support to the reception centre in Damazine to facilitate access to services for Sudanese refugee returnees. The project is implemented in Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda with some activities implemented through the EHAGL Regional Bureau.

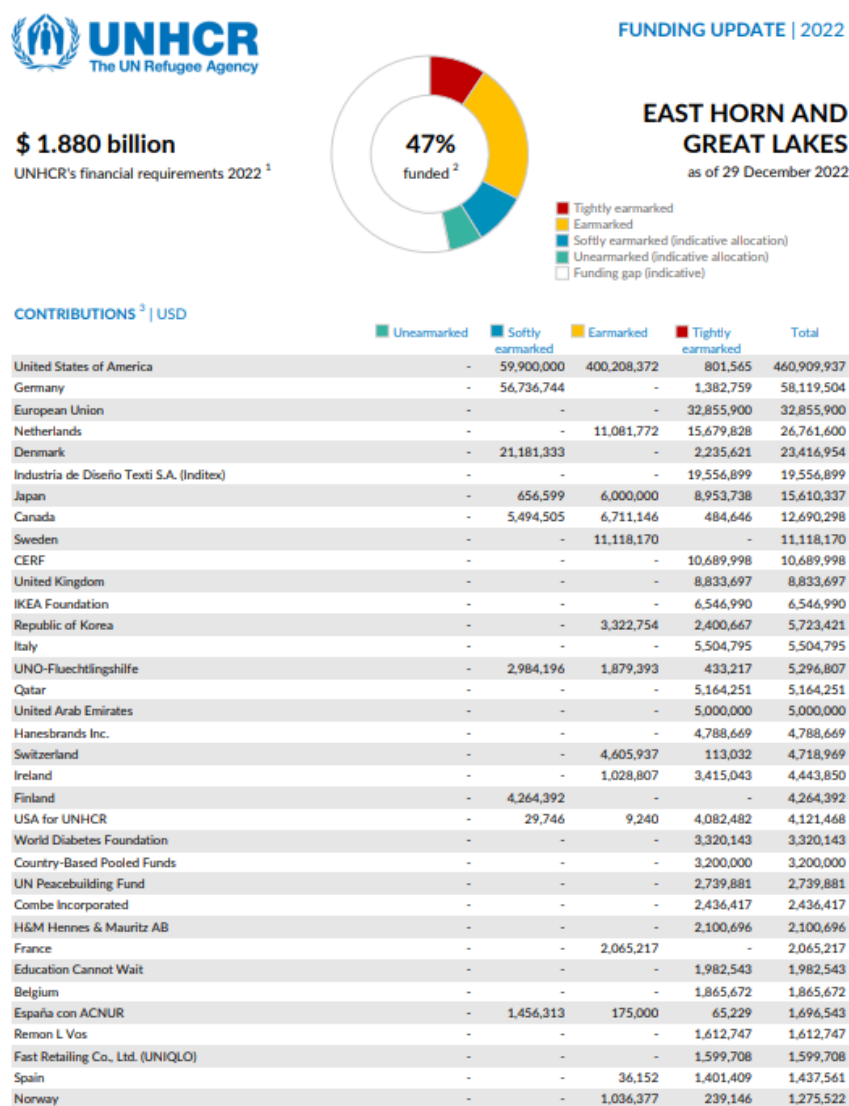
The African Development Bank (AfDB) Investment Climate Project Enhancing the Investment Climate for the Economic Empowerment of Refugee, Returnee and Host/Return Community Women (Phase 1) aims to address the legal, regulatory, procedural and infrastructural barriers to the economic empowerment of refugee, returnee and host/return communities and identify sectors of competitive advantage for investment and trade in selected refugee-hosting and return areas. The project targets members of the East African Commission (EAC) and The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). Scoping missions took place in Burundi, Ethiopia and Kenya where the project team met with national and sub national stakeholders, refugee and host communities. The scoping missions explored opportunities and challenges for private sector investments in refugee hosting areas. Upcoming scoping missions are planned in Djibouti, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Uganda in 2023.

² The Ministry of Health in Uganda declared an end to the Ebola Virus outbreak on 11 January 2023. This followed 42 consecutive days with no new confirmed cases since 29 November 2022, when the last confirmed case was buried. A total of 142 confirmed cases were reported during the outbreak, with 55 deaths, 87 recoveries and 4,793 contacts listed and followed.

Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to the **East and Horn of Africa, and the Great Lakes Region**, as well as to those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.

Total contributions to **the region, inclusive of COVID-19 contributions** amount to **USD 878 million** as of 31 December 2022.



Australia for UNHCR	-	911,073	177,214	100,000	1,188,287
Austria	-	-	1,157,407	-	1,157,407
"la Caixa" Banking Foundation	-	-	-	1,141,109	1,141,109
African Development Bank Group	-	-	-	1,106,611	1,106,611
The Big Heart Foundation	-	-	-	1,062,306	1,062,306
Sheikh Eid Bin Mohammad Al Thani Charitable Foundation	-	-	-	994,821	994,821
UN Programme On HIV/AIDS	-	-	915	947,166	948,081
Kuwait	-	-	878,100	-	878,100
UN MPTF South Sudan Rsrft	-	-	-	797,322	797,322
United Nations Foundation	-	-	-	700,000	700,000
UN Children Fund	-	-	-	663,239	663,239
Band Aid	-	-	-	611,247	611,247
Spotlight Initiative	-	-	-	595,711	595,711
IGAD	-	-	203,324	351,792	555,116
Coop Italia	-	-	-	508,692	508,692
Profuturo	-	-	-	500,302	500,302
The Mastercard Foundation	-	-	-	469,496	469,496
Luxembourg	-	-	466,200	-	466,200
Usine Foundation	-	-	-	431,034	431,034
Solvatten	-	-	-	393,017	393,017
Stiftung Auxilium	-	-	-	329,954	329,954
UPS Corporate	-	-	-	319,500	319,500
Sweden for UNHCR	-	213,755	31,926	-	245,681
Private donors Canada	-	238,158	368	5,323	243,848
Iceland	-	-	226,074	-	226,074
Morneau Shepell (Lifeworks Ltd.)	-	-	-	223,033	223,033
Vodafone Foundation	-	-	-	218,349	218,349
Toyota Tsusho Corporation	-	-	10,525	161,920	172,445
Private donors Republic of Korea	-	7,207	116,919	5,864	129,990
Hope Health Action	-	-	-	113,270	113,270
Laboratorios Viñas	-	-	-	106,428	106,428
United Kingdom for UNHCR	-	29,936	75,054	-	104,991
UN Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan	-	-	-	76,101	76,101
Migration MPTF	-	-	-	38,000	38,000
Other private donors	-	576,922	21,553	187,242	785,717
Sub-total	-	154,680,881	452,643,916	174,646,238	781,971,034
Indicative allocation of funds and adjustments	103,936,023	8,833,147	(17,871,269)	1,610,719	96,508,620
Total	103,936,023	163,514,028	434,772,647	176,256,957	878,479,655

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 sub-region. The contributions earmarked for East Horn and Great Lakes 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 ⁴ | USD

United States of America 29.3 million | Private donors Germany 23 million | Private donors USA 15 million | Japan 13.6 million | Private donors Australia 12.2 million | Canada 7.8 million | Private donors Spain 2.7 million | Private donors Denmark 2.3 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 2.2 million
Norway | Jersey | France | Private donors

■ UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS ⁵ | USD

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

Algeria | Armenia | Australia | Austria | Azerbaijan | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Kuwait | Liechtenstein | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Mexico | Monaco | Montenegro | Morocco | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Portugal | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Saudi Arabia | Singapore | Spain | Thailand | Türkiye | Uruguay | Private donors

Notes:

1. The financial requirements for East Horn and Great Lakes are for the operations in Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania.
2. The percentage funded (47%) and total funding amount (\$878,479,655) are indicative based on the methodology described above. This leaves an indicative funding gap of \$1,001,705,935 representing 53% of the financial requirements.
3. Contributions to East Horn and Great Lakes are shown by the earmarking modality as defined in the Grand Bargain.
4. Due to their earmarking at the region, or to a related situation or theme, the other softly earmarked contributions listed are those which can potentially be used in East Horn and Great Lakes. Where a donor has contributed \$2 million or more, the total amount of the contributions is shown.
5. 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 the Great Lakes – Region, Nairobi - munyao@unhcr.org

Kabami Kalumiya, Reporting Officer, Regional Bureau for the East, Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes Region, Nairobi – kalumiya@unhcr.org

Evelyn Waike, Reporting Associate, Regional Bureau for the East, Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes Region, Nairobi – waike@unhcr.org