

NORTHERN ETHIOPIA EMERGENCY SITUATION

November 2022



UNHCR Representative in Ethiopia speaks with internally displaced people near Mai Tsebri in the Tigray region of Ethiopia. The country has an estimated 4.7 million internally displaced people (IDPs), including nearly 2 million IDP returnees, largely resulting from drought, the conflict in northern Ethiopia and localized conflicts in different parts of the country. © UNHCR/Ameha Berhe

Key Developments

ETHIOPIA

The situation in Tigray through the month of November, remained calm as humanitarian agencies begin to gain access to some of the areas that had been inaccessible since August 2022. Regular UNHAS flights to Shire and Mekelle resumed in November, allowing greater possibilities to bring in urgently needed relief items.

Three UNHCR trucks carrying medicines, shelter kits, clothes and soap that left Addis Ababa for Tigray (via Semera) arrived in Mekelle on 19 November, the first convoy since August. In addition, core relief items (CRI) for 50,000 families were dispatched from Addis Ababa to Tigray. On 22 November, four additional UNHCR trucks carrying shelter kits, soap and clothes arrived in Shire having entered Tigray through the Gondar (Amhara) – Mai Tsebri (Tigray) route. On 25 November, another thirteen UNHCR trucks with medicine, kitchen sets, soap, clothes, jerry cans and mosquito nets left for Tigray; seven for Mekelle and six for Shire. On 29 November, one 20,000 litre fuel tanker reached Mekelle and 23 other UNHCR trucks were enroute to Tigray (4 to Mekelle and 19 to Shire) bringing the total number of UNHCR trucks entering Tigray, including the fuel tanker, to 61 since the resumption of humanitarian convoys this month.

These humanitarian movements come following the signing of the “The Declaration of the Senior Commanders on the Modalities for the Implementation of the Agreement for Lasting Peace Through a Permanent Cessation of Hostilities,” on 12 November. The agreement includes four elements, including the Permanent Cessation of Hostilities, Disarmament of Tigray Armed Combatants, Protection of Civilians and Delivery of Humanitarian Aid. On 17 November, UNHCR teams in Shire conducted joint assessment missions with other agencies to Sheraro and Mai Tsebri. The team were briefed on the dire situation on the ground and the urgent need for food, water, medicines, and core relief items. UNHCR and partners are organizing the resumption of activities in these areas. Following security assessments and recommendations, UNHCR resumed operations in the three Field Units: Maichew, Adigrat and Abi Adi which had been on hold since the resumption of hostilities in August.

Following the cessation of hostilities, the **Amhara** region has been relatively calm with large-scale returns of IDPs to their places of origin. The region also continues to receive IDPs from the **Oromia** region, mainly arriving in the South Wollo, North Wollo and North Shewa zones where conflict has continued and increased.

Ethiopia Response

Eritrean refugee response

On 1 November, UNHCR and the Refugee and Returnee Service (RRS) jointly facilitated the first accompanied relocation of refugees to **Amhara** from the Mai Tsebri camps in Tigray (Adi Harush and Mai Aini) since the start of the conflict in November 2020. UNHCR was able to relocate a total of 7,080 individuals. The Alemwach site now hosts 22,286 refugees. Shelter, core relief items and food have been provided for all refugees. Medical and nutrition screening of relocated refugees continue with Medical Teams International (MTI) as well as mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and medical referrals. A total of 3,743 refugees living in Alemwach were medically screened in November and 496 were given treatment in recent weeks. Some 505 children were screened for acute malnutrition wherein 39 were found moderately and severely malnourished.

On 25 November, the UNHCR Representative conducted a joint monitoring mission in Alemwach refugee site in Amhara, with the Director General of the Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS), to monitor the development of the site following the relocation of 7,080 refugees from the Mai Ani and Adi Harush camps. The delegation met with the district authorities and visited the refugee settlement where they held discussions with some of the newly relocated. They also met with all partners to discuss progress and challenges, as well as directives on way forward.

Under the Education Cannot Wait funded programme, UNHCR through partner Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission (DICAC) donated school equipment and didactic materials to the Dabat secondary school. This donation comprises 2,500 reference books, 30 computers, 110 desks, 1 photocopy machine, 40 reams of paper, 100 sanitizers, 3,000 exercise books and 1,040 pens amongst others. This donation is aimed at supporting the local school to meet with the increasing population demand. 218 learners have been enrolled for secondary school for current academic year.

