

NORTHERN ETHIOPIA SITUATION

APRIL 2023



Selam, makes traditional coffee in her shop in Alemwach refugee camp, Amhara region, Ethiopia. Salem and her son were displaced during the war in Tigray. © UNHCR/Samuel Otieno

ETHIOPIA

Security developments

Following the decision of the Ethiopian Federal Government to integrate regional special forces to various formal security structures such as the National Defense Force, Federal Police or regional police forces, as part of the Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) process, tension was observed in the Amhara region and manifested through roadblocks and sporadic gunshots in major towns in the region allegedly by the Amhara Special Forces and the FANO group.

Demonstrations were reported in most cities in the Amhara region including Gondar, Bahir Dar, Kobo and Debre Birhan. Security restrictions were put in place in various cities and curfew hours established. Movement of UN staff was restricted by UNDSS in these areas.

UNHCR refugee and IDP response

Tigray region

IDPs

In Mekelle operating areas, UNHCR along with government authorities and partners continued to facilitate voluntary returns of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to their place of origin with most returning to the North-western zone. To date, UNHCR has facilitated the returns of 22,162 IDPs (5,346 households) from Aksum, Abi Adi, Adigrat and Mekelle to their place of origin by providing them with emergency cash, cash for transportation and core relief items (CRIs). Prior to their return, UNHCR protection team and partners provided counselling to 185,836 individuals (38,468 households). The exercise is ongoing in Mekelle and will be extended to the other areas including Maichew, Adwa and Shire, based on availability of resources.

Some 5,058 vulnerable IDPs and host communities, including persons with disabilities, vulnerable women, GBV survivors, and returnees in Adigrat, Fatsi, Zalambesa, Irob, Maichew and Mekoni, benefitted from the distribution of clothes from UNHCR and its partners Action for the Needy (ANE), Innovative Humanitarian Solutions (IHS) and Development Expertise Centre (DEC).

Through its partner ALIGHT, UNHCR started livelihood activities including provision of start-up capital to start/resume small scale businesses, provision of business development and entrepreneurship training for target beneficiaries in three locations: Glomerates, Erob and Adigrat targeting 200 IDP returnees.

As part of capacity building, UNHCR's partner Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission (DICAC) conducted awareness sensitization campaign on basic concepts on GBV reaching 167 community members (82 female in Mekelle).

Refugees

Reception, counselling and assistance activities are still ongoing for urban refugees throughout Tigray. In April, UNHCR provided multipurpose cash to 438 refugees and asylum seekers in Adigrat and distributed CRIs to vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers in Mekelle with partner ANE.

Amhara region

IDPs

Between 3-12 April, UNHCR participated in a joint interagency rapid assessment in Waghembra zone to evaluate the needs of the newly accessible woredas. Assessment findings indicate that returns are ongoing from Sekota to Abergele and Tsagibji and protection concerns include absence of child protection services to support family tracing, and absence of GBV prevention and response mechanisms. 50% of the shelters are destroyed/damaged among other needs. Shortage of food, inadequate water, health and education services and facilities are other critical gaps in the area. Recommendations were shared with clusters/partners for timely response.

Cash assistance has been provided to 660 returnees (132 households) with completely damaged houses in Kobo Raya (82 households), Adi Arkay (50 households) and Sekota (50 households). Through implementing partner Development Expertise Centre (DEC), UNHCR will be monitoring the construction of the destroyed houses.

A total of 37 communal emergency shelters, damaged by a heavy storm at Jara IDP site have been repaired and as a mitigation measure, UNHCR distributed 2,265 plastic tarpaulins to IDPs to avert further effects from the storms. The number of IDPs in Jara is now 7,512 individuals. The number of IDPs has reduced by 2,110

compared to end of March as many are moving to the cities within the region to look for income generating and livelihood activities.

Development of the new Bakello IDP Site in Debre Berhan is progressing well and 300 duplex-shelters out of the planned 380 have been constructed by DEC to host IDPs arriving from the Wollegas. The inner access road construction is also in progress. Plan International Ethiopia (PIE) and UNICEF are speeding up the construction of toilets, shower rooms and water supply systems. Relocation is planned very soon.

In Mekane Salam IDP site (South Wollo), group psychosocial support was provided to 133 IDP children (65 girls and 68 boys) at the Child Friendly Space through a variety of activities including play, learning, healing, and self-expression. Capacity building was conducted for the Child Protection committee on the topics of child protection, prevention, and response, including child protection risks and possible referral mechanisms. Twenty committee members (7 females and 13 males) attended the session in Mekane Selam.

In collaboration with the Zonal Disaster Risk Management Office (ZDRMO) and Habru Woreda administration, EECMY has printed 6,000 temporary IDs for IDPs in South Wollo to ease movement and help carry out financial and other transactions as need be.

Refugees

UNHCR resumed the registration of new-born babies in Alemwach refugee site where there had been an existing backlog of 1,170 unregistered babies. In collaboration with Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS), this activity resumed to ensure that all refugees are documented and registered in order to access protection and other available services.

