

Annual Results Report

2023

Ethiopia

Acknowledgements

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- 4.1 - Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

Section 1: Context and Overview

1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

Ethiopia continued to be the third largest refugee-hosting country in Africa. With the outbreak of conflicts in neighboring Somalia and Sudan, the country had thousands of new refugee arrivals. In addition, the country faced challenges with climate impacts and inter-communal violence causing new displacements.

The signing of the peace agreement between the Government of Ethiopia and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) on 2 November 2022 ended the brutal two-year war. This led to a significant improvement in humanitarian access to Tigray in 2023. However, humanitarian access to Western Tigray remains a challenge.

In April 2023, a new conflict broke out between the Amhara regional forces, along with the Fano militia, and the Ethiopian government. The conflict significantly affected humanitarian access in the Amhara region during the reporting period. Amhara regions hosts some 20,000 Sudanese refugees and 23,000 Eritrean refugees. The fighting has only allowed UNHCR and partners to access the refugee settlements intermittently.

Conflict continued in other parts of Ethiopia. In the Oromia region, failure of peace between the Government and the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) led to escalation of attacks. In Benishangul Gumuz Region, unidentified armed groups often close the main road leading from Addis Ababa to Assosa, causing serious challenges for humanitarian actors in transporting commodities and fuel to IDPs and refugees.

Due to on-going conflicts, coupled with climate impact (drought and floods), humanitarian needs remained high.

1.2. Progress Against the Desired Impact

1. Impact Area: Attaining Favorable Protection Environments

All forcibly displaced populations in Ethiopia can live dignified and safe lives protected from harm in all aspects of their lives.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
1.1 Proportion of people seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	79.65%	95.07%

Efforts by the Ethiopian government and UNHCR enabled access to asylum procedures for thousands fleeing from Somalia and Sudan, aiding 91,000 Somalis and 42,000 Sudanese among others. Yet, challenges persisted. Another state of emergency and documentation issues further restricted movement in 2023 and UNHCR reported 393 cases of denied entry or refoulement, underscoring the need for better asylum claim processing. The country lacks uniform processes for transferring asylum applications from borders to the relevant Refugee and Returnee Service (RRS) offices, as outlined in the 2019 Refugee Proclamation. In 2023, federal police deported around 300 people, including refugees, to the borders. Due to these challenges, UNHCR began developing an action plan to counteract refoulement, which aims to have SOPs and a work plan... Ethiopia's refugee management largely remained encampment-based, despite legal advancements promoting freedom of movement. Stringent conditions for obtaining movement permits meant less than 10% of refugees lived outside camps, with Eritrean refugees notably affected due to conflict-induced relocation. As the year ended, the precarious situation of displaced people, marked by conflict, limited access to services, and food insecurity posed significant challenges to their safety and dignity, demanding concerted efforts from the Ethiopian government and international bodies.

2. Impact Area: Realizing Rights in Safe Environments

All forcibly displaced populations have access to basic services, in a progressively inclusive manner with improving host community services, and all meet their basic needs with dignity.

Refugees and hosts have increased access to clean, affordable, sustainable energy in a protection sensitive manner, while Natural resources are better protected, managed and rehabilitated

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
2.2 Proportion of people residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities	IDPs	15.50%	22.13%
2.2 Proportion of people residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	15.51%	35.25%
2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	23.59%	54.84%

Refugee inclusion was at the core of UNHCR operational strategy in 2023. For new emergencies (the Somalia / Las Canood emergency in the first quarter of 2023 and the Sudan emergency in the second quarter), inclusion approaches were implemented from the onset of the emergencies. Newly arrived refugees were integrated into existing health and education systems with no parallel structures. UNHCR supported the regional and local authorities through expansion / improvement of existing services to enhance the inclusion of refugees.

In Bokh Woreda, Somali Region, which received over 100,000 refugees from the Lascanood region of Somalia in the first quarter of 2023, UNHCR worked closely with the Somali State Government (SRS) and Woreda authorities to support the inclusion of refugees into health and education systems managed by the

local authorities in and around the Mirqaan refugee settlement. In June 2023, UNHCR, RRS and the Somalia State Government signed two Memorandum of Understanding for inclusion of refugees into national systems (one MOU for the newly arrived refugees in Bokh Woreda and one MOU for the integration of the protracted refugee population in Keberebeya (Jigjiga area) into the national systems. Similar approaches were implemented for newly arrived Sudanese refugees in Kumer (Ahmraha Region) and Kurmuk (Benishangul Gumuz Region).

Overall, 35% of refugees lived in safe environment either in refugee settlements or in and enjoyed basic services provided by local authorities and UNHCR partners. Primary school enrolment increased from 50% in 2022 to 55% in 2023 while secondary enrolment increased marginally from 19% in 2022 to 20% in 2023. Despite several challenges, health coverage was at 53%. 74% of refugees and asylum seekers had access to safe drinking water, although water provision was at an average of 14 liters / person / day, below the recommended standard of 20 liters / person / day. UNHCR and partners supported the planting of more than 575,000 multi-purpose tree seedlings in refugee settlements / camps and host communities across the operation. Some 15% of refugees had access to alternative cooking fuels through grid connected communal kitchens, charcoaled briquettes, and commercial fuel wood. 40% of refugee households had access to modern household lighting through portable Solar lamps and Solar Home Systems. UNHCR also closely worked with the Government of Ethiopia in the formulation of pledges in the GRF which included a ledge on energy and environment.

UNHCR does not have empirical data on poverty levels for refugees. Furthermore, there has been no official national or regional poverty surveys. However, simulation by UNDP (UNDP Quarterly Economic Update, January 2024) presents a worsening poverty situation in 2023 which inevitably affects refugees and host communities.

3. Impact Area: Empowering Communities and Achieving Gender Equality

Increased number of forcibly displaced and host communities attain self-reliance supported by increased access to sustainable employment

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
3.2a Proportion of children and young people enrolled in primary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	49.68%	54.85%
3.2b Proportion of children and young people enrolled in secondary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	19.26%	20.15%

Ethiopia is grappling with a severe humanitarian crisis, affecting millions of IDPs and refugees from South Sudan, Somalia, and Eritrea due to conflicts, climatic shocks, and economic issues. This has led to prolonged displacement and restricted access to vital services. The crisis, primarily fueled by conflict (66%), drought (18%), and social tension (7%), is worsened by limited humanitarian funding, with only 33.5% of the 2023 needs met, and flooding damaging health and water systems. Despite a 2019 law enabling refugees to work, the crisis and overwhelmed health system compounded food insecurity, severely limit self-reliance opportunities and displaced people turned to harmful coping mechanisms. Within this context, educational enrollment for refugee children and youth saw a 5% increase in 2023, with 46% (187,494) enrolled, including significant primary and secondary education rates and girls' participation. The first half of 2023 showed progress for primary education, 2,470 refugee youth pursued tertiary education, with a majority in Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programs under the GIZ Qualifications and Employment Perspectives (QEP) project finding employment, highlighting education's role in fostering self-reliance.

4. Impact Area: Securing Solutions

More forcibly displaced persons benefit from a wider range of durable solutions tailored to their

needs and desires.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
4.1 Number of refugees who voluntarily return in safety and dignity to their country of origin	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,079	621
4.2a Number of people who departed on resettlement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,090	1,333
4.2b Number of people who departed through complementary pathways	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,212	3,257
4.3b Number of refugees for whom residency status is granted or confirmed	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	7,012	983,146

Ethiopia faced a complex array of challenges and achievements related to the situation of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) within its borders. The ongoing conflict, new displacement, and documentation challenges, including the issuance of exit permits to refugees, significantly impacted the available solutions for refugees and IDPs. Despite these obstacles, notable progress was made throughout the year.

