UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency

ETHIOPIA

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

July 2024

KEY FIGURES:

1,064,412
Refugees & Asylum seekers in Ethiopia
(as of July 2024)

57,842
Refugees and asylum seekers fleeing conflict in Sudan to Ethiopia
(as of July 2024)

4.4M*
Internally displaced people in Ethiopia
(IOM/DTM February 2024)

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

In response to the ongoing insecurity in the Amhara region, UNHCR and the Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS), in collaboration with partners, have begun relocating refugees from Awlala and Kumer to the newly established Aftit site, which is considered to be a safer place.

By the end of July, 2,782 refugees had been relocated to Aftit, where basic services including shelters, food, water, sanitation, and health care have been established. Among those relocated were 400 refugees who had fled the Kumer site due to insecurity and were sheltering near a police station.

Despite these efforts, insecurity remains a significant concern. On 17 July, a coordinated attack on the Federal Police post in Kumer settlement resulted in the tragic deaths of approximately ten police officers, several injuries, and an unconfirmed number of abductions. A refugee child was also injured. Further violence occurred on 20 July, with an attack on refugees camping by the highway, leading to two deaths and nine injuries, underscoring the urgent need for enhanced protection measures.

UNHCR is working to provide the safest possible conditions under these circumstances by relocating refugees to Aftit and continues to advocate with the Ethiopian government for the eventual relocation of refugees to safer regions.

SECTORAL HIGHLIGHTS:

Protection

+7,400 refugees received their new "Fayda ID" allowing them to access basic services.

Education

+3,200 refugees took the Grade 12 national exams at the end of the 2023/2024 school year.

Health

1,851 refugees have received medical consultations in the new Ura site, in Benishangul Gumuz region.

Food security + Nutrition

+744,000 refugees received their monthly food rations across various camps and sites,

Livelihoods

UNHCR provided **2** refrigerators and one generator to the Association of Fishery Production in the Aysaita refugee camp.

Resettlement

+1,200 refugees have departed from Ethiopia on private sponsorship, resettlement and education pathways in July.

SUDAN EMERGENCY

Watch UNHCR's Gabriel Idoko give us an update from the field.

Thanks to the generous support of the EU, Nagila has a new home in Ura, Benishangul Gumuz region.

DURABLE SHELTERS

UNHCR works with 45 implementing partners as well as the Ethiopian Government Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS), UN Agencies, international and national NGOs, universities, and other legal entities.

*The Humanitarian Response Plan 2024 estimated that the figure of 4.4M IDPs would be reached at the end of the year.

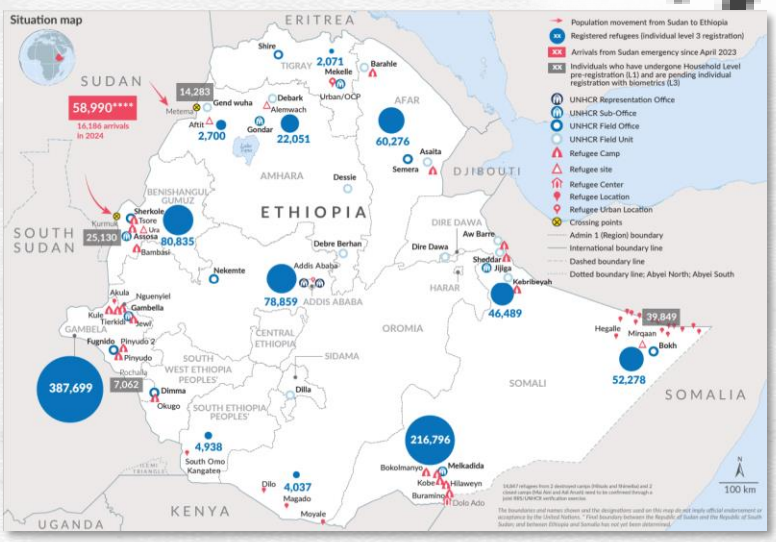
RESPONSE AT A GLANCE

1,064,412*
Total Refugees and Asylum-seekers
(1,001,051 refugees | 63,361** asylum-seekers)

288,267
Households
(average family size: 4)

80% Women & Children
54% Children (0 -17 years)
44% Adults (18 - 59 years)
2% Elderly (60+)

