

ETHIOPIA

March 2021

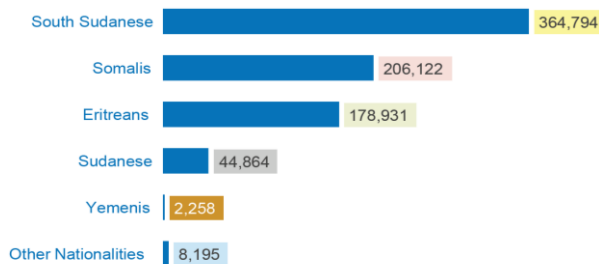
Ethiopia is the **third largest refugee-hosting country** in Africa, sheltering **805,164** registered refugees and asylum-seekers as of 31 March 2021. The overwhelming majority originate from **South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea and Sudan**.

Provision of protection and critical services continue in **Mai-Aini** and **Adi-Harush** camps. A UNHCR team which gained a rare access to **Hitsats** and **Shimelba** camps, for the first time since November 2020, confirmed the complete destruction of the two camps. Distribution of monthly food rations continues.

UNHCR continues to respond to the **situation** of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ethiopia, leading the **Protection Cluster** and providing protection, emergency aid and other support to **IDPs** and **IDP returnees**, including a recent distribution of emergency aid to some **3,300** IDP families in the Tigray Region.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Countries of Origin



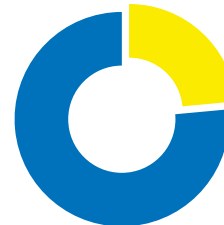
At the end of March 2021, Ethiopia hosted over 805,000 refugees and asylum seekers, mainly sheltered in 26 refugee camps established in five Regional States. There is a sizeable group of refugees and asylum seekers living out of camp, including over 45,000 people in the capital Addis Ababa.

FUNDING (As of 30 March 2021)

USD 323.1 M

Requested for Ethiopia

Funded
16%



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

390 National staff

114 International staff

172 Affiliated work force & others

Offices:

1 Representation in Addis Ababa

5 Sub-Offices in Assosa, Gambella, Jijiga, Melkadida and Shire

8 Field Offices in Embamadre, Mekelle, Pugnido, Sherkole, Tongo, Dire Dawa, Bule Hora and Nekemte



UNHCR distributes vital aid items to internally displaced people in Tigray, including blankets, buckets and sleeping mats. ©UNHCR

Working with Partners

UNHCR's main government counterpart in the refugee response in Ethiopia is the Agency for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA). UNHCR also works closely with 57 humanitarian and development partners and is part of the Humanitarian Country Team, where refugee programmes are discussed strategically to ensure the needs of refugees are adequately presented and addressed across the UN System. UNHCR builds on well-established coordination fora, including the inter-sector Refugee Coordination Group together with national and regional sectorial working groups. Committed to pursuing refugee inclusion in national services and economies, as per the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), UNHCR is furthering partnerships with Ethiopian line Ministries, regional and local authorities, development partners and the private sector.

Main Activities

Protection

- Together with ARRA, UNHCR coordinates the delivery of protection and assistance for refugees and asylum-seekers in Ethiopia, as well as the promotion of solutions. It works to strengthen refugee protection through the expansion of improved community-based and multi-sectorial child protection and GBV programmes. Moreover, UNHCR works with government, national and international partners, including NGOs and UN agencies, to provide protection and assistance to IDPs and IDP returnees in different parts of the country.
- UNHCR also provides technical support to ARRA in the registration and status determination of new arrivals using an advanced biometric registration system (BIMS), which provides a more reliable means for the identification of refugees and asylum-seekers, thereby enhancing their protection.
- 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 the 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 into the 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 across the operation to communicate with refugee communities, particularly in the context of COVID-19 and the need to disseminate prevention messages on a regular basis.

Durable Solutions

- Providing resettlement opportunities remains a top priority, as conditions for voluntary repatriation are unfavorable for most refugee nationalities in Ethiopia, and local integration programmes are yet to be put in place. In 2021, UNHCR's resettlement submission target so far is 1,625 individuals,. By the end of March, 316 individuals were processed for Resettlement. Only seven individuals departed to resettlement countries so far this year as there were no departures in January and February due to the Department of Immigration's hold on exit permits for refugees. 155 individuals have been supported in family reunification cases. Refugees applying for UNICORE scholarships were supported by Complementary Pathways staff throughout March as refugees compete for 43 scholarships to Italy.

