

ETHIOPIA SITUATION (TIGRAY REGION)

14 October 2021



Focus group discussions in Mekelle's IDP site health centre, Tigray region, Ethiopia © UNHCR

Key Developments

ETHIOPIA

The newly arrived Representative undertook a 5-day field mission to Mekelle and Shire. During his mission, he met with UN agencies, cluster leads, IDPs/refugees and partners and visited IDP sites in Mekelle and Sebacare 4. Missions to Mai Aini refugee camp, returnees' site in Adwa and IDP sites in Shire were also organized.

Lack of access for supplies into Tigray continues to significantly compromise the response (movement of supplies, personnel, fuel, cash, denials of telecommunications equipment). Similar to other agencies, UNHCR has scaled down operations, predominantly due to lack of fuel as well as lack of consistent flow of supplies. Field assessments are hampered by the lack of fuel disabling partners from verifying reports.

SUDAN

The number of Ethiopians crossing into eastern Sudan via Hamdayet is trending downward. As of 14 October, 22 new arrivals were reported, bringing the total population there to 5,950. Nevertheless, the operation is currently revising its contingency plan in view of the sharp escalation of hostilities in northern Ethiopia in recent days which could trigger a new outflow of refugees.

Ethiopia Response

The humanitarian situation across the Tigray Region remains deeply concerning for refugees, the internally displaced and host communities. Civilians have endured over eleven months of conflict with extremely limited basic services and assistance available, leading to a significant escalation in humanitarian needs with ongoing new displacements. The security situation remains volatile, affecting civilians and constraining humanitarian actors on the ground. Communication, electricity, and banking services remain intermittent. The conflict is also affecting civilian populations in neighboring Amhara and Afar regions.



Eritrean Refugee Response

Renewed fighting has been reported in the Afar region, according to sources on the ground and is already affecting UNHCR's response. NFI distributions to 2,500 IDP returnee households in Awra woreda had to be postponed.

Lack of access to medicine remains a major challenge in Shire. According to the latest surveillance records, diseases are on the rise affecting at least 12 informal IDP sites in Shire and Sheraro. Malaria cases have reportedly increased by 32% (up to 234 cases as of 5 October). Cases of scabies have also risen by 110% from 62 to 130 including reported cases in the host community. The remaining stocks of drugs in the main Suhul Hospital in Shire are soon expiring (October-November), while essential drugs stocks across Shire have largely depleted, including those for non-communicable diseases. Challenges also include limited health education at IDP sites and host community locations as well as lack of vaccines, especially for new-born babies and children.

UNHCR and WFP plan to carry food distributions to Eritrean refugees in Mai Aini and Adi Harush camps during the week of 18 October. UNHCR plans to undertake awareness raising campaigns in both refugee camps on UNHCR's relocation plan for Eritrean refugees from the camps in Mai Tsebri to the new site in Dabat in the Amhara region. In Afar region, the September / October food distribution for refugees in Aysaita camp started on 11 October through ARRA. The distribution is expected to be completed on 20 October. In Barahle camp, not all food items have been transferred by WFP to ARRA as some trucks have not yet arrived.

In Alemwach site, 4.2 out of 8 hectares have now been prepared for construction. Three hangars that are expected to accommodate about 300 individuals are in the final stages of completion, while work is ongoing on for an additional thirteen hangars are planned to accommodate 1,200 individuals. Work on the communal kitchens, rub halls and distribution shades is also progressing, as well construction works of septic tanks, water tank platforms and tap stands. However, the borehole which had been identified as a potential source of water has been rendered as non-functional following a thorough technical assessment. Subsequently, water-trucking remains the only interim option, as drilling a new borehole is only possible during the dry season.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)



Protection: The IDP enrolment process led by the Tigray Statistical Agency (TSA) and the Bureau of Labour and Social Affairs (BoLSA) continues in Shire. Local authorities continue to advocate for the return of IDPs to their areas of origin, except those IDPs who arrived from the western part of Tigray and areas along the Eritrean border in eastern and north-western Tigray where hostilities are ongoing. While UNHCR continues to advocate for voluntary return of IDPs and track numbers of spontaneous returnees in different woredas, efforts are in place to follow up with local authorities on this issue. TSA and BoLSA completed the enrolment of IDPs in five sites in Shire, while the exercise is continuing in other sites in Shire, Sheraro and Axum. UNHCR is facilitating support to TSA/BoLSA on enrolment of IDPs in Shire.

UNHCR, in collaboration with its partner Innovative Humanitarian Solutions (IHS) continued to manage the protection desks supporting over 36 IDP sites in Shire as well as in Sheraro and Axum and outreach missions to Adwa, Adi Daero (a town between Shire and Sheraro) and other areas hosting significant numbers of IDPs. Protection desks and outreach sessions provide information and counselling to IDPs, identify individuals in need of protection or assistance and refer IDPs to the relevant services, as well as contribute to the monitoring of the overall protection environment for IDPs. The protection response was further strengthened by setting up GBV and Child Protection programmes for IDPs, including the establishment of child friendly spaces, setting up family tracing processes for unaccompanied and separated children, and identification and referrals of GBV survivors to specialized services. Since the activation of the humanitarian coordination system in the Tigray region, UNHCR has since led the Protection Cluster in Shire and has supported inter-agency missions on the rapid response mechanism (RRM).

