

NORTHERN ETHIOPIA EMERGENCY SITUATION

December 2022

Key Developments



The women's centre in Zone 1 of Um Rakuba camp in Eastern Sudan, is one of several safe spaces available for refugees in the camp. (Other facilities and protection service points in the camp include protection desks, child friendly spaces, psychosocial support centres, and community safe places). © UNHCR/Althea Gonzales

ETHIOPIA

The security situation in Tigray continued to improve throughout the month of December. Road movements from Mekelle to Shire were finally cleared for humanitarian partners in early December, seeing the return of UN Agencies and NGO staff to Shire. The first convoy arrived on 9 December, led by the Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator. Between 22 and 24 December, 103 trucks left Mekelle to reach Adwa and Axum. Three UNHCR trucks were part of the convoy carrying 120 metric tons of Core Relief Items (CRIs) to be distributed to 12,000 IDPs and host communities.

A high-level delegation from the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia visited Mekelle on 26 December, the first official visit by the federal authorities since war broke out in November 2020. In Mekelle, the delegation met with the regional president of Tigray, and held discussions on a range of pressing issues related to humanitarian aid, basic services, commerce and the withdrawal of Eritrean and Amhara forces.

A high-level delegation, led by the former President of Nigeria and AU Special Envoy to the Horn of Africa and the former President of Kenya visited Mekelle on 29 December together with a delegation from the Federal Government, led by the Minister of Justice. The objective of the mission was to launch the African Union's Joint Monitoring, Verification and Compliance Mechanism (JMVC), composed of a 10-member team of monitors and experts from selected African countries, as outlined in the peace agreement.

On the side-lines of the AU meeting in Mekelle, a humanitarian team that included FAO, IOM, OCHA, OHCHR UNDP, UNDSS, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and WHO and representatives from INGOs and NGOs met with the US Mission to the African Union to discuss security and operational developments in the region. The humanitarian team advocated for commercial supplies (fuel and other essential commodities) to alleviate the burden on humanitarian aid, full reopening of banking services and schools, payment of salaries for government employees, technical cooperation/collaboration between the regional bureaus and their line ministries in Addis Ababa. The team also called for support for the rehabilitation of health facilities and other public infrastructures with multilateral/bilateral and development partners, as well as to promote recovery and solutions for forcibly displaced persons.

Ethiopia Response

Eritrean refugee response

In **Tigray**, food distribution for refugees and asylum seekers took place through WFP in Mekelle targeting 1,281 persons. Some 13,000 most vulnerable individuals from the host community received CRIs.

In Adigrat, UNHCR's partners Action for the Needy (ANE) and Innovative Humanitarian Solutions (IHS) provided CRIs to 7,000 newly displaced persons and 500 urban refugees and asylum seekers. Cash for lifesaving support has also been provided to 200 most vulnerable urban refugees.

In Shire operating area, IHS reported a total number of 2,759 refugees and asylum seekers living in Axum, Adwa, Sheraro and Shire. UNHCR shared the list with WFP to consider food distribution. A total of 120 refugees living in Adi Harush received partial food distribution from WFP.

In **Amhara**, 1,231 vulnerable refugee households received multi-purpose cash assistance (8,000 ETB each/USD 150) through partner NRC in Alemwach. Some 420 refugees have been relocated to permanent shelters so far. In Alemwach settlement various health campaigns took place and some are still ongoing, including deworming, vitamin A supplementation and Mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) screening in addition to measles vaccination. The measles vaccination campaign vaccinated 1,738 children.

In **Afar**, UNHCR launched a mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) Working Group in Semera, a coordination forum that seeks to promote Mental Health and Psycho-Social activities, strengthen the collaboration with partners and advocate for basic services that are safe, ensuring the respect and dignity of refugees. Twelve refugee response partners including RRS took part in this coordination forum that will harmonize MHPSS intervention and mainstream MHPSS in all sectors of the refugee response in Afar.

UNHCR in partnership with its partner, Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (ECCMY) concluded a two-day protection training for 20 justice and law enforcement officers and NGO staff in Aysaita with the aim to build their capacity on international protection of refugees and asylum seekers and the state's responsibility for their protection. Rights of refugee women and children, detention of refugees and asylum seekers as well as Ethiopian laws in relation to refugee protection were also addressed.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) response

Tigray: UNHCR and partners conducted their first visit to Hitsats since the resumption of hostilities in August 2022, where 13,957 IDPs are reported to be living. Partners are mobilizing resources to provide assistance.

