

## ACHIEVEMENTS

**560K** Total beneficiaries reached

**88K** Protection & Solutions

**267K** Shelter and Non-Food Items

**196K** CCCM

**19,051** Voluntary IDP returns facilitated by UNHCR and regional/zonal authorities

**222,006** Persons received Non-Food Items

**44,989** Persons received shelter reconstruction/repair

**285** Received Mental Health and Psychosocial Services (MHPSS)

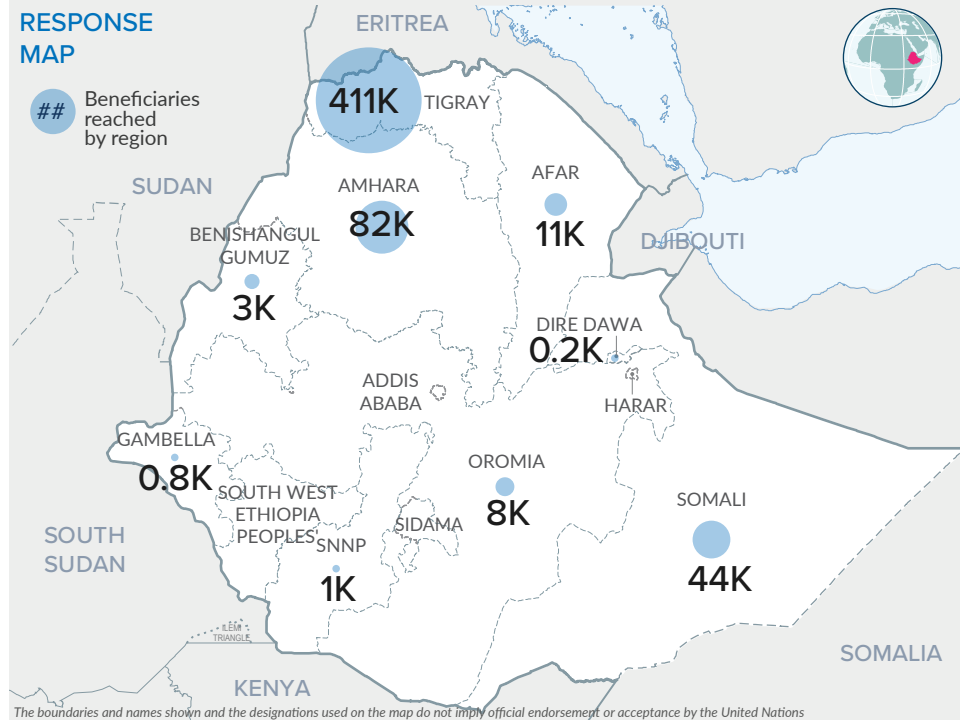
**196,144** IDPs residing in 75 UNHCR managed sites (53 in Tigray, 22 in Amhara)

**14,499** Women and girls received dignity kits

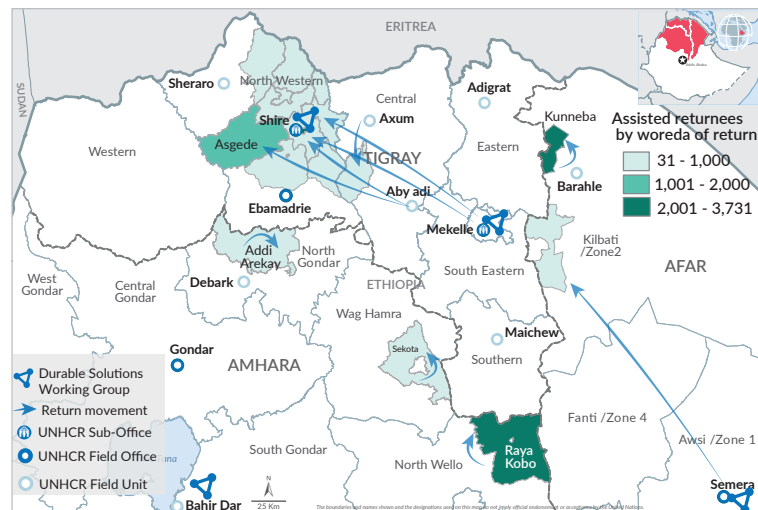
**671** Regional/zonal authorities and other stakeholders who received capacity building and training on IDP and returnee rights

**28,642** IDPs & IDP returnees received cash assistance for shelter reconstruction/repair, cash for transport and multipurpose cash to support return

**5,718** Received Housing, land and property (HLP) legal assistance\*. Other activities implemented through legal aid project include **14 court Representation, 62 oral legal advice, 17 pleading writings**



