

ACHIEVEMENTS

970K

Total beneficiaries reached

370K

Protection & Solutions

417K

Shelter and Non-Food Items

196K

CCCM

45,416

Voluntary IDP returns facilitated by UNHCR and regional/zonal authorities. (180, 459 IDPs already cancelled are pending to be returned)

362,944

Persons received Non-Food Items
>More info

53,812

Persons received shelter reconstruction/repair

1,839

Received Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

196,144

Persons residing in 75 UNHCR managed IDP sites (53 in Tigray, 22 in Amhara)

1,862

Regional/zonal authorities and other stakeholders received capacity building and training on IDP and returnee rights

152

IDPs Received vocational training (Tailoring & garment, furniture making, baking & confectionaries)

27

IDPs have been accepted into the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program

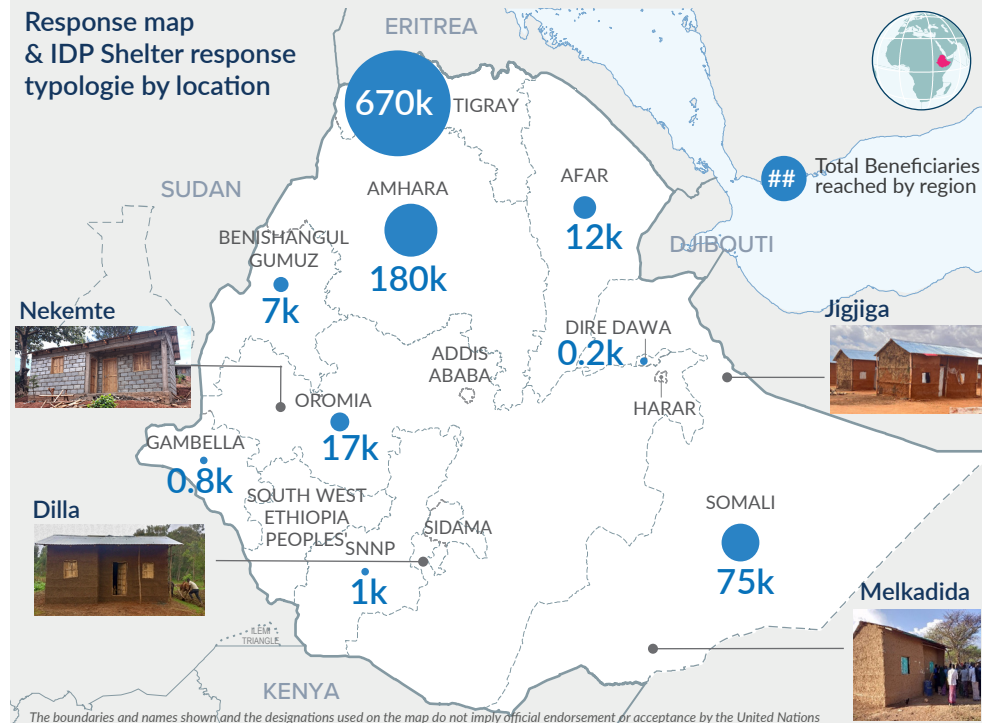
35,390

IDPs & IDP returnees received cash assistance for shelter reconstruction/repair, cash for transport and multipurpose cash to support return

