

ETHIOPIA EMERGENCY SITUATION

2 November 2021



The relocation of internally displaced persons who had been hosted in schools to Sabacare 4, Mekelle, Ethiopia. © UNHCR

Key Developments

ETHIOPIA

The situation in northern Ethiopia continues to deteriorate as hostilities escalate. On 2 November, the Ethiopian government declared a six-month national state of emergency throughout the country with immediate effect. This follows reports that on 30 and 31 October, Tigray and Oromo forces took control of two major towns along the highway to Addis Ababa. The [UN Secretary General](#) has released a statement saying that “the stability of Ethiopia and the wider region is at stake” and has called “for an inclusive national dialogue to resolve this crisis and create the foundation for peace and stability throughout the country.”

The lack of access into the Tigray region – for personnel, supplies, fuel, cash, and telecommunications equipment – continues to significantly compromise the humanitarian response. Agencies have scaled down operations predominantly due to lack of fuel and other humanitarian supplies. Communication remains shut down across the region and electricity remains sporadic except for Mekelle where it is mostly stable.

SUDAN

A military takeover took place on 25 October, with the military overthrowing the civilian transitional government and detaining the Prime Minister and other civilian leaders. Street protests against the military takeover continued throughout the week, with over 10 people reported to have been killed and scores of others injured.

The security situation remained relatively calm and stable in Gedaref following a series of demonstrations on 25 and 30 October in response to the military coup. Despite military presence in some parts of the town, humanitarian actors are able to cross checkpoints along major roads.

UNHCR and partner NGOs can move to Um Rakuba camp and Tunaydbah settlement despite several checkpoints along the way. Various NGOs have teams based in the camps, International Rescue Committee,

others a mix of locally based staff and international staff commuting from Gedaref. All partners have refugee workers who continue to ensure presence in field locations.

Ethiopia Response

The humanitarian situation across northern Ethiopia remains deeply concerning for refugees, the internally displaced and host communities. Civilians have endured one year of conflict with extremely limited basic services and assistance available, leading to a significant escalation in humanitarian needs with ongoing new displacements. The security situation remains volatile, affecting civilians and constraining humanitarian actors on the ground. Communication, electricity, and banking services remain intermittent.

Most areas within the Tigray region remain largely accessible, with restrictions along the Northern Border, where foreign forces remain present; however, access to the Western part of Tigray remains highly restricted, with limited access to Dansha and Tsegede woredas only. In Afar, fighting reached Chifra, a strategic town located some 100 km from Mile and 170 km from Semera. All humanitarian activities have been suspended in that area as well as in woredas bordering Tigray.



Eritrean Refugee Response

UNHCR and WFP conducted food distribution to Eritrean refugees residing in Adi Harush and Mai Aini camps which began on 19 October and was finalized on 23 October. A total of 24,843 individuals received a monthly food ration in both camps. Core Relief Items (CRIs) including sleeping mats, blankets and soap were also distributed to some 8,000 households. International Rescue Committee (IRC) distributed WASH items (wash basin, body soap, laundry soap, bucket and jerrycan) to 1,288 vulnerable refugees in Adi Harush and Mai Aini camps, and distributed dignity kits for 7,000 women of reproductive age.

On 25 October, 62 Eritrean refugees (30% of them children and 40% female) departed from Aysaita camp in Afar region to Dabat in Amhara region. The refugees were accompanied by UNHCR, ARRA and IOM staff. The group had been previously relocated from Tigray since August and were awaiting a permanent housing solution.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)



Protection: According to government estimates, there are 1 million IDPs in the Amhara region. Some 17,000 of those are housed in school premises, while others live withing the community. Reports received during the inter-cluster meeting at the Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) co-chaired by Afar's regional Disaster Prevention and Food Security Programme Coordination Office (DPFSPCO) and OCHA confirmed new IDPs in five locations in zones 1 and 2. Some sites are new such as Wake/50 (close to Mille, but part of Chifra woreda), while existing sites received additional IDPs. A total of 5,573 households (33,438 individuals) are considered new IDPs. Three out of 5 IDP sites are accessible, i.e.: Chifra (zone 1), Barahle (zone 2) and Abala (zone 2). Clusters are liaising with respective partners to provide urgent assistance.

UNHCR, in collaboration with its partner Innovative Humanitarian Solutions (IHS) continued to manage the protection desks supporting over 36 IDP sites in Shire as well as in Sheraro and Axum, with outreach missions to Adwa, Adi Daero (a town between Shire and Sheraro) and other areas hosting significant numbers of IDPs. In Sheraro and Axum, a total of 100 Protection query tracking forms were completed by IHS social workers and will be compiled and analysed. Initial readings indicate that the major protection incidents reported include fear of perceived security threats in the locations.

