ETHIOPIA
Refugees and Asylum-seekers

As of 31 July 2026

1,127,629
Total Refugees and Asylum-seekers
(1,016,815 refugees | 110,814* asylum-seekers)

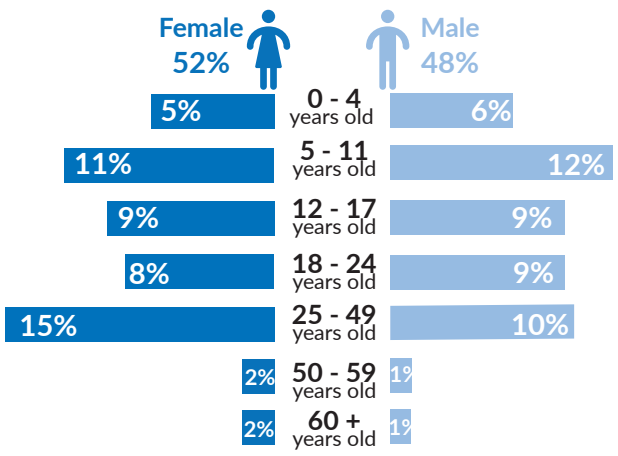
294,000
Households
(average family size: 4)

79% Women & Children
52% Children (0 -17 years)
45% 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



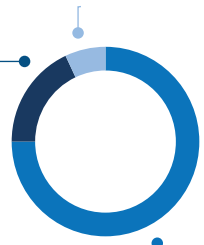
Countries of origin

Country of origin	Total Individuals	Percentage
South Sudan	483,884	43%
Somalia	363,050	32%
Eritrea	171,940	15%
Sudan	98,123	9%
Kenya	5,674	1%
Yemen	2,510	<1%
DR Congo	881	<1%
Syrian Arab Republic	754	<1%
Others**	813	<1%
Total	**1,127,629**	

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

Population distribution

73,568(7%)
Urban (Addis Ababa & Tigray)

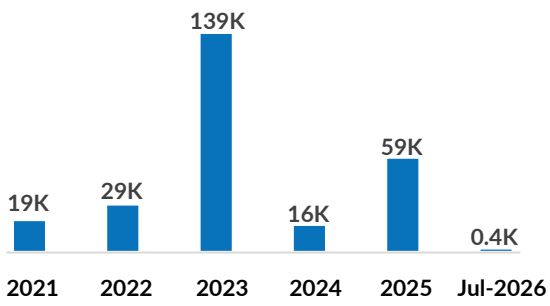


202,869 (18%)
Sites & Settlements
(Alemwech, Mirqaan, Aftit, Ura...)

851,192(75%)
Camps
(21 refugee camps)

