UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency | ETHIOPIA

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

August 2024

KEY FIGURES:

1,066,842
Refugees & Asylum seekers in Ethiopia
(as of August 2024)

59,345
Refugees and asylum seekers fleeing conflict in Sudan to Ethiopia
(as of August 2024)

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

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Since March, the Ethiopian government, in collaboration with UNHCR, has been issuing digital ID cards to refugees, a crucial step toward their protection and integration into national systems.

Following a three-months pilot in Addis Ababa, the programme was expanded to Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, and Somali regions, issuing over 9,600 ID cards. Participation is voluntary, with 25,394 refugees consenting so far, and 9,669 already receiving their IDs, each featuring a unique "Fayda" number to prevent duplication.

This initiative supports Ethiopia's commitment to the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) by enhancing refugee protection through proper documentation. The digital IDs safeguard refugees against forced returns and arbitrary arrests, while granting access to essential services like healthcare, education, and mobile connectivity. Crucially, they allow refugees to open bank accounts, register businesses, and participate in economic activities.

With proper identification, refugees can join the labor market, access financial services, and work towards self-reliance, reducing dependence on aid.

By issuing these ID cards, Ethiopia not only improves refugees' quality of life but also fosters social cohesion and economic contribution. UNHCR will continue to support Ethiopia in extending digital ID cards to all consenting refugees. However, the full success of this initiative will require ongoing collaboration and support from the international community in the spirit of burden- and responsibility-sharing.

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.

SECTORAL HIGHLIGHTS:

Protection

+26,000 refugees participated in awareness raising sessions on preventing GBV and SEA

Education

+4,300 refugee students in four regions passed the Grade 8 National Examinations, representing 85% pass rate.

Health

+282,000 refugees have received medical consultations across refugee sites since January.

Food security + Nutrition

+19,000 children were treated for Moderate Acute Malnutrition since January.

Livelihoods

+260 hectares of land cultivated with maize, okra, sorghum, and tomatoes in Gambella.

Resettlement

+1,500 refugees have departed from Ethiopia on private sponsorship and resettlement.

SUDAN EMERGENCY

AFTIT

UNHCR continues to provide basic services to refugees in Aftit, including food, water, sanitation, shelter, health, nutrition, mental health and psychosocial support. As of 9 September, 4,854 refugees have benefitted from a three-days food distribution in Aftit.

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

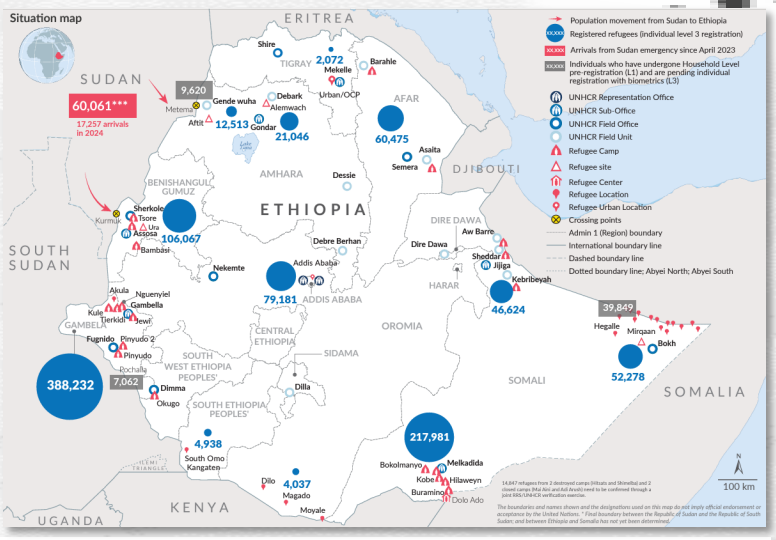
RESPONSE AT A GLANCE

1,066,842
Total Refugees and Asylum-seekers
(1,003,736 refugees | 63,106* asylum-seekers)

286,772
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	430,620	40%
Somalia	357,971	33%
Eritrea	178,963	17%
Sudan	90,043	8%



Protection

So far in 2024, over 16,896 refugees and asylum seekers have arrived in Ethiopia from Sudan, bringing the number of people in need of protection arriving from Sudan to 59,345 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 August, psychosocial support, counseling, and medical referrals were provided to all survivors of gender-based violence (GBV). Additionally, 14 percent of these survivors received cash assistance. A total of 156 women and girls of reproductive age were given dignity kits along with other forms of in-kind assistance.