On 12 November, UNHCR, through RRS, donated 362 cartons of medicines to the Dabat Health Centre and the Primary Hospital. It is the second batch of medications and medical supplies donated to these hospitals.

In **Afar**, UNHCR and partners supported RRS and the regional authorities to identify and relocate Eritrean refugees who had been secondarily displaced due to the conflict to Serdo, Semera, Logya and other locations in the region. Some 26,000 Eritrean refugees were registered in different locations in Afar prior to the conflict.

The first convoy departed from Semera and Logya on 8 November to Barahle. By the end of the exercise in mid-November, UNHCR and partners had relocated than 900 people from Semera and Logya to Barahle. UNHCR provided cash assistance to all the refugees and IOM distributed high energy biscuits and diapers. An inter-agency assessment mission co-led by UNHCR and RRS was carried out during the last week of November to Barahle to discuss with local authorities and refugees to assess the gaps and critical needs. RRS informed UNHCR about their plans to start providing basic and social services to the refugees living in Barahle and Dallol, which were interrupted for the last 9 months.

On 16 November, the Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator (DHC) visited Serdo refugee site together with RRS, partners Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA) and Development and Interchurch AID Commission (DICAC). On the site, the DHC witnessed the progress made as 317 weather friendly shelters have been constructed and 203 additional ones will be constructed by the end of the year.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) response

During the reporting period, UNHCR together with UNDSS and other agencies in **Tigray**, undertook an assessment mission in Mekelle operating areas, including Maichew, Abi Adi and Adigrat. Preliminary results of the mission show that the areas are accessible and UNHCR Field Offices had not been vandalized or looted. According to the mission report, there are 158,000 IDPs who have not received any assistance from the humanitarian community. UNHCR is mobilizing resources and partners to respond to IDPs in these areas. Registration is ongoing in Mekelle by the city administration, and they have reportedly registered 300,670 new IDPs in the seven sub-cities of Mekelle.

In Mekelle, a joint Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) mission was also conducted specifically to Maichew to assess the situation and the needs of the affected population who had been displaced from eight Woredas in the Southern zone of Maichew. As immediate response, UNHCR through its partner Development Expertise Center (DEC) distributed CRIs to 1,500 IDPs while partner Innovative Humanitarian Solutions (IHS) started identification of persons with specific needs. Menstrual Hygiene Kits were distributed to 1,000 women and girls.

On 21 November, in Mekelle, as part of a joint Assessment and RRM mission to Adigrat, UNHCR distributed core relief items to 300 new IDP households and 500 most vulnerable urban refugees and asylum seekers. While some 300 women and girls also received Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) kits, the Adigrat One Stop Center received 200 full dignity kits for GBV cases.

The return of IDPs from Kulichmeda IDP site was completed with 3,691 IDPs assisted by UNHCR to return to Adi Arkay, Zarima, Dima, Telemt and Mai Tsebri. A residual population of 250 IDPs are left in the sites who are originally from Sheraro in Tigray and not willing to return yet. Some essential services such as water and health are no longer available in the site. UNHCR teams are working with partners and the authorities to ensure these remaining persons continue to receive assistance and protection until a solution is found for them. The zonal Disaster Risk Management Offices (DRMO) officials indicated that a rapid assessment was carried out in Adi Arkay and Mai Tsebri woredas. The results showed that most amenities such as schools, water systems and health facilities are not functional as they were destroyed during the conflict. In the two assessed woredas, there are 180 destroyed shelters and 123 partially damaged shelters. There is need to consider recovery and solutions interventions in the return areas such as agriculture and livelihood support.

UNHCR continued to support the Government-led voluntary returns of IDPs in **Amhara**. As of 9 November, all 8,500 IDPs in Jara site had returned to their homes, including some 3,430 who were provided with transportation, with others moving by their own means.

Following the arrival of IDPs from Oromia into Amhara, the Turkish IDP site has been reopened. More than 100,000 IDPs are now sheltering in North and South Wollo and North Shewa regions. So far, the South Wollo authorities have relocated 1,493 IDPs from Harbu to Turkish site and plan to relocate 4,000 IDPs to the site. UNHCR has provided 190 family tents, 85 of which have already been pitched at the site. The relocated IDPs are in dire need of additional humanitarian assistance, including WASH, medical supplies, food and education. UNHCR also provided NFIs to 1,110 Oromia IDPs who had reached Mersa IDP site in Harbu woreda (North Wollo) and to 745 persons from the surrounding host community in North Wollo.

