

ETHIOPIA

November 2020

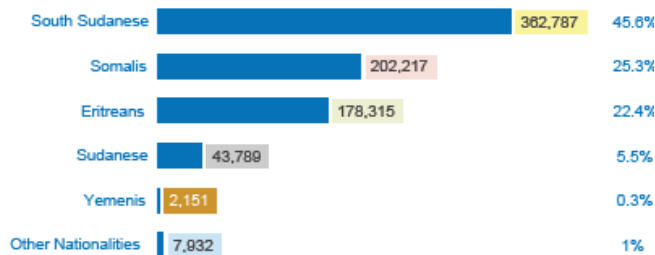
Ethiopia is the **third largest refugee-hosting country** in Africa, sheltering **797,191** registered refugees and asylum-seekers as of 30 November 2020. The overwhelming majority originate from **South Sudan**, **Somalia**, **Eritrea** and **Sudan**.

An **armed conflict** began on 4 November 2020 in **Ethiopia's Tigray region** between the Ethiopian federal government and the TPLF, **impacting access and assistance to the 4 Eritrean refugee camps in the region**.

UNHCR continues to respond to the **situation of internally displaced persons** (IDPs in Ethiopia, leading the **Protection Cluster** and providing protection, emergency aid and other support to IDPs and **IDP returnees** and those displaced by recent flooding and conflict.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Countries of Origin

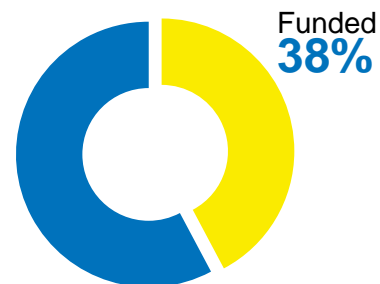


Previously to the Tigray situation, Ethiopia hosted over 796,400 refugees and asylum seekers, mainly sheltered in 26 refugee camps established in five Regional States. There is a sizeable group of refugees and asylum seekers living out of camp, including over 33,000 who are registered as urban refugees in the capital Addis Ababa

FUNDING (AS OF 15 DECEMBER 2020)

requested for the Ethiopia Operation

USD 385.1 M



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

385 National staff

117 International staff

170 Affiliated work force

Offices:

1 Representation in Addis Ababa

5 Sub-Offices in Assosa, Gambella,

Jijiga, Melkadida and Shire

5 Field Offices in Embamadre, Mekelle,

Pugnido, Sherkole and Tongo



On 26 November, the Ethiopian Red Cross Society with support from UNHCR delivered 600 cartons of biscuits to the IDPs sheltered in three IDP sites in Shire. ©UNHCR/Awash Ameha

Working with Partners

UNHCR's main government counterpart in the refugee response in Ethiopia is the Agency for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA). UNHCR also works closely with 57 humanitarian and development partners and is part of the Humanitarian Country Team, where refugee programmes are discussed strategically to ensure the needs of refugees are adequately presented and addressed across the UN System. UNHCR builds on a well-established coordination forum, including the inter-sector Refugee Coordination Group together with national and regional sectorial working groups. As part of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), UNHCR is furthering partnerships with line Ministries of the Government of Ethiopia (GoE), regional and local authorities, as well as development partners and the private sector.

Main Activities

Protection

- Together with ARRA, UNHCR coordinates the delivery of protection and assistance for refugees and asylum-seekers in Ethiopia, as well as the promotion of solutions. It works to strengthen refugee protection through the expansion of improved community-based and multi-sectorial child protection and GBV programmes. Moreover, UNHCR works with government, national and international partners, including NGOs and UN agencies, to provide protection and assistance to IDPs and IDP returnees in different parts of the country.
- UNHCR also provides technical support to ARRA in the registration and status determination of new arrivals using an advanced biometric registration system (BIMS), which provide a more reliable means for the identification of refugees and asylum-seekers in Ethiopia, thereby enhancing their protection.
- UNHCR is working with UNICEF on a model and transformative Blueprint partnership to secure refugee children a fair deal in line with the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), and as reflected in the commitments made at the Global Refugee Forum (GRF). The main objectives of the Blueprint encompass strengthening existing national child protection systems, including birth registration systems; developing the capacity of national partners on refugee protection; and integrating refugee children into the national child protection systems.
- As a COVID-19 prevention measure, vital events registration including birth registration, was suspended in all refugee camps. Following continued advocacy, ARRA resumed birth registration in all refugee camps in November.
- UNHCR is strongly committed to ensure consistent and effective communication with refugee communities. Therefore, social media groups throughout the operation were mapped and analysed. Key findings show that (i) 22% of refugee households in Ethiopia own one telephone, (ii) 90% of refugees in Addis Abba have connectivity compared to only 16% in refugee camps throughout Ethiopia and (iii) 3 out of 6 refugee locations in Ethiopia have WhatsApp groups in place. UNHCR actively makes use of these results for communication with refugee communities. Internal consultations with the objective to share good practices and to discuss UNHCR's strategic, consistent and continuous engagement with such groups were also organized,

