Without additional $11.8 million funding, people fleeing conflict will suffer from effects of inadequate WASH services.

With current limited budget, WASH partners cannot provide safe water, sanitation, and hygiene to over 870,000 refugees in 2024.

We can only provide at least **14L** of water per person per day, instead of the minimum standard of at least **20L** per person per day.

Sanitation coverage is quite low at 24% vs. the minimum standard of at least 85%.

What does this mean for refugees?

After making it through perilous journeys, refugees are exposed to drinking unsafe water and inadequate sanitation. Consequently, this will lead to:

widespread open defecation
loss of dignity due to open defecation, especially for women and girls
increase in illnesses, such as diarrhea and cholera
protection risks e.g. gender-based violence
more girls will miss school in order to fetch water from far away sources
tension with hosting communities due to limited shared water sources

Here is what WASH partners need urgently for lifesaving interventions:

$5 *million* — SOMALI

- $4 million **to operationalize two boreholes** in Bokh, Somali region to stop water trucking. This would reach 90,000 refugees from Somalia and 80,000 members of local communities.
- $1 million to upgrade deteriorating system infrastructure and replace key electromechanical equipment for 261,763 people in Melkadida.

$3.2 *million* — AMHARA

- for sanitation improvement, hygiene and water supply in Kumer, Awlala and Alemwach refugee settlements.

$1 *million* — BENISHANGUL-GUMUZ

- build **water and sanitation infrastructure** at the new Ura site, which will receive refugees from Sudan, currently located at Kurmuk Transit center.

$1.1 *million* **AFAR**

- connect a new drilled borehole in Aysaita to the existing water system; drill one additional borehole in Berhale, and to connect 3 boreholes to the national electricity grid.

$1.5 *million* **GAMBELLA**

- $602,337 urgently required to cover refugee's **water needs for 7 months**. With our available budget of $400,000, we can only cover 5 months of water supply for 384,000 refugees.
- $500,00 is urgently required to support the ITANG Water Utility to provide water for refugees in Gambella as part of sustainable inclusive water provision.

Key Projects in 2024

SOLAR SYSTEMS AND WATER PUMPS

UNHCR is solarizing 6 surface water systems and 5 boreholes. This will reduce operational costs and negative impact on the environment.

REFUGEES INCLUSION INTO NATIONAL SYSTEMS

The ITANG water utility project (Gambella region) and the R-WASH project (Somali region)- jointly being implemented by UNHCR and UNICEF with funding from the German Development Bank-KfW, are good examples of inclusion in action as per the Global Compact for Refugees (GCR). The model seeks to bring a development approach and a more sustainable 'whole of society approach' to deliver water to both refugees and host communities.

PROSPECTS

PROSPECTS - Partnership for improving prospects for forcibly displaced persons and host communities is supported by the Government of the Netherlands. It brings together five organizations: the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the International Labor Organization (ILO), the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Bank.

INCLUSION FROM THE ONSET

Whenever possible, WASH partners, in collaboration with government will not set up parallel systems and will strenghten existing systems. New water systems will only be constructred where there are no existing water facilities or where there is need to expand services. Capacity strenghtening will be prioritised.

CASH BASED INTERVENTIONS

We are exploring the use of cash based interventions into WASH programming whenever feasible.

TRANSITIONING FROM INGO TO UTILITY

In Gambella, work is underway to hand over camp operation and maintanance of water supply from Oxfam to the ITANG Water Utility. Oxfam is working with support of UNICEF and UNHCR under the overall coordination of RRS.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Partners will continue to scale up efforts to move away from mere service delivery to the empowerment of refugees. Refugee will participate, take ownership and be responsible for the WASH facillities, especially on sanitation, construction of family latrines and bathing shelters, using locally available materials.

WHAT WE DID IN

2023

- **Water provision:** 74% of refugees and asylum-seekers were provided with at least basic drinking water services.
- **Emergency water provision:** at least 10L/p/d was provided for newly arrived Sudan and Somali refugees through water trucking
- **Solarisation:** 21 solar systems installed to pump water in various refugee locations. This has helped to reduce operational costs and negative impact on the environment
- **R-WASH:** Significant progress has been made by UNHCR, UNICEF, Somali Regional Water Bureau, RRS and partners in water utility setup. 8 boreholes have been drilled, 6 water systems rehabilitated, 3 utility offices have been identified, water system designs has been completed and recruitment of the Water Utility General Manager has been initatied.

PARTNERS:

UNHCR Photo