The cessation of hostilities in the Tigray region in 2022 did not fully resolve the difficulties faced by IDPs in 2023, particularly those from Western Tigray, due to lack of access and ongoing insecurity fueled by the presence of various armed groups. This insecurity also affected other regions, hindering the return process. Efforts to support the coordination and implementation of durable solutions for displacement support to reconstruction assessments, transition justice consultations, and intention surveys to understand IDPs' preferences for relocation, local integration, or return to their place of origin. However, achieving sustainable solutions remained challenging due to the security and humanitarian situation. Post-conflict conditions in northern Ethiopia, presented significant obstacles to safe and dignified returns, such as a lack of basic service infrastructure, shelter, and the impact of paused food assistance. Despite these challenges, there was a clear desire among many IDPs for alternatives to their current situations, even though the lack of infrastructure and basic services in many locations made large-scale service delivery difficult. By the end of 2023, 110,920 IDPs had voluntarily returned to their homes, supported by partners to rebuild their lives, including 11,920 in Tigray and 12,600 in Afar.

An agreement on the issuance of exit permit procedures led to 1,333 refugees departing for resettlement in various countries, a 431% increase compared to 2022. Additionally, 3,257 refugees accessed legal and safe entry to third countries through complementary pathways, marking a 281.5% increase from the previous year. These pathways included the Italian Humanitarian Corridor, education pathways, private sponsorship, and family reunification. The Canada Economic Mobility Pathways Pilot (EMPP) program and partnership with Talent Lift also facilitated labor mobility for refugees, with 53 receiving job offers in Canada.

No voluntary repatriation was organized. This is attributed to a lack of fundamental changes in the circumstances of their countries of origin, the majority of which are neighboring countries to Ethiopia which continue to be riddled with political violence, conflict and violation of human rights.

Overall, 2023 was a year of mixed outcomes for Ethiopia's displaced populations. While significant challenges remained, the efforts of various actors and the Ethiopian government to facilitate durable solutions and support for refugees and IDPs demonstrated a commitment to addressing the complex displacement situation in the country.

1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

The 2022 – 2024 Multi-Year Strategy envisioned that refugees and IDPs in Ethiopia enjoy freedom of movement, are included in existing government basic services and protection systems and are economically engaged in society. This vision is echoed in the impact areas of the strategy – access to protection for all refugees and IDPs, integration of refugees in strengthened national basic services as well as their inclusion in the economic and social life in of the country. The major challenges in progressing towards the impacts include the multiple emergencies the operation had to respond to in 2023, challenges relating to access to asylum, and the relatively limited opportunities for refugees to actively participate in the economic in the country's social and economic life.

During the reporting period, the Ethiopia operation responded to two major emergencies, receiving more than 150,000 refugees from Somalia and Sudan. While the operation implemented an inclusion approach from the onset of the emergencies, the emergency response diverted funding from the regular refugee programmes. Therefore, by year-end, significant gaps existed for basic services in large refugee operations like Gambella and Melkadida. This situation was exacerbated by the food pause in the second half of the year which forced UNHCR to provide wet feeding for the newly arrived Sudanese refugees in Kumer (Amhara Regional) and Kurmul (Benishangul Gumuz Region), at the expense of strengthen basic services and protection systems. Furthermore, although RRS decided to handover the implementation of health and education services for the refugee programme, local line ministries were not having the required capacities to take over these services. Therefore, the services were handed over to NGOs who will help capacitate the local line ministries / bureaus to eventually take over these services.

Challenges in access to asylum continued in 2023 despite important milestones in registration. Ethiopia suspended the registration of new arrivals in 2021. Although RRS resumed registration for the two emergency situations (Somalians and Sudanese), over 70,000 refugees of other nationalities remained unregistered, and exposed to arbitrary detention and sometimes forcible returns.

Despite efforts at promoting economic integration for refugees, there is little progress in the right of refugees to work. Work permits issued to refugees have not translated to gainful employment and many cases.

1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

Ethiopia received USD 500 million from the World Bank IDA20 Window for Host and Refugees (WHR). The funds are allocated to 8 existing projects and new projects that focus on improving the coverage and quality of basic services, fostering social and economic inclusion, and enhancing livelihoods and environmental management. UNHCR collaborated with operational partners who mobilized US\$ 306 million in multi-year funding for about 102 interventions that benefit both refugees and their host communities. These interventions align with the Government of Ethiopia's commitments made in 2016 and at the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in 2019 and 2023. UNHCR played a prominent and active role at the level of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and in Cluster Coordination. In the IDP response, UNHCR led the Protection Cluster, and co-led the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCM) with IOM. UNHCR was also playing a leading role in the operation response for shelter and NFI, as well as an active member of United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) working groups. UNHCR and RRS also continue to coordinate the national refugee response with a broad range of partners in an inter-agency context, aligned with the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM). Regional Refugee Response Plans (RRP) were prepared for the Sudan and South Sudan refugee situations, together with 17 partners in Ethiopia, and a Country Refugee Response Plan (CRRP) for 2024. In 2023, Ethiopia received 16% of actual requirements for the Sudan RRP, which is approx. US\$12M. UNHCR was an active member of the HCT Aid Diversion Task Force Meeting, which was established following the pause in food aid in Ethiopia in June 2023. The Task Force, consisting of donors, partners and UN Agencies, discussed how to improve the systems around distribution of aid in Ethiopia. UNHCR also continued its collaboration with UNICEF and developed a concept note with key areas for collaboration. With Education Cannot Wait (ECW) funding for the northern part of Ethiopia (Tigray, Amhara and Afar regions), 20,585 refugee and host community children benefitted from education in emergency programmes. This grant further enabled UNHCR and the implementing partners strengthen collaboration with the respective woreda education offices and the regional education bureau's in these locations.

Section 2: Results

2.1. Outcomes and Achievements

1. Outcome Area: Access to Territory, Reg. and Documentation

Strengthened access to registration and documentation in Ethiopia and increased inclusion in national systems

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
1.1 Proportion of refugees and asylum seekers registered on an individual basis	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	99.88%	100.00%	85.85%
1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	64.41%	70.00%	12.24%
1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority	Returnees	9.99%	10.00%	9.99%
1.3 Proportion of people with legally recognized identity documents or credentials	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	96.56%	100.00%	76.31%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Since November 2021, refugees have been impacted by a state of emergency due to conflict in the Tigray region, leading to the suspension of new arrival registrations at all entry points. However, UNHCR advocacy efforts have enabled the resumption of registration for new arrivals from emergencies in Somaliland, Sudan, and South Sudan. This was conducted jointly by the Refugee and Returnee Service (RRS) and UNHCR using an electronic Kobo system, marking a shift from the traditional manual paper-based process. The new registration approach facilitated the documentation of 3,057 new arrivals as asylum seekers in the Melkadida camps, who had been stranded since May 2022 due to the RRS's suspension of registrations in the area.

A joint registration strategy for 2023-2026 was finalized and signed by RRS and UNHCR on 6 October 2023, which has significantly improved the registration environment. This has led to the commencement of an urban documentation exercise on 20 November 2023. As a result, 8,688 refugee ID cards, 6,093 Proof of Registration (POR) documents, and 1,457 civil registration documents were issued to urban refugees in Addis Ababa. This documentation is crucial, especially for preventing the refoulement of Eritrean nationals.

Progress has also been made in integrating refugees and asylum seekers into the National ID Programme (NIDP). A tripartite data sharing agreement was signed between RRS, UNHCR, and NIDP on 6 October 2023, along with the finalization of a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for data exchange between the RRS/UNHCR PRIMES system and the NIDP FAYDA system. The systems' interoperability has advanced, ensuring the inclusion of a Fayda Number and QR code on refugee ID cards.

In the last quarter of the reporting period, UNHCR agreed to co-chair a technical working group (TWG) with the Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission (EDRMC) to facilitate the issuance of national ID cards to relief beneficiaries, including 3.4 million internally displaced persons (IDPs). UNHCR developed an operational plan to pilot the inclusion of 50,000 IDPs from Amhara, Tigray, Afar, and Benishangul Gumuz regions into the national ID program, aiming to enhance their protection, self-reliance, and socio-economic integration.

2. Outcome Area: Status Determination

The national asylum system, including increased access to and quality of asylum process, is strengthened in line with international rights and standards

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
2.1 Average processing time (in days) from registration to first instance asylum decision	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	2,025.00	398.00	398.00

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Access to the national asylum system has been highly restricted since November 2021, and was fully halted by the end of May 2022. However, in the advent of two emergencies influxes from Somalia and Sudan approximately 123,000 asylum-seekers were able to access asylum in 2023 following efforts from UNHCR to strengthen the national system. New digitized tools were designed and developed. Newly recruited RRS staff for the Somali emergency were trained to screen and interview refugees efficiently to carry out their duties and provide assistance to those affected by the crisis in Somalia. These efforts yielded access to asylum process where the government took the lead for these activities for the first time.

