



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency



**UPDATE: ETHIOPIA EMERGENCY
SITUATION (TIGRAY)**

UNHCR REGIONAL APPEAL

January - December 2021



Selam, 19, started her coffee making business almost as soon as she arrived in Tunaydbah refugee camp in Sudan from Tigray. She ran a café at home before the conflict forced her to flee. Selam is determined to use her entrepreneurial skills to make a life for herself and her family.
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Overview



Priority populations targeted for assistance

120,000
ETHIOPIAN
REFUGEES IN
EASTERN SUDAN

96,000
ERITREAN
REFUGEES IN
ETHIOPIA

650,000
ETHIOPIAN IDPs IN
TIGRAY REGION,
ETHIOPIA
(Note: total estimated IDPs
in Tigray: 2 million)

\$164.5 million
TOTAL REQUIREMENTS
(Ethiopia \$101.3 million;
Sudan \$63.2 million)

Since UNHCR’s original emergency appeal for the humanitarian crisis in Tigray, which has displaced millions inside Ethiopia and abroad into Sudan, two of the four Eritrean refugee camps in the Tigray region have been looted and destroyed, a threat of severe food insecurity has arisen, and a surge in gender-based violence has been reported. Two other Eritrean refugee camps in the neighbouring Afar region have also been affected due to conflict spreading into the region. Amid a challenging and complex situation, UNHCR is appealing to donors to help it bring vital protection and assistance to people displaced by the conflict.

The situation inside Tigray is volatile and fluid. In the last week of June, Tigrayan forces took control of the towns of Mekelle and Shire and are now reported to be in control of large parts of Tigray. Both the federal authorities and the new *de facto* authorities in Tigray continue to highlight

their willingness to work with the humanitarian community, and it is hoped that access to some of the most affected areas may become easier, allowing for activities to scale up in previously hard-to-reach areas. However, access into Tigray remains extremely difficult. Meanwhile conflict continues across other parts of Tigray, including a worsening security situation in the areas around Mai Tsebri. This is the location of the two Eritrean refugee camps of Mai Aini and Adi Harush, where access issues are hindering the movement of supplies and staff, and the safe relocation of refugees to alternative locations.

The updated [UN Humanitarian Response Plan for northern Ethiopia](#) estimates (as of 9 July) that 5.2 million people may be in significant humanitarian need, but that the challenges to scaling up assistance are formidable. UNHCR and partners will review their operational approach and

plans to ensure the flexibility to adapt to potential IDP movements back to areas of return or new displacement in different areas, including further displacement of refugees. [Multiple UN inter-agency assessments conducted in June 2021](#) across central, western and eastern Tigray found there were limited or no health services; partial or non-functioning water systems with limited water trucking services; limited banking services; that insecurity was seriously hampering farming; and that schools have been looted.

UNHCR's partners are receiving indications of rising hunger, as the conflict exacerbated an already fragile context marked by the COVID-19 pandemic and desert locust invasion. Families are having to cope with severe food insecurity with the harvest season having been missed. With no trade in or out of the region, markets are about to collapse. Malnutrition is likely to have increased significantly. The June 10 [Integrated Food Security Phase Classification \(IPC\) report](#) highlighted that over 350,000 people are already facing catastrophic conditions of food insecurity (IPC 5) and more than 1.8 million people were or are in emergency level (IPC 4) in Tigray and adjacent locations in Amhara and Afar in May and June.

Serious protection needs persist across the region. The conflict has driven a dramatic rise in reported gender-based violence cases, believed to be a fraction of the actual number of incidents, given the lack of access to medical facilities in many parts of the region and social stigma around reporting.

As of end June 2021, according to a biometric verification exercise, Sudan hosted 54,039 Ethiopian refugees who had arrived since November 2020. There were 46,505 individually registered refugees in eastern Sudan from Tigray, as well as 7,534 in Blue Nile state from Benishangul region who have not yet undergone biometric verification. The majority of the new arrivals are hosted in camps that need improvements to shelter, sanitation, health and road infrastructure—particularly in light of anticipated extreme weather during the rainy season—as well as improvements in protection to better guarantee physical safety and reduce the risks of gender-based violence.

With the developments in Tigray in late June 2021 and shifting conflict dynamics, UNHCR is preparing for the possibility of new refugee influxes from Ethiopia into Sudan, pre-positioning supplies and ensuring preparedness at border reception points while working with the Government to identify additional locations for refugee settlements.

Tigray's pre-conflict population of 6 million included 96,000 registered Eritrean refugees, of whom approximately 60,000 were actively collecting food assistance in 2020. The population of the camps has fluctuated due to the changing security environment in Tigray. There were 32,000 refugees registered in Mai Aini and Adi Harush camps as of June 2021, with approximately 23,000 actively collecting assistance. Two other camps, Hitsats and Shimelba, were looted and destroyed during the conflict, scattering refugees across Tigray and beyond. UNHCR teams, in collaboration with the Ethiopian Government's Administration for Refugee

and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) have been tracing refugees to bring them to safety. More than 11,000 of the 20,000 refugees previously in the two destroyed camps have been accounted for; outreach and tracing continue including in hard-to-reach areas and in the capital Addis Ababa.