To prevent GBV and enhance Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), over 26,000 people participated in awareness-raising activities. These included sessions at Women and Girls' Safe Spaces (WGSS) attended by 6,074 women and girls, and training for 189 frontline workers and government officials engaged in GBV prevention, case management, and PSEA.

Countrywide, 2,309 refugee community leaders participated in GBV community dialogues. Additionally, 731 girls and women took part in Start, Awareness, Support, Action (SASA), Girl Shine, and life skills training activities aimed at boosting confidence and fostering participation in community decision-making. Ten men and boys were engaged in discussions around male engagement in GBV prevention activities.

Child Protection

In August, we identified and supported 640 Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC). Of these, 282 received cash and other forms of assistance. Additionally, 205 children underwent Best Interests Assessments (BIA) to ensure that the decisions and actions taken by UNHCR and its partners are in the best interest of each child at risk. Consequently, 50 children were placed under family-based care arrangements during the month. A total of 24,487 children accessed child-friendly spaces for learning, socializing, and playing.

In collaboration with partners, training sessions on child protection activities were organized, reaching approximately 500 social workers, refugee representatives, and government officials. Furthermore, 1,316 refugees participated in Child Protection discussions to raise their awareness of how to contribute to the protection and safety of children in various camps and sites.

Registration / Documentation

As of August, more than 9,521 refugees across Addis Ababa, Alemwach settlement, and the Tsore and Kebribeyah camps have received ID cards, improving their access to essential services and supporting their integration efforts. The recipients include 7,126 in Addis Ababa, 1,544 in Tsore, 994 in Alemwach, and 5 in Kebribeyah.

Education

Despite significant funding challenges, the Grade 8 Regional Examination Results demonstrated outstanding performance across refugee locations, with an overall pass rate of 85% in camps and sites across the Afar, Amhara, Gambella, and Somali regions. In Afar, 93 out of 104 candidates achieved pass marks, representing 89% pass rate. In Amhara (Alemwach), 35 out of 45 students passed, resulting in a 77% pass rate, while the pass rate in Gambella stood at 85% with 3,448 out of 4,040 successfully passing the examinations. In the Somali region (Melkadida), 753 out of 903 candidates passed, securing an 83% pass rate. These results allow over 4,300 refugee students in these regions to transition to secondary education, showcasing the resilience of refugee children in the face of adversity. Results for the Benishangul-Gumuz region are still pending, while discrepancies in candidate names in the Somali region (Jijiga) are being addressed.

UNHCR expressed its deep gratitude to partners DICAC, Plan International, and EDUKANS for their vital support in achieving these outcomes.

Health

UNHCR and its partners have been providing health services to refugees fleeing violence in Sudan and Somalia. At the Metema transit center in the Amhara region, the UNICEF-supported Mobile Health and Nutrition Team conducted 245 medical consultations, provided Mental Health and Psychosocial Services (MHPSS) to 22 individuals, and delivered health counseling to 152 others. At the Aftit refugee site, also in the Amhara region, 182 medical consultations were conducted, including care for 72 children, referral services for four patients, and antenatal and postnatal care for 47 pregnant and new mothers. Family planning services were provided to 12 women.

Meanwhile, at the Kurmuk transit center in the Benishangul-Gumuz region, Medical Teams International (MTI) conducted 929 clinical consultations. At the Ura refugee site in the same region, MTI served 1,721 patients at the Akuda Health Post, with 36.6% of the patients coming from the surrounding host communities. Additionally, 124 pregnant women received antenatal care services, and four women gave birth at the Ura Health Centre, achieving a 100% institutional delivery rate. Furthermore, 24 patients received MHPSS, and consultations on non-communicable diseases were linked to chronic follow-up units. Two patients were referred to Assosa General Hospital for advanced treatment.

POST OF THE MONTH

Ura, **Ethiopia**

- seeds
- tools
- fertilizers

UNHCR distributed agricultural inputs to 200 refugees from #Sudan and 50 host community members in the Ura site, in Benishangul Gumuz region, Ethiopia.

Health (cont'd)

In August, 43,256 patients consulted doctors, bringing the total number of consultations since January to 282,967. Additionally, 321 patients received MHPSS services, bringing the total consultations since January to 4,812. Furthermore, 385 deliveries were recorded during the month, and 652 women received family planning services.