In addition, protection query analysis in both Mekelle and Shire indicate that protection desks have dealt mostly with gender-based violence (GBV) cases, requests for psychosocial support services, Non-Food Item (NFI) requests (mainly blankets/mattress), complaints about crowded shelters and lack of access to clean water.



Shelter and Non-food Items: From 25 - 27 October, IHS distributed core relief items (CRIs) to 3,295 vulnerable IDP families from 18 sites that are managed by UNHCR in Shire. The items included kitchen sets, plastic buckets, sleeping mats, blankets, mosquito nets and laundry soap. During the same period, IHS also distributed dignity kits (toilet soap, laundry soap and sanitary pads) to 2,800 vulnerable IDP households selected from 18 sites in Shire.

On 25 October, UNHCR partner Action for the Needy (ANE) began the distribution of NFIs at Bahirshesh IDP site in Dessie/Kombolcha in Amhara region, targeting 220 households. ANE and the local authorities agreed to allocate 2,500 NFI sets for Dessie and 2,500 for Kombolcha. Distribution is continuing in both locations.

ANE also begun clearance of the new Geza Ahsea construction site in Sheraro. At the request of the Mayor of Sheraro, ANE conducted site clearance/groundwork activities including site/surface levelling and demarcation required to start the planned construction work of 1,000 duplex shelters in the designated site; UNHCR's partner Samaritans Purse is also finalizing the construction of 32 duplex shelters in this site.



Camp Coordination and Camp Management: UNHCR handed over 15 communal kitchens through partner ANE in three IDPs sites in Shire—Five Angels (10), Adi Kentibay (3) and Shire Preparatory High School (2). The handover was conducted in the presence of IDP/women representatives and Zonal authorities.

A total of 11 suggestion boxes have been installed by the cluster partner in the sites of Sheraro. An awareness-raising session on the use of suggestion boxes ensuring their confidentiality and accessibility to all residents of the sites has been planned for the IDP community.

Sudan Response

While many activities inside the camps are so far unaffected, the uncertainty of the current situation risks disrupting the delivery of life-saving and essential services, including the distribution of much-needed food, shelter and CRIs. The Commission for Refugees (COR) continues to be present inside the camps. In a separate meeting with local authorities, officials reassured UNHCR that it has coordinated with the relevant entities at the village, locality, and state levels to ensure the humanitarian response remains unaffected.

The number of Ethiopians crossing into Hamdayet continued to remain relatively low, with a total population of 6,001 at Hamdayet as of 28 October. With a few recent arrivals, the total number of Qemant asylum-seekers has reached 2,318 since the influx began in July 2021. UNHCR continues to provide protection and assistance to both groups in close coordination with partners while also scaling up preparedness measures in the event of a significant influx.

Due to the current situation, the relocation of refugees from the transit/reception centres to Tunaydbah settlement has been temporarily put on hold. On 30 October, the operation was given a 72-hour notice by local authorities to relocate Qemant asylum seekers to Babikri, a new site intended to accommodate this group. Advocacy is ongoing with officials to postpone this relocation until the necessary recommendations from the recent inter-agency site assessment are in place. In the meantime, they will be moved to Basunda transit centre.



Protection: On 28 October, UNHCR led a multi-functional monitoring mission to Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah to assess the situation in the camps and to see how best to resolve any sectoral challenges which might have been exacerbated by the dynamic operating context. Several action points were noted, including the need to scale up protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) information, education and communication materials (IEC) in the camps.

A protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) workshop was held in Tunaydbah settlement, targeting 40 community-based protection networks. This was aimed at increasing refugees' awareness of SEA, how and where to report such incidents and to reiterate UNHCR's zero tolerance policy.

A verification exercise for persons with specific needs (PSNs) commenced in Tunaydbah. To date, household level verification has been completed for over 1,350 individuals in Tunaydbah using partners' offline data lists. A similar exercise is also planned for Um Rakuba.



Education: Approximately 5,500 girls are currently enrolled in early childhood care and development (EECD) centres and primary and secondary learning centres, representing 46% of school-age children (4 – 18) in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah. Students in secondary and primary learning centres are now being taught core subjects (English, Maths and Science).

UNHCR's partner Islamic Relief completed the construction of two additional classrooms in Um Rakuba funded by Education Cannot Wait, bringing the total number of classrooms under this grant to six. Close to 800 children were enrolled in the recently completed early childhood care and development (EECD) centres implemented by Save the Children in Tunaydbah, with close to 1,300 children enrolled in these centres.



Health: Clinics inside the camps continued to operate as normal with refugees receiving unhindered access to healthcare. However, the COVID-19 vaccination campaign has temporarily been put on hold as result of the prevailing situation in Sudan.

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) continued to provide in-kind support for sexual and reproductive health to Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) facilities in Hamdayet, Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah. Close to 30 deliveries were carried out in these facilities and 125 women also received family planning services.

