

# Ethiopia

October 2022

Ethiopia is the third largest refugee hosting country in Africa, generously sheltering some **880,000** refugees, mainly from South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea and Sudan. The majority are women and children who need special care and attention.

UNHCR is an active part of the government-led Inter-Agency response to the plight of IDPs, leading and co-leading the **Protection and Camp Coordination & Camp Management (CCCM)** Clusters. It also provides shelter and other urgent emergency aid to IDPs and IDP returnees.

UNHCR is responding to those impacted by the worst drought in **40 years**. It's also helping the government & communities to build resilience against natural hazards, such as recurrent droughts and flooding.

## KEY INDICATORS

**2.1 million internally displaced persons** reached with protection support in Northern Ethiopia between 1 January and 30 October

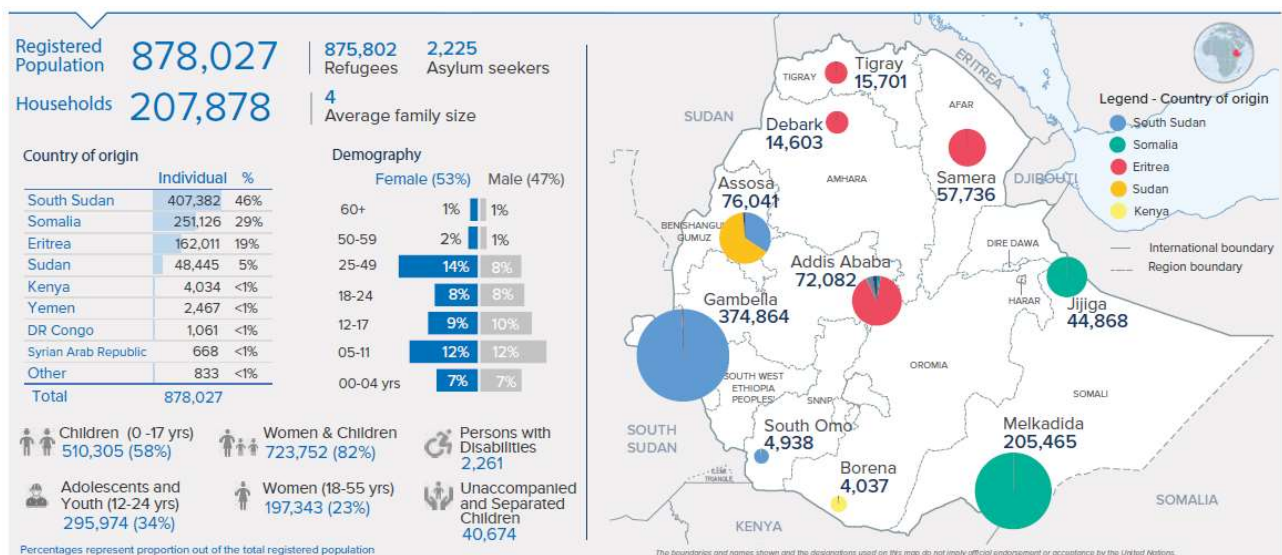
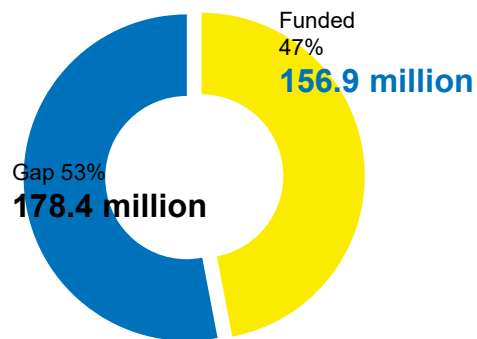
**252 refugees** were provided with a durable solution through resettlement to a third country since early 2022

**700,00 internally displaced Ethiopians** were provided with shelter & core relief items in the course of 2022.

FUNDING (AS OF 31 OCTOBER)

## USD 335.3 million

requested for the Ethiopia



## Operational Context

Conflict, drought, inflation, and high food prices have had a cumulative devastating humanitarian impact across the country, driving millions into displacement. According to the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) latest Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) report published in July 2022, there were 2.72 million IDPs and an estimated 2 million returning IDPs in the country, all of them requiring urgent humanitarian support and solutions. The two-year conflict in Northern Ethiopia has been the major cause of displacement and has put 13 million people in Tigray, Afar and Amhara regions in need of urgent humanitarian assistance. Thousands of Eritrean refugees were also caught up in the conflict in Tigray region. Over 40,000 of them have self-relocated to Addis Ababa while UNHCR and the government's Refugees and Returnees Service (RSS) have been relocating those who wished to do so to Alemwach site in the neighboring Amhara region. UNHCR is encouraged by recent developments aimed at peacefully resolving the conflict in northern Ethiopia. Our teams are present in 10 different sites in the three regions and can move quickly as soon as humanitarian access is restored.

