



Protection

“Protect and Solve”- Workshop on internal displacement: From 18-20 August, UNHCR organized its first workshop on internal displacement in Ethiopia, with the aim to share information and good practices about its support to the growing population of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ethiopia, as well as to seek feedback and inputs to inform a draft IDP strategy.

Convened under the theme “Protect & Solve”, the event drew the participation of a wide range of internal and external stakeholders, including representatives from UNHCR’s Regional Bureau for the East and Horn



UNHCR's first IDP workshop in 2022 @UNHCR

of Africa and Great Lakes Region, Government Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS), the Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission (EDRMC), the Ministry of Peace (MOP), the Ministry of Justice, the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC), as well as some of UNHCR’s main donors and partners.

The three-day workshop facilitated the exchange of ideas to help improve the response, including from external partners, and to inform a draft strategy guiding UNHCR’s continued engagement in the IDP response in Ethiopia. UNHCR is currently working on an action plan that will operationalize the strategy once finalized. The event featured a panel discussion, with the participation of RRS, MOP, EDRMC, EHRC and the Inter-Ministerial Task Force (IMTF - part of the Ministry of Justice), on

the Government’s vision and way forward for the protection and assistance to IDPs in the country. It also served as a platform for a conversation on the importance of domesticating the Kampala Convention for the effective protection and assistance to IDPs in the country.

Issuance of civil documentation in Jijiga camps: A total of 206 Somali refugees in camps in the Jijiga area of Somali region were issued with civil documentation by Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) as part of the ongoing vital events registration. The majority were birth registration while some refugee families were issued with death and divorce certificates. Overall, over 60,000 refugees registered their vital life events over the past years.

Training on PSEA/SH: Some 70 UNHCR staff members in Addis Ababa and Gambella received training on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and Sexual Harassment (SH) with the aim to reinforce their knowledge and understanding of PSEA/SH issues. Offered by experts deployed from UNHCR’s headquarters and UNHCR Ethiopia, the training sessions were attended by 27 staff members in Gambella and 42 others in Addis Ababa, including members of the senior management. UNHCR and Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) also facilitated the training of 22 staff members of the RRS who serve as PSEA focal points in different parts of the country. They are expected to train other staff members in their respective duty stations.

GBV workshop: UNHCR Ethiopia organized a 3-day workshop on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Addis Ababa, bringing together internal and external stakeholders that are directly involved in GBV programming and implementation for refugees. The workshop was aimed at creating a common understanding among all stakeholders, including UNHCR staff, partners, and the government, on the key documents which the

GBV programming in Ethiopia is based on. It also had a capacity development component for the GBV focal persons in different offices across the operation, helping them to undertake quality GBV programming.

Child Protection support in Alemwach settlement: As a follow-up to some of the key recommendations made by a joint mission of RRS, UNHCR and UNICEF back in May 2022, a UNHCR Child Protection expert extended a support mission to Alemwach refugee site in the Amhara region, hosting Eritrean refugees. The expert conducted a training on Best Interests Procedures, established a Best Interests Determination (BID) Panel and provided technical support on child protection, including offering key recommendations to strengthen the comprehensive child protection programme in the refugee site.

Legal awareness and aid for IDPs in Wollega: In collaboration with the Wollega University, UNHCR continues to raise legal awareness and provide free legal aid services for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), and vulnerable members of the host community. During the reporting month a total of 716 people benefitted from the services, including 493 who were reached with legal awareness messages and another 223 who benefitted from free legal aid in 13 legal aid centres in the East, West, and Horo-Guduru zones of Wollega area in the Oromia region.



Education

A technical mission led by the Ministry of Education (MoE) assessed the status of three secondary schools for refugees in the Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella and Somali regions in preparation for their transfer to the management of the respective Regional Education Bureaus (REBs). The team, comprising representatives from MoE, the World Bank, RRS, UNHCR and DICAC, visited the Tsore, Jew and Sheder secondary schools in the three regions, respectively, which have been selected for the pilot phase of the transition during the 2022/2023 academic year. A second set of refugee secondary schools will be transitioned to the respective REBs during the 2023/2024 academic years while the last batch will do so during the 2024/2025 academic year. Part of the Government's and the World Bank's IDA-19 funding on integration of refugees into the national education system, participants of the assessment mission indicated that the three regional education bureau's are willing and ready to take on the management of the proposed schools but requested clarification on aspects related to teachers' salaries and the sustainability of the initiative as a whole. The REBs also requested for more time for broader consultations with all the stakeholders, pushing the start of the pilot transition process from September 2022 to June 2023.