## ASSISTED RETURN IN NORTHERN REGIONS

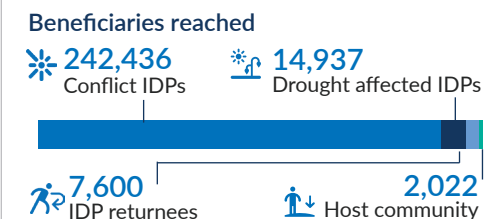


Under the auspices of the Durable Solutions Working Group (DSWG) chaired by the regional/zonal authorities, **UNHCR has facilitated voluntary returns in safe and dignified conditions of 19,051 IDPs** to their places of origin in Afar (3,027), Amhara (6,395) and Tigray (9,629). Return package includes Core Relief Items (CRIs) and Cash-Based Intervention (CBI) for transportation and multi-purposes such as food and medicines



## SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEM

From January to March 2023, UNHCR has reached **266,995** persons with ES/NFI assistance, representing **46%** of the total of **579,200** people reached by the ES/NFI cluster in Ethiopia.



## DONORS

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is grateful for the direct contributions to the UNHCR Ethiopia IDP Operation



## PROTECTION MONITORING AND SOLUTION (PMS)

The main objective of the PMS is to identified protection issues in the areas of displacement and return for quick impact projects to make returns sustainable.

- 32** woredas, 9 zones and 4 regions covered
- 57** focus group discussions conducted with **757** participants IDP returnees (50% females; 50% males)
- 900** Key Informants interviews (48% females; 52% males)
- 60%** of basic facilities in the location of return visited are fully or partially damaged (schools, health center, civil registration offices...)

\*HLP legal assistance includes legal awareness and information, legal aid and case management, dispute settlement, prevention through advocacy and negotiation, CBI, and HLP due diligence.

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Sources: Partners, UNHCR field offices



## SITUATION OVERVIEW

In Ethiopia, despite long-term socioeconomic vulnerability and diminishing levels of resilience, a significant number of communities continue to face repeated shocks, which are frequently exacerbated by intercommunal violence, natural disasters, and other effects of climate change. These continued crises situations lead to new displacement, damaged basic services, increased poverty, and weakened coping mechanisms.

Humanitarian needs continue to rise, necessitating more coordinated and scaled-up humanitarian assistance, while security and physical access remain barriers to humanitarian aid delivery in some regions, including Oromia, Benishangul-Gumuz, and Gambella regions.

In response to protection needs, UNHCR has maintained its presence across the country to strengthen communities and the state's response through prevention, protection, and solution-oriented activities. In the first three months of the year, UNHCR teams provided protection services, emergency assistance, shelter, core relief items (CRIs) support, Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) interventions, and assistance for the realisation of long-term solutions, including cash assistance and legal support to internally displaced persons (IDPs), vulnerable host community members, and returnees. **Over 560,000 people were reached by UNHCR across the country in the first quarter of 2023.**

## UNHCR RESPONSE AND STRATEGY

### Highlights:

UNHCR collaborates with the government and other organizations to provide protection services, assistance, and solutions to IDPs in response to natural disasters and conflict-related crises, contributing to the government's Durable Solutions program to promote stability, peace, and the restoration of trust between communities and local leaders. Efforts are also underway to domesticate the Kampala Convention, which was ratified at the start of 2020 by proclamation No. 1187/2020.

UNHCR supports the ongoing National transitional justice policy formulation process led by Ministry of Justice, together with other actors. In January 2023, UNHCR commented on the draft national transitional Justice policy option and the road map for national consultations and policy preparation. Currently, the expert team on Transitional Justice based at the Ministry of Justice is collaborating with UNHCR and respective government agencies to facilitate the national consultation process with IDPs/returnees. Based on accessibility, affected populations, and process timeline, UNHCR together with the transitional justice experts reviewed and shortlisted regions and zones for the first round of consultation.

Three woredas in Tigray's North-eastern Zone with high IDP returnee populations launched the revised "Ethiopia protection monitoring and solutions (PMS) tool" in February 2023. The first report looked at issues such as return durability, community cohesion, and Housing, Land, and Property (HLP). The PMS is being conducted in various locations and translated into five major languages for a nationwide roll-out in 2023.

**In the northern region**, over 411,000 people had access to protection and solutions services, including through protection desks, and received CRIs and emergency shelter support in the first quarter of 2023.

