

## UNHCR ETHIOPIA OPERATIONAL UPDATE

June 2022



Friendly football match between refugee and host community teams on 19 June, as part of the World Refugee Day activities in Alemwach, Amhara Region/UNHCR.



#### Protection

**4,800 newly displaced due to conflict in Oromia region:** UNHCR reported new displacements in West Wollega of Oromia Region, as a result of recent violence. Following the incident at Gimbi Woreda of West Wollega Zone on 18 June, around 1,200 IDP households (4,800 individuals) were displaced from areas impacted by hostilities. The IDPs are currently sheltered in Arjo Gudatu town in Diga Woreda, East Wollega Zone. As of end June, the number of internally displaced persons in West Wollega stands at 12,649, including 4,992 children and 1,504 women. The East Wollega Disaster Risk Management Office (DRMO) has reported that the IDPs are in urgent need of food, emergency shelter, NFIs, healthcare and protection assistance.

**World Refugee Day commemmorated across Ethiopia:** This year, World Refugee Day (WRD) was marked in 16 of 23 refugee camps across six regional states in Ethiopia, as well as in capital Addis Ababa and in Mekelle, with an aim to remind the public of the fundamental right to seek asylum, but also to acknowledge the traditional solidarity of the Ethiopian people towards refugees. UNHCR staff, in collaboration with Government entities, partners, UN sister agencies, NGOs and INGOs, and other stakeholders marked the WRD with sports events, sanitation campaigns, cultural performances and other manifestations, with participation of thousands of refugees and IDPs and host community members.

For example, in the Somali Region, UNHCR with support from the community and partners, marked the

WRD with various activities including camp cleaning campaigns, talent shows, tree planting, youth sports events, tea talk session with women and girls about their rights, and a COVID-19 vaccination campaign. Celebrations included song and dance performances by refugees.



WRD Celebration across the three camps ©UNHCR/ June 2022



In Mekelle, the capital of Tigray Region, refugee children living in the ERDA children's village performed

inspirational songs, motivational poems, dance choreography and drama, highlighting the daily refugee hardship. In Mai Aini and Adi Harush camps in Tigray refugees performed drama and poems citations, expressing refugee resilience and voicing their needs, including food, medicine and water, as well as for lasting solutions to their situation. In its performance, the drama group also addressed problems related to people smuggling, GBV, and family separation.

At the Alemwach site, in the Amhara Region, refugees were joined by UNHCR, the Government Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS), partners and the local population to commemorate the WRD<sup>t</sup> focusing on the promotion of social cohesion with the host population.



Children's village delivering a song during the WRD. UNHCR/Hayelom B.

In Aysaita camp, in the Afar Region, UNHCR and partners organized two mass sanitation campaigns for a clean and safe environment. An awareness-raising campaign was conducted around the WRD 2022 theme, reaching some 300 refugees.

UNHCR installs three communal kitchens in Tigray: UNHCR installed three communal kitchens with 48



An IDP woman cooks using stoves installed by UN Selekleka site, Tigray, Ethiopia/UNHCR

electrical stoves to benefit IDP women (1,024 IDP households) in Selekleka site in Tigray region. The communal kitchens will support the household energy and livelihood needs of more than 5,000 IDPs in Tigray, increase safety of women and girls no longer forced to collect firewood, prevent deforestation of host communities, and strengthen the peaceful coexistence between IDPs and hosting communities.

**UNHCR reaches 1,675 displaced people and host communities with legal aid in Nekemte:** In June, UNHCR supported 1,675 individuals (IDPs and members of affected host community) with legal aid in Nekemte, in the Oromia Region. A total of 1, 339 persons (630 female) were reached with legal awareness service at centers located in Gutu Gida, Gida Ayana, Haro Limu, Sibu Sire, Nekemte prison, Kiramu, Shambu, Amuru, Mendi, Gimbi, Nejo and Boji Dermenji, while 336 (169 female) were assisted with legal aid (representation, advice, legal counselling and legal writing) in these locations.

**Support to persons with specific needs:** In Aw-barre, Somali Region, Action Aid Ethiopia and Rehabilation and Development Organization (RaDO) distributed bed sheets and mattresses to 77 persons with specific needs, including 13 asylum-seekers and 10 separated children (7 girls). In the same camp, RaDO provided a five-day training to 125 women and girls from Aw-barre camp on building entrepreneurship and small business management. The training targeted vulnerable women and girls with some experience in running small businesses. Additionally, five persons living with disablity received physiotherapy at the rehabilitation center in Aw-barre camp. In Sheder camp, RaDO provided new orthopaedic and mobility aid appliances - elbow crutches, inner tubes, rubber tips, wheelchairs - to 27 persons (13 female) to alleviate their day-to-day movement.

