



KEY FIGURES:

**1,059,232**

Refugees & Asylum seekers in Ethiopia  
(as of March 2024)

**52,666**

Refugees fleeing conflict in Sudan to Ethiopia  
(as of March 2024)

**3.5M**

Internally displaced people in Ethiopia  
(IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix – Sept 2023)

**EDITORIAL**

Dear partners, friends, and readers,

This month we surpassed the **1 million refugees** mark. **1 million people** forced to flee their homes because of conflict. **1 million people** that Ethiopia, as a host government has generously welcomed. Needs are growing and more support is needed. However, I choose to remain hopeful, as I look back to the many achievements, UNHCR was able to make for refugees this month.

Together with the Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) and National ID Programme, **we launched digital IDs for refugees to access basic services more easily.** This will enable refugees to obtain SIM cards, enroll in school, open a bank account and even register their businesses.

In our efforts to enhance livelihood opportunities to refugees, **we partnered with Gebeya to launch a website that links skilled refugees with companies** looking to hire. This is an important step towards the inclusion of refugees in the digital economy, offering access to digital employment opportunities even in remote areas. To date, over 300 refugees have been onboarded to the platform.

Thanks to the Government of the Netherlands, UNHCR, ILO, IFC, UNICEF and the World Bank launched the **second phase of the PROSPECTS Partnership** for improving prospects for forcibly displaced persons and host communities in Ethiopia. This will strengthen the resilience, self-reliance, and inclusion of refugees in the country.

Finally, UNHCR came together with 130 partners to highlight how **limited resources are affecting the overall refugee response** in the country and impacting refugees' lives. We are committed to working closely with partners to find long term solutions for refugees and to make sure that essential services are not interrupted.

In 2024, we've received only 13% of our total funding requirement of USD 426 million. As we prioritize our efforts to maintain essential services, we need your continued support **to ensure the protection, assistance and well-being of those forced to flee.**

**Andrew Mbogori**

UNHCR Representative in Ethiopia

**SECTORAL HIGHLIGHTS:**

**Protection**

over **5,000**

children have been reunited with their families in Gambella.

**Education**

There are **100**

students per class

vs standard of **50**

students per class

**Health**

**90%**

of refugee women delivered their babies with skilled assistance in 2023.

**Food security + Nutrition**

**75%**

of refugee families borrow food or rely on help from a friend or relative.

**Water & Sanitation**

Standard Water consumption in Ethiopia



**50L**

/person/day

Humanitarian standards



**20L**

/person/day

Current situation



**14L**

/person/day



**LATEST UPDATES**

**Funding Crisis Threatens Assistance to 1 million Refugees in Ethiopia, Warn UNHCR, RRS and Partners**







## RESPONSE AT A GLANCE

**1,059,232\***

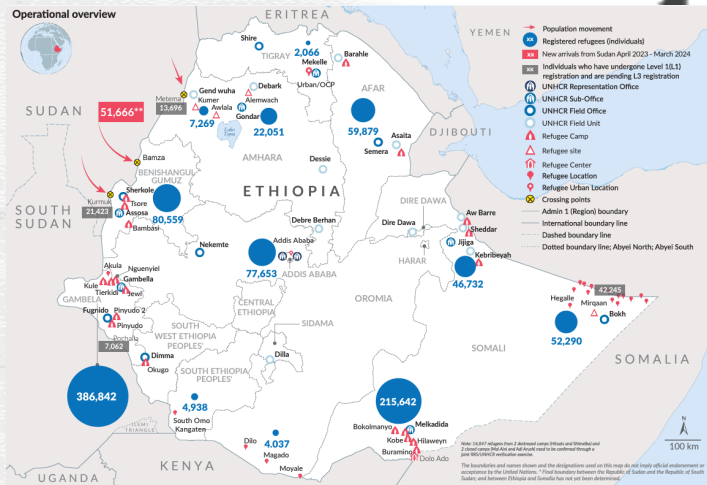
Total Refugees and Asylum-seekers  
(1,050,766 refugees | 8,466 asylum-seekers)

**232,000**

Households  
(average family size: 4)

-  **80%** Women & Children
-  **54%** Children (0 - 17 years)
-  **44%** Adults (18 - 59 years)
-  **2%** Elderly (60+)

Country of origin	Total Individuals	Percentage
South Sudan	422,518	40%
Somalia	358,007	34%
Eritrea	178,406	17%
Sudan	91,102	9%



## Protection

As of March 2024, a total of over 100,900 refugees have newly arrived in Ethiopia, including 52,666 refugees from Sudan. Along with partners, UNHCR is providing protection counselling, healthcare, and lifesaving humanitarian assistance to new arrivals in need of international protection. UNHCR continues to support and advocate with the Government of Ethiopia for full resumption of registration across the country.

