

# ETHIOPIA

August 2021

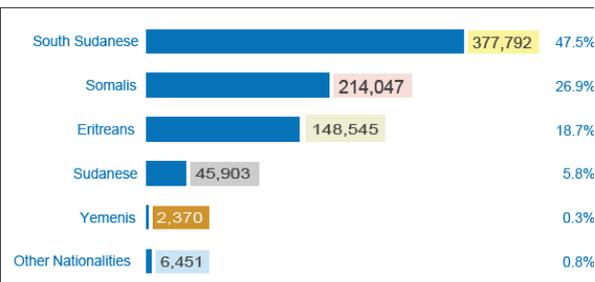
Ethiopia is the **third largest refugee-hosting country** in Africa, sheltering 795,108 registered refugees and asylum-seekers as of 31 August 2021. The overwhelming majority originate from **South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea and Sudan.**

**3,860** refugees have received the first dose and **254** refugees were fully vaccinated for **COVID-19.** UNHCR, the national agency for refugees and returnees (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



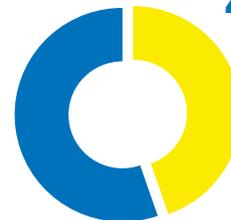
*At the end of August 2021, Ethiopia hosted over 795,000 refugees and asylum seekers, mainly sheltered in 24 refugee camps established in five Regional States. There is a sizeable group of refugees and asylum seekers living out of camp, including over 50,000 people in the capital Addis Ababa.*

## FUNDING (As of 31 August 2021)

USD 338.1 M

Requested for Ethiopia

Funded  
**49%**



## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

396 National staff

134 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, Debarke, Dire Dawa, Embamadre, Mekelle, Nekemte, Pugnido, Semera, Sherkole and Tongo



*With UNHCR support, 467 displaced families in Mekelle, Tigray, were among the first group to be relocated from Ayder school to Sebacare 4 IDP site ©UNHCR/Olga Sarrado*

## 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 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. It is 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.

UNHCR, in partnership with the Agency for Refugees and Returnees Affairs (ARRA) and the Organization for Women in Self-Employment (WISE) concluded the documentation of Eritrean refugees who fled the former Hitsats and Shimelba camps due to the conflict in the Tigray Region. This documentation, valid for three years, will enable them to open bank accounts, gain access to assistance, health services, durable solutions like resettlement or family reunification and provide protection against detention and other risks. Some 8,500 people obtained urban refugee status, including some 6,700 individuals being issued temporary identification documents, while refugees under age of 14 received "Proof Of Registration" provided for the entire household.

### 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 August, UNHCR has processed 1,155 refugees for resettlement, while facilitating the departure of 599 others to different countries. We also supported 294 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 122 refugees in August. This brings the total that have returned so far to 820; over 1,000 individuals are expected to return before the end of the year. UNHCR supported the returnees with transportation and cash assistance 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 3,273 emergency shelters and 1,958 transitional shelters, as well as by maintaining 1,725 transitional shelters in 2021. So far this year, 2,024 emergency shelters and 706 transitional shelters have been constructed and provided to families. Maintenance works have been performed on 817 transitional shelters in different refugee camps.
- UNHCR continues to respond to the shelter and related needs of IDPs in the Tigray Region, in Gedeo, West Guji, Fafan, east and west Hararge, as well as east and west Wollega, 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 and in east Hararge.

### Education

- Schools across the refugee camps remain closed for the summer holiday, expected to reopen in early October. In the meantime, preparations are underway for the next academic year.

### 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, 3,860 refugees have so far received the first doses for COVID-19 and 254 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 (PPE) and essential medicines and equipment to strengthen health services. In August, 880,000 face masks, 95,000 N95 masks, 800,000 gloves and 190,000 gowns were provided to protect healthcare and other frontline workers from COVID-19. 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

- UNHCRs coordinates with partners and contributes to the preventive and curative aspects of nutrition programmes in the different refugee camps and monitors the nutrition status of refugees through regular nutrition assessments.
- UNHCR works with the World Food Programme (WFP) on food distribution to ensure refugees have sufficient access to basic food. However, refugees in Ethiopia continue to receive only on average about 84% of the minimum standard food ration of 2,100 kcal per person per day due to funding shortfall. This was further reduced to 71% in June but restored since July with the resumption of three missing components of the food ration.

### Water and Sanitation (WASH)

- UNHCR works with partners to provide access to clean water and sanitation and improve hygiene practices through the construction and upgrading of WASH facilities and awareness raising. An average of 18 liters of water per person/day was provided across all the camps during the reporting month.
- Under the ongoing emergency response in northern Ethiopia, UNHCR and Partners have ensured the availability of emergency WASH facilities at seven temporary accommodation sites for Eritrean refugees in Dabat, in the Amhara region, while the development of Alemwach camp site is being undertaken to accommodate the Eritrean refugees planned to be relocated from Adi Harush and Mai Aini camps.
- UNHCR continues to implement COVID-19 prevention activities such as the provision of hand washing-facilities, soap and safe water on routine basis in all the 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, as well as to support reintegration of Ethiopian refugees who have voluntarily returned from Kenya. Additionally, some 1,700 elderly refugees in the Melkadida camps who are with serious medical conditions received cash assistance to supplement their monthly food ration.
- 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. Some 100 refugee households have already received cash-based assistance so they can locally purchase materials for the construction of shelters. Second and third rounds of instalments will be released in the coming months to finish the construction. By providing cash directly to beneficiaries to build the shelters, UNHCR reduces support costs and ensures that refugees have more control over their final design. In addition to shelter component, a roll out of more CBIs is planned in the coming months, including for the local purchase of school uniforms and women's underwear.

### 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 the Ethiopian 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 411 tons 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 and transplanted in camps in the Gambella, Somali (Melkadida & Jijiga), Afar and Benishangul-Gumuz

regions 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 | Country-based Pooled Funds| The Lego Foundation| Canada| Norway| Ireland| Sweden| Switzerland | "la Caixa" Banking Foundation| Italy| CERF| Czechia | UN Children's Fund| UN Foundation| 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 49.7 million | Netherlands 36.1 million | Denmark 34.6 million | United Kingdom 28.4 million | Germany 26 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 25 million | Japan 23.4 million | Private donors Japan 20.7 million | France 20.2 million | Switzerland 16.4 million | Ireland 12.5 million | Private donors Italy 12.3 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Private donors Sweden 11.9 million | Italy 10.7 million

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### **LINKS**

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