At the end of June, Ethiopia hosted 926,471 refugees, mainly from South Sudan, Somalia and Eritrea. 81% are women and children, including a significant number of minors without parents or caregivers.

UNHCR, RRS, partners, refugees & host communities marked World Refugee Day with a call to support durable solutions for refugees. The Government renewed its commitment for refugee inclusion, appealing for more international support to be able to do so.

Ahead of the 2nd GRF in December, UNHCR and RRS published Ethiopia’s GRF pledges progress report. It showcases achievements, notes the gaps, and makes concrete recommendations to advance the GCR objectives.

**FUNDING (27 JUNE)**

$431.6 million requested for Ethiopia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funded: 24%, 103.1 M</th>
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<td>Gap: 76%, 328.4 M</td>
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**KEY HIGHLIGHTS**

► 17,600 new arrivals from Sudan were screened and provided with critical protection support.

► 900 refugees in Tsore camp were issued with residence permits.

► 300,000 refugees in Gambella benefitted from malaria prevention.

► 130,000 children could be out of school unless $2.9 million are urgently secured.

► Economic opportunities created for nearly 130,000 refugees and host communities.
Operational Context

Ethiopia continues to face substantial humanitarian challenges and is reeling from inflation, climate shocks and conflict, which have been driving millions into displacement. IOM, in its latest Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), reported 3.14 million IDPs in the country as of 22 June, noting that the figure did not include the number of IDPs in Tigray region. According to the Ethiopia 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), more than 20 million people are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance.

Ethiopia hosts over 926,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, predominantly from South Sudan, Somalia and Eritrea. The majority live in refugee camps and settlements established across different regional states, while over 75,000 reside in the capital Addis Ababa as urban refugees. UNHCR maintains a robust field presence including in Afar, Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, Oromia, Somali and Tigray regions, as well as in the city of Dire Dawa. In addition to emergency response and the provision of protection and lifesaving humanitarian aid for over 115,000 new arrivals from Somalia and Sudan, as well as millions of IDPs, UNHCR continues to promote the self-reliance of refugees and host communities and the search for viable solutions.

Main achievements

Protection response to new arrivals from Sudan: In June, UNHCR and the Government’s Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) screened over 17,600 new arrivals at the border crossing points in the Amhara (Metema), Benishangul-Gumuz (Kurmuk) and Gambella (Pagak and Burbiey) regions, providing protection counselling, healthcare and lifesaving humanitarian assistance. By end of June, over 7,000 of them have been relocated to Kumer (6,037) in Amhara and Sherkole (1,014) in Benishangul Gumuz regions, where UNHCR and partners are providing critical protection support, especially to survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) and Persons with Special Needs (PSN).

Stocktaking of Ethiopia’s GRF pledges: A National Stakeholder Workshop was jointly organized by RRS and UNHCR on 15 June, to take stock of processes, best practices, challenges and supports, and future engagements that will be tabled in December 2023 at the second Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in Geneva. The event brought together representatives from the Government of Ethiopia’s line ministries, Departments, and Agencies, as well as UN agencies, embassies, donors and humanitarian/ development partners supporting the refugee response in Ethiopia. The event provided an opportunity to also exchange on efforts made by other countries towards advancing inclusion, challenges encountered and called for innovative approaches and additional support to tackle the growing burden of forced displacement in the region and globally. Read the recently published GRF Pledge Progress Report for Ethiopia for more details.

Lack of funding threatens to drive 130,000 refugee children out of schools: Serious underfunding severely threatens education for refugees in Ethiopia. UNHCR’s education gap analysis warns that unless $2.9 million is made available urgently, almost 130,000 refugee students may not return to school in September. They include over 114,000 children who will no longer be able to attend primary schools and over 15,000 who will not be able to complete secondary education. Similarly, UNHCR will not be able to support 1,700 university students to continue with their studies unless the necessary funds are urgently secured.

Harmonization of primary education: As part of the Word Bank project supporting the harmonization of refugee primary schools, over 125,000 student textbooks and over 21,000 teachers’ guides have been printed for primary schools in Gambella through the Gambella Regional Education Bureau. 85% of the textbooks and teachers’ guides will be dispatched to refugee schools through RRS, while 15% will be distributed to the host community. Similar distributions will be conducted in primary schools in other refugee-hosting regions of the country.
Critical funding gap affects health services delivery: Due to a substantial funding gap, UNHCR and its health partners will not be able to ensure continuity of health services for refugees and host communities unless urgent funding is secured. Medical referrals are already suspended, and unless $5.5 million is made available as soon as possible, close to one million refugees and host communities will have no access to essential medicines as of July 2023. This is very likely to increase morbidity and exacerbate the already dire nutrition situation in the camps, where one in two children below the age of five years is undernourished.