Drawing on lessons learned the tools were adapted and implemented in response to the Sudanese situation by May 2023. UNHCR provided technical assistance to the government resulting in written guidelines for registering international protection claims by those fleeing the Sudan situation.

Further efforts to strengthen the national asylum system included technical assistance to the government to draft an RSD Directive and develop an internal guideline for the Appeal Hearing Council (AHC), with a revised draft issued in December 2023. The AHC has been established, but it is not yet operational, with the first meeting planned for 2024. However, the focus on the access to asylum in the face of two influxes slowed progress toward the gradual handover to the government for RSD adjudications and generated a backlog. In 2023, UNHCR continued to support by conducting RSD interviews and assessments for RRS endorsement where 197 asylum claims were recognized at the initial stage, addressing long-pending applications. Taking into consideration the high rate of recognition in Ethiopia the number of individual(s) rejected for 2023 was only 1 individual. The number of total rejections accumulated is 19 individuals.

3. Outcome Area: Protection Policy and Law

Legal, policy and regulatory environment is strengthened by GoE in line with international rights and standards

The Kampala convention for Protection of IDP's is fully domesticated and an IDP policy is developed

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
3.1 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Progressing towards alignment: 70-89 points	Progressing towards alignment: 70-89 points	Progressing towards alignment: 70-89 points

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Ethiopia's commitment to refugee protection is embodied in the Refugees Proclamation No.1110/2019 and its directives on the Right to Work, Freedom of Movement, and Grievances Handling, providing a robust legal framework for refugee rights. In 2023, this commitment was further evidenced by the Ethiopian

government's six additional pledges at the Global Refugee Forum, covering climate action, camp transformation, national system inclusion, private sector engagement, land access, and digital connectivity and documentation.

The UNHCR has been instrumental in supporting these initiatives, offering technical, legal, and financial assistance to align Ethiopia's policies with the 1951 Convention standards. A significant achievement in 2023 was the operationalization of the Ethiopia Digital Identification Proclamation No. 1284/2023, enabling refugees to access digital IDs and, consequently, a wider range of services. Additionally, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) facilitated by UNHCR between the Ministry of Labor and Skills and the Refugee and Returnee Service (RRS) now allows the issuance of work permits to refugees, integrating them into employment sectors available to foreign nationals.

Ethiopia's ratification of the Kampala Convention in 2020 highlighted its dedication to assisting Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Africa. UNHCR's support in domesticating this convention has been crucial, including participation in drafting the IDP Proclamation and aiding its development.

Despite progress, Ethiopia's legal stance on statelessness remained largely unchanged in 2023. However, the Digital Identification Proclamation No. 1284/2023 marked a positive step by including stateless persons in digital ID issuance, enhancing their rights and service access. UNHCR continues to advocate for the ratification of the Statelessness Conventions and the integration of statelessness issues into policy and legislative measures, including birth registration and documentation efforts.

Through these efforts, Ethiopia, the UN, the World Bank and other development actors are collaboratively enhancing the lives of refugees, IDPs, and stateless persons, ensuring their protection, assistance, and societal inclusion.

4. Outcome Area: Gender-based Violence

Provision of GBV response for survivors and implementation of GBV risk mitigation measures across all sectors

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	95.36%	100.00%	44.77%
4.2 Proportion of people who do not accept violence against women	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	58.55%	90.00%	90.00%
4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with GBV case management services	IDPs	98.24%	98.00%	98.24%
4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with GBV case management services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	96.19%	100.00%	85.19%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

During the reporting period, the UNHCR and partners advanced efforts to combat gender-based violence (GBV) in refugee and IDP settings through prevention, risk mitigation, and response initiatives. These actions aimed to protect vulnerable groups and improve the well-being of women and girls.

Awareness campaigns were central to prevention, engaging over 800,000 individuals in sessions to challenge harmful gender norms and promote positive masculinity. Notable campaigns through GBV prevention and awareness programmes including EMAP, SASA!, and Girls Shine, with special events on International Women's Day and the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. A key aspect of these campaigns was the inclusion of men and boys in workshops and dialogue sessions designed to challenge harmful gender norms and promote positive masculinity, encouraging them to become allies in the fight against GBV.

Safety audits were regularly conducted by UNHCR and partners to identify risks and ensure safe access to services for at-risk populations. These audits informed tailored responses to community needs.

For refugees, coordination of GBV programs was managed under the CP and GBV sub-sector working groups led by UNHCR. The GBV Area of Responsibility (AoR) advocated for GBV mainstreaming in humanitarian aid. Across displaced populations, empowerment activities engaged approximately 110,000 women and girls, focusing on resilience and stress management following coordinated efforts with local authorities, humanitarian actors, and community-based organizations to strengthen the overall response to GBV.

Referral pathways were established to provide coordinated, survivor-centered responses to GBV. UNHCR supported survivors with case management and psychosocial support, aiding around 8,200 individuals at risk or affected by GBV, and over 25,000 women and girls participated in counseling sessions.

Training for about 5,000 individuals, including frontline workers and community leaders, focused on GBV prevention and empowerment. This capacity building was key to enhancing community responses to GBV.

UNHCR supported 38 One-Stop Centers, offering comprehensive services like emergency medical care, post-rape care, and sexual health services, crucial for immediate support to GBV survivors.

In conclusion, UNHCR's comprehensive approach has significantly contributed to preventing GBV, empowering survivors, and ensuring access to services, leading to safer and more resilient communities.

5. Outcome Area: Child Protection

Children of concern are protected from violence, abuse, exploitation and discrimination and have access to child friendly procedures and services.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
5.1 Proportion of children at heightened risk who are supported by a Best Interests Procedure	IDPs	57.47%	98.00%	59.04%
5.1 Proportion of children at heightened risk who are supported by a Best Interests Procedure	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	63.29%	73.00%	54.39%
5.2 Proportion of children who participate in community-based child protection programmes	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	56.61%	82.00%	35.33%
5.3 Proportion of unaccompanied and separated children who are in an alternative care arrangement	IDPs	43.22%	55.00%	54.16%
5.3 Proportion of unaccompanied and separated children who are in an alternative care arrangement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	75.03%	68.00%	55.65%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

A significant stride was made in child protection across refugee and IDP settings, thanks to a collaborative effort led by UNHCR, UNICEF, and various partners. This coalition worked tirelessly to align child protection programming with national systems and Best Interest Procedure (BIP) guidelines, a move critical for the welfare of vulnerable children.

A landmark achievement was realized in the Somali refugee context, where the introduction of a national case management framework and capacity building for government response to refugees marked a pivotal advancement. This was further enhanced by comprehensive training for child protection case workers and managers, aimed at improving their application of the framework. The adoption of national case management tools ensured a consistent and effective approach, benefiting 265 children through BIPs.

For IDP children, the government, via the Bureau of Women's Affairs and Children (BOWCA), supported case management efforts, with UNHCR's backing. Despite challenges in the birth registration process between 2021 and 2023, 15,181 children in 2023, and a total of 65,892 by the end of the period, received birth certificates.

Child participation, through mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and recreational activities in child-friendly spaces, reached 124,614 children, underscoring the initiatives' vast impact.

Community engagement in child protection was crucial for both prevention and response to concerns. With guidance from the 2021 BIP Guideline and other policies, UNHCR continued to provide vital support in capacity building and financial assistance to stakeholders, ensuring services for forcibly displaced children.

Child Protection (CP) programs in refugee settings were coordinated nationally and regionally under CP and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) sub-sector working groups. The Child Protection Area of Responsibility (CP AoR) advocated for protection centrality and CP mainstreaming in humanitarian aid for IDP locations. UNHCR's collaboration with local authorities, humanitarian actors, and community-based organizations was key in strengthening CP programs. CP referral pathways ensured children's best interests, leading to a coordinated and efficient CP response.