**In Tigray**, UNHCR trained local authorities and IDP leaders in the Durable Solutions Working Group on the significance of protection, return counselling and processes. In addition, three locations (Mekelle, Maichew, and Abi-Adi) received sensitization on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention, risk mitigation, and response, and sessions on child protection were held in Fasti, Mekoni, and Machaw. In Mekelle, Adigrat, Abi-Adi, Machew, and Mokoni, door-to-door visits were conducted to provide protection counselling, Psycho-social support, awareness raising, referrals, and the dissemination of protection information. In addition, UNHCR provided clothing to vulnerable IDPs, with a particular emphasis on pregnant or lactating mothers and people with disabilities. UNHCR, its partner Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY), and the Bureau of Labor and Social Affairs provided IDPs, returnees, and host communities with training on legal assistance and rights. Partners and government staff were trained in the identification of people with special needs, people with disabilities, rehabilitation, and psychological first aid.

**In Afar**, UNHCR, in collaboration with government counterparts and its partners, has distributed 14,260 plastic tarpaulins to flood-affected IDPs, conducted a post-return assessment with Konneba returnees, provided delivery coaches and mattresses to Dubti Hospital, provided cash-based interventions (CBI) to GBV survivors for transportation and medication, and distributed dignity kits to returnee women and girls in Abala and Berhale woredas. UNHCR, as the

lead agencies for Protection Cluster, has facilitated the voluntary return in safe and dignified conditions of 3,027 IDPs to their place of origin in Abala woreda. Ahead of the return, the displaced population benefited from comprehensive re-integration CRIs and CBI provided by UNHCR.

**In Amhara**, UNHCR and its partners reached over 25,407 people through protection services, shelter, CRIs, CCCM, multipurpose cash assistance, and free legal aid. Under the coordination of UNHCR and IOM, the Durable Solutions Working Group has been activated in the Amhara region, and UNHCR is currently providing assistance to more than 40,000 IDPs in collective sites in Debre Birhan, South Wollo, and North Wollo. Shelter is a major issue in Debre Birhan, and UNHCR is coordinating the development of a newly allocated site in Bakello with the goal of relocating IDPs by early May 2023. IDPs, returnees, and host communities benefited from the distribution of standard CRIs in Debre Birhan and Dessie. Some IDP women and girls, including women in the South Wollo host community, were reached through the distribution of dignity kits in South and North Wollo. The distribution of solar lamps has taken place in Debre Birhan, and two legal clinics have been established in Dabat and Debark, North Gondar, in collaboration with the legal department of Debark University, to support IDPs' access to justice. In Raya Kobo, North Wollo, IDP returnees received multipurpose cash assistance. Besides, capacity building is provided for selected camp management team members from the government and IDP representatives on the fundamental concepts of CCCM to enable participants to develop self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, and social management skills, including communication and interpersonal skills as well as problem-solving and decision-making abilities.

**In Gambella**, UNHCR and its partners were able to reach over 859 people, through protection services, shelter, and CRIs, including the distribution of dignity kits to reproductive-age women and adolescent girls who were displaced by flood in Gog woreda; transitional shelters in Lare woreda were officially handed over to beneficiaries; and four community groups/IDP committees were established in Gog, Lare, Jikawo, and Wanthoa woredas with the goal of strengthening community-based protection structures. In Lare woreda, a community awareness-raising event on PSEA was organized, which focused on the concepts of SEA, examples of SEA, the impacts and consequences of SEA, and the community's role in identifying and preventing SEA.



Community awareness on CP, GBV & PSEA at Gutu Gida woreda ( East Wollega),  
 Picture by Abraham Wakjira © UNHCR / March, 2023

In the first quarter of 2023, UNHCR and its implementing partners supported over 8,397 IDPs in the **East, West, Horo Guduru, and Kellem Wollega zones of the Oromia region**. UNHCR conducted CP/GBV & PSEA community awareness programs for IDP girls and women from Gutu Gida, Sasiga woreda, and Nekemte town, and IDPs received information on how to access UNHCR's free legal aid project with Wollega University. Additionally, International Women's Day was celebrated, during which a panel discussion on women's roles in peacebuilding, development, and technological innovation was held. UNHCR distributed blankets, kitchen sets, plastic sheets, sleeping mats, and solar lamps to vulnerable IDP women during the event.

Further, the legal aid centers in Nekemte/Gutu Gida, Gida Ayana, Nekemte Prison, Sibu Sire (East Wollega), Nejo (West Wollega), and Shambo (Horo Guduro) provided legal counselling, representation, alternative dispute resolution, and legal writing for vulnerable persons. UNHCR, through its partner ANE, and in coordination with Nekemte City, Busa Gonofa (Disaster Risk Management Office) provided full Emergency shelter and non-food items (ESNFI) kits for vulnerable IDP families in Nekemte Town.

