

## ETHIOPIA EMERGENCY SITUATION

31 March 2022



*Almaz Shegaw, 21, an Ethiopian refugee, makes traditional coffee in Tunaydbah camp, eastern Sudan. ©UNHCR/Ahmed Kwarte*

### Key Developments

#### ETHIOPIA

On 4 March, UNHCR launched the [Ethiopia Regional Appeal](#) seeking US\$ 205 million to assist 1.3 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 158,000 Eritrean refugees in Ethiopia, as well as an anticipated 110,000 Ethiopian refugees in Sudan. Some US\$16 million was also included for preparedness activities in Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia and South Sudan. A [briefing note](#) was issued and an [appeal video](#) shared on social media. Funds raised will enable UNHCR to provide essential protection and humanitarian assistance to those impacted by the conflict.

On 24 March, the [Ethiopian government](#) announced an indefinite humanitarian truce to ensure free flow of emergency humanitarian aid to all in need of assistance in northern Ethiopia. The government called upon the donor community to redouble their contributions to alleviate the situation and reiterated its commitment to work in collaboration with relevant organizations to expedite the provision of humanitarian assistance to those in need. In addition to enabling the delivery of aid, the government expressed its hope that this truce would pave way for the resolution of the conflict in northern Ethiopia. In response, the [TPLF](#) commented “if the right circumstances arise for people to receive the level of humanitarian assistance commensurate with needs on the ground, and within a reasonable timeframe, the Government of Tigray is committed to implementing a cessation of hostilities effective immediately.” In addition, TPLF stated that it would do everything it can to make sure that this cessation of hostilities is a success.

As of 31 March, some limited quantities of cash, medicines, and nutrition supplies had been brought in by air and road since the start of the year. In April, UNHCR plans to send in a fuel tanker from Semera and is working on deploying Core Relief Items (CRIs) from Addis to Semera and then onwards to Mekelle to replenish dwindling stocks in Tigray. UNHCR received clearances from the federal government to airlift additional medical supplies and other materials to Tigray for both refugees and IDPs.

## Ethiopia Response

*The humanitarian situation across northern Ethiopia continues to seriously impact refugees, the internally displaced and host communities. Civilians have endured over one year of conflict with extremely limited basic services and assistance available, leading to a significant escalation in humanitarian needs with ongoing new displacements. The security situation remains volatile, affecting civilians and constraining humanitarian actors on the ground, despite the announcement of a humanitarian truce. The ability of UNHCR and other humanitarian actors to work and deliver assistance in Tigray remains severely constrained by the lack of fuel and supplies.*

On 3 March, UNHCR's Principal Situation Coordinator for Northern Ethiopia and Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) Senior officials visited the Aysaita refugee camp. RRS Aysaita Camp Coordinator provided an overview of activities, challenges, and opportunities in the camp highlighting shelter gaps, challenges of health service provision and screening of new asylum-seekers. The visit included a meeting with Aysaita Town Mayor who appreciated UNHCR's continued support to refugees, the local community, and authorities in the past years and highlighted that water, health and education are among the top priorities for the communities who continue to face significant challenges. Security-related issues were also highlighted, including shortage of vehicles.

The delegation also visited the temporary site of Serdo that is being prepared to host the refugees displaced from Barahle. So far, AHA has completed the erection of 225 UNHCR family tents and emergency water taps. The aridity of the location, the lack of sustainable water provision and electricity supply remain a challenge.

The Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator together with UNHCR's Principal Situation Coordinator, the Area Humanitarian Team and OCHA's Officer-In-Charge undertook a mission to Shire on 11 March to visit IDPs sites in Adigrat, Shire, Sheraro, Adi Awala and Axum.

## Eritrean Refugee Response

### TIGRAY

The overall situation in the two refugee camps of Mai-Aini and Adi-Harush continues to deteriorate with lack of adequate food, water, and basic services, with a high movement of people out of the camps witnessed in the past months. Some of the refugees have travelled onward to Alemwach site in North Gondar while fewer numbers reportedly tried to cross the border to Sudan. Local authorities reported temporary detention of around 1,300 of these refugees attempting to cross over from Mai Tsebri to the Amhara region. Following a meeting with local authorities in Mai Tsebri, UNHCR conducted detention monitoring and advocated for the release of refugees, who were later returned to the camps.

