

ETHIOPIA SITUATION (TIGRAY REGION)

12 – 30 April



Mihret, 25, is a trained engineer and teacher from Ethiopia. She lives in Tubaydbah, East Sudan and volunteers to assist refugee mothers get medical services for themselves and their children.

Key Developments

ETHIOPIA

- The UN Special Representative of the Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict [briefed](#) the UN Security Council on 15 April and presented findings of the 2020 annual report, where she highlighted the situation in Tigray.
- On 13 April, OCHA [warned](#) of alarming malnutrition rates in Tigray. Out of +69,000 children screened, +1,900 cases of severe acute malnutrition and +17,700 cases of moderate malnutrition have been identified. Malnutrition has also been found amongst pregnant women. WFP is targeting around 867,000 children and 415,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women with their feeding programmes.

SUDAN

- Approximately 63,100 Ethiopian refugees have been recorded crossing into East Sudan as of 30 April. Some 41,000 refugees have been relocated to Um Rakuba camp (20,572) and Tunaydbah settlement (20,609). Overall statistics are subject to revision pending finalization of the biometric verification process of the remaining refugee population at Hamdayet and Village 8 border reception sites.
- In preparation for the rainy season, UNHCR and WFP have been constructing and rehabilitating roads (about 60 km) to Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah to ensure access and are digging drainage systems in the two sites to mitigate risks of flooding. Various partners are constructing semi-permanent schools, building more durable shelters (tukuls) to replace emergency shelters, as well as permanent latrines and showers.



Ethiopia Response

The humanitarian situation across the Tigray Region remains deeply concerning for refugees, the internally displaced and host communities. Civilians have endured five months of conflict with only extremely limited basic services and assistance available, leading to a significant escalation in humanitarian needs with new displacement ongoing. The security situation remains volatile especially in rural areas, affecting civilians and constraining humanitarian actors on the ground. Basic services have gradually resumed in parts of Tigray; however, electricity and banking services remain intermittent.

With access restrictions lifted, UNHCR is working to reach those Eritrean refugees who have been dispersed by the conflict, as well as to significantly scale up IDP response operations while undertaking Protection, and Camp Coordination and Camp Management cluster leadership responsibilities.

Eritrean Refugee Response

As of 25 April, nearly **8,100 refugees** from Hitsats and Shimelba had relocated to Adi Harush and Mai Aini camps either on their own or transported by the government from Shire. Refugees are receiving food and Core Relief Items upon arrival.

In **Mekelle**, Eritrean refugees from Hitsats and Shimelba camps continue to approach UNHCR, with 330 verified as of 15 April. UNHCR continues to provide protection counselling to refugees who have endured traumatic experiences and are in need of psychosocial support.

In the **Afar region**, 50 refugees and asylum-seekers from the Tigray camps are now living in Aysaita camp and Logiya town. These refugees have been immediately referred to ARRA and the partners for support, including psychosocial counselling and health services. ARRA has provided core relief items and food rations.



Protection: UNHCR individual reception, counselling and registration services have resumed at both Mai Aini and Adi Harush camps. UNHCR and partners have re-established protection assistance to support unaccompanied children, women and girls exposed to gender-based violence and psycho-social support to address the trauma that many have experienced.

In **Mekelle**, UNHCR is providing protection counselling to the displaced refugees and new arrivals.

Due to COVID-19, physical activities were temporarily at the Refugee Reception Centre in **Addis Ababa**. UNCHR has set up a new Protection Helpline and an online portal for refugees and asylum-seekers in Addis Ababa, with respect to protection, resettlement, access to asylum and refugee status determination. The helpline numbers have been disseminated to the communities and partners in Addis Ababa and are shared continuously on social media.



Shelter: A new camp site in the Amhara region has been identified and the relocation taskforce consisting of UNHCR, ARRA and key partners has been working on the site plan. The new site has the capacity to accommodate up to 20,000 Eritrean refugees. It is a priority to have the site ready and initiate relocation before the full onset of the rainy season.

In the Mai Tsebri camps (Mai Aini and Adi Harush), many relocated refugees were temporarily hosted in communal sites in schools and Early Childhood Care Centers. UNHCR has now moved all refugees to emergency shelters, allowing schools to resume classes and other activities to restart.



Eritrean refugees relocated to Mai Aini camp are supported with emergency shelter. Hanna Qassis/UNHCR

Due to the pressing need to build transitional shelters in the Mai Tsebri camps, UNHCR and technical partners undertook an assessment to identify all available space, including dismantling old emergency communal shelters, in order to construct 150 individual/family transitional shelters.