Country of origin	Total Individuals	Percentage
South Sudan	430,634	40%
Somalia	356,551	33%
Eritrea	179,379	17%
Sudan	88,596	8%
Kenya	4,035	<1%
Yemen	2,547	<1%
DR Congo	974	<1%
Syrian Arab Republic	724	<1%
Others***	972	<1%



Protection

So far in 2024, over 15,038 refugees and asylum seekers have arrived in Ethiopia from Sudan, bringing the number of people in need of protection arriving from Sudan to 57,842 since April 2023. Along with partners, UNHCR is providing protection counselling, healthcare, and lifesaving humanitarian assistance to new arrivals in need of international protection. UNHCR continues to support and advocate with the Government of Ethiopia for full resumption of registration across the country.

Gender Based Violence

In July, 905 survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) and those at risk received psycho-social support, counseling, and medical referrals, including 56 who received cash assistance. 13,263 women and girls of reproductive age received dignity kits while 500 others received other forms of in-kind assistance.

To prevent GBV and enhance Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), awareness raising sessions reached 20,087 individuals, including through home visits (14,639) and Women and Girls' Safe Spaces (5,448). Training on GBV prevention and PSEA engaged 724 participants, mainly frontline workers from government and humanitarian organizations.

Countrywide, 147 refugee community leaders participated in GBV community dialogues. 5,020 girls and women participated in Start, Awareness, Support, Action (SASA), Girl Shine, and life skills training activities, aimed at boosting confidence and fostering participation in community decision-making. 130 men and boys were engaged in discussions around male engagement in GBV prevention activities.

⚠ **UNDERFUNDING** in **any** sector (food, shelter, WASH, education, health, energy) exposes **women** refugees to **GBV** leading to negative coping mechanisms including transactional sex, child labor, child marriage and begging. Read more here.

Child Protection

In July, we identified 576 children at risk and supported them. To make sure the decisions UNHCR and partners take are in the best interest of the child, we conducted Best Interests Assessments (BIA) for 162 children. Additionally, we conducted follow-up home visits for 1,718 children at risk, while psychosocial and material support was provided to 1,758 vulnerable children.

A total of 14,756 children accessed child-friendly spaces to learn, socialize, and play in a safe environment, 188 participated in sports matches, and 98 children and their families were reached through home-to-home visits.

To ensure separated children are protected, we arranged for foster care and supervised child-headed households for 147 children. We also trained 384 social workers, refugee representatives, and government officials in Child Protection. Additionally, 679 community leaders participated in Child Protection discussions, 561 refugees attended awareness sessions, and 235 children and youth were engaged in life skills and empowerment programmes.

Registration / Documentation

As of July, over 7,426 refugees received "Fayda" digital ID cards in Addis Ababa, Alemwach, and Tsore, enhancing their access to essential services and facilitating integration. In Alemwach (Amhara region), 4,071 of the 22,803 residents were verified and issued proof of registration, with 935 collecting digital ID cards. In Benishangul-Gumuz, 3,637 refugees were verified, with 3,430 relocated to Ura and assigned shelters.

In Addis Ababa, 879 refugees and asylum seekers shared their feedback and complaints allowing UNHCR and partners to address refugees' concerns. UNHCR, through active engagement with RRS secured the release of hundreds of urban refugees that were arbitrarily arrested during the month.

Education

Before the 2023/2024 school year concluded, over 12,000 refugees sat for regional and national exams, including 8,837 students for Grade 8 regional exams and 3,243 for Grade 12 national exams. A total of 164,299 refugee students are on recess as of July until the next school year commences at the end of September.

For refugees arriving from Sudan to the Amhara region, 1,134 children attended pre-primary and primary education at the Kurmuk transit center and Kumer site before their relocation to Aftit and Ura sites.

⚠ **UNDERFUNDING in Education** will interrupt the schooling of over 167,000 refugee students hosted in Ethiopia as teachers' salaries, textbooks and learning materials are not being covered. Refugee children then fall behind, reducing their chances of coming out of poverty and supporting their families. Read more here.