## Gender Based Violence

Refugees countrywide have reported 15 new gender-based violence (GBV) incidents including physical abuse, sexual abuse, and rape. In response, UNHCR and partners provided counselling, medical referrals, legal services and material support. We also followed up on previously identified survivors through counselling in collaboration with Center for Victims of Torture. However, our funding shortfalls have hampered our ability to provide dignity kits in most refugee sites and to build safe spaces for women.

Across the country, we provided 2,215 women and girls with life skills trainings and information on GBV at the Women and Girls Safe Spaces (WGSS). Additionally, along with our partners, we equipped 2,020 women and girls with tools to prevent GBV through a community mobilization program called SASA. Similarly, we have trained 40 adolescent girls with the Girl Shine program providing them with skills and knowledge to identify types of GBV and seek support services.

To raise awareness on GBV, we held a mass awareness-raising session and disseminated 1,150 communication materials to refugees. We also reached 3,126 refugees through home-to-home visits to engage with them on preventing GBV. Despite limited resources, we trained 40 people from local government bodies and partners on Psychosocial First Aid (PFA), GBV mainstreaming and general concept on GBV in coordination with Action Aid. For women and girls fleeing conflict from Sudan, we have delivered 2,853 hygiene kit in Metema (Amhara region) as well as multi-purpose cash to 400 women – partnering with DICAC.

To make sure refugees are included in the national GBV case management system, UNHCR began consultations with the Ministry of Women and Social affairs through RRS. For urban refugees, we're crafting a plan to implement a GBV information management system.

**UNDERFUNDING** in any sector (food, shelter, WASH, education, health, energy) exposes **women** refugees to **Gender Based Violence** leading to negative coping mechanisms including transactional sex, child labor, child marriage and begging. Read more [here](#).

## Child Protection

UNHCR and partners continue to provide child protection services in all refugee camps across Ethiopia. In March, 1,725 children were able to access Child Friendly Spaces in various refugee camps. 90 children also underwent a Best-Interests Determination process. In Bokh, Somali region, we equipped a child friendly center with outdoor materials and 18 children were placed under alternative care arrangement through the Bureau of Women and Children Affairs.

## Child Protection (cont'd)

In Alemwach (Amhara), we conducted an assessment to understand what led to children being displaced. The main push factors identified were the food aid pause, insecurity, the lack of long-term prospects and the inability to pursue their education due to lost documentation.

In Gambella, UNHCR has facilitated family reunification for 5,057 children in coordination with ICRC. In parallel, UNHCR is working to harmonize data between two information management systems (CPMIS+ and proGRES). 820 children at risk were provided with various kinds of material support in Mirqaan site (Somali region) and Alemwach site (Amhara region). In Metema (Amhara), we have provided cash to 190 caregivers (1107 ETB/19 USD).

To raise awareness about child protection, we've trained 1,894 refugees from different sections of the community including caregivers. For newly relocated refugees in Awlala settlement (Amhara region), we have held sessions focusing on child protection and GBV. Refugees were informed about their rights, safety measures, and available support services.

Because of funding shortfalls in child protection, we lack recreational kits to equip child-friendly spaces. Additionally, the prevailing insecurity in certain regions limits our ability to reach refugees on time and closely monitor the situation.

## Registration / Documentation

UNHCR, RRS, and Ethiopia's National ID Programme launched a digital ID system for refugees on March 7. Aiming to facilitate their access to basic services, this initiative – currently in its pilot stage – is being rolled out in Addis Ababa with the issuance of digital refugee ID cards that feature a unique identification number called "Fayda". Using biometric technology, the "Fayda" number issued by the National ID Program of Ethiopia (NIDP) will be printed on the refugee ID cards and will help in preventing double registration and issuance of duplicate ID cards. Read more [here](#).

UNHCR and partners have been providing various protection services to 77,000 refugees living in Addis Ababa. These include supporting 2,188 urban refugees through our call center, our digital request and complaint center, and through counseling and referrals. We have also provided cash to 2,297 families (5,176 people) with an average of 30USD/month (1700 ETB/month) for March and April. Finally, with RRS, we have issued 95 birth certificates, 163 marriage certificates and 378 IDs with the Fayda number.



