

ETHIOPIA EMERGENCY SITUATION

15 December 2021



Alganesh (left) had to leave her hometown of Kafta Humera and seek safety in Abi Adi (Tigray region), Ethiopia. © UNHCR Olga Sarrado Mur

Key Developments

ETHIOPIA

On 7 December, the Under-Secretary-General Special Representative (USG SRSG) of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Ms. Pramila Patten, in a [statement](#) highlighted that “*extreme brutality and sexual violence have been hallmarks of the conflict in Ethiopia’s Tigray region.*” She added that amid increasing and spreading hostilities and a worsening humanitarian situation in Tigray, Amhara and Afar regions, “*I am deeply concerned by continuing reports of targeted attacks against women, girls, boys, and men, including the systematic use of sexual violence as a weapon of war, a form of retaliation, punishment, humiliation, and to stigmatize individuals based on their real or perceived ethnic identity.*” She made an urgent call to all parties to the conflict to immediately cease every form of sexual violence and end hostilities to pave the way for an inclusive and gender-responsive ceasefire and peacebuilding efforts.

[OCHA](#) stated that only 44 trucks of food, nutrition, and water and sanitation supplies arrived in Mekelle as of 10 December, down from 157 trucks a week earlier. Fuel has also not arrived in Tigray since 2 August and medicines and medical equipment have not been allowed to enter Tigray, with a few exceptions.

United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) flights to Mekelle, which had been suspended since 22 October, resumed on 24 November. Locations within Tigray remain accessible except for those in the western and northwestern zones which remain inaccessible due armed confrontations.

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).

SOMALILAND

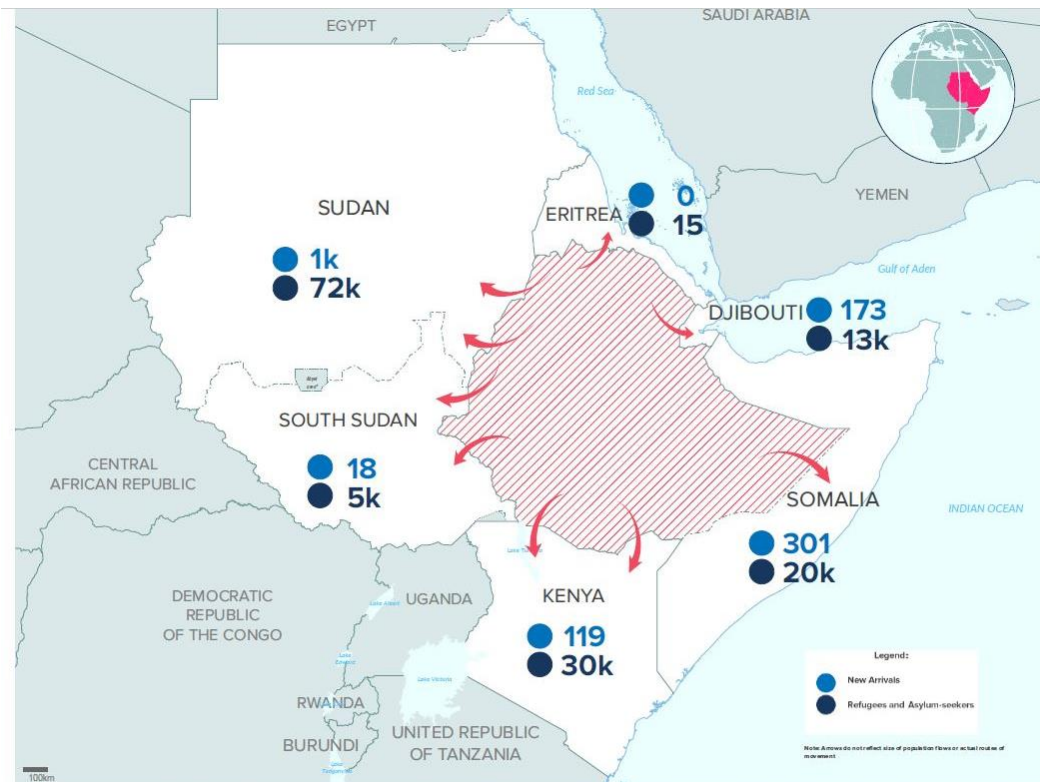
There have been an estimated 3,000 Ethiopian new arrivals from Amhara region (in Somaliland. UNHCR and the authorities plan to register and provide assistance to the new arrivals.

