East and Horn of Africa, and the Great Lakes Region
April – June 2022

KEY FIGURES (AS OF 30 JUNE 2022)

4.95M Refugees and Asylum-seekers
12.83M Internally Displaced Persons
16,038 Refugee Returnees in 2022

FUNDING UPDATE (AS OF JUNE 2022)
USD 1.9 Billion
2022 financial requirements for the EHAGL region

Ethiopia. Dire needs for displaced Ethiopians in the Somali region as the drought continues. © UNHCR/Eugene Sibomana.
OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

The East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes (EHAGL) region is host to some 4.95 million refugees and asylum-seekers, as at the end of June 2022. The majority are from South Sudan (2.35 million). The region also has 12.83 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) mostly in Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Burundi, displaced due to both conflict and natural disasters. Some 16,038 refugees have returned to their countries of origin so far in 2022.

Following poor rainfall patterns in the Horn of Africa since 2019 along with changing climatic conditions, the region is facing a catastrophic drought, the worst experienced in 40 years. The drought is severely affecting millions of refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and their host communities in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia. With water sources drying up, livelihoods decimated, and rising prices, there is new displacement – both internal and across borders due to a mix of conflict and climate shocks – as well as drought specific impacts on existing refugee camps and settlements and host communities in all three countries.

These populations are already suffering a dramatic reduction in food assistance due to funding shortfalls coupled with the global economic crisis that has seen drastic increases in food and commodity prices. Over 3.5 million (75%) of the total refugee population in the wider region is affected by cuts to food assistance – including Ethiopia and Kenya, where refugees are only receiving 60% of a full ration. Meanwhile, the cost of a food basket has already risen by 66% in Ethiopia and by 36% in Somalia, leaving many refugees and IDP families unable to afford even basic items.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

SITUATIONAL UPDATES

DROUGHT SITUATION: On 28 June, UNHCR launched the regional Drought Response Emergency Appeal for the Horn of Africa and is appealing for urgent support to help displaced people and local host communities affected by the catastrophic drought. The drought, a stark reminder of the devastating impact of the global climate crisis, is the worst in the region in four decades and is the culmination of four consecutive failed rainy seasons. Water sources have dried up and crops and livestock have died, stripping people of their livelihoods and the ability to support themselves.

Food ration cuts for refugees are also imminent as humanitarian needs multiply around the world and funding remains a challenge. An estimated 18.4 million people in the Horn of Africa, now face severe hunger, unprecedented food insecurity and water shortages. As a result, 7.1 million children in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia are estimated to be acutely malnourished. As the crisis worsens,
hundreds of thousands of people have also been forced to flee their homes in search of life-saving aid. To date, more than 800,000 people in Somalia have been internally displaced and nearly 16,000 have crossed the border into Ethiopia.

To deliver life-saving assistance and protection to some 1.5 million refugees, internally displaced people and local host communities affected by the drought in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia, UNHCR is appealing for US$ 42.6 million. This appeal will cover critical humanitarian needs in refugee and IDP settlements including water, sanitation facilities, nutrition, healthcare, and protection. It also seeks to provide cash assistance for those most vulnerable, enabling them to better meet their needs, and specific support for women, girls, and children, including the provision of dignity kits and protective services from gender-based violence.

UNHCR will also work with national authorities in the three countries to strengthen border monitoring activities and ensure that newly arrived refugees, including those with specific needs, are provided with appropriate assistance. Out of the US$ 42.6 million appeal, US $22 million is intended to support the needs of internally displaced people in Ethiopia in the Somali, Oromia and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNP) regions, as well as Somali refugees hosted in eight camps in the Somali region. Another US $ 11.1 million would help UNHCR support refugees and their hosts in Kenya’s Kakuma and Dadaab camps.

NORTHERN ETHIOPIA SITUATION: The dynamics of the conflict in Northern Ethiopia remain complex and fluid, leading to new displacements, hindering humanitarian access to the affected populations, and hampering effective delivery of protection and assistance. While not directly related to the Tigray conflict, the Benishangul Gumuz, Oromia and Somali regions of Ethiopia have also reported new internal displacement due to inter-communal violence. Intermittent access to certain areas and difficulty in positioning supplies have also affected tens of thousands of vulnerable Eritrean refugees in Tigray and more recently in Afar. Some 60,000 Ethiopian refugees have crossed into Sudan.