A more robust and enhanced multisectoral response is still required for forcibly displaced people across Tigray, encompassing the whole spectrum of basic needs. As the protection lead agency with commitments towards IDPs, returnees and host communities, UNHCR is working with partners on mitigating the effects of armed conflict on the civilian population. UNHCR will endeavour to ensure civilians have access to assistance and services in a safe, equitable, accessible, and dignified manner. Protection mainstreaming measures, including protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and accountability to affected populations, will be critical to ensuring that the needs

of vulnerable populations are recognized across the response. UNHCR and partners will review their operational approach and plans to ensure the flexibility to adapt to potential IDP movements back to areas of return or new displacement in different areas, including further displacement of refugees.

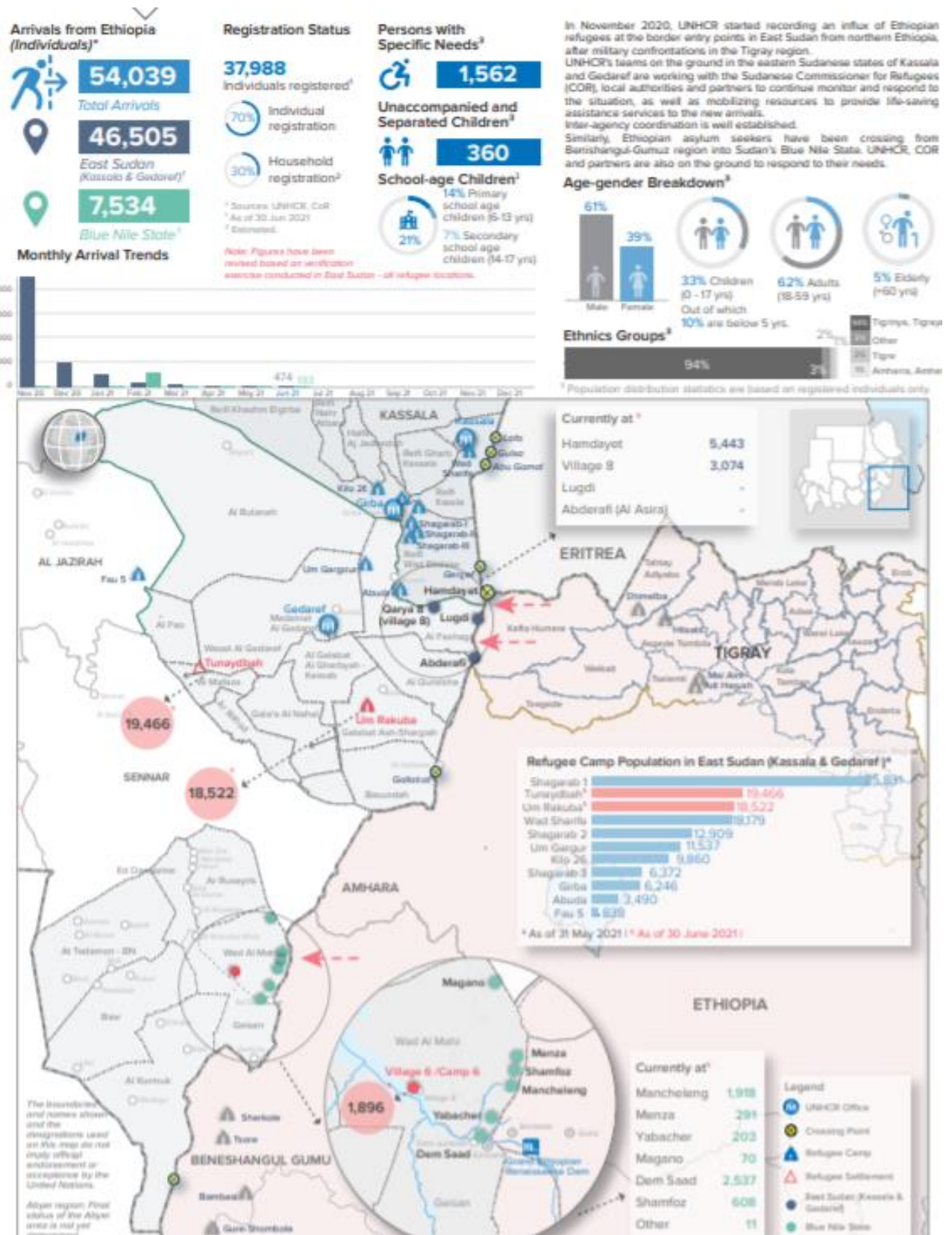
Priorities and strategies for the remainder of the year will depend largely on the security situation, logistical challenges, risk management and coordination with UNHCR partners and stakeholders in what is a highly complex humanitarian and operational environment.

