ETHIOPIA
April - June 2023

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. Unless US$ 4 million is made available as soon as possible, close to one million refugees and members of the communities hosting them will have no access to essential healthcare services and medicines as of next year.

Arumera secondary school in Tsore refugee camp became the first such school to be transferred to the Regional Education Bureau of the Benishangul-Gumuz Region; 13 others across the country are expected to be transferred by 2025.

REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS
*By Countries of Origin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South Sudanese</td>
<td>416,881</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somalis</td>
<td>284,955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eritreans</td>
<td>166,099</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sudanese</td>
<td>49,452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yemenis</td>
<td>2,487</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Nationalities</td>
<td>6,599</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff members:
- 474 National staff members
- 179 International staff members
- 171 Members of the affiliate workforce

Offices:
- 1 Representation Office - Addis Ababa
- 6 Sub-Offices - Assosa, Gambella, Jijiga, Mekelle, Melkadida and Shire
- 8 Field Offices - Bokh, Dimma, Embamadre, Gondar, Nekemte, Pugnido, Samara, Sherkole
- 12 Field Units - Abiy-Adi, Adigrat, Aysaita, Aw-barre, Bahir Dar, Bule Hora, Debarek, Debre Berhan, Dessie, Dire Dawa, Kebribeyah, Shedd

FUNDING (As of 27 June 2023)

USD 431.6 M

Funded: 103.1 M 24%
Gap: 328.4 76%

*The estimated 100,000 Somali refugees from Laascanood are not included in the overall figures.
Working with Partners

- 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 lifesaving assistance and promoting sustainable solutions to the plight of refugees. UNHCR works closely with some 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 other 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 Ethiopia’s line Ministries, regional and local authorities, development partners and the private sector. In addition, UNHCR is engaged in providing protection and assistance to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and IDP returnees in different parts of the country, in collaboration with the authorities, national and international partners, including NGOs and UN agencies.

Main Activities

Protection

- Together with RRS, UNHCR coordinates activities aimed at protecting and assisting refugees and asylum-seekers in Ethiopia, as well as finding and promoting sustainable solutions. Ethiopia has a positive protection environment for refugees and a progressive refugee law granting them a wide range of rights, including access to education and self-sufficiency. UNHCR supports the Government of Ethiopia to realize these rights and to deliver on its commitments made at the first Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in 2019 to strengthen the asylum system and include refugees in national social protection systems. Ahead of the 2nd GRF in December 2023, Ethiopia has made some headway in meeting its commitments. Despite challenges, including the impacts of COVID-19 and conflicts, over 890,000 refugees have been L-3 registered, over 315,000 refugees were issued with ID cards and over 72,000 refugees had their vital events registered.
- UNHCR works to strengthen refugee protection including through the expansion of improved community-based and multi-sectorial child protection, and programmes addressing gender-based violence (GBV).
- An active part of the government-led Inter-Agency response to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), UNHCR leads the Protection Cluster, which seeks to prevent and mitigate protection risks and their harmful consequences for those affected by conflict and natural disasters. The Cluster coordinates the efforts of various working groups, including Child Protection, Gender-Based Violence, Mine Action Areas of Responsibility (AoRs) and House, Land and Property (HLP).
- UNHCR has provided technical and financial support to relevant Government entities to aid the drafting of a national IDP law which is expected to close existing legal and institutional gaps in the assistance, protection, and solutions to the plight of IDPs in the country. The Government of Ethiopia has already ratified the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of IDPs in Africa, and the draft IDP law is part of the government’s compliance with the Convention, which requires states parties to incorporate its provisions into a domestic law.

Durable Solutions

- Alongside safeguarding fundamental human rights and delivering life-saving assistance, UNHCR helps find durable solutions for refugees so they can find a safe place to call home. The three traditional long-term solutions are voluntary repatriation to the countries of origin, resettlement to a third country and local integration in the country of asylum. UNHCR and partners also support refugee livelihoods development to reduce vulnerability and dependency on humanitarian assistance as self-reliance is an important precursor to solutions.
- In response to the refugee emergencies from Somalia (in the Somali region) and Sudan (in the Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz and Gambella regions), UNHCR and partners pursue solutions from the onset by reinforcing existing services and systems to facilitate the inclusion of refugees in national systems.
- Facilitating resettlement as a protection tool and durable solution remains UNHCR’s top priority in Ethiopia. During the first half of the year, UNHCR submitted 2,155 refugees to various countries for consideration for
(resettlement. A total of 2,806 refugees departed on resettlement and other pathways, including those supported to be reunited with their family members in different countries.