Durable Solutions

- Providing resettlement opportunities remains a top priority, as conditions for voluntary repatriation are unfavourable for most refugee nationalities in Ethiopia, and local integration programmes are yet to be put in place. In 2020, UNHCR resettlement submission target was 1,800 individuals. As of November, 1,564 individuals have already been processed for resettlement. 321 individuals have departed to different resettlement countries so far. UNHCR also facilitated the transfer of 89 persons to Italy as part of the Second Protocol of the Italian Humanitarian Corridor and assisted 90 cases through the Family Reunification Project.

Shelter

- Access to adequate shelter remains below standard in all the refugee camps in Ethiopia with only 49% of the refugee population living in adequate shelter. In Assosa camps, only 12% of the refugee population has access to adequate shelter.
- Working with various shelter partners across the operation, UNHCR continues to improve the shelter gaps in all the refugee camps. 80% of the planned emergency shelters and maintenance of existing transitional shelters have been achieved. In the Tigray region, shelter activities were halted due to the Tigray situation.
- UNHCR continues to provide shelter assistance to IDP returnees. In the West Guji and Gedeo region, 134 shelters were completed out of 150 planned shelters planned for 2020.

Education

- UNHCR is closely working with partners and Regional Education Bureaux (REB) on school reopening. Most of the schools in the camps have been reopened except those in the Tigray region, where learning has been interrupted. In this region, 42% (over 15,000) of the refugee children that were enrolled before the COVID-19 pandemic are now out of school. Both the conflict and COVID-19 are thus expected to have dire consequences on access to education, as well as to raise psychosocial and protection concerns due to anticipated further displacement and the impossibility to access the learning environments.
- At a national level, a task team of experts from the REB or Woreda Education offices and Regional Health Bureau provides guidance to reopen schools. Meeting the minimum guidelines set by the Ministry of Education to minimize coronavirus risks remains a challenge for the majority of schools. Shift systems and alternate learning are being used as a temporary measure to maximize the use of available resources. However, over 60% of all refugee schools in Ethiopia do not fulfil standards of safe learning environments. Schools lack minimum basic facilities, including furniture, water, appropriate sanitation facilities, ventilated classrooms, separate latrines for girls and boys and have inadequate functional handwashing facilities. permanent classrooms are dilapidated, while some temporary facilities are not conducive for

Health

- UNHCR, in collaboration with the GoE and its partners, facilitates access to primary and emergency secondary and tertiary healthcare services for refugees and asylum-seekers. It supports the operational costs of primary healthcare services in the different refugee camps, as well as the referral care costs for secondary and tertiary health services in regional and central referral facilities. In urban settings such as Addis Ababa, UNHCR covers the cost of medicines. Due to the prevailing situation in the Tigray region, health service delivery in the four camps has been seriously disrupted.
- UNHCR, together with ARRA, Regional Health Bureaus and other health partners continued to carry out preparedness and response to COVID-19 in refugee camps and other locations sheltering refugees. These include risk communication and community engagement, reorientation of services in order to reduce exposure, training of health personnel, case identification, contact tracing and referrals, distribution of personal protective equipment and essential medicines and materials to strengthen health services. UNHCR is also supporting the Inter-Agency COVID-19 response to the IDP situation in Ethiopia by providing PPE and sanitation materials, equipping isolation and quarantine centres and providing community sensitization.

Food Security and Nutrition

- UNHCR contributes to the preventive and curative aspects of nutrition programmes through the Community-Based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) model. It monitors the nutrition status of refugees through Standardised Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS) assessments and coordinates with partners in nutrition response programming. While UNHCR works with the World Food Programme (WFP) on food distribution to ensure refugees have sufficient access to basic

food, they continue to receive only about 84% of the minimum standard food ration of 2,100 kcal per person per day. This has kept the Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate in most camps higher than the acceptable standards. UNHCR is advocating for additional resources, so that refugees can receive the minimum standard of food in-take per day.

