ETHIOPIA
Refugees and Asylum-seekers

As of 31 Aug 2025

1,085,018
Total Refugees and Asylum-seekers
(1,006,856 refugees | 78,162* asylum-seekers)

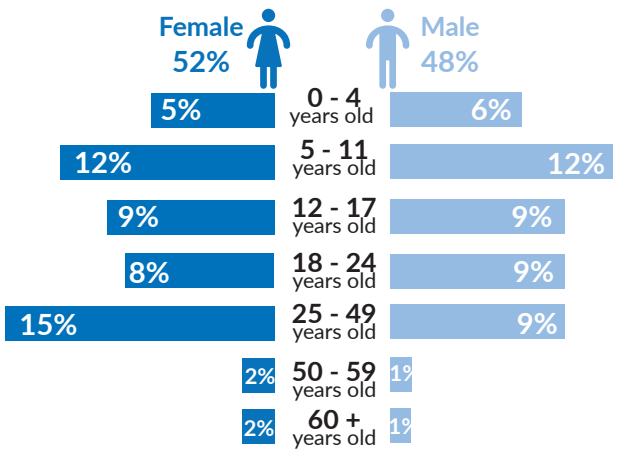
285,177
Households
(average family size: 4)

77% Women & Children
52% Children (0 -17 years)
45% Adults (18 - 59 years)
3% Elderly (60+)

Context & Highlight

Ethiopia is the third largest refugee hosting country in Africa, home to over 1M refugees and asylum seekers—mainly from South Sudan, Somalia and Eritrea. Following the outbreak of armed conflict in Sudan (April 2023) and South Sudan (June 2025) , Ethiopia is receiving thousands of forcibly displaced people at several points of entry.
On 6 March 2024, the Ethiopian government's Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) in collaboration with the National ID Program (NIDP) and UNHCR launched the issuance of digital identity documents to foster inclusion of refugees in the national system.

Age-gender breakdown

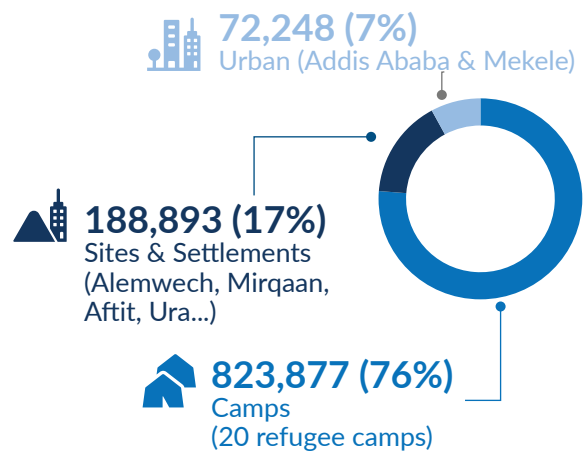


Countries of origin

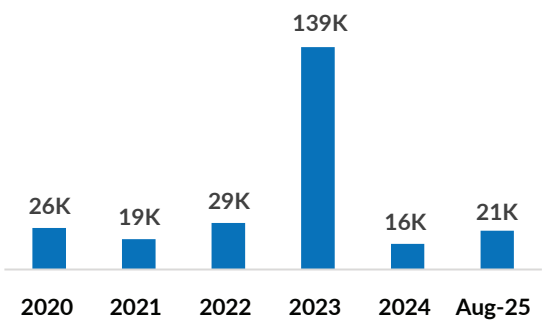
Country of origin	Total Individuals	Percentage
South Sudan	446,447	41%
Somalia	361,271	33%
Eritrea	170,042	16%
Sudan	96,446	9%
Kenya	5,673	1%
Yemen	2,533	<1%
DR Congo	922	<1%
Syrian Arab Republic	750	<1%
Others**	934	<1%
Total	**1,085,018**	

**Others include: Burundi (155 individuals); Djibouti (56)...In total refugees and asylum-seekers registered in Ethiopia come from 34 different countries.

