

ETHIOPIA

July 2021

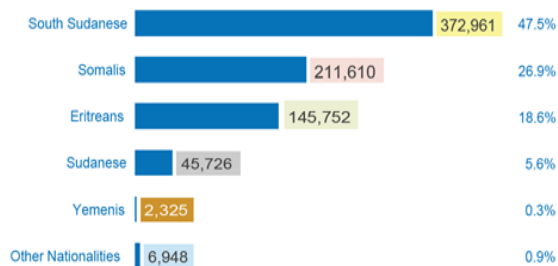
Ethiopia is the **third largest refugee-hosting country** in Africa, sheltering 788,972 registered refugees and asylum-seekers as of 31 July 2021. The overwhelming majority originate from **South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea and Sudan.**

3,810 refugees, who meet the Government's prioritization criteria, have received the first dose, while 104 refugees were fully vaccinated for **COVID-19**. UNHCR, the national Agency for Refugees and Returnees Affairs (ARRA), and partners, continue to reinforce prevention measures in the refugee camps and sites hosting Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

UNHCR continues to respond to the **situation** of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Ethiopia, leading and co-leading the **Protection** and Camp Coordination & Camp Management (**CCCM**) **Clusters** and providing protection, emergency aid and other support to **IDPs** and **IDP returnees.**

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Countries of Origin



At the end of July 2021, Ethiopia hosted over 785,000 refugees and asylum seekers, mainly sheltered in 24 refugee camps established in five Regional States. There is a sizeable group of refugees and asylum seekers living out of camp, including over 50,000 people in the capital Addis Ababa.

FUNDING (As of 27 July 2021)

USD 323.1 M

Requested for Ethiopia

Funded
43%



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

- 393 National staff
- 122 International staff
- 172 Affiliated work force & others

Offices:

- 1 Representation in Addis Ababa
- 5 Sub-Offices in Assosa, Gambella, Jijiga, Melkadida and Shire
- 9 Field Offices in Bule Hora, Debark, Dire Dawa, Embamadre, Mekelle, Nekemte, Pugnido, Semera, Sherkole and Tongo



Sudanese refugees in Bambasi camp collecting water from a communal water stand ©UNHCR

Working with Partners

UNHCR's main government counterpart in the refugee response in Ethiopia is the Agency for Refugees and Returnees Affairs (ARRA). UNHCR works closely with 57 humanitarian and development organizations, managing the so-called 'Ethiopia Country Refugee Response Plan (ECRRP) 2020-2021. The ECRRP seeks to consolidate a collective multi-partner response in support of the refugees in the country. UNHCR is also part of the "Humanitarian Country Team", where various programmes are discussed strategically to ensure that the refugee needs are effectively addressed across the UN System. UNHCR builds on well-established coordination fora, including the inter-sector Refugee Coordination Group, consisting of national and regional sectorial working groups, coordinating sector-specific responses. To foster refugee inclusion in national services and economic activities, in line with Ethiopia's commitment within the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), UNHCR is strengthening partnerships with Ethiopian line Ministries, regional and local authorities, development partners and the private sector. As part of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) cluster system for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) at national and sub-regional level, UNHCR is leading and co-leading the Protection, Camp Coordination & Camp Management (CCCM) and Emergency Shelter & Non-Food Items (ES/NFI) Clusters.

Main Activities

Protection

- Together with ARRA, UNHCR coordinates activities aimed at protecting and assisting refugees and asylum-seekers in Ethiopia, as well as finding and promoting sustainable solutions. The UN Refugee Agency works to strengthen refugee protection through the expansion of improved community-based and multi-sectorial child protection and programmes addressing gender-based violence (GBV). In addition, UNHCR is engaged in providing protection and assistance to IDPs and IDP returnees in different parts of the country, in collaboration with the authorities, national and international partners, including NGOs and UN agencies.
- UNHCR also provides technical support to ARRA in the registration and status determination of new arrivals. To that end, an advanced biometric registration system (BIMS) is used, providing more reliable means for a more effective identification and protection of refugees and asylum-seekers.
- 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 Ethiopia's commitments made at the Global Refugee Forum (GRF). The main objectives of the "Blueprint" encompass strengthening existing national child protection systems, including those for birth registration; developing the capacity of national partners on refugee protection; and integrating refugee children in national child protection systems.
- UNHCR is strongly committed to ensure consistent and effective communication with refugee communities. We are actively using refugee social media groups to communicate with refugee communities, regularly disseminating vital information on COVID-19 prevention measures.
- As part of the ongoing COVID-19 prevention campaign, UNHCR set up a Protection Helpline for refugees and asylum-seekers in Addis Ababa to continue to provide services related to protection, resettlement and access to asylum. The helpline numbers have been disseminated to the concerned communities in eight different languages through various communication channels, including the social media and community-based structures.

