

ETHIOPIA EMERGENCY SITUATION

05 January 2022



Beyenesh (left) fled her home in Western zone of Tigray in November 2021 as clashes reached her hometown. Now she lives with her children in the Five Angels IDP site in Shire (Tigray region), Ethiopia. © UNHCR Olga Sarrado Mur

Key Developments

ETHIOPIA

UNHCR obtained confirmation about reported airstrikes in the Mai Aini refugee camp on 5 January, where three refugees were killed and four wounded, though their lives are not at risk. UNHCR is also assisting the injured refugees to receive medical care. UNHCR also published [a news statement](#) reiterating the call for all parties to the conflict to respect the rights of all civilian including refugees, as well as for the protection of refugee settlements.

In the Tigray region, drone/air strikes launched on Alamata town and its surroundings during the week of 17 - 24 December [reportedly resulted in 28 fatalities](#). As of 28 December, air strikes continued to be reported in Alamata, Mekelle, Korem and Maychew. The UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) advised all humanitarian staff to remain highly vigilant and ensure that security measures continue to be implemented and reinforced. Amidst the continued deterioration of the humanitarian situation and ongoing displacement UNHCR has continued to provide lifesaving services to refugees and internally displaced persons in the Northern regions of Tigray, Amhara and Afar (estimates of some 1.8 million IDPs in Tigray, 1 million in Amhara, and 334,196 in Afar). UNHCR has significantly scaled up presence and IDP response in Tigray and in the neighboring regions. Operations however continue to be severely hampered by the impacts of the ongoing conflict (lack of cash, fuel, communications persist).

SOUTH SUDAN

UNHCR has not registered major new arrivals from Ethiopia, but some 50 households have arrived in Maban since the beginning of the conflict in 2020. It is reported that there is increase in number of spontaneous returns from Ethiopia (2,400 returns recorded in October) to South Sudan have cited growing insecurity in Ethiopia as a reason for their decision to return.

SUDAN

Sudan remains UNHCR's priority country for contingency planning in the region and efforts are ongoing to identify a suitable location for a possible additional camp in case of a new influx. To date, the dynamics in Western Tigray appear to be resulting in internal displacement with people either opting to move internally or unable to cross to Sudan. Discussions with the government on maintaining an open border for asylum-seekers and prepositioning of stocks of relief items are ongoing in case the situation shifts. New arrivals in December have remained at a relatively low level of around 50 individuals per week.

Ethiopia Response

The humanitarian situation across northern Ethiopia remains deeply concerning for refugees, the internally displaced and host communities. Civilians have endured over one year of conflict with extremely limited basic services and assistance available, leading to a significant escalation in humanitarian needs with ongoing new displacements. The security situation remains volatile, affecting civilians and constraining humanitarian actors on the ground. Communication, electricity, and banking services remain intermittent.

Eritrean Refugee Response

UNHCR and WFP completed a general food distribution to Eritrean refugees in Mai Aini and Adi Harush camps in December. A total of 25,005 individuals collected their one-month food ration in the two camps: 12,035 in Adi Harush and 12,970 in Mai Aini. The general food distribution was abruptly suspended on 14 December for a few days due to an airstrike around Mai Tsebri town and resumed when the movement restriction was lifted.

UNHCR's partner International Rescue Committee (IRC) is working on the installation and extension of water pipes from Serenta water treatment plant to Mai Tsebri, a process that will mainly facilitate provision of water to Mai Tsebri town and Adi Harush camp. IRC is also planning to distribute water in Mai Aini camp through water trucking until a permanent solution to the lack of water is in place. WASH services have not been provided continuously in the two camps since July due to lack of fuel and other technical challenges. Given the substantially restricted operational environment, UNHCR has put in place alternative arrangements in close coordination with local authorities and partners on the ground to continue provision of uninterrupted basic services in the two refugee camps using available resources.