A positive development of increased flow of humanitarian aid into the Tigray region continued to be experienced during the second quarter of 2022. Between 1 April to 31 May, 1,270 trucks transporting 49,235 metric tons of humanitarian cargo and 644,483 litres of fuel arrived in Mekelle. This includes 32 UNHCR trucks transporting fuel, core relief items (CRI) and medicines. These supplies are however far from enough to meet the immense needs of the affected population in the region. According to OCHA, 100 trucks with humanitarian supplies are needed daily, to attain the scale needed.
During the reporting period, UNHCR was able to receive in Mekelle a tanker containing 20,000 litres of fuel which had previously been stranded for in Semera for over 6 months. This was part of a second humanitarian convoy that arrived in Tigray since December 2021. This replenishment for UNHCR's Mekelle and Shire fuel depots allowed for the resumption and expansion of vital operational activities in Tigray region.

In Ethiopia, on 26 April, UNHCR's Regional Director for the East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes (EHAGL) region and UNHCR's Ethiopia Representative undertook a mission to Mekelle. The team visited Ayder Hospital and One Stop Service Centre for gender-based violence survivors, where they met with the medical staff. Lack of medical supplies at the hospital was highlighted as a major challenge. The team also met with the local authorities including the heads of the Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Bureau of Labour and Social Affairs (BoLSA). The Regional Director also witnessed the voluntary return of IDPs facilitated by UNHCR in collaboration with the regional authorities and had discussions with some of the returnees. Authorities reaffirmed their commitment to facilitate the voluntary relocation of Eritrean refugees from Tigray to Alemwach settlement in the Amhara region.

In Sudan, in May, UNHCR, UNDP and Sudan's Finance Ministry held the second meeting of Gedaref's Solutions Working Group with participation from respective line ministries, humanitarians and development actors. The discussion featured on the areas of support for host communities, with the need for infrastructure in education, WASH and health featuring strongly. UNHCR advocated for increased access to livelihood opportunities for refugees, in line with the Global Compact for Refugees (GCR), noting that this would help boost their self-reliance and ultimately enhance peaceful coexistence between the refugee and host communities. It was agreed that a technical committee would be established, led by the Sudanese government to conduct needs assessment in the different host communities.

“Tukuls are cooler than tents, are more spacious inside and we feel safer from bad weather,” says Elsa who moved in with her parents two weeks ago, ahead of the rainy season in Babikri, Sudan. © UNHCR/Afarin Dadkhah Tehrani
**BURUNDI SITUATION:** By the end of June 2022, countries in the Great Lakes Region were host to 261,115 Burundian refugees. The country has experienced relative political stability since the political transition in May 2020 and the overall political, working environment and security situation have improved.

The voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees continued, with a total of 8,914 Burundian refugees returning home from January to 30 June 2022. Since 2017 UNHCR and partners have facilitated the voluntary repatriation of over 185,000 Burundian refugees.

**SOUTH SUDAN SITUATION:** The South Sudanese refugee population, the largest in the region, remain extremely vulnerable. Over 2.3 million in camps, settlements, and urban areas are living in precarious conditions, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the looming drought and food insecurity situation. After nearly a decade of conflict and despite efforts toward implementing the peace agreement, South Sudan continues to grapple with sporadic violence, chronic food insecurity and the devastating impact of major flooding.

**SOMALIA SITUATION:** At the end of June 2022, there were 33,290 refugees and asylum-seekers registered in Somalia, mainly from Ethiopia (17,866 asylum seekers and 4,816 refugees), Yemen (9,208 refugees and asylum seekers) and Syria (1,018 refugees and 98 asylum seekers). The remaining 284 persons of concerns were from other countries. 92,762 Somali refugees have voluntarily returned to Somalia with UNHCR assistance from different countries of asylum including Kenya, Yemen, Djibouti, Libya, Sudan and Eritrea. In June, 115,000 new internal displacements were monitored by the UNHCR-led Protection and Returns Monitoring Network (PRMN). Drivers include drought related (112,448), conflict and insecurity (1,321) and others (837).

