

ETHIOPIA

December 2021

Ethiopia is the **third-largest refugee-hosting country** in Africa, sheltering **823,959** registered refugees and asylum-seekers as of 31 December 2021. The overwhelming majority originate from **South Sudan**, **Somalia** and **Eritrea**.

To date, **10,892** refugees have received COVID-19 vaccines, including **6,152** 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

South Sudan	386,874
Somalia	223,041
Eritrea	158,521
Sudan	46,433
Kenya	4,034
Yemen	2,490
Congo DRC	1,039
Syrian Arab Republic	667
Burundi	125
Other	735

At the end of December 2021, Ethiopia hosted over 823,000 refugees and asylum seekers, mainly sheltered in 24 refugee camps established in five Regional States. There is a sizeable group of refugees and asylum seekers living out of camp, including over 70,000 people in the capital Addis Ababa.

UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

- 421 National staff
- 169 International staff
- 178 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, Semera, Sherkole and Tongo
- 7 Field Units-Aysaita, Barahle, Maichew, Adigrat, Abiadi, Sheraro, and Axum

FUNDING (As of 29 December 2021)

USD 338.1 M

Requested for Ethiopia

Funded
56%



UNHCR distributed goats to women-headed IDP returnee families in West Guji (Oromia) and Gedeo (SNNPR) zones to support their livelihoods. ©UNHCR

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 RRS, UNHCR coordinates activities aimed at protecting and assisting refugees and asylum-seekers in Ethiopia, as well as finding and promoting sustainable solutions. The UN Refugee Agency works to strengthen refugee protection through the expansion of improved community-based and multi-sectorial child protection and programmes addressing gender-based violence (GBV). In addition, 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.
- UNHCR provides technical support to RRS in the registration and status determination of new arrivals. To that end, an advanced biometric registration system (BIMS) is used, providing more reliable means for a more effective identification and protection of refugees and asylum-seekers. The Immigration, Nationality and Vital Events Agency (INVEA) and RRS have launched an initiative for birth registration of 96,000 refugees aged three years and below. 3,425 children have so far received birth registration documents as part of this backlog-clearance exercise.
- 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 Ethiopia's commitments made at the 2019 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 in 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 to communicate with refugee communities, regularly disseminating vital information on COVID-19 prevention measures.
- As part of the ongoing COVID-19 prevention campaign, UNHCR set up a Protection Helpline for refugees and asylum-seekers in Addis Ababa to continue to provide services related to protection, resettlement and access to asylum. The helpline numbers have been disseminated to the concerned communities in eight different languages through various communication channels, including social media and community-based structures.
- As part of the ongoing verification of Eritrean refugees who have self-relocated to Addis Ababa since the beginning of the conflict in Tigray, 14,266 families, consisting of 17,172 persons have been registered, including some 9,000 from the former Hitsats and Shimelba camps. All were issued with ID cards or other proof of registration documents, allowing them to reside in Addis Ababa for three years. Cash assistance has already been extended to 14,314 individuals.
- In 2021, UNHCR and its partners reached over 1 million IDPs, IDP-returnees and members of the host community through a coordinated response in nine of the country's ten regions. The response included protection monitoring and support, construction of shelters, distribution of basic relief

supplies and legal counselling. Despite the constraints, including a volatile security situation, lack of unhindered access, chronic shortage of cash and fuel, and limited electrical power and telecommunication services, particularly in Tigray, UNHCR assisted in October and November approximately 90,000 internally displaced people in Afar, Amhara and Tigray regions with the distribution of essential aid items. Approximately 8,000 women and girls received dignity kits, while counselling was extended to over 2,500 people. Approximately 2,000 children, including unaccompanied minors and separated children, received psycho-social support.

Durable Solutions

- As current conditions for voluntary repatriation are not favorable for most refugees in Ethiopia, and local integration programmes are yet to be put in place, securing resettlement opportunities remains UNHCR's top priority. In 2021, UNHCR submitted 90% (1,987) of its quota of 2,208 individuals targeted for resettlement. Although the target could not be achieved due to the inability to process resettlement out of the refugee camps in Tigray region, it is noted that Ethiopia has achieved among the highest percentage of its quota in the region. Departures were facilitated for 10,91 refugees to different resettlement countries. 148 refugees travelled to Italy through the Italian Humanitarian Corridor. 54 students have embarked on various scholarship schemes to Italy and Germany.