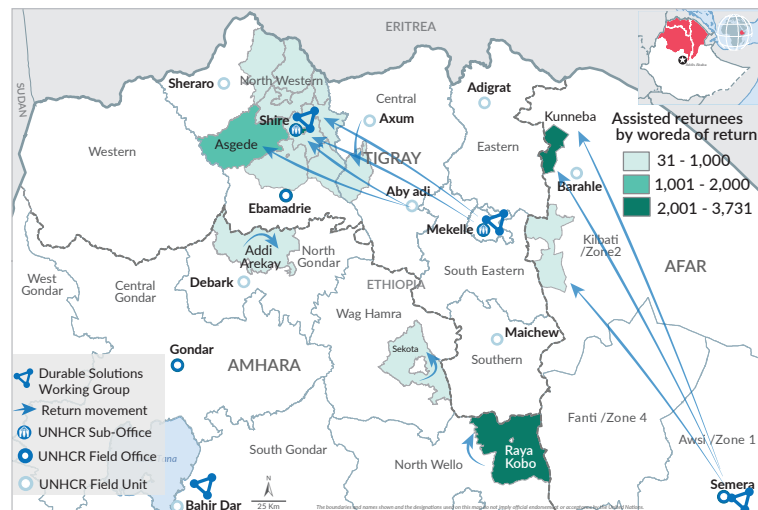
45,940

IDPs received legal aid and legal awareness sessions
>More info

Response map & IDP Shelter response typologie by location



ASSISTED RETURN IN NORTHERN REGIONS



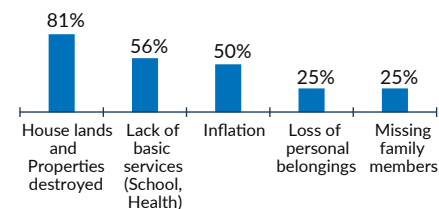
Under the auspices of the Durable Solutions Working Group (DSWG) chaired by the regional/zonal authorities, **UNHCR has facilitated voluntary returns in safe and dignified conditions of 45,416 IDPs** to their places of origin in Afar (11,554), Amhara (6,395) and Tigray (27,467). Return package includes Core Relief Items (CRIs) and Cash-Based Intervention (CBI) for transportation and multi-purposes such as food and medicines



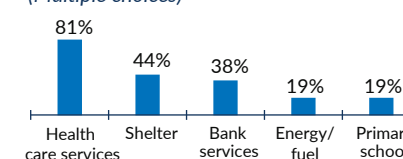
PROTECTION MONITORING AND SOLUTION (PMS) - FINDINGS

The main objective of the PMS is to identify protection issues in the areas of displacement and return for quick impact projects to make returns sustainable. PMS tools and framework are based on the following global resources on internal displacement: the **UN Secretary's General Action Agenda** on Internal Displacement, the IASC **Framework** on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons and the Interagency Durable Solutions **Indicator Library**

Main Protection concern IDP returnees are facing (Multiple choices)



Basic services and infrastructures most in need and lacking in the areas of return (Multiple choices)



According to IDP returnees interviewed in Tigray region, the main protection concern they are facing are: house lands and properties destroyed (81% of respondents), lack of basic services (56% of respondents) and inflation (50%). The top 3 basic services most in need and lacking are health services, shelter and bank services.

Operational context

Displacement due to conflict, intercommunal violence, natural disasters, and climate change continues affecting various regions in Ethiopia, such as Amhara, Afar, Oromia, Somali, SNNP, Tigray, and Benishangul Gumuz. The destruction of infrastructure and essential services has left forcibly displaced persons vulnerable to significant protection risks, with the inability to meet their basic needs. As a result, forcibly displaced persons, particularly women and girls, are living in precarious conditions and are at higher risk of gender-based violence and exploitation.

Moreover, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the North have been struggling since food aid was paused, which is having a devastating impact on both IDPs and host communities as the region tries to recover from the two-year conflict. Despite these challenges, efforts are underway to support the forcibly displaced and find solutions for their displacement.

Community Voice

A 52-year-old returnee and farmer in East Hararge zone, Fedis Woreda Tuta Kanisa kebele, is the breadwinner for 12 family members, including himself. *"I've been a victim of drought for five years in a row. I had been in town for labor work to feed my family; my children had dropped out of school to work to support themselves; my wife was collecting fuel for the market to feed the children; and I had sold all my productive assets, including agricultural tools and seeds. Even though the weather had improved, I had no intention of continuing farming. The UNHCR Early Recovery Cash Assistance gives my family a bright future. With the cash assistance I received from UNHCR ETB 12,190, I rented a tractor to plough 3 hectares of land, bought early maturing varieties of maize, beans, and fertilizers, sowed the seeds, and the crops are currently in good condition. If the rain continues for another two months, I will have harvested 120 quarts of corn, which will be more than enough for my family for the next couple of years. I hope there is no more family separation, school dropouts, or firewood collection for the market."*