Shelter

- Access to adequate shelter remains below the standard in all the refugee camps with only 46% of the camp-based refugee households living in adequate dwelling. UNHCR and its shelter partners continue to improve the shelter coverage in all refugee camps including through the planned construction of 1,073 transitional shelters and 1,381 emergency shelters in 2021. So far this year, 930 emergency shelters have been put up, including 600 in Mai-Aini and Adi-Harush camps in the Tigray Region to accommodate refugees that were newly relocated to the two camps.

Education

- Following the extended closures due to COVID-19 and the conflict in Tigray, the primary school in Adi-Harush camp has reopened, with 3,283 students attending classes for the first time in over a year. To date, a total of 164,631 refugee students are attending classes, including 48,841 in pre-primary, 105,101 in primary and 10,689 in secondary schools. 58 percent of them are females.
- However, meeting the minimum guidelines set by the Ministry of Education to curb the spread of coronavirus in the schools remains a challenge for most schools. Shift systems and alternate learning are being used as a temporary measure to maximize the use of available resources. Despite the good efforts, over 60% of all refugee schools in Ethiopia do not meet the standards of safe learning environments.

Health

- UNHCR, in collaboration with the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) and its partners, facilitates access to primary and emergency secondary and tertiary healthcare services for refugees and asylum-seekers. It supports the operational costs of primary healthcare services in the different refugee camps, as well as the referral care costs for secondary and tertiary health services in regional and central referral facilities. In urban settings such as Addis Ababa, UNHCR covers the cost of medicines and investigations. Essential health service delivery has been restored in two of the four refugee camps in Tigray region. As part of the prioritized group for COVID-19 vaccination, refugees that are supporting frontline health workers in the refugee camps will be among the first to be vaccinated.
- UNHCR, together with ARRA, Regional Health Bureaus and other health partners continued to carry out prevention and response to COVID-19 in refugee camps and other locations sheltering refugees in the form of risk communication and community engagement, service reorientation, training of health personnel, case identification, contact tracing and referrals, distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE) and essential medicines and materials to strengthen health services. UNHCR is also supporting the Inter-agency COVID-19 response to the IDP situation by providing PPE and sanitation materials, equipping isolation and quarantine centres and providing community sensitization. UNHCR has successfully advocated with the Government of Ethiopia for the inclusion of refugees and other persons of concern in national anti-COVID-19 vaccination programmes.

Food Security and Nutrition

- UNHCRs contributes to preventive and curative aspects of nutrition programmes through the Community-Based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) model. It monitors the nutrition status of refugees through Standardised Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS) assessments and coordinates with partners in nutrition response programming. UNHCR works with the World Food Programme (WFP) on food distribution to ensure refugees have sufficient access to basic food. However, they continue to receive only about 84% of the minimum standard food ration of 2,100 kcal per person per day. This has kept the Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate in most camps higher than the acceptable standards. UNHCR is advocating for additional resources, so that refugees can receive the minimum standard of food in-take per day.

Water and Sanitation (WASH)

- UNHCR works with its partners to provide access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services to refugees and asylum-seekers. An average of 19 litres of water was provided per person per day in the camps. However, water supply was constrained recently due to the fuel shortage in the country, reducing the capacity of some boreholes to pump enough water.
- Water and sanitation services continue to be reinforced in Mai-Aini and Adi-Harush refugee camps in the Tigray Region. In Kebribeyah and Sheder camps in the Jijiga area, UNHCR and partners are working to address shortage of water supply caused due to drought and technical issues.
- COVID-19 prevention activities such as the provision of adequate water and soap and hygiene promotion activities continued in all refugee camps. Almost the entire populations in the other camps have been reached with COVID-19 related hygiene promotion messages. The number of

refugees per hygiene promoter stands at 1,054 which is in line with the UNHCR's post-emergency target.