To deliver life-saving assistance and protection to up to **120,000 Ethiopian refugees who may seek refuge in Sudan**, to an estimated 96,000 Eritrean refugees in Tigray, and to **650,000 IDPs**, UNHCR is appealing for \$164.5 million to cover the period January-December 2021. This includes \$101.3 million of needs in Ethiopia and \$63.2 million in Sudan.

For more information

Visit **Global Focus**, which is UNHCR's main operational reporting portal for donors and other key partners. The site provides an overview of the protection risks that refugees and other populations of concern to UNHCR face across the world, as well as regularly updated information about programmes, operations, financial requirements, funding levels and donor contributions. The Global Focus Ethiopia Emergency page can be found [here](#).

Ethiopian new arrivals | as of June 2021



UNHCR's response to date

Ethiopia | As of October 2020, before the outbreak of the conflict, some 96,000 Eritrean refugees were registered in Tigray. Refugees lived mainly in four refugee camps, with some 7,800 refugees officially residing outside of camps, benefiting from the Government's out of camp policy.

Following the outbreak of the conflict in November 2020 access to the refugee camps was denied and UNHCR was compelled to relocate international staff out of Tigray while a number of national staff remained in Shire and Mekelle and responded to IDPs' needs as far as possible with the supplies on hand. UNHCR regained access to the Mai Aini and Adi Harush refugee camps in January 2021. After the easing of access restrictions in late February 2021, UNHCR scaled up its presence with emergency teams and expanded its office in Mekelle.

As of late July 2021, some 6,700 of the 20,000 refugees who were displaced from the Hitsats and Shimelba camps have been identified in Addis Ababa, while more than 7,300 have relocated to Adi Harush and Mai Aini camps, either on their own or facilitated by the Government. Refugees relocated to the camps have received emergency shelter, core relief items and food upon arrival. Monthly food distributions for the refugee population in the two camps have been organized with WFP and ARRA since December 2020, and preventive and curative nutrition interventions are ongoing. Communal latrine construction and expansion of water networks has also been undertaken.

With presence in Mekelle, Shire and Mai Tsebri, UNHCR and partners have conducted assessments and/or delivered services to key locations in Tigray, including Mekelle, Shire, Mai Tsebri, Sheraro, Adi-Daero, Endabaguna, Adwa, Axum, Adigrat, Alamata, Abiy Adi, Gijet and Semre. UNHCR is strategically positioned as the Protection Cluster lead, with partnerships established in key locations around Tigray to support protection outreach and monitoring activities. Protection desks for case management have been established in over 30 sites in and around Shire and Mekelle.

Since the onset of the emergency, UNHCR and IOM have co-led the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster in Tigray, and UNHCR has a key role in the relocation taskforces in Shire and Mekelle, as they are led by the Protection and CCCM clusters. Progress has been made in supporting the establishment of IDP community leadership structures and sub-structures, capacity development for local authorities, site profiling to identify the access to services and gaps in Shire and Mekelle, and cluster outreach missions in surrounding cities and increasingly in hard-to-reach areas. Distribution of core relief items has reached over 12,000 IDP households (64,000 individuals), with 250 shelters constructed in Shire and 600 in Mekelle by UNHCR and partners.

Under the leadership of UNHCR, 29 humanitarian and development partners worked together to update the inter-agency Country Refugee Response Plan (CRRP) for Ethiopia, for the overall

refugee population in the country, including elements from the inter-agency Refugee Emergency Response Plan (RRP) for Eritrean Refugees in Tigray that was developed at the beginning of the Tigray crisis and in the context of the joint emergency response of humanitarian partners for a three-month period (November 2020-January 2021).

Sudan | The borders remain open for refugees and UNHCR and partners have full access to border points, with the Government granting *prima facie* status to all Ethiopian refugees arriving in Sudan related to the Tigray situation. UNHCR and the Sudanese Government's Commissioner for Refugees (COR) are screening and registering new arrivals and sheltering them in transit centres located near entry points. Water and meals are provided. A verification exercise was carried out in May 2021 by the Government and UNHCR to update the population figures.

Due to the rapidly evolving situation at the outset of the crisis, UNHCR scaled up its presence in Sudan, especially in Gedaref and Kassala States with the deployment of emergency teams and expansion of its offices. The operation has transitioned towards longer-term staffing with the recruitment of permanent positions. Scaling up of protection staff and especially female protection staffing has been achieved, with an almost 50% gender ratio in overall staffing.

Protection teams continue to identify persons at heightened risk and refer them to specialized services. Such persons include pregnant women, persons with disabilities, women and girls at risk of exploitation and abuse, unaccompanied children, youth and older persons. Counselling and health services are available for survivors of gender-based violence.

