

# ETHIOPIA

October 2021

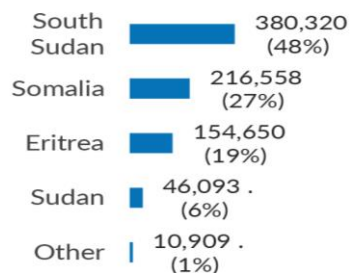
Ethiopia is the **third-largest refugee-hosting country** in Africa, sheltering **806,374** registered refugees and asylum-seekers as of 31 October 2021. The overwhelming majority originate from **South Sudan**, **Somalia**, **Eritrea** and **Sudan**.

**7,425** refugees have received COVID-19 vaccines, including **4,481** fully vaccinated. UNHCR, the Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) 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 October 2021, Ethiopia hosted over 800,000 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 66,000 people in the capital Addis Ababa.*

## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

- 405 National staff
- 139 International staff
- 176 Affiliated work force & others

### Offices:

- 1 Representation Office- Addis Ababa
- 6 Sub-Offices- Assosa, Gambella, Jijiga, Melkadida and Shire
- 9 Field Offices- Bule Hora, Debark, Dire Dawa, Embamadre, Nekemte, Pugnido, Semera, Sherkole and Tongo
- 7 Field Units-Aysaita, Barahle, Maichew, Adigrat, Abiadi, Sheraro, and Axum

## FUNDING (As of 26 October 2021)

USD 338.1 M

Requested for Ethiopia

Funded  
**53%**



*These South Sudanese women are among the 46 refugee students who recently graduated with degrees benefitting from DAFI (German Government) scholarships. photo©UNHCR*

## Working with Partners

UNHCR's main government counterpart in the refugee response in Ethiopia is the Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS). 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 RRS, 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. In the Tigray Region focal points from UNHCR and NGO partners have been identified and trained to support in the effort to Protect and Support Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) in line with the Ethiopia PSEA Strategy and Workplan.
- UNHCR provides technical support to RRS 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.
- Following the conclusion of the documentation of Eritrean refugees who fled the former Hitsats and Shimelba camps due to the conflict in the Tigray Region, UNHCR, in partnership with RRS and the Organization for Women in Self-Employment (WISE) have continued with issuing ID cards and proof of registration documentation to more refugees in Addis Ababa. A total of over 18,000 of them have so far been issued with new ID cards and/or proof of registration documents as appropriate.
- In the first nine months of 2021, UNHCR and its partners reached over 1 million IDPs, IDP-returnees and members of the host community through a coordinated response in nine of the country's 10 regions. The response included protection monitoring and support, construction of shelters,

distribution of basic relief supplies and legal counselling. With the expansion of the Tigray conflict to the Afar and Amhara regions, UNHCR quickly scaled up its response to attend to the needs of displaced people in the two regions in addition to those in Tigray.

- UNHCR and partners have started the voluntary relocation of internally displaced persons sheltered in schools to alternative locations across the Tigray Region, ahead of the start of the school year. In Mekelle, a total of 1,197 households (5,058 individuals) have been relocated to date to the Sabacare4 IDP site, which has a capacity to shelter 17,000 people.

### 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 2,208 individuals for resettlement. At the end of October, UNHCR has processed 1,426 refugees for resettlement, while facilitating the departure of 786 others to different countries. We also supported 461 refugees in their family reunification cases.
- 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 40 refugees in October. This brings the total that have returned so far to 956, 927 others are expected to return before the end of the year. One refugee also voluntarily returned from Rwanda in October. UNHCR has 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 through the planned construction of 4,614 emergency shelters and 2,303 transitional shelters, as well as by maintaining 2,058 transitional shelters in 2021. So far this year, 2,733 emergency shelters and 1,026 transitional shelters have been secured for refugee families. In addition, maintenance work has been done on 1,160 transitional shelters.
- Communal shelters are being constructed in Alemwach, a site in the Amhara region that is being developed into a refugee camp to accommodate some 25,000 Eritrean refugees who are currently sheltered in two camps in southern Tigray region. Eight hangars are at an advanced state of construction, five of which are expected to be fully completed during the third week of November.
- Under the Emergency Shelter and Non-Food-Items (ES/NFI) Cluster, UNHCR continues to respond to the shelter and related needs of IDPs in northern Ethiopia and other parts of the country. Durable shelter support is also being provided to IDP returnees in Gedo (SNNPS), West Guji (Oromia), Fafan (Somali), and east and west Hararge (Oromia) regions, while 600 families in the east and west Wollega zones of the Oromia Region have been supported with cash for renting residential houses for six months. So far this year, 750 emergency shelters have been constructed in IDP sites in Shire and Mekelle in Tigray, with plans underway to scale up the construction. In Gedeo and West Guji areas in the south, 148 shelters have been provided for IDP returnees and 52 shelters are at an advanced stage. 165 additional shelters were provided to IDP and IDP returnee families in the Somali and Oromia (east Hararge) regions.

### Education

- UNHCR, in collaboration with the Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS), continues to support refugee students' access to quality primary education in Ethiopia. Schools have re-opened for the new academic year in all refugee locations except those in Tigray, where students have missed classes for the last two academic years due to COVID-19 and the ongoing conflict. Refugee students use the national curriculum and sit for national examinations, including 6,243 who sat for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade national examination at the end of the last academic year. 5,804 of them (or 93%) performed well in their exams and advanced to the next level.
- Total of 46 refugees graduated with degrees from the Gambella University in diverse fields, five of them winning gold medals for top performance in their respective faculties. The graduates, including

five females, are beneficiaries of the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative, also known as the DAFI scholarships supported by the government of Germany.