The operational environment in Somalia remained fluid throughout the months of May and June. The conclusion of the Presidential Election has provided optimism for political stability although the security situation in most parts of the country remains risky. The worsening drought conditions continues to affect and displace civilians. UNHCR continues to assess and respond to the needs of drought-affected households by working with the Federal Government of Somalia and partners to provide protection, assistance, and solutions to persons of concern across the country.

**COUNTRY UPDATES**

**ETHIOPIA:** Ethiopia is experiencing one of the most severe La Niña-induced droughts in the last forty years following four consecutive failed rainy seasons since late 2020. The drought is compounding a complex situation in the Somali region of Ethiopia that was already host to millions of internally displaced people, including those forced to flee because of conflict, as well as some 246,000 refugees from neighbouring Somalia in eight camps, which have already received some 16,000 new arrivals.

UNHCR and other humanitarian partners are scaling up assistance to meet the rising needs, in support of the Government of Ethiopia. Moreover, joint efforts have been undertaken within the UN Resilience Framework to support Ethiopia in building resilience against natural hazards, particularly recurrent droughts and floods. UNHCR is seeking US$ 22 million to deliver critical aid to over 1 million refugees, internally displaced people and their host communities affected by the drought in Ethiopia, part of a wider drought response appeal. A detailed story on the impacts of the drought was published by UNHCR Ethiopia and can be found here.

The Ethiopia Country Refugee Response Plan (ECRRP) January - December 2022 was developed collaboratively between UNHCR, the Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS), and contributions from both the humanitarian and development partners in Ethiopia. This document details how efforts by both UNHCR, and Partners will continue to be implemented in a multi-layered response that will ensure access to territory and asylum as well as protection from effects of the armed conflict in the complex and constantly changing protection environment. They will seek innovative, cost-effective and sustainable ways to deliver basic needs and essential services, including life-saving assistance, as well as opportunities for durable solutions and self-reliance.

As part of the Northern Ethiopian emergency response, UNHCR partners resumed operations in the two refugee camps of Mai Aini and Adi Harush following an improvement in the security and access into the region as well as UNHCR’s selection of new partners. Innovative Humanitarian Solution (IHS) commenced child-friendly space activities and established child protection community-based structures including child welfare committees and children’s clubs in both camps. UNHCR’s partner Rehabilitation and Development Organization (RaDO) resumed functions at the rehabilitation centre and took in nine persons living with disabilities as well as conducted home visits to persons with specific needs to conduct care assessments.

**KENYA:** As of 30 June 2022, Kenya was host to 555,183 registered refugees and asylum-seekers (233,805 in Dadaab; 233,648 in Kakuma Refugee Camp and Kalobeyei Settlement; and 87,730 in urban areas). Of these, 84% live in camps, while 16% are living in urban areas. Most refugees and asylum-seekers are from Somalia and South Sudan, with smaller populations from DR Congo, Ethiopia, Burundi, Sudan, Uganda, Eritrea, and Rwanda.

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On 26 May, UNHCR and the World Bank jointly launched two reports analyzing the socio-economic conditions of urban refugees and host communities in Kenya and how they compare with camp-based refugees in Kenya. The studies complement the existing body of evidence that allows deeper understanding of the needs and capabilities of urban and camp-based refugees and host communities. The launch was attended by some 150 participants from UNHCR, the World Bank and partners, as well as government counterparts. Key findings include: refugees are younger, their households are more likely to be headed by women, and have higher dependency ratios than host community households; more than 90% of urban refugees have access to improved drinking water – higher than the national urban average of 71%; camp-based refugees are more likely to live in unimproved housing and overcrowded rooms than those in urban areas; and camp-based refugees have higher access to bank accounts but lower access to mobile banking and loans than urban refugees.

From 11 to 13 May, UNHCR held its first workshop with the Government of Kenya on social protection. The workshop brought together 28 Government of Kenya staff from the State Department of Social Protection and the National Drought Management Authority. The workshop provided an opportunity for government counterparts to better understand UNHCR’s work in social protection and the refugee context in Kenya. It also provided an opportunity to explore the inclusion of refugee data in the social registry (ESR) and the potential role that social protection can play in realizing local solutions. Action was agreed around taking forward the cash transfer for persons of concern aged 70+ and around alignment with the Government of Kenya, furthering inclusion in the ESR and plans for follow-up discussions in Turkana and Garissa.