A joint UNHCR CCCM/ DRMO/ DEC mission visited collective sites in North and South Wollo and assessed the needs; food, shelter and CRIs emerged as urgent needs. Through its partner DEC, UNHCR assisted 393 out of 427 IDPs to return from the Sekota site to their places of origin in Zata. So far, 24,669 returns have been recorded in the Wag Hemra zone.

Sudan Response

As of 27 November, the Commission for Refugees (COR) strikes had resumed in different locations across Sudan after the COR strike committee called for the same on 24 November. UNHCR and humanitarian partners had access in all locations except in Gedaref, where striking COR staff blocked access for UNHCR and partners to the camps, except for those involved in health and WASH interventions. UNHCR wrote officially to the COR

Director in Gedaref, asserting that while UNHCR fully respects the right of COR employees to strike, this right does not extend to barring access for humanitarian actors to the camp. UNHCR and its partners are providing lifesaving assistance and the denial of access will have an adverse impact on the protection and wellbeing of refugees. UNHCR developed messaging in Tigrinya and Amharic to inform the refugees about the situation and shared it with partners to disseminate it widely among the refugees.¹

In a meeting with the Representative, the COR Commissioner assured UNHCR that a clear executive decision has been sent to all COR staff, which notes that, while the strike is recognized as a fundamental right, personnel on strike should not infringe on the rights of refugees and of the Commission as an institution and should ensure that services for refugees and host communities continue despite the strike.

During a three-day visit to Gedaref, the Representative visited Tunaydbah and Um Gargour camps and held discussions with refugee leaders and youth on the recently signed agreement on the cessation of hostilities and the prospects of return. Refugees expressed concerns about security, human rights violations and potential challenges to access essential supplies such as food and medicine, particularly in small villages and remote areas. The Representative indicated to the refugees that UNHCR will be working with relevant stakeholders to help refugees obtain information about the situation in Northern Ethiopia to enable them to make informed decisions about returns. Moreover, UNHCR will closely monitor the situation in the camps for any indication of pressure on refugees to return and at the border areas for any spontaneous returns.

The number of new arrivals from Ethiopia in November remained low; in November, a total of 99 new arrivals from Ethiopia were recorded crossing into Sudan via Gallabat, Hamdayet and Taya border entry points.



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To celebrate World Children's Day on 20 November, Ethiopian refugee children participated in football and volleyball games in Tunaydbah camp, Eastern Sudan. Children could also enjoy one of the child friendly spaces where several performances and activities were carried out.

¹ Kindly note that the COR strikes were lifted and full access granted to all camps on 8 December.

KENYA

NEW ARRIVALS AND BORDER DYNAMICS

Kakuma and Kalobeyei: In the reporting month, both reception centres (RCs) witnessed an influx of new arrivals from South Sudan, Somalia and Ethiopia, on account of adverse effects of climate change induced drought and forced displacements due to conflict. New arrivals from Ethiopia accessed the territory through undesignated entry points on the western flight corridor – mainly the Moyale border. Seven households (18 Ethiopians) were received at Kalobeyei RC seeking access to food and better services and citing the reason for flight as political instability in the country. The total number of Ethiopians at both RCs is 57 individuals (30 in Kakuma and 27 in Kalobeyei). At present, a total of 52 Ethiopian individuals reside in the Kakuma and Kalobeyei RCs (34 in Kakuma and 18 in Kalobeyei).

Daadab: During the month of November, UNHCR's legal partner, the Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK), conducted border monitoring and reported the arrival of 76 Ethiopian individuals (52 males, 26 females) into the country through the Wajir, El Wak and Mandera border points. All reported to have arrived in Kenya in search of economic opportunities, to visit relatives, or to seek humanitarian assistance. Since the beginning of the year, 560 Ethiopians have been recorded to have crossed into the country through the Mwingi, Mandera, El Wak and Wajir border areas.