- UNHCR in partnership with the Universities of Bule Hora, Dila and Wollega provides legal aid to and raises legal awareness among IDPs, returning IDPs and members of the host community with specific needs. The 19 legal aid clinics of the three law schools have been operational in East and West Wollega, Gedeo and West Guji zones of Oromia and SNNP regions.

### 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 located 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.
- As part of the national polio immunization campaign, 62,197 children under the age of 5 in refugee camps in the Gambella and Benishangul-Gumuz regions have received polio vaccinations. Eligible children in other regions are expected to take the vaccines in the coming weeks.
- In line with the criteria of prioritization set by the Ethiopian Ministry of Health, 7,425 refugees have received COVID-19 vaccine, including 4,481 that were fully vaccinated.
- UNHCR, together with RRS, 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 centers and sensitizing community on the risks of the pandemic.

### Food Security and Nutrition

- **Nutrition Programmes:** UNHCR and RRS continue to coordinate with partners to improve the nutrition status of refugees through preventive and curative programmes, discussed at coordinated, strategic monthly refugee health and nutrition meetings. All programmes continue to be run effectively except those in Mai Aini and Adi-Harush camps in Tigray, where access is limited.
- **Food assistance:** Refugees in Ethiopia continued to receive food rations meeting only 84% of the minimum standard of 2,100 kcal per person/day. However, this will go down to 60% with further ration cuts planned from November due to a funding shortfall. On 25 October, WFP, UNHCR and the Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) appealed to donors to urgently make available \$68 million to cover the food assistance needs of over 700,000 refugees for the next six months and to avert a complete break in food supplies across the refugee camps. On 23 October, UNHCR and WFP completed the general one-month food distribution in Mai Aini and Adi Harush camps. In the Tigray region. Some 25,000 persons collected their food rations in both camps.

### 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 litres/per person/day of potable water was provided to refugees across all camps during the reporting month.
- Under the ongoing emergency response in Northern Ethiopia, UNHCR and partners have continued with preparation and development of the new Alemwach refugee camp site in Dabat, Amhara region. Construction of emergency WASH facilities is ongoing at the reception area, including water points, latrines and bathing facilities.
- UNHCR and partners continued with the implementation of the COVID-19 prevention and hygiene promotion activities, such as the provision of safe water supply, monthly blanket distribution of soap



(500g per person per month), installation of handwashing facilities and routine community sensitization on personal and environmental hygiene in all the refugee camps. To date, 34,817 hand-washing stations have been installed in the different 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.
- In Awbare and Sheder refugee camps near Jijiga, UNHCR has 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 their shelters, UNHCR reduces support costs and ensures that refugees have more control over the 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.

### **Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance**

- As a result of the continuous training, they have received from UNHCR and partners, members of the agricultural cooperatives in and around the Melkadida camps in the Somali Region managed to harvest over 353 tons of onion, allowing them to generate a satisfactory income. Similarly, refugees engaged in the livestock sub-sectors (livestock traders, meat and milk vendors) in Bokolmanyoo camp reported great results from the sale of livestock, meat and milk.
- 90 farmers (44 refugees and 46 host community members) have been trained on post-harvest handling of produce in collaboration with the Dollo Ado Research Institute. In partnership with Ray's Microfinance Institution, a total of 12,915 clients (6,872 host community and 6,043 refugees) have been supported to access to mobile money services; 22 percent of the saving accounts are owned by refugee women across the five camps. Furthermore, the cooperatives managed to save finances with formal financial service providers to which more than 70 percent of existing cooperatives are now linked.

### **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 demand for clean cooking energy remains high with only less than 11% of the refugee households accessing alternative cooking energy solutions to date. To address the severe shortage, multiple energy projects are being implemented, mainly in camps in the Afar, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella and Somali (Melkadida) regions, including expansion of the briquette production initiative and grid connected electricity. A new briquette production machine has been installed in Aysaita refugee camp with a capacity to produce 14,000 pcs of briquettes per day from local Prosopis plant; 2,563 fuel saving stoves were distributed to refugees in the same camp. In the Benishagul-Gumuz Region, over 560,000 pieces of briquettes were distributed among vulnerable refugee households in the five refugee camps.

## 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| United Kingdom| Norway| Ireland| Sweden| “la Caixa” Banking Foundation| Switzerland |Italy| CERF| Czechia | UN Children’s Fund| Spain| Band Aid|Latter-daySaints Charities| UNO-Fluechtlingshilfe| Luxembourg| UN Foundation| UN Programme on HIV/AIDS| Toyota Tsusho Corporation| Laboratorios Viñas| UPS| Other private donors

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

**Norway** 80 million | **Sweden** 75.4 million | **Private donors Spain** 62.6 million | **United Kingdom** 40.4 million | **Netherlands** 36.1 million | **Denmark** 34.6 million | **Private donors Republic of Korea** 31.9 million | **Private donors Japan** 27.7 million | **Germany** 26 million | **Japan** 23.4 million | **France** 20.2 million | **Switzerland** 16.4 million | **Private donors Italy** 15.7 million | **Private donors Sweden** 14.4 million | **Ireland** 12.5 million | **Belgium** 11.9 million | **Italy** 10.7 million

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### LINKS

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