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An elderly displaced lady in Bambasi Woreda, Benishangul-Gumuz Region, receives essential aid items, such as a jerry can, a sleeping mat and a blanket ©UNHCR

Documentation of Eritrean refugees: In Addis Ababa, UNHCR, in collaboration with the national Agency for Refugees and Returnees Affairs (ARRA) continues to locate, through biometric verification, registered refugees who had been displaced from the former Shimelba and Hitsats camps and other locations in the Tigray region. Between 4 August and 1 October, a total of 8,136 families composed of 13,149 persons were verified. Of these, 10,100 individuals aged 14 years and above were issued temporary identification cards. The three-year documents will enable refugees to access assistance, protection and services, including opening bank accounts. UNHCR has started transferring a one-off cash assistance on the bank accounts of those already verified to cover their basic needs for three months.

Voluntary repatriation from Kenya: 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, has so far facilitated the return of 916 individuals, with 967 others 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.

New arrivals in Gambella: During a recent monitoring visit to the Pagak reception centre, UNHCR observed that a growing number of people were crossing the border from South Sudan, completely occupying the existing communal hangars at the centre. Many others were staying in adjacent community and public facilities. ARRA and UNHCR have agreed to conduct a joint screening and registration at the centre as soon as the security situation allows it.

North Ethiopia Emergency: UNHCR and partners have been facing severe challenges for the past months that are negatively impacting our ability to work and deliver assistance. A volatile security situation, lack of unhindered access, scarcity of cash and fuel, and limited electrical power and telecommunication services have posed a severe hindrance to our humanitarian work. The situation has worsened over the past weeks as our operations were brought to a standstill due to the lack of fuel. Field assessments are hampered by the lack of fuel, disabling partners from verifying reports. In addition, the recent escalation of hostilities in the Amhara and Afar regions has prevented us from implementing some planned activities, including the distribution of non-food items and protection monitoring activities in areas that are close to

those directly impacted by conflict. Regular Ethiopia country and regional UNHCR updates on the emergency in Northern Ethiopia can be found at: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/rbehagl>



Education

Preparations for school re-opening: Ahead of the re-opening of schools for the 2021/2022 academic year, UNHCR and its partners have been preparing, including through an assessment of existing school facilities, back-to-school campaigns and community engagement. In some locations, lack of adequate classrooms for pre-primary, primary and, mainly, secondary education remains a challenge.

High success rate in regional examinations: Out of 5,617 refugee students who sat for the 8th grade regional examinations in the camps in Gambella, Melkadida and Assosa, 5,198, scored passing marks, representing an average success rate of 92.5%. The results from the three camps in Jijiga and one camp in Assosa are being compiled.

Scholarship orientations given to refugee and host community students: Under its ‘Telling the Real Story’ (TRS) project, UNHCR facilitated two separate workshops to guide refugee and host community students in and around the three refugee camps on how to apply for scholarships. The workshops were organized in the context of two scholarship opportunities that are available for refugees and host communities, i.e. the Czech Republic Masters and Doctoral Scholarships, and the United States International University-Africa's Undergraduate Scholarship in Kenya. A total of 141 students attended the workshops and were given orientations on how to register and apply for the scholarships, how to write good motivational letters, as well as on the importance of meeting deadlines.



Shelter & CRIs

Support to IDPs: The construction of 116 (of planned 200) IDP shelters in four districts in the Guji and Gedeo zones in southern Ethiopia is close to completion. UNHCR and partner Action for the Needy in Ethiopia (ANE) have been mobilizing the community to support with plastering of the remaining 84 shelters so they can all be assigned to the targeted beneficiaries as soon as possible. In Tigray, 380 shelters have been completed in Sebacare 4 site in Mekelle to speed up the relocation of IDPs from schools before the start of the academic year.

Meanwhile, UNHCR continues to deliver basic relief items, including blankets, buckets, soap, kitchen sets and mosquito nets, to the most vulnerable internally displaced persons in different parts of the Tigray region, including Sheraro, Adigrat, Maichew, Abi-Adi and Zana. Similar support was extended to 297 freshly displaced families in Sasiga Woreda of the East Wollega zone of Oromia region, and to 1,000 displaced families in the Konso Zone of the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Regional State (SNNPR). Close to 3,000 displaced people in Bambasi, Sherkole, Teyba and Amorma localities in the Benishangul-Gumuz region also received an assortment of non-food aid items.

Support to refugees: Communal shelters are being constructed in Alemwach, a site in the Amhara region that is being developed into a refugee camp to accommodate thousands of Eritrean refugees from Adi-Harush and Mai Aini camps in Tigray region. Three communal hangars and six communal kitchens are almost completed. In Bambasi refugee camp in the Benishangul-Gumuz Region, UNHCR distributed through ARRA some 4,600 pieces of clothes to a selected group of vulnerable refugee women and girls.



Health

General Health Services: 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. Special health screening campaigns are also conducted sporadically, including the recent cataract screening campaign organized in Sherkole, Tsore and Bambasi camps in the Benishangul-Gumuz Region. As a result, 78 cataract patients were identified for treatment recently in collaboration with ARRA and the Assosa General Hospital.

Eye and vision care: The eye and vision care campaign in Gambella was completed with 649 eye surgeries successfully performed in Gambella town and in Itang as well as in Jewi, Kule, Tierkidi and Nguenyiel refugee camps. A total of 388 patients received medically prescribed eyeglasses.

COVID-19 response: Refugees have been included in the Government's COVID-19 vaccination plan. A total of **6,107** refugees have received COVID-19 vaccines, including **2,807** fully vaccinated. UNHCR, ARRA and partners continue to reinforce prevention measures in the refugee camps and sites hosting Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).



WASH

General WASH Services: UNHCR works with partners to provide access to clean water and sanitation and improve hygiene practices through awareness raising, upgrading water systems, supporting the construction of latrines and solid waste management. An average of 18 litres of water per person/day was provided across all the camps during the reporting month. As part of the preparation and development of the new Alemwach refugee camp site in Dabat, Amhara region, UNHCR and its partners are constructing emergency WASH facilities at the reception area, including water points, latrines and bathing facilities.



Livelihood

Good onion harvest but declining prices: Members of the agricultural cooperatives in and around the Melkadida camps in the Somali Region harvested over 353 tons of onion, allowing them to generate a satisfactory income. The members attributed this fruitful outcome to their work ethic and the continuous training they have received from UNHCR and partners. Similarly, refugees engaged in the livestock sub-sectors (livestock traders, meat and milk vendors) in Bokolmanyo camp reported great results from the sale of livestock, meat and milk.

CONTACTS

Juliette Stevenson, Senior External Relations Officer, stevenson@unhcr.org

Kisut Gebreegziabher, gegziabk@unhcr.org

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