Meanwhile, preventable deaths among refugees in the two camps continue to be reported, especially among vulnerable groups of women, newborn, and elderly, mainly due to malnutrition, contaminated water, and lack of medicines. UNHCR's access to the two camps continues to be limited, considering the extremely challenging operational environment resulting from continued insecurity and lack of fuel and cash. However, UNHCR continues to conduct protection assessments simultaneously with food distributions, with staff present on the ground in the past few weeks for limited durations of time. Arrangements are in place to have permanent staff presence in the two camps, subject to improvement of security as well as availability of cash and fuel.

In Mekelle, UNHCR continues to provide protection counselling services to refugees and asylum-seekers in a newly established reception center. Key protection issues raised by refugees include food shortage and lack of registration and identity documentation. All interviewed refugees and asylum-seekers indicated unwillingness

to return to the refugee camps of Mai-Aini and Adi-Harush and would rather receive food, cash, and medical assistance in Mekelle, while they expressed the wish to be relocated to a safer location. As of 24 March, UNHCR identified a total of 856 refugees in Mekelle area (455 in Mekelle town, 400 in Adigrat, one in Maichew).

On 17 March, UNHCR conducted a focus group discussion with Eritrean refugees hosted at El Shadai temporary site in Mekelle. Two groups were constituted with women/girls and men/youths. Key challenges encountered by refugees highlighted during the discussions included lack of food, medicine, dignity kits, concerns about missing family members, and the possibility for their relocation.

## **AFAR**

Armed clashes continue to be reported in Afar. Nevertheless, UNHCR's registration team continues to verify Eritrean refugees arriving to the new Serdo site. New arrivals to the site are provided with proof of registration documents once they have been verified. As of 31 March, a total of 2,155 refugees from Afdera/ Semera had been verified by the deployed UNHCR registration team and are being supported by UNHCR and partners. A total of 692 tents out of the planned 1,300 have been pitched on site to accommodate refugees. In addition, water supply points and latrines were also installed.

UNHCR has been distributing CRIs to all refugees in Serdo while WFP started general food distribution. To strengthen the social cohesion with the local community, UNHCR is discussing with local authorities means to strengthen access to health as well as primary and secondary education, through securing additional resources and establishing new structures. The main challenge in Serdo remains the water supply network to ensure that refugees have adequate access to potable water. So far, water trucking is ongoing while local authorities and UNHCR technicians are seeking a more efficient solution.

## **AMHARA**

As of 31 March, the number of registered Eritrean refugees in Alemwach settlement in North Gondar stood at 3,700 individuals. The Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) is now arranging transportation to move refugees to the settlement from three different locations along the Tigray- Amhara border area, namely Janamora, Beremariam and Zarema, all located approximately 100 km from Alemwach. UNHCR and partners RRS, Innovative Humanitarian Solutions (IHS) and Action for the Needy in Ethiopia (ANE) are facilitating provision of assistance for the new arrivals. At Alemwach, the construction of 37 out of 40 planned communal shelters has been completed. These communal shelters will accommodate approximately 4,000 refugees a time. Meanwhile, an additional 500 individual family tents have also been received at the site which will allow refugees to be moved out of the communal shelters. The overall planned capacity of the site remains 25,000 refugees.

On 16 March, refugees in Alemwach settlement discussed with UNHCR and RRS their concerns regarding delays in the distribution of CRIs to newly arriving refugees, expired identification documents, lack of sanitary kits for women, psychological trauma, expenses incurred in transit from Tigray to Amhara, concerns on the safety of their relatives back in the Mai Aini and Adi Harush camps and their wish to be resettled. UNHCR confirmed the availability of CRIs and the plan to distribute to all new refugees upon arrival. Refugees were also assured that UNHCR will start transferring their family members from Tigray once a safe passage is approved by the authorities. Notwithstanding the challenging security and access situation, UNHCR reiterated its commitment to work on improving the situation in the camps in Tigray, including ensuring access to basic services.

Plans are also underway for a UNHCR office and health staff to be located closer to the refugee population in Alemwach to ensure presence on ground. The installation of the water supply pipeline from the borehole site to the refugee reception center has started and the construction of a community water point is almost completed.