IRC has registered 1,737 students, of whom 836 are female and 901 men, in Mai Aini and Adi Harush camps for the resumption of Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) programme in both camps. Meanwhile, primary education programmes are ongoing in Mai Aini and Adi Harush camps, where a total of 4,039 students, (1,772 female and 2,267 male), are enrolled and attending classes in both camps.

Eritrean refugees arriving from Tigray are reportedly harassed and/or arrested en-route to Dabat. Information on these reports is limited due to the prevailing security situation.

In the new refugee site in **Alemwach**, plans are ongoing to ensure the site is connected and supplied with water. In the meantime, arrangements have been made for water-trucking in case of an influx.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

Waves of displacement from the Western zone continue to take place into different locations in Tigray. According to UNHCR's partner Innovative Humanitarian Solutions (HIS), by 17 December a total of 29,611 new

IDPs (5,079 households) had sought refuge in six locations in Dima, Embamadre, Mai Hargets, Mai Tsebri, Tsaeda Qerni and Sekota. Another 322 new IDPs arrived in Axum from Western Tigray, primarily from Kafta Humera and Setit Humera woredas. All are in dire need of life-saving assistance and UNHCR has highlighted these needs to the relevant clusters including Protection, CCCM and ES/NFI Clusters and is working with cluster members to advocate on behalf of the IDPs and respond to their immediate needs.

On 21 December, 360 individuals (63 households) arrived in Sheraro from areas in Western Tigray. The new IDPs were placed in three separate collective centers in schools. Since the start of the influx of IDPs from the Western Zone of Tigray due to insecurity, a total of 8,595 individuals (1,168 households) have arrived in Sheraro. Local authorities established a new IDP site in Dedebit College - an unfinished private building. UNHCR is transporting additional CRIs from Addis Ababa to assist new arrivals.



Protection: UNHCR's Protection team visited Axum on 24 and 25 December and held discussions with the Central Zone administration on relocation of IDPs and return issues. Zonal authorities identified Mai Knetal and Sheraro as pilot return areas for IDPs residing in Axum. UNHCR will assist returnees with CRIs in their areas of return, and the Field Unit in Axum is leading the in coordination of assistance with the authorities and humanitarian partners operating in the Central Zone.

On 27 December, Organization for Social Service, Health and Development (OSSHD) reported arrival of 62 households (275 individuals) newly displaced persons arrived in Mekelle from Amhara, Afar and Western Tigray. A rapid assessment led by the Regional Disaster Risk Management Commission (RDRMC) in collaboration with CCCM partners and the Bureau of Labour and Social Affairs (BoLSA) is ongoing to determine the total number of new arrivals in Mekelle town.

On 27 December, a multi-sectoral mission was undertaken in Chifra town to assess the feasibility of returns. The mission was composed of representatives of several UN agencies, NGOs, and government entities, as well as two female representatives of the Wake 50 IDP site. Preliminary findings of the mission indicated that safety and security have been reinstated in Chifra town, shelters are in good condition, and slow resumption of economic activities with low market supplies is in process. Focus group discussions were held with woreda officials and female IDP representatives. Priorities identified to ensure a sustainable and dignified return include sustainable provision of water, food assistance, and restoration of livelihoods and health supplies in the health centres.

Local authorities relocated about 3,000 households of the IDPs hosted in the new site of Dedebit in the northwestern zone to Hitsats camp due to overcrowding, despite UNHCR expressing concern about the relocation plan, since Hitsats lacks basic services and facilities. UNHCR distributed CRIs to the 3,000 IDP households in collaboration with the Ethiopian Red Cross Society.

On 28 December, the regional government announced the closure of the Zenzelima IDP site in Bahir Dar that previously hosted over 9,000 IDPs.

In North Gondar, a Return/Solution Working Group (RSWG) was established to mobilize preparedness and response in support of IDPs pursuing voluntary return or other durable solutions in Debark and Dabat. Under the leadership of the Protection cluster, the RSWG requested all Clusters to nominate a protection focal point.

