ETHIOPIA
Refugees and Asylum-seekers

As of 31 Mar 2026

1,124,655
Total Refugees and Asylum-seekers
(1,011,768 refugees | 112,887* asylum-seekers)

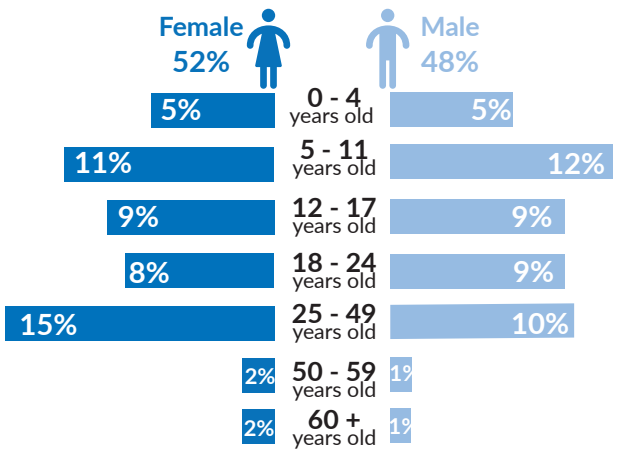
293,332
Households
(average family size: 4)

78% Women & Children
51% Children (0 -17 years)
46% Adults (18 - 59 years)
3% Elderly (60+)

Context & Highlight

Ethiopia is the third largest refugee hosting country in Africa, home to over 1M refugees and asylum seekers—mainly from South Sudan, Somalia and Eritrea. Following the outbreak of armed conflict in Sudan (April 2023) , Ethiopia is receiving thousands of forcibly displaced people at several points of entry.
On 6 March 2024, the Ethiopian government's Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) in collaboration with the National ID Program (NIDP) and UNHCR launched the issuance of digital identity documents to foster inclusion of refugees in the national system.

Age-gender breakdown

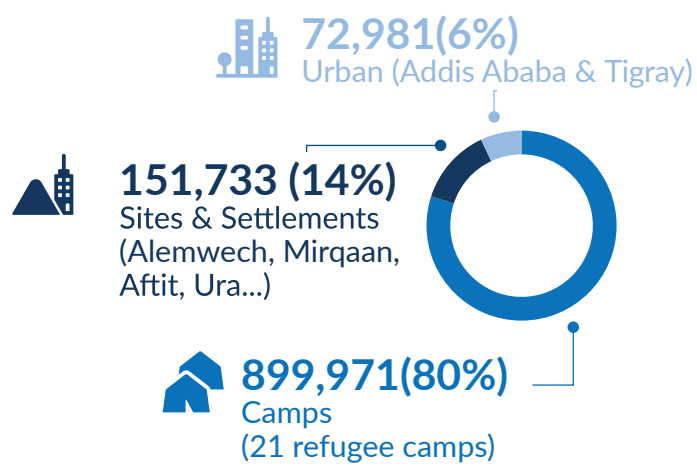


Countries of origin

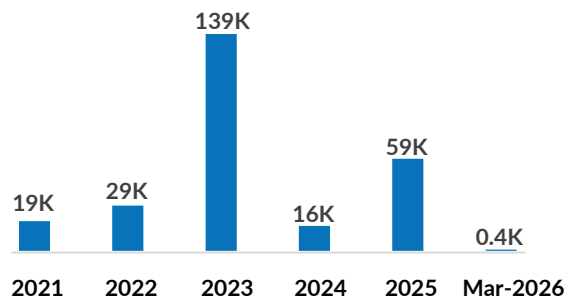
Country of origin	Total Individuals	Percentage
South Sudan	484,703	43%
Somalia	360,257	32%
Eritrea	170,055	15%
Sudan	98,849	9%
Kenya	5,673	1%
Yemen	2,505	<1%
DR Congo	903	<1%
Syrian Arab Republic	750	<1%
Others**	960	<1%
Total	**1,124,655**	

**Others include: Burundi (136 individuals); Djibouti (56)...In total refugees and asylum-seekers registered in Ethiopia come from 34 different countries.