UNHCR, RRS and partners continue to encounter challenges in the delivery of assistance, including lack of fuel and electricity to support the distribution of NFIs and health facilities. Cases of scabies continue to be reported,

raising concerns of disease outbreak due to the congestion in the temporary site as well as poor hygiene and lack of latrines.

## Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

On 21 March, the High Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for the Horn of Africa met with the President of Afar region, Afar elders and the humanitarian community to discuss the current humanitarian situation, with a focus on access to Tigray via Afar. Discussions included means to secure uninterrupted flow of food and fuel supplies to Afar and Tigray regions, as well as ensuring a satisfactory farming season in Afar. Significant logistical challenges were presented during the meeting, mainly linked to insecurity.

UNHCR met with the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) in Afar to strengthen advocacy for IDPs' freedom of movement and to design joint strategies to secure special permits from local police authorizing persons of concern to exit IDP sites for necessary medical treatments.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) joined the Protection Cluster meeting chaired by UNHCR and the Bureau of Women Children and Youth Affairs (BoWCYA) to identify effective advocacy strategies to secure access to basic socio-economic rights, strengthen referral mechanisms in health care, and provide access to informal education.

UNHCR in Mekelle rolled out the country-wide protection monitoring tools, with key informant interviews conducted in six IDP sites in Mekelle. Fifteen (15) social workers from Innovative Humanitarian Solutions (IHS) have been trained and are fully engaged in the exercise. UNHCR continues to monitor the exercise closely, including data compilation.

During a meeting with UNHCR Principal Situation Coordinator in Afar, Head of the Disaster Prevention Food Security Program Coordination Office (DPFSPCO) sought UNHCR's support in strengthening the CCCM interventions in the new IDP sites and in building the capacity of DPFSPCO to undertake these activities. He also appealed to speed up UNHCR's CRI and Shelter response. UNHCR confirmed plans to carryout CRI distributions subject to the availability of CRIs. UNHCR and DPFSPCO visited the Semera IDP site with partners and were informed about the challenges related to food and WASH supply.



**Protection:** In Shire, UNHCR is alarmed by the spike in the number of deaths in IDP settlements, especially in Hitsats. UNHCR and OCHA convened an *ad-hoc* meeting to mobilize multi-sectoral needs assessment and response efforts and discussed the possibility of a general food distribution. Daily meetings are convened to monitor the situation in all IDP sites, while intensified site monitoring is planned as soon as fuel will be available to support the activity.

In line with the efforts to set up well-functioning protection desks in the IDP sites in Afar, UNHCR's Protection team trained two coordinators and seven social workers from the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) in managing mobile protection desks, undertaking protection monitoring, interviewing techniques and information gathering. Part of the training was also dedicated to PSEA policies and guidance on setting up complaint mechanisms.



**Shelter and Non-food Items:** Lack of fuel continues to hamper CRI distributions to 6,000 new IDPs who arrived in Sheraro last month as well as 5,000 IDPs relocated from Dedebeit to Selekleka new IDP site. Despite the fuel shortage earlier on, UNHCR through the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) completed the distribution of 1,000 full CRI kits to IDPs in Selekleka reaching an estimated 5,000 individuals.



UNHCR facilitated 10 small return movements of IDPs from Mekelle to their various places of origin. A total of 111 returning individuals were assisted with NFIs that included floor mats, blankets, plastic sheets and jerrycans. Each household was provided with cash to cover their transportation expenses.

As of 29 March, the IDP population in Debre Berhan was at 17,140 individuals of whom 10,414 IDPs reside in the China Factory IDP site. The need to relocate IDPs arriving from Oromia and residing in the Chinese factory IDP site has heightened due to the challenging unseasonal cold and rainy weather conditions. UNHCR has completed the installation of all 19 planned shelters in the Woynshet paper factory IDP site allowing the relocation of 6,103 individuals.

On 28 March, UNHCR partner ANE distributed core relief items to 1,766 IDPs in Semera IDP site, in addition to basic medical equipment for maternity care.