Through these efforts, UNHCR fostered collaboration and boosted the effectiveness of child protection interventions, showcasing a deep commitment to protecting children in challenging environments.

6. Outcome Area: Safety and Access to Justice

Improved access to justice all for persons of concern

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Efforts to enhance access to justice for refugees were realized in 2023 through a series of UNHCR supported dialogues aimed at fostering constructive engagement between refugees and justice stakeholders. These dialogues provided refugees with a platform to voice their concerns and priorities, leading to the development of an access to justice strategy and roadmap. This framework is designed to bridge the gap between existing justice barriers and the needs of refugees.

Extensive awareness-raising sessions were conducted within the refugee community to inform refugees about their rights, legal options, and the resources available to them. By empowering refugees with this knowledge, they are better equipped to make informed decisions and effectively access justice. The provision of free legal aid services, including legal representation through partners and the introduction of mobile courts, has been instrumental in enabling refugees to overcome financial barriers to access justice.

In addressing the detention of refugees and asylum seekers, the UNHCR has played a pivotal role. By flagging individual cases to the Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) for intervention and advocating for joint detention monitoring, the UNHCR has facilitated assistance and secured the release of arbitrarily detained individuals. Collaboration with the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has further strengthened advocacy efforts to protect the rights to liberty and security as enshrined under international human rights law.

In addition, as the country evaluated and consulted with affected communities following the cessation of hostilities on transitional justice mechanisms, the voices on people displaced by the conflict was included. UNHCR contributed significantly to these efforts through expert advice and resources for consultations with displaced communities across the country. Through these consultations, IDPs and refugees displaced from camps because of the conflict were consulted and their views documented.

Working groups focusing on House, Land, and Property, access to Justice, and Rule of Law technical issues in different regions are addressing the justice needs of IDPs. Capacity-building initiatives for relevant government officials are underway, equipping them with the necessary legal frameworks and principles governing IDP rights to effectively respond to their justice needs. Additionally, the provision of free legal aid

services to IDPs facilitates their access to the justice system and assists them in resolving legal issues they encounter.

These comprehensive efforts underscore a commitment to improving access to justice for vulnerable populations, ensuring their rights are protected, and empowering them to navigate the justice system more effectively.

7. Outcome Area: Community Engagement and Women's Empowerment

AGD inclusiveness, accountability to affected people and Gender equality is promoted

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
7.2 Proportion of people who have access to safe feedback and response mechanisms	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	78.00%	85.00%	66.00%
7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures	IDPs	50.56%	53.00%	33.77%
7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	40.26%	50.00%	43.72%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Significant progress was made to involve refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and asylum seekers in the planning and execution of programs designed to aid them. This involvement was facilitated through various participatory methods, emphasizing the importance of community engagement in the humanitarian response. The establishment of community leadership structures in response to new displacement emergencies in Somalia and Sudan exemplifies a proactive approach to ensuring that affected communities have a voice in prioritizing interventions, providing feedback on services, and receiving crucial information.

One of the key strategies for enhancing community participation was to regularize periodic meetings with refugee and IDP leaders and community members at large. These meetings served as a vital platform for dialogue, allowing for the direct exchange of information and feedback between UNHCR, its partners, and the communities. This approach not only facilitated a more responsive and adaptive humanitarian response, but it fostered a greater sense of ownership and empowerment among the refugee and IDP populations placing them at the lead. For example, in response to the temporary suspension of food aid, UNHCR and its partners intensified engagement with community leaders and members. This increased level of interaction continued even after the resumption of food aid, demonstrating a commitment to maintaining open lines of communication and addressing the evolving needs of the communities. The feedback collected from these engagements has been instrumental in refining operational processes and communication strategies, ensuring that they are more aligned with the needs and preferences of the affected populations.

UNHCR and partners leveraged digital tools such as Kobo and the Digital Request and Complaints System to broaden the reach of their feedback and response mechanisms. These tools have been deployed in various contexts, including food distribution points, protection desks, and post-distribution monitoring of core relief items (CRIs). The adoption of digital platforms has not only facilitated a more efficient collection of feedback and complaints but has also improved the ability to track and address these inputs, thereby closing the feedback loop and ensuring that community voices are heard and acted upon.

Despite these advancements, challenges remain in harmonization efforts across the country and ensuring the equitable participation of women and girls in community leadership and decision-making processes. While women are involved in key committees and structures, their representation still falls short of parity with men. Recognizing this gap, UNHCR and its partners are actively working to empower women and girls through targeted programs and training initiatives focused on Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) and gender equality. These efforts are crucial for building more inclusive and effective community engagement frameworks that recognize and address the unique needs and contributions of all community

members.

In summary, UNHCR and its partners have made commendable strides in fostering the participation of refugees, IDPs, and asylum seekers in humanitarian programming through community engagement and the use of digital feedback mechanisms. However, the journey towards fully inclusive and responsive humanitarian action continues, with a particular focus on enhancing the participation of women and girls in leadership roles.

8. Outcome Area: Well-Being and Basic Needs

Community facilities have access to clean, renewable and efficient energy source

Natural resource management and shared environment better protected

PoC have access to safe settlements, adequate shelter and coordinated infrastructures services

PoCs have access to electricity allowing them for basic lighting and electricity

Refugee impacted areas rehabilitated including with soil conservation

Refugees and host communities have access to sufficient, safe, sustainable and clean cooking energy

Tree plantation and woodlot development in refugee and host community area

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items	IDPs	84.18%	86.00%	51.49%
8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	21.70%	25.00%	22.95%
8.2 Proportion of people with primary reliance on clean (cooking) fuels and technology	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	11.00%	40.00%	12.49%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR continues to respond to the shelter and non-food items (NFIs) needs of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), Returnees and non-displaced affected population. Shelter and NFIs support is being provided to the displaced population affected by conflict and climate change (drought and flood), with special emphasis on the needs of women, children, people with disabilities and the most vulnerable or at risk. The shelter and NFI cluster have targeted 3.6 million individuals from the 4.6 million Individuals identified as People in need. UNHCR response ranges from emergency relief to IDPs who are residing in temporary accommodation centers, within the host communities and in formal sites to promotion of durable solutions for families who have returned and those that have relocated in coordination with the implementing partner and DRMO and local government agencies. From January to December 2023, UNHCR reached 578,685 persons with ES/NFI assistance across 9 regions, representing 41% of the total of 1,400,000 people reached by the ES/NFI cluster in Ethiopia.

The majority of camp-based refugees in Ethiopia operation rely on firewood from nearby forest or bushland to cook their food rations provided by WFP. Since access to alternative cooking fuel options is critically low, the impact on the surrounding environment as well as protection risks against refugee women remains a challenge. Last year, UNHCR in collaboration with partners were able to scale-up access to alternative cooking fuels to 22% of HHs targeting the most vulnerable groups and in some cases the entire population. Grid electricity connected communal kitchens, charcoaled briquettes and commercial fuel wood combined with fuel efficient stoves were the main cooking energy mix implemented across the operation. In 2023, the alternative cooking energy intervention reduced to 12.5% targeting the most vulnerable and critical needs in specific cases only.

Four grid connected communal kitchens are operational in Aysaita and Sherkole refugee camps. Commercial and woodlot-based eucalyptus fuelwood has been distributed to refugees in Alemwach, Kumer and Assosa refugee camps as a means of transitional fuels reducing the burden on women and girls that has to travel longer distances for firewood collection. Charcoaled briquettes from Elephant Grass, Agricultural waste and Prosopis tree has been piloted to target few beneficiaries in Afar and Melkadida refugee camps. Gambella and Jijiga operations remains critical in terms of alternative cooking energy interventions as there is no significant clean cooking project intervention in these areas.

