

Somali Refugee Influx Ethiopia

Update N.1 | As of 26 May 2023

Around **100,000** refugees fled into Ethiopia following clashes and violence in Laascaanood city, Somaliland area of Somalia. 91,000 of them were pre-registered at the family level across the remote Doolo Zone in Ethiopia's eastern Somali Region, while biometric registration has begun in Mirqaan.

Many refugees have found a home in host communities. Others without this safety net and in dire need of support have been relocated to Mirqaan settlement where they can build a home. To date, nearly **18,000** refugees have been screened and moved to Mirqaan, with support from the Government's Refugees and Returnees Service.

Nearly **84,000** refugees have benefitted from food distribution with the support from the Government of Ethiopia, WFP and UNHCR in the three main refugee-hosting kebeles. Plans are underway to provide rations for the second month.

POPULATION FIGURES

- 100,000** refugees who fled into Ethiopia
- 91,000** pre-registered at family level
- 83,450** refugees received food rations in April
- 17,775** relocated to Mirqaan settlement
- 3,427** unaccompanied and separated children identified

(AS OF 26 MAY)

\$116M required for the response to this emergency

Funded 1% \$1.3M

Underfunded 99% \$114.6M

Urgent & unmet needs

NFI (A) U WASH \$ Home

Young Somali refugee awaits for food distribution in Goob. Photo: ©UNHCR/Lucrezia Vittori

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

Since February 2023, clashes in Somalia's Laascaanood city displaced thousands of people, 100,000 of whom sought safety in the Somali region of Ethiopia. While some are being hosted by welcoming Ethiopian families in their homes and communities, many remain in overcrowded shelters or are sleeping outdoors and require urgent assistance.

As part of the response and in line with the all-of-the-society approach, the Government of Ethiopia and humanitarian partners are assessing needs in all locations to provide targeted assistance to those opting to settle within host communities. For others, the Government has generously allocated land to set up Mirqaan settlement

where over 17,700 people have been relocated to as of 26 May, with the support from the Government's Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS), UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and partners.

However, with the increasing number of refugees in need across the Doolo Zone and insufficient resources to respond, partners are struggling to deliver critical aid, including WASH, shelter and health services. Appealing partners require urgent support to continue delivering life-saving assistance to refugees and to the local communities hosting them.

Timeline of key events



Somali refugees arriving in Mirqaan settlement. Photo: ©UNHCR/Diana Diaz

RESPONSE & CRITICAL GAPS*



Protection

% of refugees registered on an individual basis
Appeal target: 100%

Registered: 12%

Gap: 88%

Achievements and Impact

RRS, with the support of UNHCR, has begun nationality screening, individual and biometric enrollment of refugees.

Identified Needs and Gaps

Connectivity in Mirqaan has hindered the general registration process. With refugees scattered across several communities, registration is to be extended to other locations where refugees wish to settle.



Protection

UASC provided with alternative care and/or reunited
Appeal target: 2,000

Provided: 29

Gap: 1,971

Achievements and Impact

During pre-registration, a total of 3,400 children were identified as unaccompanied and separated from their family members across the Doolo Zone. Following relocation to Mirqaan, 29 children have been identified, and interim care arrangements have been made while family tracing is initiated.

Identified Needs and Gaps

The limited number of specialized child protection partners poses a barrier in addressing the needs of unaccompanied and separated children in the Doolo Zone, including conducting best interest determination procedures, child protection case management, as well as the establishment and management of child friendly spaces at the settlement.



Protection

of people reached with GBV and rights awareness raising and community-based activities. Appeal target: 31,455

Assisted: 840

Gap: 30,205

Achievements and Impact

840 women, girls and boys have been counselled on types of gender-based violence (GBV), early reporting within 72 hours for rape cases, reporting mechanism as well as GBV services in Mirqaan settlement.

Identified Needs and Gaps

Lack of additional protection partners and resources limit the reach of GBV prevention and response actions across the entire refugee-hosting areas. Lack of protective shelters, inadequate WASH facilities and lighting in and around the settlement further heightens risks of GBV.



Protection

% of refugee children enrolled in national school systems
Appeal target: 30%

Enrolled: 0%

Gap: 30%

Achievements and Impact

NRC is implementing education in emergency activities and has trained 11 teachers to promote integration of refugee children in Hegaalle. Partners assessed local schools in the Doolo Zone to understand their capacity to include refugee children. Many were found to already be exceeding their capacity with host community students. Plans are underway to expand schools in several locations to increase enrollment rates.