Shelter & CRIs

Support to refugees: On average, only 40.5% of the refugee household in the country live in adequate shelters, while the majority (59.5%) are accommodated in either emergency, old or crowded communal shelters, requiring urgent shelter solutions. This is mainly because many new arrivals especially in the Gambella and Melkadida camps as well as refugees that were newly relocated from other camps to Alemwach site and Serdo and Tsore camps are still living in emergency shelters.



Shelter construction in Alemwach site, Amhara region ©UNHCR

In **Alemwach** site in the Amhara region, UNHCR has to date provided 1,224 emergency shelters while the construction of 106 transitional shelters is in different stages of completion. The site hosts Eritrean refugees relocated from the camps in the Tigray region.

In the **Gambella** region, UNHCR and its shelter partners have almost completed the construction of 247 transitional shelters and maintenance of 262 others in six of the seven camps (Jewi, Kule, Nguenyiel, Tierkidi, Punyido 1 and Punyido 2). Roof thatching is underway before they can become habitable. In Tierkidi camp, construction of a two-kilometre access road has just been completed, improving mobility into and within the refugee camp.

In **Tsore** refugee camp in the Benishangul-Gumuz region, 195 emergency shelters were freshly completed in August, allowing UNHCR and partners to move refugees from communal hangars to proper family emergency shelters. In **Sherkole** refugee camp within the same region, 19 households were supported to construct and maintain their shelters.

Support to IDPs: UNHCR continues to work closely with relevant government agencies, and Cluster partners in the provision of shelter and essential non-food aid items to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) across nine regions of the country. During the month of August, UNHCR reached over 90,000 IDPs with such support in the Tigray (42,054), Amhara (20,700), Afar (6,556) and Somali, Oromia & Benishangul-Gumuz (21,696) regions.

 **Health**

Despite the impact of emergencies due to conflict and insecurity, especially in parts of Afar, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella and Somali regions, UNHCR, RRS and partners continue to provide primary, secondary and tertiary health services for refugees, including in urban locations. The overall health status of refugees has remained stable with no disease outbreaks reported during the reporting month. UNHCR and the government's Refugees and Returnees Services (RRS) have started dispatching medicines and medical equipment to the different refugee-hosting regions, including Afar, Amhara (Gondar), Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella and Somali (Jijiga and Melkadida).



Screening for signs of malnutrition ©UNHCR

RRS in collaboration with the Gambella Regional Health Bureau (RHB) and the Carter Centre conducted a mass drug administration campaign against onchocerciasis and lymphatic filariasis, treating 215,181 refugees in all seven camps in the region. This was done as part of the effort to eliminate the parasitic helminth diseases that constitute a serious public health issue in tropical regions.

In Wollega, Oromia region, a training on the Clinical Management of Rape (CMR) was given to 48 health professionals, including 18 women, who will be working directly with rape survivors in the One-Stop Centers established in hospitals in West and Kellem Wollega and Gimbi and Dembi Dollo.

 **Food Security and Nutrition**

Nutrition Programmes: UNHCR and RRS continue to coordinate with partners to improve the nutrition status of refugees through preventive and curative programmes. The performance indicators are within the sphere standards in all locations except Tigray (Mai Aini and Adi Harush refugee camps) where nutrition services are not provided because of access limitations due to the war.

In anticipation of the impact of the significant ration cuts, screening for acute malnutrition was ongoing to enable timely enrolment of possible undernutrition cases to nutrition treatment programmes. Further with funding from the UAE through Famine Relief Fund, UNHCR in collaboration with IMC is enrolling pregnant and lactating women as well as children under two years that are at a heightened risk of acute malnutrition to the fresh food voucher programme to prevent acute malnutrition.