The Inter-Cluster Coordination Group members in North Gondar plans to conduct awareness raising sessions on the dangers of unexploded ordinances within the IDP population prior to their return to their areas of origin. The Protection Cluster will pilot the sensitization campaign. Concerns were raised that most IDP return areas were former or active fighting places and that IDPs are expected to encounter significant risks in return areas in Dessie, Kombulcha, Gashana, Lalibela and Chifra.



Shelter and Non-food Items: UNHCR's CCCM partner Action for the Needy in Ethiopia (ANE) coordinated the distribution of shelter kits and cash (1,600 Ethiopian birr) to 100 beneficiaries in Adi Kentibay IDP site in Shire with the support of the zonal administration. ANE also carried out distribution of shelter kits in Adi Wenfito IDP site. UNHCR and ANE also completed the distribution of core relief item kits to 3,000 most vulnerable households residing with host communities in three kebeles in Ataye town, located around 140 km from Debre Birhan in the Amhara region.

CRIs for 5,000 households were dispatched to Mekelle and Shire. The CRIs will be distributed to IDPs in their areas of return. UNHCR is only facilitating voluntary returns, as was clearly communicated to the regional Government. In Adigrat, UNHCR partner IHS distributed CRIs to 1,030 IDP households arriving from Zala Anbessa.

On 21 December, the Technical Working Group (TWIG) of the ES/NFI Sub-National Cluster for the Amhara Region was activated. The TWIG will review and adapt the existing national returnee assistance packages to constitute the ES/NFI assistance packages for returning IDPs in the Amhara region.



Camp Coordination and Camp Management: UNHCR CCCM facilitated a joint cluster-level site assessment mission to Sheraro with the participation of CCCM, Protection, Shelter, WASH, and local authorities, including the Mayor of Sheraro town. The mission agreed on a new site in Adi Abay to be developed as an IDP site based on humanitarian principles and fulfilment of site selection requirements. As CCCM agency for all sites in Sheraro, UNHCR will develop the site plan and carry out site preparation activities.

Protection and CCCM teams supported the relocation of 1,950 IDPs (380 households) from Abaselama IDP site to Sebacare 4 IDP site that currently hosts IDPs relocated from school premises in Mekelle. Relocations from Mayweyni IDP site have also been scheduled.

The Return Working Group (RWG) in Shire led by the Protection Cluster is planning a pilot return of IDPs to their places of origin in Zana woreda of Northwestern Tigray. At the request of the RWG and the Zonal Administration, CCCM Cluster staff will facilitate the registration of IDPs for return. The pilot return convoy will be organized following the completion of registration in targeted sites.

In Mekelle, CCCM partner Action for the Needy in Ethiopia (ANE) has installed suggestion boxes in six IDP sites in Mekelle. They have also distributed stationery materials in these sites to support IDP leaders in delivering their coordination and leadership tasks in their respective sites. ANE has also established a referral mechanism in collaboration and coordination with other partners to facilitate rapid feedback to the IDP community.

Sudan Response

While many activities inside the camps in the East of Sudan are so far unaffected, the uncertainty of the current political situation risks disrupting the delivery of life-saving and essential services, including the distribution of much-needed food, shelter and CRIs. The Commission for Refugees (COR) continues to be present and engaged in refugee locations.

On 16 December, the relocation of refugees from Hamdayet Transit Centre to Tunaydbah successfully concluded two weeks ahead of schedule. Following the conclusion of the relocation exercise from Hamdayet Transit Centre, an additional 475 refugees and asylum-seekers who had recently crossed the border from Ethiopia into Sudan, were transferred to Tunaydbah (241), Um Rakuba (207) and Babikri (27). UNHCR, Sudan's Commission for Refugees (COR) and partners, provided those relocated with shelters and basic assistance.

UNHCR Partners also distributed hygiene kits, hot meals and water among the refugees and asylum-seekers. The group is currently undergoing individual registration and receiving supplies in the three location sites. Since November 2020, a total of 47,165 refugees and asylum-seekers have been relocated alongside an estimated 727 of their livestock.