**UNHCR organizes national workshop on revised 2021 BIP Guidelines**: In June, UNHCR organized a two-day national workshop on the revised 2021 UNHCR Best Interests Procedure on Assessing and Determining the Best Interests of a Child Guidelines (BIP Guidelines) for all child protection partners and RRS in Ethiopia. The workshop, with 38 participants attending, was held in Addis Ababa with the objective to equip the child protection partners and RRS with the necessary knowledge and skills on BIP and child protection case management.



# Education

**UNHCR TRS conducts tutorial sessions, information campaign for refugees in Jigjiga**: UNHCR and "Telling the Real Story" (TRS) Refugee Operational Volunteers (ROVs) held tutorial sessions in Shedder, Awbarre, and Kebribeyah camps assisting 22 refugee and host community students to apply for both the African Leadership and German DAAD scholarships. From 18 to 19 June, the ROVs conducted information campaigns in Kebribeyah and Awbarre camps on the dangers of onward movement and on available alternative durable solutions options.

**IRC distributes educational materials to primary teachers in Sheder:** In Shedder, UNHCR's Education partner International Rescue Committee (IRC) through its Play Matters project provided educational materials - document bags, portfolio files and T-shirts - to 96 teachers, including 42 from the RRS-managed primary school, 45 from the host community primary school, and nine Early Childhood and Development (ECCD) animators.



Distribution of educational materials @UNHCR/Mowlid Abdirahman

Additional Updates on Education: Due to the closure of schools over the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in the 2019/2020 academic year, two cohorts of students had to take their grade 12 national exams during the current academic year. Students who scored the minimum cut off points to join public universities from the first cohort were placed in October and November 2021, while students from the second cohort were placed in May 2022. Out of 1,000 refugee students who scored the passing mark to join universities, 200 were enrolled in DAFI scholarship programme supported by the Government of Germany, and the remaining 800 were placed under RRS scholarship programme.

Regional Education Bureaus have administered grade 8 regional exams including for refugee students. However, grade 12 national exam has been scheduled to be administered in September 2022. With support of the Ministry of Education (MoE), the plan is to conduct the national exam online.

In Tigray, Afar and Amhara regions, Education in Emergencies will continue over the summer break through the contribution from Education Cannot Wait (ECW). As students in these regions have been out of school for two academic years, due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the conflict in Northern Ethiopia, this exercise will enable them to catch up with the missed classes and return to school. Refugee students in Tongo and Gure-Shembola camps, in Benishangul-Gumuz region, who were relocated to Tsore camp due to conflict will also benefit from catch-up classes during the summer break.

### Shelter & CRIs

**Support to refugees:** UNHCR in collaboration with RRS and partners provides emergency shelters, site development and transitional shelter solutions to refugees and asylum-seekers in all sites. As of June, an average of 41% refugee households were living in adequate shelters across all 24 refugee camps/sites. Over 59% of households across all camps are living in emergency, old or/and crowded shelters, while many of the new arrivals in Gambella and Somali (Melkadida) operations, as well as refugees relocated from other camps, i.e. to Alemwach (Amhara), Serdo (Afar) and Tsore (Benishangul-Gumuz) live in emergency shelters.

**Key shelter activities in June:** In Alemwach site, Amhara Region, UNHCR and partners provided 1,184 emergency shelters to 13,439 relocated refugees from Mai Ani and Adi Harush refugee camps in Tigray. Installation of more family tents is in progress, with construction of 314 transitional shelters at the foundation level. In Gambella, 172 transitional shelters were constructed in Jewi, Kule, Punyido and Punyido 2 camps, while additional shelters are at different stages of completion. In Melkadida camp, Somali Region, over 200 emergency shelters were provided to the new arrivals. Also in Somali Region, 300 households who received 1st cash instalment (150 in Aw-Barre and 150 in Sheder) have completed foundation works for



their houses. The beneficiaries also received the 2nd cash instalment for the continuation of the construction up to roofing level. In Kebribeyah camp, Somali Region, UNHCR distributed clothes, a donation by "USA for UNHCR", to 15,808 refugees. In Tsore camp, Benishangul-Gumuz Region, 926 emergency shelters were completed, enabling families to relocate from communal hangars to household shelters. In Serdo site, Afar Region, construction of 240 weather-friendly shelters is in progress.

**Support to IDPs**: In Somali region, UNHCR through partner Action for the Needy Ethiopia (ANE) completed 50 durable shelters at Jeedhene relocation site in Siti zone. Furthermore, in June, in Burka-Aneni returnee site, in Gumbi Boredee Woreda (West Hararghe), UNHCR through ANE completed the construction of 50 permanent shelters. ANE's shelter experts also conducted a site assessment to construct an additional 59 shelters in Meiso Woreda (West Hararghe) and Waltene relocation sites.