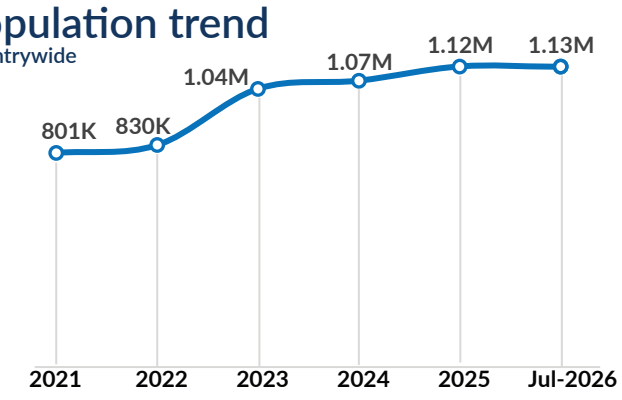
New arrivals per year

Countrywide



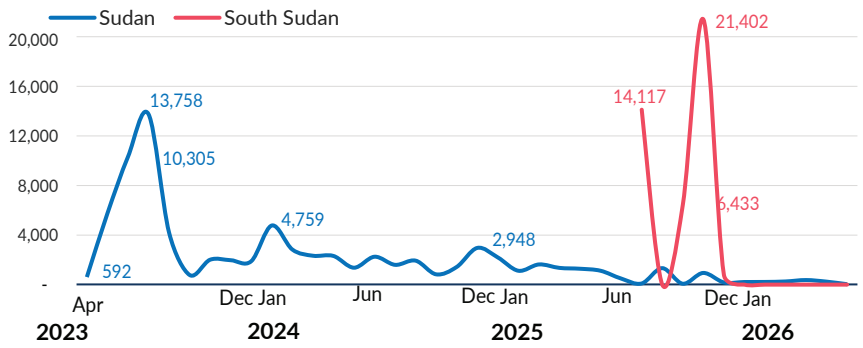
Population trend

Countrywide



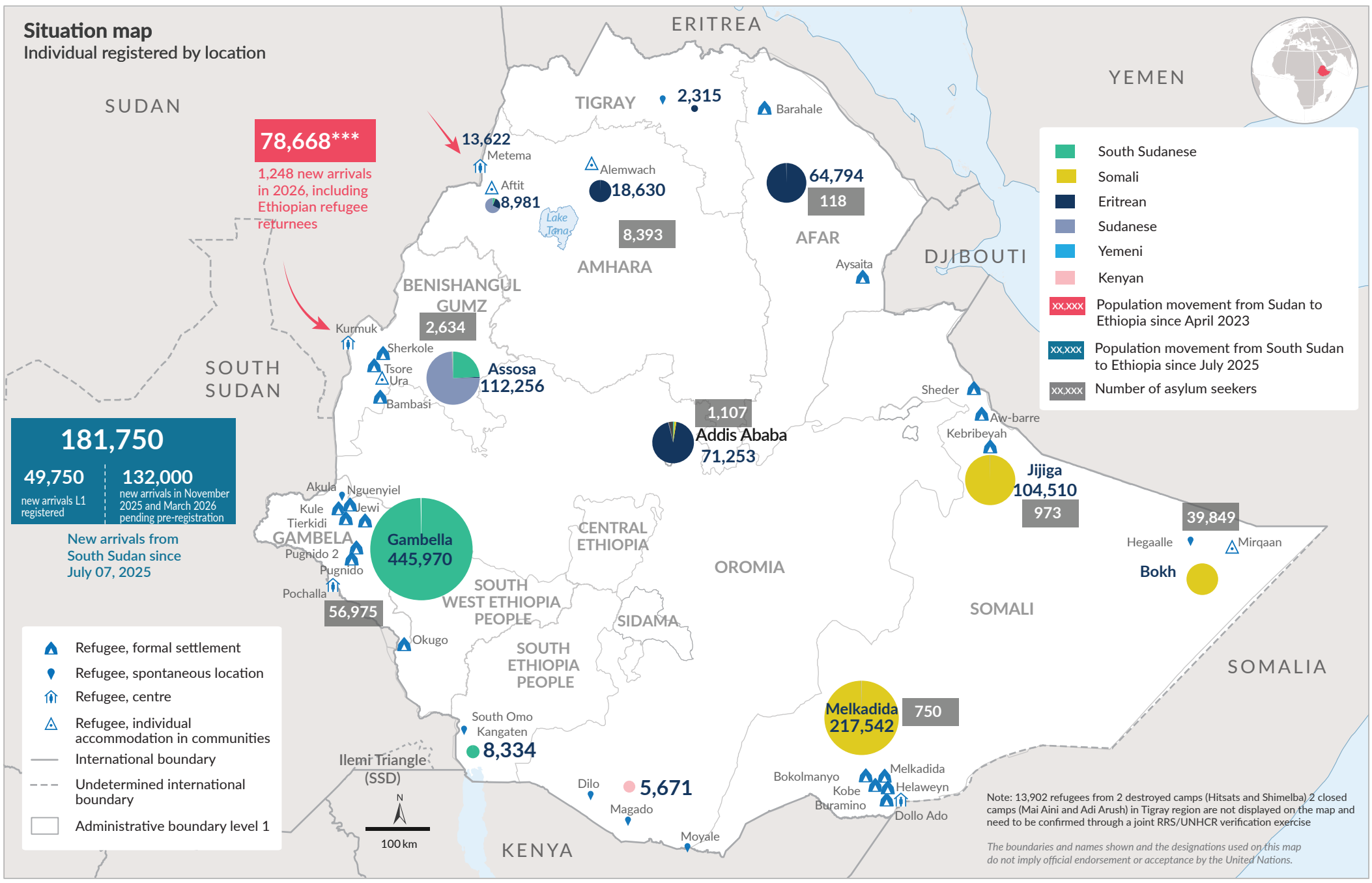
Arrival trends Sudan & South Sudan emergency

Individuals in need of international protection



Situation map

Individual registered by location



Note: 13,902 refugees from 2 destroyed camps (Hitsats and Shimelba) 2 closed camps (Mai Aini and Adi Arush) in Tigray region are not displayed on the map and need to be confirmed through a joint RRS/UNHCR verification exercise

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

*Among the total 110,814 asylum seekers, 8,680 are pending individual Refugee Status Determination (RSD) procedures, the remaining 102,134 are pre-registered (L1) and categorized as 'asylum seeker'

***Sudan Emergency: arrivals in need of international protection from April 2023 to July 2026, Level 1 (L1) pre-registration figures. A total of 78,668 individuals pre-registered, including 45,118 Sudanese, 10,712 other nationalities, and 22,838 Ethiopian refugee returnees.

Update date: 21 August 2026 **Sources:** UNHCR, RRS, UNCS, CSA Ethiopia **Author:** UNHCR - CO Ethiopia **Feedback:** IM unit Addis Ababa, ethadim@unhcr.org