**RWANDA:** Rwanda hosted about 127,000 refugees and asylum-seekers at the end of June 2022. The population of concern includes mainly persons from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (60.7%) and Burundi (38.9%).

In April 2022, following the announcement of the United Kingdom’s plan to “export” its asylum obligations, UNHCR issued a press release expressing a strong opposition and concerns on this matter and urged the UK to refrain from transferring asylum-seekers and refugees to Rwanda for asylum processing. UNHCR urged both countries to re-think the plans. It also warned that instead of deterring refugees from resorting to perilous journeys, these externalization arrangements will only magnify risks, causing refugees to seek alternative routes, and exacerbating pressures on frontline states.

“UNHCR remains firmly opposed to arrangements that seek to transfer refugees and asylum-seekers to third countries in the absence of sufficient safeguards and standards. Such arrangements simply shift asylum responsibilities, evade international obligations, and are contrary to the letter and spirit of the Refugee Convention,” said UNHCR’s Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Gillian Triggs. “People fleeing war, conflict and persecution deserve compassion and empathy. They should not be traded like commodities and transferred abroad for processing.” UNHCR believes that wealthier nations must show solidarity in supporting Rwanda and the refugees it already hosts, and not the other way around.

**SUDAN:** Sudan hosts one of the largest refugee populations in Africa and by the end of June 2022, hosted more than 1.1 million refugees. South Sudanese make up the majority of the population, while others have fled violence and persecution in neighbouring countries, including Eritrea and Ethiopia. Most refugees (62%) live in out-of-camp settlements, host communities and urban areas, while others (38%) stay in 24 camps (10 at the East Sudan, 1 at Blue Nile State 10 at White Nile State, 2 at East Darfur State and 1 at the Central Darfur State). In addition, the country has a total population of over 3 million internally displaced, mostly in the Darfur region that has experienced a volatile security situation for almost two decades.

UNHCR and WFP concluded the rehabilitation of 4 km of El Fao road, as part of ongoing preparations for the upcoming rainy season (May – October), which was damaged due to flooding during the previous rainy season in 2021. UNHCR and WFP officially handed over the rehabilitated road to the Director of Infrastructure of Gedaref in June 2022. This rehabilitation is to maintain the area’s access to the National Highway and ensure the swift transportation of food, core relief items and other essential goods and services to refugees in Tunaydbah camp and neighbouring host communities. UNHCR and partners have also been distributing emergency shelter kits and pre-disaster kits (ESKs) to refugees in Tunaydbah, Babikri and Um Rakuba. These kits will allow refugees to strengthen their shelters to better withstand weather elements.

On World Refugee Day, UNHCR and the UNICEF announced plans to sign an updated Joint Action Plan to complement their 2015 Letter of Understanding (LoU). This document aims at further cementing the collaboration between the two agencies at national and local level in Sudan, in response to the increasing needs of both refugees and their host communities in the country.

“We are pleased to continue our partnership with our sister agency UNICEF in Sudan. The LoU has been an important framework in strengthening our collaboration in providing protection and assistance to refugees and other displaced people in Sudan,” said Fatima Mohammed Cole, UNHCR Deputy Representative in Sudan.
According to the LoU, the cooperation between UNHCR and UNICEF will focus on education, child protection, nutrition, health, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sectors. Based on a long history of effective collaboration, this new Joint Action Plan seeks to reinforce joint interventions and will help ensuring complementarity and mutually supportive actions to protect and assist the most vulnerable, especially children and women whether refugees or Sudanese.

In June 2022, the UNHCR Sudan Livelihoods Roadmap 2023 – 2025 was published. This livelihoods road map is guided by the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), the UNHCR Global Strategic Direction, the UNHCR Livelihoods Concept Note 2019-2023, the Stepped-up Livelihoods Strategy 2020-2025 for Eastern Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes (EHAGL), the Government of Sudan National Vision for Host Communities and Refugees and Sudan’s Solutions strategy. This strategy was developed to address the most pressing livelihoods and socio-economic challenges in the country.