SOUTH SUDAN

UNHCR has not registered any new arrivals from Ethiopia apart from usual cross border movements, but some of the South Sudanese refugees returning from Ethiopia over the last two months (8,000 returns recorded in October) 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. So far, 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 the last month have remained at a relatively low level of around 50 per week.



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Final boundaries between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan and Somalia and Ethiopia have not yet been determined. Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined.
 Creation date: 23 Dec 2021 Sources: Geographic data: UNCS. Population statistics: UNHCR Monthly Statistical Reports: 30 November 2021 or latest available. Statistics should be considered provisional and subject to change.
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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 partners have continued with preparations of the new Alemwach site in Debat in the Amhara region and are ensuring readiness to receive refugees in the event of a possibility for relocation. The situation in the Mai Aini and Adi Harush refugee camps hosting 25,000 Eritrean refugees continues to be relatively calm. Major concerns remain lack of food, inadequate supply of portable water and medications.

The November food distribution that was delayed due to insecurity, lack of fuel and ability to move supplies in the two camps was carried out in early December. However, on 14 December, an airstrike reportedly occurred in Mai Tsebri which is the town closest to Mai Aini and Adi Harush. No casualties were reported but December food distribution which had reached approximately 85% of the camps' populations was suspended after the airstrike.

A steady small-scale influx from Mai Tsebri camps to Dabat in North Gondar has been observed and UNHCR is working on updating its relocation plan and assessing current preparedness in case of an increase in the refugee influx into its new site in Alemwach in North Gondar.

Around 30,000 Eritrean refugees have self-relocated to Addis Ababa, including some 9,000 from Hitsats and Shimelba camps since the beginning of the conflict. UNHCR continues to register and assist these self-relocated refugees, with more than 17,000 having received documentation allowing them to remain in Addis for up to 3 years. Cash assistance has been provided to 14,314 individuals. In addition to one-off cash grants, UNHCR continues to provide protection referrals especially for support for unaccompanied children and GBV survivors.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

The IDP influx from Western Tigray to areas in North-western Zone has reached more than 29,000 individuals. Most of the IDPs are currently sheltered in Hitsats (13,949), Mai Tsebri (5,000), Dedebit (4,000), Sheraro (5000) and Adi Mehemeday (1,600). In Shire and Sheraro, local authorities estimate some 6,940 households were displaced from Western Tigray between mid-November and 4th December. In Hitsats alone, there are 4,220 new IDPs residing in 2,169 ruined houses which had formerly housed refugees in the camp. A multi-sector inter-agency mission to Hitsats noted more arrivals in the former refugee camp now sheltering IDPs and expect an increase. UNHCR is working to dispatch much-needed relief items, including plastic sheets and cooking materials.



Protection: On 14 December, the Ethiopia Humanitarian Country Team, led by the Humanitarian Coordinator, conducted a two-day visit to the Afar region. The delegation, including UNHCR's Representative, visited the IDP site of Wake 50 in Chifra, where a meeting was held with the Director of the Disaster Prevention and Food Security Program Coordination Office (DPFSPCO) and other local officials. The Director raised concerns regarding the living conditions of the IDPs residing in the site and requested support from humanitarian organizations for continued provision of basic needs primarily access to water, food, shelter, core relief items (CRI), protection, and livelihoods. The Inter-cluster Coordination Group of Afar Region reiterated its commitment for continued support and implementation of recommendations of the multisectoral needs' assessment carried out in Wake 50 in November 2021.

According to return intention survey findings, the majority of IDPs in Mekelle have expressed their wish to return to their areas of origin, citing the lack of food, poor WASH facilities, lack of firewood for cooking, overcrowding and the drone strikes as some of the push factors for return. The Return Working Group led by UNHCR, is preparing those IDPs willing to return, with a pilot return that was launched recently. In collaboration with the Bureau of Labour and Social Affairs (BOLSA), the working group on IDP returns along with humanitarian agencies and NGO partners facilitated the return of 374 IDPs from Mekelle to Samre. The return area, Samre, has a medium level of food harvest as confirmed by FAO as well as medical facilities that are better than those in current IDP sites as indicated by Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF). Authorities have also confirmed that the area is clear of mines. The pilot exercise is expected to lead to further return movements.

