UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency | ETHIOPIA

OPERATIONAL UPDATE
October 2024

KEY FIGURES:

+1,935 new arrivals

1,071,860
Refugees & Asylum seekers in Ethiopia
(as of October 2024)

+3,981 new arrivals

64,669
Refugees and asylum seekers fleeing conflict in Sudan to Ethiopia
(as of October 2024)

4.4M*
Internally displaced people in Ethiopia
(IOM/DTM February 2024)

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

This month, UNHCR called for the need to **protect Eritrean asylum seekers in Ethiopia.** In a press release shared in November, we warned of the steady influx of asylum seekers from Eritrea arriving in Ethiopia through the northern regions of **Afar** and **Tigray**, seeking international protection and basic assistance.

More than **20,000 Eritreans** are estimated to have **newly crossed into Ethiopia** since January 2024 while more than **180,000 Eritrean refugees** are currently registered in the country.

We believe supporting newly arriving Eritrean refugees at an early stage is crucial. Registration and documentation are critical to advancing their protection. This will allow Eritrean refugees to **access basic services** such as healthcare, education, and family reunification. It would also support them in gaining the right to work, through labor opportunities generously guaranteed by the Government of Ethiopia under the **Directive of the Right to Work** as affirmed through Proclamation No. 1019/2024 in August 2024. The swift registration of asylum seekers can reduce the risk of human trafficking, among other concerns.

UNHCR is ready to immediately support the Government to expand access to registration for Eritrean asylum-seekers in Ethiopia.

For **internally displaced persons**, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNHCR joined forces as lead agencies on behalf of the UN to warn that **internal displacement, driven by conflict and climate shocks, is reversing decades of poverty reduction in Ethiopia**, and to say humanitarian aid is not enough.

Despite lifting 15 million people out of poverty, Ethiopia has seen significant setbacks in recent years due to multiple crises. Host communities are also struggling under increased pressure on infrastructure, resources and social services, resulting in higher poverty levels.

The Ethiopian government and the UN are addressing immediate needs, while simultaneously working on **governance** and investing in **social services**, **economic opportunities**, and creating conditions for the voluntary safe **return**, **resettlement**, and **integration** of displaced people.

The UN stresses that **government-led**, **development-focused** solutions are crucial for Ethiopia's long-term recovery. Ethiopia is one of the 15 countries selected to implement the durable solutions agenda.

SECTORAL HIGHLIGHTS:

Protection
+19,400 refugees received their Fayda Digital ID cards as of October 2024

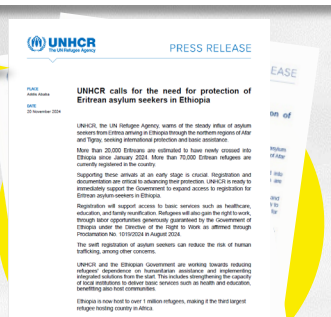
Education
49 classrooms are under construction in Aftit (Amhara) and Ura (Benishangul-Gumuz)

Health
+400,000 refugees have received medical consultations across refugee sites since January.

Food security + Nutrition
+778,000 refugees collected their monthly food entitlements in October.

Livelihoods
300 refugees have received their work permits

Resettlement
+1,062 refugees have departed from Ethiopia on private sponsorships and resettlement in October.


UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency
PRESS RELEASE

PLACE
Addis Ababa

DATE
26 November 2024

UNHCR calls for the need for protection of Eritrean asylum seekers in Ethiopia

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, warns of the steady influx of asylum seekers from Eritrea arriving in Ethiopia through the northern regions of Afar and Tigray, seeking international protection and basic assistance.

More than 20,000 Eritreans are estimated to have newly crossed into Ethiopia since January 2024. More than 70,000 Eritrean refugees are currently registered in the country.

Supporting these arrivals at an early stage is crucial. Registration and documentation are critical to advancing their protection. UNHCR is ready to immediately support the Government to expand access to registration for Eritrean asylum-seekers in Ethiopia.

Registration will support access to basic services such as healthcare, education, and family reunification. Refugees will also gain the right to work, through labor opportunities generously guaranteed by the Government of Ethiopia under the Directive of the Right to Work as affirmed through Proclamation No. 1019/2024 in August 2024.

The swift registration of asylum seekers can reduce the risk of human trafficking, among other concerns.

UNHCR and the Ethiopian Government are working towards reducing refugees' dependence on humanitarian assistance and implementing integrated solutions from the start. This includes strengthening the capacity of local institutions to deliver basic services such as health and education, benefitting also host communities.