Relocation of refugees from border areas to Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah, where about 40,000 people have been settled so far, has been on hold since late February 2021 pending Government agreement for a resumption. In the meantime, registration for relocation is ongoing in Hamdayet and Village 8 transit centres. However, relocation for family reunification has been taking place. A new camp in Blue Nile state, Camp 6, has been established for arrivals from Ethiopia's Benishangul-Gumuz region.

UNHCR led the preparation of an Inter-Agency Refugee Response Plan which was issued in November 2020 with 30 UN and NGO partners. The plan, which was revised in May 2021 includes the response in Blue Nile state, incorporates additional flood preparedness and response measures, and extends the timeframe to 31 December 2021.

Djibouti and Eritrea | In June 2021, UNHCR and the Government of Djibouti registered 57 Ethiopian refugees of Tigrayan origin, bringing the total registered since the outbreak of the conflict in November 2020 to 300. Most are returnees from Yemen rather than new arrivals from Ethiopia. Scenario planning and preparation for potential refugee movements into both Djibouti and Eritrea have been undertaken, with UNHCR advocating for borders to remain open.

Urgent needs

Ethiopia | In Tigray, UNHCR plans to assist some 96,000 Eritrean refugees, and 650,000 IDPs. UNHCR is working with ARRA on the verification and assistance of refugees, whether still in camps, elsewhere in Tigray, in neighbouring regions, or in Addis Ababa. Since the change in the Government's asylum policy on *prima facie* status for Eritreans in 2020, Tigray also hosts Eritrean asylum-seekers who have not had the opportunity to apply for asylum, and who remain undocumented and unregistered.

Land for a new refugee camp in the Amhara region was officially handed over to UNHCR on 26 June by the Government for a new site, Alemwach, which will house approximately 25,000 refugees. In light of the security situation across Tigray and more specifically in and around the Mai Aini and Adi Harush camps, the operationalization of the Alemwach site where refugees are to be relocated is being expedited. Currently, the security situation is fluid, with access issues for UNHCR and partners limiting both service provision in the two camps of Mai Aini and Adi Harush, and the ability to move refugees to the new site. Of utmost priority is readying the new site across all sectors to receive refugees.

Water supply in the camps is still insufficient to meet the refugees' needs and deteriorated in July. Until 12 July when access was lost, UNHCR and partners were providing 14 litres of water per person per day in Mai Aini camp, where water systems were fully operational, and 11 litres per person per day in Adi Harush camp where the system

had been partially restored. Upon movement to the new site, emergency WASH facilities and water provision are also top priority.

OCHA estimates the gap in shelter and core relief items at 45% for IDPs in Shire alone, and 75% for IDPs across Tigray. Overcrowded sites expose IDPs to health and protection risks including COVID-19. This situation is especially concerning given the upcoming rainy season, which threatens to aggravate their plight. Core relief item kits comprising blankets, sleeping mats, kitchen sets, jerrycans and soap are urgently required, as are dignity kits for women and girls. To reach minimum standards and coordinate services, IDP sites need site assessment, planning and development, and camp management and community structures need support.

Sudan | Although the number of new arrivals has declined since the onset of the emergency, support is needed to urgently scale up interventions across all sectors while maintaining preparedness for a new influx from Ethiopia. The immediate and long-term priority is to strengthen assistance in protection—in particular child protection, and gender-based violence response and anti-trafficking measures—as well as shelter, core relief items, WASH, health and logistics in sites hosting refugees.

Flood preparedness continues to be scaled up amid an increase in sporadic showers and heavy winds. UNHCR and partners are responding to the urgent needs of refugees after heavy storms in June and early July damaged nearly 4,000

out of 10,000 family tents, as well as emergency latrines and other camp infrastructure. With extreme weather expected through the end of the rainy season in September or October, UNHCR and partners are repairing and reinforcing shelters, and working to ensure that affected families have access to clean water and safe latrines. The distribution of emergency shelter kits is underway to help those most impacted to reinforce their tents.

Since the developments in Tigray at the end of June 2021, UNHCR has stepped up monitoring of the situation at the border

and put in place facilities to receive any new influxes from Ethiopia. Discussions are ongoing with the Government of Sudan to identify additional land to accommodate potential new arrivals of refugees while continuing to advocate for the urgent relocation of the remaining at Hamdayet and Village 8 transit centres to the existing two refugee camps.

As the operation eventually begins to move away from the emergency phase and into a sustained operational phase, it is essential to focus also on livelihoods and on host community services that can serve refugees in an integrated fashion.



Protection

Ethiopia | UNHCR will continue to focus on protection monitoring and counselling; prevention, risk mitigation and response to gender-based violence; assistance to unaccompanied and separated children and strengthening family-based care; distribution of dignity kits and maintaining the civilian character of camps and host communities. Protection monitoring and development of community-based protection interventions with community structures need to be re-established or put in place in refugee camps, IDP sites, collective centres and nearby areas. UNHCR will also enhance provision of services through cash assistance (unrestricted).