UNHCR's response

Protection and Access to Justice

- UNHCR conducted protection monitoring in Sayo (Kellem Wollega), Sibul Sire (East Wollega), and Nejo (West Wollega), Oromia region, to identify protection requirements, sectoral gaps, and individuals with specific needs.
- UNHCR, in collaboration with Assosa University, established three free legal aid centers in Metekel zone: Assosa town, Bambasi woreda, and Gilige Belez town. The Free Legal Aid Service Centers have provided 93 legal consultations, 68 pleadings, and eight courtroom representations.
- Likewise, through the universities of Dilla, Araba-Minch, and Bule Hora, 2,370 people received free legal services. Through field-level mass awareness programs, 4,845 people received legal awareness services.
- Furthermore, through the Wollega University and Dambi Dollo University legal aid centers provided legal counseling, representation, alternative dispute resolution, and legal writing service for a total of 1,640 IDPs, returnees, and vulnerable host communities, and 5,447 IDPs participated in legal awareness sessions.
- In cooperation with the protection cluster, UNHCR assisted 14,144 families/61,139 IDPs from the Northwest and Central zones of Mekelle, Abiyi-Adi, Adigrat, and Mache with return and relocation counseling and registration.

Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance

- UNHCR provided the first round of multipurpose cash assistance totaling 540,000 ETB to 50 households in Metekel zone at two woredas, Mandura and Dibate, in collaboration with its partner ANE (Action for the Needy in Ethiopia).
- In collaboration with WVE (World Vision Ethiopia), UNHCR provided protection cash assistance totaling 3,951,500 ETB to 881 vulnerable IDPs with protection concerns. Pregnant and lactating women, child-headed households, people with disabilities, the elderly, and at-risk children were among those who benefited. The provision was conducted in the Benishangul Gumuz Region's woredas of Dangur, Mandura, Dibate, Bambasi, Ura, and Bulidigilu, with each receiving 4,500 ETB.
- Drought-affected families, both displaced and host communities, received multi-purpose cash (MPC) in the East Hararge zone. In two woredas, Midegha-tola and Gele-oda, a total of 1,140 households with a total of 6,640 people were reached.
- Though its partner DICAC (Development and Inter Church Aid Commission) provided cash assistance totaling 1,452,000 ETB to 254 survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) and vulnerable women and girls from IDP and host communities in Mekelle, Abi-adi, and Machew.
- Approximately 255 women-headed and person-with-special-needs households from the three intervention zones—Gedeo, West Guji, and 55 women-headed households—received multipurpose cash assistance for individual income-generating activities.

Capacity Building and Vocational Training

- In the West Wollega, Oromia region, 163 IDPs (93f, 70m) have received vocational training in the areas of Tailoring & garment making, Furniture making, Baking & Confectionaries, Barbings and Hairdressing. The beneficiaries were also provided financial literacy and business development training. The trainees recorded a 100% pass rate for the 143 of individuals that were supported to take the trainees competency certification examinations (CoC) by the government certifying institutions.

- Twenty-four individuals participated in a capacity-building workshop for government officials held in Moyale, Dawa Zone, which covered protection mainstreaming, protecting people with specific needs (PSNs), gender-based violence (GBV), right-based approaches, and humanitarian principles.

- As a result of UNHCR advocacy and collaboration with the Mastercard Foundation, 27 eligible IDPs (majority from Tigray) have been accepted into the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program. This is a significant accomplishment, and scholarships for IDPs are a crucial step toward empowering and assisting these vulnerable populations. Education is critical to their overall development and well-being, and this opportunity will undoubtedly change their lives.



Beneficiaries of vocational training, in West Wollega
©UNHCR/Gabriel Idoko

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

- UNHCR coordinated the construction of a new IDP site (Bakello IDP site) in Debre Birhan with capacity of 4,000 individuals to provide better living conditions away from severely congested collective centers. The installations include 421 duplex shelters, 108 communal kitchens equipped with Injera stoves, 2,800 meters of access roads within the camp and 500 meters linking the main road, 4,000 meters of flood protection canals around shelters, installation of 15 solar streetlights, water and sanitary facilities, health post, distribution and information centers, protection, and CFM (Community Feedback Mechanisms) desks.

- In collaboration with the authorities and support from partners, UNHCR relocated 3,797 individuals from crowded sites in Debre Birhan to the newly established Bakello IDP site supporting 3,797 people with safe shelter.

- In other sites across Ethiopia, UNHCR and partners completed site maintenance activities comprised of 3500-meter flood protection canals, 138 infrastructure maintenance activities (privacy partitions, roof, widows, and doors repair) to reduce exposure to harsh weather, while eight waste disposal pits were excavated.



