

## East and Horn of Africa, and the Great Lakes Region

1-7 May 2020

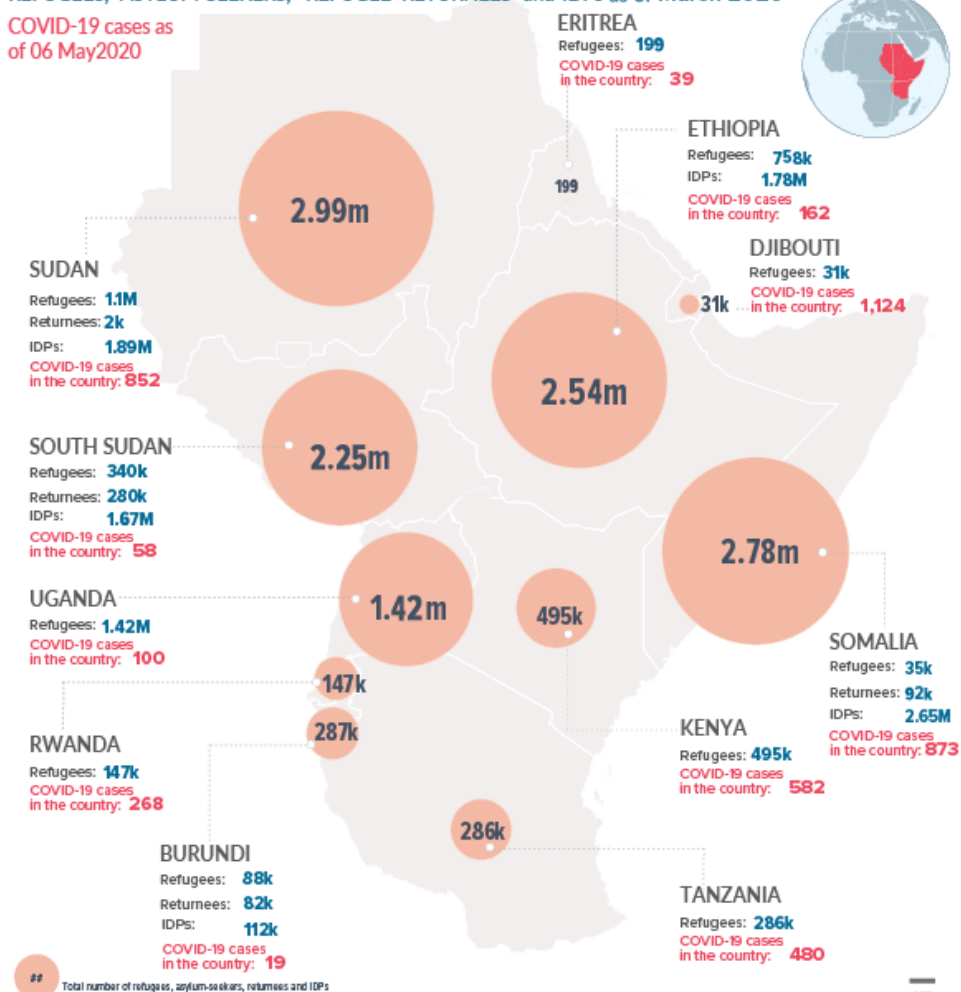


### Operational Context

The COVID-19 situation in the East and Horn of Africa, and the Great Lakes (EHAGL) region continues to evolve. As of 6 May, there were 4,557 confirmed COVID-19 cases in the countries covered by UNHCR's EHAGL Regional Bureau. Confirmed cases are expected to grow more rapidly as Governments increase their testing capacities. While there has been no large-scale outbreak amongst UNHCR's populations of concern so far, 4.7 million refugees and 8.1 million IDPs and their host communities are at risk. The need for preparedness remains urgent. Cases of local transmission have now been reported in all countries of the region. The countries with the most cases are **Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan, Kenya** and **Tanzania**. Measures by governments in the region to contain the spread of COVID-19 continue to evolve, particularly directives on social distancing and limitations on internal movement. In **Kenya**, the Government announced on 6 May further restrictions including the cessation of movement for 15 days in and out of Eastleigh, in Nairobi, where some 17,000 urban refugees reside. In **Uganda**, in a public address to the nation on 4 May, the President announced the partial lifting of some national lockdown measures but also new instructions including the obligation for everyone to wear masks in public. The lockdown measures will be reviewed upon assessment by health experts on 19 May. The wearing of masks is now also mandatory in **Rwanda** and parts of **Tanzania**.

REFUGEES, ASYLUM-SEEKERS, REFUGEE RETURNEES and IDPs as of March 2020

COVID-19 cases as of 06 May 2020



### Key Measures Taken

- **Prevention and response preparedness are ongoing in all locations.**
- **Ensuring basic assistance and minimum standards during quarantine for new asylum seekers and refugees who have travelled internally within host countries.**
- **Working with governments and partners to establish isolation facilities for suspected cases with onward referral measures in place.**

\*COVID-19 Case information: WHO, John Hopkins University, Ministries of Health, Governments. Note: COVID-19 cases refer to total cases reported in the countries of asylum. IDP figures- source: IOM, OCHA and UNHCR.