9. Outcome Area: Sustainable Housing and Settlements

PoC have access to safe settlements, adequate shelter and coordinated infrastructures services

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
9.1 Proportion of people living in habitable and affordable housing	IDPs	1.50%	8.00%	13.50%
9.1 Proportion of people living in habitable and affordable housing	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	45.23%	48.00%	35.25%
9.2 Proportion of people that have energy to ensure lighting	IDPs	24.20%	40.00%	30.96%
9.2 Proportion of people that have energy to ensure lighting	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	25.00%	60.00%	42.03%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In line with the recent commitments by the Government of Ethiopia at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum (GRF) focuses on Climatic Action, Human Settlement, and inclusion of refugees into existing national systems. In 2023, RRP Partners managed to set up two main transit centres (Metama and Kurmuk) which by the end of 2023 were hosting over 18,000 persons in over 52 communal shelters with attention to gender-sensitive considerations and accessibility. Also, multi multifunctional teams composed of government authorities, RRS, UN-Agencies, partners conducted assessments in protentional suitable sites in Amhara (Kumer, Awelala which has absorption capacity of 12,000 individuals and master layouts developed) and Benishangul Gumuz (Ura site will host around 20,000, under drafting of the site plans) for the establishment of settlements in accordance with the integration of services which shall support both refugees and host communities. Kumer settlement was hosting over 9,000 persons in different kind of shelters such as in . 1,690 family tents and 20 partitioned communal shelters. Government of Ethiopia initially allocated 250Ha of land in Kurmuk though the land was identified unsuitable due to its proximity to the border and heavy earthworks shall be needed.,. In Gambella, the capacities of existing refugee camps/sites will be reinforced, with possibilities of further extensions, and assessment will be conducted for the possibility of establishing new settlements. The establishment of new sites will pursue a 'solutions from the onset' approach, in which services such as health, schools, water systems, and other facilities will be strengthened to support both host and refugee communities.

In response to the Somali situation, UNHCR together with RRS, Regional Government including partners (NRC, ANE, SEE) managed to safely relocate over 45,000 refugees to Mirqaan settlement. Government of Ethiopia allocated 470 Ha of land and the approach for development of the site is aligned to settlement approach in which both host and refugees are sharing public services such as schools, health centre, water supply etc. The operation successfully provided immediate emergency shelters composed of 30 communal hangars, 4,000 family tents installed, 2,250 emergency shelters made of eucalyptus frame structure and plastic sheeting provided.

At the end of 2023, 310,358 refugees and asylum seekers were living in adequate dwellings in 25 refugee camps, sites and/or settlements. For other protracted shelter and settlement response, operation managed to provide 935 new transitional shelters constructed across refugee hosting sites, and 1,181 shelters improved to improve the living conditions. 979 families were supported by cash for shelter to improve their

own shelters in Melkadida and Benishagul Gumuz.

On IDP response across 9 regions, in which UNHCR is worked closely with DRMO, IOM, UNOCHA and other partners within the ES/NFI Cluster, UNHCR provided 60,968 displaced populations with shelters and over 7,350 people who returned were provided with cash to repair their own shelters.

Household lighting is one of the critical protection tools for refugees and newly displaced persons creating relative safety and security at night. Solar lamps are part of the CRI/NFI package distributed for new arrivals from Somaliland and Sudan this year. Market based solar home systems also targeted both refugees and hosting communities in Melkadida operation through partnership with Shire alliance. The multi-purpose Energy Hub established by GIZ in Nguenyiyiel refugee camp of Gambella also creates market opportunities for different solar lamps and charging stations to improve modern household lighting access. Due to these interventions, household lighting access has increased from 33% in 2022 to 42% in 2023. Some 49,832 solar lamps were also distributed to IDPs this year that increased the overall access in the cluster to 31%.

10. Outcome Area: Healthy Lives

Refugees have access to quality health and nutrition services that are Integrated into Health and other National Services/ Schemes

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
10.1 Proportion of children aged 9 months to five years who have received measles vaccination	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	96.72%	100.00%	94.60%
10.2. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	93.49%	98.00%	90.33%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Comprehensive primary healthcare services were provided through 21 health centers and 3 health posts supported by UNHCR, RRS, the Regional Health Bureaus, WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and NGO partners and through 6 Government primary healthcare facilities. In locations where there were refugee influxes in 2023, refugees accessed primary healthcare services through existing government health facilities, which were supported to expand service provision. Mortality rates doubled from the previous year with a crude mortality rate in 2023 of 0.67/1000/month and an under 5 mortality rate of 2.5/1000/month, with the under 5 mortality rate being above UNHCR standard of <1.5/1000/month. In this reporting period, a total of 889,880 primary healthcare consultations were provided of which 8% were consultations for nationals, while 7,971 refugees were referred for secondary healthcare outside the camp health facilities. Respiratory tract infections and malaria represented 46% of acute conditions seen, with a notable malaria surge in Gambella camps.

Through the support of PMI (President's Malaria initiative), indoor residual spraying was conducted in Gambella camps. Medical cases in need of secondary and tertiary referrals were referred to Government health facilities but limited to only emergency and life-threatening cases. Medicines and medical supplies were procured and supplemented with supplies from partners.

A measles outbreak was reported amongst new arrivals in Bokh, Somali region and in Gambella camps; while a cholera outbreak was reported amongst new arrivals from Sudan, in Metema, Amhara region with a total of 452 cholera cases and 9 deaths - a case fatality rate of 1.9%. Vaccination campaigns conducted included measles (Bokh and Gambella), cholera (Metema), Covid 19 and Human Papilloma virus (countrywide). Sexual and reproductive health services were provided at health facilities, with 46% complete antenatal coverage (women who receive at least 4 antenatal visits at the time of delivery), a decline by 37% from the previous year; while 90% of refugees with live births were attended by skilled healthcare workers, a decline from the previous year where the proportion was 96%. Of the rape survivors attended at the health facilities, 92% received post exposure prophylaxis for HIV within 72 hours. HIV care and treatment services, Tuberculosis treatment and services for female sex workers were availed, with medicines and supplies from the Ministry of Health. The expanded programme of immunization was provided at all health centers, with a total of 273,393 vaccine antigens administered through the expanded program of immunization, with a measles vaccination coverage of 93% as per the annual SENS data.

Nutrition programs were prioritized and implemented in collaboration with UNICEF, WFP, RRS and the Nutrition partners; IMC, AAH, GOAL, MTI, ASDEPO reaching 56,129 children 6-59 months in admissions with cure of 40,473 at Community Management of Acute malnutrition (CMAM) programs run at 44 functional nutrition centres. The CMAM program performance indicators are within the WHO sphere standards: Cure rate OTP for SAM 99.7% and TSFP for MAM 89.1% of WHO sphere of > 75%. Nutrition Preventive Programs continued to be implemented to contribute to increased nutritional needs of children and PLW. 31,1164 children 6-23 months and 27,389 Pregnant and lactating women (PLW) were admitted/enrolled to the Blanket Supplementary Feeding programs (BSFP) to support their increased nutrition needs. Children 24-59 months were not supported in the program due to funding shortfalls to WFP in 2023. Further UNHCR implemented nutrition emergency response programs for newly arriving refugees from Somaliland and Sudan in 2023. By end of 2023 1,480, children U5 have been admitted into CMAM program (406 SAM and 1074 MAM), 910 of them have been discharged cured in Bokh Mirqaan. The Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) prevalence in Ethiopia at Mirqaan site is at 24.2% which is very high/critical according to WHO classification noting disruption in service provision from January 2024 due to lack of funds to GOAL to continue assistance. At Metema one of the nutrition emergency locations, since the onset of the emergency an estimated 578 children were identified as acutely malnourished (111 SAM and 467 MAM) and referred for admission at the nutrition centre. Kumer site, 303 (118 SAM and 185 MAM) children under five have been identified as acutely malnourished and referred to CMAM programs. findings of the SENS surveys conducted in December 2023 at Metema_ Kumer site shows serious GAM prevalence at 9.3% and Kurmuk site prevalence of 23.1% which is very high and critical due to implications of insecurity and disruptions in food supply chain by WFP.

Monitoring and Evaluation: UNHCR and its partners have completed the Standardised Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS) 2023 except Jijiga, conducted in 21 of 26 planned camps site indicates 1 out of 2 refugee children 6-59 months in Ethiopia is undernourished (wasted, stunted, underweight and or micronutrient deficient). The Preliminary findings and analysis show a Weighted Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) prevalence in Ethiopia camps and sites is 14.2% (high/serious according to WHO classification and below UNHCR target of <10%) with no significant difference from the 15.5% prevalence of 2022 findings. The nutrition situation has not made significant improvement countrywide noting shocks such is food inadequacy aggravated by food pause between June to September 2023, Lack of adequate resources to address access to quality WASH, Health and nutrition services, poor maternal childcare practices in particular a lack of complementary feeding options for young children, inflation, climate changes particularly flooding and drought.