IDPs movement from China Camp to the newly established Bakello IDP site in Amhara region.
©UNHCR/Lineker Arreneke

Child Protection

- Enhancements have been made to child-friendly spaces in three Woredas (Bambasi, Mandura, and Dibate), and 225 children have received non-specialized Psycho-social support and recreational activities. Additionally, in the woredas of Bambasi, Ura, Bildiglu, Mandura, Dibate, and Dangur, 82 participants received training on fundamental concepts of CP (Child Protection), GBV, PSS, and compliance handling.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

- UNHCR partner WVE has established a referral pathway in Kedoa and Gunfi IDP sites in Bilidglu woreda to ensure survivors of domestic violence and children at risk have access to integrated, multisector case management services.

- DICAC distributed CRI (Core Relief Items) materials to 125 survivors of gender-based violence in Mekelle.

- UNHCR, through its partner WVE, has engaged in extensive community-level sensitization on GBV and risk mitigation, the prevention of child abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and PSEA (Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse). A total of 13,049 individuals in the Bambasi, Bulidiglu, Dibate, Mandura, and Ura woredas in the Benishangul Gumuz region have received awareness education.

- Through AAH (AGAINST HUNGER), UNHCR provided protection for children, prevention of GBV, and assistance for GBV survivors. The project is delivering community awareness sessions to IDPs in Dambi Dollo, Sayo (Kellem Wollega), and Gimbi (West Wollega), reaching 1,484 people. Additionally, 160 high school girls from Gimbi participated in SEA (Sexual Exploitation and Abuse) and GBV prevention awareness sessions.

Core relief Items (CRIs)

- UNHCR, through its partner ANE, has provided CRIs to 1,299 IDPs (242 households) in Muze kebele, Bambasi woreda, who were displaced from Dabus in February 2023 because of armed conflict.

- Fifty IDP households received CRIs and non-Food Items at the IDP site of the Peace Project in Bokolmayo woreda.

Aleshumey, Dugda Adu Kebelles, and 1,205 Returnee HHs in Guradamole woreda also received Core relief Items.

- UNHCR viewed the provision of ESNFIs (Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items) to the most vulnerable flood and drought-affected people as a crucial protection intervention. In conjunction with the Somali Regional Bureau for Disaster Risk Management (DRMB (Disaster Risk Management Bureau), Of the 3,600 families that UNHCR assisted, 600 families comprising 4,118 individuals received MPC totaling 4,620,000 Birr, and each family received 7,700 ETB in cash.
- In Afar, UNHCR provided CRI kits to return IDPs, including a kitchen set, solar lamps, sleeping mats, tarpaulin, clothing articles, mosquito nets, and blankets, as well as cash for transportation and life-saving supplies.

Durable Shelter

- UNHCR collaborated with ANE and relevant government officials in Gimbi and Nejo (West Wollega) to hand over durable shelters and latrines for 38 vulnerable IDPs. During the allocation ceremony in Nejo, officials from the Oromia Region Council (Chefe Oromia) provided title deeds to each household. Formal commissioning of the shelters in Geba Senbata will be undertaken in the weeks ahead.

Livelihood

- Considerable progress is seen regarding the provision of livelihood solutions for returnees in Zone 4 in Afar. UNHCR, as CCCM (Camp Coordination and Camp Management) Cluster Lead, jointly with its CCCM implementing partner OSD (Organization for Sustainable Development) , is preparing to launch several Quick Impact projects and business activities in Abala and Berahle Woredas. In Abala, the construction of container shades has been completed for the launch of seven businesses, i.e., a barber shop, tailoring shop, hairdresser shop, bread making, nutritious food making, game zone, and carpentry works.
- As part of efforts to ensure displaced persons can earn a living and meet their basic needs, UNHCR through its partner Development Expertise Centre (DEC) supported targeted IDPs in West Wollega Zone to form 19 cooperative groups in 4 business areas (Garment making, Hair Salon (for people), Food Vending, and Bread Making).

Reconciliation and peacebuilding efforts

- In May 2023, UNHCR through Trilateral Peace and Development Office focused their peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts on the release of civilians kidnapped by UAGs (Unidentified Armed Groups) in Bildiglu woreda (Kamashi Zone), Benishangul Gumuz region. Participants in activities promoting peace and reconciliation ensured the safe release of the abductees. According to the agreement reached during peacebuilding and reconciliation activities, nine captives, including a mother of four held since May 2020, have been released and returned to their homes.

UNHCR is grateful for the contribution to the UNHCR Ethiopia IDP Operation in 2023



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