

# ETHIOPIA

June 2021

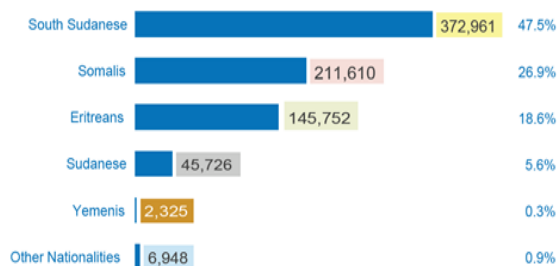
Ethiopia is the **third largest refugee-hosting country** in Africa, sheltering **785,322** registered refugees and asylum-seekers as of 30 June 2021. The overwhelming majority originate from **South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea and Sudan**.

**3,720** refugees, who meet the Government's prioritization criteria, were vaccinated against **COVID-19**. UNHCR, the national refugee agency (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 June 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 30 June 2021)

USD 323.1 M

Requested for Ethiopia

Funded  
**42%**



## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

391 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



*South Sudanese refugee Nixon Raphael, seen in his student gown at the School of Pharmacy, AAU. He has since graduated with BSC in Pharmacy. ©UNHCR/Elisabeth Haslund*

## 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 June, UNHCR has processed 788 refugees for resettlement, while facilitating the departure of 498 others to different countries. We also supported 241 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 174 refugees in June. So far in 2021, 400 individuals have returned, with additional 1,288 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 2,796 emergency shelters and 1,858 transitional shelters, as well as by maintaining 1,725 transitional shelters in 2021. So far this year, 1,534 emergency shelters and 229 transitional shelters have been constructed; maintenance works have been performed on 227 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.

### Education

- Currently, a total of 164,631 refugee students are attending classes, including 48,841 in pre-primary, 105,101 in primary and 10,689 in secondary schools. Approximately 58% of them are females. However, meeting the minimum guidelines set by the Ministry of Education to curb the spread of COVID-19 in the schools remains a challenge for most schools. Shift systems and alternate learning are being used as a temporary measure to maximize the use of available resources. Despite all the efforts, over 60% of all the schools in the refugee camps do not meet the standards of safe learning environments.
- More than 790 refugees, who have passed the university entrance exams are waiting to join public universities in the coming Ethiopian academic year. Additionally, 2,513 refugee students who have just completed high school are preparing to take part in the upcoming university entry exams.

### 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, 3,720 refugees have so far been vaccinated for COVID-19.
- UNHCR, together with ARRA, Regional Health Bureaus and other health partners, implements activities to help prevent COVID-19 infection and 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 (PPE) 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 PPE and sanitation materials, equipping isolation and quarantine centres and sensitizing community on the risks of the pandemic.

### 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. Under this model, the nutritional and clinical needs of children are covered using ready-to-use foods. UNHCR monitors the nutrition status of refugees through regular nutrition assessments and coordinates with partners efficient nutrition response. UNHCR works with the World Food Programme (WFP) to ensure that refugees have adequate access to basic food items. However, due to funding shortfall, refugees in Ethiopia continue to receive only on average about 84% of the minimum standard food ration of 2,100 kcal per person/day. The Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate in most camps remains above the minimum standards. UNHCR is advocating to secure additional resources to ensure refugees receive enough food to meet at least the minimum standard of food in-take per day.

### Water and Sanitation (WASH)

- UNHCR works with partners to provide access to clean water and sanitation and improve hygiene practices through awareness raising and other activities. An average of 18 liters of water per person/day was provided across all the camps during the reporting month. However, in some camps, water supply was quite low averaging around 6-14 liters per person/day (vs. the desired standard of 20 liters). This is due to fuel shortage as well as some system breakdown, reducing the capacity of some boreholes to pump water. UNHCR and partners are working to solarize some of the systems with the aim to reduce dependence on fuel. In parallel, works are in progress to strengthen and maintain essential water systems.
- 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 the 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, those whose income has been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, **b)** Eritrean refugees who were recently displaced from Tigray to Addis Ababa and have since been living in challenging conditions.
- In Awbare and Sheder refugee camps near Jijiga, UNHCR had already piloted the viability of CBI, and is working to scale up the service to 400 households. CBI is also being used to support reintegration of Ethiopian refugees who have 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. 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. More than 586,000 multipurpose tree seedlings were raised in camps in the Gambella, Somali (Melkadida) and Benishangul-Gumuz regions and are being transplanted as part of UNHCR's environmental rehabilitation and natural resource management intervention.

### Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- UNHCR has engaged the NGO “Organization for Women in Self Employment” (WISE), to implement an employment linkage and medium and small enterprises (MSE) start up Challenge Fund for urban refugees and host communities. This initiative aims to support refugees and local population in Addis Ababa in getting access to employment opportunities, including by facilitating the issuance of work permits for refugees and the registration and licencing of small businesses owned by refugees and host community members working with them. This initiative will alleviate the processes of licencing of refugee MSEs and the issuance of residence permits. Supported through the Challenge fund, 80 refugee and host community MSEs will either start-up or scale-up, secure registration certificates from local woreda administrations. 30 MSEs will benefit from tailored financial services from local micro finance service providers, and 1,000 refugees and host community members will be able to profit from viable employment opportunities.

## External / Donors Relations

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

US| Denmark | IKEA Foundation | Japan| European Union (ECHO) |Netherlands | Education Cannot Wait |The Lego Foundation| Canada| Norway| Ireland| Sweden| Switzerland| CERF| “la Caixa” Banking Foundation| Czechia | UN Children’s Fund| Country-based Pooled Funds| UN Programme on HIV/AIDS| Toyota Tsusho Corporation| Laboratorios Viñas| Band Aid | 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 | France 20 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 17.9 million | Switzerland 16.4 million | Private donors Japan 14 million | Ireland 12.5 million | Belgium 11.9 million

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### LINKS

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