

ETHIOPIA

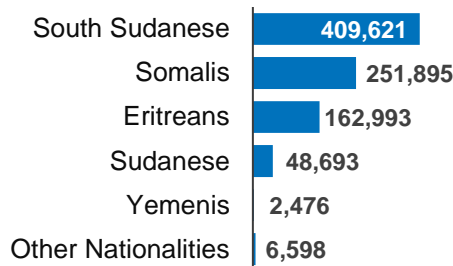
December 2022

Ethiopia is the third largest refugee-hosting country in Africa, generously sheltering over **880,000** refugees, mainly from South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea and Sudan. The majority are women and children who need special care and attention.

UNHCR is a key partner in the government-led inter-agency response to IDPs, [leading the Protection and co-leading the Camp Coordination & Camp Management \(CCCM\) Clusters](#). UNHCR is also active in the Shelter/NFI & Logistics and Health Clusters.

UNHCR is supporting Ethiopians affected by conflict and the [worst drought in 40 years](#), severely impacting lives and livelihoods. It's also helping the government and communities to build resilience against natural hazards such as recurrent drought & flooding.

REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS By Countries of Origin



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff members:

- 474 National staff members
- 179 International staff members
(including Junior Professional Officers)
- 171 Members of the affiliate workforce

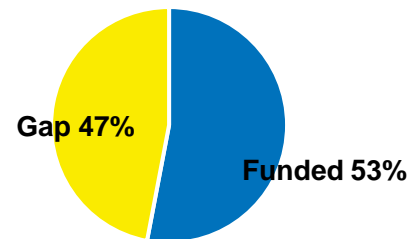
Offices:

- 1 Representation Office- Addis Ababa
- 6 Sub-Offices- Assosa, Gambella, Jijiga, Mekelle, Melkadida and Shire
- 7 Field Offices- Dimma, Embamadre, Gondar, Nekemte, Pugnido, Samara, Sherkole
- 12 Field Units- Abiy-Adi, Adigrat, Aysaita, Aw-barre, Bahir Dar, Bule Hora, Debarek, Debre Berhan, Dessie, Dire Dawa, Kebribeyah, Shedder

FUNDING (As of 29 December 2022)

USD 335.3 M

Requested for Ethiopia



Filemon, an Eritrean refugee in Addis Ababa, proudly displays his artisan products. UNHCR is working with partners to facilitate market opportunities for him and other refugees in Ethiopia. ©UNHCR/Tiksa Negeri

Working with Partners

Together with its main government counterpart, the Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS), UNHCR coordinates the response to the refugee situation in the country, extending protection, providing assistance and promoting sustainable solutions to their plight. UNHCR works closely with 80 partners in the refugee response and is part of the Humanitarian Country Team, where refugee programmes are discussed strategically to ensure their needs are adequately presented and addressed across the UN System. UNHCR builds on well-established coordination fora, including the inter-sector Refugee Coordination Group together with other national and regional sectorial working groups. Committed to pursuing refugee inclusion in national services and economies, as per the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), UNHCR is furthering partnerships with Ethiopian line Ministries, regional and local authorities, development partners and the private sector.

UNHCR is an active part of the government-led Inter-Agency response to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), leading and co-leading the Protection and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Clusters, contributing to the shelter and non-food items cluster, and strengthening sub-national coordination with better information sharing and communication. It distributes emergency aid supplies and related support to IDPs and IDP returnees across the country.