SOMALIA

NEW ARRIVALS AND BORDER DYNAMICS

UNHCR through its partner, Legal Clinic, continued to conduct border monitoring activities along Somalia's various entry and exit points. During the month of November in Dollow, UNHCR recorded some 220 individuals outgoing towards Ethiopia. The past month saw an increase in the number of Somali refugees in Ethiopia crossing the border to Somalia and joining the IDP camps in Dollow; a total of 1,410 individuals entered Somalia citing limited food assistance in the Ethiopian refugee camps, insecurity, drought, lack of livelihood opportunities, family reunification and seeking humanitarian assistance. Likewise, in Belethawa, for the same reporting period, there were 71 individuals crossing over to Kenya and 100 individuals entering Somalia. Those who were entering Somalia were returning to seek humanitarian assistance.

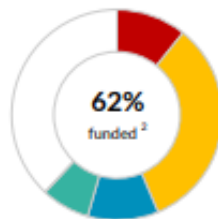
SOUTH SUDAN

NTR

Funding Overview



\$205.4 million
 UNHCR's financial requirements 2022 ¹



FUNDING UPDATE | 2022

**ETHIOPIA
 EMERGENCY**
 as of 24 November 2022


 CONTRIBUTIONS ³ | USD

	■	■	■	■	Total
	Unearmarked	Softly earmarked	Earmarked	Tightly earmarked	
Japan	-	82,075	6,000,000	1,500,000	7,582,075
Italy	-	-	-	3,570,192	3,570,192
Education Cannot Wait	-	-	-	1,513,645	1,513,645
United Arab Emirates	-	-	-	904,018	904,018
Band Aid	-	-	-	611,247	611,247
UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe	-	538,221	-	-	538,221
Country-Based Pooled Funds	-	-	-	500,000	500,000
European Union	-	-	-	489,744	489,744
Republic of Korea	-	-	400,000	-	400,000
CERF	-	-	-	237,264	237,264
Private donors Canada	-	181,733	-	-	181,733
Spain	-	-	-	38,900	38,900
IGAD	-	-	-	32,223	32,223
Other private donors	-	93,534	-	-	93,534
Sub-total	-	895,563	6,400,000	9,397,233	16,692,795
Indicative allocation of funds and adjustments	15,246,312	21,430,968	61,087,121	12,754,798	110,519,199
Total	15,246,312	22,326,530	67,487,121	22,152,031	127,211,994

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 country. The contributions earmarked for 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 295.7 million | Private donors Germany 18.1 million | Canada 12.4 million | Private donors Australia 10.8 million | Private donors USA 7.3 million | Sweden 5.8 million | Switzerland 3.6 million | Private donors Spain 3.4 million | Republic of Korea 2.9 million | Netherlands 2.4 million | France 2.2 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 2.1 million

Iceland | IGAD | Japan | Luxembourg | Norway | Spain | UN Programme on HIV/AIDS | Private donors

■ UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS ⁵ | USD

Sweden 99.3 million | Norway 72.5 million | Private donors Spain 71.9 million | Private donors Japan 54.1 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 17.5 million | Private donors Canada 12.5 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Private donors Sweden 11.9 million | Ireland 11.8 million | Italy 10 million

Algeria | Armenia | Australia | Austria | Azerbaijan | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Kuwait | Liechtenstein | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Mexico | Monaco | Montenegro | Morocco | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Portugal | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Saudi Arabia | Singapore | Thailand | Türkiye | Uruguay | Private donors

Notes:

- The financial requirements of the Ethiopia Emergency include requirements in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan.
- The percentage funded (62%) and total funding amount (\$127,211,994) are indicative based on the methodology described above. This leaves an indicative funding gap of \$70,209,894 representing 38% of the financial requirements.
- Contributions to the Ethiopia Emergency are shown by the earmarking modality as defined in the Grand Bargain.
- Due to their earmarking at a related region, sub-region, country or theme, the other softly earmarked contributions listed are those which can potentially be used for the Ethiopia Emergency. Where a donor has contributed \$2 million or more, the total amount of the contribution is shown.
- Contributed without restrictions on its use, unearmarked funding allows UNHCR critical flexibility in how best to reach refugees and other populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk. Where a donor has contributed \$50 million or more, the total amount of the contribution is shown.

Contacts

Joyce Wayua Munyao-Mbithi, Senior Donor Relations Officer, Regional Bureau for the East, Horn of Africa and Great Lakes, Nairobi - munyao@unhcr.org

Kabami Kalumiya, Reporting Officer, Regional Bureau for the East, Horn of Africa and Great Lakes, Nairobi - kalumiya@unhcr.org