

## East and Horn of Africa, and the Great Lakes Region

5-10 June 2020


**4.6** MILLION  
 REFUGEES & ASYLUM-SEEKERS


**8.1** MILLION  
 INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS


**54,835**  
 REFUGEE RETURNÉES IN 2020

**21,856** CONFIRMED  
 COVID-19  
 CASES IN HOSTING COUNTRIES

### Operational Context

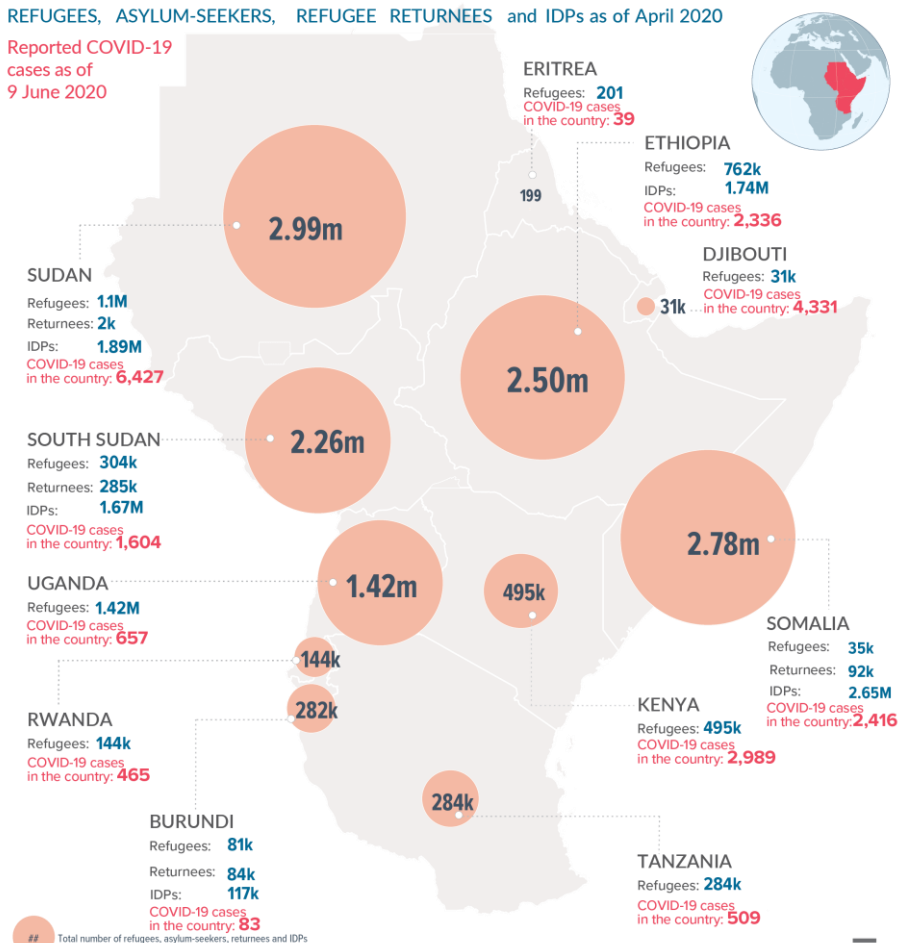
The COVID-19 situation in the East and Horn of Africa, and the Great Lakes (EHAGL) region continues to evolve. As of 9 June, there were 21,856 confirmed COVID-19 cases in the countries covered by UNHCR's EHAGL Regional Bureau. Since the last weekly report, the number of COVID-19 cases has increased by 32%. Sudan alone accounts for 29% of the cases in the region. Ethiopia and Sudan have witnessed the largest percentage increase in the number of COVID-19 cases whilst Tanzania has not reported on new cases for over a month.

While there has been no large-scale outbreak amongst UNHCR's populations of concern so far, 4.6 million refugees and 8.1 million IDPs and their host communities are at risk. The need for preparedness remains urgent as local transmission is ongoing in all countries of the region. Measures by governments in the region to contain the spread of COVID-19 continue to evolve, and many restrictions will remain in place during this month.