In Sheraro, UNHCR's partner IHS started emergency education for children between the ages of 8 and 12 focusing on numeracy and language (Tigrigna and English) to develop their writing and reading skills as part of the effort to prepare them for regular schooling. IHS distributed exercise books and pencils for 100 students in a bid to improve this emergency education.



Shelter and Non-food Items: Due to the suspension of UNHCR's partner NRC since July, shelter activities in Shire have not been implemented as planned. A total of 3,000 pieces of plastic sheets were returned and plans are underway to conduct the planned shelter activities support of IDPs in the Shire. UNHCR is also considering alternative options for shelter construction in Shire due to fuel and cash shortages. These include provision of prefabricated tents and the usage of local materials such as clay bricks. The team has discussed both options with the cluster that welcomed both of them as suitable for implementation. The cluster coordinator will draft the TORs to be shared with the mayor of Shire town.



Camp Coordination and Camp Management: The CCCM Cluster led by UNHCR has been activated in Afar region. Partners WFP, IOM, the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) and the Development Expertise Centre (DEC) have been trained on protection mainstreaming and CCCM.

In Mekelle, UNHCR organized a training for partners Action for the Needy in Ethiopia (ANE), and the Organization for Social services, Health and Development (OSSHD) on Reporting, Service mapping and CCCM tools.

Partner ANE supported IDP community-based initiatives in several IDP sites to remove waste and clean latrines. ANE started site maintenance activities, such as doors and windows maintenance, installation of light bulbs in several IDP sites in Mekelle and Adigrat.

Sudan Response

Official clearance to accommodate Qemant asylum seekers on the new camp site of Babikri is still pending. UNHCR is in discussion with authorities to confirm the designation of this site either as a transit centre or as a permanent camp. Initial assessments indicate that existing infrastructure (boreholes, schools, clinics) will require rehabilitation. Finalizing the relocation of this group continues to be a priority. As of 11 October, the total Qemant population stood at 2,204: 1,643 who remain in Basinga and 561 who were relocated to Basunda temporary transit centre before the exercise was put on hold by authorities.

As of 11 October, a total of 718 refugee ID cards were issued in Um Rakuba, bringing the total to 2,135. Some 250 ID cards have been issued in Tunaydbah since the exercise began last week. Discussions are ongoing with the Ministry of Labour to see how best to advocate for work permits as one of the key benefits of ID cards. Pending confirmation from COR, mobile companies will also be brought in to allow refugees access to mobile SIM cards. Refugees will, however, still require a travel permit from COR to leave the camps.

Preparations to begin relocation from Hamdayet and Village 8 to Tunaydbah are ongoing. Village 8 will be the first site mobilized for relocation at the end of the month. The priority will be to first relocate refugees who expressed their willingness to move to Tunaydbah in the intention survey conducted last month.



Protection: In collaboration with UNFPA and ALIGHT, UNHCR organised a four-day workshop on the clinical management of rape survivors, targeting healthcare workers from Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah. Participants learnt about best practices in clinical rape management and how to develop robust and context-appropriate procedures during emergencies. Plans are currently underway to draft common standard operating procedures to enable partners to better respond to GBV.

ALIGHT coordinated two awareness raising sessions on GBV risks, mitigation and prevention measures, reaching close to 70 participants in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah. These sessions touched on the survivor-centred approach and highlighted the services and support available to survivors, including medical, psychosocial, legal and material assistance.



Education: During the reporting period, four early childhood care and development (EECD) centres implemented by Save the Children and funded by Education Cannot Wait were inaugurated in Tunaydbah by the state Director General for Gedaref's Ministry of Education. This brings to the total number of EECD centres currently operating in the two camps to six.

Scaling up the provision of livelihoods training and access to tertiary education remain priorities. UNHCR's Registration and Education units are currently profiling youth inside the camps in order to develop targeted youth programming.



Health: A total of 30 participants were trained on the integrated refugee health information system (iRHIS). The aim of the workshop is to ensure that the data generated is standardised and that indicators are comparable across locations.

Ahead of World Mental Health Day, ALIGHT conducted a two-day workshop on suicide prevention and response, reaching over 35 stakeholders, including officials from Sudan's Commission for Refugees (COR), police and community leaders. Participants received training on how to better identify and assist refugees and other persons of concern with mental health and psychosocial issues.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: A total of 1,080,286 litres of water was provided via water pumping from rivers and treatment through water treatment plants (WTPs), boreholes and water trucking during the reporting period. Water supply has increased to 25 litres per person per day (l/p/d) in Um Rakuba, 21 l/p/d in Tunaydbah, 20 l/p/d in Village 8 and 15 l/p/d in Hamdayet. This brings the average available supply of water to 20 l/p/d, which is the SPHERE minimum standard in post-emergencies settings. Sustained coordination is essential to ensuring these collective gains are maintained by the WaSH sector.