Food Security and Nutrition: Monthly food distributions have been organized with WFP, UNHCR and ARRA since December 2020. All newly relocated refugees have received monthly food rations upon arrival from Shire.



Water and Sanitation: UNHCR and partners are providing 14 litres of water per person per day in Mai Aini camp, where water systems are fully operational, and 11 litres per person per day in Adi Harush camp where the system has been partially restored. At both sites the level of water level is below UNCHR standards of 20 litres per person per day.



Non-food items: All 8,100 newly relocated refugees have received Core Relief Items (CRIs) upon arrival to Mai Aini and Adi Harush camps.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)



IDPs On 16 April, IOM released a Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) [report](#) based on assessments carried out in March. **1,064,176** (235,882 households) were identified to be displaced across 178 sites in Tigray, Amhara and Afar regions. 1 million IDPs (218,246 households) were found in Tigray region, 45,343 IDPs (8,325 households) in Afar region and 18,781 IDPs (9,311 households) in Amhara region. These displacement figures do not reflect the total displacement in the Tigray situation, but the number of IDPs identified in the sites that were accessible.

According to the local authorities, there are around 600,000 IDPs sheltered in **Shire** in 16 sites and within the host communities. As of 26 April, the government has registered 423,432 IDPs.

In **Shiraro**, local authorities have reported the presence of some 97,000 Ethiopians who are internally displaced within Shiraro's administrative area. The majority of IDPs are living within the host community and some 30,000 are living in five settlements.

According to the data from the interim government (Bureau of Labor and Social Affairs), there are currently 82,000 IDPs in **Mekelle**, mostly living with the host community. This figure includes 30,000 individuals living in 15 collective centers and the remaining population living with the host communities.

In **Mai Tsebri**, according to local authorities, there are some 25,000 IDPs including 8,500 individuals living in a communal IDP site and the remaining population living with the host community.

In the **Afar region**, according to the regional Emergency Coordination Centre, a total of 51,941 individuals from Tigray region are displaced across eight woredas of the Afar region.

Overall, there is an urgent need to scale up response efforts to non-urban areas which have been difficult to access due to insecurity.



Protection: In **Shire**, UNHCR is leading/co-leading two out of the six clusters: Protection and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), activated in Ethiopia in March 2021. UNHCR also co-chairs the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Network together with International Rescue Committee.

During a joint OCHA/UNCHR/UNICEF mission on 20 April to **Shiraro**, UNCHR and partners held focus group discussions with the IDP and host community representatives who stressed the need for humanitarian support. UNHCR's partner Innovative Humanitarian Solutions (IHS) is scaling up its assistance to IDPs. As of 21 April, IHS has screened a total of 6,780 families in two sites (Shiraro High School and Shiraro TVET College) as part of its preparations for Core Relief Item distribution. IHS will target 1,000 families during the first-round of distribution of CRIs. IHS will also set up child friendly spaces in the two sites.

Protection monitoring and rapid assessments are routinely being conducted in IDP sites in Shire, Mekelle and Adigrat, and in Shiraro when security allows. To date, UNHCR has established 10 protection desks in the IDP sites in Shire and Mekelle, where protection staff receive refugees, provide counselling, and/or refer cases to service providers.

UNHCR's partner RaDO conducted an assessment for 828 persons with specific needs who are hosted at four IDP sites in **Shire** (i.e. Wukardiba, Midregent, Adi Kentibay and Dehab Tesfay centers). Through the UNHCR-funded project RaDO is targeting a total of 3,500 IDPs: 1,700 in Shire, 2,000 in Mai Tsebri, 600 in Axum, 500 in Adowa and 500 in Abiye Adi.



Shelter and Non-food Items: Some 8,000 IDP households in eight sites are being initially targeted to receive Core Relief Items. Distributions have already been carried out in several IDP sites in Mekelle and Shire and are now planned for the Shiraro area.

In **Mekelle**, UNHCR and partners Action for the Needy in Ethiopia (ANE), Development Expertise Center (DEC) and Innovative Humanitarian Solutions (HIS) are supporting the construction of shelters and delivery of NFIs, in coordination with the Shelter/NFIs Cluster. In the last week of April, 150 shelter units were constructed at Seba Kare IDP site. The distribution of 1,000 CRI kits is planned for the first week of May.