## UNHCR Response

### Protection

UNHCR continues to assess the impact of border closures and travel restrictions on access to asylum. Access to registration and refugee status determination for new asylum seekers remains difficult due to the current lockdowns. Movements continue through unofficial border crossing points where screening and provision of information is not in place. Across the region, UNHCR has appealed for special measures to be put in place, to allow for asylum-seekers to be screened, quarantined and admitted, and for UNHCR to be granted access to areas hosting refugees. At the border entry points of **South Sudan**, UNHCR is continuing its advocacy with government to ensure access to territory and asylum procedures for refugees and is collaborating with WHO, IOM and other partners to ensure that border entry points used by asylum-seekers, refugees and refugee returnees are supported with COVID-19 preventative measures. Last week, nearly 250 asylum seekers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) crossed into rural areas of Western Equatoria State – many among them are vulnerable women and children. UNHCR, in close collaboration with the South Sudan's Ministry of Interior through its Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA), has ensured facilities are available for them to follow the 14 day quarantine requirements and continues to monitor their situation and address their needs in coordination with partners.

In most countries, while UNHCR and partners do have access to camps/settlements, the face to face interaction with refugees, particularly with regard to protection services has been reduced and country operations are working to adapt methodologies for various protection functions ranging from registration and refugee status determination (RSD) to prevention and response to Sexual and Gender Based Violence. RSD and registration challenges have been seen in **Uganda** where RSD has been temporarily suspended by the Government, imposing difficulties on numerous asylum seekers who are without any form of identification or status in the country.

While all other facilitated refugee returns in the region have been put on hold, the voluntary repatriation program for **Burundi** refugees in **Tanzania** has continued. Advocacy with both governments for a temporary suspension of the movements continues, while in the meantime additional screening measures and prevention protocols have been put in place.

### Education

## 1.1 million refugee students out of school as result of COVID-19

On 5 May, the Government of **Tanzania** granted a license to UNHCR and Partners in Kigoma region to broadcast education programs on radio in the three camps of Nyarugusu, Nduta and Mtendeli. UNHCR, UNICEF and partners are engaging with the community Kwizera FM radio station for the broadcasts. Development of radio content with the teachers is being explored, along with sourcing of already existing online radio programs, including drawn from the Congolese and Burundian national curriculums. Linkages are being made with, Interactive Radio Instruction (IRI), a radio programme under the Education Development Centre (EDC) agency, on the use of their tool kit – “Learning at Home in Times of Crisis Using Radio”. In **Somalia**, distance learning activities are aligned to the existing Government programs; in South-Central Somalia DAFI-supported university students are accessing online courses through cash grants. In Somaliland students are accessing virtual classes through the Ministry of Education website and lessons broadcasted on national TV. In Puntland online classes have started for both secondary and primary school students. In **Djibouti**, the Ministry of Education and Professional Training is facilitating distance learning for students at national level, including refugees. The Ministry has completed the printing of self-learning pamphlets and all students will receive his/her individual copies in all subjects.

**11** countries have closed their borders, impacting access to asylum. UNHCR continues to advocate with Government partners to be able to carry out border monitoring activities, especially in lockdown situations.

**All countries** in the East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes have confirmed cases of COVID-19 including imported and local transmission.

UNHCR and partners are faced with the need to revamp education programming to support distance learning.

Our country level and regional Risk Registers have been updated, with mitigating measures established to address COVID-19 related risks.

## Health

**Major health challenges include the immediate availability of equipment necessary to detect, test and treat complicated cases, medical supplies and adequate facilities for isolation, as well as the feasibility of practicing social distancing at the community level.**

Operations continue to implement preparedness and response plans which involve identification, establishment and equipping of isolation units in the camps. The immediate availability of medical supplies and PPEs for the health care providers and the availability of testing facilities remains a challenge in most operations. In **Ethiopia**, frontline aid and health workers continue to raise concerns over the shortage of PPEs, water and jerry cans. Together with partners, UNHCR is working to supply these needed items. In same instance, we have seen an increase in laboratory testing capacity in countries such as **Ethiopia** where laboratory capacity has expanded to all regions. Targeted mass testing in **Kenya** is also expected in identified hotspot areas.