Despite the volatile situation in Ethiopia, numbers of new arrivals remain relatively low in the eastern areas of Sudan. At the end of 2021, there was a slight decrease in the number of new arrivals from Ethiopia, with a total of 68 new arrivals being recorded in Kassala's State Hamdayet Transit Centre (58) and Gedaref's State Taya border entry point (6) and Village 8 (4) between 26-31 December."



Protection: UNHCR and Commission for Refugees (COR) biometrically registered 334 newly relocated refugees in Tunaydbah (188) and Um Rakuba (146) as well as all the 33 new asylum-seekers in Babikri.

UNHCR and partner ALIGHT are conducting a joint vulnerability verification exercise in Um Rakuba, while implementing a door-to-door approach to update the status of refugees with specific needs who had been previously included in the database and to identify new cases. So far, a total of 850 refugees with specific needs have been verified, including 18 new cases. The exercise will help improve data on refugees with specific needs which will ultimately inform protection interventions and targeted assistance for this group.

ALIGHT conducted five awareness raising sessions on gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response for the newly relocated refugees, three in Um Rakuba with 40 women and girls, and two sessions in Tunaydbah with 72 men (24) and women (48) in attendance. In addition to increasing knowledge of GBV prevention and response and available services onsite, the sessions allow participants to openly discuss protection issues that affect them and their community.



Education: UNHCR and UNICEF, with support from the Ministry of Education, organized a half-day workshop to take stock of progress made in providing education for refugees and asylum-seekers in 2021 and identify educational needs for 2022. The aim is to develop a response plan to meet the current educational needs of school aged children in Babikri, Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba and put in place preparedness measures to absorb a potential influx of new refugee students.

Islamic Relief Worldwide (IRW), with support from Education Cannot Wait, completed the construction of three (3) new classrooms in Tunaydbah, bringing the total number of classrooms for secondary education to six (6). The secondary school enrolment rate for students, aged between 15 and 18, currently stands at 15 per cent (275 students) in both Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba. The availability of additional classrooms will help increase the access of refugees to secondary education.

Education and child protection working groups identified areas for collaboration to strengthen the provision of education services for children at risk, including children with disabilities and unaccompanied and separated children. 61 temporary learning spaces have been established in Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba, providing access to non-formal education for 4,780 school-aged children in Um Rakuba (3,163) and Tunaydbah (1,617).



Health: In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Sudan Family Planning Association and ALIGHT, a mobile health clinic was set up in Babikri to provide services to asylum-seekers, including treatment for tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS care and treatment. Efforts are underway to finalize the establishment of health and nutrition services and infrastructures in Babikri.

The first round of COVID-19 vaccination campaign in Babikri concluded with 843 asylum-seekers aged 18 and above vaccinated. In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and MSF Switzerland, routine immunizations have also been launched in Babikri and are provided once a week. The second round of COVID-19 vaccination campaign in Tunaydbah concluded with 3,017 refugees aged 18 and above receiving their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine. This brings the total number of refugees and asylum-seekers who have been vaccinated against COVID-19 with the first dose to 17,864, approximately 50 per cent of the campaign's target population. ALIGHT

conducted home visits to provide psychosocial support services to 18 refugees with mental health issues and illnesses in Tunaydbah (10) and Um Rakuba (8).

SOMALIA

NEW ARRIVALS AND BORDER DYNAMICS

Somaliland: Somaliland authorities affirmed their open-door policy towards all asylum-seekers including Ethiopians.

A border monitoring mission by UNHCR and Legal Clinic took place on 30 December 2021. The operation has discussed with National Displacement and Refugee Agency (NDRA) the support required for the registration of new Ethiopian arrivals.