In north-western Tigray, expanded protection services are urgently needed due to increasingly identified child protection issues at informal IDP sites, including family tracing and family reunification for unaccompanied and

separated children. Through its partners, UNHCR is already assisting around 4,000 vulnerable children, including unaccompanied children, child-headed households and children with chronic illnesses.

Sudan | At the border points and established sites in Kassala, Gedaref and Blue Nile States, urgent protection assistance needs include border monitoring and initial refugee registration at household level by COR and UNHCR, safe shelter for transit, provision of food, safe water and sanitation and core relief items, responding to protection concerns and receiving feedback at established protection desks and ensuring safety and security.

UNHCR and partners have made significant strides in scaling up the protection response. Protection desks have been established to identify people with special needs, provide information on protection services and facilitate referrals

to services. A task force for protection against sexual exploitation and abuse has been established and inter-agency training provided to government officials, humanitarian actors and refugee volunteers. Child-friendly spaces in the camps provide psychosocial support, and

community-based child protection networks have been set up. Women's centres have been initiated in both Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah where case management services are available. However, despite this progress, significant gaps and challenges remain.



Education

Ethiopia | The conflict in Tigray continues to affect approximately 15,000 refugee children enrolled in pre-primary, primary and secondary schools, resulting in significant learning losses, with the risk of permanently keeping many children out of school. Schools in the refugee camps have been looted, and equipment either stolen or damaged.

A renewed focus will need to be placed on getting children back into school, requiring the construction of emergency learning spaces in the new camp, and provision of learning materials for refugee children affected by the conflict, as well as establishment of WASH facilities and distribution of essential items including facemasks, thermometers and soap.

Sudan | Education needs among the Ethiopian refugees are high: 33% are younger than 17 years old and 10% are under five. Those children are in need of early childhood care and development (ECCD) as well as primary and secondary education. Refugee children who are out of school face serious protection risks, including exploitation and abuse, gender-based violence and early marriage for young girls. After an initial provision of temporary learning spaces in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah there is a need to provide

semi-permanent classrooms that are adequately furnished and have standardized learning and teaching materials. The education facilities are further in need of gender-sensitive WASH facilities and child-friendly spaces. More refugee volunteer teachers, often those who were teachers in Ethiopia, have to be identified, trained, and compensated through standardized incentives. Refugee teachers need training in life skills, COVID-19 preparedness, psychosocial support including play-based learning, psychological first aid, Code of Conduct and gender-based violence. Partners will closely coordinate their engagement with the Ministry of Education to adhere to national protocols and standards.

As camp planning evolves, more permanent and better equipped learning spaces will be needed, accessible to those with mobility limitations. The Refugee Education Working Group, co-led by UNHCR and UNICEF and in collaboration with the Federal and State Ministry of Education, is formulating a longer-term roadmap that will identify key milestones in a more structured education programme, facilitating inclusion in the national system and ensuring sustainable access to accredited education.



Shelter and infrastructure, energy, camp coordination and camp management and core relief items

Ethiopia | At least 15,000 IDP households will be targeted for shelter and distributions of core relief items. Adaptable emergency shelter kits, as defined by the strategy of the Emergency Shelter/NFI Cluster, will be provided to households with specific needs. The Shelter Cluster is working on the identification of unfinished buildings for rehabilitation in Mekelle for potential relocation of IDPs as shelter alternatives. UNHCR also plans to pilot cash-for-rent interventions for 400 IDP households in Shire and Mekelle for a period of six months. In the process of voluntarily returning to their homes, it is anticipated that IDPs will have a diverse set of needs including household items, farming equipment and seeds. A reintegration package will be provided to support 75,000 IDP returning households and 30,000 local community households through unrestricted cash assistance along with core relief items kits.

UNHCR and its partners will manage 52 sites and collective centres hosting over 800,000 IDPs in the vulnerable prioritized zones, *woredas* and *kebeles* of Tigray region. Additional resources will enable the CCCM Cluster to support community-led site maintenance activities through cash for work and distribution of tools to sites with conflict-affected IDPs who are susceptible to various protection risks.

UNHCR will continue to support refugees relocated to Mai Aini and Adi Harush camps in the interim and if the security

situation allows. Refugees relocated to the new site Alemwach will also be assisted with emergency and transitional shelters, and procurement and distribution of core relief items including jerrycans, soap, kitchen sets, blankets, sleeping mats and mosquito nets, solar lamps, and dignity kits for women and girls. Households with most critical specific needs, such as female-headed households and unaccompanied or separated children, will be prioritized for assistance.

Sudan | During the influx in the first months of the emergency, the main assistance objectives were to provide essential life-saving assistance services and ensure refugees did not stay longer than 72 hours at border entry points before being relocated to reception/transit sites and eventually to refugee settlements. The immediate aim at the height of the emergency was to ensure communal shelters and shaded areas were established at border entry points and households were provided with standard core relief items.