On 14 December, the Regional Government presented a return plan for 33,000 IDPs in the Amhara region and requested support from humanitarian agencies to facilitate the process. IOM, UNHCR and OCHA continue discussions on coordination with a view to establishing an inter-cluster, operational working group led by UNHCR like the Returns Working Group in Tigray. The group will report to the wider Durable Solutions Working Group which was recently launched and is co-led by IOM and UNHCR. A new rapid protection assessment tool with a return intention element has been shared with field offices for discussion with local Protection Clusters and UNHCR partner staff. This tool was developed by UNHCR to support assessments in locations of displacement and return, in response to the rapidly changing context in Ethiopia.

UNHCR's partner Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EEMCY) established Protection Desks in two IDP sites, Wake 50 and Asoble-Woranso, with two social workers deployed in each site. EEMCY is also working on the recruitment of social workers to facilitate the establishment of Protection Desks in four additional IDP sites.



Shelter and Non-food Items: On 3 December, thirteen UNHCR trucks arrived in Semera with CRIs including buckets, blankets, jerry cans, mosquito nets, soaps, sleeping mats, kitchen sets, plastic sheets, and lamps/lanterns. UNHCR commenced distribution of CRIs on 6 December prioritizing the most affected IDP sites in Adar Chira and Ewa woredas.

The erection of the 200 UNHCR tents, in collaboration with partner Innovative Humanitarian Solutions (IHS), has been completed at Kulichmeda IDP site. As of 6 December, all 588 IDPs hosted in school facilities in Debark were relocated to Kulichmeda site and school premises were entirely vacated. This has been made possible through gradual allocation of UNHCR tents to IDP families. Meanwhile, IDP children resumed education at Kulichmeda primary school on 29 November, under the sponsorship of IHS that will provide basic school needs. Between 8-11 December, UNHCR and partner Action Africa Help International (AAHI) distributed NFIs to 1,300 IDPs households (3,250 individuals) in Mekane Selam and Lagamara School.

As of 15 December, UNHCR and partner Ethiopia Red Cross Society (ERCS) delivered CRIs to 5,740 newly displaced households in the following locations: 3,710 households in Hitsats; 1,495 households in Dedebit; 144 households in Mai Hanse; and 391 households in Adi Mehemeday. The kits included sleeping mats, plastic sheets, mosquito nets, jerricans, blankets and kitchen sets.

UNHCR distributed 93 pieces of plastic sheets to 59 highly vulnerable households in Dehab Tesfay and Adi Wenfito IDP sites to help in rehabilitating their shelters. Targeted households included those living with serious medical conditions and people living with disabilities that needed isolation rooms. UNHCR's partner ANE provided technical support for upgrading these shelters.



Camp Coordination and Camp Management: On 1 December, UNHCR (CCCM/Protection/Education) cluster staff visited Axum and Adwa and met with the mayors of both towns as well as with the Bureaus of Labor and Social Affairs (BOLSAs). The team discussed relocation and return of

IDPs in both locations, as well as the situation of more than 500 households who currently reside in a prison in Adwa. Local authorities urged UNHCR and other agencies to expedite the return process of IDPs from Axum and Adwa, especially those originating from northwestern and central zones. The return working group led by UNHCR Protection Cluster in Shire AoR is now working a local action plan including a checklist to facilitate voluntary IDP returns in these areas.

Local authorities in Sheraro have suspended shelter construction in the new site of Geza Ahisea, as authorities fear the site could be targeted by artillery fire from forces stationed in the disputed border areas along the Ethiopia-Eritrea boundary. This was officially announced by Sheraro local authorities during a joint cluster visit including CCCM, Protection and Shelter to the construction site.

Sudan Response

While many activities inside the camps in the East of Sudan are so far unaffected, the uncertainty of the current 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.