On 6 June, the President of **Kenya** pronounced his eighth Presidential Address regarding COVID-19, outlining the difficulties in balancing public health with the economic and social needs in responding to the outbreak. He stressed that key requirements to lift overall restrictions were not in place, including the rising number of cases and the lack of isolation facilities and trained medical personnel in some parts of the country. International air travel restrictions were extended, and daily curfews are maintained with modified hours. However, movement restrictions in the Eastleigh section of Nairobi, where some 17,000 refugees reside, were lifted on 7 June.

REFUGEES, ASYLUM-SEEKERS, REFUGEE RETURNÉES and IDPs as of April 2020

Reported COVID-19 cases as of 9 June 2020



\*COVID-19 Case information: WHO, John Hopkins University, Ministries of Health, Governments.  
 Note: COVID-19 cases refer to total cases reported in the countries of asylum. IDP figures source: IOM, OCHA and UNHCR.

### Key Measures Taken

- Supporting national authorities in ensuring that prevention and response preparedness are ongoing in all locations.
- Ensuring basic assistance and minimum standards during quarantine for new asylum seekers and refugees who have travelled internally within host countries.
- Continued identification of isolation infrastructure in concerned locations.
- Procurement and distribution of necessary equipment is ongoing.

## UNHCR Response

### Protection

UNHCR continues to assess the impact of border closures and travel restrictions on access to asylum. Access to registration and refugee status determination for new asylum seekers remains difficult due to the current lockdowns. Movements continue through unofficial border crossing points where screening and provision of information is not in place. Across the region, UNHCR has appealed for special measures to be put in place, to allow for asylum-seekers to be screened, quarantined and admitted, and for UNHCR to be granted access to areas where new refugees are arriving.

In **Ethiopia**, on 5 June, the government confirmed they will permit individuals in the overcrowded Pagak Reception Centre to be relocated to the refugee camps in Gambella, mainly Nguenyiel camp. A proposed action plan, which is still being finalized, would consist of providing basic assistance to the population in Pagak during the quarantine period, and test them for COVID-19 prior to their relocation. In the meantime, a Protection Needs Assessment will commence this week to identify the main vulnerabilities and to prepare for the relocation. This decision followed a high-level mission on 2 June to assess the COVID-19 response in Pagak led by the Gambella Regional President and composed of the Deputy Minister of Health and the Deputy Minister of Peace. There are currently some 7,300 new arrivals from South Sudan hosted in Pagak.

UNHCR and the Governments of **Burundi** and **Tanzania** have agreed on a Tripartite Working Group and Tripartite Commission meeting to be held between 29 June and 1 July 2020 in Kigoma. The Governments of Burundi and Tanzania are keen to resume the repatriation of Burundian refugees despite the challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. For now, repatriation has been suspended until 15 June. UNHCR and the humanitarian community continue to advocate for a prolonged suspension to ensure all necessary measures are fully in place.

### Education

**The spread of COVID-19 has led to the closure of most schools for an indefinite period across the region and the ability of refugee students to access distance learning programmes at scale has proven challenging.**

As the countries in the region continue to grapple with delivery of distance learning, governments in the meantime are deliberating on reopening of schools. **Tanzania** reopened secondary schools on 8 June with primary schools expected to follow. Through a comprehensive partner consultations process, **Kenya** has set 1 September 2020 as the date to reopen schools. It appears other countries in the region may also work toward a September reopening. In this regard, UNHCR and Save the Children (SCI), as co-leads of the regional education in emergencies working group, are planning a regionwide Webinar on reopening of schools. The Webinar will bring together education stakeholders, child protection teams, WASH and public health teams to jointly discuss reopening of schools going forward. A key document on "Safe Back to School Practitioners Guide" recently produced will be used during the Webinar. This document refers to the Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) Minimum Standards, the Child Protection Minimum Standards, the Sphere Handbook, the Considerations for school related public health measures in the context of COVID-19 (WHO), and the Guidance for the Prevention and Control of COVID-19 in schools (IFRC, UNICEF, WHO). This guide builds on the UN Framework for Reopening Schools, giving concrete actions that can be taken at the community and school level to operationalize these global policy recommendations.