Health

UNHCR and its partners have been providing health services to refugees fleeing violence in Sudan and Somalia. At the Metema transit center (Amhara region), 229 medical consultations were conducted by the UNICEF-supported Mobile Health and Nutrition Team. Additionally, 29 people received Mental Health and Psychosocial Services (MHPSS) and 129 others received health education. In the new Aftit site (Amhara region), 137 medical consultations took place, including care for 44 children, and services for pregnant and new mothers. Meanwhile, in Kurmuk transit center (Benishangul-Gumuz region), Medical Teams International (MTI) provided 993 clinical consultations, and in the Ura refugee site (Benishangul-Gumuz region) they served 1,851 patients.

POST OF THE MONTH

Jijiga, **Ethiopia**

ID cards allow displaced people to regain freedom of movement and avoid arbitrary arrest and detention.

UNHCR with @DRC_ngo, has supported the #Somali Regional Government to issue local identity cards to over 400 displaced families.

Thank you DK for your crucial support.

Health (cont'd)

including received antenatal and postnatal care, and family planning. Close to 40 per cent of the patients treated were from the host communities. Eight women gave birth at the Ura Health centre. Additionally, TB and HIV screenings were conducted, with positive TB cases linked to treatment, and four patients were referred to Assosa General Hospital.

In July, 35,174 refugees consulted doctors, bringing the total number of consultations since January to 239,711. 291 refugees accessed MHPSS services in July, bringing the total consultations since January to 4,491. Additionally, 317 deliveries were recorded during the month, while 613 women received family planning services during the month.

In Aysaita refugee camp (**Afar** region), UNHCR, in collaboration with the Regional Health Bureau and Beza Project, conducted a tuberculosis (TB) screening campaign involving 430 refugees. 27 positive cases were identified and referred for appropriate medical support. Additionally, 1,022 children aged between six and 59 months and 862 aged between 24 and 59 months in the same camp received vitamin A supplementation and deworming.

In **Gambella**, a Trachoma Mass drug Administration was conducted in all camps but Okugo, reaching 96 percent of the target population of 213,360 individuals. Measles cases continued to decline with two active cases still in admission at the end of July. One case of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) was detected in Jewi camp, bringing the total to five confirmed cases since April, four of them refugees.

⚠️ With only 43% of our $23 million funding requirements met, we can only offer minimal healthcare, leaving refugees vulnerable to preventable diseases. This gap will hinder disease management, emergency responses, essential supplies, referral services, and staff salaries. Without an extra $10 million, the well-being of nearly 1 million refugees is at serious risk. Read more here.

Shelter & CRIs

In July, newly relocated Sudanese refugees set up 350 family tents at the Aftit site in the Amhara region, with an additional 45 tents provided by Action for the Needy in Ethiopia (ANE) for vulnerable families. Construction of a 1.5 km access road and a 4.4 km internal road is also underway. At the Ura site in the Benishangul-Gumuz region, 197 refugee households received emergency shelters, bringing the total to 720. In Gambella, the construction of 130 transitional shelters in Nguenyyiel and Pugnido camps is progressing well.
Additionally, emergency shelters and non-food items were distributed to over 4,000 IDPs, bringing the total number assisted this year to over 36,000.

⚠️ **UNDERFUNDING in Shelter** causes thousands of refugees to be housed in inadequate shelters, living in congested conditions, unprotected from rain and flooding. This poses safety concerns to both refugees and host communities living around the settlements or refugee sites. Read more here.

Food security + Nutrition (cont'd)

In July, 744,658 refugees received their monthly food rations across various camps and sites, covering only 60% of their minimum dietary needs. However, starting in August, food rations for refugees in emergency sites and new arrivals are expected to increase to 80%.

In terms of Nutrition, UNHCR, other UN agencies, nutrition partners and the Government's Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) have been providing preventive and curative nutrition services across all sites, including for new arrivals. In July, the Standardized Expanded Nutrition Surveys (SENS) conducted in Gambella and Melkadida indicated improvements in Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) in most of the camps surveyed. Regular nutrition programmes continued in all camps and emergency sites, including community-based screenings and treatment activities. However, due to funding shortfalls from WFP, the blanket supplementary feeding programme was suspended in July, which will severely impact the nutritional status of children under five and other vulnerable groups.