To address the impact of heavy rainfall creating flash flooding at Alemwach site, UNHCR is engaged in implementing flood mitigation measures through partner ANE. Through active participation of the refugee community and ANE's technical assistance and tool provision, sandbags are being distributed to the refugees in the 200 identified family tents to prevent rainwater flowing into their living spaces.

A total of 299 refugees received mental health support through sensitization on trauma and the identification of its symptoms and coping mechanisms, psychoeducation sessions, group therapy sessions and individual follow-ups.

UNHCR in Gondar has been responding to the influx of displaced persons from Sudan, following the outbreak of violence in Khartoum Sudan on 15 April. UNHCR's response consisted of the identification and screening of refugees recognized in Sudan and asylum seekers as well as the establishment of a protection desk to attend to varied protection issues presented by the displaced. In addition, UNHCR is developing a transit site allocated by the authorities in Mandefiro Terara, (6km from the border) for the relocation of refugees and asylum seekers.

Afar region

IDPs

UNHCR CCCM participated in the Multi-Sector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) conducted in flood affected areas in Afar region. The assessment shows severe flood destruction in the lower Awash basin. The report indicates massive loss of animals and crops in these 9 flood-affected woredas which are prone to flooding.

UNHCR's implementing partner EECMY has provided support to persons with special needs, including referral linkage with health providers and provision of assistive devices to physically disabled children. EECMY has identified 18 children with disabilities with the aim of providing protection against discrimination and secure access to protection services through needs assessments during home-to-home visits.

UNHCR-led CCCM and Protection Clusters together with regional authorities and humanitarian partners successfully facilitated the return of 978 IDPs (503 women) to their places of origin in Abala. Each household received core-relief items and cash assistance.

UNHCR advocated for the issuance of ID documents for returnees to enable them open bank accounts and directly benefit from cash assistance. UNHCR's partner EECMY identified 8,000 returnee women and men from Abala, Konneba, Erebt and Berhale in need of ID documents. EECMY has also capacitated local authorities with the necessary technical equipment (which was destroyed during the conflict) to issue the identification documents. By end of April, the regional authorities in Afar issued IDs to 2,500 IDPs.

In Aysaita, 101 individuals (39 girls and 62 women) benefited from basic education in the Women and Girl Friendly Space centre and two GBV cases were provided with follow-up services.

Mass mobilization and sensitization of children regarding risks posed by unexploded remnants of war was provided in several schools in Erebt area by UNHCR's implementing partner World Vision. Some 350 students attended the session.

Refugees

At the Protection/Reception Desk in Serdo, 20 cases with different protection issues, mainly health related, including urgent surgical needs, were identified and referred for services. In collaboration with Refugee Camp Committees, UNHCR conducted a house-to-house registration and verification of records for 317 households at Serdo camp for cloth distribution.

In Aysaita, protection services were provided to women at risk, children at risk, and elderly people, and critical protection cases related to medical assistance were linked to appropriate referral pathways. Seven protection cases were referred to RRS, 2 legal assistance cases were referred to EECMY, and 2 Best Interest Assessments (BIA) and 1 Best Interest Determination (BID) cases were referred to IHS.

UNHCR, through its partner International Medical Corps (IMC) reached 4,070 individuals with Sexual and Reproductive Health activities and HIV prevention programs in the refugee camps. IMC also received referrals from the community health centre for a total of 123 patients for antenatal care and counselling services, labour & delivery and child immunization, tetanus vaccine for pregnant mothers and Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI). As part of HIV prevention strategies and ensuring the availability of necessary materials for health education and information dissemination at water points and youth centers, a total of 286 individuals were reached.

UNHCR, through its partner IMC continues to ensure the delivery of portable water for the refugees and host communities in the three refugee camps in Aysaita. In Serdo refugee site, emergency water trucking continues to be the main mode of water supply with a daily provision of 20,000 litres of water totaling a monthly delivery of 600,000 litres.

Some 136 children in Aysaita and Serdo refugee camps benefited from Child Friendly Space services.

Benishangul Gumuz Region

IDPs

On 4 April 2023, UNHCR through its partner ANE, distributed CRIs to 841 households at two IDPs sites in Assosa zone. The CRIs included blankets, water buckets, mosquito net, and kitchen sets. Plan International Ethiopia has distributed CRIs, including blankets, jerrycans, water buckets, mosquito net, kitchen sets, and soap, to 1,250

most vulnerable individuals including children at Sherkile, Wombera, Bambasi 02 site as well as distributed sanitary pads to 400 IDP women and girls at Bambasi 01 and 02 sites.

Ethiopian Centre for Disability and Development (ECDD) provided six wheelchairs, five white canes for visually impaired IDPs at Bambasi 01 site. In addition, ECDD provided CRIs including blankets, soap, and water buckets to women and girls with disabilities.