Ethiopia is now host to over 1 million refugees, making it the third largest refugee hosting country in Africa.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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PRESS RELEASE

UNHCR works with 45 implementing partners as well as the Ethiopian Government Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS), UN Agencies, international and national NGOs, universities, and other legal entities.

*The Humanitarian Response Plan 2024 estimated that the figure of 4.4M IDPs would be reached at the end of the year.

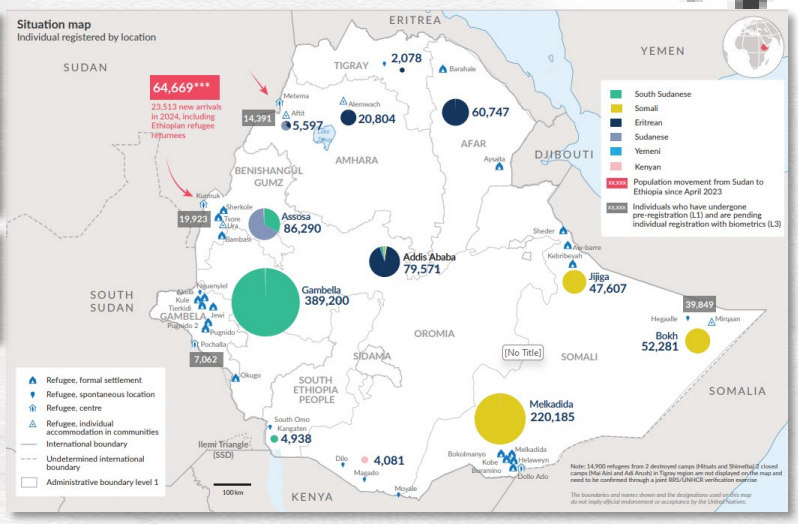
RESPONSE AT A GLANCE

1,071,860
Total Refugees and Asylum-seekers
(1,007,507 refugees | 70,353* asylum-seekers)

287,565
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	431,130	40%
Somalia	361,189	34%
Eritrea	179,364	17%
Sudan	90,825	8%



Protection

So far in 2024, over 23,911 new refugees and asylum seekers have arrived in Ethiopia, bringing the number of people in need of protection arriving from Sudan to 64,999 since April 2023. 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

In Addis Ababa, **UNHCR distributed sanitary napkins to 1670 women and girls**, informed them about services and shared key messages on gender-based violence and Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. In addition, we distributed 2,160 sanitary napkins to two government hospitals in Addis Ababa.

End of October, **UNHCR held a workshop on Child-Sensitive Justice Services** for law enforcement and government stakeholders. In collaboration with the Somali Region Supreme Court and Jijiga University, the workshop covered child protection, legal frameworks, psychosocial support, and challenges faced by displaced children in accessing justice.

To strengthen Mental Health and Psychosocial Services offered to refugees, UNHCR trained partners and staff in Jijiga and Bokh field offices. Similarly, UNHCR and RRS held a training on Accountability to Affected Population (AAP) for the Refugee Central Committee (RCC) to cover topics like RCC's role, fraud management, and community engagement.

Registration / Documentation

In October, **UNHCR and RRS maintained efforts to provide documentation and improve access to essential services to refugees in Addis Ababa**. So far, 19,479 IDs and 15,119 Proof of Registration (POR) were issued to refugees. Over 15,000 individuals have received QR codes and Fayda numbers. Among these, 9,764 IDs and 7,564 PORs were issued along with the Fayda number and QR code.

Registration continued with 2,227 asylum seekers and refugees newly registered. This included : 1,002 new births, 607 in situ registrations, and 58 new arrivals from Djibouti, Eritrea, Lebanon, Palestine, Sierra Leone, Syria and Yemen. Other civil documents were also issued including 560 birth certificates, 1,659 marriage certificates, one death certificate, and 16 divorce certificates.

Education

For **Sudanese refugees** in the Amhara region, school started on 31 October. The opening ceremony was held in the **Aftit** primary school in the presence of key education stakeholders including UNHCR, RRS, RCC, the Woreda education office in Metema, Aftit Kebele and the Aftit education cluster. As part of the solutions from the onset approach, we're strengthening existing infrastructures. 49 additional classrooms are being built in both Aftit, Amhara (20) and Ura, Benishangul Gumuz (29).