### Mirqaan, Somali

Hawa is a volunteer teacher teaching refugees and host community children under the trees at the local primary school in Mirqaan refugee site, Somali region.

Although she was forced to flee her home in Somalia with her 10 children, she's one of many making a difference in the local community.

### Education

All refugee primary schools in Gambella have finally reopened, after their closure in November 2023, due to lack of funding.

RRS completed the handover of education activities to NGOs on April 1<sup>st</sup>. The handover process of refugee primary education management from the Government's RRS to NGO partners that started in January 2024, was completed on 27 March in Gambella and 29 March in Asossa.

Refugee primary schools were handed over to the following partners: Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission (DICAC) in Gambella and Somali region, Plan International Ethiopia in Asossa and EDUKANS in Afar region.

**⚠ UNDERFUNDING in Education** will interrupt the schooling of over 187,000 refugee students hosted in Ethiopia because teachers' salaries, textbooks and learning materials are not being covered. Refugee children then fall behind, reducing their chances of coming out of poverty and supporting their families. Read more [here](#).

### Health

For refugees fleeing conflict in Sudan and Somalia, we are providing primary health services including sexual and reproductive health, vaccination services as well as mental health and psychosocial support. However, medical referrals have been maintained at minimum level.

Following the measles vaccination campaign in Gambella, the number of measles cases has declined. As of March 2024, the cumulative number of cases has reached 717 with 38 deaths recorded since the beginning of the outbreak. In Melkadida, we have distributed essential medication and medical supplies to refugee health facilities. The handover of health activities from RRS to NGO partners has been finalized in all locations.

**⚠ UNDERFUNDING in Health** causes refugees to stop seeking medical care. Lack of access to essential medicines combined with poor-quality health services discourages refugees from going to health facilities, eventually increasing mortality rates. Referral services are halted to focus on emergency cases only. Patients are unable to reach hospitals on time because of a lack of ambulances. Read more [here](#).

### Shelter & CRIs

Along with Action for the Needy Ethiopia, we are providing vital shelter support to those fleeing conflict in Sudan. In Benishangul Gumuz region, we cleared 5.7km of road to build 1,800 emergency shelters in Ura and provided core relief items to 2,401 people in Kurmuk Transit Center. In Awlala site, Amhara region, we built shelters for 453 families. Additionally, we have provided shelter and non-food items to 14,000 internally displaced people.

**⚠ UNDERFUNDING in Shelter** causes thousands of refugees to be housed in inadequate shelters, living in congested conditions unprotected from rain and flooding. This poses safety concerns to both refugees and host communities living around the settlements or refugee sites. Read more [here](#).

### Food security + Nutrition

General food distribution (GFD) is ongoing in all 25 refugee camps/sites. WFP has been able to procure the provision of 60% of food ration, with changes in the food basket, to support refugees until the end of June. To facilitate the coordination of general food distribution, UNHCR meets with WFP and partners every month. Find our latest report [here](#).

The lack of adequate warehouses, insecurity, and flooding in some of the refugee locations has led to missed monthly rations impacting families' food security. Find out how our funding gaps in our food response are affecting refugees [here](#).

In terms of nutrition, we continue to provide curative and preventive nutrition programs in all the 41 nutrition centres across the country including to newly arriving refugees through international NGO partners. To enhance nutrition specific interventions and efficacy in implementing nutrition programs in refugee settings, UNHCR agreed with UNICEF and WFP to strengthen collaboration and coordination at all levels. Find the results of our Standardized Expanded Nutrition Survey [here](#).

**⚠ Without additional funding in Food and Nutrition**, over 86,675 refugee children will suffer from acute malnutrition, stunting their physical and mental development, exposing them to disease and eventually death. Programs to prevent undernutrition for close to 200,000 children under five and over 40,000 pregnant and lactating women will cease. Read more [here](#).

### Water, Sanitation & Hygiene

Along with our partners - we have supplied 11 L of water per person per day (l/p/d) (+1L compared to last month) to thousands of refugees from Somalia and Sudan. This is lower than the emergency threshold of at least 15 l/p/d, but we are fundraising with partners to bring it higher. To provide water to newly relocated refugees from Kurmuk transit center (Benishangul-Gumuz) to the new settlement in Ura, along with International Rescue Committee (IRS), we have set up facilities to purify water from the local river and pump it to the new settlement. For the new settlement in Awlala (Amhara region), we built 4 emergency communal trench latrines with 6 seats each (in line with UNHCR's emergency standards) allowing about 1,200 people access basic sanitation services - in partnership with Innovative Humanitarian Solutions (IHS).