Following the WHO's declaration of a public health emergency for the mpox outbreak in mid-August, key actions were taken, including the finalization of preparedness plans, integrating them into regional health systems, initiating community awareness and case-finding in camps, and enhancing coordination and engagement with WHO and partners.

In Gambella, MSF-H is piloting a malaria vaccination programme in Kule camp, targeting children aged 5-36 months. The vaccination will be conducted in three rounds, spaced one month apart. Meanwhile, measles cases continued to decline, with no active cases in admission at the end of August.

⚠️ 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 August, UNHCR and its partner Action for the Needy in Ethiopia (ANE) set up additional 20 family tents for vulnerable families at Aftit, bringing the total number of family tents erected in the settlement to 415. Six communal hangars were also constructed to temporarily accommodate new arrivals until their transition to their family tents. The construction of a 1.5 km access road and a 4.4 km internal road is also progressing. At Ura site in the Benishangul-Gumuz region, additional 64 emergency shelters were completed, bringing the total number to 784, sheltering a total of 3,627 Sudanese refugees. In Gambella, 150 transitional shelters were under construction in Ngynnyiel and Pugnido camps, of which 63 have been completed. Additionally, emergency shelters and non-food items were distributed to 3,428 IDPs during the month, bringing the total number assisted this year to over 39,000.

⚠️ **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

In August, 699,201 refugees received their monthly food rations across various camps and sites, covering only 60% of their minimum dietary needs. Without additional supportive interventions, the current ration size, which falls short of the 2100Kcal minimum requirement, could significantly impact the nutritional status of the people we serve, potentially exposing them to more severe negative coping strategies.

Food security + Nutrition (cont'd)

In terms of nutrition, UNHCR, alongside other UN agencies, nutrition partners, and the Government's Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS), has been providing both preventive and curative nutrition services across all sites, including for new arrivals. In August, 774 children under five with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) were successfully treated, including 89 with medical complications. This brings the total number of children treated for SAM since January to 7,835, including 765 with complications. Additionally, 2,656 children were treated for Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) in August, bringing the total since January to 19,243.

The programmes' performance indicators remain within SPHERE standards, with success rates of 88% for SAM and 95% for MAM. However, screening activities show that malnutrition is on the rise in all camps and sites. Preventive measures, such as the Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme, which provides fortified nutrients and extra kilocalories to children, have been impacted by funding shortfalls. This could severely affect the nutritional status of children under five and other vulnerable groups, as highlighted by various screening mechanisms.

⚠️ **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

In August, UNHCR and partners supplied an average of **10 liters of water per person per day (l/p/d) to new arrivals from Sudan and Somalia**, which is lower than the emergency threshold of at least 15 l/p/d. The latrine-to-user ratio remained at 1:109, significantly below the acceptable standard of 1:20 for shared emergency latrines.

The extension of a 5.6 km pipeline and the construction of six water points in Alemwach (Amhara region) are near completion. Once completed, the system will help end water trucking. Two of the six water points will serve the host communities surrounding the Alemwach site.

In the south, the extension of a 2.5 km pipeline and a 25 m^3 sandwich masonry reservoir, as well as the construction of three water points, was completed in the Dilo refugee settlement. This is expected to enhance the water supply to the refugees, mainly from Kenya.

Over 12,000 refugees in Alemwach received six bars of soap each, covering the period from August to October 2024.

In other refugee-hosting areas, refugees had access to an average of 13.8 l/p/d in August, which is lower than the standard of 20 l/p/d. The sanitation coverage in the refugee camps and sites stood at 33.07%, compared to the standard threshold of 85%.

⚠️ **UNDERFUNDING in Water and Sanitation** causes disease outbreaks, including cholera, and exposes women and girls to sexual violence as they walk long distances to fetch water and do not have adequate sanitation facilities. Read more here.

Durable solutions

Livelihoods & Economic Integration

In Gambella, UNHCR and its partners—Mercy Corps, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Danish Church Aid (DCA), and ZOA—continue to support farming activities across 260.86 hectares of land cultivated with maize, okra, sorghum, and tomatoes. These farming efforts are a joint collaboration between refugees and members of the host community. In August, the support included training 85 refugees in modern agricultural practices and post-harvest management, as well as distributing 55,245 multipurpose fruit seedlings to 4,500 refugees and host community members.

In the Benishangul-Gumuz region, UNHCR provided agricultural inputs and tools to 200 refugees in Ura and to 50 host community households in the nearby Akuda kebele.