Notwithstanding its internal challenges, Ethiopia is home to nearly 900,000 refugees and providing protection and services. The country is also creating conditions for self-reliance and inclusion in national development plans and services, such as health and education. UNHCR is working with government partners, development actors, international financial institutions, donor countries, the private sector and others to engage in long-term socio-economic investments in refugee hosting areas of the country, benefitting both refugees and the communities hosting them.

## Main achievements



**Protection support to over 2.1 million IDPs in Northern Ethiopia:** Since January, UNHCR provided multi-faceted protection support to more than 2.1 million internally displaced persons in the three conflict-affected northern Ethiopia regions. They include more than 1.3 million who received an assortment of core relief items and over 44,000 that were assisted to return home. Additionally, UNHCR distributed dignity kits to more than 65,000 women and girls and identified and supported more than 7,000 persons with special needs.

**National IDP law drafted:** As a member of the Technical Team of the IDPs and Refugees Committee of Ethiopia's Inter-ministerial Taskforce (IMTF), UNHCR is actively supporting the development of a domestic IDP legislation. The discussions have culminated in a draft proclamation on the protection of and assistance to IDPs. Once ratified by parliament, the act is envisaged to close existing legal and institutional gaps in the assistance, protection and solutions to the plight of IDPs in the country.

**Participatory Assessment Report:** UNHCR Ethiopia has published its latest Participatory Assessment (PA) report, highlighting key findings on the protection challenges refugees face and the way forward. An integral part of UNHCR's planning processes, the exercise seeks to ensure that refugees are at the center of decision-making on matters that directly affect their lives while giving UNHCR and its partners a deeper understanding of the protection problems they face.

The assessment covered all refugee-hosting areas except northern Ethiopia and a range of key sectors, including Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Child Protection, Registration and Documentation, Shelter, Energy & Environment, Livelihoods, WASH, Health, Nutrition & Food Security and durable solutions.

Despite improvements in some sectors, gaps were highlighted in virtually all sectors, including the risk of sexual violence, limited livelihoods opportunities and inadequate food ration. A comprehensive set of recommendations was also developed: <https://bit.ly/3WqGy0l>

**EDUCATION**

**School enrolment:** More than 160,000 refugee students have been enrolled in pre-primary (40,628), primary (102,818) and secondary (18,954) levels of education in the 2021-2022 academic year. At 36.20%, the Gross Enrollment rate for pre-primary education is almost at par with the national average (36.7%), while those for primary and secondary levels of education stand at 48.73% and 18.48%, compared to the national average of 95.1% and 42%, respectively. 2,253 refugee students sat for the 12<sup>th</sup> grade national examination, widening their chances of joining 2,500 others who are studying in 40 different public universities across Ethiopia.

**Inclusion Agenda:** UNHCR and the Ethio-German Qualifications and Employment Prospects for Refugees and Ethiopians Programme (QEP), implemented by **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)**, are cooperating to support the government of Ethiopia to deliver on its Global Refugee Forum (GRF) pledge of providing 20,000 accredited skills training opportunities to refugees and members of the host communities until the end of 2023.

**HEALTH**

Despite the impact of concurrent emergencies, especially in parts of the Afar, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella and Somali regions, UNHCR, RRS and partners continue to provide health services for refugees, including in urban locations. The overall health status of refugees has remained stable with no disease outbreaks recorded during the reporting period.

So far this year, nearly 700,000 refugees received outpatient (OPD) consultations at various health facilities, with respiratory tract infection, malaria and watery diarrhea being the leading sicknesses treated. More than 4,000 refugees were referred to secondary and tertiary health facilities outside the camps and over 95% of all deliveries were conducted in the health facilities. To date, **153,919** refugees have received COVID vaccines, including **99,225** who have been fully vaccinated.