11. Outcome Area: Education

Refugees are integrated into the national education system

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
11.1 Proportion of young people enrolled in tertiary and higher education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1.75%	5.00%	2.53%
11.2 Proportion of children and young people enrolled in the national education system	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.76%	4.00%	3.52%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Ethiopia made notable strides towards integrating refugees into its national education system. The year saw a significant increase in refugee children attending host community schools across different education levels. Specifically, 11,924 refugee children, comprising 7,245 boys and 4,679 girls, were enrolled in pre-primary, primary, and secondary education within host communities. This marked a substantial increase in refugee enrollment from 1% in 2022 to 4% in 2023, showcasing the impact of concerted efforts by the

government, supported by UNHCR, UNICEF, the World Bank, and others.

The breakdown of enrolment figures reveals a focused integration across education levels, with 576 children in pre-primary, 5,498 in primary, and 5,084 in secondary education. This integration effort extended to tertiary education, where 2,470 refugee youth, including a notable gender disparity, were enrolled in public universities and the TVET system. Specifically, 1,825 refugee youth were enrolled in 32 public universities, and 645 in the public TVET system, with a significant emphasis on promoting wage and self-employment opportunities for these students.

The transition of two refugee secondary schools in Gambella (Jewi and Punyido 1) to the management of the Regional Education Bureau (REB) under the Ministry of Education's General Education Quality Improvement Programme for Equity (GEQIP-E) project was a key milestone. Additionally, refugee students were integrated into eleven other host community public secondary schools across various refugee locations, further demonstrating the commitment to educational integration.

UNHCR played a pivotal role in supporting refugee education at all levels, collaborating with partners such as RRS, Plan International, DICAC, AEEG, and OWS-DF to enhance educational access and quality for refugees and host communities alike. The World Bank's contribution, through school grants and textbooks for approximately 122,694 refugee students in primary schools and training for 1,136 refugee incentive teachers, underscored the importance of capacity building in this integration process. Other stakeholders, including Plan International Ethiopia, SCI, IRC, and GIZ, contributed to pre-primary, primary, and tertiary education efforts. GIZ's support under the 2019 GRF pledge on the inclusion of refugees into the national TVET system highlighted the broader commitment to creating sustainable employment perspectives for refugees and host communities in Ethiopia.

Overall, the progress made in 2023 towards integrating refugees into Ethiopia's national education system represents a significant step forward in ensuring equitable access to education for all. It underscores the importance of collaborative efforts and the positive impact of integrating refugees into national systems, not only for the refugees themselves but also for the host communities and the country's broader educational landscape.

12. Outcome Area: Clean Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

WASH services in PoC's hosting woredas improved, and similar to local standards and managed under auspices of local Water Bureaus

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
12.1 Proportion of people using at least basic drinking water services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	60.04%	65.00%	74.00%
12.2 Proportion of people with access to a safe household toilet	IDPs	5.00%	25.00%	25.08%
12.2 Proportion of people with access to a safe household toilet	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	40.00%	65.00%	24.00%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR and its partners have continued to provide water supply for refugees through an effective management of water systems and the maintenance of associated infrastructure. From the look of it, it appears as if the set target of 65% has been surpassed. However, there has been inequitable water

distribution across the camps and settlements. Lowest average daily water per person per day was 11liters per person per day in Buramino while the highest was 19l per person per day in Kobe. Across all locations, the daily average water available per person stood at 14l against the desired 20l/p/d. Emergency water was provided through water trucking. In Mirqaan, at least 10liters was provided per person per day to cater for the water needs of the Somali. In Alemwach, emergency water provided was highest at 15liters person per day. In Kumer and Metema transit site, at least 9.5liters was provided while it was lowest at Kumurk Transit Site at 7liters for the Sudanese refugees. Sanitation coverage is quite low at 24% for the refugees against the UNHCR camp standard of at least 85%. Coverage is lowest in Amhara at 11% and highest in Benishangul at 40%. For the Sudanese and Somali emergencies, communal latrines were constructed and fell short of the minimum basic standard of 1 as to 50 users while there has been no household latrine construction except a few in Gambella due to budgetary constraints. UNHCR collaborated with the Regional Water Bureaus, RRS, UNICEF and other partners both local and internal NGOs, especially for the Somali and Sudanese refugee response.

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13. Outcome Area: Self Reliance, Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods

Capacities of relevant government entities and key stakeholders are strengthened at all levels to advance the refugee economic inclusion agenda.

Enhanced enabling environment that allows refugees to access gainful employment opportunities.

Enhanced participation of development partners and the private sector in refugee hosting areas to create economic opportunities for refugees and host communities

Increased wage and self-employment opportunities are made available to refugees and host communities through joint projects.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
13.1. Proportion of people with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	30.43%	40.00%	26.00%
13.2. Proportion of people who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	7.68%	20.00%	11.00%
13.3 Proportion of people (working age) who are unemployed	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	86.63%	80.00%	60.00%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

At the end of 2023, the economically active refugee population stood at 404,536. Only 16.5% of Somali and 8.1% of South Sudanese households held financial accounts. In contrast, nearly 95% of Eritrean households reported owning an account. There is a slight improvement from the previous year in terms of employment opportunities, income levels and financial services for refugees and IDPs. Several projects funded by the World Bank -WHR, in collaboration with UNHCR and the Government of Ethiopia, have contributed to this progress. Several projects funded by the World Bank -WHR, in collaboration with UNHCR and the Government of Ethiopia, have contributed to this progress. For example, under the Economic Opportunities Program (EOP), 14,558 refugees out of a target of 30,000 received either a business license, a work permit for self/wage-employment or resident permit for joint project employment. Another initiative is the PROSPECTS partnership, implemented by UNHCR, UNICEF, ILO, the World Bank and IFC, which created economic opportunities for 129,449 people (38,621 refugees and 90,828 host community members). Furthermore, through the Qualifications and Employment Perspectives for Refugees and Host Communities in Ethiopia Programme (QEP), co-financed by BMZ and Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), 5,686 refugee and Ethiopian nationals found direct employment, and 469 companies across Ethiopia offered entry level employment experiences to vocational training graduates. In addition, UNHCR, in partnership with the EAC and IGAD, are implementing a regional program on investment climate reform and refugee protection funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB). After a scoping mission in September 2022, several public-private dialogues and community engagements were held at sub-national levels in September 2022, January 2023, and August 2023. A public and private sector dialogue is also planned in Addis Ababa on 1 February 2024. UNHCR and IFC are collaborating on a shared crop farming model that will leverage the IKEA Foundation investments in the Somali Region and support nine existing agriculture cooperatives. The pre-implementation phase, which involves securing the land tenure and water abstraction rights agreements, establishing the advisory council, and selecting the management company, is nearing completion.

14. Outcome Area: Voluntary Return and Sustainable Reintegration

Voluntary repatriation achieved

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
14.1 Proportion of returnees with legally recognized identity documents or credentials	Returnees	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR facilitated the voluntary repatriation of 6,188 Ethiopian refugees. The majority 5,567 individuals, returned from Sudan, with 615 from Yemen, five from Somalia, and one from Zambia. Reintegration cash assistance for six months was provided to 436 of these returnees.

Due to conflict in Sudan totaling 5,567 individuals, returned to Ethiopia under difficult conditions. Most of these returnees settled in IDP camps in Tigray, as Western Tigray, their intended destination, was inaccessible. UNHCR conducted profiling and offered cash and in-kind support to 501 households, comprising 956 individuals, to address their immediate needs. Overall, 1,392 returnees received assistance through the refugee program.

UNHCR collaborated with partners such as IOM, the Refugees and Returnees Services (RRS), which

provided support letters to facilitate returnees' reintegration, and the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia, which processed reintegration packages. The bank opened accounts for returnees and disbursed cash, including 10% of the reintegration package at entry points, to empower them upon arrival.

