UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency | Ethiopia

Gender Based Violence Refugee Response

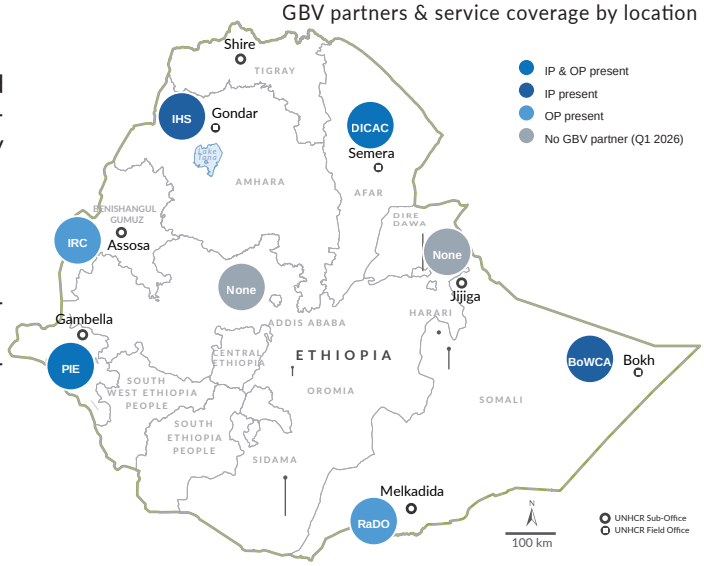
Factsheet | April - June 2026

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES

GBV interventions in Q1 2026 focused on prevention, risk mitigation, and response, with emphasis on survivor-centered services andcommunity-based prevention approaches, guided by the UNHCR GBV Strategy 2023–2026:

- Empowerment of women, girls and adolescents
- Strengthening survivor-centered multi-sectoral services
- Inclusion in national and local service systems
- GBV mainstreaming across protection, WASH, shelter, health, education and livelihoods
- Community-based prevention approaches, including women-led-structures and male engagement

GBV partners & service coverage by location



PROGRESS AND KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Prevention:** 34,541 people reached (51% F) through awareness, outreach, home visits, and campaigns in Gambella, Afar, Assosa, Melkadida, Amhara, Bokhand Aftit. Girl Shine/EMAP reached 175 participants in Melkadida. 12,685 women and girls engaged in empowerment activities, led by Assosa (5,664) and Gambella (2,755).
- **Risk Mitigation:** Safety audits conducted in Afar, Amhara, Gambella, and Melkadida identified risks related to inadequate lighting, limited privacy, unsafe access routes, and exposure to protection risks during service access and resource collection; recommendations focused on improving site safety, distribution processes, and multisector follow-up. At least 5 new WGSS were established in Q2 2026 (3 in Melkadida, 2 in Gambella).
- **Response Services:** Incidents were managed across Aftit, Assosa, Bokh, Melkadida and Gambella; all survivors reporting incidents received available case management, psychosocial support and referrals to health, legal, protection and dignity-kit services.
- **Coordination and Community Building:** Coordination remained active across operations; 2,477 staff, government actors and community volunteers were trained, strengthening referral and response capacity among service providers and community structures.

SOUTH SUDAN EMERGENCY RESPONSE

In 2025, the increased influx of refugees from South Sudan heightened GBV risks and service needs in Gambella, prompting UNHCR, government, UN agencies and partners to expand GBV prevention, risk mitigation and response services to Luakdong, Moun and Mattar.

- 1,150 people reached through community-wide GBV prevention and awareness activities across emergency sites.
- 2,508 dignity kits distributed.
- 105 focus group discussions were conducted with refugees to identify protection risks and improve services.

2,508
Dignity kits distributed to women and girls at risk (Gambella emergency sites)

1,150
People reached — community-wide GBV prevention & awareness (emergency sites)

105
Focus group discussions conducted with refugees

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KEY FIGURES

51,075
(49% F / 51% M)
Individuals reached (GBV prog.)

8,130
(0% F / 100% M)
Male engagement

14,057
(100% F)
Education & livelihood

2,359
(52% F / 48% M)
Volunteers

175
(100% F)
Girl Shine / adolescent prog.

2,427
(51% F / 49 M)
Capacity-building training

24%
Medical assistance (response)

100%
Psychosocial support (response)

34,541
(51% F / 49% M)
Awareness-raising

658
(100% F)
Dignity kits

13%
Legal / protection (response)

20%
Safety & security (response)

105
(100% F)
Cash assistance

10
Community-led safety activities

1,815
(100% F)
Persons at risk (material asst.)

1,300
(100% F)
MHM kits distributed

GAPS AND CHALLENGES

- **Afar** — Limited women and girls' safe-space infrastructure continues to constrain service delivery.
- **Amhara** — Absence of a legal service partner limits survivors' access to justice; inadequate funding for case management and prevention, and limited security referral options, remain key challenges.
- **Assosa** — Funding limitations, entrenched harmful social norms, and fuel shortages continue to affect implementation. Additional dignity kits and survivor support services are needed.
- **Bokh** — Delayed reporting of GBV incidents reduces survivors' access to timely medical and legal services; lack of cookstoves increases protection risks; no one-stop Centre for integrated support.
- **Gambella** — High caseload strains case management; fuel/mobility challenges hinder outreach; referral pathways need updating; specialized mental health/PSS limited. One partner's (BoWSA) Q2 data was incomplete (case numbers with no service data) and is excluded from national response-service percentages pending verification.
- **Melkadida** — Growing service demand exceeds available resources; gaps include insufficient dignity kits, limited specialized referral services, and the need to expand programming for adolescent girls and male engagement.

PARTNERSHIPS

Catagory	Organizations
▪ Government	▪ RRS & SRS- Somali Regional State, Bureau of Finance, Bureau of Women and Child Affairs Office (BoWCA)
▪ UN Agencies	▪ UNICEF, UNFPA
▪ UNHCR Donors	▪ CERF, KOICA, Netherlands
▪ OP Donors	▪ Koica, Netherlands, SIDA, PRM, NORAD, Irish Aid, ECHO

GBV Partner Coverage: 2025 vs 2026

GBV IP 2025

- RaDO (Jijiga)
- DICAC (Q1, 2 Amhara, Aysaita and Berhale, Addis Ababa)
- OWS (Q1, 2 Bokh)
- IHS (Aftit and Alemwach)
- IRC (all 4 camps in Assosa)
- PIE (all 6 camps in Gambella)

GBV OP 2025

- CVT
- AAH
- MTI
- IRC
- EECMY
- PIE
- DCA
- GOAL
- IMC
- RaDO
- MSF
- NCA

GBV IP 2026

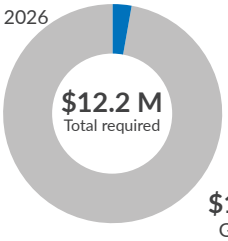
- IHS (Alemwach, Metema)
- DICAC (Aysaita, Berhale)
- PIE (Gambella all camps)

GBV OP 2026

- RaDO (Muon, Tormorok, ?)
- IRC (Assosa all camps, Luakdong, Tormorok)
- NCA (Jewi and Nguenyiel)
- FRC (Nguenyiel, Luakdong)
- Oxfam (Tierkidi, Luakdong)
- BOWSA (Tormorok)
- PIE (Tormorok, Luakdong)
- DICAC
- MSI
- PAPDA
- DSW
- IHS (Metema)

FUNDING JUL 2026

$346 K
Received as of Jul 2026 (3%)



$11.9 M
Gap (97%)

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