

## Resumption of General Food Distributions for Refugees in Ethiopia

### General context

Following the resumption of food assistance to refugees by USAID on 29 September, UNHCR, WFP, its Cooperating Partners (CPs) and Ethiopia's Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) jointly prepared for the food distributions in all refugee camps and sites in Ethiopia. This was conducted as per the roles outlined in the new Memorandum of Understanding (Mou) and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on food assistance in refugee camps, sites and settlements signed by RRS, UNHCR, and WFP.

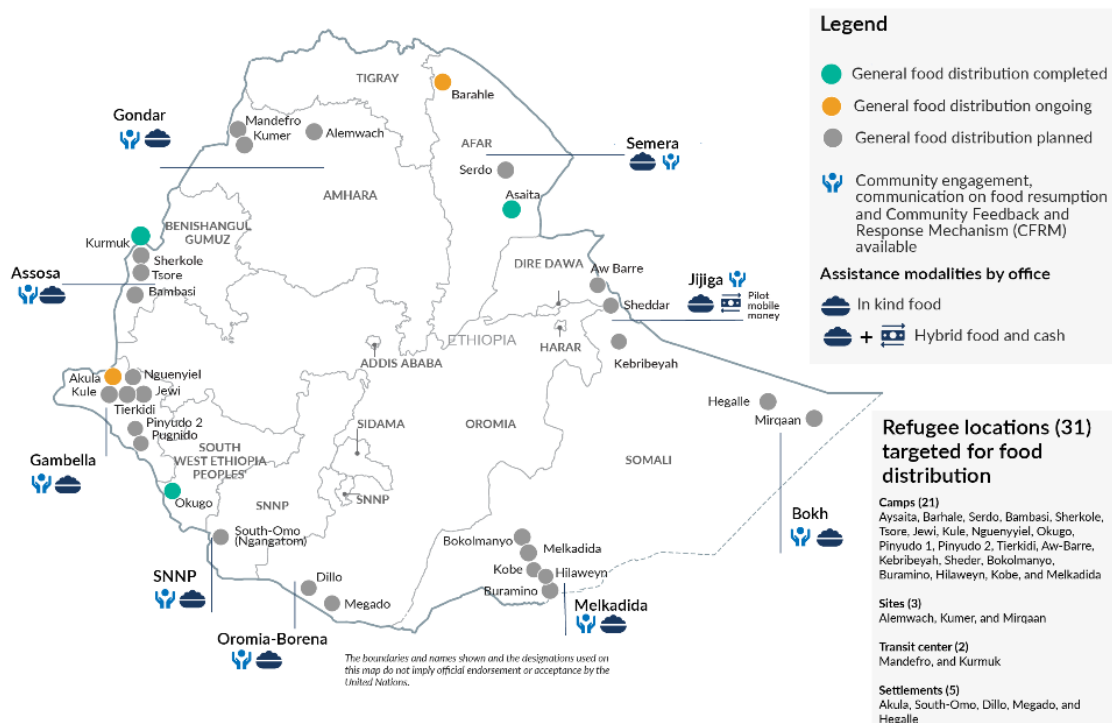
Across Ethiopia, there are 31 refugee locations targeted by the General Food Distribution (GFD), including 21 camps, ten settlements, three sites, and two transit centres, where 919,586 are dependent on food assistance out of the total of 996,352<sup>1</sup> refugees hosted in the country.

The food distribution cycle of October has concluded on 17 November, except for the six locations (Buramino, Hilawayn, Hegalle in Somali Region, Bambasi, Tsore, Sherkole in Benishangul Gumuz) where the food distribution is either planned soon or ongoing. From the targeted population, 70% (614,450 individuals) received their in-kind assistance in last cycle of October.

The table below summarizes the total number of refugees reached against the targeted and the percentage of the food delivered in November Cycle.

<b>Refugees targeted for the food distribution</b> 919,586 individuals 203,339 households	<b>Refugees reached by food distribution.</b> 44,895 individuals 5% of the target	<b>Total refugee locations targeted: 31</b> (1 completed, 3 ongoing, and 28 pending)
		<b>Refugee locations where GDT<sup>2</sup> + Mobile collect + stock management available : 27</b>

### Implementation overview, protection-related activities, and assistance modalities



<sup>1</sup>76,766 refugees residing in Addis Ababa and 2000 in Tigray that are not targeted in the GFD. The number of 996,352 individuals include those who have been screened for Somali and Sudan new arrivals and currently undergoing for L2 individual registration.

<sup>2</sup> Global Distribution Tool (GDT) is a corporate UNHCR tool that helps operations use biometrics to verify the identity of beneficiaries during the distribution of food and other types of assistance. Currently, the GDT is available in 27 refugee locations in Ethiopia.