Health

UNHCR and partners have been providing health services to refugees from Sudan. In Aftit, in the Amhara region, 1,920 **medical consultations** were conducted, of which 221 were children. In addition, Medical Teams International (MTI) provided **Mental Health and Psychosocial Services** (MHPSS) to 48 individuals, referral services to 104 patients, and **antenatal and postnatal care** for 40 pregnant women. Family planning services were provided to 8 women. In Metema, Amhara, the UNICEF-supported **Mobile Health and Nutrition Team** has conducted 1,830 medical consultations and delivered health education to 396 individuals.

Meanwhile, in **Kurmuk**, **Benishangul-Gumuz** region, MTI conducted 1,297 clinical consultations, of which 287 were children under five. Additionally, 60 pregnant women got antenatal care. In Ura, MTI served a total of 2,576 patients from refugees and host community members of which 355 were children under five. Additionally, 89 pregnant women received antenatal care and 14 women got delivery service in Akuda health post.

In **October**, refugees accessed primary health care services and referrals to secondary and tertiary health facilities across all locations, resulting in a total of **27,797 medical consultations for the month**, bringing the cumulative total to **499,738 consultations** this year. There were 477 deliveries, with 88% attended by skilled birth attendants, adding to a cumulative total of 6,278 skilled-attended deliveries since January 2024. Refugees also accessed **family planning services**, contributing to a cumulative total of 20,208 individuals receiving these services since January. Additionally, 188 consultations for MHPSS services were conducted in September, with a cumulative total of **8,439 consultations** since January 2024.

The cumulative number of **measles** cases has reached **900** with 6 cases identified in October. Since the beginning of the outbreak, **40 deaths** were registered putting the case fatality rate (CFR) at 4.4%. The majority of cases were reported from Tierkidi (329), followed by Kule (325), Nguenyyiel (121) and 125 cases from adjacent host communities. **Children under five represent 86% of all reported measles cases.**

The **Polio vaccination campaign** was implemented from October 7 - 10, in response to recent polio outbreak in Gambella region (4 in refugee camps and 2 in host community).

Overall, the primary challenges faced in October included **insecurity in the Amhara region** affecting access to primary health care, shortage of ambulance, and limited capacity for referrals.

POST OF THE MONTH

Addis Ababa, **Ethiopia**

UNHCR partner DICAC distributed 200+ walkers & canes to #refugees living in Addis Ababa.

These are part of over 3,000 assistive devices donated through USA for UNHCR from http://Flexport.org & Project C.U.R.E to be distributed to 7 field locations across the country ET.

Health (cont'd)

⚠️ With only **43%** of our **$23 million** funding requirements met, we can only offer minimal healthcare, leaving refugees vulnerable to preventable diseases. This gap will hinder disease management, emergency responses, essential supplies, referral services, and staff salaries. Without an extra $10 million, the well-being of nearly 1 million refugees is at serious risk. Read more here.

Shelter & CRIs

In **september**, in the **Amhara** region, UNHCR through its partner Action for the Needy (ANE) built **206 emergency shelters** and **10 transitional shelters for** Sudanese refugees in the **Aftit** settlement. Additionally, two **hangars** were built and 3.7 ha of **land developed**. In **Alemwach**, we completed **59 transitional shelters** and 49 masonry foundations. For the most vulnerable families, 4 tents have been built along with 10 ground floor slabs and 5 concrete walls.
For **Sudanese refugees** in the **Benishangul-Gumuz** region (BGR), at the Ura settlement, **485 emergency shelters** were completed providing shelter for **2,562 refugees**. The Ura site now counts **1,269 shelters housing 6,189 Sudanese refugees. Road construction** efforts have also progressed, reaching 8.1 km of the planned 9km.

In **Gambella**, UNHCR is building 240 transitional shelters out of the planned 293 in Nguenyiel and Punyido camps. As part of the relocation exercise from Okugo to Nyangatom camp, our partner ANE built 90 upgradable shelters for recently relocated Murle refugees. Two blocks of communal emergency latrines and a temporary health and nutrition hangar were also built.

⚠️ **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.

Water, Sanitation & Hygiene

Refugees currently access 11.1 liters of water per person per day (l/p/d) which is below the emergency standard of 15 liters. Additionally, the latrine ratio reported is 1:104, significantly lower than the minimum standard of 1:20 for shared emergency latrines. These are the results of various challenges such as power outages, fuel shortage, security issues, and logistical barriers.

In **Aftit**, Catholic Relief Services has started drilling a borehole. In **Alemwach**, 10 emergency latrines have been completed. One borehole drilling and 2.7 km of piping have been completed in **Bokh,** Somali region. In addition, a total of 93 household latrines have been finished.

