ETHIOPIA
Refugees and Asylum-seekers

As of 31 August 2026

1,023,565
Total Refugees and Asylum-seekers
(919,919 refugees | 110,814* asylum-seekers)

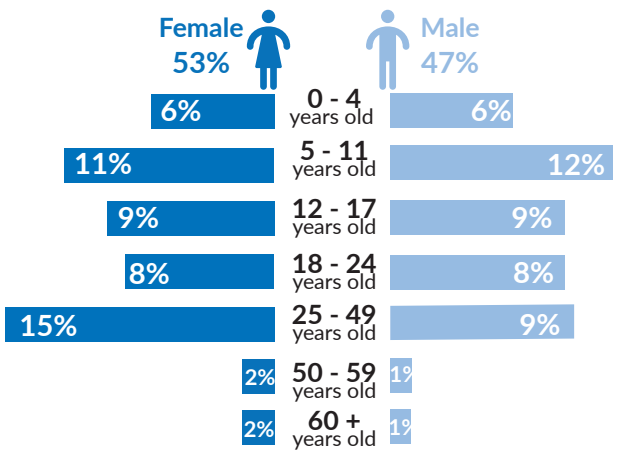
244,106
Households
(average family size: 4)

78% Women & Children
53% Children (0 -17 years)
44% Adults (18 - 59 years)
3% Elderly (60+)

Context & Highlight

Ethiopia is the third largest refugee hosting country in Africa, home to over 1M refugees and asylum seekers—mainly from South Sudan, Somalia and Eritrea. Following the outbreak of armed conflict in Sudan (April 2023) , Ethiopia is receiving thousands of forcibly displaced people at several points of entry. On 6 March 2024, the Ethiopian government's Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) in collaboration with the National ID Program (NIDP) and UNHCR launched the issuance of digital identity documents to foster inclusion of refugees in the national system.

Age-gender breakdown



Countries of origin

Country of origin	Total Individuals	Percentage
South Sudan	469,858	46%
Somalia	362,151	35%
Eritrea	124,650	12%
Sudan	57,694	6%
Kenya	5,660	1%
Yemen	1,735	<1%
DR Congo	702	<1%
Syrian Arab Republic	525	<1%
Others**	590	<1%
Total	**1,023,565**	

**Others include: Burundi (136 individuals); Djibouti (56)...In total refugees and asylum-seekers registered in Ethiopia come from 34 different countries.

Population distribution

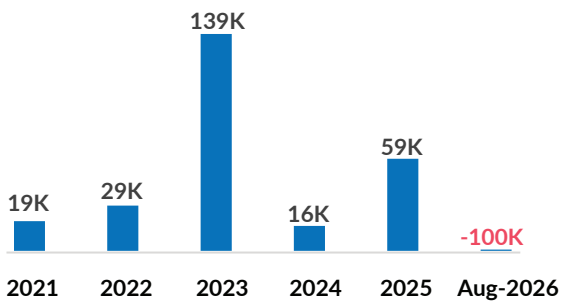
51,843(5%)
Urban (Addis Ababa & Tigray)

140,407 (14%)
Sites & Settlements
(Alemwech, Mirqaan, Aftit, Ura...)

831,315(81%)
Camps
(21 refugee camps)