## Food Prepositioned and Dispatched

### Planning for November Cycle of GFD

#### Cycle 1 (10 October – 16 November 2023)

- The first of in-kind distributions concluded on 16 November 2023. Catch-up cash disbursements covering families were completed on 15 November.
- WFP, in collaboration and coordination with its CPs, UNHCR, and RRS, a total of 10,661.7 MT of in-kind food assistance was dispatched, of which 68% was delivered. A total of **6,869 MT of food was distributed**, while a total of **26.4M ETB** (471.5k USD) was **transferred to 45,493 people** as part of cash assistance.
- **852 refugees** (95% of plan) and **24 partner staff members** (104% of plan) have been **interviewed** by 56 field monitors across 22 camps.

In Gambella, GFD exercise has been completed in Okugo refugee camp by CPs. Distribution began on 17 November in Akula settlement and will start on 23 November in all other camps in Gambella.

### Main highlights

#### Protection systems and monitoring, communication with communities

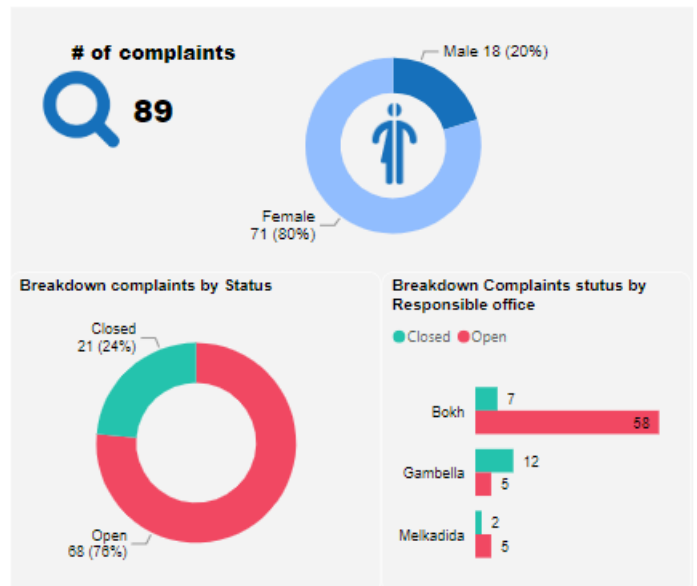
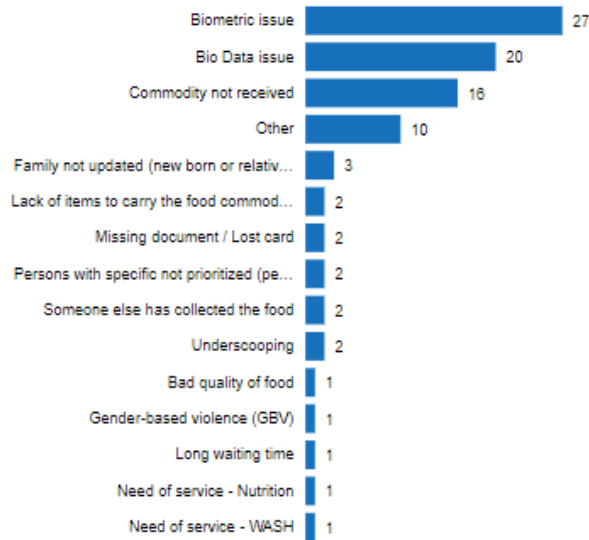
UNHCR and WFP agreed that UNHCR would lead the Accountability to Affected People (AAP) teams including by use of one Community Feedback and Response Mechanism (CFRM) questionnaire to reduce the incidence of having two protection desks at Food Distribution Points (FDPs). Pre-food distribution communication with communities and sensitization is ongoing at various refugee locations for the second round of food distribution in November.

Pre-distribution meeting will be conducted with all relevant partners together with refugee representatives and the schedule will be shared for dissemination/mobilization to the community. The November food distribution will start on 21 November 2023.

In Burimino and Hilaweyn camps in Somali region, UNHCR, WFP, RRS and CPs met with RCCs leaders in both camps to update them on the status of the food truck's location for the planned GFD. During the discussions the RCCs expressed that they are aware of the challenging situation with road access to the camps due to the ongoing rain and flooding in the region, but they highlighted that, considering the dire situation of the community and recorded malnutrition as well as starvation, if cash assistance maybe considered for targeted vulnerable groups. They also requested if remaining food from previous food distribution in other camps in the region could be distributed to the most affected. Further discussions were held later following the feedbacks received, between UNHCR, WFP and RRS on the possibilities of distributing the remaining food in other camps but the logistical challenge remain the same considering the ongoing rain and flooding that inhibits movement to the camps. Discussions are ongoing on cash assistance for food at Addis level.