**Torrential rain damages communal IDP homes in Bordede**: A total of 1,228 individuals (340 households) residing in communal shelters in Bordede Gelede-Lemi IDP site, in the Oromia Region, were forced to relocate following the destruction of their communal shelters by torrential rain. UNHCR Field Unit in Dire Dawa flagged the situation of the damaged communal shelters to the National Protection Cluster, while UNHCR's partner Action for the Needy in Ethiopia (ANE) has been conducting assessments for the damaged shelters to develop a bill of quantity (BoQ) to rehabilitate the shelters.



Damaged communal shelter in Bordede Gelede-Lemi IDP site due to heavy rain © Dawit Daricha UNHCR



In June, UNHCR reached 82,000 IDPs with full

Distribution of CRIs in Tuli-guled ©Nimo Ahmed/UNHCR

Ahmed/UNHCR packages of relief items, shelter repair kits, emergency shelters and plastic sheets in Afar, Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Tigray and Somali regions. In Oromia Region, UNHCR through



CRI beneficiaries at Doba (left) and Tulo (right) IDPs sites in West Hararghe ©UNHCR 2022/Dawit Daricha

partner ANE delivered blankets, sleeping mats, kitchen sets, mosquito nets, buckets, plastic sheets and soap to 1,395 IDP households (incl. 339 female-headed households) in six displacement locations: Bako (Western Shewa), Boji Dermenji (West Wollega), Babbo Gambel (West Wollega), Amuru (Horo Guduru Wollega), Jarte (Horo Guduru Wollega) and Abe Dongoro (Horo Guduru Wollega). In the Somali region, UNHCR distributed kitchen sets, sleeping mats, blankets, jerricans and soap to 1,000 IDP and host community households who had been affected by the drought in Bordede, Meiso, Tulo and Doba woredas of West Hararghe. Additionally, UNHCR in partnership with Somali Regional Disaster Risk Management Bureau (DRMB) and ANE distributed plastic sheets, blankets, kitchen sets, jerry cans, laundry soap, mosquito nets, solar lanterns, sleeping mats, buckets, warm winter clothes and sanitary towels to 480 IDP households in Tuli-Guled. In Afar, UNHCR and ANE distributed CRIs to 15,000 IDPs and returnees from Barahle, Abala, Dallol, Koneba and Erebti. Under UNHCR-UNFPA partnership, and as a result of successful advocacy with the Regional Health Bureau, UNHCR distributed delivery kits to 750 pregnant women (returnees and host populations) in several health centers in Koneba and Barahle woredas.



**Basic health services:** UNHCR in collaboration with the health and nutrition partners has enabled continued provision of emergency health, food and nutrition services to new arrivals with scale up of health and nutrition operating systems in Serdo site, in the Afar Region, in Tsore camp, Benishangul-Gumuz Region, and at Alemwach site, Amhara Region. In Somali Region, the Melkadida Dollo Ado reception center, health services for new arrivals were scaled up to include Mental Health and Psychosocial Support



(MHPSS) and Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP). Also, in in Melkadida and Dollo Ado, hot feeding program continues to be prioritized to address acute drought-induced nutrition needs.

**Pandemic response - COVID-19 mass vaccination**: In line with the national strategy of COVID-19 vaccination, the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of mass vaccination was conducted in all refugee camps in June, with support from the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) and Regional Health Bureaus (RHBs). The campaign was completed in all locations, with exception of Gambella, where it had to be suspended due to the volatile security situation. As of end June, 119,847 persons of concern/PoCs (59,899 in June 2022) were vaccinated, incl. 94,159 (58,181 June 2022) fully vaccinated. A total of 14,466 PoCs were tested, with a positivity rate of 4.29%, which is lower than the average national positivity rate of 9.7%.

**UNHCR, RRS conduct a Public Health strategic workshop**: From 20 to 24 June, UNHCR in collaboration with RRS conducted a Public Health strategic workshop reaching 48 key stakeholders from UN agencies, INGOs, Ministry of Health and Regional Health Bureaus. The main objective of the workshop was to have a detailed review and validation of the drafted Ethiopia Public Health Strategy (2022-2024) with development of region-specific, results-based intervention logic matrix, leveraging on the synergies with the national health, food and nutrition strategies, the CRRF/GCR landscape, but also to augment the UNHCR multiyear strategic plan (2022- 2024).

**UNHCR, WFP and RRS conduct JAM**: The 2022 Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) of the refugees' food security and economic situation, commissioned by UNHCR, WFP and RRS, was completed through primary and secondary data collection. Key recommendations entail the importance in scaling up of opportunities embedded in the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and the Government of Ethiopia GRF Pledges to contribute to sustainable value chain systems for food security for refugees and host communities, underscoring the importance of continued and sustained humanitarian food/cash assistance in the interim, while the medium and long-term solutions are being scaled up.