UNHCR and NRC completed the assessment of newly arrived Ethiopians in Borama between 12-17 December. In total, the team registered some 136 newly arrived Ethiopian households (421 individuals) in Borama city for provision of NFI packages. Additionally, 8 most vulnerable IDP and 19 host community households have been included in NFI distribution, bringing the total number of beneficiaries to 163 HHs / 553 individuals. The newly arriving Ethiopians have been vaccinated against COVID-19 by the Ministry of Health of Somaliland in addition to their primary medical check-up.

Sub Office Hargeisa and NRC are assessing the provision of family tents to those vulnerable newly arrived Ethiopians who are reportedly sleeping in the streets of Borama city. However, NDRA is not supportive to provision of tents to avoid a spontaneous camp-settlement of Ethiopians in Borama. UNHCR is in discussion with NDRA regarding the possibility of mobile biometric registration of arrivals to facilitate their access to cash assistance, both by UNHCR and WFP.

Puntland/Galmudug: During the second Inter-Agency Emergency Response meeting held on 15 December, Galmudug Commission for Refugees and IDPs (GCRI) reported the arrival of some 6,000 Ethiopians - reportedly Ethiopians of Somali origin, who crossed the border into Somalia with their livestock. Though some might be fleeing the conflict, these may also be 'drought driven seasonal migrants' crossing the border with Somalia looking for pastures for their livestock. The Somali region of Ethiopia area is generally stable and not affected by the ongoing conflict in Ethiopia.

Dhahar local authority reported at least four trucks carrying Ethiopian arrivals (estimated 300 individuals) had passed Dhahar town to proceed to Bossaso during the second week of December. On 15 December, UNHCR Sub Office Galkayo convened the second Inter-Agency Emergency Response Meeting with governments, UN agencies, NGO, and INGO in both states of Galmudug and Puntland. The participants were requested to provide updated inputs in each sector to UNHCR's Preparedness Action Matrix.

The Registration team undertook a registration mission in Garowe between 12-16 December and registered a total of 55HH/141 individuals. The registration statistical information captures only those arrivals coming through Tukaraq entry point. It is believed higher number of arrivals in organized groups use trucks to cross Dhahar entry point to proceed to Bossaso.

Jubaland: The distribution of one-time CBI (\$100/HH) to all the new arrivals (136 HH) has been completed. The operation is soon planning on commencing Level 2 Registration.

SOUTH SUDAN

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

BORDER DYNAMICS AND PREPAREDNESS

Upper Nile: On 22 December, a joint mission comprised of UNHCR, RRC (Relief and Reconstruction Commission), Commissioner for Refugee Affairs (CRA) and Humanitarian and Development Consortium (HDC) visited Shatta, border area between Ethiopia and South Sudan in Maban Country (some 35km from Bunj, UNHCR SO Maban) to assess the situation of South Sudanese returnees from the Gure refugee camp in

Ethiopia. The cross-border movement was triggered by a reported security incident at Gure refugee camp during the third week of December where unknown gunmen attacked government of Ethiopia personnel and WFP warehouses. Approximately 50 individuals from about 23 households were found physically present at Shatta. All of them were from Maban and majority were youths (male and female) including a few children. Maban County Commissioner indicated his intention to set up a temporary Returnees camp in Bunj. UNHCR will continue advocating against set up of camps but instead pledge support for possible transport assistance and NFIs for returnees to reach their final destinations in Maban County.

Ethiopian Refugees: With the conclusion of registration verification on 31 December 2021, UNHCR and Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA) officially resumed normal activities at the Reception Center and new arrivals are being received. Before the registration of new arrivals had been suspended to pave way for verification, the number of individuals visiting the center fearing persecution due to the ongoing conflict in Ethiopia-Tigray Region has increased. The community leaders have already informed UNHCR that we should prepare for many new arrivals mostly of Tigrayan ethnicity approaching the center.

UNHCR and CRA will meet the new Minister of Interior to provide an update on the ongoing UNHCR and government joint planning for the Ethiopian situation. A planned joint assessment mission to potential new refugee sites in Pochalla and Maban as part of contingency planning was cancelled due to COVID-19 outbreak and will be rescheduled.

