

July 2021



Protection

Voluntary repatriation: UNHCR, together with the Governments of Kenya and Ethiopia, continues to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of Ethiopian refugees in Kenya, with an additional 173 individuals having returned in July. Since the start of the operation in February 2020, 573 persons have been repatriated from Kenya, with additional over 1,100 others expected to return home before the end of the year. UNHCR has provided the returnees with transport money and a reintegration package to help them restart their lives.



An Ethiopian refugee on her return from Kenya ©UNHCR/Hanna Qassis

New displacement in Kamashi zone: The Protection Cluster, led by UNHCR, conducted a rapid needs assessment of over 13,000 people who have been newly displaced by conflict in the Kamashi zone of the Benishangul-Gumuz Region. Made up of 2,242 families, they were displaced from Songe and Didesa kebeles of Mizyiga woreda mainly to Balo, Baredu Balo, Karsa Mojo, and Anger kebeles of Sasiga Woreda. The mission followed an appeal by the zonal Disaster Risk Management office (DRMO) of East Wollega Zone of the Oromia Region to humanitarian organizations to provide urgent life-saving assistance to the displaced, including food, shelter, medical supplies. Support will be provided based on the findings of the assessment mission.



Education

A total of 164,631 refugee students are attending classes, including 48,841 in pre-primary, 105,101 in primary and 10,689 in secondary schools. 58 percent of them are females. However, meeting the minimum guidelines set by the Ministry of Education to curb the spread of COVID-19 in schools remains a challenge for most educational institutions. Shift systems and alternate learning are being used as a temporary measure to maximize the use of available resources. Still, over 60% of all schools in refugee camps do not meet the standards of safe learning environment.



Shelter & CRIs

Construction of emergency shelters for IDPs: UNHCR continues to respond to the shelter needs of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the Tigray Region as part of the Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster. Since April 2021, 750 emergency shelters have been constructed in IDP sites in Shire and

Mekelle, with plans underway to scale up the construction. In Gedeo and West Guji areas in the south, construction of 200 shelters for IDP returnees is at an advanced stage. Total of 92 shelters have been provided to IDPs and IDP returnees in the Somali Region. In Gure-Shembola camp in the Benishangul-Gumuz Region, 43 vulnerable refugee families were accommodated in transitional shelters.



General Health Services: UNHCR, in collaboration with the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) and partners, facilitates access to primary, emergency secondary and tertiary healthcare services for refugees and asylum-seekers. While primary health services are often provided within the refugee camps, patients are referred to regional or federal hospitals for secondary and tertiary health care services. In urban settings such as Addis Ababa, UNHCR covers the costs of medicines and medical check-ups for the affected refugees.

Health and nutrition services in Dollo Ado: Health and nutrition services continue to be provided to the new arrivals at the Dollo Ado reception center. During the second half of July, 398 refugees benefitted from medical consultations. Additionally, 254 children were vaccinated against vaccine-preventable diseases and 79 women of childbearing age received tetanus vaccines.

Vitamin A supplementation to children: In the Benishangul-Gumuz Region, 8,729 (96.9%) refugee children under age of five received vitamin A supplementation, to reduce child mortality and morbidity. A total of 6,432 (94.9%) children were dewormed to help increase their nutritional uptake and manage infections like anaemia or even loose bowels. In addition, 9,962 children aged 6 months to 6 years were screened for malnutrition and 21 children with severe acute malnutrition were identified and enrolled in a nutrition programme. Moreover, 2,415 pregnant and lactating women were screened for malnutrition, including 170 who were identified as malnourished and enrolled to nutrition programmes.

COVID-19

Refugees have been included in the Government's COVID-19 vaccination plan: a total of 3,810 refugees have received first dose, while 104 refugees have been fully vaccinated so far in line with the Government's prioritization criteria.

As of 1 July 2021, the Ethiopian Ministry of Health requires travelers exiting, entering, or transiting through Ethiopia to present digital negative COVID-19 certificates at all points of entry based on the African Union's Trusted Travel guidelines.



General WASH Services: UNHCR works with partners to provide access to clean water and sanitation and improve hygiene practices through upgrading water systems, supporting the construction of latrines and solid waste management, and awareness raising. An average of 18 litres of water per person/day was provided across all the camps during the reporting month. In camps facing shortage of water, including Kebribeyah, Tierkidi, Kule and Pugnido 1, UNHCR and partners are working to ensure that refugees in those camps receive the minimum desired 20 litres of water per person/day.

As part of the effort to prevent COVID-19 infections, UNHCR continues to expand hand washing-facilities, increase supply of water and soap as well as promote adherence to basic hygiene requirements in all refugee camps.

Tigray Emergency: The humanitarian situation across the Tigray Region remains deeply concerning. Refugees, the internally displaced and host communities have endured nine months of conflict, which has

resulted in limited basic services and assistance. According to OCHA, 175 trucks with humanitarian supplies arrived in Mekelle in recent weeks. This assistance is by far not sufficient, with an estimated 100 trucks needed daily to meet minimum needs. In the past week, UNHCR staff and 12 trucks carrying emergency aid have reached Mekelle, the region's capital.

In early August, UNHCR and partners regained access to the Mai Aini and Adi Harush camps for Eritrean refugees which was interrupted since 13 July due to ongoing conflict in the area. Urgent assistance was resumed from 5 August and food rations were distributed to 23,000 refugees in both camps with partners.

In Addis Ababa, since 4 August, UNHCR and ARRA, in coordination with the non-governmental organization WISE, has begun to issue temporary identification documents to Eritrean refugees who fled from the Shimelba and Hitsats camps in north Tigray, destroyed at the start of this year. The three-year documents will enable refugees to access assistance, services, and protection. Between 4-13 August, 2,497 refugees (1,778 households) were issued with ID cards and proof of registration documents.

Regular Ethiopia country and regional UNHCR updates on the Tigray crisis can be found at:
<https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/rbehagl>

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