- Where conditions allow, UNHCR supports the voluntary repatriation of refugees who wish to return home or have returned home with our support or on their own. Between January and June 2023, UNHCR provided reintegration support to 349 Ethiopians who were refugees in neighboring countries, mainly Yemen.

**Shelter**

- UNHCR continues to invest in shelter for refugees and IDPs as a basic human need and key support, providing them security, protection, and the opportunity to lead a dignified life. In line with the GCR and guided by its Refugee Shelter Strategy, UNHCR, together with RRS and other partners, strives to provide better housing and settlement solutions for refugees and IDPs and move towards integrated sites within host communities. Nevertheless, the shelter gap remains wide, with 62% of refugee families continuing to be accommodated in emergency, old and/or overcrowded shelters, which can lead to protection risks.

- UNHCR continues to be an active part of the government-led inter-agency response to IDPs making significant contribution to meeting the shelter and Core Relief Items (CRIs) needs of Ethiopians displaced within the country. During the first half of 2023, UNHCR provided shelter support and CRIs to over 400,000 IDPs in different parts of the country.

**Education**

- UNHCR invests in the education of refugees, empowering them with knowledge and skills to live productive, fulfilling, and independent lives. Guided by its 2020-2025 ‘Ethiopia Refugee Education Strategy’ and in line with the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), UNHCR promotes equitable and sustainable inclusion of refugees in national education systems, by fostering a safe, enabling environment that supports learning for all students.

- At the end of the 2022/2023 academic year, almost 180,000 refugees were enrolled in different levels of education, including 48,617 in pre-primary, 111,776 in primary, and 15,539 in secondary schools. Most of them were attending classes in camp-based schools, but work is ongoing for these schools to be transferred to the management of the respective Regional Education Bureaus to ensure that refugees and Ethiopians attend the classes together. The Tsore Arumera secondary school became the first such school to be transferred to the Regional Education Bureau of the Benishangul-Gumuz Region, with 13 others across the country expected to be transferred by 2025.

- With support from UNHCR and partners, the Government of Ethiopia is delivering on the pledge it made at the first Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in December 2019 to provide quality and accredited skills training for 20,000 refugees and Ethiopians by 2024. At a national stakeholders’ GRF workshop held in June, it was assessed that the Government, with support from UNHCR and others, has so far achieved almost 60% of its pledge by supporting the training of 11,949 people, including 5,253 refugees and 6,696 Ethiopians.

- However, severe underfunding is seriously limiting abilities of UNHCR and its partners to continue providing education for refugees. Unless $ 2.9 million is made available urgently, almost 130,000 refugee students may not return to school in the 2023/2024 academic year that starts in September.

**Health**

- UNHCR, in collaboration with RRS and other partners, facilitates access to primary, emergency secondary and tertiary healthcare services for refugees and asylum-seekers. While primary health services are mostly provided in health facilities within the refugee camps and settlements, patients requiring advanced medical attention are referred to regional or federal health facilities.

- UNHCR fosters collaboration on health sector response with government entities and development partners, to ensure sustainable and efficient healthcare provision for refugees by promoting their inclusion into regional and national health plans, funding mechanisms, and health services in line with the GCR and the 2022-2024 refugee health strategy.

- Serious funding gaps are, however, undermining UNHCR and its health partners’ ability to ensure the continuity of health services for refugees and host communities. Medical referrals are already suspended and unless US$ 4 million is made available as soon as possible, close to one million refugees and members of the communities

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hosting them will have no access to essential healthcare services and medicines as of next year. This will 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.