The number of Ethiopians crossing into Hamdayet remained in the last weeks. A total population of 1,791 refugees remain at Hamdayet, as of 14 December pending relocation to Tunaydbah. More convoys are planned in the coming days to relocate some 500 refugees to Tunaydbah. The total figure of refugees pending relocation is 6,830 (5,039 Village 8 and 1,791 Hamdayet). It is estimated that some 1,000 refugees may wish to remain at Hamdayet due to ties with the host community and other reasons.

The relocations from Basunda Transit Centre to Babikri settlement was completed on 7 December, with the last convoy transferring 65 asylum-seekers. This brings the total number of those relocated to 1,812 since the exercise began on 28 November, with support from COR and other partners. The newly relocated asylum-seekers have been registered and provided with assistance. Efforts are underway to ensure essential services are available and operating effectively in Babikri settlement. Moving forward, any new arrivals from the Taya border entry point will be directly relocated to Babikri.

To date, UNHCR, in collaboration with COR and partners, has relocated 3,142 refugees from Hamdayet transit centre to Tunaydbah. A reception centre has been set up in the camp to receive the newly relocated refugees, provide them with shelter and essential assistance. More convoys are planned in the coming days to relocate the remaining refugees, also given increasing pressure from local authorities. The relocation exercise is expected to conclude by the end of the year.



Protection: UNHCR and COR issued 306 additional ID cards to registered refugees in Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba, bringing the total of 9,986 ID cards issued so far.

Twenty (20) refugee women and girls participated in the first phase of an economic empowerment and skills development programme, organized by ALIGHT, in Um Rakuba. This initiative aims to equip the women and girls with skills such as sewing and crochet to help strengthen their capacity to establish sustainable livelihoods.



Education: The target for enrolment in pre-primary education was exceeded by 49 per cent, with a total of 1,657 students, aged between 4 and 5, receiving education services in early childhood care and development centres in Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba.

UNHCR and partners, including Education Cannot Wait (ECW), Islamic Relief Worldwide (IRW), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and Save the Children International (SCI) provided education kits to students at all education levels (pre-primary, primary and secondary) in both camps with the aim of enhancing their learning. Nevertheless, over 500 additional education kits for pre-primary students are required to meet the greater demand due to the increased enrolment.



Health: COVID-19 vaccination campaigns continue with support from the Ministry of Health and partners, including Concern Worldwide, UNICEF and ZOA International Sudan. An additional 3,048 refugees in Um Rakuba were vaccinated during the reporting period. This represents 46 per cent of the target population for the vaccination campaign in this location. However, more COVID-19 vaccine doses are required to advance the vaccination campaign in Tunaydbah and Babikri.

As part of a door-to-door psychosocial support campaign, conducted by ALIGHT, 42 refugees (22 men and 20 women) received psychosocial counselling in Um Rakuba. The campaign aimed to bring psychosocial support to refugees who may face challenges in accessing service points.

SOMALIA

NEW ARRIVALS AND BORDER DYNAMICS

Somaliland: The Somaliland Government Task Force held a meeting on the Ethiopia Situation on 1 December after which the Task Force conducted a joint assessment mission to Borama on 5-6 December and agreed that humanitarian assistance will be provided to the most vulnerable newly arrived Ethiopians.

UNHCR and NRC continued the verification and registration of newly arrived Ethiopians in Borama and registered 433 individuals who were also provided with CRI packages. These new arrivals will also receive COVID-19 vaccinations from the Ministry of Health. Some 1,000 CRIs have been prepositioned for distribution to the most vulnerable new arrivals and host community members.

Puntland/Galmudug: The Ministry of Interior federal Affairs and Democratization (MOIFAD) reported that between 1-8 December, 95 arrivals traveling on foot had passed Tukaraq to proceed to Garowe. The Puntland Ministry of Interior federal Affairs and Democratization (MOIFAD) has promised to share weekly figures of arrivals coming from Somaliland through Tukaraq checkpoint. In Dhahar, local authorities reported that at least 3 trucks carrying estimated 25 Ethiopians had passed Dhahar town to proceed to Bossaso during the first week of December. A UNHCR-led Inter-Agency Emergency Response Team has been established, comprised of Govt (both Puntland and Galmudug) and partners.

