

ETHIOPIA

October 2022

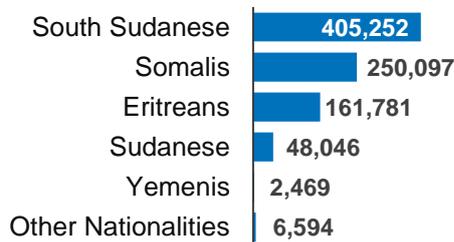
Ethiopia is the **third-largest refugee-hosting country** in Africa, hosting **874,239** registered refugees and asylum-seekers as of 31 August 2022. The overwhelming majority originate from **South Sudan**, **Somalia** and **Eritrea**.

To date, **119,847 refugees have received COVID-19 vaccines, including 94,159 fully vaccinated.** UNHCR, the Government's Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) and partners continue to reinforce prevention measures in refugee camps and sites hosting Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

UNHCR continues to respond to the situation of **2.75 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and 1.66 million IDP returnees** in Ethiopia¹, leading and co-leading the Protection and Camp Coordination & Camp Management (CCCM) Clusters and providing protection, emergency aid and other support to IDPs and IDP returnees.

REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

Countries of Origin

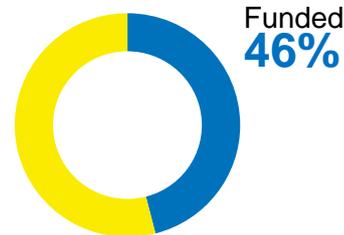


At the end of August 2022, Ethiopia hosted 874,239 refugees and asylum-seekers, mainly sheltered in 23 refugee camps established in six Regional States. There is also a sizeable group of refugees and asylum-seekers living out of camps, including more than 71,000 people in capital Addis Ababa.

FUNDING (As of 29 September 2022)

USD 335.3 M

Requested for Ethiopia



¹ Due to operational constraints, figures from Tigray region were not included in the total.

Source: IOM, April 2022

UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

475 National staff
177 International staff (including JPO)
182 Affiliated work force & others

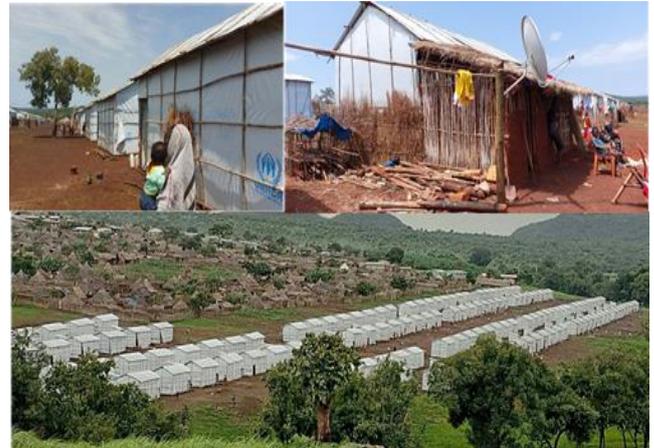
Offices:

1 Representation Office- Addis Ababa

6 Sub-Offices- Assosa, Gambella, Jijiga, Mekelle, Melkadida and Shire

9 Field Offices- Bule Hora, Debark, Dire Dawa, Embamadre, Nekemte, Pugnido, Samara, Sherkole and Tongo

6 Field Units-Aysaita, Mychew, Adigrat, Abi Adi, Sheraro and Axum



Construction of emergency shelters at Tsore refugee camp in Benishangul-Gumuz Region. UNHCR

Working with Partners

UNHCR's main Government counterpart in the refugee response in Ethiopia is the Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS). UNHCR works closely with 57 humanitarian and development organizations, responding under the 'Ethiopia Country Refugee Response Plan (ECRRP)'. The ECRRP seeks to consolidate a collective multi-partner response in support of the refugees in the country. UNHCR is also part of the "Humanitarian Country Team", where various programmes are discussed strategically to ensure that the needs of the persons of concern are effectively addressed across the UN System. Today, UNHCR continues to co-chair the well-established coordination fora, including the inter-sector Refugee Coordination Group, consisting of national and regional sectorial working groups, coordinating sector-specific responses. To foster refugee inclusion in national services and economic activities, in line with Ethiopia's commitment under the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), UNHCR is strengthening partnerships with Ethiopian line Ministries, regional and local authorities, development partners, the private sector, as well as refugees. As part of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) cluster system for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) at national and sub-regional level, UNHCR is leading and co-leading the Protection, Camp Coordination & Camp Management (CCCM) and Emergency Shelter & Non-Food Items (ES/NFI) Clusters.