The Government designated location sites for refugees in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah in Gedaref State and Camp 6 in Blue Nile state with capacity to host 20,000 refugees each. Refugees relocated to the settlements have been allocated individual home plots, where multi-sectoral assistance such as shelter and core relief items are provided. Since the onset of the influx and as of early June, 12 communal shelters have been established in

Hamdayet, 3,950 tents and 625 transitional shelters (rakubas) pitched in Um Rakuba, and 5,425 tents pitched and 75 permanent shelters (tukuls) built in Tunaydbah. (These figures represent shelter support provided by UNHCR and partners and do not include makeshift shelters built by the refugees.)

While most of the refugee population have been provided with emergency shelter, gaps remain in the shelter provision. Additional support is required to scale up the delivery of durable shelters which provide refugees added protection. With the onset of the rainy season, efforts to bolster preparedness are ongoing via the

distribution of emergency shelter kits and core relief items to the entire population across all sites prioritizing those who have lost their accommodation in the recent storms. In addition, work is ongoing to strengthen existing roads and waterways, maintain and repair infrastructure that has been destroyed by the ongoing rains as part of a joint WFP-UNHCR road rehabilitation and drain construction project. The project, which commenced in April 2021, was almost 60% complete by the end of June 2021 and is expected to make the camps more accessible, thereby accelerating the delivery of much needed humanitarian assistance.



Water, sanitation and hygiene

Ethiopia | The WASH cluster is coordinating service delivery, working in collaboration with shelter and CCCM teams to set up required infrastructure and facilities for water and sanitation within the IDP sites.

In the refugee camps of Mai Aini and Adi Harush and depending on the timeline for the relocation to the new site in Alemwach, continued efforts will be made to install, repair and improve water supply networks and storage facilities to ensure refugees and surrounding host communities have adequate access to potable water. Water trucking will be required until the water systems, particularly in the new camp are fully operational. Additional communal latrines and bathing facilities will be installed to improve sanitation and hygiene conditions that have deteriorated due to overuse and overcrowding.

Sudan | At border entry points and designated settlement sites for refugees, WASH actors continue to work to ensure safe drinking water. As of June 2021, access to safe drinking water was at 21 litres per person per day in Tunaydbah and 31 litres per person per day in Um Rakuba. The response has prioritized the establishment of sustainable water sources in order to phase out water trucking which is expensive and unsustainable. Work is ongoing to repair and rehabilitate existing water systems, expand pipe networks, drill new boreholes and facilities additional water storage. Water treatment, including use of chlorine and purification tablets, will continue.

As of early June, UNHCR and partners have constructed 966 latrines, de-sludged 200 and decommissioned 250. Refugees now have better access to improved sanitation facilities with around 53 people per latrine, and over 40,000 refugees will

have received 450g of soap by the end of June. There are however still some gaps. There is a need for more shared latrines and showers, to bring the ratio down to one latrine to four families, or 1:20 people per latrine in accordance with the Sphere standards.

Sanitary products for women and girls of reproductive age also need to be

prioritized. Solid waste bins and solid waste disposal are being put in place, along with hand-washing stations and increased hygiene promotion. With the rainy season at hand, vector control management to mitigate waterborne diseases associated with stagnant water and waste management will need to be prioritized.

 **Health and nutrition**

Ethiopia | UNHCR and partners continue to provide primary health care to refugees and surrounding host communities in Adi Harush and Mai Aini camps, with over 29,000 consultations provided as of June 2021. Only a limited number of cases have been able to access secondary and tertiary health care services through the referral system because of movement restrictions and because most hospitals in the region are not fully functional. Other health services provided include drugs and medical supplies, and continuation of treatment for HIV or tuberculosis. UNHCR and partners will continue strengthening the activities of refugee community outreach and health workers in promoting preventive health services and COVID-19 mitigation measures, increasing health awareness and health care utilization, including operationalizing these systems in the new site. Access to healthcare in refugee camps—currently interrupted by the prevailing security environment—remains a high priority, as well as ensuring the provision of drugs and medical supplies.

Sudan | Emergency health services are provided through two health clinics at

reception sites run by the Sudanese Red Crescent, Médecins Sans Frontières, and Mercy Corps, in addition to roving teams from the Ministry of Health.

Health and nutritional screenings continue to take place for all new arrivals. Medical services include medical triage, COVID-19 related risk communication measures, identification and referral of malnourished children, and identification of individuals on long-term treatment for chronic illnesses. Primary health care services also include services for sexual and reproductive health.

The Ministry of Health carries out nutritional screening of children under five and refers those with moderate or severe acute malnutrition for treatment. All refugee children in the camps and some among the host community have been screened for malnutrition. Pregnant and lactating mothers are also screened and provided with nutritional support. Polio vaccinations are ongoing for children under five and other immunization programmes are being established.