Main Activities



Protection

- Together with RRS, UNHCR coordinates activities aimed at protecting and assisting refugees and asylum-seekers in Ethiopia, as well as finding and promoting sustainable solutions. Ethiopia has a positive protection environment for refugees and a progressive refugee law granting them a wide range of rights, including those to education and self-sufficiency. At the first Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in 2019, the government made important pledges aimed at improving the lives of refugees and host communities. The AU-led peace agreement between the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) has ended active combat in Northern Ethiopia and led to the gradual restoration of services and humanitarian operations in Tigray. It is hoped that this would lead to the voluntary return of IDPs and refugees who fled to neighboring countries.
- UNHCR 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 to responding to the needs of refugees across the country, UNHCR is also engaged in providing protection and assistance to IDPs and IDP returnees in different parts of the country, in collaboration with the national and regional authorities, UN agencies and partners.
- UNHCR provides technical and financial support to the Government entities to aid the drafting of a national IDP law which is expected to close existing legal and institutional gaps in the assistance, protection, and solutions to the plight of IDPs in the country. The Government of Ethiopia has already ratified the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, and the draft IDP law is part of the government's compliance with the Convention, which requires states parties to incorporate its provisions into a domestic law.
- At the beginning of December, UNHCR published its [assessment report](#) on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in the refugee camps and sites in Ethiopia, which has helped to identify harmful norms, understand barriers to services for GBV survivors as well as risks of sexual exploitation and abuse. The findings revealed that GBV and the underreporting of GBV cases remain the priority concerns requiring urgent attention. The assessment, which also covered Accountability to Affected People (AAP), has now paved the way to evidence based GBV interventions. In addition, its findings will inform programming and planning at the national, regional, and field levels.

Durable Solutions

- Facilitating resettlement as a protection tool and durable solution, remains UNHCR's top priority. In 2022, UNHCR Ethiopia submitted 3,112 refugee families for resettlement, successfully meeting the quota-based target for the year. A total of 338 refugees departed to their resettlement destinations, including 68 who left in December, while 251 others were supported to be reunified with their family

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members in Canada and Europe. Approximately 1,200 families are awaiting to travel, due to delays in the issuance of exit visas.

- In 2022, UNHCR provided cash assistance to 285 former Ethiopian refugees, most of whom returned home on their own from several countries, including Sudan and Yemen. The support is meant to help them reintegrate and rebuild their lives.
- Also, in 2022, UNHCR assisted close to 50,000 IDPs in Northern Ethiopia to return to their homes.

Shelter

- UNHCR and partners constructed and maintained over 10,400 shelters for refugees in 2022, including 8,000 emergency and over 2,500 transitional shelters. Nevertheless, the shelter gap remains wide, with 60% of the refugee households continuing to be accommodated in inadequate and overcrowded transitional shelters, which can lead to protection risks, such as GBV. More resources are needed to improve the shelter coverage and enhance the safety and protection of refugees. The emergency shelters were used to accommodate new arrivals and relocated refugees in camps and sites in the Somali, Gambella, Afar, Amhara and Benishangul Gumuz regions.
- During the last quarter of 2022, UNHCR and partners provided shelter support and Core Relief Items (CRIs) to over 400,000 IDPs in Afar, Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Tigray, Oromia, SNNP, Gambella and Somali regions. Overall, in 2022, UNHCR provided CRIs and shelter support to over 1 million IDPs, returning IDPs and host communities affected by conflict, drought, and flooding, improving their safety and protection. UNHCR's intervention represents 30% of the 3.5 million people reached by the Emergency Shelter/Non-Food Items (ES/NFI) Cluster.

Education

- As of December 2022, almost 180,000 refugees have been enrolled in different levels of education, including 48,617 in pre-primary, 111,776 in primary, and 15,539 in secondary schools. Over 4,600 others have been attending their tertiary education in different parts of the country under the scholarship programmes offered by the governments of Ethiopia and Germany (DAFI).
- The Gross Enrolment Rate (GER) for pre-primary education stands at 40%, compared to the national average of 36.7%. On the other hand, GER for primary and secondary education are 50% and 19%, compared to the national average of 95.1% and 42%, respectively.
- Ethiopia has seen a positive policy environment for refugee education through the 2019 Refugee Proclamation, which enables refugees to access primary education at par with nationals. For the first time, the sixth Education Sector Development Plan (ESDP VI, 2020 - 2025) incorporates the education of refugees, paving the way for the inclusion of refugees in the national education system. UNHCR is working with the Government and other partners to ensure that refugee education is integrated in the national system.
- Since the Ethio-German Qualifications and Employment Prospects for Refugees and Ethiopians Programme (QEP) was launched in 2017, over 7,000 people, including more than 2,000 refugees, have received technical training. QEP is commissioned by the German Ministry for Economic Development (BMZ) and implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). The programme contributes directly to the pledge made by the Ethiopian Government at the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in 2019, to provide 20,000 refugees and Ethiopians with quality and accredited skills training linked to the labour market by 2024.