Regarding IDPs, UNHCR and partners, directly assisted 110,920 individuals, helping them to resettle in their home areas. Of these, 11,920 received support in Tigray and 12,600 in Afar. As co-chair of the Durable Solutions Working Group, UNHCR led initiatives to make returns more sustainable and dignified. Workshops and discussions with various stakeholders, including government authorities, were conducted to facilitate the return process and to understand the challenges and impacts better.

15. Outcome Area: Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

Complementary pathways

Resettlement places secured and candidates identified

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
15.1 Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	2,043	4,628	4,612
15.2 Average processing time from resettlement submission to departure under normal priority	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	855.00	480.00	1,497.00
15.3 Number of people admitted through complementary pathways from the host country	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,212	3,257	3,257

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Despite challenges due to conflict, a continued moratorium on registration, and delays in exit permit issuance, all of which impacted optimal resettlement case processing, the Ethiopia operation registered significant gains in advancing access to third country solutions for refugees.

In 2023, the allocated quota was surpassed by 171%, with 4,628 refugees submitted for resettlement consideration. This marked a 67.4% rise in submissions compared to 2022. Most of the cases (4424), were admitted under normal priority, 197 as urgent, and seven on emergency basis. Further, 50.24% of the individuals submitted were female, while the rest (49.76%) were male. A majority of the individuals, (61%), were submitted under the primary category of Survivors of Violence & Torture. Others were submitted under the categories of legal & Physical Protection Needs (19%), Women & Girls at Risk (19%), and 0.7% under other categories.

Following the USA' designation of a P2 group for refugees 'twice-displaced' due to conflict in Ethiopia, the operation successfully piloted processing under P2 modalities, which enabled the submission of Over 900 individuals in 2023, heralding full roll-out of P2 processing in 2024, which will see over 30,000 refugees submitted to the USA in the coming years.

UNHCR-facilitated, and partner-led, safe and legal pathways to third countries yielded the admission of 3,257 refugees on complementary pathways, marking an increase of 281.5% compared to 2022. These include the Italian Humanitarian Corridor (67), education pathways (3), private sponsorship (3,147), family reunification (38), and labor mobility (2). Moreover, 2023, was a watershed year for labor mobility from Ethiopia, with the first two refugees departing under the Canada EMPP program, with a further 53 receiving job offers, and pending departure by the close of 2023.

16. Outcome Area: Integration and other Local Solutions

Refugees and IDPs have access to pathways towards legal local integration

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
16.1 Proportion of people with secure tenure rights to housing and/or land	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	45.57%	50.00%	40.01%
16.2 Proportion of people covered by national social protection systems	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	25.36%	30.00%	25.02%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In a move towards urban integration, the government pledged to convert selected refugee camps into sustainable urban settlements by 2027. This transformation will involve improving the quality and availability of shelter, infrastructure, and public services such as roads, electricity, water, sanitation, health, and education. These enhancements will be coordinated with the master plans of adjacent towns. Indeed, preceding the pledges, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by the RRS, the Somali Region, and UNHCR in 2023, which aims to transform the Kebribeyah Camp into a settlement, integrating it with the nearby Kebribeyah town. In addition, the government made additional commitments at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum (GRF) to enhance agricultural opportunities for refugees and host communities. These include providing access to 10,000 hectares of irrigable land through lease arrangements and promoting climate-smart agriculture and livestock value chains.

In 2023, Refugee and Returnee Service (RRS) continued its efforts to shift from camp-based assistance to a settlement approach, establishing new refugee settlements in Amhara (Alemwach 2022; Kumer 2023) and Somali region (Bokh 2023). UNHCR advocated for and adapted operational responses to support realization of this direction toward improve prospects for sustainable integration and refugee management.

Despite these developments, the legal framework regarding refugees' access to social/public housing schemes has not changed, and there have been no reports of refugees benefiting from such schemes during this period. In addition, no new legal or policy framework was introduced that expand upon the existing provisions for refugees and nationals. The Refugees Proclamation, the National Social Protection Policy (NSPP), and the National Social Protection Strategy (NSPS) continue to provide the overarching policy directions for social protection services to refugees.

The new design of the Urban Productive Safety Net and Job Project, which is financed by the World Bank, has factored in Ethiopia' commitments made under the CRRF and 2019 GRF' pledges to advance refugee inclusion and self-reliance. This project has three major integrated components: basic safety net support, including productive and predictable transfers through conditional and unconditional transfers; livelihood services, including interventions that facilitate graduation from the programme and promote moving out of poverty. So far 42,188 host community members and 30,550 refugees have been enrolled. UNHCR provided strategic and technical advice, data and resources, and logistic support during the project design phase.

2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

Key achievements to advance the implementation of the AGD policy in Ethiopia included the finalization of a Self-Assessment. This effort fully mapped the feedback and response mechanisms of UNHCR and partners, recommending the harmonization and digitalization of feedback and response mechanisms. In 2023, UNHCR increased the use of digital tools in the country. The complaints, feedback and response tool used at protection desks and food distribution points across the country is a digital tool and ensures easy analysis and response time. Digital tools through the Kobo platform are used for CBI post-distribution

monitoring and protection and solutions monitoring for IDPs.

On diversity, UNHCR in Ethiopia assessed itself on disability inclusion and published this report. It identified challenges in data collection, knowledge on disability inclusion and response. In collaboration with the global Disability Inclusion Unit, a learning programme was conducted covering UNHCR and partner staff from every office in the country. All offices then worked on disability inclusion programmes addressing data collection, mainstreaming, community engagement and targeted response interventions. Efforts yielded increased support to persons with disabilities, despite reduced funding through mainstreaming and inclusion.

Participatory methods were used to engage communities in all areas of programming including through assessments in nutrition, food aid pause and food distribution, mental health, and CBI. There was regular engagement with communities including by community townhalls, and discussions with specific and diverse groups of the community including women and youth groups, child representatives, and associations of persons with disabilities and older persons.

To advance gender equality, gender was mainstreamed in sectors such as WASH, shelter, education, child protection and health which report regularly on GBV and gender indicators and therefore including gender considerations in their planning.

Section 3: Resources

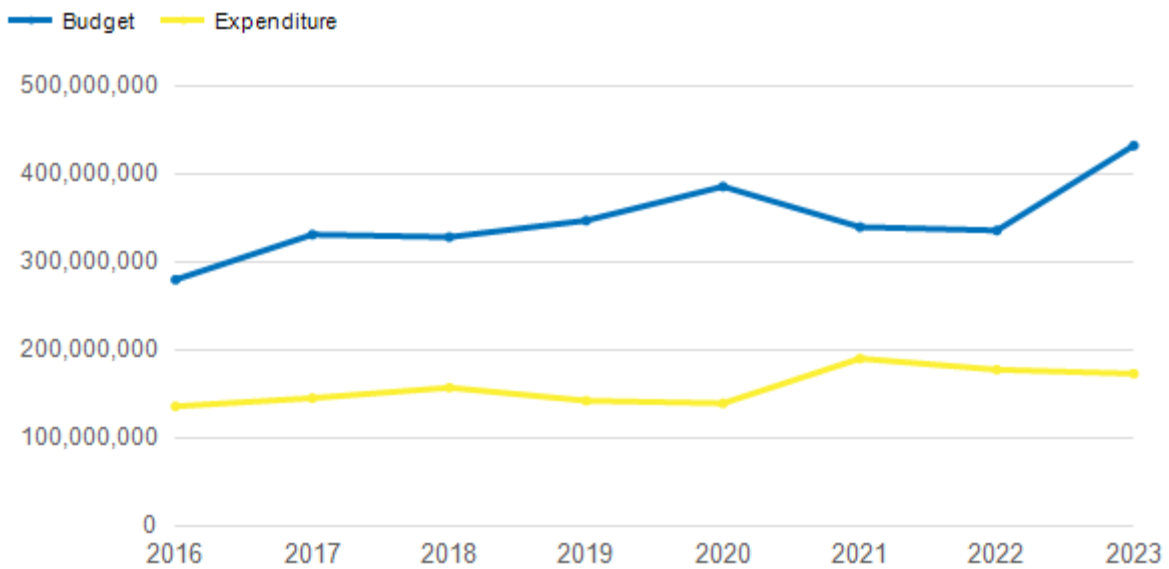
3.1 Financial Data

(Financial figures in USD)