#### Strengthened feedback and response mechanisms

The protection help desk at food distribution points, during the reporting period, has recorded 89 complaints, mainly relating to biometric and bio data issues, under-scooping, and lack of items to carry the food. In Kangaten (South-Omo) ten complaints were received about the quality of the maize. So far, 21 (24%) complaints have been closed, 68 (76%) are still in the process of being resolved. The CFRM is being used and KoBo tool is being expanded to collect both beneficiaries requesting multi-sectoral services and complaints/feedback on services received, while the harmonization of the various tools is ongoing.

**Type of complaints**


### Registration

Joint RRS and UNHCR teams are in discussion to prioritize the clearing of pending registration in SNNP and Oromia settlements along with Level 2 registration in Hegalle settlement starting from January 2024. Regular registration will continue in all other camps and refugee locations.

The resolution of issues related to biometrics of new arrivals in Mirqaan that affected Shedder camp BIMS server is ongoing. Refugees whose data-related issues were resolved are happy to receive their food ration. The food distribution was finalized as of 16 November 2023, while GFD is delayed in Hegalle due to poor road network.

### Social Cohesion

During the reporting period, refugee locations that are still undergoing the October food cycle such as Assosa reported the arrival food was an emotional moment for most refugees. Refugees expressed their relief and happiness that the food has finally arrived in the camps and distribution has commenced. USAID has also announced on 14 November that food distribution is planned to begin next month for all populations in need of food aid across Ethiopia.

### Coordination and collaboration

- *Weekly country WFP UNHCR technical coordination:* To enable deliberations on technical follow up of matters arising following resumption of GFD and those raised at the quadripartite coordination meeting two sessions have been conducted to discuss : i) lessons learnt and possible improvements at the FDPs; ii) address beneficiary data anomalies and litigation; iii) distribution plan and cycles; iv) registration of non-registered refugees and new arrivals ; v) protection and protection monitoring; vi) CBI beneficiary data flow for Jijiga and importance of expanding to other refugee locations. WFP and UNHCR have agreed to follow through the recommendations of parties and provide feedback in consultation with donors where applicable in view of WFP Assurance project. The quadripartite country technical meetings are rescheduled to a biweekly frequency.

### Next step

- In October, UNHCR had shared the projected population for November distribution cycle and WFP has prepositioned food.
- UNHCR is in the process of generating the GDT manifest which will be shared three days before the distribution as per SoPs.
- The pre-distribution meeting will be conducted with all relevant partners together with refugee representatives and the schedule will be shared for dissemination/mobilization to the community.

### Annex I: Food distributions: state of play by refugee location (November Cycle)

Region	Camps	Number of refugees in the camps (UNHCR Dashboard)	Dispatch Date from WH	CP	Potential Distribution start date	Comment/Status
Afar	Serdo	4,592		SP	09 - 12 November	Planned
	Aysayta	26,427			09 – 17 November	Ongoing
	Berhale	27,352			15 – 23 November	Ongoing
Gambella	Pugnido 2	11,385	07 November	WV	13 – 18 November	Planned
	Akula	1,917	07 November		08 – 09 November	Ongoing
	Okugu	13,949	03 November	ASDEPO	07 – 12 November	Completed
	Pugnido 1	51,229	09 November	WV	13 - 23 November	Planned
	Tierkidi	72,447	09 November		15 – 30 November	Planned
	Ngunyiel	112,000	09 November		15 – 30 November	Planned
	Jewi	67,895	08 November		15 – 30 November	Planned
	Kule	52,970	09 November		15 – 30 November	Planned
Dollo (Somali)	Bokolomanyo	32,877		IMC	10 – 16 November	Planned
	Melkadida	43,010			17 - 22 November	Planned
	Kobe	38,764			23 - 29 November	Planned
	Buramino	48,086			26 – 30 November	Planned
	Hilaweyn	50,815			22 Nov – 04 Dec	Planned
Jijiga (Somali)	Kebribeyah	18,160		NRC	10 -14 November	Planned
	Aww-Barre	13,476			17 – 21 November	Planned
	Sheder	14,615			22 – 25 November	Planned
	Mirqaan	47,086		NRC	23 – 25	Planned

Bokh (Somali)					November	
	Hagelle	24,100			28 – 30 November	Planned
Oromia	Dilo	1,474	20 November	ANE	23 – 25 November	Planned
	Megado	2,563	20 November		28 -30 November	Planned
SNNP	Ngangatom	4,938		ANE	20 – 25 November	Planned
Amhara	Kumer	17,407		ANE	20 - 26 November	Planned
	Mandefro	2,500		SP	20 –24 November	Planned
	Alemwach	21,934		SP	20 –24 November	Planned