

# ETHIOPIA

March 2022

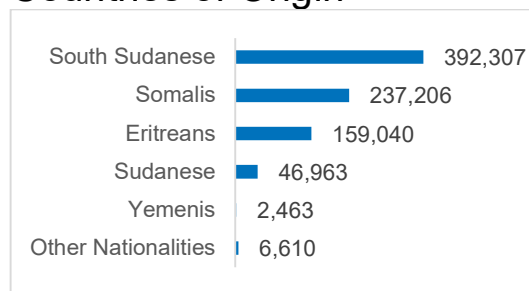
Ethiopia is the **third-largest refugee-hosting country** in Africa, sheltering **844,589** registered refugees and asylum-seekers as of 31 March 2022. The overwhelming majority originate from **South Sudan**, **Somalia** and **Eritrea**.

To date, **34,485** refugees have received COVID-19 vaccines, including **30,065** fully vaccinated. UNHCR, the Government's Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) and partners, continue to reinforce prevention measures in 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

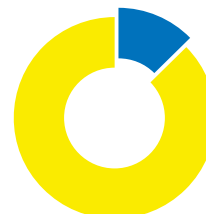


*At the end of March 2022, Ethiopia hosted over 844,589 refugees and asylum seekers, mainly sheltered in 25 refugee camps established in five Regional States. There is a sizeable group of refugees and asylum-seekers living out of camps, including over 70,000 people in the capital*

## FUNDING (As of 29 March 2022)

# USD 335.3 M

Requested for Ethiopia

 Funded  
**11%**


## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

**425** National staff

**173** International staff

**171** Affiliated work force & others

### Offices:

**1** Representation Office- Addis Ababa

**6** Sub-Offices- Assosa, Gambella, Jijiga, Mekelle, Melkadida and Shire

**9** Field Offices- Bule Hora, Debark, Dire Dawa, Embamadre, Nekemte, Pugnido, Samara, Sherkole and Tonqo

**7** Field Units-Aysaita, Barahle, Mychew, Adigrat, Abi Adi, Sheraro and Axum



*Ethiopian Government representatives, students of the DAFI Alumni, partners and donors gathered at a high-level event organized by German Embassy and UNHCR in Addis Ababa on 23 March to mark the 30th anniversary of DAFI worldwide and the more than 20 years of implementation in Ethiopia. UNHCR/March 2022*

## Working with Partners

UNHCR's main government counterpart in the refugee response in Ethiopia is the Government's Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS). UNHCR works closely with 57 humanitarian and development organizations, managing the 'Ethiopia Country Refugee Response Plan (ECRRP)'. 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 refugees' 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 the Ethiopian Government's refugee agency, the Refugee and Returnee Service (RRS), UNHCR coordinates activities aimed at protecting and assisting refugees and asylum-seekers in Ethiopia, as well as finding and promoting sustainable solutions. 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). Additionally, 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.

### Durable Solutions

- As current conditions for voluntary repatriation are not favorable for most refugees in Ethiopia, and local integration programmes are to be put in place, securing resettlement opportunities remains UNHCR's top priority. So far in 2022, 335 refugees were submitted to various resettlement countries, out of an overall annual quota of 4,150. In view of the State of Emergency in Ethiopia, between November 2021 and February 2022, and the temporary halt by the RRS on issuance of any forms of documentation, there has been a hiatus on issuing further verification documents for refugees who have relocated to Addis Ababa. As a result, some 8,000 refugees have not been able to obtain much-needed documentation since then. Only 44 refugees who already had travel documents issued by RRS prior to November 2021 were able to depart in 2022. UNHCR is working with the RRS to restart this process ensuring that all adequate services are made available to refugees again. The temporary suspension of ID card issuance will continue until further notice, while the facilitation of travel documents and exit permits has resumed.
- A total of 131 cases (260 individuals) were either counselled or directly supported on family reunification processes. In addition to interventions for family reunification, UNHCR in Ethiopia plans, once RRS services resume, to support complementary pathways through humanitarian admission, scholarships, and labour mobility in 2022.



### Shelter

- UNHCR and its partners have completed all shelter and settlement activities planned in the 2021 budget year. A total of 4,447 emergency shelters have been provided to newly arrived refugees and 1,704 transitional shelters to refugee families. UNHCR and partners have also carried out maintenance work on 1,449 transitional shelters across 25 refugee camps plus newly established refugee settlement sites. Nevertheless, access to adequate shelter remains below the standard

across the country, with only 44.7% of the camp-based refugee families living in adequate dwelling by the end of March 2022.



### Education

- In partnership with Government of Ethiopia (GoE) and other partners, a total of 171,447 refugee students were enrolled in pre-primary (52,486), primary (102,383) and secondary (16,578) levels of education in 2021-2022. Moreover, 1,527 refugees are currently enrolled in 40 different public universities across Ethiopia under GoE and DAFI scholarship programmes.
- The Gross Enrolment Rate (GER) for pre-primary education stands at 43% compared to the national average of 36.7% for the 2020/2021 academic year. GER for primary and secondary education are 47% and 13% compared to the national average of 95.1% and 42% respectively.
- Ethiopia has a positive policy environment for refugee education. The 2019 Refugee Proclamation provides refugees with access to educational opportunities at a par with nationals. The sixth Education Sector Development Plan (ESDP VI, 2020 - 2025) has included refugee education for the first time, paving the way for inclusion of refugee education in national systems.
- Ethiopia made a commitment at the first Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in 2019 to provide 20,000 refugees and Ethiopians with quality and accredited skills training linked to the labor market by 2024. So far, 3,071 people, including 1,055 refugees and 2,016 host community members have received accredited skills training that is linked to the labor market. In line with the Inclusion Agenda, the Government of Ethiopia committed to a US \$80 million project financed by the World Bank, targeting integration of refugees into Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary Education.