Across the country, refugees don't have adequate access to water (14 l/p/d instead of the standard of 20 l/p/d) and sanitation (25% coverage instead of the minimum standard of 85%) because of funding shortfalls. However, with the support of donors and partners in the Amhara region, we provided computers, printers and pipe fittings to the Dabat Water and Energy Office to build their capacity; in the Gambella region, our partner OXFAM has replaced generators with solar panels to pump water from the river to the reservoir at Jewi camp; in the Somali region, we drilled one borehole in Bokh along with the regional water bureau.

**⚠ UNDERFUNDING in Water and Sanitation** causes health hazards, disease outbreaks (cholera) and exposes women and girls to sexual violence as they walk long distances to fetch water and don't have adequate sanitation facilities. Read more [here](#).

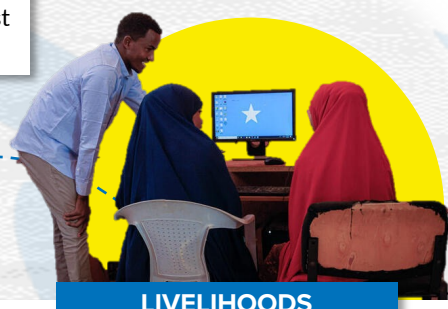


To connect refugees with livelihood opportunities, we've partnered with various organizations. The Digital Opportunity Trust, in collaboration with the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and Na'amal, has successfully trained and certified 29 youth refugees with digital skills. Similarly, we have onboarded 328 refugees and host community members in Addis Ababa and Somali Region to an online jobs platform called **BoundlessSkills.org**. This was set up by an African online job platform called **Gebeya**, in partnership with ILO and the Amahoro Foundation. To enable refugees to manage projects autonomously, we've set up **refugee-led organizations** with the support of OXFAM, in 3 refugee camps in Gambella (Jewi, Pinyudo I and II).

However, **funding gaps meant that over 127,000 refugees of working age in Gambella were left without access to skills development trainings and small enterprise opportunities**, leading to tensions with the host community and other protection risks.

**Resettlement countries** (United States of America, Canada, France, Denmark, and Australia) **have raised their quota to 4,075 individuals in 2024 (from 3,450 in 2023)**. However, resettlement needs outweigh the available quotas, with over 218,000 refugees projected to be in need of resettlement in 2024. 1,179 refugees across Ethiopia have been submitted for resettlement consideration to various countries this year.

**LATEST UPDATES**



**LIVELIHOODS**

**Gebeya and UNHCR Launch New Platform Making It Easy For Businesses to Discover Refugee Talent In Ethiopia**



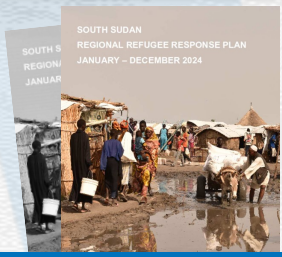
**GAPS & PRIORITIES**

**Funding Crisis Threatens Assistance to 1 million Refugees in Ethiopia, Warn UNHCR, RRS and Partners**



**LIVELIHOODS**

**Second Phase of PROSPECTS Launched in Ethiopia, Empowering Refugees, IDPs and Host Communities**



**SOUTH SUDAN EMERGENCY**

**UNHCR and Partners Urge Renewed Support for South Sudanese refugees with New Funding Appeal**

**FUNDING UPDATE | 2024**

**\$426 million**  
Funding requirements for 2024

**Only 13% of our funding requirements have been met this year** causing critical gaps in our response especially considering the financial situation in 2023 (only 36% funded). UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors that have contributed to its work in Ethiopia, as well as to those that have contributed to UNHCR programs globally with unearmarked or softly earmarked funds.

In 2023 - 2024, UNHCR is grateful for contributions by:



And Private Donors in Australia, Germany, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, UK, and USA

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**



Together with the Government Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS), UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency aims to protect, assist and provide durable solutions for refugees and asylum-seekers in Ethiopia. UNHCR works to strengthen refugee protection through the expansion of improved community-based and multi-sectoral child protection and programs addressing gender-based violence (GBV).

Visit UNHCR Ethiopia's Operational Data Portal for more information products [here](#).



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