Camp Coordination and Camp Management: The CCCM Cluster prepared a consolidated plan for the relocation of IDPs from two IDP sites in Shire. UNHCR continues to participate in the identification of new sites for IDP relocation – so far, five sites have been identified.

A new IDP site in **Mekelle** was recently identified to host 19,080 individuals (3,816 households). The construction of shelters and infrastructure is ongoing, but gaps remain, especially with regard to WASH.

Sudan Response

The influx of refugees from the Tigray region into Sudan has continued with fewer than 30 arrivals per day in April. Refugees continue to arrive mainly at Hamdayet transit center with fewer number of new arrivals to Village 8.

Relocation: *Since 13 November, 20,572 refugees were relocated from Hamdayet and Abderafi border points, and Village 8 transit site to Um Rakuba – 70kms away from the Ethiopian border. Um Rakuba camp has reached full capacity and no further relocations will take place except for family reunification purposes.*

On 3 January, UNHCR and partners began relocations to Tunaydbah – 136kms away from Gedaref town. By 24 February, 20,609 refugees had been relocated to Tunaydbah from Hamdayet and Village 8.

Relocation for family reunification of approximately 156 individuals from Hamdayet to Um Rakuba camp and Tunaydbah settlement was completed on 13 April. Discussions are ongoing between UNHCR and local authorities on the resumption of general relocations to Tunaydbah settlement, which has been on hold since 24 February due to several factors.

SECTOR UPDATES



Protection: *In all locations, Protection desks have been established to provide information on legal issues, rights, and obligations of refugees and facilitate the registration process. Protection teams are identifying people at heightened risk, including pregnant women, persons with disabilities, unaccompanied children and older persons and referring them to specialized services as may be needed, including counselling and health services for survivors of gender-based violence.*

The Civil Registry of Gedaref State have started issuing birth certificates in Um Rakuba on 14 April. So far, 121 babies born in Um Rakuba camp have been registered with logistical support from UNHCR and COR, with UNHCR sensitizing refugees at the registration centre waiting area on the importance of registering their babies' births with the Civil Registration Officer for documentation and protection purposes.

118 women and girls attended sessions on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention and risk mitigation held in the women and girls' safe space in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah.



Many refugees in Tunaydbah have found innovative and resourceful ways to begin rebuilding their lives. Surafuel, 54, has set up a kiosk shop.

UNICEF has trained 12 refugees in safe GBV referrals and prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA).

Partners installed nearly 150 solar streetlights in strategic location in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah to enhance security and protection.



Child Protection: *UNHCR and partners are working to scale up child protection programmes in the camps and Transit Centers, with a focus on psychosocial support, family tracing and reunification of unaccompanied and separated children, and referrals to support services.*

UNICEF and State Council of Child Welfare (SCCW) continue recreational activities in child friendly spaces in Um Rakuba, Tunaydbah and Village 8. Nearly 530 children participate.



Ethiopian refugees playing volleyball near the Youth Centre at Tunaydbah settlement in East Sudan.



Education: Ahead of the

rainy season, education partners continue the construction of semi-permanent classrooms in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah.

Save the Children International (SCI) was allocated two sites to establish Temporary Learning Centres (TLCs), each with three classrooms and an office in Um Rakuba. In Um Rakuba, NRC established two TLCs with five classrooms for primary learning. The TLC also hosts temporary learning activities for children at the secondary level. The construction of a third TLC is expected to start soon.

Partners also agreed to start building temporary learning spaces (TLSs) in Tunaydbah, as well as training teachers, and identifying and registering students.

Refugee youth established the Tigrayan Refugee University Students in Sudan (TRUSS) and Tigray University Students Union in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah respectively. The groups aim to support advocacy for education continuation for refugees at university level, support community sensitization and engagement activities and volunteer as translators or support workers with partners.



Health: *UNHCR and partners continue to conduct temperature screenings, distribute soap at entry points, and sensitization of refugees on COVID-19 mitigation measures in Tigrayan language.*

UNHCR has deployed a Mental Health expert to support in capacity building of frontline clinical workers on the mental health humanitarian intervention guidelines that is aimed at building their capacity to identify and manage priority and most common mental health illness - Mental Health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP) and Psychological First Aid (PFA) . The six-day training began on 20 April.