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

**Emphasis remains on blanket prevention activities in camps and working with the health sector to assess and prepare for WASH needs and infection prevention control in identified health structures to isolate and treat COVID-19 patients. UNHCR and partners are engaged in the regular distribution of core relief items (CRIs) in the region including soap and sanitary material packages.**

In **Burundi**, activities carried out in the camps focus on strengthening preventive measures against COVID-19, including awareness-raising, the establishment of mechanisms to strengthen water storage and hand-washing capacity in neighborhoods and households, and the transformation of the Ebola isolation centers into isolation centers for COVID-19 suspect cases. In **Rwanda**, the supply and installation of mobile latrines in isolation facilities at camp health centers in Mahama, Gihembe and Kiziba has been finalized. In **Tanzania**, the construction of 6 temporary latrines and eight bathing shelters was completed at the isolation facilities set up at the health post and main hospital in Mtendeli camp. The water supply was also extended to the same facilities. In **South Sudan**, UNHCR distributed soap and buckets to 879 households with specific needs in the Malakal Protection of Civilian site (POC). Distribution of the same items is ongoing in remote areas and areas of high return in Baliet, Fashoda, and Panyikang counties for 600 households with specific needs. During the distributions, COVID-19 awareness raising activities are also conducted. In East **Sudan**, UNHCR distributed 164,200 pieces of soap to 20,442 families in Abuda, Wad Sharifey, Um Gargour, Shagarab II, Shagarab III, Kilo 26 and Girba in cooperation with the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) and the International Humanitarian and Charity Organization (IHCO). In **Uganda**, the Uganda Red Cross Society is distributing treated logs for the construction of household latrines in several villages of Yumbe as well as ensuring the dissemination of messages on COVID-19 and general hygiene and sanitation.



*Refugees, mainly from Sudan, queue for food, soap and other items in Jamjang refugee camp, South Sudan.*

## Inter-agency Coordination

Operations are working closely with UN Country Teams, Resident Coordinators and the World Health Organization on crisis management, personnel and business continuity arrangements, program criticality, preparedness, and response planning. Existing refugee response coordination structures continue to function, through virtual communication where relevant.

At the regional level UNHCR is engaged with the Regional Humanitarian Partners Team to map the impact on humanitarian operations and coordinate on advocacy messaging, as well as with many sectoral groups including health, nutrition, education, and child protection which have been developing context specific inter-agency guidance on programming during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Funding needs

The revised UN inter-agency [Global Humanitarian Response Plan](#) was launched on 7 May seeking US\$6.7 billion and includes UNHCR's revised requirements of US\$745 million. UNHCR's revised global appeal detailing the country and sectoral breakdown of UNHCR's global budget requirements will be launched on 11 May.

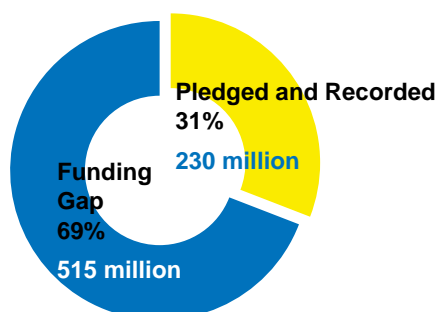
This is a revision of the initial [Global Humanitarian Response Plan](#) launched on 25 March seeking US\$2.01 billion, and which included US\$255 million for initial, prioritized requirements in UNHCR's operations in affected countries.

The increase is due to a rapid evolution of humanitarian needs, the inclusion of additional countries, increased cost of essential health and other supplies, and air and sea transportation. UNHCR is further scaling up its health, shelter and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) preparedness and response interventions, providing cash and other support to vulnerable displaced families experiencing economic shock, and ensuring protection and assistance for those most affected.

**USD 745 million requested by UNHCR in the revised inter-agency Global Humanitarian Response Plan on 7 May**

## Funding (as of 7 May 2020)

USD 745M requested for UNHCR's COVID-19 response globally over the next nine months:



### Total contributed or pledged to the COVID-19 appeal

**USD 230M** including:

United States \$64M | Germany \$38M | European Union \$31.8M | United Kingdom \$24.8M | Japan \$23.9M | Denmark \$14.6M | CERF \$6.9M | Canada \$6.4M | Ireland \$3.3M | Sweden \$3M | Sony Corporation \$3M | Finland \$2.4M | Education Cannot Wait \$1.8M | Qatar Charity \$1.5M | Australia \$0.8M | Monaco \$0.2M | Iceland \$0.4M | Portugal \$0.1M | Liechtenstein \$0.1M | Slovakia \$0.1M

### Unearmarked contributions to UNHCR's regular global programmes:

Sweden 76.4M | Norway 41.4M | Netherlands 36.1M | Denmark 34.6M | United Kingdom 31.7M | Germany 25.9M | Private donors in Spain 20M | Switzerland 16.4M | Private donors in Republic of Korea 10.5M

## Links:

[Ethiopia COVID-19 update \(8 May\)](#)

[Kenya COVID-19 bi-weekly update \(8 May\)](#)

[South Sudan COVID-19 update #4](#) : <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/75968>

[Sudan Flash Update on the relocation of CAR refugees and COVID-19 prevention \(6 May\)](#)

[Tanzania COVID-19 emergency response dashboard \(25 April-1 May\)](#)

## Press releases:

[UN issues US\\$6.7 billion appeal to protect millions of lives and stem the spread of coronavirus in fragile countries.](#)

[Somalia: Conflict and heavy floods force tens of thousands of people to flee their homes in Somalia, amidst COVID-19 threat](#)

[South Sudan: UNHCR South Sudan commends Government's efforts to preserve access to asylum](#)

## Contacts

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