On 8 March, UNHCR conducted a field mission to Kobo, North of Wollo (170 km north of Dessie). According to regional authorities, there are currently close to 53,000 IDPs living in four sites within Kobo town, (Dingay kulil, TVET, Awra Godana, and Millennium school). Following this mission, on 15 March UNHCR and partner AAHI, undertook a four-day distribution of core relief items (blankets, kitchen sets, plastic sheets, mosquito nets, sleeping mats, buckets soap bars and mattresses) to 5,000 newly displaced Tigrayan households in Kobo.



**Camp Coordination and Camp Management:** On 28 March, UNHCR and CCCM partners Organization for Social Services Health and Development (OSSHD) and ANE with support of IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) conducted a headcount in 10 IDP sites in Shire that are managed by UNHCR. The purpose of the headcount is to estimate the number of IDPs who are physically living in the IDP sites to inform adequate delivery of essential services. Prior to the headcount and to strengthen UNHCR partners capacity, a half-day training was delivered by DTM to partners OSSDH and ANE.

In Kulichmeda IDP site managed by UNHCR in North Gondar, CCCM partners received a total of 250 quintals of wheat flour and 300 cooking pots from Ethiopians in the diaspora. The wheat flour and the pots were distributed to the IDPs living in the site.

During the week of 21 March, 666 new scabies cases were reported by partners from five IDP collective centers in Shire. UNHCR health and CCCM partners treated 1,829 cases through an organized house-to-house scabies treatment campaign. Soap bars were also distributed to 380 scabies affected individuals in Shire.

The CCCM Cluster in collaboration with health partners conducted a mass awareness raising activity on identifying symptoms and prevention mechanisms of scabies and Covid-19 in Shire IDP sites. A total of 1,106 IDPs participated in the activity. An additional 450 IDPs received these awareness sessions in IDP sites in Mekelle.

On 6 March, 4,444 individuals from 844 Western Tigray IDP households living in seven elementary schools in Mekelle were relocated by CCCM partners IOM, UNHCR/ANE and Organization for Social service, Health, and Development (OSSHD) to Sabacare 4 IDP site. Cash assistance was paid to the individuals to facilitate their relocation. IOM supported with a truck for transporting the luggage. To date, a total of 14,879 individual (3,373 households) from 15 collective centers in Mekelle have been relocated to Sabacare 4. The Mekelle city administration along with the CCCM Cluster and other stakeholders will undertake a visit to assess the potential expansion of this site to accommodate the Western Tigray IDPs from the 13 remaining collective centers.

## Sudan Response

The UN Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for East Africa together with UNHCR's Director of the Regional Bureau for East and Horn of Africa and Great Lakes Region visited Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah refugee camps and Gallabat border crossing point as part of a three-day visit to Eastern Sudan. They spoke with newly arrived refugees who described the circumstances of their journey from Ethiopia to border crossing points at Hamdayet and Gallabat in Sudan. They held a conversation with young refugee women and men who highlighted the importance of access to higher education and livelihood. The delegation also met with Sudanese and Ethiopian border authorities at Gallabat and discussed the reception of new arrivals and protection issues at the border area.

On 23 March, Gedaref's Refugee Working Group convened a one-day workshop with 25 participants from different organizations involved in the Ethiopia refugee response to reflect on lessons learned from activities and interventions during the last quarter of 2021 and the first quarter of 2022. Participants of the workshop agreed on the priorities of the response for the next nine months. These include consolidating services and protection mechanisms; strengthening existing information systems and developing new ones; transitioning to a solutions-focused approach; and enhancing accountability to affected populations. It was further agreed that a similar workshop would be held at the end of each quarter to evaluate progress and remaining gaps.

As part of ongoing preparations for the upcoming rainy season (May – October), 3,930 tents will be replaced in Um Rakuba (400), Tunaydbah (2,929) and Babikri (601) with emergency shelter kits (ESKs) containing wooden poles, plastic sheets, bamboos, grass mats and locally produced ropes. Distributions begun in Tunaydbah with the distribution of some 1,000 ESKs to refugees. Distributions in Babikri and Um Rakuba will be conducted over the next few weeks. 11,000 pre-disaster kits (PDKs) containing sandbags, binding wires and various tools have also been ordered to be pre-positioned and distributed to refugee households in the three locations. In addition, to better ensure access throughout the rainy season, UNHCR and WFP will rehabilitate roads and drainages that will benefit both the refugees and the host community.