⚠️ **Without additional funding in Food and Nutrition,** over 90,000 refugee children will suffer from undernutrition, stunting their physical and mental development, exposing them to disease and eventually death. Programs to prevent undernutrition for close to 200,000 children under five and over 40,000 pregnant and lactating women will cease. Read more here.

Water, Sanitation & Hygiene

For new arrivals from Sudan and Somalia, UNHCR and partners have supplied an average of **11 liters of water per person per day** (l/p/d) in July – lower than the emergency threshold of at least 15 l/p/d. The **latrine to user ratio stood at 1:109**, significantly below the acceptable standard of 1:20 for shared emergency latrines.

A two-kilometer pipeline extension and six water points were completed in Alemwach (Amhara region) and Ura (Benishangul-Gumuz region). Additionally, in the Ura site, 45 latrine blocks, each with four latrines, and six solid waste pits have been constructed. In the new Aftit site, partner Innovative Humanitarian Solutions (IHS) has completed the construction of two emergency latrine blocks and four shower blocks, each with five seats/cubicles per block. IHS also built one block of emergency latrines at the Dabat Primary hospital following the identification of a suspected cholera outbreak in Dabat town. In Kumer (Amhara region), partner Catholic Relief Service (CRS) drilled a 100-meter borehole for the host community. In the newly established Aftit site, CRS conducted a hydrogeological survey, recommending wells 150-200 meters deep. Following a long suspension, soap distribution resumed in Almewach in July, with 24,092 bars distributed, providing two bars per person to 12,533 individuals.

Thanks to Oxfam, refugees were able to build 296 latrines in the Gambella region. **In other refugee hosting areas, refugees had access to water at an average of 14 l/p/d in July** - lower than the standard of 20 l/p/d. The sanitation coverage in June in the refugee camps and sites stood at 33.07% - below the standard threshold of 85%.

Durable solutions

Livelihoods & Economic Integration

In the Afar region, UNHCR provided two refrigerators and a generator to the Association of Fishery Production in the Aysaita refugee camp, significantly enhancing the sustainability of their self-reliance initiative. This project benefits 20 refugees, including three women. Although there are delays in implementing other livelihood activities in the two refugee camps in the region, UNHCR and RRS remain actively engaged with relevant partners to expedite the start of these operations.

Resettlement

In the last seven months, the cases of 3,548 refugees have been submitted for resettlement consideration by different countries. In July, 1,231 refugees departed from Ethiopia. The majority (665) departed on private sponsorships, 564 on resettlement, and two as part of the labour mobility, securing employment abroad.

We also helped to issue and renew Convention Travel Documents (CTDs) and Emergency Travel Documents (ETDs) for five individuals, including three CTDs and two ETDs.

LATEST UPDATES

SUDAN EMERGENCY

#UPDATE on the relocation of Sudanese refugees to Aftit settlement, Amhara :

2,782 refugees have been relocated from Kumer and Awlala.

UNHCR's Gabriel Idoko reports from the ground.

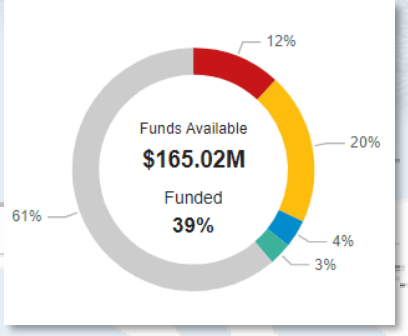
DURABLE SHELTERS

Nagila fled from #Sudan to #Ethiopia 7 months ago.

Thanks to the generous support of the EU, she can access assistance and services in Ura site, Benishangul Gumuz region ET

Watch her give a tour of her new home:

FUNDING UPDATE | 2024



Funding requirements for 2024

$426 million

⚠️ **39% of our funding requirements have been met this year** causing critical gaps in our response. UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors that have contributed to its work in Ethiopia, as well as to those that have contributed to UNHCR programs globally with unearmarked or softly earmarked funds.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Together with the Government Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS), UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency aims to protect, assist and provide durable solutions for refugees and asylum-seekers in Ethiopia. UNHCR works to strengthen refugee protection through the expansion of improved community-based and multi-sectoral child protection and programs addressing gender-based violence (GBV).

Visit UNHCR Ethiopia's Operational Data Portal for more information products here.

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