UNHCR Sudan also published a Refugee Interagency Coordination Briefing Kit. This Briefing Kit is intended to provide basic information on coordination structures and processes for newly arriving partners and their staff. This Kit is limited in scope to inter-agency coordination within the refugee response and is complementary to annual briefings on the Refugee Coordination Model in Sudan that are given in national and subnational coordination meetings.

SOUTH SUDAN: South Sudan hosted a total of 341,384 refugees and asylum-seekers by the end of June 2022, mainly from Sudan (309,534 - 92%) and the Democratic Republic of Congo (19,312 - 6%) over 2 million IDPS. Additionally, about 2.3 million South Sudanese are refugees in the neighbouring countries of Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Sudan and Democratic Republic of Congo.

Climate-change driven floods continue to impact about one million people in South Sudan every year, aggravating an already precarious situation for one of Africa’s most fragile and conflict-affected countries. In other parts of the country, many more people have been tipped into food insecurity as droughts have killed livestock and disrupted crop cycles. To escape both flooding and drought, pastoralists have moved their animals far beyond the traditional transhumance routes, bringing them into fierce conflict with sedentary communities, including South Sudanese who have recently returned home from exile.

In a press release on the impact of climate change, UNHCR indicated the actions it has been taking, including: supporting the construction of flood resilience infrastructure such as dikes and drainage systems in inundated areas of north-eastern Unity State; to manage severe floods in Old Fangak, a town at the epicentre of last year’s flooding that is almost entirely submerged, UNHCR has formed dike care maintenance committees and provided training and tools to help strengthen flood defences; as part of its Sustainable Livelihoods Strategy for 2022-2025, UNHCR is providing flood tolerant seeds and skills training to affected people in inundated areas.
TANZANIA: By June 2022, Tanzania hosted 248,623 refugees and asylum-seekers, mainly from Burundi and the DRC. In Tanzania, 84% (207,811) of the refugees currently live-in camps located in the country’s North-western region of Kigoma.

Members of the diplomatic community from the embassies of Belgium, the European Union, Japan, Great Britain, United States of America, and Switzerland in Tanzania, visited two refugee camps in North-western Tanzania. The technical visit, which aimed to raise the profile of the Tanzanian refugee operation, had insightful meetings with refugee leaders, Government officials, United Nations Agencies, and Partners from Non-Governmental organizations. The mission also witnessed refugees receiving some essential services and visited some projects benefitting refugees and their hosts in the areas of energy and environment, birth registration and certification, water, sanitation and hygiene, health, education, livelihoods, gender-based violence, and food and nutrition, among others.

The mission noted the need for a strengthened enabling policy environment to provide protection and assistance for refugees while in asylum while pursuing concrete, durable solutions for the entire population. It further noted that if refugees had more formal access to livelihood and income generation opportunities, it would benefit Tanzania. This would ultimately lead to additional employment opportunities, and it would further enhance supply and market processes in the country and further boost the economy. Currently, a strict encampment policy renders refugees almost totally dependent on humanitarian assistance.

UGANDA: As at the end of June 2022, the registered refugee and asylum-seeker population stood at 1,529,272 marking a decrease of 2,231 individuals (0.2%) from the registered population in May 2022. The population decrease was registered from the ongoing verification / Individual Profiling Exercise (IPE) exercises in Kiryandongo, Adjumani & Rhino refugee settlements.

The conflict in North Kivu and Ituri provinces in the DRC continues, as the situation remains unpredictable along the Kisoro border with reports of continued fighting in the Bunagana area across the border on the DRC side. Congolese nationals are still camped within Bunagana and surrounding areas on the Ugandan side of the border. Out of the estimated 35,129 new arrivals (18,045 households) received in Kisoro since 28 March, 12,930 individuals remain at the Nyakabande holding and transit centre. The holding capacity at Nyakabande Transit centre is overstretched by 76 per cent while Kabazana reception centre in Nakivale refugee settlement is over stretched by 6%. 72,869 new arrivals have been received in Uganda since the start of 2022 (22,118 from South Sudan and 50,751 from the DRC). The population at the transit and reception centres is currently at 20,804 individuals (4,150 in West Nile and 16,654 in the Southwest).