Three suicide prevention awareness raising sessions were held in Um Rakuba, reaching over 50 refugees. In Tunaydbah, two awareness sessions were held on mental health and the available services, reaching over 125 individuals. Participants received training on how to better identify and assist refugees and other persons of concern with mental health and psychosocial issues.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: A total of 1,060,290 litres of water were provided via water pumping from rivers and through water treatment plants, boreholes, and water trucking between 14 – 21 October 2021. Water supply increased to 26 litres per day (l/p/d) in Um Rakuba, 22 l/p/d in Tunaydbah, 23 l/p/d in Village 8 and 15 l/p/d in Hamdayet, all within the *SPHERE minimum standard* in emergency settings.

Efforts to improve latrine coverage are ongoing. 942 latrines have been completed so far in Um Rakuba and an additional 225 are under rehabilitation/construction or planned. 1,350 have been completed in Tunaydbah with another 330 requiring rehabilitation/construction.



Shelter and Non-food Items: UNHCR partner Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) has distributed 3,650 emergency shelter kits in Um Rakuba camp out of the planned 5,000 kits. In Tunaydbah, a total of 2,535 out of the planned 5,000 kits have been distributed so far. In addition, 1,060 and 1,350 disaster kits have been distributed in Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba respectively out of 5,000 planned in each site.

In Um Rakuba, 2,465 ESKs and 3,650 disaster kits are required to support the need of the remaining camp residents. In addition, 20 additional culvert lines need to be installed and 10 km of secondary roads in the camp need to be constructed. In Tunaydbah, 1,644 ESKs and 3,940 disaster kits are needed. 900 bridges/footpaths, 20 additional culvert lines, and 10 km of secondary roads in the camp also require construction.

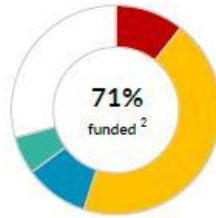
NRC has started construction work on 10 Tukuls (durable shelters) in Um Rakuba. The plan is to use this community-led approach to train beneficiaries so that they can share their new-found skills with other refugees thereby accelerating the transition to durable shelters.

Funding Overview



\$164.5 million

UNHCR's financial requirements 2021 ¹



FUNDING UPDATE | 2021

ETHIOPIA EMERGENCY

as of 1 November 2021



CONTRIBUTIONS ² | USD

	Unearmarked	Softly earmarked	Earmarked	Tightly earmarked	Total
United States of America	-	3,750,000	19,130,000	-	22,880,000
European Union	-	-	-	3,789,384	3,789,384
CERF	-	-	-	2,500,000	2,500,000
Finland	-	2,389,486	-	-	2,389,486
UNO-Fluechtlingshilfe	-	1,153,278	-	298,329	1,451,607
Italy	-	-	-	1,379,723	1,379,723
Japan	-	181,159	-	1,100,000	1,281,159
Country-Based Pooled Funds	-	-	-	1,280,000	1,280,000
Norway	-	-	1,219,066	-	1,219,066
Sweden	-	851,148	-	-	851,148
United Kingdom	-	-	810,811	-	810,811
Education Cannot Wait	-	-	-	500,000	500,000
Letter-day Saints Charities	-	-	18,311	453,914	472,225
United Kingdom for UNHCR	-	421,498	-	-	421,498
Médecins Sans Frontières	-	-	-	365,625	365,625
France	-	351,700	-	-	351,700
Novo Nordisk Foundation	-	327,004	-	-	327,004
Luxembourg	-	305,998	-	-	305,998
Australia for UNHCR	-	297,062	-	-	297,062
Private donors Canada	-	226,321	-	-	226,321
Sweden for UNHCR	-	207,964	-	-	207,964
Liechtenstein	-	110,375	-	-	110,375
Private donors USA	-	100,000	-	-	100,000
Other private donors	-	434,168	-	5,326	439,494
Sub-total	-	11,107,161	21,178,188	11,672,301	43,957,650
Indicative allocation of funds and adjustments ⁴	9,254,236	5,190,889	52,159,107	5,770,627	72,374,860
Total	9,254,236	16,298,050	73,337,295	17,442,928	116,332,509

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 situation. The contributions earmarked for the 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 169.5 million | Private donors Australia 9.5 million | Canada 5.8 million | Sweden 3.5 million | Denmark 2.9 million | Switzerland 2 million

IGAD | Ireland | Japan | Luxembourg | Netherlands | Norway | Private donors

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS ⁵ | USD

Norway 80 million | Sweden 75.4 million | Private donors Spain 62.6 million | United Kingdom 40.4 million | Netherlands 36.1 million | Denmark 34.6 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 31.9 million | Private donors Japan 27.7 million | Germany 26 million | Japan 23.4 million | France 20.2 million | Switzerland 16.4 million | Private donors Italy 15.7 million | Private donors Sweden 14.4 million | Ireland 12.5 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Italy 10.7 million

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