Durable Solutions

- As current conditions for voluntary repatriation are not favourable for most refugees in Ethiopia, and local integration programmes are yet to be put in place, securing resettlement opportunities remains UNHCR's top priority. So far in 2021, UNHCR has projected 2,335 individuals for resettlement. At the end of July, UNHCR has processed 956 refugees for resettlement, while facilitating the departure of 570 others to different countries. We also supported 257 refugees to be reunified with their families.

- As part of the voluntary repatriation of Ethiopian refugees from Kenya that commenced in February 2020, UNHCR, together with the governments of Ethiopia and Kenya, facilitated the return of 173 refugees in July. So far in 2021, 573 individuals have returned, with additional over 1,100 individuals expected to return before the end of the year. UNHCR supported the returnees with transport and cash to help them reintegrate in their areas of return.

Shelter

- Access to adequate shelter remains below the standard with only 46% of the camp-based refugee families living in adequate dwelling. UNHCR and partners continue to work to increase the number of shelters in all refugee camps including through the planned construction of 2,693 emergency shelters and 1,958 transitional shelters, as well as by maintaining 1,725 transitional shelters in 2021. So far this year, 1,490 emergency shelters and 580 transitional shelters have been constructed and provided to families. Maintenance works have been performed on 772 transitional shelters in different refugee camps.
- UNHCR continues to respond to the shelter needs of IDPs in the Tigray Region as part of the Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster. Since April 2021, 750 emergency shelters have been constructed in IDP sites in Shire and Mekelle, with plans underway to scale up the construction. In Gedeo and West Guji areas in the south, construction of 200 shelters for IDP returnees is at an advanced stage. 92 shelters have been provided to IDPs and IDP returnees in the Somali Region.

Education

- Schools are closed since the end of the academic calendar year in July 2021, and students are on summer holidays. The next school year is expected to begin in mid-September 2021.

Health

- UNHCR, in collaboration with the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) and partners, facilitates access to primary, emergency secondary and tertiary healthcare services for refugees and asylum-seekers. While primary health services are often provided in health facilities that are based in the refugee camps, patients requiring advanced medical attention are referred to regional or federal health facilities. In urban settings such as Addis Ababa, UNHCR covers the cost of medicines and health check-ups for refugees. In line with the criteria of prioritization set by the Ethiopian Ministry of Health, 3,810 refugees have so far received the first does for COVID-19 and 104 were fully vaccinated.
- UNHCR, together with ARRA, Regional Health Bureaus and other health partners, implements activities to help prevent COVID-19 infections and to mitigate its consequences in refugee camps and other locations sheltering refugees. Activities include risk communication and community engagement, training of health personnel, case identification and management, contact tracing and referrals, distribution of personal protective equipment (PPEs) and essential medicines and equipment to strengthen health services. UNHCR is also part of the UN Inter-agency COVID-19 response to the IDP situation, providing PPEs and sanitation materials, equipping isolation and quarantine centres and sensitizing community on the risks of the pandemic.

Food Security and Nutrition

- General Food ration; In July, the distribution of super-cereals, pulses and salt, which were not available in June, was restored with the average food ration providing 84% of the minimum standard of 2100 Kcal. This is an increase from the 71% ratio of Kcal provision in June, when 3 of 5 ration commodities were not available due to importation challenges.
- Assessments; Preliminary results from the Standardised Expanded Nutrition Survey indicate that the nutrition status of children under-five years of age has improved in 3 out of 5 Melkadida camps. There is a significant improvement in prevalence of global acute malnutrition in Buramino (19.6%), Helaweyn (12.5%) and Melkadida (12.4%) camps, while the situation has

deteriorated in Kobe (15.9%) and Bokolmanyo (19.6%) camps, compared to the situation in 2019. The situation remains dire as none of the camps meets the UNHCR target of reducing prevalence levels to <10%.