Capacity building and systems strengthening: UNHCR through its partners trained 424 nutrition workers in Amhara (Alemwach) Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella and Somali (Melkadida) regions to support and improve the quality-of-care in the different nutrition programmes. The training was extended to participants from the regional health bureaus as well to enable synergies in nutrition response.

Annual events: World breast-feeding week was celebrated in camps in different regions under the theme 'Step up for Breastfeeding - Educate and Support'. The objective was to promote, support and protect exclusive breastfeeding.

Monitoring and Evaluation: Preliminary findings of the annual nutrition surveys indicate an average Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) prevalence of 13.6%, which is above the UNHCR standard of <10.0%. They include: (17.1% in Semera camp in Afar; 9.6% in camps in Benishangul Gumuz; 11.3% Jijiga camps and 16.5% the Melkadida camps-both in the Somali region. The average prevalence of stunting stands at 28.6%, which is above the WHO standard of < 20%. The surveys were conducted by UNHCR and RRS, in collaboration with partners AAH, IMC, GOAL and with support from UNICEF and WFP.

Food assistance and security: The Current food basket meets only 50% (approximately 985 kilocalories per person per day) of the acceptable minimum standards, covering less than half of the month. There's mounting concern that unless urgent funding is secured, refugees will be forced to adopt negative coping mechanisms.



WASH services: UNHCR continues to work with partners in the provision of clean water and sanitation to refugees while improving hygiene practices through the operation and maintenance of water supply systems, the construction and upgrading of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) facilities as well as awareness-raising. In August, an average of 15.5 liters of water /per person/day was provided to refugees in all camps. More water could not be supplied due to numerous challenges, notably a system failure in Awbare refugee camp where submersible pumps have malfunctioned due to lightning and prolonged cloud cover and daily rains affecting the efficiency of solarized water supply systems in different camps. In Tsore camp, the development of a spring water source, which does not require pumping, was completed during the month.

In response to the drought situation in Filtu and Dekasuftu Woredas of Liben Zone, an assessment was conducted on the WASH needs of internally displaced persons in the area. This was followed by a meeting with UNICEF to discuss efficient ways of supplying water to the affected communities.

In Alemwach refugee settlement in the Amhara region, construction of septic tanks and foundation work for toilets and showers have progressed well, with 17 of the planned 32 septic tanks already completed. On the other hand, 31 emergency latrines were decommissioned in the same site after massive floods forced the relocation of refugees to a higher ground. In the Gambella region, a census of WASH facilities was underway in all the refugee camps, including schools and health facilities to inform programmatic response.



UNHCR's partner ZOA distributed 90 dairy cows among selected female-headed refugee households in Nguenyiel camp, Gambella Region, to support the self-reliance of vulnerable refugee families. Similarly, 150 refugees and 80 members of the host communities in Nguenyiel and Kule camps were provided with 1,976 chickens and three months' worth of poultry feed as part of the efforts to improve their food security at a time when the dwindling funding situation has resulted in further ration cuts. The support is part of the "Food and Livelihood Improvement Project" that is funded by PRM and DCA.

Over 80 refugee youth, composed of 39 males and 43 females from Awbarre, Kebribeyah and Sheder refugee camps graduated from the Jiggiga polytechnic college. They studied in fields ranging from electric installations, driving, food preparation and mobile phone maintenance to beauty care. This third cohort of TVET graduates from the Mercy Corps supported college, have received nationally recognized certificates and will soon be supported with start-up kits to engage in productive activities.

In Abol Woreda of the same region UNHCR supported host community youth to plough 50 acres of land for growing sorghum, expected to produce 40 MT of harvest. This is part of UNHCR's support to food security, income generation and peacebuilding in the region.

Access to Energy

Providing access to cleaner energy for cooking, lighting and powering community facilities while maximizing environmental protection and natural resource management is UNHCR's main strategic direction in Ethiopia. The National Energy and Environment Working Group (EEWG) has developed a Multi-Actor Cooking Fuel Strategy (2022-2030), aiming to achieve universal cooking energy access in line with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG7).

As part of the environmental protection and natural resource management programme, some 800,000 multi-purpose tree seedlings were raised and transplanted across refugee camps and adjacent hosting community areas.

UNHCR is grateful for the direct contribution to the UNHCR Ethiopia Operation in 2022

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