**11** countries have closed their borders to a certain degree, partially impacting access to asylum. UNHCR continues to advocate with Government partners to be able to carry out border monitoring activities, especially in lockdown situations.

**Strengthening** and seeking innovative approaches to communicate and engage with communities to provide fact-based information on COVID-19 through a wide variety of methods.

As **schools reopen** in the region, UNHCR and partners are faced with the need to **mitigate risks** by increasing WASH facilities and ensuring additional learning spaces.

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

**Emphasis remains on blanket prevention activities in camps and working with the health sector to assess and prepare for WASH needs and infection prevention control in identified health structures to isolate and treat COVID-19 patients.**

*WASH prevention activities targeting all camp populations, such as increased water supply, provision of soap for handwashing and public awareness activities are progressing throughout the region. The replenishment of hygiene material requires longer term planning and additional funding as the timeline of the pandemic continues to extend.*

In **Djibouti**, 13 newly recruited hygiene promoters have started to strengthen hygiene promotion in the refugee villages of Ali-Addeh and Holl-Holl. Distribution of soap in the two villages is planned for this month. In **Somalia**, as at 7 June, UNHCR has raised awareness about prevention and response to COVID-19 among 240,000 persons, distributed hygiene kits to 31,000 persons, and installed 48 handwashing stands in front of health centres/hospitals/reception centres (used by some 1,000 persons per day). In **Sudan**, a total of 20,519 individuals received soap distributions that were conducted in Central Darfur (4,900 CAR and Chadian refugees in Um Shalaya refugee camp), and White Nile State (15,619 South Sudanese refugees in Al Redis 1, Al Redis 2 & Khor Al Waral camps). Distributions were done in cooperation with partners Save the Children and CAFOD. Information campaigns targeting refugees and IDPs via various means continued in the Kordofans, Khartoum, Central and South Darfur and West Nile State. In Kordofan, public awareness campaigns and dissemination through several radio stations and loudspeakers mounted on vehicles have continued with active participation of the community-based structures in An Nuhud and El Debab. In Khartoum, 12,380 new posters were distributed to PoC communities starting in the Open Areas in Omdurman and Sharg El Nil and mainly targeting Eritrean, Ethiopian and South Sudanese refugees.

## Health

**Major health challenges include the immediate availability of equipment necessary to detect, test and treat complicated cases, medical and PPE supplies and adequate quarantine facilities, as well as the feasibility of practicing physical distancing at the community level.**

*Operations continue to implement preparedness and response plans which involve identification, establishment and equipping of isolation units in often congested camps and settlements.*

In **Burundi**, 25 bicycles were distributed to community leaders to facilitate awareness raising and COVID-19 monitoring activities among the camp population. Construction work is ongoing to finalise the full upgrade of all isolation centers in the 5 refugee camps and 3 transit centers. In **Kenya**, targeted community testing for COVID-19 in the has been introduced in camps and will continue based on availability of testing kits and sample collection materials. UNHCR's procurement of additional PPE and commodities is ongoing. In **Tanzania**, renovation of the temporary isolation center in Nyarugusu camp has been completed, including bed partitioning and WASH facilities.