Health

- UNHCR, in collaboration with RRS and other partners, facilitates access to primary, emergency secondary and tertiary healthcare services for refugees and asylum-seekers. While primary health services are mostly provided in health facilities within the refugee camps and sites, patients requiring advanced medical attention are referred to regional or federal health facilities. Despite the impact of COVID-19 and conflict and insecurity in different parts of the country, the overall health status of refugees has remained stable with no disease outbreaks reported in any of the refugee camps or sites.
- In addition to providing preventive and curative health services, UNHCR fosters collaboration on health sector response with government entities and development partners, to ensure sustainable

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and efficient healthcare provision for refugees by promoting their inclusion into regional and national health plans, funding mechanisms, and health services.

Food Security and Nutrition

- In 2022, UNHCR and partners provided nutrition support to refugees and asylum-seekers in 41 nutrition centers established across 21 refugee camps and sites. During the year, some 40,000 children have been admitted and treated for acute and moderate malnutrition, while over 200,000 children under the age of 5, and over 140,000 pregnant and lactating women have been enrolled in the Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programmes (BSFP) to prevent deterioration in their nutrition status.
- UNHCR conducted annual nutrition surveys in different refugee camps and sites, as well as in the host community area adjacent to the Alemwach site, in Amhara. The findings reveal an increase of the Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate to 15.5% from 12.2% in 2021. The Sever Acute Malnutrition (SAM) rate rose to 2.9% from 1.8% in 2021. The worsening nutrition situation is due to the combined effects of ration cuts, global economic shocks, COVID-19 and conflict. As of December 2022, due to generous donor support, the monthly food ration for refugees has increased from 50% to 84%, improving the nutritional status of refugees. However, unless additional funds are urgently secured, the ration levels will return to 50% after March 2023, exacerbating the already high malnutrition rates.
- In response to the worst drought hitting a large part of the country, UNHCR has scaled up support to affected communities in the Oromia, Somali and Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's (SNNP) regions. It includes cash support to the most vulnerable families, pilot wheat production in Melkadida to enhance food security as well as the promotion of income generating activities through the distribution of goats in the Oromia region.

Water and Sanitation (WASH)

- UNHCR and its partners continued to provide sustainable water supply for refugees across the country through an effective management of water systems and the maintenance of associated infrastructure. However, owing to several factors, including population growth, technical challenges and resource constraints, the average daily potable water supply per person remains low at 15 liters against the minimum standard of 20 liters. Shortage of water can potentially expose the refugees to diseases and infections.
- Sanitation coverage in the refugee camps and sites remains low at 40% against the minimum standard of $\geq 85\%$, calling for more investment in this area. UNHCR and partners continued to provide Emergency Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services in Alemwach, Serdo and Tsore (extension), including through the construction of emergency latrines and extension of water points and pipeline networks.
- In response to the worst drought hitting a large part of the country, UNHCR and its partners are improving water systems in the Somali region, rehabilitating shallow wells in Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's (SNNP) region, and distributing water containers and soap and setting up latrines in the drought-affected regions. In the Somali region, the German-funded R-WASH project seeks to ensure refugees, IDPs and host communities benefit from an integrated water supply in line with the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) through a utility-based water system.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- UNHCR in collaboration with the Government of Ethiopia and partners works to promote livelihoods and economic opportunities for refugees, advocating for their right to work and supporting their inclusion in national social protection systems. Since the roll out of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) in Ethiopia in 2017, a total of 100,000 people from refugee and host communities have gained access to economic opportunities in the agriculture and livestock sectors in line with Ethiopia's GRF pledges to create economic opportunities for refugees and host communities.
- In the Somali Region, UNHCR and RRS, with support from IKEA Foundation, continued to promote inclusive long-term development and climate adaptation through investments in the agriculture, livestock, and energy sectors. Over 50 cooperatives were supported in 2022, benefitting over 2,000

