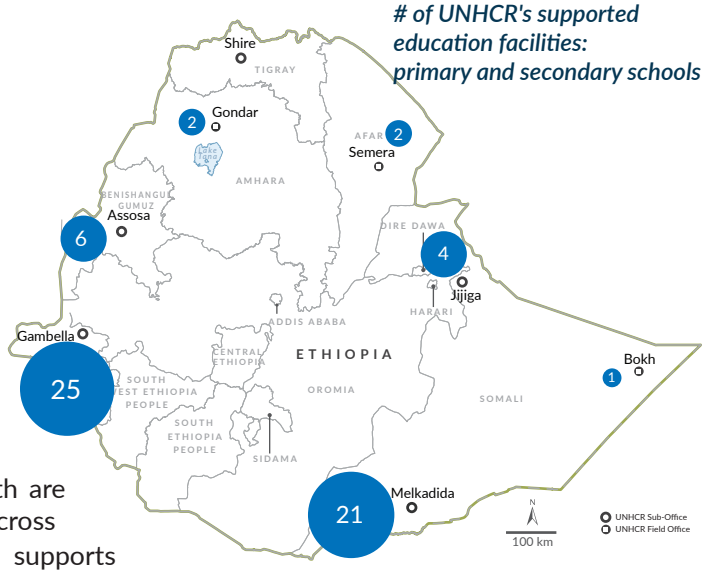
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES

- Inclusion of refugees in the national education system.
- Ensure access to a safe, protective, and inclusive learning environment.
- Improve the quality of teachers and school management.

PROGRESS AND KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

# of UNHCR's supported education facilities: primary and secondary schools



- In partnership with the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) and other partners, access to education services for the (2025/2026) academic year enrolled a total of 193,885 (85,398 girls) refugee students in pre-primary (52,858), primary (118,870), and secondary (22,157) levels of education. Moreover, 3,757 refugee youth are enrolled in different public and private universities and colleges across Ethiopia, including DAFI scholarship (1,229), other programme supports (13), TVET (1,478), and the remaining (1,037) without support.
- Gross Enrolment (GER) for pre-primary education stands at 87.4% compared to the national average of 84.9% for the 2024/2025 academic year. GER for primary and secondary education stands at 47% and 19.3%, respectively, compared to the national average of 98.1% and 30.4%, respectively.
- With the support from the World Bank under the project- Additional Financing to the General Education Quality Improvement Programme for Equity (GEQIP-E), which has been operational since 2023, a total of five secondary schools, four in the Somali Region and one in the Benishangul-Gumuz Region, were successfully integrated in 2025. This achievement completes the planned integration of eleven secondary schools across three regions: Gambella (5), Somali (4), and Benishangul-Gumuz (2).
- Similarly, refugee learners continued their education in the host communities in Bokh, Somali Region, Aftit, Amhara Region, and Ura in Benishangul-Gumuz Region under the initiative of solutions from the start. A total of 34,942 (13,672 girls) have benefited from inclusion into the national system through both approaches, World Bank-supported inclusion of secondary schools and inclusion from the start following the Somalia and Sudanese emergencies.
- Ethiopia has a positive policy environment for refugee education, principally the 2019 Refugee Proclamation, which provides refugees with access to educational opportunities at par with nationals. Furthermore, the sixth Education Sector Development Plan (ESDP VI, 2020 - 2025) includes refugee education for the first time, paving the way for its inclusion in national systems.
- Ethiopia also committed at the first Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in 2019, to provide quality and accredited skills training that is linked to the labor market to 20,000 refugees and Ethiopians by 2024. The country has reported 11,949 (60%) achievements of this pledge during the second GRF in December 2023, during which it made additional pledges. During the 2nd GRF, Ethiopia has made six pledges; the third pledge area is 'inclusion of refugees into the existing national system'. This has served as a basis for the current government-led initiative of preparation of the Makatet/Inclusion Roadmap that envisions inclusion of refugees into national systems.

SOUTH SUDAN EMERGENCY RESPONSE

- Joint Education Needs Assessment (JENA) was conducted
- Education in Emergencies (EiE) was not prioritized in the response plan due to funding shortfalls.
- Plan International Ethiopia secured funding from ECHO and currently preparation on-going to kick start the activities.
- Support to local authorities to rehabilitate of host community schools damaged where new arrivals were accommodated conducted

KEY FIGURES

579,018
Total school age childrens (52% of total population)

47% (118,870)
Primary education gross enrollement rate

2.5% (3,757)
Tertiary education gross enrollement rate

87.4% (52,858)
Pre-primary education gross enrollement rate

19.3% (22,157)
Pre-primary education gross enrollement rate

11
Secondary schools integrated

GAPS AND CHALLENGES

- Large numbers of out-of-school children across all field operations.
- Inadequate learning environments/facilities to meet the government standards
- Limited improvement on quality, equity, and inclusive education.
- Capacity limitations of Regional Education Bureaus (REBs) to sustain the refugee secondary schools that are integrated into the national education system.
- Dependency on refugee incentive teachers who, most of them, are not qualified for teaching,
- Overcrowded classrooms that will have an impact on the teaching and learning process, and funding shortfalls to keep the schools open.
- Funding shortfalls to keep the schools operational. Currently, the available funds can keep the school open until the end of March 2026 only. Interim funding opportunities remain critical to keep the schools operational while inclusion opportunities are under discussion with the government and the World Bank.

WAY FORWARD

- Support and engage with the government on inclusion of refugee education into the national system.
- Advocacy and engagement with development partners who can support the government on inclusion of refugees into the national systems.
- Joint advocacy and fundraising for out-of-school children to bring them back alternative education opportunities
- Strengthen data collection on education for evidence-based planning, monitoring, and decision making.
- Strengthen the coordination with MoE and UNICEF to include refugees in the national learning outcome assessments.

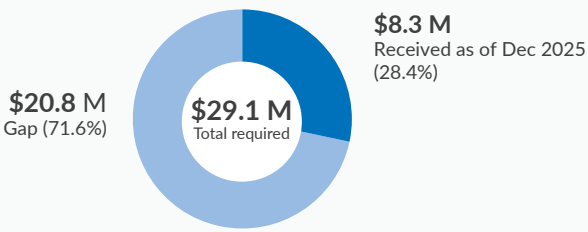
PARTNERSHIPS

GOVERNMENT
- Ministry of Education (MoE)
- Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS)
- Regional Education Bureau (REB)
- Ministry of Labor and Skills (MoLS)

UNITED NATIONS
- UNHCR
- UNICEF
- WFP
- ILO

PARTNERS
- Plan International Ethiopia (PIE)
- Ethiopian Orthodox Church Development and Inter-church Aid Commission (DICAC)
- Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ), OP
- International Rescue Committee (IRC), OP
- Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), OP
- Save the Children (SCI)
- Association of Ethiopians Educated in Germany (AEEG)
- Finish Refugee Council (FRC), OP

FUNDING DEC 2025



UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is grateful for the direct contributions to the UNHCR Ethiopia Operation