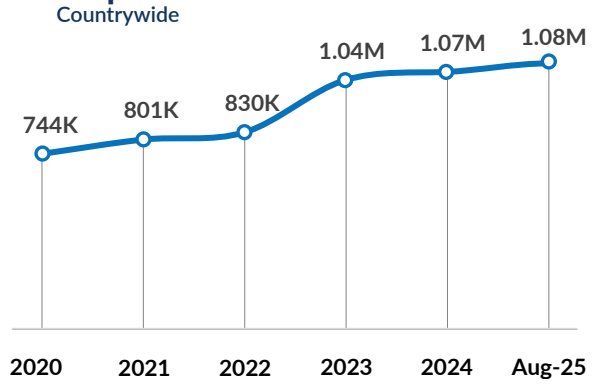
Population distribution



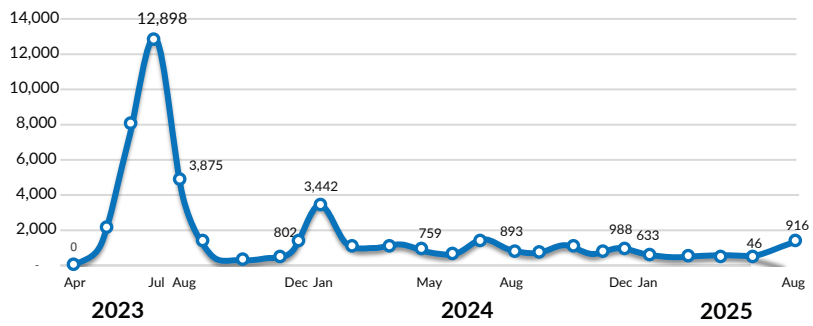
New arrivals per year
Countrywide

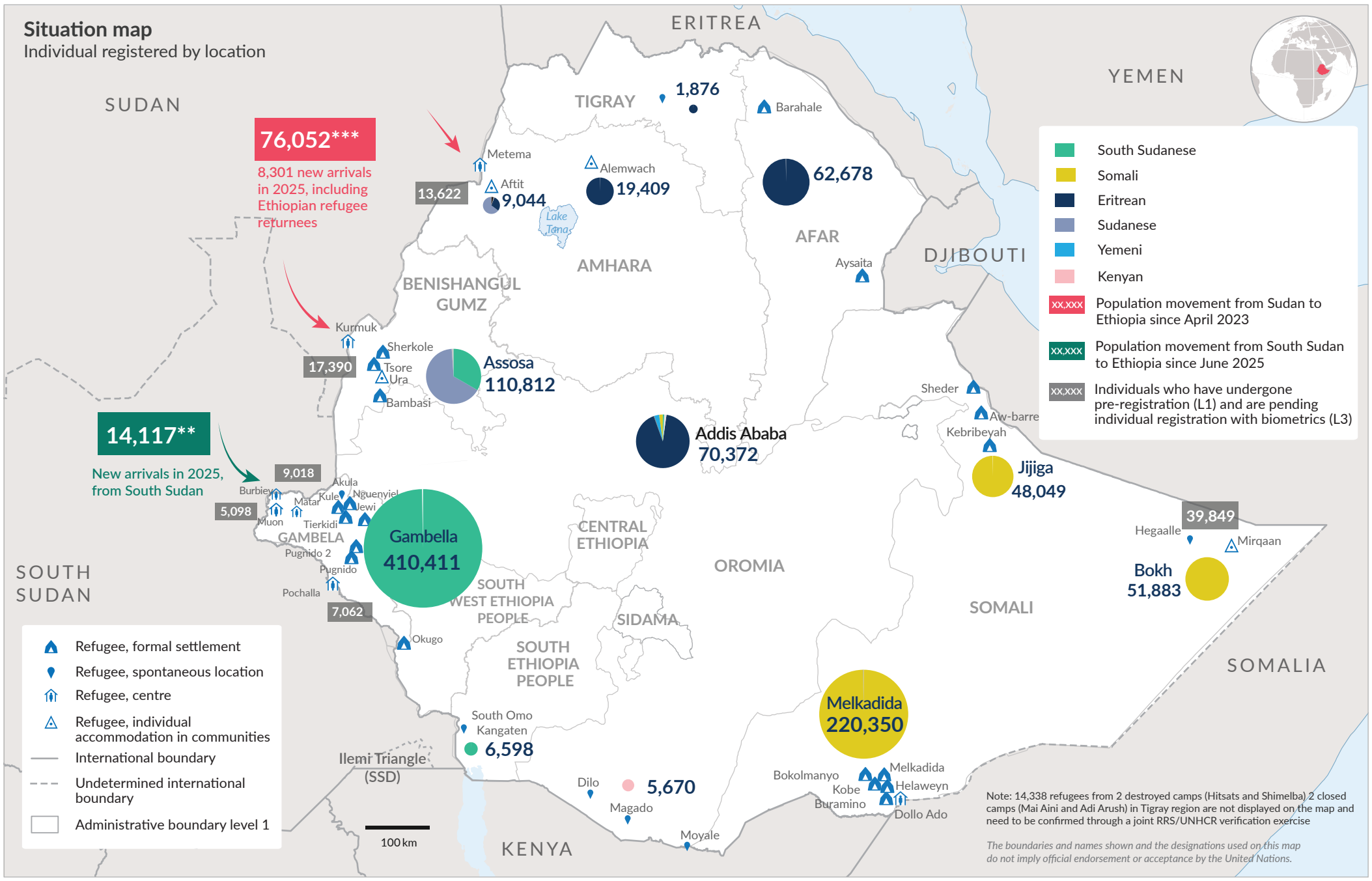


Population trend
Countrywide



Arrival trends Sudan emergency
Individuals in need of international protection





*Among the total 78,162 asylum seekers, 10,625 are pending individual Refugee Status Determination (RSD) procedures, the remaining 67,537 are household level pre-registered (L1) and categorized as 'asylum seeker'
***Sudan Emergency: arrivals in need of international protection from April 2023 to August 2025, Level 1 (L1) pre-registration figures. A total of 76,052 individuals pre-registered, including 45,118 Sudanese, 10,708 other nationalities, and 20,226 Ethiopian refugee returnees.
**South Sudan Emergency: arrivals in need of international protection from June 2025, Level 1 (L1) pre-registration figures. A total of 14,117 individuals pre-registered.

Update date: 09 September 2025 **Sources:** UNHCR, RRS, UNCS, CSA Ethiopia **Author:** UNHCR - CO Ethiopia **Feedback:** IM unit Addis Ababa, ethadim@unhcr.org