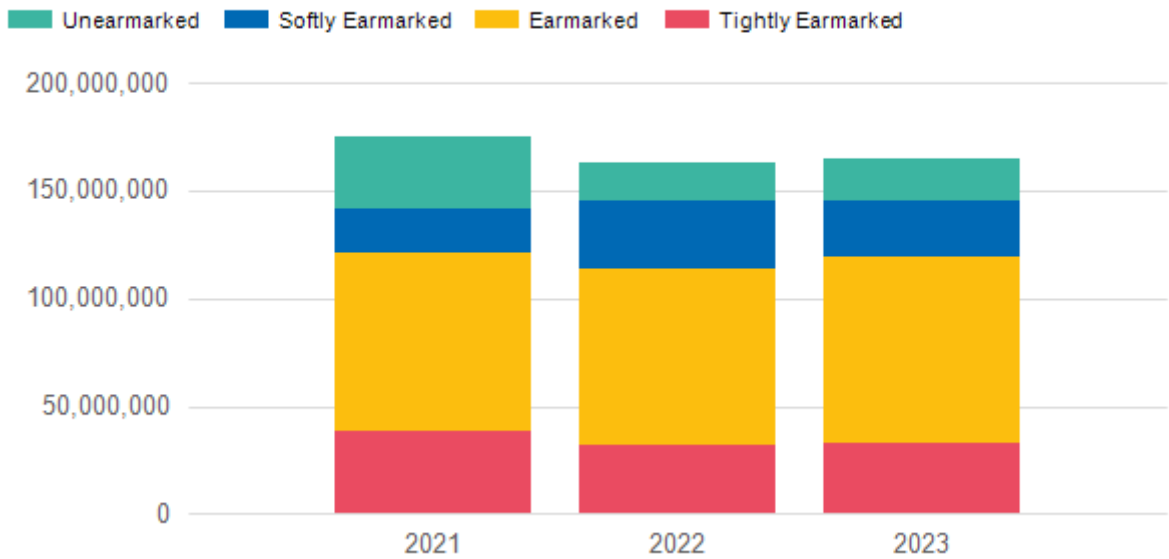
Impact Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
IA1: Protect	116,384,696	62,175,270	53.42%	62,175,270	100.00%
IA2: Assist	261,354,418	102,822,362	39.34%	102,261,103	99.45%
IA3: Empower	24,561,640	5,181,618	21.10%	5,141,405	99.22%
IA4: Solve	29,349,027	3,044,961	10.37%	2,992,961	98.29%
All Impact Areas		172,449			
Total	431,649,781	173,396,659	40.17%	172,570,738	99.52%

Outcome Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
OA1: Access/Doc	38,561,797	11,079,366	28.73%	11,079,366	100.00%
OA2: Status	6,018,483	2,962,688	49.23%	2,962,688	100.00%
OA3: Policy/Law	10,702,939	7,161,058	66.91%	7,161,058	100.00%
OA4: GBV	18,077,312	7,238,244	40.04%	7,238,244	100.00%
OA5: Children	14,169,002	6,945,624	49.02%	6,945,624	100.00%
OA6: Justice	7,629,196	4,473,480	58.64%	4,473,480	100.00%
OA7: Community	21,225,967	22,314,810	105.13%	22,314,810	100.00%
OA8: Well-being	108,276,504	45,138,099	41.69%	44,786,927	99.22%
OA9: Housing	65,793,787	13,762,104	20.92%	13,762,104	100.00%
OA10: Health	33,899,490	20,184,501	59.54%	20,130,181	99.73%
OA11: Education	22,551,485	12,668,255	56.17%	12,668,255	100.00%
OA12: WASH	30,833,150	11,069,403	35.90%	10,913,635	98.59%
OA13: Livelihood	24,561,640	5,181,618	21.10%	5,141,405	99.22%
OA14: Return	19,236,400	1,451,478	7.55%	1,451,478	100.00%
OA15: Resettle	8,309,315	1,283,873	15.45%	1,231,873	95.95%
OA16: Integrate	1,803,312	309,610	17.17%	309,610	100.00%
All Outcome Areas		172,449			
Total	431,649,781	173,396,659	40.17%	172,570,738	99.52%

Budget and Expenditure Trend



Contributions Trend by Type



3.2. Resources Overview

The multi-year strategy drives an agenda of inclusive development solution for protracted refugees and IDP situations while maintaining the capacity to rapidly respond during emergencies. However, the available resources were not adequate to expand and improve the available systems and services. In 2023, the operation’s financial requirements were US \$ 179.4 million and by the end of the year were only 48% funded. UNHCR in Ethiopia also received additional funding of US \$ 17.9 million (US \$10 million for the Somalia situation and US \$ 7.9 million for the Sudan response) to cover the essential need and services of new arrivals.

UNHCR in Ethiopia remained one of the most underfunded operations in 2023 and which was demonstrated with the various gaps in WASH, shelter, health and protection.

The operation strengthened its engagements with donors and organized two Refugee Donor Group (RDG) missions to Alemwach refugee site and to the urban refugee programme. It ensured regular engagement with donors through the RDG and through regular bilateral engagements. Other key events included the Refugee Group meeting (April 2023), the Workshop on the Progress of GRF Pledges (June 2023), the Roundtable on the occasion of the visit of Ikea Foundation's Former CEO Mr Per Heggnes (October 2023), the Joint RRS-UNHCR donor meeting (November 2023) and the Linked event on the Kabribeyah Inclusion Roadmap and Melkadida Compact in the margins of the GRF. These meetings enabled UNHCR to brief donors on the growing needs of refugees, its emergency response and the on-going work to support the inclusion of refugees into national system and to engage development actors. Regular reports on the Sudan emergency and on the resumption of food distribution were published targeting donor interest, while several content missions also enabled UNHCR to share stories for wider audiences around the issues related to the drought, the GRF, the Somali and Sudan emergency responses, amongst others.

Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

4.1 Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

On 05 March 2024, the UNHCR Representation in Ethiopia conducted a Strategic Moment of Reflection (SMR) workshop to reflect on the collective achievements of UNHCR and partners in 2023. The workshop aimed to foster joint ownership of results, reflect on problems and challenges UNHCR and partners faced in the implementation of the 2023 Programme, and to identify valuable lessons learned for improved evidence-based planning and decision making. Workshop participants included UNHCR staff, RRS, implementing partners, operational partners, development partners, donors, refugees and IDPs.

The following lessons emerged from the workshop:

Need to better prioritize the limited resources at UNHCR disposal: Due to the reduced IOL in 2023, the operation funded health, education, and WASH services for less than 12 months with the hope that additional resources will be received in the second half of the year to address the gaps. However, additional resources were not received, and the OL was rather reduced by US\$ 12 million. This caused serious challenges for the delivery of basic services in the last quarter of the year (in fact health and education paused in Gambella). Donors did not understand how essential services were not fully budgeted for. The lesson learned is that essential services should be prioritized no matter how reduced the OL is.

Need to better track and ensure synergy with funds brought in by operational partners: The Ethiopia operation has traditionally tracked funds brought in by operational partners (through the signing of LOUs). However, not much effort was placed in ensuring that these funds complement, rather than duplicate, funds that come through UNHCR. In the panel discussion during the SMR workshop, RRS stressed the need to better monitor and leverage on resources from operational partners.

The 2023 budget reduction led to loss of confidence in UNHCR: The budget reduction made it impossible for UNHCR to honor some of its obligations to partners (including letters of authorization given to partners to pre-finance activities). A panelist (implementing partner) during the workshop commented that “UNHCR letters of authorization no longer has any value”.

Partners would like better coordination from UNHCR: Partners scored UNHCR a “C” in collaboration and joint fund raising.

Refugee work permits: Refugees complained about work permits that enable them to work in only one enterprise / project. They are unable to use the permit to seek employment in other areas. RRS noted this issue and promised to find a solution.

IDP needs are still immense: The IDP budget in 2023 accounted for only 17% of the OL. However, IDPs in Tigray provided valuable information on the effects of the reduced programmes on thousands of IDPs in Tigray.



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