Food Security and Nutrition

- Together with partners, UNHCR and RRS provide emergency nutrition support to new arrivals and work to improve nutrition and food security for refugees and their hosts through strategic funding, as well as partnerships with the World Food Programme (WFP) and others.
- UNHCR and partners implement preventive and curative nutrition programmes in all active refugee camps and sites across the country and monitor the nutrition situation of the forcibly displaced through the Health Information System, regular surveys and nutrition-related databases. As part of UNHCR and partners’ efforts to prevent malnutrition and treat those already impacted, nearly 30,000 refugee children between six months and two years of age have been enrolled in Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programmes (BSFP) at the end of June. Similarly, over 21,400 children below five years of age were admitted in therapeutic feeding programmes to treat severe and moderate forms of acute malnutrition.
- Amid reports of widespread aid diversion, in June WFP paused distribution of food aid in the country. This comes on the heels of a major reduction of the monthly food ration from 84% to 60% as of May 2023, which could lead to increased malnutrition and anemia, stunted child growth, the deterioration of the general health status of refugees and a myriad of protection risks. The situation could get worse unless food aid resumes soon.
- To reduce dependence on humanitarian aid, improve nutrition and food security and ensure inclusion of refugees in the national economy, UNHCR prioritizes cash assistance and livelihoods programmes as part of a food security strategy to support dietary diversity and enhance refugees’ contributions to their own food consumption.

Water and Sanitation (WASH)

- UNHCR and its partners continue to provide Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services in refugee camps, settlements and host community areas to improve safe access to water in sufficient quality and quantity; expand sanitation facilities and instill hygiene practices in residences, health and nutrition facilities, as well as schools and other institutions. Efforts are underway to strengthen cross-sectoral collaboration to maximize synergies and increase the impact of access to WASH on health status, living conditions, dignity, and wellbeing of refugees and asylum-seekers. In line with GCR, UNHCR promotes and facilitates the inclusion of refugees in host government strategies and policies on WASH service delivery. In many cases, UNHCR strengthens existing facilities and services for use by both refugee and host communities.
- Despite the ongoing efforts, refugees currently have access to an average of 16 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 situation is also of concern, as only 40% of the refugee population in Ethiopia have access to decent sanitation facilities, calling for more investment in this area.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- UNHCR, in collaboration with the Government of Ethiopia and partners, works to promote livelihoods and economic opportunities for refugees, advocating for their right to work and supporting their inclusion in national social protection systems.
- At the end of June, development, and humanitarian partners, in collaboration with the Government of Ethiopia, were implementing 14 agricultural and livestock projects in the various refugee-hosting regions of the country. The joint projects have already created direct economic opportunities for close to 130,000 people, including 38,621 refugees. The overall direct and indirect beneficiaries are estimated at approximately 600,000 people. In addition to contributing to the local economies, these projects will greatly enhance peaceful co-existence between refugees and their Ethiopian hosts. The projects are fully in line with Ethiopia's GRF pledge to create economic opportunities for 90,000 refugees and Ethiopians.
- In the Somali region, UNHCR and RRS, with support from IKEA Foundation, continued to promote inclusive long-term development and climate adaptation projects through investments in agriculture, livestock, and energy sectors. Over 50 cooperatives involving over 2,000 refugee and host community households are working together to improve their lives and livelihoods. In the Benishangul-Gumuz region, over 12,000 refugees and host
Community members have accessed employment through agriculture initiatives. Similarly, in the Gambella region, local authorities have made available 300 hectares of agricultural land for refugees and host communities to work and thrive together.

- Refugees are primary beneficiaries of the World Bank-funded DRDIP (Development Responses to Displacement Impacts Project) II that will be implemented by the Government of Ethiopia in 30 woredas/districts targeting 740,438 refugees. The World Bank has already secured US$ 180 million towards this initiative.

Access to Energy

- Providing access to clean energy for cooking, lighting, and powering community facilities while maximizing environmental protection and natural resource management remains UNHCR’s priority. UNHCR’s energy and environment strategy is centered around the need to ensure the protection and wellbeing of refugees, particularly women and girls, by avoiding the need to travel long distances to collect firewood, which often exposes them to protection risks. It also aims to reduce refugees’ reliance on firewood, thereby mitigating inter-communal tensions over meager natural resources.
- Access to alternative cooking fuel for refugees has reached 18%, up from 11% in 2021. This was made possible through distribution of carbonized briquettes, fuel wood and energy saving stoves, as well as the connection of communal kitchens to the national power grid. Only 18% of the government’s pledge at the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in 2019 to provide clean/ renewable energy solutions for three million Ethiopians and refugees has been met as of June. Among other challenges, lack of adequate funding has hampered more progress in realizing the pledge.
- Every year, hundreds of thousands of seedings of indigenous and fruit trees have been raised and planted across all refugee camps and hosting communities, including over 570,000 that are being planted across all refugee-hosting regions.

Financial situation

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

Contributions to the UNHCR Ethiopia Operation so far 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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