Shelter

- Access to adequate shelter remains below the standard with only 44% of the camp-based refugee families living in adequate dwelling. UNHCR and partners continue to work to increase the number of shelters in all refugee camps through the planned construction of 5,226 emergency shelters and 2,377 transitional shelters, as well as by maintaining 2,078 transitional shelters in 2021. By the end of the year, 3,107 emergency shelters and 1,323 transitional shelters were provided to refugee families, while maintenance work was done on 1,452 transitional shelters in different refugee camps. Furthermore, paving and/or maintenance work has been conducted on 19 of the planned 24km of access roads in camps in the Benishangul-Gumuz and Gambella regions, as well as in Alemwach refugee site in the Amhara region. Construction of half of the planned 31 cross-drainage facilities, including a foot bridge, were completed in those locations.
- The development of the Alemwach site in the Amhara region has continued, with construction of eight of the planned communal shelters completed. The remaining 32 are at different levels of the construction process. Once completed, the site is expected to host over 25,000 Eritrean refugees who are currently sheltered in two refugee camps in the Tigray region.
- Under the Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items (ESNFI) Cluster, UNHCR continues to respond to shelter and core relief items needs of IDPs in the northern and other parts of the country. Durable shelter support is also being provided to relocated and returning IDPs in Gedo (SNNP) and West Guji (Oromia), Fafan and Liban (Somali), east and west Hararge (Oromia) areas. Some 600 families in east and west Wollega zones of the Oromia region were supported with cash assistance for rent throughout the year. During the year, 750 emergency shelters were constructed in IDP sites in Shire and Mekelle in Tigray, with plans underway to scale up the construction. In North Gondar, UNHCR pitched 200 tents at Kulichmeda IDP site in Debark to support the relocation of IDPs from a local school. Similarly, 610 UNHCR tents were provided to IDPs in the Assosa and Metekel zones of the Benishangul Gumuz region. In Gedo and West Guji areas in the south, 200 durable shelters were provided for the most vulnerable IDP returnees. Out of 405 durable shelters planned to be provided to relocated and returning IDP families in the Somali (Fafan and Liban Zone) and Oromia (east Hararge) regions, 395 were handed over to the most vulnerable families. In the Afar region, UNHCR through its partners, distributed emergency shelter kit to 4,558 households in Chifra and Adear Woredas. Additional distributions were ongoing at the Wake 50 site in Chifra (Afar region).

Education

- UNHCR provides education services to refugees in partnership with the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) and different Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). During the current academic year, a total of 171,447 refugee students are enrolled in pre-primary (52,486), primary (102,383) and secondary (16,578) levels of education. These preliminary figures do not include data from the Afar region which are still under compilation. 1,527 refugees are currently enrolled in different public

universities across Ethiopia benefitting from scholarship programmes offered by the Governments of Ethiopia and Germany (so-called DAFI scholarships).

- In line with the Government's commitment at the first Global Refugee Forum (GRF), in 2019, to provide quality and accredited skills training to 20,000 refugees and Ethiopian nationals by 2024, a total of 3,071, individuals, including 1,055 refugees and 2,016 Ethiopians have received accredited skills training that is linked to the labor market.
- Only 49 percent of primary school teachers in refugee camps have the requisite qualifications to teach, while the teacher-to-pupil ratio stands at 1:83 and 1:66 for primary and secondary schools, respectively. Moreover, the average class size in the primary and secondary schools is 109 and 97, respectively, which is far below the acceptable minimum standard. Resources are required to enhance the qualification of teachers both through formal enrolment in colleges and on-job training, together with recruitment of additional teachers. Funding is also needed to secure adequate provision of textbooks and to construct additional classrooms within existing school premises.

Health

- 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.
- In line with the criteria of prioritization set by the Ethiopian Ministry of Health, 10,892 refugees have received COVID-19 vaccine, including 6,152 who were fully vaccinated.
- UNHCR, together with RRS, Regional Health Bureaus, and other health partners, implements activities to help prevent COVID-19 infections and to mitigate its consequences in refugee camps and other locations sheltering refugees. Activities include risk communication and community engagement, training of health personnel, case identification and management, contact tracing and referrals, distribution of personal protective equipment (PPEs) and essential medicines and equipment to strengthen health services. UNHCR is also part of the UN Inter-agency COVID-19 response to the IDP situation, providing PPEs and sanitation materials, equipping isolation and quarantine centers and sensitizing community on the risks of the pandemic.