**DROUGHT RESPONSE**

UNHCR is supporting 240,000 people in the Liban zone of the Somali region who have been impacted by the severe drought following five consecutive years of failed rains. Basic relief items such as sleeping mats, blankets and jerrycans were distributed to 6,426 individuals. In the Jijiga area, UNHCR is working to enhance water supply in the three camps of Aw-Bare, Kebribeyah and Sheder for the benefit of both refugees and the communities hosting them. Emergency relief aid was distributed to 24,000 people in the towns of Erer, Nogob, Doolo and Jarar. UNHCR and ANE similarly distributed relief items to over 30,000 drought-affected people in East and Borena zones of the Oromia region. They include 13,273 individuals in the Borena zone and 19,500 others in the East Guji zone.

A recent multi-agency drought assessment visit to the East and West Hararge zones of the Oromia region concluded that over 2.3 million people in the area needed urgent food assistance. 800,000 of them are children and pregnant and lactating women, who require special nutrition support as well. The situation is exposing women and girls, as well as children to serious protection risks. Women and girls walk long distances in search of water and food sources, exposing them violence and other abuses. Children are also dropping out of school to support their families, endangering their future.



### FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

The current food basket meets only 50% (approximately 985 kilocalories per person per day) of the acceptable minimum standards. There has been concern that unless urgent funding is secured, refugees would increasingly adopt harmful coping mechanisms, such as begging, child labour, early marriages, and the sale and exchange of sex, amongst others. Thankfully, following advocacy, the food basket by WFP will reach 84% from December 2022, but continued support is needed to ensure that this level can be maintained or even increased further.

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 (>75% cure rate) in all locations, except in Mai-Aini and Adi-Harush refugee camps where nutrition services have not been provided due to hindered access as a result of the conflict. However, UNHCR and WFP used a small opening at the end of September to distribute a two-month food ration to approximately 10,000 Eritrean refugees in the two camps. In anticipation of the impact of the significant ration cuts, UNHCR and partners routinely screen refugees for acute malnutrition to ensure the timely treatment of possible undernutrition cases. To prevent acute malnutrition, UNHCR, in collaboration with International Medical Corps (IMC) has been enrolling in the fresh food voucher programme pregnant and lactating women as well as children under two years of age who are at a heightened risk of acute malnutrition.



### WATER AND SANITATION

UNHCR works with partners to provide access to clean water and sanitation to refugees and improve hygiene practices in refugee camps across the country. During the reporting period, refugees received an average of 15 liters of potable water per person per day (l/p/d), which is below the minimum humanitarian standard of 20l/p/d. The reduced water quantity is attributed to repeated failure of some boreholes and unavailability of spare parts and other inputs in the local market. In Awbarre refugee camp, UNHCR and IMC have been trucking at least 80,000 l/p/d to provide water for the host communities pending the rehabilitation of some boreholes. **Emergency water supply** in Serdo has increased from 6 l/p/d to around 15 l/p/d following the rehabilitation of a borehole provided by the government. However, budget for a longer-term development of a sustainable water supply system, consisting of about 40km of water pipe network, remains a challenge.

The **Sanitation coverage** in the refugee camps remains low at 40%, compared to the minimum standard of  $\geq 85\%$ . This limits hygiene practices and exposed refugees to preventable diseases, calling for more investment in the sector.



### SHELTER AND CRISIS

On average 41% of the refugee families in Ethiopia live in adequate shelters, while the majority (59%) are accommodated in either emergency, old or crowded communal shelters, calling for additional funding to narrow the gap. So far this year, UNHCR and partners constructed 5,788 emergency shelters in refugee camps in the Somali, Gambella, Afar, Amhara and Benishangul Gumuz regions to accommodate new arrivals as well as those that were relocated to other camps. Additionally, over 3,575 transitional shelters have been constructed, including 140 in Alemwach site and 832 shelters that were given to vulnerable families in the different refugee camps. Provision of adequate shelter reduces overcrowding and ensures personal safety and protection.

For IDPs, UNHCR and its partners have so far this year reached 700,000 IDPs and IDP returnees across the country with shelter support and other core relief items.

**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). UNHCR's energy and environment strategy is centered around the need to ensure the protection and wellbeing of refugees, particularly women and girls, by avoiding the need to travel long distances to collect firewood which often exposes them to protection risks. It will also reduce refugees' reliance on firewood, thereby mitigating inter-communal tensions over meager natural resources.