Health and nutritional screening and triage upon arrival to the two refugee camps has also been enhanced. Visibly pregnant

women receive essential supplies such as clean delivery kits. Health care workers monitor for signs of disease outbreaks, provide psychological first aid, and carry out COVID-19 prevention and control interventions, including risk communication, contact tracing, and isolation and referral of suspected cases. Newborns receive emergency blanket supplementary feeding for the first three months and targeted supplementary feeding for three months if needed.

UNHCR continues to advocate for effective inclusion of refugees in the

national COVID-19 vaccination plan. To date, 80% of 500 targeted health workers have received their first dose and efforts to increase uptake continue. The next phase will target people aged 45 and over and those with chronic diseases. While physical distancing in such conditions is difficult to maintain, COVID-19 prevention measures will continue to be implemented. Other gaps include support for tertiary health care referrals to Khartoum, a shortage of essential medicines, and testing capacity for tuberculosis, malaria and HIV.



Livelihoods

Sudan | Livelihood activities include management of livestock that refugees brought with them, requiring holding pens and fodder. It also includes provision of life-saving livestock support such as applying the Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards, and distribution of appropriate containers for seed storage. In addition, UNHCR will seek to support

the agricultural livelihoods of refugees and host communities using relevant agricultural practices, while working with State institutions to develop natural resource management plans. Technical assistance and inputs will be extended to host communities to mitigate possible conflicts over the use of natural resources. Another key aspect will be the promotion of socioeconomic integration of refugees.



Logistics

Ethiopia | Timely provision of assistance requires an effective supply chain and logistics support. UN/humanitarian flights for movement of humanitarian workers, medical evacuations as well as supplies remains critical. UNHCR continues to provide partners with logistics support, office equipment and other supplies while equipping offices in Shire, Mekelle, Semera and Debarq with an adequate and well-maintained light and heavy-duty

vehicle fleet. UNHCR is also coordinating with the Logistics Cluster to establish and facilitate common logistics support and pipelines in-country for the Tigray response. Resources for the lease of large warehouse space in Mekelle are required to scale up the storage capacity of supplies in the region, as well as in Debarq upon establishment of the new camp.

Sudan | Transportation from the border areas in eastern Sudan and Blue Nile state

to reception points and onwards to Um Rakuba, Tunaydbah and Camp 6 is extremely costly, particularly in hard-to-reach border areas. As UNHCR continues to provide assistance to those refugees

remaining at the border transit sites while preparing for the possibility of additional influxes during the rainy season, logistics costs remain high.

Staffing and administration

The Emergency operation in both Ethiopia and Sudan is now transitioning from Emergency Response Teams to more permanent staff to ensure consistency and stepping up of protection response in both operations. A significant portion of the additional budget to extend the appeal for the rest of 2021 is for extension of current staffing levels.

Ethiopia | In addition to Shire, Mekelle and Embamadrie offices, UNHCR has set up a new hub in Debark. In order to provide administrative support to the Tigray situation, a field office will be opened in Samara, which will serve as an administrative hub. This being the regional capital of the Afar region, with daily flights to Addis Ababa and Tigray accessible by road, it can provide quick administrative response and support to any of the locations inside Tigray. Additional staffing capacities, office space, staff accommodation, vehicles and ICT

equipment are required to manage the massive IDP situation, and UNHCR cluster-led responsibilities efficiently.

Sudan | UNHCR has a sub-office in Kassala and field offices in Girba and Gedaref near current border entry points. UNHCR and COR manage a transit centre in Hamdayet where wet feeding, screening and onward transportation to a designated camp are provided. UNHCR staff from within Sudan were initially re-deployed to Kassala, Gedaref and Girba at the onset of the emergency, after which emergency response teams arrived. Protection staffing at the senior level is critical given the myriad and complexity of protection challenges in the operation. The need for safe staff facilities in the camps is also a priority. An inter-agency base camp has been established with offices and accommodation for Tunaydbah, Um Rakuba, Hamdayet and Camp 6.

Key challenges

- **Access in Ethiopia** | Key challenges include intermittent telecommunication and internet, access to cash and fuel supplies and ongoing insecurity hampering timely service delivery. At time of writing, air access to Tigray was restricted, with intermittent road access through the Afar region. Conditions inside Tigray are still extremely difficult with power outages, and scarce food. The UN has been actively advocating and negotiating for access to bring in fuel and humanitarian supplies, and to reach people in need, particularly in hard-to-reach areas.
- **Supply and logistics in Ethiopia** | There are arduous and lengthy local customs clearances which impede the delivery of core relief items, communications equipment and other essential shipments ordered from the global markets and UNHCR emergency stockpiles destined to Tigray region. Local market fluctuations, shortages of essential supplies, and fuel supply restrictions in Tigray have hindered timely provision of humanitarian assistance.
- **Communications and logistics in Sudan** | The area along the Sudanese border where refugees arrive and are sheltered is very remote. For example, relocating arrivals from Hamdayet to Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah takes a full day. Travel from the border location to Camp 6 over off-road conditions can also take the entire day. Communication remains difficult but partners have improved connectivity in the camps.