Primary healthcare: UNHCR and the RRS, in collaboration with partners, continued to provide basic healthcare services for refugees residing in camps, settlements and urban settings. The overall health status of refugees has remained stable with no disease outbreaks recorded during the reporting period. In June, medical assistance was provided to 14,700 patients from the local and refugee communities; 199 births were delivered in health centers with the help of skilled healthcare professionals.

Berahle health center to resume service delivery: The health center at Berahle refugee camp in the Afar region was handed over to Medical Teams International (MTI) to resume provision of health services for refugees and host communities. Previously managed by the RRS, the facility was looted and damaged during the war in northern Ethiopia, which forced most of the over 28,000 Eritrean refugees to flee the camp. MTI will rehabilitate the health center before starting to provide services.

Emergency health response: UNHCR, RRS, UNICEF and MTI continued to provide emergency health response to new arrivals from Somalia and Sudan. In the Doolo zone of the Somali region, which is hosting an estimated 100,000 refugees who fled violence in Somalia’s Laascanood city, UNHCR provided 110 cartons of essential medicines, 113 cartons of medical supplies, and an ambulance to the health centers in Bokh and Mirqaan, where both refugees and their Ethiopian hosts receive health services. Over 15,000 arrivals fleeing the continuing violence in Sudan also received medical support in health facilities in the Metema (Kumer) in Amhara and Kurmuk in Benishangul-Gumuz regions. The services included comprehensive health and nutrition screenings, as well as COVID-19 vaccinations.

Malaria mitigation in Gambella camps: The Gambella Regional Health Bureau (RHB), in collaboration with the President’s Malaria Initiative (PMI), conducted an Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) campaign in all refugee camps in Gambella, as prevention measure for close to 300,000 refugees, utilizing insecticide that is safe for humans.

Food aid pause could exacerbate refugees’ vulnerabilities: Refugees across Ethiopia did not receive their monthly food assistance in June, following WFP’s pause on food aid delivery in the country amid reports of widespread aid diversion. This comes on the heels of a major reduction of the monthly food ration for refugees from 84% to 60% as of May 2023, which could lead to increased malnutrition and anaemia, stunted child growth, the deterioration of the general health status of refugees and a myriad of protection risks.

Emergency nutrition response: UNHCR and partners provided hot meals to 17,600 new arrivals from Sudan, both at the Metema and Kurmuk transit sites, as well as at the Kumer site in Metema. Based on Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) assessment, the Global Acute Malnutrition rates in Kurmuk and Metema stood at 9% and 4%, respectively.

Malnutrition prevention and treatment: As part of UNHCR and partners’ effort to prevent malnutrition and treat those already impacted, nearly 30,000 refugee children between six months and two years of age were enrolled in Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programmes (BSFP). Over 21,400 children below five years of age were admitted in therapeutic feeding programmes to treat severe and moderate forms of acute malnutrition.
**Water supply:** UNHCR and its partners continued to ensure sustainable water supply in refugee sites across the country through an effective management of water systems and maintenance of associated infrastructure. In June, refugees across the country had access to an average of 15 liters of water per person per day (l/p/d), which is much lower than the required minimum standard of 20 l/p/d. The sanitation coverage in the refugee camps and sites remains low at 40% against the minimum standard of ≥ 85%. More resources are needed to improve the water and sanitation situation in the refugee camps and settlements.

**Emergency WASH response:** UNHCR and partners supplied on average 10 liters of water/person/day to some 116,000 new arrivals from Somalia and Sudan who are sheltered in in the Somali (Mirqaan), Amhara (Metema) and Benishangul-Gumuz (Kurmu) regions. This is significantly lower than the emergency threshold of at least 15 l/p/d, and UNHCR and partners are working to take it to an acceptable level. Twenty-eight blocks of gender-segregated latrines and showers were completed in Mirqaan, Metema and Kurmu, while routine hygiene promotion activities are ongoing to ensure proper usage and management of the facilities.

**Support to refugees:** UNHCR and partners erected 2,276 emergency shelters to respond to the shelter needs of new arrivals from Somalia and Sudan. In total, 6,200 emergency shelters have been set up to accommodate the new arrivals in the Amhara (Metema), Benishangul-Gumuz (Kurmu) and Somali (Mirqaan) regions. In addition, 81 communal hangars have been installed, including 33 in June, to temporarily host refugees until they move to family shelters. 978 transitional shelters are in different phases of construction at Alemwach site (42 completed), in Aysaita camp (Afar), as well as in camps in the Gambella and Benishangul-Gumuz regions.