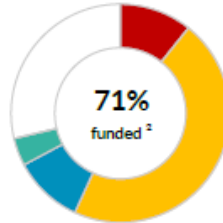
Contingency Planning: UNHCR Representative and the Assistant Representative-Protection met with the Commissioner for Refugees Affairs and the Deputy Commissioner on 21 December. During the meeting, UNHCR and Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA) discussed the contingency plan for the Ethiopian situation.

Funding Overview



\$164.5 million

UNHCR's financial requirements 2021 ¹



FUNDING UPDATE | 2021

**ETHIOPIA
EMERGENCY**
as of 29 December 2021



CONTRIBUTIONS ⁵ | USD

	■	■	■	■	Total
	Unearmarked	Softly earmarked	Earmarked	Tightly earmarked	
United States of America	-	3,750,000	19,130,000	-	22,880,000
European Union	-	-	-	3,789,384	3,789,384
CERF	-	-	-	2,500,000	2,500,000
Finland	-	2,389,486	-	-	2,389,486
United Kingdom	-	-	2,015,630	-	2,015,630
Country-Based Pooled Funds	-	-	-	1,600,000	1,600,000
UNO-Fluechtlingshilfe	-	1,153,278	-	298,329	1,451,607
Italy	-	-	-	1,379,723	1,379,723
Japan	-	181,159	-	1,100,000	1,281,159
Norway	-	-	1,219,066	-	1,219,066
Sweden	-	851,148	-	-	851,148
Education Cannot Wait	-	-	-	500,000	500,000
Latter-day Saints Charities	-	-	18,311	453,914	472,225
United Kingdom for UNHCR	-	421,498	-	-	421,498
Médecins Sans Frontières	-	-	-	365,625	365,625
France	-	351,700	-	-	351,700
Novo Nordisk Foundation	-	327,004	-	-	327,004
Luxembourg	-	305,998	-	-	305,998
Australia for UNHCR	-	297,062	-	-	297,062
Private donors Canada	-	229,623	-	-	229,623
Sweden for UNHCR	-	219,637	-	-	219,637
Liechtenstein	-	110,375	-	-	110,375
Private donors USA	-	100,000	-	-	100,000
Other private donors	-	453,183	-	5,326	458,509
Sub-total	-	11,141,151	22,383,007	11,992,301	45,516,459
Indicative allocation of funds and adjustments ⁶	6,759,452	5,840,987	53,477,728	5,671,332	71,749,499
Total	6,759,452	16,982,137	75,860,735	17,663,633	117,265,958

Methodology: Unearmarked funding is allocated and reallocated multiple times during the year to allow UNHCR to fund prioritised activities. This funding update includes an indicative allocation of funds so as to accurately represent the resources available for the situation. The contributions earmarked for the Ethiopia Emergency shown above are combined with an indicative allocation of the softly earmarked and unearmarked contributions listed below. This allocation respects different levels of earmarking. Adjustments relate to programme support costs and carry-over.

■ OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS ⁴ | USD

United States of America 169.5 million | Private donors Australia 10.7 million | Canada 5.8 million | Sweden 3.5 million | Denmark 2.9 million | Norway 2.9 million | Private donors Germany 2.3 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 2.3 million | Switzerland 2 million

France | IGAD | Japan | Luxembourg | Spain | Private donors

■ UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS ⁵ | USD

Norway 80 million | Private donors Spain 75.9 million | Sweden 75.4 million | United Kingdom 40.4 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 38.8 million | Netherlands 36.1 million | Denmark 34.6 million | Private donors Japan 30.9 million | Germany 26 million | Japan 23.4 million | France 20.2 million | Private donors Italy 19.6 million | Private donors Sweden 16.9 million | Switzerland 16.4 million | Ireland 12.5 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Italy 10.7 million | Private donors USA 10.6 million

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