Mihret Gerezgiher, from Tigray, is a trained construction engineer and teacher who volunteers with UNHCR and partners in Sudan's Tunaydbah camp. She oversees construction and helps refugee mothers obtain medical treatment for themselves and their children.

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Coordination

This updated regional appeal presents UNHCR's financial requirements to respond to the Ethiopia emergency situation from January through December 2021 in Sudan and Ethiopia, totalling **\$164.5 million**. UNHCR requirements presented here include \$101.3 million for Eritrean refugees and IDPs in Ethiopia in 2021. Financial requirements for Ethiopian refugees in Sudan total \$63.2 million.

UNHCR's full financial requirements for this emergency response for 2021 are also reflected in various inter-agency response plans developed at country and regional level.

Ethiopia: Northern Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Plan (May-Dec 2021)

The OCHA-led Northern Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Plan is seeking \$853 million from May 2021 until the end of the year to assist 5.2 million displaced people. UNHCR's requirements for the response in northern Ethiopia are included in this appeal. Despite agencies' reallocation of funds and new funding received, the Northern Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Plan is facing a significant funding gap of \$284 million until the end of the year.



Ethiopia: Updated 2021 Inter-Agency Country Refugee Response Plan (Jan-Dec 2021)

The inter-agency Country Refugee Response Plan (CRRP) for Ethiopia has been updated for 2021 to outline the multi-agency comprehensive response strategy and financial requirements (\$553 million) of humanitarian and development partners supporting the Ethiopian authorities to provide protection services and humanitarian assistance, as well as development opportunities to 884,216 refugees and asylum-seekers by the end of 2021. The plan incorporates UNHCR's requirements for the Eritrean refugee population group.

Funding the response

Ethiopia emergency (Tigray) financial requirements | January – December 2021
(all figures in USD)

Sector	Ethiopia			Sudan			Total Requirements
	Refugees Excom Approved	IDPs Supplementary Needs	Ethiopia TOTAL	Refugees Excom Approved	Refugees Supplementary Needs	Sudan TOTAL	
Protection	4,730,140	6,825,633	11,555,773	917,497	10,402,471	11,319,967	22,875,740
Shelter and infrastructure	10,419,315	7,085,416	17,504,731	2,194,246	14,261,224	16,455,470	33,960,201
Core relief items	5,025,093	8,528,683	13,553,776	500,000	3,189,436	3,689,436	17,243,212
Education	3,324,533	0	3,324,533	1,914,284	1,477,151	3,391,435	6,715,968
WASH	8,446,483	0	8,446,483	4,747,572	9,796,597	14,544,169	22,990,652
Health & nutrition	4,010,719	0	4,010,719	954,161	3,402,105	4,356,266	8,366,985
Energy & environment	2,742,782	0	2,742,782	1,772,016	969,886	2,741,902	5,484,684
Reintegration	0	10,437,423	10,437,423	0	0	0	10,437,423
Camp coordination & camp management	1,527,051	2,109,585	3,636,636	356,775	4,124,536	4,481,311	8,117,947
Logistics	545,677	622,565	1,168,242	224,148	799,209	1,023,357	2,191,599
Coordination & partnerships	2,454,286	1,706,408	4,160,694	0	0	0	4,160,694
Food security & livelihoods	581,066	0	581,066	266,449	950,035	1,216,484	1,797,550
Emergency management	878,908	2,035,109	2,914,017	0	0	0	2,914,017
Staffing & administration	9,311,547	7,925,928	17,237,475	0	0	0	17,237,475
Total	53,997,600	47,276,750	101,274,350	13,847,148	49,372,650	63,219,797	164,494,147

The importance of flexible funding

Flexible financial support helps UNHCR to kick-start an emergency response, bolster forgotten or under-resourced crises, and implement programmes to their full extent. Flexible funds enable UNHCR to plan and manage its resources efficiently and effectively, contributing to the collective success in every life that is transformed and saved. enable UNHCR to plan and manage its resources efficiently and effectively, contributing to the collective success in every life that is transformed and saved.

UNHCR is grateful to donors who have provided unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions. Additional financial and operational information is available on Global Focus website (reporting.unhcr.org).

UPDATE: ETHIOPIA EMERGENCY SITUATION (TIGRAY)

UNHCR REGIONAL APPEAL

January - December 2021



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Cover photo: Surafuel Gebrehiwot fled Tigray when fighting started and was separated from his wife and children on the journey to Sudan. He ended up in Tunaydbah camp and his family were sent to Um Rakuba. A few weeks after arriving, he opened a kiosk selling small household items. UNHCR was eventually able to trace Surafuel's daughter in Um Rakuba.

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