Main Activities



Protection

- ✦ Together with the RRS, UNHCR coordinates activities aimed at protecting and assisting refugees and asylum-seekers in Ethiopia, as well as promoting sustainable solutions on their behalf. UNHCR is also engaged in providing protection and assistance to IDPs and IDP returnees in different parts of the country, in collaboration with the authorities, UN agencies and partners.
- ✦ **"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 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.

- ✦ UNHCR in August organized a three-day workshop on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Addis Ababa for internal and external stakeholders who are directly involved in GBV programming and implementation for refugees in Ethiopia. The aim of the workshop was to create 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 included a capacity development component for the GBV focal persons across different offices in the operation, helping them to undertake quality GBV programming.
- ✦ In August, a team from the UNHCR Representation in Addis Ababa conducted a GBV and Child protection support mission to Alemwach site in the Amhara region to help strengthen the prevention and response interventions to GBV and Child protection. The team conducted focus group discussions and training on UNHCR's Best Interests Procedure (BIP) and provided technical GBV and Child protection support to UNHCR partners on the ground.

Durable Solutions

- ✦ During the third quarter of 2022, 515 individuals were submitted to various resettlement countries for consideration. This brought the total submissions in 2022 to 1,434 persons - against a total annual quota of 3,150 individuals. A total of 69 individuals departed for resettlement during the reporting period, bringing the 2022 year-to-date total departures to 165 individuals. In addition, 155 individuals were counselled on family reunification, education pathways and labor mobility. Altogether, 685 individuals have been counselled on complementary pathways to resettlement since the beginning of the year. Additionally, in 2022, UNHCR has facilitated issuance of Convention Travel Documents (CTDS) to 56 individuals.
- ✦ During the reporting period, UNHCR assisted one Ethiopian national to voluntarily return to Ethiopia from Nigeria. Additional 26 Ethiopian refugees also voluntarily returned from Yemen, under the IOM Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) programme.
- ✦ During the reporting period, UNHCR facilitated issuance of exit permits for 18 refugees in Ethiopia who wished to return to their countries of origin voluntarily and spontaneously: Yemen (14), Sudan (1), Syria (2), and Eritrea (1). As of July 2022, the RRS has taken over this activity.

Shelter

- ✦ UNHCR, together with RRS and partners, continues to provide basic services to persons of concern in all refugee camps/sites. At the end of the reporting period, an average of 41% refugee households were living in adequate shelters across all the 23 refugee camps/sites in the country. Over 59% of households across all camps or sites continue to live in emergency and/or old/crowded shelters. UNHCR and partners relocated over 15,000 refugees to the newly established Alemwach settlement in the Amhara region, where construction of 140 transitional shelters using modern construction materials is ongoing. Relocation of Eritrean refugees to Serdo site in the Afar region in northern Ethiopia also continues.
- ✦ During the reporting period, UNHCR reached over 600,000 IDPs with packages of core relief items (CRIs), shelter repair kits, emergency shelters and plastic sheets in Afar, Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Tigray, Oromia, Southern Nations, Peoples' and Nationalities (SNNP), Gambella and Somali regions.

 **Education**

- ✦ In partnership with the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) and other partners, 162,400 refugee students were enrolled in pre-primary (40,628), primary (102,818) and secondary (18,954) levels of education in the 2021-2022 academic year. A total of 2,500 refugees are currently enrolled in 40 different public universities in Ethiopia, thanks to GoE and German DAFI scholarship programmes.
- ✦ For the 2020/2021 academic year, the Gross Enrolment Rate (GER) of refugees for pre-primary education stood at 36.2% compared to the national average of 36.7%. GER for primary and secondary education are at 48.7% and 18.8%, compared to the national average of 95% and 42%, respectively.

**Health**

- ✦ In spite of the challenging circumstances exacerbated by the 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 quarter. UNHCR and RRS have been dispatching medicines and medical equipment to different refugee-hosting regions, including Afar, Amhara (Gondar), Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella and Somali (Jijiga and Melkadida).
- ✦ UNHCR is closely working with the RRS, partners, Regional Health Bureaus (RHBs) and other UN agencies to prevent and reduce the spread of COVID-19 among the refugee and host communities. In line with the national strategy on COVID 19 vaccination, the 2nd round of mass COVID-19 vaccination in 2022 was conducted in all refugee camps during the reporting period, with the support of the Federal Ministry of Health and RHBs. As of September, the vaccination campaign was completed in all refugee locations, with the exception of Gambella, where it had to be interrupted due to insecurity.
- ✦ UNHCR is responding to all health emergencies, including in Afar, Benishangul-Gumuz, Somali and Tigray regions, through deployment of health experts and emergency airlifting of medical supplies.