UNHCR along with its partners and local authorities supported the return of the IDPs who were relocated from the Agatina IDP site in Afar and were residing in a temporary reception centre in Quiha, Mekelle. During this return exercise, 485 persons were assisted to return to their various places of origin, the majority to the Eastern zone of Tigray. UNHCR provided fuel for 10 buses and 6 trucks to transport the IDPs and their belongings.

Since the resumption of UNHCR's activities in Mekelle operating areas, 23,000 newly internally displaced persons have received CRIs through partner DEC in four woredas of Abi Adi and 5,100 newly displaced women and girls received Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) kits. CRIs, dignity kits and clothes have also been distributed to 225 GBV survivors in Abi Adi Hospital One Stop Centre.

UNHCR and its partners also conducted several CRI distributions in Southern zones of Tigray, reaching 4,000 IDPs. Sanitary napkins, soap and clothing were provided to 380 GBV survivors and women at risk in Maichew during the closing ceremony of the 16 Days of Activism campaign. CRIs were also distributed to 3,952 new IDPs with specific needs accommodated in three schools in Mekelle with partners IHS and ANE. Additionally, UNHCR distributed menstrual hygiene management (MHM) kits to 1,450 women and girls accommodated in two schools.

The CCCM Cluster held its annual workshop on 13 December in Mekelle attended by 22 participants from eight CCCM agencies. Partners' response and notable achievements were presented as well as the lessons learned. The CCCM 2023 strategy was also presented. The cluster is looking to explore more funding options to rehabilitate school structures.

Amhara: According to the Amhara Disaster Risk Management Office, there are a total of 582,054 IDPs from Oromia and Benishangul Gumuz alone. New arrivals from Oromia and Wollega to Amhara are reported daily. Consequently, the Emergency Coordination Cell (ECC) in Amhara has been reactivated by the regional authorities to respond to the current humanitarian situation. The government also decided to reopen some old IDP sites in North and South Wollo, where some infrastructures are already in place. The Jara IDP site in North Wollo will be reopened to host new arrivals from Meqet, Habru, Hara, Raya Kobo, Lalibela and Weldiya.

Afar: The relocation of refugees from Serdo, Logia, and Semera to Barahle refugee camp has been concluded. A total of 836 refugees were relocated.

SUDAN

UNHCR held meetings with refugee community leaders in Um Rakuba, Tunaydbah, and Babikri to seek their views on the current developments in Ethiopia following the signing of the cessation of hostilities agreement in November 2022. Overall, the refugees' posture in all three camps is to "wait-and-see" and to monitor developments in their home country closely. Some refugees, particularly those from central Tigray have expressed a willingness to return. However, most refugees in all three camps voiced concern about the situation in Tigray. In addition, the continued presence of IDPs in Shire raises concerns for the refugees, as they consider the return of IDPs as a sign that the situation is going back to normal which will then give the refugees some assurance that it is safe to return.

Refugees in all three camps indicated that the international community should guarantee the safety of refugees upon their return. The refugees also noted a preference for an organized facilitated return by UNHCR and returnee monitoring.

KENYA

NEW ARRIVALS AND BORDER DYNAMICS

Kakuma and Kalobeyei: The situation of Ethiopians in the reception centers (RCs) has been calm and stable during the reporting month. Over the reporting period, two families of four Ethiopians were received at Kalobeyei reception center. They entered the country through the Moyale border point, travelled to Nairobi then to Kakuma. They cited their reasons for flight as insecurity and political instability. The total number of Ethiopians at both RCs is 85 individuals (55 in Kakuma and 30 in Kalobeyei). At present, a total of 52 Ethiopian individuals reside in the Kakuma and Kalobeyei RCs (34 in Kakuma and 18 in Kalobeyei).

Daadab: During the month of December, UNHCR's legal partner, the Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK), conducted border monitoring and reported the arrival of 47 Ethiopian individuals (22 males, 25 females) into the country through the Wajir, El Wak and Mandera border points. All reported to have arrived in Kenya in search of economic opportunities, to visit relatives, or to seek humanitarian assistance. Between January and December 2022, a total of 652 Ethiopians have been recorded to have crossed into the country through the Mwingi, Mandera, El Wak and Wajir border areas.