Jubaland: On 16 November, two groups of some combined 136 HH/743 individuals arrived from Ethiopia through Dollow border entry points. Level One Registration is now complete for Group 1 (84HH), registration for Group 2 (54HH) will soon commence. All the new arrivals have been accommodated in Qansaxley IDP settlement where there are WASH facilities

PREPAREDNESS

Coordination/Engagement with GOVT and UN/NGO Partners: UNHCR continues its engagements with the National Commission for Refugees and IDPs (NCRI) at the Federal level as well as counterparts and line ministries at the sub-national level (Jubaland, Galmudug, Puntland, Somaliland) to facilitate refugee's access to territory in line with international standards and policies in case of influx of refugees. Implementation and Operational partners are on notice to provide support as needs arise. Emergency Coordination mechanisms have been established (Jubaland, Galmudug, Puntland, Somaliland).

Reception, Registration and Site: Joint government/partners monitoring border missions have been conducted and are ongoing. Assessments by UNHCR shelter/settlement and security are ongoing to ascertain suitable locations for reception centres based on capacity, existing basic services, safety, suitability for registration and general site infrastructure have been conducted and are ongoing.

Core Relief Items: 7,500 NFI kits to sufficient for 45,000 individuals have been prepositioned in 3 warehouses in the country. In addition, a total of 1,250 emergency shelter kits are also pre-positioned and an additional 13,000 NFI kits sufficient for almost 80,000 individuals are in the pipeline, expected in February.

Cash: Cash Based Intervention (CBI) guidelines for an emergency influx are being drafted to ensure that Cash is used to respond to the emergency should it be the best option.

SOUTH SUDAN

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

BORDER DYNAMICS AND PREPAREDNESS

Following a joint mission by Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA) and UNHCR, the government has allocated sites in Pochalla for potential settlement of refugees from Ethiopia. Another joint site assessment mission is planned to be undertaken in the last week of December 2021.

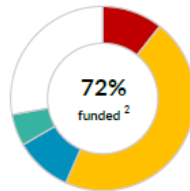
Some 85 Ethiopian asylum-seeker households are settled in Maban, 75 of whom have been screened by CRA with 72 HH registered and issued with asylum-seeker certificates. Of the 85 HH, 36 HH came to Maban before 2019 and therefore could eventually be declared refugees *sur place* (i.e., having arrived in the country, before the start conflict). Since the beginning of conflict in 2020, 49 HH have arrived in Maban, of whom 10 HH arrived on 14 November 2021.

Jonglei: An increase in the number of spontaneous refugee-returns from Ethiopia to South Sudan has been reported because of the ongoing conflict. Returnees cite fear that the conflict may extend to refugee camp areas as well as the desire for family reunification, lack of livelihood opportunities in Ethiopia, improved security in South Sudan, check/attend to properties, and ethnic tension among the refugees in the country of asylum as the main reasons for their return. UNHCR and partners (INTERSOS, Community Action Organization (CAO) & Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC)) continued to monitor the refugee returns and population movements tracking through the border desk points and dock site monitoring established in Akobo East County, Pochalla and Jebel Boma.

Funding Overview



\$164.5 million
 UNHCR's financial requirements 2021 ¹



FUNDING UPDATE | 2021

**ETHIOPIA
 EMERGENCY**
 as of 14 December 2021

CONTRIBUTIONS ² | USD

	Unearmarked	Softly earmarked	Earmarked	Tightly earmarked	Total
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	-	218,235	-	-	218,235
Liechtenstein	-	110,375	-	-	110,375
Private donors USA	-	100,000	-	-	100,000
Other private donors	-	453,052	-	5,326	458,378
Sub-total	-	11,139,618	22,383,007	11,992,301	45,514,926
Indicative allocation of funds and adjustments ⁶	9,166,291	5,382,761	53,141,726	5,559,138	73,249,915
Total	9,166,291	16,522,379	75,524,733	17,551,439	118,764,842

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 9.5 million | Canada 5.8 million | Sweden 3.5 million | Denmark 2.9 million | Private donors Germany 2.3 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 2.3 million | Switzerland 2 million

IGAD | Ireland | Japan | Luxembourg | Norway | 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 | Switzerland 16.4 million | Private donors Sweden 15.5 million | Ireland 12.5 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Italy 10.7 million | Private donors USA 10.6 million

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