**Protection:** On 17 March, and as part of capacity building efforts, UNHCR conducted an orientation session for child protection partners and discussed the protection indicators partners are expected to report on going forward.

Between 15–17 March, representatives from Sudan's prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) Network visited Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah camps to assess and evaluate last year's PSEA campaign and identify the best practices to be adopted for this year's campaign. The delegation, led by the PSEA Network Coordinator, met with the UNHCR protection team and other protection partners to assess where technical support and recommendations could be provided. The delegation also participated in discussions with women, youth, and community leaders.



**Education:** The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) distributed 1,140 student kits to students in Tunaydbah camp during the reporting period. The kits contain assorted learning materials. 427 new students were enrolled in Tunaydbah camp, bringing the total number of students enrolled at the primary education level to 2,167 students.

NRC also conducted Teacher in Crises Context (TiCC) trainings for 122 teachers (75 in Um Rakuba and 47 in Tunaydbah). The training sought to build the basic teaching competencies for unqualified or under-qualified teachers who were recruited to teach in the camp. NRC also collaborated with UNHCR and gender-based violence (GBV) partners to integrate GBV and PSEA into the training.



**Camp Coordination and Camp Management:** In Tunaydbah, the DRC distributed fire safety materials, including buckets, extinguishers, fire safety gloves, helmets, masks, and megaphones during the reporting period. These items were distributed between the fire safety committee and to specific points in

each block as agreed with COR, community leaders, and the fire safety committee. In Babikri, DRC set up a fire-safety committee to help mitigate the risk of any fire in the settlement.

## KENYA

### NEW ARRIVALS AND BORDER DYNAMICS

**Kakuma and Kalobeyei:** During the last week of March, three Ethiopians of Tigrayan origin and one Eritrean asylum-seeker arrived at the Kakuma Reception Centre, having entered Kenya through the Moyale border point. No arrivals were reported through the border entry points of Malaba, Busia, Migori and Kitale during this period. There are in total 31 Ethiopians residing in the Kakuma (19) and Kalobeyei (12) reception centers; they have all declined to be relocated to communities in the camp or settlement, claiming fears of attacks by other Ethiopians of different ethnicities.

**Dadaab:** There were 14 new arrivals in Dadaab from Ethiopia via the Mandera/EI Wak border crossing points during the week of 28 March. All indicated that they came to seek informal labor opportunities in the country.

## SOMALIA

### NEW ARRIVALS AND BORDER DYNAMICS

**Somaliland:** The joint registration exercise with WFP in Borama for the new arrivals from Ethiopia was completed in March. A total of 62 households (162 individuals) were registered. A total of 33 households (81 individuals) did not show up for the registration out of the total number of 95 households (243 individuals) biometrically registered by the National Displacement and Refugee Agency (NDRA) in February 2022.

**South Central (Jubaland, Southwest and Hiirshabelle states):** A total of seven households (36 individuals), mainly from the Oromo tribe, arrived in the Kabasa IDP camp despite the border not being officially opened. The families claimed to have fled from Bale province in the Oromia region of Ethiopia, reportedly due to ongoing conflict between the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) and the Ethiopian government.

**Puntland:** The needs and beneficiary assessment of new Ethiopian arrivals who will be supported with CBI has been finalized. One-time cash grants will be provided to 301 households (443 individuals).

## SOUTH SUDAN

### NEW ARRIVALS AND BORDER DYNAMICS

**Upper Nile (Malakal):** A total of 51 households (481 individuals) have crossed through Jeko, Pagak, Pil and Wichluajak border points during the week of 23 March. The newly registered asylum-seekers fled Ethiopia due to the ongoing conflict. Verification and registration of the Ethiopian asylum-seekers will be coordinated with the Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA).

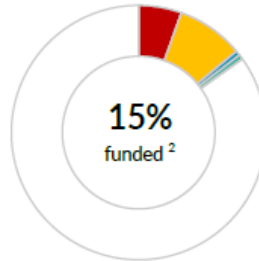
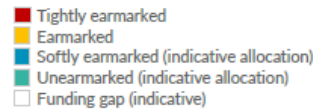
**Upper Nile (Maban):** From 3-15 March, UNHCR conducted biometric registration of 90 Ethiopian asylum-seekers. The registered asylum-seekers are predominantly from Oromia (19 individuals) and Tigray regions (71 individuals). This brings the total number of registered Ethiopian asylum-seekers in Maban to 103 households (205 individuals). The newly registered asylum-seekers fled Ethiopia due to the ongoing conflict and they have been in Upper Nile State (mainly in Renk and Poluch) since 2021. Verification and registration of the Ethiopian asylum-seekers is coordinated with the Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA).