UNHCR and its partners are facing challenges in sustaining existing livelihood projects and launching new ones in the Gambella region due to a significant budget shortfall. Additionally, flooding in the region has adversely affected crop growth, particularly in the Thatha project area.

Resettlement

In the last Eight months, the cases of 3,965 refugees have been submitted for resettlement consideration by different countries. In August, 1,513 refugees departed from Ethiopia. The majority (1,064) departed on private sponsorships while 449 were resettled to different countries.

We also facilitated the issuance and renewal of Convention Travel Documents (CTDs) and Emergency Travel Documents (ETDs) for 12 individuals, including ten CTDs and two ETDs.

LATEST UPDATES

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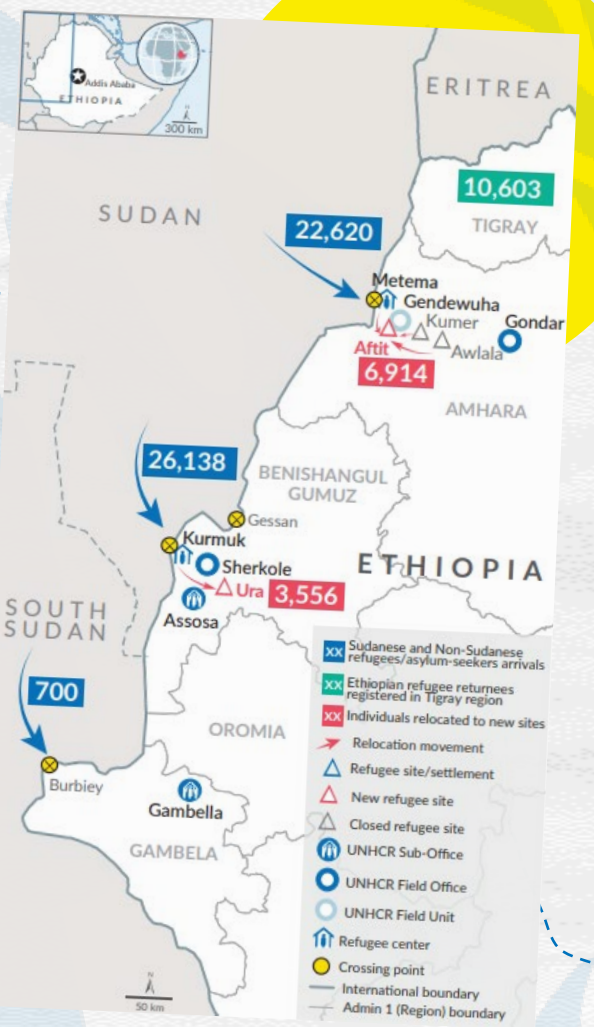
UNHCR continues to provide basic services to refugees in Aftit, including food, water, sanitation, shelter, health, nutrition, mental health and psychosocial support. As of 9 September, 4,854 refugees have benefitted from a three-days food distribution in Aftit.

As of 21 August, some 760 Sudanese refugees had crossed the border from Ethiopia back to Sudan according to the Ethiopian authorities monitoring the crossing point. However, no significant movement of refugees has been recorded since the Metema-Gallabat border was closed early September.

Due to the volatile security situation along the Gondar-Metema highway, access to the transit centre in Metema had been challenging, resulting in delays in the provision of food rations and in the registration of refugees staying there.

UNHCR, the Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) and partners are in continuous communication with refugees staying at the transit centre ensuring they remain safe and unharmed and are working to ensure refugees get access to adequate services as soon as access is granted.



Relocation to the new Ura Settlement started on 17 June, and so far more than 3,400 individuals have been relocated.

FUNDING UPDATE | 2024

$426 million
Funding requirements for 2024

⚠️ **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.

In 2023 - 2024, UNHCR is grateful for contributions by:

Australian Aid · With funding from Austrian Development Cooperation · Belgium partner in development · Canada · German cooperation · Irish Aid Rialtas na hÉireann Government of Ireland · From the People of Japan · Luxembourg Aid & Development · KFW · Cooperación Española · UKaid from the British people · United Nations CERF · EHF Ethiopia Humanitarian Fund · Education Cannot Wait · UNAIDS · IKEA Foundation · "la Caixa" Foundation · LDS Charities · mastercard foundation · United Nations Foundation

And Private Donors in Australia, China, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, UK, and USA

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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