As of June, **only 33 % of refugee sites had sanitation coverage**, significantly lower than the standard target of 85%. In terms of access to water, refugees received an average of 14 liters of water per person per day (l/p/d), lower than the required minimum standard of 20 l/p/d.

UNHCR and partners, are committed to supporting the needs of refugees from Somalia and Sudan located in Ethiopia. Funding gaps have limited the provision of basic WASH services in all locations. The volatile security situation in the Amhara region and difficulties to access the Aftit settlement have made it challenging to provide water. In the Somali region, boreholes are operating at low yield and frequently break down, despite increased water demand from both communities. The growing population of refugees and host communities has surged demand, outstripping the limited water supply from existing schemes.

⚠️ **UNDERFUNDING in Water and Sanitation** causes disease outbreaks, including cholera, and exposes women and girls to sexual violence as they walk long distances to fetch water and do not have adequate sanitation facilities. Read more here.

COMMUNAL HANGARS

SUSTAINABLE SHELTERS

EMERGENCY SHELTERS

Durable solutions

Resettlement

Over the past ten months, the cases of 5,087 refugees have been submitted to various countries for resettlement consideration, surpassing the annual target of 4,000. In October alone, 1,062 refugees departed from Ethiopia, including 261 for resettlement, 801 through private sponsorships. Additionally, we provided counseling to 79 refugees on family reunification, education pathways and labor mobility while also assisting one refugee in applying for a scholarship. UNHCR also facilitated the issuance of convention travel documents (CTDs) to 3 refugees and assisted one refugee in obtaining an emergency travel document (ETD).

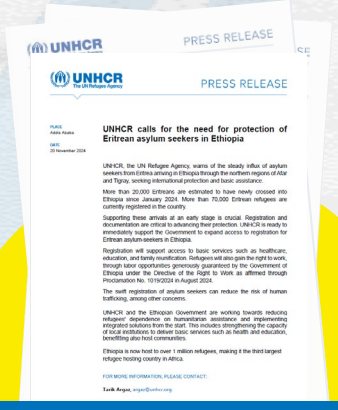
Livelihoods & Economic Integration

In Gambella, 1,480 refugees received their residence permits, 127 refugees received their work permits and 300 refugees received their business licenses. Ultimately, the goal is to issue 2,000 residence permits and 500 work permits. As part of the Soap Production Association, refugees successfully manufactured over 100,000 bars of soap and 876 bottles of liquid soap. Their total capital has now reached 2.75 million ETB. This achievement highlights their significant growth and production capacity.

In Melkadida, Somali region, UNHCR's livelihoods team, in collaboration with the Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS), the International Finance Corporation (IFC), and Sahel Agriculture Company, held the third advisory meeting to share planned activities and emphasize the importance of coordinating efforts to ensure the climate-smart initiative is successful.

Following the endorsement of the new directive on the right to work, a workshop on the new "Directive to Implement Recognized Refugees' and Asylum Seekers' Right to Work No. 1019/2024" was organized by RRS and EIC to raise awareness among regional and woreda-level administrations. Participants included UNHCR, RRS management and technical teams, livelihood partners, host communities, and refugees.

LATEST UPDATES



UNHCR PRESS RELEASE

PLACE Addis Ababa

DATE 20 November 2024

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PRESS RELEASE

UN agencies and Ethiopian government launch Durable Solutions Strategy for internal displacement

UNHCR joined forces with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to warn that **internal displacement, driven by conflict and climate shocks, is reversing decades of poverty reduction in Ethiopia**, and to say humanitarian aid is not enough.

FUNDING UPDATE | 2024

$426 million

Funding requirements for 2024

⚠️ **Only 43% of our funding requirements have been met so far this year** causing critical gaps in our response. UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to its work in Ethiopia, as well as to those that have contributed to UNHCR programmes globally with unearmarked or softly earmarked funds.

We are grateful for contributions by:

Australian Aid; With funding from Austrian Development Cooperation; Belgium partner in development; Canada; German Cooperation; Irish Aid Rialtas na hÉireann Government of Ireland; From the People of Japan; Luxembourg Aid & Development; Cooperación Española; UKaid from the British people; United Nations CERF; Education Cannot Wait; UNAIDS; unicef; IKEA Foundation; "la Caixa" Foundation; LDS Charities; mastercard foundation; United Nations Foundation

And Private Donors in Australia, China, 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 aim 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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