Efforts to improve latrine coverage are ongoing: 940 latrines have been completed so far in Um Rakuba and an additional 264 are under rehabilitation/construction or planned; 1,316 have been completed in Tunaydbah with another 260 requiring rehabilitation/construction; 113 are finalized in Village 8 and 162 have been completed in Hamdayet.

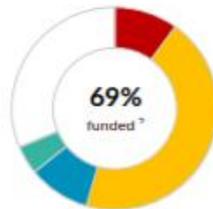


Shelter and Non-food Items: During the reporting period, NRC concluded a blanket distribution of 15,000 mosquito nets donated by WHO and soap donated by IOM targeting the refugee population in Um Rakuba and the minority non-Tigrayan group in Um Rakuba village.

Funding Overview



\$164.5 million
 UNHCR's financial requirements 2021 ¹



FUNDING UPDATE | 2021

**ETHIOPIA
 EMERGENCY**
 as of 12 October 2021



CONTRIBUTIONS ³ | USD

| | Unearmarked | Softly earmarked | Earmarked | Tightly earmarked | Total |
|---|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| United States of America | - | 3,750,000 | 19,130,000 | - | 22,880,000 |
| European Union | - | - | - | 3,789,384 | 3,789,384 |
| Finland | - | 2,389,486 | - | - | 2,389,486 |
| UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe | - | 1,153,278 | - | 298,329 | 1,451,607 |
| Italy | - | - | - | 1,379,723 | 1,379,723 |
| Japan | - | 181,159 | - | 1,100,000 | 1,281,159 |
| Country-Based Pooled Funds | - | - | - | 1,280,000 | 1,280,000 |
| Norway | - | - | 1,219,066 | - | 1,219,066 |
| Sweden | - | 851,148 | - | - | 851,148 |
| United Kingdom | - | - | 810,811 | - | 810,811 |
| CERF | - | - | - | 500,000 | 500,000 |
| Education Cannot Wait | - | - | - | 500,000 | 500,000 |
| Latter-day Saints Charities | - | - | 300,025 | 172,200 | 472,225 |
| Médecins Sans Frontières | - | - | - | 365,625 | 365,625 |
| France | - | 351,700 | - | - | 351,700 |
| Novo Nordisk Foundation | - | 327,004 | - | - | 327,004 |
| United Kingdom for UNHCR | - | 315,472 | - | - | 315,472 |
| Luxembourg | - | 305,998 | - | - | 305,998 |
| Australia for UNHCR | - | 297,062 | - | - | 297,062 |
| Private donors Canada | - | 226,321 | - | - | 226,321 |
| UNHCR Insamlingstiftelse | - | 207,491 | - | - | 207,491 |
| Liechtenstein | - | 110,375 | - | - | 110,375 |
| Private donors USA | - | 100,000 | - | - | 100,000 |
| Other private donors | - | 416,359 | - | 5,326 | 421,685 |
| Sub-total | - | 10,982,854 | 21,459,902 | 9,390,587 | 41,833,343 |
| Indicative allocation of funds and adjustments ⁴ | 7,147,293 | 5,048,087 | 51,900,146 | 7,065,331 | 71,160,858 |
| Total | 7,147,293 | 16,030,941 | 73,360,048 | 16,455,918 | 112,994,200 |

Methodology: Unearmarked funding is allocated and reallocated multiple times during the year to allow UNHCR to fund prioritised activities. This funding update includes an indicative allocation of funds so as to accurately represent the resources available for the situation. The contributions earmarked for the Ethiopia Emergency shown above are combined with an indicative allocation of the softly earmarked and unearmarked contributions listed below. This allocation respects different levels of earmarking. Adjustments relate to programme support costs and carry-over.

OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS ⁴ | USD

United States of America 169.5 million | Private donors Australia 8.4 million | Canada 5.8 million | Sweden 3.5 million | Denmark 2.9 million | Switzerland 2 million | Private donors Germany 2 million | IGAD | Ireland | Japan | Luxembourg | Netherlands | Norway | Private donors

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS ³ | USD

Norway 80 million | Sweden 66.9 million | Private donors Spain 62.6 million | United Kingdom 40.4 million | Netherlands 36.1 million | Denmark 34.6 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 31.9 million | Germany 26 million | Private donors Japan 23.6 million | Japan 23.4 million | France 20.2 million | Switzerland 16.4 million | Private donors Italy 15.7 million | Private donors Sweden 13 million | Ireland 12.5 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Italy 10.7 million

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