**Nutrition partners conduct trainings on nutrition themes**: Nutrition partners conducted trainings on nutrition themes for refugee incentive workers, health and nutrition staff. From 9 to 13 May, UNHCR organized training for 14 managers of Standardized Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS) Survey in Gambella. The main objective of the training was to build the technical capacity of the RRS, UN agencies, and partner NGO staff to implement nutrition surveys in refugee contexts, specifically: sampling and sample size calculation, SENS guidelines, data collection and entry using EPI INFO and ENA, and mobile data collection.



**WASH services:** UNHCR works with partners to provide access to clean water, sanitation and improve hygiene practices through operation and maintenance of water supply systems and the construction and upgrading of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) facilities and awareness-raising. In June, an average of 15 litres/per person/day of potable water was provided to refugees across all camps. This has remained low due to repeated failure of some boreholes and erratic fuel supplies on the local market. Low water provision in Aw-Barre camp (Somali Region) due to failure of a submersible pump has led to tensions between refugees and host community. Rehabilitation of the borehole has taken long due to non-availability of the pump on the local market. However, UNHCR and IMC have activated water trucking to provide at least 80,000l/day of water to the host communities. As a result of the installation of a submersible pump and borehole cleaning performed by UNHCR partner International Medical Corps (IMC), emergency water provision in Serdo, Afar Region, has increased from 6l/p/d to around 15l/p/d. However, sanitation coverage remains low at 40%. In June, 216 gender-segregated latrines and 128 communal latrines have been constructed in Tsore camp site, in Benishangul-Gumuz Region.





High-level IFC, RRS and UNHCR mission to Jijiga: On 17 June, UNHCR Sub-Office Jijiga facilitated the mission of the Director General of the RRS Tesfahun Gobezay, Country Director of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) Cheik-Oumer Sylla, and UNHCR Representative to Ethiopia Dr. Mamadou Dian

Balde, aimed to strengthen partnership for improving agribusiness initiatives through efficient management of water and other natural resources, intensification of irrigated agriculture through technology and improved management. The mission met with the Somali Regional State President, Mr. Mustafe Omer and senior officials. The partnership between Somali Regional State, RRS, IFC and UNHCR intends to further build on the work already accomplished with the IKEA Foundation support in scaling up a farming model with participation of refugees and host communities in joint cooperatives. The initiative will focus on 17 key value chains to promote self-reliance and drive economic transformation in Dolo Ado and Bokolmanyo areas of Somali region.

RRS Director General, IFC Country Director and UNHCR

Representative in a meeting with the Somali Regional State president in Jigjiga on IFC initiative for shared cropping and agribusiness in Melkadida. Somali region



UNHCR hands over donkeys and donkey-pulled carts in Sheder: On 8 June, UNHCR handed over 6 donkey-pulled carts and 6 donkeys at Shedder camp for the community-driven initiative under the European Union Trust Fund (EUTF)'s Response cart handover Comprehensive Refugee



TOTs of Community-Driven Development Initiatives under CRRF project during donkey

UNHCR facilitating financial education training to

Framework (CRRF) project. A consultative meeting with the cleaning cooperatives regarding the objective, the expected outputs and outcomes of the project was held prior to the handover, as well as on

Kebribevah refuqee entrepreneurs ©UNHCR/Dawit M its contribution to the environmental protection and livelihoods of both host and refugee community. Furthermore, CRRF/Development Unit in collaboration with ILO organized a five-day financial education training for 44 refugee entrepreneurs (31 female) from Kebribeyah camp, sponsored under the Dutch PROSPECTS project. The training aimed at increasing entrepreneurial capacity for the targeted refugee businesspeople, enabling them to make informed financial decisions and narrow the gap between financial service providers and entrepreneurs.

UNHCR participates in dairy development dialogue in Somali region: On 28 June, UNHCR participated in the Dairy Development Dialogue facilitated by Vétérinaires Sans Frontières (VSF)-Suisse and International Labour Organization (ILO) under the Prospects project. The dialogue will inform the planning for the "Engaging Refugees and Host Communities in Dairy Development" project for camel and cattle milk value chains with the objective of enhanced capacity to manage seasonality and perishability constraints through preservation and small-scale processing into various dairy products. A total of 100 milk collectors and four community veterinarians, including refugees, IDPs and host community, will be targeted for training and support in Kebribevah. In June, UNHCR participated in the district profiling and capacity assessments as part of a new UNDP-Somali Regional State Government initiative on resilience building. The assessments will be consolidated for resilience programming in IDP impacted areas.

# Access to Energy

Commemoration of World Environment Day: The World Environment Day was commemorated on 5

June in Awbarre and Kebribevah refuaee camps by partners and refugee community, with the participation of the



World Environment Day event participants in Aw-barre camp (left) and Kebribeyah camp/UNHCR



local government authorities and the host community.

### **UNHCR** is grateful for the contribution to the UNHCR Ethiopia Operation in 2022

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