Thousands of children, women, and men cross Bunagana border into Uganda fleeing violent clashes in DRC. © UNHCR/Yonna Tukundane
In April 2022, UNHCR and 44 humanitarian partners appealed for US$47.8 million to respond to the critical needs of thousands of refugees who arrived in Uganda this year, fleeing violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and sporadic clashes in South Sudan. The Uganda Emergency Appeal is intended to support coordinated efforts for an initial emergency response to the influx of up to 60,000 refugees in Uganda in the first half of 2022, with 45,000 new arrivals from April to June 2022. This emergency appeal is only 8% funded so far.

The Chairperson of UNHCR Executive Committee, Ambassador Salim Baddoura of Lebanon, concluded his five-day mission to Uganda on 20 May. During his one-year term, he chose to visit Uganda - the largest refugee hosting country in Africa - to highlight the situation and the need for additional support. The Chairperson's visit from Geneva is the first annual mission of UNHCR's Executive Committee Chair after several years of interruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic. UNHCR's Executive Committee Chair shared his experience on the visit to Uganda with the international community during UNHCR's Standing Committee meeting in June 2022.

**KEY REGIONAL UPDATES**

**Regional External Engagement updates:** On 13 May, UNHCR's Regional Director for the East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes (EHAGL) conducted a virtual donor briefing on the Northern Ethiopia situation for key donor partners, including some representatives of Permanent Missions in Geneva, donors at the regional level and some donor capitals. The Regional Bureau Director provided a briefing of her recent missions to Sudan, Ethiopia, and Eritrea, highlighting the current critical and dire humanitarian needs as well as UNHCR's response. Also discussed were UNHCR's efforts in contingency planning and preparedness.

In Sudan, between 8-9 June, a high-level delegation of ambassadors from Canada, Germany and the UK and deputy heads of mission from the EU and Spain, accompanied by the Chief of Integrated Office of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (DSRSG) and Commissioner for Refugees (COR), visited Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah refugee camps to witness the progress made towards addressing the needs of the Ethiopian refugees in eastern Sudan as well as the existing gaps.

As part of the ambassadorial mission, the delegation visited several activities in the camps, including the construction of tukuls, distribution of emergency shelter kits and a school, and held discussions with refugees, including women, youth, and members of host communities. The delegation also had an opportunity to engage with UNHCR partners on key concerns of the humanitarian operation in eastern Sudan and potential solutions. UNHCR received constructive feedback from the delegation regarding the ongoing refugee response in the region and some indications of potential support and stronger collaboration in the future.

**Updates from the Office of Special Envoy (SE) for the Horn of Africa: Revitalization of the Nairobi Process:** The Special Envoy undertook missions to Türkiye on 6 - 7 June and to Somalia on 19 - 21 June and 2022.

During the mission to Türkiye, the Special Envoy (SE) met with the Director General of East and Southern Africa of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Ankara where he recognized and appreciated the hospitality of Türkiye and applauded them for showcasing a global model on the inclusion of refugees into the national systems. The SE briefed the Turkish officials on the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and UNHCR's interest to bring in Türkiye as a member of the IGAD Support Platform and to consider partnering with IGAD and jointly convene a Heads of States Summit. The SE also highlighted the role Türkiye can play in increasing visibility of the protracted Somali Situation as well as support in mobilizing resources through partners of Türkiye to help Somalia create conducive conditions for voluntary return. The Director General agreed to this idea and affirmed to bring this proposal to the attention of the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

While in Somalia, the SE initiated engagements with the new government of Somalia in order to encourage the new Government to take up a leadership role in the revitalisation of the Nairobi process. The Somalia government affirmed Somalia's readiness to support and lead the initiative.

**Media engagement for increased visibility:** The SE participated in the Peace One Day Climate Action Live event held on 21 June. The aim of this event was to raise awareness on climate change and climate action on a global scale. A key component of the discussion was on how climate shocks impact forcible displacement. The SE did a ten-minute pre-recorded interview covering the Somalia situation (refugees/IDPs) and the impacts of the drought, as well as a call to action and support through donating towards the Somalia drought response. This interview was aired live on twitter and on the Climate Action Live website.