Food Security and Nutrition

- **Nutrition Programmes:** UNHCR and RRS Continue to coordinate with partners to improve the nutrition status of refugees through preventive and curative programmes. Monthly strategic refugee health and nutrition meetings are conducted to help coordinate and follow up on activities. 46 of the 48 nutrition centres in 22 of the 24 refugee camps continue to be run effectively. During the year, 32,945 children in the 5-59 months age bracket were treated under the Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) programmes, while over 100,000 children and 32,000 lactating women were admitted in the Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programmes (BSFP) – aimed at prevention of malnutrition and to meet their increased nutrient needs.
- **Food assistance:** The current food basket for refugees meets only 60% (1262kcal/p/d) of the minimum standard of 2,100 kcal per person/day due to funding shortfalls. UNHCR, WFP and RRS appealed in October for additional funding to avoid further cuts in food ration, undermining the nutrition status of refugees and asylum seekers.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** UNHCR conducted annual nutrition surveys in 18 refugee camps across the country, indicating that in 83% of the refugee camps in Ethiopia the Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate is below the WHO classification of a critical situation. However, only 33% of the surveyed camps meet the UNHCR standard for nutritionally stable camps, which is a GAM rate of 10% and below. UNHCR, in collaboration with RRS, continues to address the needs through multi-sector programming with partners and other key stakeholders.

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. In December, an average of 15 litres/per person/day of potable water was provided to refugees across all camps. This includes, due to system breakdowns, supply through emergency water trucking in Dillo and Megado settlements in Southern Oromia, Adi Harush and Mai Aini refugee camps in Tigray and in Kebribeyah in Jijiga.
- 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 the refugee camps. To date, 34,817 hand-washing stations have been installed in different refugee camps

Cash-Based Interventions (CBI)

- In 2021, UNHCR was providing monthly cash assistance to 2,413 refugee families (of 21 different nationalities), which included a special top-off to strengthen COVID-19 prevention. UNHCR provides monthly multi-purpose cash assistance to vulnerable urban refugees in Addis Ababa to cover their basic needs. 14,000 Eritrean refugees who had self-relocated from camps in Tigray to Addis Ababa, due to the conflict, were temporarily granted a 3-month cash grant to help cope with the cost of settling-in. In addition, UNHCR provided cash grants to support the sustainable re-integration of **284 former** Ethiopian refugee families who returned from neighbouring countries during the year. The cash assistance is used to address the immediate needs, such as food, rent, core-relief items and educational expenses to help thereturnee children resume education.
- With the aim to ensure that refugees have greater control in the building process and, at the same time, supporting local markets and businesses to benefit from the purchase of materials, in 2021, UNHCR sub-offices in Jijiga and Assosa used CBI to construct and/or repair transitional shelters for **945** refugee families.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- At the Global Refugee Forum held in Geneva in 2019, the Government of Ethiopia pledged to create up to 90,000 economic opportunities in the agricultural and livestock value chains that would benefit both refugees and host communities in an equitable manner. To date, 2,800 residence permits have been issued to qualified refugees. 17,526 persons (7,010 refugees and 10,516 host community members) have benefitted from direct economic opportunities. 80,953 refugees and host community members have indirectly benefitted from interventions in agriculture, livestock, market system development, services related to financial inclusion and trainings. 1,000 hectares of land is under cultivation in the Somali region, with refugees and members of the host communities working together on the farms and sharing the produce equally. In Gambella, 50 hectares of land has been cultivated and covered with seeds jointly by refugees and members of the communities hosting them.

Access to Energy

- UNHCR is part of the multi-actor partnerships working to improve refugees' access to energy for cooking, lighting, and other purposes. As of December 2021, more than 23,000 refugees have access to alternative cooking fuels through carbonized biomass briquette, grid connected communal kitchens and commercial fuel wood interventions. Thanks to solar mini-grid projects in Melkadida, Somali region, electricity was secured for more than 9,000 refugees and host community members who pay for the service. In 2021, more than 864,500 multi-purpose tree seedlings were planted across the refugee camps and hosting areas along with natural resource

management and rehabilitation activities. Multiple energy projects are ongoing in camps in the Gambella, Afar and Somali (Melkadida) regions, expected to provide energy access to more than 141,000 refugees and 35,000 hosting community members in 2022. Limited resources present one of the main challenges affecting our ability to increase access to clean household cooking energy, which currently stands at less than 11%. Access to household and street lighting in most of the refugee camps remains limited, requiring a coordinated response from stakeholders.

External / Donors Relations

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

US| Gap Inc |USA for UNHCR| Germany| Denmark | IKEA Foundation | UK| CERF| Japan| Country-based Pooled Funds| Netherlands| European Union (ECHO)| Education Cannot Wait | The Lego Foundation| Canada | Norway| Ireland| “la Caixa” Banking Foundation| Sweden| Switzerland |Italy| Czechia | UN Children’s Fund| Spain| Band Aid| Latter-Day-Saints Charities| UNO-Fluechtlingshilfe| Luxembourg| UN Foundation| UN Programme on HIV/AIDS| Toyota Tsusho Corporation| Laboratorios Viñas| UPS Corporate| Other private donors

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

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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LINKS

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