Child friendly spaces have been strengthened in two Bambasi & Mandura woredas and a total of 100 children benefited from non-specialized Psycho-social and Recreational activities.

UNHCR, through its partner World Vision Ethiopia (WVE), conducted awareness raising campaigns and information communications on child protection and GBV prevention and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) to 2,675 individuals in Bamabsi, Bildiglu, Dangur, and Dibate woredas in Benishangul Gumuz region. Basic concept of CP, GBV, PSS and compliance handling trainings were provided to 82 participants at Bambasi, Ura, Bildiglu, Mandura, Dibate and Dangur woredas.

UNHCR through its partner ANE, provided multipurpose cash to 50 households in Metekel zone at two woredas namely Mandura and Dibate while Plan International Ethiopia provided cash to 200 most vulnerable individuals including people with disabilities, GBV survivors, unaccompanied and separated children at Bambasi IDPs sites 01 and 02.

Assosa University launched a legal aid service to support vulnerable members of the community and IDPs.

SUDAN

New Arrivals

In April, there was a drop of over 80% in the number of new arrivals compared to the previous month, with a total of 27 new arrivals recorded in Gedaref, Eastern Sudan. Of this number, 20 are Qemant and entered through Gallabat and Taya border crossing points while 7 are Tigrayan and entered through Hamdayet and Gallabat border crossing points. This sharp drop in the number of new arrivals is attributed to the outbreak of conflict in Sudan in mid-April.

Operational Context

Since the outbreak of fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) on 15 April, the security situation in Gedaref has remained relatively calm, however, there were a number of sporadic incidents with an undercurrent of tension. Shortly following the start of the fighting, SAF in Gedaref took control of the RSF headquarters in the city which minimized the risk of violent clashes. A number of security incidents were reported in the second half of the month which raised concerns about the general security situation and safety of UNHCR staff.

There have been serious concerns that with the shortage of essential goods in Gedaref, particularly fuel, UNHCR premises may become prime targets for looting by the warring factions and/or armed groups within the host community similar to other locations in Sudan.

Efforts continue to map the secondary movement of refugees and asylum seekers within the country, including to Eastern Sudan.¹

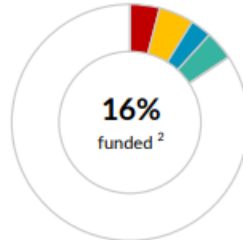
¹ At the time of publishing of this update, by end May 2023 some 6,000 secondary movements of refugees and asylum seekers hosted by Sudan had been reported from Khartoum to Gedaref and close to 3,000 to Kassala.

Funding Overview



\$218.8 million

UNHCR's financial requirements 2023 ¹



FUNDING UPDATE | 2023

**ETHIOPIA
EMERGENCY**

as of 27 April 2023



CONTRIBUTIONS ³ | USD

	■ Unearmarked	■ Softly earmarked	■ Earmarked	■ Tightly earmarked	Total
CERF	-	-	-	1,200,003	1,200,003
Private donors Germany	-	106,566	-	-	106,566
IGAD	-	-	-	44,439	44,439
Other private donors	-	30,692	-	12,467	43,159
Sub-total	-	137,258	-	1,256,909	1,394,167
Indicative allocation of funds and adjustments	8,636,497	6,182,845	10,457,965	7,611,525	32,888,832
Total	8,636,497	6,320,102	10,457,965	8,868,434	34,282,999

Methodology: Unearmarked funding is allocated and reallocated multiple times during the year to allow UNHCR to fund prioritised activities. This funding update includes an indicative allocation of funds so as to accurately represent the resources available for the country. The contributions earmarked for Ethiopia Emergency shown above are combined with an indicative allocation of the softly earmarked and unearmarked contributions listed below. This allocation respects different levels of earmarking. Adjustments relate to programme support costs and carry-over.

■ OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS ⁴ | USD

United States of America 26.5 million | Canada 6.3 million | Japan 4.5 million | Finland 3.1 million | Switzerland 2.6 million |

Private donors Australia 2.1 million

Luxembourg | Spain | Sweden | Private donors

■ UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS ⁵ | USD

Sweden 69 million | Norway 63.1 million | Denmark 35.6 million | Netherlands 34.1 million | Germany 23.1 million | Switzerland 18.9 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Ireland 11.9 million

Algeria | Australia | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Republic of Korea | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Thailand | Türkiye | Uruguay | Private donors

Notes:

1. The financial requirements of the Ethiopia Emergency include requirements in Ethiopia and Sudan.

2. The percentage funded (16%) and total funding amount (\$34,282,999) are indicative based on the methodology described above. This leaves an indicative funding gap of \$184,502,012 representing 84% of the financial requirements.

3. Contributions to the Ethiopia Emergency are shown by the earmarking modality as defined in the Grand Bargain.

4. Due to their earmarking at a related region, sub-region, country or theme, the other softly earmarked contributions listed are those which can potentially be used for the Ethiopia Emergency. Where a donor has contributed \$2 million or more, the total amount of the contribution is shown.

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>

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