**Food Security and Nutrition**

- ✦ In 2022, UNHCR Ethiopia continues to focus on coordination, collaboration and strategic engagements with stakeholders to enhance food security, meet nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive needs of persons of concern (PoC) and hosting communities, respond to emergency needs of the PoC in food and nutrition and build capacities and systems strengthening food and nutrition delivery, together with partners.
- ✦ UNHCR and RRS continue to coordinate with partners, in order to improve the nutrition status of refugees through preventive and curative programmes. Nutrition programmes are operational in 41 nutrition centers, withing 21 of the 23 camp sites.

**Water and Sanitation (WASH)**

- ✦ UNHCR works with partners to provide access to clean water, sanitation and improve hygiene practices through operation and maintenance of water supply systems and the construction and upgrading of WASH facilities and awareness-raising sessions. An average of 15 litres/per person/day of potable water was provided to refugees across all camps.
- ✦ Emergency water provision in Serdo, Afar region, has increased from 6l/p/d to around 15l/p/d following successful rehabilitation, through UNHCR support, of a Government-donated borehole. However, sanitation coverage remains low at 40% requiring more investment in this area.



Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- ✦ UNHCR, in collaboration with the Government of Ethiopia and partners, works to promote livelihoods and economic inclusion for refugees, advocating for their right to work and supporting their inclusion in governmental social protection systems.
- ✦ A total of 350 households in six refugee camps/sites have been supported with farming inputs to cultivate kitchen gardens as well as 17.29 acres communal plots under the EUTF-funded project in Gambella region, implemented by ZOA.
- ✦ Six agriculture cooperatives supported under the IKEA Foundation funded Livelihoods project in the Dollo Ado and Bokolmanyoo woredas of Somali region have produced and sold 565MT of onions and generated a gross revenue of ETB 15.3 million.
- ✦ The World Bank-funded US\$400m Refugee and Host Integration through Safety Net (RHISN) program with a US\$50m refugee sub-component was launched in Kebribeyah and Aw-Barre in Jijiga (Somali region) by the Federal, regional, and local government authorities. A total of 1,434 vulnerable refugees and host community members have been enrolled into the program and will earn incomes by participating in public works.
- ✦ In Addis Ababa, 50 refugee entrepreneurs (74% women) managing 32 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs, employing refugees of 8 nationalities) have been supported by partner Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS) to establish their businesses during the reporting period. UNHCR and JRS are establishing a microcredit initiative to support these MSMEs with expansion and start-up capital.



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 strategic priority in Ethiopia. The National Energy and Environment Working Group (EEWG) has developed a Multi-Actor Cooking Fuel Strategy (2022-2030) to achieve a universal cooking energy access in line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG7).
- ✦ As part of the national environmental protection and natural resource management programme, 800,000 multi-purpose tree seedlings were raised and transplanted across refugee camps and adjacent hosting community areas during the reporting period.

External / Donors Relations

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

USA | Japan | United Arab Emirates | Denmark | Netherlands | IKEA Foundation | European Union | Italy | Canada | Spain | Country-based Pooled Funds | "la Caixa" Banking Foundation | France | Sweden | Switzerland | Band Aid | Republic of Korea | Germany | Luxembourg | Iceland | UN Children's Fund | UN Foundation | Mastercard International Incorporated | UN Programme on HIV/AIDS | UPS Corporate | Laboratorios Vinas | Norway | Other private donors.

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2021

Sweden 99.3 million | Norway 72.5 million | Private donors Spain 51 million | United Kingdom 40.1 million | Netherlands 37.2 million | Private donors Japan 37 million | Denmark 35.6 million | Germany 27 million | Private donors USA 26.2 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 25.6 million | Japan 21.7 million | France 18.5 million | Switzerland 18.4 million | Private donors Italy 14.5 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Ireland 11.8 million | Private donors Canada 10.5 million | Italy 10 million

CONTACTS

Mamadou Dian Balde, Representative, balde@unhcr.org 
Neven Crvenkovic, Communications Officer, crvenkov@unhcr.org

LINKS

[Ethiopia Data Portal](#)
[Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)