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refugee and host community households working together. The agriculture and livestock cooperatives generated over \$300,000 during the last production season. In the Benishangul-Gumuz Region, over 12,000 refugees and host community members have accessed employment through agriculture initiatives. Similarly, in the Gambella Region, local authorities have made available 300 hectares of agricultural land for refugees and host communities.

- Refugees are primary beneficiaries of the World Bank-funded DRDIP (Development Responses to Displacement Impacts Project) II that will be implemented by the Government of Ethiopia in 30 woredas targeting 740,438 refugees. The World Bank has already secured \$180m towards this initiative.



Access to Energy

- Providing access to clean energy for cooking, lighting, and powering community facilities while maximizing environmental protection and natural resource management remains UNHCR's main strategic direction in Ethiopia. UNHCR's energy and environment strategy is centered around the need to ensure the protection and wellbeing of refugees, particularly women and girls, by avoiding the need to travel long distances to collect firewood which often exposes them to protection risks. It also aims to reduce refugees' reliance on firewood, thereby mitigating inter-communal tensions over meager natural resources.
- Access to alternative cooking fuel for refugees has reached 18%, up from 11% in 2021. This progress was achieved through distribution of carbonized briquettes, fuel wood and energy saving stoves, as well as the connection of communal kitchens to electric power grid.
- In 2022, more than 830,000 seedlings of indigenous and fruit trees were raised and transplanted across all refugee camps and hosting communities. As part of its Global Refugee Forum (GRF) commitments on inclusion, in December, the Energy and Environment working group launched the multi-actor energy solutions strategy, supported by GIZ under the stewardship of the Ministry of Water and Energy.

External / Donors Relations

Ethiopia's is one of UNHCR's 12 most important operations globally that have suffered severe underfunding as reflected in the 2022 [Underfunded Report](#). As of 29 December, it has received USD 177.4 million, representing only 53% of the total requirements. UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors that have contributed to its work, as well as to those that have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked or broadly earmarked funds.

Contributions to the UNHCR Ethiopia Operation in 2022

USA | Germany | Japan | Denmark | United Arab Emirates | Netherlands | IKEA Foundation | European Union | Italy | Canada | Spain | Education Cannot Wait | Country-based Pooled Funds | "la Caixa" Banking Foundation | France | Sweden | Ireland | Austria | Switzerland | Band Aid | Republic of Korea | UNO-Fluechtlingshilfe | Luxembourg | Iceland | UN Children's Fund | UN Foundation | UN Programme on HIV/AIDS | Coop Italia | UPS Corporate | Laboratorios Vinas | Norway | Other private donors.

Other softly earmarked contributions in 2022

United States of America 29.3 million | Private donors Germany 19.7 million | Private donors Australia 12.2 million | Canada 7.8 million | Private donors USA 7.4 million | Private donors Spain 2.7 million | Germany 2.4 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 2.2 million France

Unearmarked contributions in 2022

Sweden 99.3 million | Norway 72.5 million | Private donors Spain 72.1 million | Private donors Japan 59.1 million | United Kingdom 40.1 million | Netherlands 37.2 million | Denmark 35.6 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 34.4 million | Private donors USA 29.9 million | Germany 24.4 million | Japan 21.7 million | Private donors Italy 19.2 million | France 18.5 million | Switzerland 18.4 million | Private donors Canada 13.6 million | Private donors Sweden 13.3 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Ireland 11.8 million | Italy 10 million

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