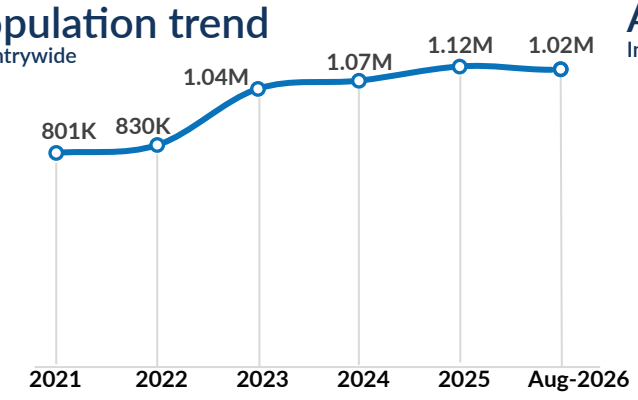
New arrivals per year

Countrywide



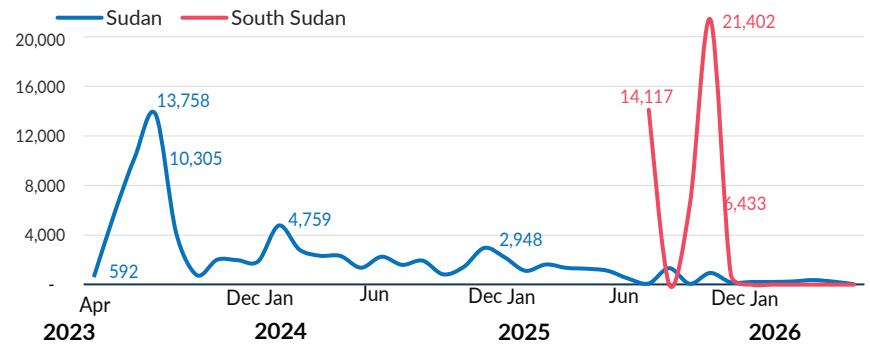
Population trend

Countrywide



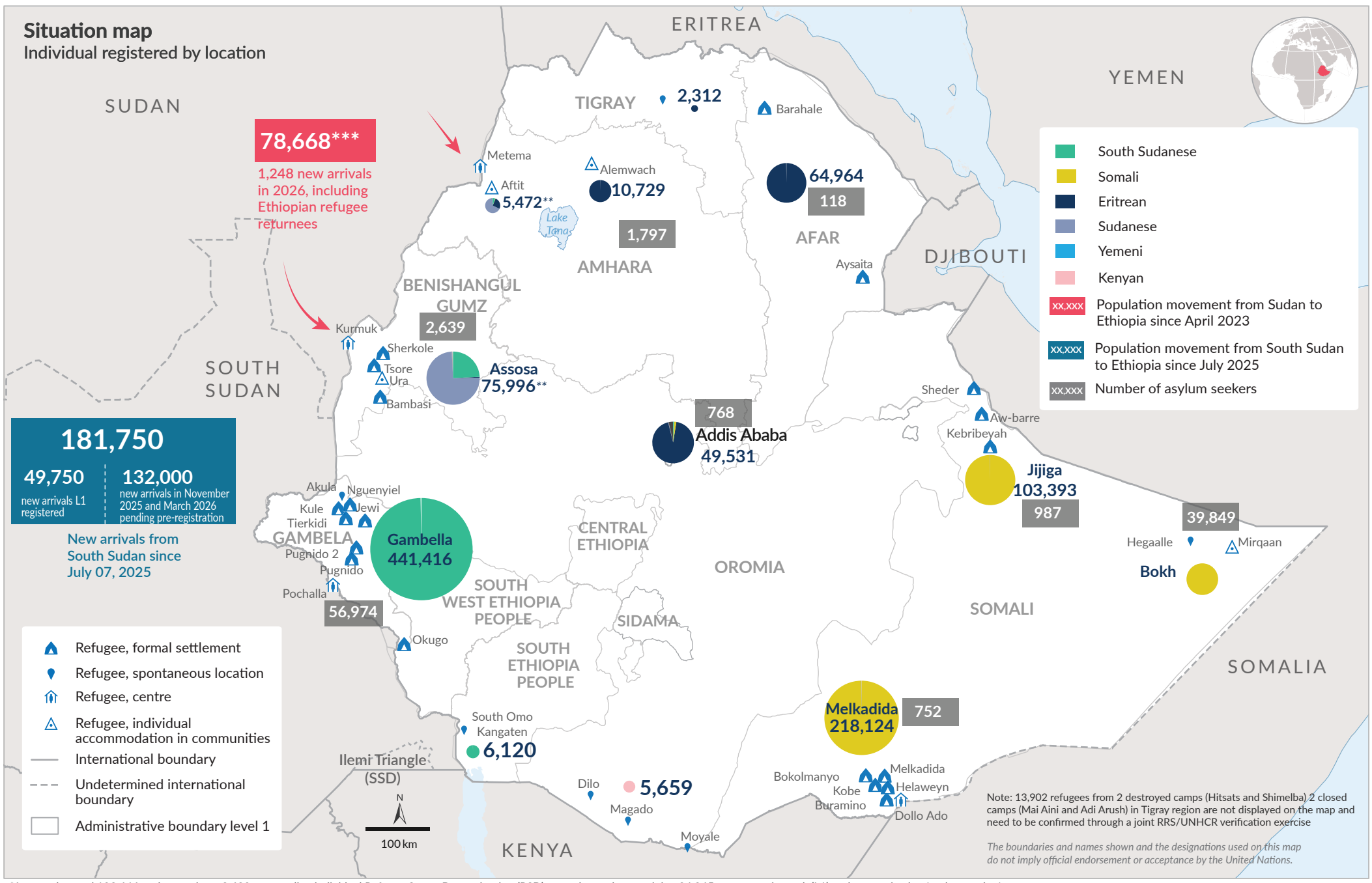
Arrival trends Sudan & South Sudan emergency

Individuals in need of international protection



Situation map

Individual registered by location



Note: 13,902 refugees from 2 destroyed camps (Hitsats and Shimelba) 2 closed camps (Mai Aini and Adi Arush) in Tigray region are not displayed on the map and need to be confirmed through a joint RRS/UNHCR verification exercise

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

*Among the total 103,646 asylum seekers, 8,680 are pending individual Refugee Status Determination (RSD) procedures, the remaining 94,965 are pre-registered (L1) and categorized as 'asylum seeker'

***Sudan Emergency: arrivals in need of international protection from April 2023 to July 2026, Level 1 (L1) pre-registration figures. A total of 78,668 individuals pre-registered, including 45,118 Sudanese, 10,712 other nationalities, and 22,838 Ethiopian refugee returnees.

** Additionally, **18,728** L1 registered new arrivals (of which **17,887** Sudanese) in the Benishangul-Gumuz region and **17,695** L1 registered new arrivals (of which **10,644** Sudanese) in the Amhara region have not come forward for individual-level registration despite several months of grace period, and their whereabouts remain unknown.

Update date: 15 October 2026 **Sources:** UNHCR, RRS, UNCS, CSA Ethiopia **Author:** UNHCR - CO Ethiopia **Feedback:** IM unit Addis Ababa, ethadim@unhcr.org