## Funding Overview



FUNDING UPDATE | 2022

**\$205.4 million**

 UNHCR's financial requirements 2022 <sup>1</sup>

**ETHIOPIA  
EMERGENCY**  
 as of 29 March 2022


### CONTRIBUTIONS <sup>3</sup> | USD

|  | ■ Unearmarked    | ■ Softly earmarked | ■ Earmarked       | ■ Tightly earmarked | Total             |
|--|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Japan  | -                | -                  | 10,936,684        | -                   | 10,936,684        |
| Other private donors                           | -                | 39,954             | -                 | -                   | 39,954            |
| <b>Sub-total</b>                               | -                | <b>39,954</b>      | <b>10,936,684</b> | -                   | <b>10,976,638</b> |
| Indicative allocation of funds and adjustments | 1,247,758        | 1,196,694          | 6,537,668         | 11,212,589          | 20,194,709        |
| <b>Total</b>                                   | <b>1,247,758</b> | <b>1,236,648</b>   | <b>17,474,352</b> | <b>11,212,589</b>   | <b>31,171,346</b> |

Methodology: Unearmarked funding is allocated and reallocated multiple times during the year to allow UNHCR to fund prioritised activities. This funding update includes an indicative allocation of funds so as to accurately represent the resources available for the situation. The contributions earmarked for the Ethiopia Emergency shown above are combined with an indicative allocation of the softly earmarked and unearmarked contributions listed below. This allocation respects different levels of earmarking. Adjustments relate to programme support costs and carry-over.

### OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS <sup>4</sup> | USD

Switzerland 3.6 million | Republic of Korea 2.9 million | Netherlands 2.6 million

Denmark | Japan | Luxembourg | Norway | Spain | UN Programme on HIV/AIDS | United States of America | Private donors

### UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS <sup>5</sup> | USD

Sweden 95.2 million | Norway 72.5 million | Netherlands 37.2 million | Denmark 35.6 million | Germany 27.6 million | Switzerland 18.4 million | Private donors Spain 12.3 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Ireland 11.8 million

Algeria | Armenia | Bulgaria | Canada | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Liechtenstein | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Monaco | Montenegro | Peru | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Saudi Arabia | Singapore | Thailand | Turkey | Uruguay | Private donors

#### Notes:

1. The financial requirements of the Ethiopia Emergency include requirements in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan.
2. The percentage funded (15%) and total funding amount (\$31,171,346) are indicative based on the methodology described above. This leaves an indicative funding gap of \$174,250,542 representing 85% of the financial requirements.
3. Contributions to the Ethiopia Emergency are shown by the earmarking modality as defined in the Grand Bargain.
4. Due to their earmarking at a related region, sub-region, country or theme, the other softly earmarked contributions listed are those which can potentially be used for the Ethiopia Emergency. Where a donor has contributed \$2 million or more, the total amount of the contribution is shown.
5. Contributed without restrictions on its use, unearmarked funding allows UNHCR critical flexibility in how best to reach refugees and other populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk. Where a donor has contributed \$10 million or more, the total amount of the contribution is shown.

 For more information: <http://reporting.unhcr.org>
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## Contacts

**Joyce Wayua Munyao-Mbithi**, Senior Donor Relations Officer, Regional Bureau for the East, Horn of Africa and Great Lakes, Nairobi - [munyao@unhcr.org](mailto:munyao@unhcr.org)

**Kabami Kalumiya**, Reporting Officer, Regional Bureau for the East, Horn of Africa and Great Lakes, Nairobi - [kalumiya@unhcr.org](mailto:kalumiya@unhcr.org)

**Natalie Ndunda**, Reporting Associate, Regional Bureau for the East and Horn of Africa, and the Great Lakes, Nairobi - [ndundan@unhcr.org](mailto:ndundan@unhcr.org)