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

**COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE**

Some 300 refugees and members of the host community in the Jijiga area graduated with certificates after completing a six-month training on entrepreneurship and business management skills. Funded by IKEA Foundation and facilitation by Inkomoko, the training offered courses ranging from book-keeping and inventory to cashflow management. 192 refugees and 107 members of the host community will subsequently receive loans to strengthen and expand their businesses as part of the effort to support the self-reliance of refugees and the communities hosting them.

In Awbarre refugee camp in Jijiga, 48 refugees and 50 members of the surrounding host communities have been engaged in agricultural activities, producing fruits and vegetables for the local market. Implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) on behalf of the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and implemented by LWF, the project employs sprinkler irrigation and produces fruits and vegetables such as tomatoes, onion, red pepper, beetroot, carrots, and Swiss chards.

In the Gambella region 100 adolescent girls, drawn from Nguenyiel, Tierkidi, Kule and Jewi refugee camps, participated in training sessions, giving them some life skills and ones on achieving self-reliance.

**DURABLE SOLUTIONS**

Providing resettlement opportunities as a protection tool and durable solution remains a top priority. UNHCR has to date processed 1,635 refugees for resettlement of which 252 already travelled to their destination countries. 238 others were supported to be reunified with their family members in Canada.

In support of the Somali Regional Government's Durable Solutions Initiative, UNHCR, together with partners including IOM, Action for the Needy in Ethiopia (ANE) and OWS Ethiopia, relocated approximately 600 IDPs from the Qoloji site to a new location in Dhurwale within the Somali region, where they will be supported to rebuild their lives. Composed of 105 families, the first group is part of a total of 2,100 IDPs (350 families) in Qoloji who have opted to relocate to Dhurwale, where they have clan affiliations.



## Working in partnership

Together with its main government counterpart, the Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS), UNHCR coordinates the response to the refugee situation in the country, extending protection, providing assistance and promoting sustainable solutions. UNHCR works closely with 80 partners in the refugee response and is part of the Humanitarian Country Team, where refugee programmes are discussed strategically to ensure their needs are adequately presented and addressed across the UN System. UNHCR builds on well-established coordination fora, including the inter-sector Refugee Coordination Group together with national and regional sectorial working groups. Committed to pursuing refugee inclusion in national services and economies, as per the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), UNHCR is furthering partnerships with Ethiopian line Ministries, regional and local authorities, development partners and the private sector.

UNHCR is an active part of the government-led Inter-Agency response to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), leading and co-leading the Protection and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Clusters, contributing to the shelter and non-food items clusters, and strengthening sub-national coordination with better information sharing and communication. It distributes emergency aid supplies and related support to IDPs and IDP returnees across the country.

## Financial situation

As of 31 October, UNHCR's Operation in Ethiopia has received USD 156.9 million, representing 47% of the requirements funded, while the 53% remains unfunded and needs are rapidly increasing. UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to its operation as well as to those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked or broadly earmarked funds.

### UNHCR is grateful for the direct contributions to the UNHCR Ethiopia Operation in 2022

USA |Japan| Denmark| United Arab Emirates | Netherlands| IKEA Foundation| European Union| Italy| Canada| Spain| Education Cannot Wait| Country-based Pooled Funds| "la Caixa" Banking Foundation| France| Sweden| Switzerland| Band Aid| Republic of Korea| UNO-Fluechtlingshilfe| Germany| Luxembourg| Iceland| UN Children's Fund| Mastercard International Incorporated| UN Foundation| UN Programme on HIV/AIDS| UPS Corporate| Laboratorios Vinas| Norway| Other private donors.

### Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and flexible in 2022

Sweden 99.3 million | Norway 72.5 million | Private donors Spain 62.4 million | Private donors Japan 44.8 million | United Kingdom 40.1 million | Netherlands 37.2 million | Denmark 35.6 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 31.4 million | Private donors USA 29.6 million | Germany 24.4 million | Japan 21.7 million | France 18.5 million | Switzerland 18.4 million | Private donors Italy 17.7 million | Private donors Canada 12.5 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Ireland 11.8 million | Private donors Sweden 11.4 million | Italy 10 million

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### LINKS:

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