The facility has the capacity to isolate 10 suspected cases pending referral to the Kasulu District COVID-19 isolation center. Additional seven rooms have been identified at the various facilities to isolate suspected cases of COVID-19 until further referral. In **Uganda**, UNHCR and partners continued to support at least 18 quarantine facilities within the settlements and at transit centres across the country, including by covering the costs of medical supplies and PPE, site management, feeding and logistics. At present, 834 individuals are quarantined in these facilities, including 406 refugees, 2 asylum seekers, 416



*UNHCR and partners expand Goboro transit centre to serve as a new institutional quarantine facility in Uganda's Yumbe district. © UNHCR/O. Nasibov.*

Ugandans and 10 foreign nationals. Kabahinda Vocational Training Centre in Nakivale settlement currently hosts the largest number of quarantined individuals, including 91 Ugandans, 16 refugees and 10 foreign nationals.

## Inter-agency Coordination

Operations are working closely with UN Country Teams, Resident Coordinators and the World Health Organization on crisis management, personnel and business continuity arrangements, program criticality, preparedness, and response planning. Existing refugee response coordination structures continue to function, through virtual communication where relevant.

At the regional level UNHCR is engaged with the Regional Humanitarian Partners Team (RHPT) to map the impact on humanitarian operations and coordinate on advocacy messaging, as well as with many sectoral groups including health, nutrition, education, and child protection which have been developing context specific inter-agency guidance on programming during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Funding needs

The revised UN inter-agency [Global Humanitarian Response Plan](#) was launched on 7 May seeking US\$6.7 billion and includes UNHCR's revised requirements of US\$745 million. UNHCR's [Revised Emergency Appeal](#) detailing the country and sectoral breakdown of UNHCR's global budget requirements was launched on 11 May. Within the revised appeal, \$126 million has been requested for ten countries in the East and Horn and Great Lakes Region.

This is a revision of the initial [Global Humanitarian Response Plan](#) launched on 25 March seeking US\$2.01 billion, and which included US\$255 million for initial, prioritized requirements in UNHCR's operations in affected countries.

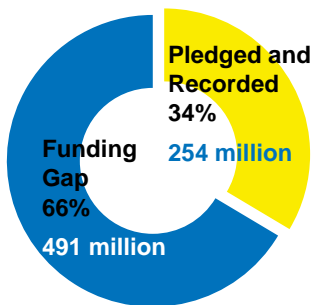
The increase is due to a rapid evolution of humanitarian needs, the inclusion of additional countries, increased cost of essential health and other supplies, and air and sea transportation. UNHCR is further scaling up its health, shelter and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) preparedness and response interventions, providing cash and other support to vulnerable displaced families experiencing economic shock, and ensuring protection and assistance for those most affected.

**USD 745 million** requested by UNHCR in the revised inter-agency **Global Humanitarian Response Plan**

**USD 126 million** requested for **10 countries** in the **East and Horn of Africa and Great Lakes region**

## Funding

USD 745M requested for UNHCR's COVID-19 response globally over the next nine months:



### Total contributed or pledged to the COVID-19 appeal

**USD 254M** including:

United States \$64M | Germany \$38M | European Union \$32.8M | United Kingdom \$24.8M | Japan \$23.9M | Denmark \$14.6M | United Nations Foundation \$10M | CERF \$6.9M | Canada \$6.4M | Ireland \$3.3M | Sweden \$3M | Sony Corporation \$3M | Luxembourg \$2.6M | Finland \$2.4M | Education Cannot Wait \$1.8M | Qatar Charity \$1.5M | Norway \$1.4M | USA for UNHCR \$1M

### Unearmarked contributions to UNHCR's regular global programmes:

Sweden 76.4M | Norway 41.4M | Netherlands 36.1M | Denmark 34.6M | United Kingdom 31.7M | Private donors in Spain 26.6M | Germany 25.9M | Switzerland 16.4M | Private donors in Republic of Korea 13.9M

## Links:

**UNHCR COVID-19 country updates:** [Kenya](#), [Sudan](#), [Tanzania](#), [Uganda](#)

**UNHCR Story:** [Refugees make protective masks to curb the spread of coronavirus](#)

Click [here](#) to access a [live dashboard](#) providing information on COVID-19 cases in the region, as well as travel restrictions and movement and border controls put in place by Governments.

## Contacts

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