SOMALIA

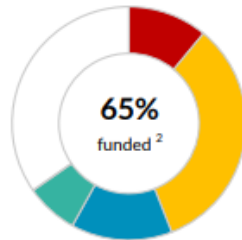
NEW ARRIVALS AND BORDER DYNAMICS

UNHCR through its partner, Legal Clinic, continued to conduct border monitoring activities along Somalia's various entry and exit points. During the month of December in Dollow, UNHCR recorded some 215 individuals outgoing towards Ethiopia – a similar trend to November. There was a decrease in the number of Somali refugees in Ethiopia crossing the border to Somalia in December; a total of 496 individuals entered Somalia citing the drought situation and seeking humanitarian assistance. Likewise, in Belethawa, for the same reporting period, there were 231 individuals crossing over to Kenya and 240 individuals entering Somalia. Those who were entering Somalia were mainly Somali refugees returning to seek humanitarian assistance.

Funding Overview



\$205.4 million
 UNHCR's financial requirements 2022 ¹



FUNDING UPDATE | 2022

**ETHIOPIA
 EMERGENCY**
 as of 29 December 2022

■ Tightly earmarked
■ Earmarked
■ Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)
■ Unearmarked (indicative allocation)
■ Funding gap (indicative)

CONTRIBUTIONS ³ | USD

	■ Unearmarked	■ Softly earmarked	■ Earmarked	■ Tightly earmarked	Total
Japan	-	82,075	6,000,000	1,500,000	7,582,075
Italy	-	-	-	3,570,192	3,570,192
Education Cannot Wait	-	-	-	1,513,645	1,513,645
Austria	-	-	1,028,807	-	1,028,807
United Arab Emirates	-	-	-	904,018	904,018
UNO-Fluechtlingshilfe	-	761,089	-	-	761,089
Band Aid	-	-	-	611,247	611,247
Country-Based Pooled Funds	-	-	-	500,000	500,000
European Union	-	-	-	489,744	489,744
Republic of Korea	-	-	400,000	-	400,000
CERF	-	-	-	237,264	237,264
Private donors Canada	-	215,693	-	-	215,693
Spain	-	-	-	38,900	38,900
IGAD	-	-	-	32,223	32,223
Other private donors	-	103,931	-	82,752	186,684
Sub-total	-	1,162,789	7,428,807	9,479,985	18,071,581
Indicative allocation of funds and adjustments	14,902,333	27,582,991	60,447,363	13,128,382	116,061,069
Total	14,902,333	28,745,780	67,876,169	22,608,367	134,132,650

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 country. The contributions earmarked for 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 ⁴ | USD

United States of America 295.7 million | Private donors Germany 18.1 million | Canada 12.4 million | Private donors Australia 12.2 million |
 Private donors USA 7.4 million | Sweden 5.8 million | Switzerland 3.6 million | Republic of Korea 2.9 million | Private donors Spain 2.7 million |
 Private donors Republic of Korea 2.3 million | France 2.2 million
 Iceland | IGAD | Ireland | Japan | Kuwait | Luxembourg | Netherlands | Norway | Spain | UN Programme on HIV/AIDS | Private donors

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS ⁵ | USD

Sweden 99.3 million | Norway 72.5 million | Private donors Spain 72.1 million | Private donors Japan 59.1 million | United Kingdom 40.1 million |
 Netherlands 37.2 million | Denmark 35.6 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 34.4 million | Private donors USA 29.9 million |
 Germany 24.4 million | Japan 21.7 million | Private donors Italy 19.2 million | France 18.5 million | Switzerland 18.4 million |
 Private donors Canada 13.6 million | Private donors Sweden 13.3 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Ireland 11.8 million | Italy 10 million

Algeria | Armenia | Australia | Austria | Azerbaijan | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Kuwait | Liechtenstein | Lithuania |
 Luxembourg | Mexico | Monaco | Montenegro | Morocco | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Portugal | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Saudi Arabia |
 Singapore | Spain | Thailand | Türkiye | Uruguay | Private donors

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