Water and Sanitation (WASH)

- UNHCR works with partners to provide access to clean water and sanitation and improve hygiene practices through awareness raising, upgrading water systems, supporting the construction of latrines and solid waste management. An average of 18 litres of water per person/day was provided across all the camps during July. In camps facing shortage of water, including Kebribeyah, Tierkidi, Kule and Pugnido 1, UNHCR and partners are working to ensure refugees in those camps receive the minimum desired 20 litres of water per person per day.
- UNHCR continues to implement COVID-19 prevention activities such as the provision of hand washing-facilities, water and soap. We are also further promoting the importance of adhering to basic hygiene requirements in all refugee camps.

Cash-Based Interventions (CBI)

- UNHCR continues to provide monthly cash assistance to some 4,400 urban refugees in Addis Ababa to cover their basic needs, with an additional amount for extra hygiene and sanitation support for the prevention of COVID-19. There are ongoing efforts to expand this assistance modality to different refugee and IDP hosting areas in Ethiopia. Cash assistance is also being implemented to support IDPs in the Tigray and Benishangul Gumuz regions. Additionally, close to 1,700 elderly and other vulnerable refugees in the Melkadida camps receive cash assistance to supplement their monthly food ration.
- UNHCR is advocating for provision of cash assistance to other vulnerable groups including : **a)** the significant number of 'out-of-camp' refugees mainly in Addis Ababa, whose income has been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic; **b)** Eritrean refugees who were recently displaced from Tigray and have since been living in challenging conditions in Addis Ababa.
- In Awbare and Sheder refugee camps near Jijiga, UNHCR had already piloted the viability of CBI, and is working to scale up this service to 400 households. CBI is also being used to support reintegration of Ethiopian refugees who voluntarily returned from Kenya.

Access to Energy

- UNHCR is part of the multi-actor partnerships working to improve refugees' access to energy for cooking, lighting and other purposes. The Energy and Environment Working Group (EEWG) is preparing a "Multi-actor National Cooking Fuel Strategy" guiding the implementation of access to sufficient, safe, sustainable and clean cooking energy to refugees and host communities. Energy and Environment is also one of the result areas for the Multi-Year Strategy (MYS 2022-2024) of UNHCR Ethiopia operation. As part of these efforts, UNHCR is working to cater to the energy needs of refugees through the production and distribution of briquettes, distribution of stoves and connection of more communal kitchens to the national power grid. Some 410,901 kg of eucalyptus wood harvested from matured woodlot plantation were distributed to refugees and hosting communities in Sherkole camp of Assosa. More than 825,000 multipurpose tree seedlings were raised in camps in the Gambella, Somali (Melkadida & Jijiga), Afar and Benishangul-Gumuz regions and are being transplanted as part of UNHCR's environmental rehabilitation and natural resource management intervention.

External / Donors Relations

UNHCR is grateful for the direct contribution to the UNHCR Ethiopia Operation in 2021

US| Germany| Denmark | IKEA Foundation | European Union (ECHO)| Japan |Netherlands | Education Cannot Wait |The Lego Foundation| Canada| Norway| Ireland| Sweden| Switzerland | “la Caixa” Banking Foundation| CERF| Czechia | UN Children’s Fund| Country-based Pooled Funds| Luxembourg| UN Programme on HIV/AIDS| Toyota Tsusho Corporation| Laboratorios Viñas| Band Aid | UPS| Other private donors

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2021

Norway 80 million | Sweden 66.9 million | Private donors Spain 42.6 million | Netherlands 36.1 million | Denmark 34.6 million | Germany 26 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 21.5 million | France 20 million | Private donors Japan 17.6 million | Switzerland 16.4 million | Ireland 12.5 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Italy 10.7 million | Private donors Sweden 10.6 million | Private donors Italy 10.4 million

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LINKS

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