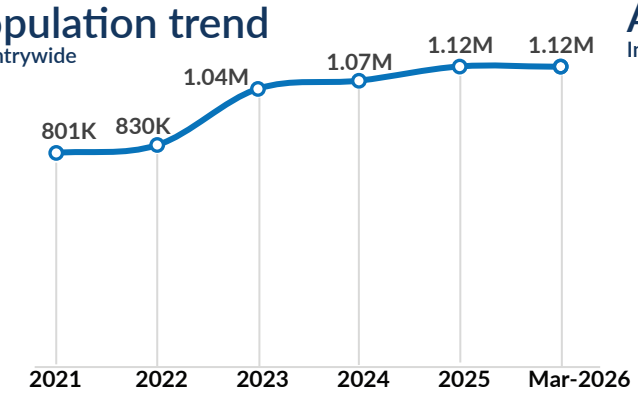
Population distribution



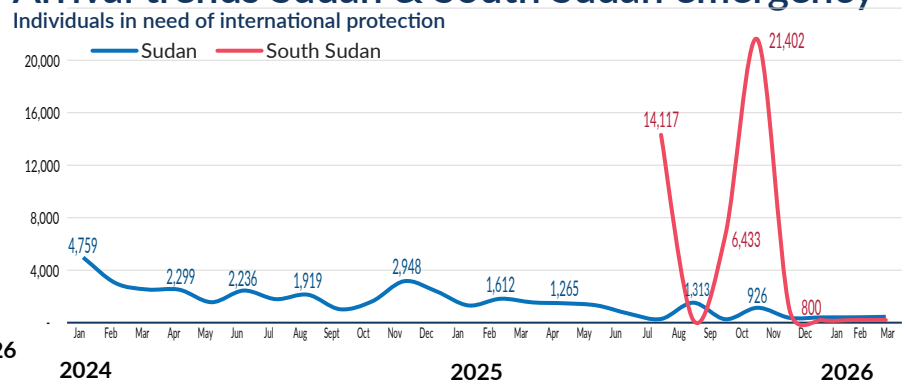
New arrivals per year
Countrywide

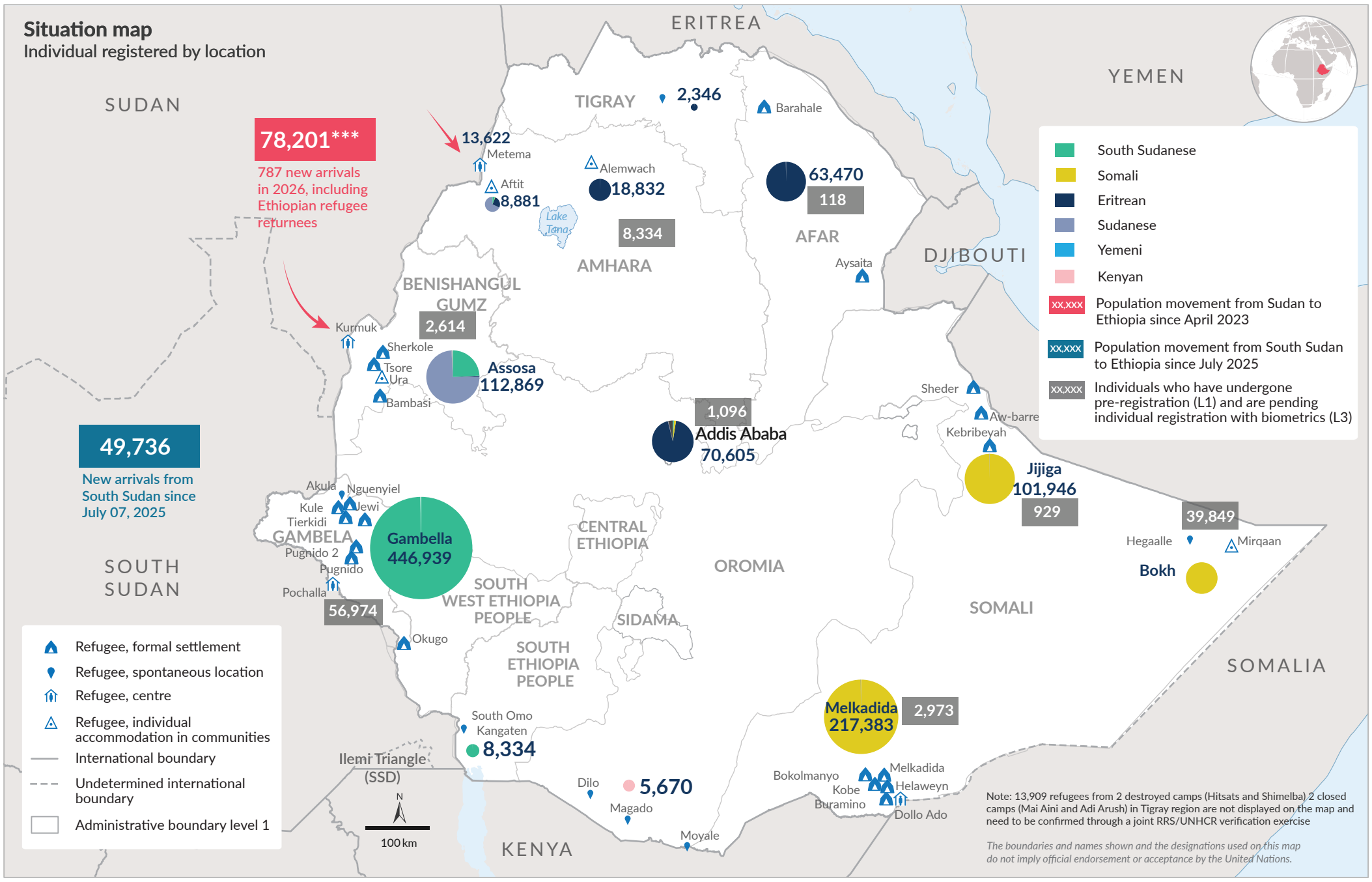


Population trend
Countrywide



Arrival trends Sudan & South Sudan emergency
Individuals in need of international protection





*Among the total 112,887 asylum seekers, 9,507 are pending individual Refugee Status Determination (RSD) procedures, the remaining 103,380 are pre-registered (L1) and categorized as 'asylum seeker'
***Sudan Emergency: arrivals in need of international protection from April 2023 to February 2026, Level 1 (L1) pre-registration figures. A total of 78,201 individuals pre-registered, including 45,118 Sudanese, 10,712 other nationalities, and 22,371 Ethiopian refugee returnees.

Update date: 30 April 2026 **Sources:** UNHCR, RRS, UNCS, CSA Ethiopia **Author:** UNHCR - CO Ethiopia **Feedback:** IM unit Addis Ababa, ethadim@unhcr.org