### Health

- UNHCR is working with the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) and partners to ensure sustainable and efficient healthcare for refugees by promoting their full inclusion into regional and national health plans, funding mechanisms and health services, and to foster collaboration on health sector response with development partners, in line with the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), its Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) and the Multiyear Multi-Partners Strategy (MYMPS).



### Food Security and Nutrition

- In 2022, UNHCR Ethiopia will focus on coordination, collaboration and strategic engagements with stakeholders to enhance food security, meet nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive needs of persons of concern (PoCs) and hosting communities; respond to emergency needs of the PoCs in food and nutrition; and build capacities and systems strengthening food and nutrition delivery, together with partners.
- **Emergency Response Food and Nutrition:** Refugees continue to be prioritized for food and nutrition assistance in conflict-affected areas in Benishangul-Gumuz (Assosa camps), Afar (Barhale refugees), as well as new arrivals in Somali region (Melkadida, Dollo Ado reception and in five camps of relocation in the region). In Mai Aini and Adi Harush camps in Tigray, two months ration is also being prepositioned for general food ration.
- **Nutrition Programmes:** The nutrition programmes are operational in 18 camps across the country. UNHCR and RRS continue to coordinate with UN agencies (UNICEF and WFP) and partners to improve the nutrition status of refugees through preventive and curative programmes. However, challenges remain as regards the delivery of nutrition assistance to refugees in Mai Aini and Adi Harush camps in Tigray.
- **Food assistance:** As a result of WFP's funding deficits, the refugees' current food basket meets 60% (1,262 kcal per person/day) of the minimum standard of 2,100 kcal per person/day. WFP, UNHCR and RRS are coordinating food assistance to refugees.



### 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 sessions.

- Currently, only 40% of the refugee population in Ethiopia have access to decent sanitation facilities, calling for more investment in this area. UNHCR is working with partners to improve the situation, including as part of the joint UNHCR/UNICEF Blueprint initiative.
- 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/month), installation of handwashing facilities and routine community sensitization on personal and environmental hygiene in all refugee camps in Ethiopia. To date, 34,817 hand-washing stations have been installed in different refugee camps across the country.
- UNHCR's key sector priorities and plan are to continue discussions on integration of WASH services into local structures, strengthen WASH support to institutions such as schools and health facilities and to provide timely emergency WASH services.



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

- In March, 115 refugee youth (including 28 female) drawn from Awbarre, Sheder and Kebribeyah refugee camps under Sub-Office Jijiga graduated from a vocational skills program offered by the Jijiga Polytechnic College under the sponsorship of the European Union Trust Fund (EUTF) funded Livelihoods program implemented through Mercy Corps. The graduates studied nine different skills (i.e., Driving automobile, Tailoring, Beauty salon, Mobile phone maintenance, Carpentry, Electric maintenance, Sanitary installation, Food preparation, and Metal works) for 45 days and were technically certified by the Somali Regional State Certification of Competency (CoC) Agency. This brings the total number of refugee graduates from Jijiga camps so far this year to 322. UNHCR and its partners are working to support the graduates with start-up kits and work permits.



### **Access to Energy**

- Access to alternative energy is one of the unmet needs for refugees and their hosting communities, where access to clean cooking fuel is critically deficient, at a coverage rate of 11%. Through coordination and multi-actor engagement, access to clean cooking fuel and technologies will be scaled-up to 20% by the end of 2022; expansion of household lighting coverage will also be prioritized. The planned Energy and Environment projects kicked-off; UNHCR has been holding monthly coordination meetings with partners and key stakeholders. Some 3,063 refugee households in Aysaita camp in the Afar region have been provided with clean charcoaled briquettes during the first quarter of 2022. Solar lamps have been included in core relief items (CRIs) sets to be distributed to new arrivals, for protection during the night. Street light coverage remains critically low in the refugee camps, as well as in new relocations sites and settlements. As part of the efforts to ease the pressure on hosting communities through afforestation and environmental protection, preparations are underway to raise close to 1 million multipurpose tree seedlings that will be planted refugee camp areas and across the surrounding communities.

## **External / Donors Relations**


### **UNHCR is grateful for the direct contribution to the UNHCR Ethiopia Operation in 2022**

Japan| Netherlands |IKEA Foundation| Spain| Switzerland| Norway| European Union| Germany| Luxembourg| Mastercard International Incorporated| UN Foundation| UN Children's Fund|

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

Sweden 77.6 million | Netherlands 37.2 million | Denmark 35.6 million | Germany 27.6 million | Switzerland 18.4 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Ireland 11.8 million

### **CONTACTS**

**Mamadou Dian Balde**, Representative, [balde@unhcr.org](mailto:balde@unhcr.org)   
**Juliette Stevenson**, Senior External Relations Officer, [stevens@unhcr.org](mailto:stevens@unhcr.org)

**Neven Crvenkovic**, Communications Officer, [crvenkov@unhcr.org](mailto:crvenkov@unhcr.org)

**LINKS**

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