Water and Sanitation (WASH)

- UNHCR works with its partners to provide access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services to refugees and asylum-seekers. Due to the conflict in the Tigray region, water provision in the four camps in Tigray has been seriously disrupted. UNHCR with partners will work to normalize service provision, as soon as the situation permits.
- COVID-19 prevention activities such as the provision of adequate water and soap and hygiene promotion activities continued in all other camps except in the Tigray region. Almost the entire I refugee population in the camps has been reached by COVID-19 related hygiene promotion messages. 38,830 handwashing stations were functional in the camps during November.

Cash-Based Interventions (CBI)

- A small number of urban-based refugees in Addis Ababa (some 4,300) received cash assistance from UNHCR to cover their basic needs. There are ongoing efforts to expand this assistance modality in the different refugee camps in Ethiopia. There are a significant number of urban-based refugees mainly in Addis Ababa, who previously sustained themselves by working in the informal sector and received remittances, whose income that has been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. UNHCR is advocating for these groups of refugees and those living out of the camps to be supported in order to cope with the current situation.
- Following the piloting of cash assistance for shelter construction in two refugee camps -Awbare and Shedder- in Jijiga in 2019, UNHCR is working to expand CBI to other refugee hosting locations while increasing the number of target populations in the two camps. UNHCR and ARRA have conducted a cash feasibility assessment and are currently finalizing the implementation plan in discussions with the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE) to provide cash to older refugees and those with underlying health conditions, who are particularly affected by the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. CBI is also used to provide reintegration support to Ethiopian refugees, who voluntarily return to their country of origin. It will also be used to a limited extent to respond to the basic needs of IDPs in various locations.

Access to Energy

- Although UNHCR strives to improve refugee access to energy for cooking among other uses, the energy gaps remain critical. Less than 11% of refugee households have access to alternative cooking energy, and 25% have access to alternative household lighting. Moreover, only 26% of households have access to street lighting, and 24% of the health facilities within the refugee camps have been powered by solar and grid electricity. Distribution of briquettes, wood and solar lanterns, as well as installation of grid connected communal kitchens are among UNHCR's main energy interventions in refugee camps. Lately, 793 households in the Afar region have been successfully connected to the national power grid. As part of its environmental rehabilitation and re-afforestation programme, UNHCR planted more than 800,000 trees in all refugee camps during the rainy season.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- To support the Government of Ethiopia's commitments to foster refugee economic inclusion, UNHCR has been providing ARRA with technical support, as they assume a lead role in bridging the development and humanitarian nexus in the refugee space. In 2020, ARRA began issuing resident permits to refugees who qualified for them; UNHCR is supporting ARRA to ensure that this process addresses protection related concerns.
- UNHCR is also engaging closely with strategic development partners to include refugees in pipeline development projects in Ethiopia. For example, the World Bank-funded Development Response to

Displacement Impacts (DRDIP) project is planning a second phase of implementation in refugee hosting areas through an additional financing facility, being refugees the primary target populations. A similar World Bank initiative, the Urban Productive Safety Net Project (UPSNP) will also target refugees in urban areas, where they can participate in productive safety net interventions. The Poverty Alleviation Coalition consortium is another multi-partner initiative that is under design and is expected to commence implementation in 2021. Other initiatives include the implementation of IKEA Foundation-funded projects in the Somali region, where sustainability is a priority, as well as the support for expanded advocacy for additional partnerships to create an enabling environment for refugee inclusion.

External / Donors Relations

UNHCR is grateful for the direct contribution to the UNHCR Ethiopia Operation in 2020

USA | Denmark | UK (FCDO) | Netherlands | IKEA Foundation | European Union (ECHO) | Unilever (UK) | Ireland | “la Caixa” Banking Foundation | Sweden | Canada | Education Cannot Wait | Japan | Finland | Latter-day Saints Charities | Spain | Muslim World League Luxembourg | Country-Based Pooled Fund | UPS Corporate | France | UN Programme on HIV/AIDS | Other private donors

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2020

Sweden 88.2 million | Private donors Spain 73.5 million | United Kingdom 45.7 million | Norway 41.4 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 37.5 million | Netherlands 36.1 million | Denmark 34.6 million | Private donors Japan 27.8 million | Germany 25.9 million | Japan 23.8 million | Private donors Italy 17.6 million | Switzerland 16.4 million | France 14 million | Private donors Sweden 12.8 million | Private donors USA 10.8 million | Italy 10.6 million

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LINKS

[Ethiopia Data Portal](#)

[Ethiopia Situation – Tigray Emergency Situational Page](#)

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