Cash-Based Interventions (CBI)

- UNHCR continues to provide monthly cash assistance to a small number of urban refugees in Addis Ababa (some 4,400 individuals) 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 the different refugee and IDP hosting areas in Ethiopia. UNHCR also advocates for provision of cash assistance to other vulnerable groups including to: a) the significant number of 'out-of-camp' refugees mainly in Addis Ababa, who previously sustained themselves by working in the informal sector and/or received remittances, but whose income has been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, b) Eritrean refugees who were recently displaced from Tigray to Addis Ababa and have since been living in deplorable conditions.
- Following the piloting of cash assistance for shelter construction in two refugee camps -Awbare and Shedder- in Jijiga in 2019, UNHCR is working to scale up the intervention in the two camps and expand the same to other refugee hosting locations. CBI is also used to provide reintegration support to Ethiopian refugees, who voluntarily return to their country of origin. It will also be used to a limited extent to respond to the basic needs of IDPs in various locations.

Access to Energy

- UNHCR continues to be part of the multi-actor partnership working to improve refugees' access to energy for cooking, lighting, and other uses. The Energy and Environment Working Group (EEWG) is preparing a "Multi-actor National Cooking Fuel Strategy" guiding the implementation of access to sufficient, safe, sustainable and clean cooking energy to refugees and host communities'. In the first quarter of 2021, more than 46,000 pieces of briquettes and 310m³ of firewood were distributed for selected beneficiaries in camps in the Afar and Benishangul-Gumuz regions. While operationalization of five grid connected communal kitchens is underway in Afar, 500 locally produced cooking stoves have been distributed in the Melkadida camps using the Cash-Based Intervention (CBI) modality. The relevant Cooperative has installed one additional Solar Mini-grid in Kobe refugee camp by to provide clean electricity to the market and small business centers. As part of environmental rehabilitation and natural resource management, seedling preparations and nursery site development are underway to plant multipurpose trees across all refugees and hosting communities in the upcoming rainy season.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- To support the Government of Ethiopia's commitments to foster refugee economic inclusion, UNHCR continues its technical support to ARRA, bolstering their lead role in bridging the humanitarian and development nexus.
- UNHCR has partnered with the Federal Cooperative Agency (FCA) to explore possible entry points for the inclusion of refugees into primary cooperative structures. In March 2021, both agencies undertook a joint field mission to Melkadida in the Somali region to assess the viability of existing cooperative structures that are supported by livelihoods projects funded by IKEA Foundation. UNHCR, ARRA and the FCA will work towards developing a national guiding framework to formally accommodate refugees into primary cooperative structures in line with the provisions of the refugee proclamation which grants refugees the right to work in recognized employment pathways. High-level engagements with ARRA, relevant federal level line ministries and the Somali regional government will be undertaken to formalize land lease arrangements in accordance with Article 26(5) of the refugee proclamation. The lease agreements will be negotiated between the woreda administration or individual host community members with land holding rights and the nine cooperatives that are composed of refugees and host communities.
- UNHCR has also engaged the Organization for Women in Self Employment (WISE), to implement an employment linkage and medium and small enterprises (MSE) start up challenge fund for urban refugees and host communities. This initiative aims to strengthen support functions around employment linkages and MSEs business development services and will benefit urban refugees

and host communities in selected refugee hosting woredas in Addis Ababa. With the focus on both wage and self-employment pathways, the initiative will address the complexities around licensing of refugee MSEs following the issuance of residence permits, start-up difficulties following various skills development trainings provided to refugees and sustainability of refugee led initiatives resulting from lack of appropriate support functions including financial services and business linkages facilitation. It is anticipated that 80 MSEs will be supported to either start-up or scale-up through the challenge fund, 80 Refugee and host community owned MSEs will secure MSE registration certificates from local woreda administrations, 30 MSEs will access tailored financial services from local micro finance service providers or SACCOs and 1,000 refugees and host communities will access viable wage employment opportunities.

External / Donors Relations

UNHCR is grateful for the direct contribution to the UNHCR Ethiopia Operation in 2021

US| Denmark | IKEA Foundation | Japan| European Union (ECHO) |Netherlands | Education Cannot Wait |The Lego Foundation| Ireland| Sweden| Czechia | UN Children’s Fund| Country-based Pooled Funds| Toyota Tsusho Corporation| Band Aid |UN Programme on HIV/AIDS| Other private donors

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

Norway 80 million | Sweden 66.9 million | Netherlands 36.1 million | Denmark 34.6 million | Germany 22.1 million | Switzerland 16.4 million | Private donors Spain 13.3 million | Ireland 12.5 million | Belgium 11.9 million

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