There is a Functional Early Warning and Alert Response Systems (EWARS) in the camps where weekly morbidity and mortality reports are produced, trends monitored and analysed for any deviations and advice quick response. Training of community health volunteers to establish and strengthen community mortality surveillance has started.

UNDP mobile clinics support Tuberculosis and HIV diagnosis with basic and required diagnostic investigations for initiation and follow up of treatments carried out in the camps.



Food Security and Nutrition: WFP continues monthly food distributions at all sites.

Muslim Aid provides ready meals to all new arrivals in Hamdayet, as well as persons with specific needs.

UNHCR, Forests National Corporation (FNC) and COR distributed improved cooking stoves to 2,000 families in Um Rakuba. The stoves provided are energy-saving and eco-friendly.



Water and Sanitation: In **Tunaydbah**, the water treatment facilities run by Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) and MSF ensure daily water production of 550 m³, equal to 26.2 litres per person per day. The construction of 756 blocks of permanent latrines and showers continued. MSF continues to fill the handwashing station with soap and water including cleaning of latrines and showers on a daily basis. CARE provided 600 solid waste bins.

In **Um Rakuba**, daily water production is at 411 m³ equal to 20 litres per person per day, supplied through water-trucking, boreholes and water bladders. Partners continue to construct boreholes which will provide an estimated daily production of 920 m³. World Hunger Aid (WHH) constructed 50 emergency latrines and provided 600 sanitation kits while CARE provided 450 solid water bins. The construction by partners of 453 blocks of permanent latrines and showers continues.

In **Village 8**, water trucking by UNHCR and MSF ensures a daily water distribution of 26-54 m³ equal to 14.5-21 litres per person per day. UNICEF is in the process of rehabilitating the water treatment plant in Village 8 to also support the host community.

In **Hamdayet**, water trucking by Cooperazione International (COOPI) ensures a daily distribution of 64 m³ equal to 27.5 litres per person per day while MSF is water trucking for the host community nearly 100m³ per day for 8,000 people.



NFI Shelter and core relief

items: Relocation of families from areas more prone to flooding to a safer shelter is ongoing in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah.

To improve access to energy, roughly 5,800 solar lanterns with mobile charging capabilities were distributed to refugees in Tunaydbah. Four solar charging stations, each with capacity to charge 15 phones at a time, were also distributed in Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba.



Plans are in place to put measures to protect refugees during the rainy season and provide energy conserving items like solar lamps that are part of the non-food items provided to refugees.

Djibouti

There are no new arrivals from Tigray during the reporting period. Around 300 Tigrayan refugees have been registered since the start of the conflict.

Eritrea

There have been reports of refugees arriving and possible internal displacement along the border with Ethiopia, which cannot be verified as access to the border areas remains restricted.

Funding Overview

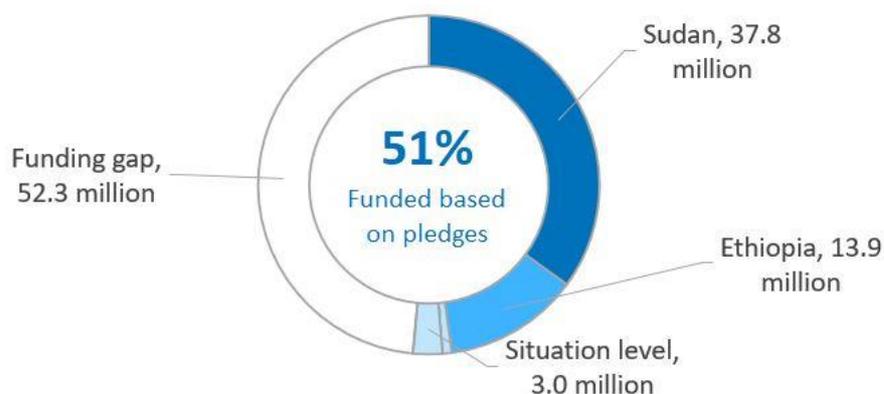
Funding Overview

Ethiopia Emergency Situation

As at: 5 May 2021

Financial requirements

2020	8.9 million
2021	99.0 million
Total	107.9 million



Contacts

Joyce Wayua Munyao-Mbithi, Senior Donor Relations Officer, Regional Bureau for the East, Horn of Africa and Great Lakes Region, Nairobi - munyao@unhcr.org

Mysa Khalaf, Reporting Officer, Regional Bureau for the East, Horn of Africa and Great Lakes Region, Nairobi - khalafm@unhcr.org