Despite the ongoing investment to address the shelter gap, 62% of the refugee families in Ethiopia are accommodated in emergency and old and/or overcrowded shelters, increasing protection risks. Additional resources are needed to narrow down the shelter gap.

**Support to IDPs:** In June, UNHCR and its partners provided shelter support and core relief items (CRIIs) to over 50,000 IDPs in the Afar, Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Oromia, Somali, Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples (SNNP) and Tigray regions. This brings the total number of IDPs reached with these types of assistance so far this year to over 400,000.

**Support to drought-affected IDPs:** In collaboration with the Somali Region Disaster and Risk Management Office (DRMO), UNHCR provided emergency shelters, core relief items and clothes to 16,881 displaced people in Shabelle and Korahe zones of the Somali region, to help them recover from the impacts of the severe drought and recent flooding in the areas.

**Stocktaking of Ethiopia’s GRF Energy & Environment pledges:** Ahead of the second Global Forum on Refugees (GRF) in December, UNHCR, RRS and partners organized a National Stakeholders Workshop to evaluate the progress made in implementing Ethiopia’s pledges at the first GRF in 2019. The Energy & Environment-related pledge sought to secure clean/renewable energy solutions for three million people. However, due to several challenges, including shortage of funding, only 18% of the pledge has been met as of June 2023, with 467,000 refugees and host community members having access to alternative energy. A set of recommendations were passed to ensure the pledges are met in full, including the need for an increased engagement of local NGOs and a more robust advocacy for grid connectivity, as well as the integration of energy and livelihood projects to increase the beneficiaries’ ability to pay for grid power.

**Over 575,000 trees planted:** UNHCR and partners have started planting over 575,000 tree seedlings across most of the refugee-hosting regions to reforest the natural environment in and around the refugee camps and settlements. This gained further impetus on World Environment Day on 5 June, during which refugees, the communities hosting them, and partners’ staff also planted trees, among other activities.
14 projects directly benefitting close to 130,000 refugees and host communities: At the end of June, development and humanitarian partners, in collaboration with the Government of Ethiopia, were implementing 14 agricultural and livestock projects in various refugee-hosting regions. The joint projects have already created direct economic opportunities for close to 130,000 people, including 38,621 refugees, (directly or) indirectly benefitting a total of approximately 600,000 people. In addition to contributing to local economies, they will greatly enhance peaceful co-existence between refugees and their Ethiopian hosts. The projects are in line with Ethiopia’s 2019 GRF pledge to create economic opportunities for 90,000 refugees and Ethiopians.

900 refugees received work permits: In June, RRS issued work permits to 900 refugees in Tsore refugee camp (Benishangul-Gumuz region). This will allow the beneficiaries to engage in formal economic activities, including by accessing financial services at par with Ethiopian nationals.

Resettlement: Facilitating resettlement as a protection tool and a durable solution remains UNHCR’s top priority in Ethiopia. In June, 266 refugees were submitted to various resettlement countries for consideration, bringing the total submissions so far in 2023 to 2,155. In June, 440 individuals departed on resettlement and other legal pathways to different countries: so far this year, 2,806 persons departed via these modalities, including 949 on resettlement and 1,857 on other legal pathways. During the reporting period, UNHCR counseled 39 individuals on family reunification, education pathways and labor mobility.

Repatriation support: During the reporting period, UNHCR provided a six-month reintegration cash assistance to 82 former Ethiopian refugees who returned home by their own means from Yemen.

Solutions from the onset: In response to the refugee emergencies from Sudan and Somalia, UNHCR and partners pursue solutions from the onset by reinforcing existing services and systems to facilitate the inclusion of refugees in national systems, but also to benefit the communities hosting them.

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 as well as to communities that are affected by the worst drought in decades.
Funding

As of 27 June, the UNHCR Operation in Ethiopia has received **USD 103.1 million**, equaling only **24%** of the requirements. UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors that have contributed to its work, as well as to those that have contributed to UNHCR programmes globally with unearmarked or softly earmarked funds.

**Contributions to the UNHCR Ethiopia Operation in 2023**
USA| Denmark| Japan| European Union| UN Children Fund| IKEA Foundation| Canada| France| Netherlands| CERF| Germany| Switzerland| Sweden| Country-Based Pooled Funds| Luxembourg| Dr. Wael Al Mahmeed| UN Programme on HIV/AIDS| Latter-day Saints Charities| MasterCard International Incorporated| Spain| Other private donors.

**Other softly earmarked contributions in 2023**
Private donors Australia| USA| Private donors Germany| Finland| Canada

**Unearmarked contributions in 2023**
Sweden| Norway | Netherlands| Denmark | Private donors Spain | United Kingdom | France | Germany | Private donors Japan | Switzerland| Private donors Republic of Korea| Belgium| Ireland

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