**Regional COVID-19 update:** The COVID-19 pandemic continued to affect the health and wellbeing of Persons of Concern (POC) and host communities in the region. By the end of the second quarter of 2022, there were 12,159 confirmed COVID-19 cases among Persons of Concern (POCs) in the 11 countries in the EHAGL region. Since the roll-out of the vaccination process, a total of 642,793 vaccine doses have been administered to refugees in the region, with 466,318 of the vaccinated POCs receiving at least one vaccine dose.
World Refugee Day 2022: Every World Refugee Day, 20 June, UNHCR, joins millions of others around the world in honouring those who have fled conflict, violence, and persecution in search of safety. With the number of forcibly displaced people around the world now standing at more than 100 million, the theme of this year’s event – the right to seek safety – is more critical than ever. Today and every day, we believe that everyone has the right to seek safety – whoever they are, wherever they come from, and whenever they are forced to flee. By keeping our doors and hearts open to refugees, we can offer them a chance to use their energy and talents in meaningful ways that ultimately benefit us all. Below are some World Refugee Day highlights from the region:

For this year’s World Refugee Day, UNHCR’s Regional Bureau Director of the East, Horn of Africa and Great Lakes region, authored an opinion piece on the right to seek safety and the need for increased global solidarity with countries in this region that have hosted refugees for decades. The article notes the efforts made over recent decades, by regional authorities, national governments and local communities in this region to welcome and host people forced to flee. It further calls for the international community and the private sector to step up their support to asylum countries, as seen recently in the Ukraine emergency. The article was published on the regional newspaper, The East African (print version) and can be found here.

Burundi: Seeking asylum is a human right. Granting asylum means saving lives! Stand #WithRefugees, whoever they are & wherever they are! Refugee girls and boys in camps in Burundi dreaming of a bright future! Together, we can make this dream a reality!


Ethiopia: Refugees, @RRSEthiopia, UNHCR, donors & partners gathered at Addis Ababa Abrehot Library to mark #WorldRefugeeDay. Ethiopia has been generous in granting people in need the right to seek safety & in finding sustainable solutions for over 850,000 #refugees. And needs more support!

Kenya: In Kalobeyei refugee settlement in northern Kenya, refugee and host communities celebrated World Refugee Day together. The different communities showed off their traditional dances. The ceremony afterwards was attended by UNHCR and government officials, and Goodwill Ambassador and refugee athlete Pur Biel.

Rwanda: As we celebrate World Refugee Day, Community Social Media Influencers in Mahama Refugee Camp asked their community members: “What does safety mean to you?” Take a look at their answers from the photos here.

Somalia: UNHCR Somalia in partnership with Ifrah Foundation commemorated World Refugee Day in an in-person event hosting about 60 youth to mark the day.

South Sudan: UNHCR South Sudan issued a press release highlighting that the right to seek safety has never been more important. In recent years, more than 2.3 million people escaping conflict in South Sudan have sought and been granted asylum in five neighbouring countries: Sudan, Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. A small, young country, itself facing multiple challenges, South Sudan has also generously opened its territory to 343,000 refugees and asylum seekers, mainly from Sudan, but also from Ethiopia and DRC, at the moment they most needed it.

Sudan: Colourful World Refugee Day all over Sudan! From Darfur to Khartoum and Gedaref, #Refugees and host communities celebrated their resilience and strength with music, dance, drama and sports. Everyone has the right to seek safety.

Tanzania: Looking back to World Refugee Week, key highlights from the camps where refugees joined their hosts in commemorating #WorldRefugeeDay. Refugees showcase their fashion, dancing, and acrobat skills; and exhibit their produce from kitchen gardens as seen here.

Uganda: Urban World Refugee Day 2022 celebration at Old Kampala Secondary School playground. Lots of beautiful items at the exhibition stands for sale as seen here. In Bidibidi refugee settlement, World Refugee Day commemorative activities have kicked off with a march to Bidibidi, Okuja Primary School, where the main event took place.
Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to the East and Horn of Africa, and the Great Lakes Region, as well as to those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.

Total contributions to the region, inclusive of COVID-19 contributions amount to USD 400 million as of 28 June 2022.
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