Identified Needs and Gaps

Lack of resources has made support for local schools difficult to deliver, especially where the student-teacher ratio exceeds the standards. Additional support is required to ensure refugee children can continue their studies, including accelerated learning programmes and school supplies.

*Non comprehensive and based only on selected indicators with critical needs. For more information on sectors and gaps, consult the sectoral updates in the [UNHCR Data Portal](#).

Shelter & CRI

of emergency shelters provided
Appeal target: 16,000

Provided: 4,700 Gap: 11,300

Achievements and Impact

2,100 emergency shelters have been provided, with an additional 2,600 underway to accommodate refugees in need of shelter and relocated to Mirqaan. 30 communal hangars (for 50 people each) have been established.

Identified Needs and Gaps

Limited funding is an obstacle in delivering support for the transition from emergency to semi-permanent shelters and to provide support for refugees in the host communities.

Health

% of outbreaks that are detected and responded to within 72 hours. Appeal target: 100%

Delivered: 50% Gap: 50%

Achievements and Impact

Support has been provided to health centres, including basic medicine, 1 ambulance in Mirqaan, support to vaccination campaigns in Mirqaan and Hegaale, among others, to detect and respond to outbreaks. Plans are underway to hire staff and procuring medicine for some health facilities to support the response to health needs, including measles.

Identified Needs and Gaps

Existing health facilities lack human and material resources, like key medical equipment and supplies, medication, mass measles vaccination campaigns and electricity to respond to outbreaks. In addition, the outbreak is exceeding the current capacity, thus limiting the response across the Doolo Zone.

WASH

Average # of liters of potable water available per person per day. Appeal target: 15lt

Delivered: 10 Gap: 5

Achievements and Impact

Partners are currently providing at least 10 litres of water per day to each of the 11,000 refugees living in Mirqaan settlement through daily water trucking, while plans are underway to repair the local borehole and drill others.

Identified Needs and Gaps

Water trucking is costly and meant only as a temporary measure. With current resources and considering the growth of Mirqaan settlement, partners would be able to deliver water during an additional 4 months. In addition, limited resources do not allow to reach the standard of 15 litres per person per day. Building and rehabilitating boreholes in refugee-hosting areas is essential in the longer term to support refugees and their hosts.

Shelter & CRI

NFI # of households receiving CRIs (CBI or in-kind)
Appeal target: 20,000

Provided: 2,918 Gap: 17,082

Achievements and Impact

Core relief items (CRIs) for around 9,000 families have been prepositioned in Mirqaan settlement for families who have undergone biometric registration and received documentation.

Identified Needs and Gaps

Technical issues have hindered registration and the delivery of documentation, which has further postponed the delivery of CRIs. Furthermore, current resources will only be sufficient to cover 45% of the needs.

Nutrition

% of prevalence of GAM amongst children aged 6-59 months. Appeal target: 15%

Prevalence: 43% Gap: +28%*

Achievements and Impact

Overall, 43% of screened children across the Doolo Zone have been found malnourished (MIRA report). By early May, over 8,000 children had been screened for malnutrition in Mirqaan settlement. Partners are facilitating referrals to the health centre to begin treatment while delivering specialized support. Over 69,448 received high energy biscuits and date bars.

Identified Needs and Gaps

Lack of staff and resources hinder the full screening and case management of the additional load of newly arrived refugees and their hosts across the Doolo Zone.

WASH

people accessing appropriate sanitation services
Appeal indicator: 60,000

Delivered: 5,800 Gap: 54,200

Achievements and Impact

58 communal latrines have been built and an additional 20 are in construction for refugees living in Mirqaan settlement. Hence, at least 50% of refugees in Mirqaan are accessing appropriate emergency sanitation services. Partners are also engaging refugee leadership in promoting care for sanitation infrastructure and promotion of hygiene practices.

Identified Needs and Gaps

The increase in refugees requiring shelter in Mirqaan settlement will render the current communal WASH infrastructure insufficient. Additional resources are required to find longer term solutions, including family latrines.

Appealing partners



In partnership with



For more information

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*Plus gap referring to rate exceeding the maximum standard rate.