**In Southern Operation (West Guji, East Guji, Borena, Gedeo and Konso Zones)**, UNHCR and its partners assisted over 9,382 IDPs and returning IDPs through protection activities like legal aid and awareness, referrals, GBV support, and targeted assistance. The most serious protection issues identified by 212 protection monitoring field missions are a lack of basic services (food, shelter, and CRIs), as well as GBV. Wheelchairs, walking aids, a recorder, and earpads were distributed to selected 55 (26 women) beneficiaries/ returnees from Gedeo zone woredas, and additional 274 people received legal advice, pleadings, court litigation, and representation from the three free legal aid centers. Additionally, together with the Zonal Women and Social Affairs Office, UNHCR Dilla Field Office celebrated International Women's Day in Bule Hora and Dilla town of West Guji and Gedeo zones respectively. Drought assessment and post-distribution monitoring were carried out in Borena zone of Oromia region, and due to the prolonged drought, 59,561 families, of which 16,922 are headed by women, have lost nearly 3.3 million livestock worth 33 billion ETB in the zone's 13 woredas. UNHCR is planning a second round drought response through protection services, emergency assistance, and CRIs.



Mobility materials distribution, Gedeo zone/ Neway Mangistu © UNHCR / Feb. 2023

Through its field office in **Dire Dawa**, In the first quarter of 2023, UNHCR and its implementing partners supported over 2,450 IDPs, and has also donated various office furniture and materials to three disaster risk management offices in West Hararge Zone, East Hararge Zone, and Dire Dawa City Administration, and the donation will strengthen the offices' capacities to implement protection and assistance work for displaced communities caused by conflict and natural disasters. In addition, four woredas conduct post-distribution monitoring for multipurpose cash distribution to drought-affected community members. **Community voices:** A business savvy IDP woman from Hararghe who received funding from the UNHCR's self-sufficiency program purchases one or two goats every few weeks, fattens them, and then sells them at the meat market for a profit.



cash assistance for self-sufficiency program, Hararghe / Richard Ross © UNHCR / Jan. 2023

In **Melkadida**, new partnerships were established with the zonal authorities to strengthen the protection coordination, assessment, response, and monitoring capacity of the local administrative authority at the zonal and woreda level in the Afder, Dawa, and Liban zones. Provided emergency CRIs to 2,521 families (12,778 individuals) in Elkare woreda, an area that was closed off to humanitarian aid as a result of insecurity in 2022. Multipurpose cash for emergency needs and mitigating protection risks is being distributed to 1,331 families in Darso site, Dolobay woreda, of Afder zone. Additionally, continued to support the government-led efforts to contain the cholera outbreak in Dollo Ado woreda's Suftu Kebele. UNHCR has so far provided 675,000 Ethiopian Birr in financial support for several public health emergency response activities, including a five-day training for 50 health officials, the operation of a cholera treatment unit that serves both Dollo Ado and Bokolmayo woredas, and the rental of a vehicle to improve coordination and monitoring by Liban zonal health focal persons.



Distribution of NFI in Burdhubo site, Elkare Woreda, Afder zone / © UNHCR / Feb. 2023

In **Jijiga**, UNHCR and its partners assisted over 19, 434 IDPs and returning IDPs through protection activities such as legal aid and awareness, referrals, SGBV support, and targeted assistance, including Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) to track assistance provided to drought-induced internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Somali region's Nogob, Erer, and Shabelle zones. Additionally, UNHCR conducted a needs assessment in a newly established rural community setting with 300 IDP families displaced due to the combination of drought and conflict who are experiencing acute deprivation from humanitarian assistance to developmental aspects, and in response, UNHCR plans to provide a combination of targeted 100 emergency shelters for the most vulnerable families based on protection grounds, as well as multipurpose cash assistance. Additionally, it continued its protection interventions in the areas of legal aid information dissemination and legal counselling, reaching over 1,225 IDPs in seven IDP-hosting woredas across the Liban, Afder, Sitti, and Fafan zones of the Somali region, and supported the effort to promote and enhance peaceful coexistence between IDPs and host communities through peace committees in Shabelley, Babile, and Tuli-guled woredas of the Fafan zone.

In the **Benshangul Gumuz**, Assosa, and Metekel zones, 114 individuals from partners, government officials, IDP leaders, and host community members participated in an information campaign, capacity building on community-based complaint mechanisms, and a referral pathway training workshop. Also trained IDPs, returnees, and host communities about child protection, GBV, and other protection issues. Two GBV referrals were resolved, and two court pleadings were prepared.



CBCM and Referral Pathway Training Workshop in Assosa, © UNHCR / Restituta Cang / Feb. 23

### UNHCR is grateful for the contribution to the UNHCR Ethiopia IDP Operation in 2023



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### For more information, please contact:

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