ETHIOPIA SITUATION (TIGRAY REGION)

17 May – 14 June

UNHCR and partner provide informal education at a Child Friendly Space in a site for displaced persons in Mekelle.

Key Developments

ETHIOPIA

- The United Nations has issued various warnings about the alarming levels of food insecurity and malnutrition in the Tigray region including a joint statement from WFP, FAO and UNICEF on 10 June.

- A UN press briefing on 2 June noted that humanitarian partners "are gradually scaling up the response but not yet keeping pace with the mounting needs, due to a combination of access constraints, insufficient communications capacity, bureaucratic impediments, and lack of funding."

- On 6 June, the UNHCR High Commissioner Filippo Grandi expressed concern that humanitarians are being impeded by different armed actors, underscoring the need to be able to work safely and free of threats.

- On 27 May, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Ethiopia issued a statement condemning the arbitrary arrest, beating and ill-treatment of more than 200 people, which occurred during military raids of IDP camps in Shire during the night of 24 May. Following advocacy by the UN and other humanitarian actors, 216 individuals were eventually released, while four IDPs alleged to have been found in possession of weapons have remained in detention.

- The OCHA-coordinated Northern Ethiopia Response Plan was released with immediate requirements by cluster for three months (May-July), as well as the requirements to the end of the year. The plan includes the UNHCR-led Refugee Response Plan for Tigray, involving 16 partners working together to meet the protection and assistance needs of 72,300 Eritrean refugees in the two Mai Tsebri camps and other locations across Tigray, with immediate 3 month requirements amounting to USD 31 million.

- UNHCR has also launched the Ethiopia Country Refugee Response Plan (CRRP) for 2021 totaling USD 552.6 million. The plan outlines the multi-agency comprehensive response strategy and financial requirements of 29 humanitarian and development partners supporting the Ethiopian authorities to provide protection services and humanitarian assistance, as well as development opportunities to 884,216 refugees and asylum-seekers throughout the country, including from Eritrea, South Sudan, Sudan and Somalia. The plan also targets some 288,000 members of the affected local population and host communities for assistance.

SUDAN

- The completion of individual biometric registration in Um Rakuba, Tunaydbah, Hamdayet and Village 8 has resulted in a revised total figure of just over 46,000 Ethiopian refugees from Tigray in all locations as of 14 June.

- With the onset of the rainy season, extreme weather including strong winds, heavy rain and hail in late May and early June resulted in damage to a number of household tents, shared latrines, and other facilities in the Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah camps. Partners undertook rapid damage assessments, provided materials to repair or replace damaged tents, and replenished lost and damaged food stocks and NFI. Following protests by refugees in Tunaydbah camp on 8 June, UNHCR met with refugee representatives to discuss their concerns and the mitigation actions being taken. Scaling up of flood-preparedness measures remains an urgent priority.

- During the reporting period, about 1,000 persons of Gumuz ethnicity arrived in several villages along the border of Gedaref state. Meanwhile, more than 7,400 Gumuz asylum-seekers from the Benishangul Gumuz region of Ethiopia remain at six remote locations at the Blue Nile state border. As of 26 May, UNHCR and COR had relocated 1,202 asylum-seekers in Blue Nile to the newly established site at Village 6. UNHCR, COR and partners continue to sensitize refugees about relocation, but the remaining population at the border are hesitant to be relocated.

Ethiopia Response

The humanitarian situation across the Tigray Region remains deeply concerning for refugees, the internally displaced and host communities. Civilians have endured seven months of conflict with limited basic services and assistance available, leading to a significant escalation in humanitarian needs with ongoing new displacements. 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

UNHCR continues to identify and register Eritrean refugees – including those who were displaced from Hitsats and Shimelba camps – in Tigray, Afar, and Addis Ababa. UNHCR has identified and verified 13,687 Eritrean refugees who had been previously registered in Hitsats and Shimelba camps.

ARRA, the Government refugee agency, on 15 May resumed the relocation of refugees from Shire to Mai Aini and Adi Harush, transporting around 50 refugees a week. As of 25 May, a total of 8,359 refugees from Hitsats and Shimelba had arrived in Mai Aini and Adi Harush camps. New arrivals are provided with emergency shelter, Core Relief Items and food upon arrival in the camps. Most of the refugees relocated have been joining relatives already living in the camps and have access to essential services including primary schools in the camps.

The identification exercise of refugees from Hitsats and Shimelba who self-relocated to Addis Ababa resumed on 20 May, after a two-week temporary suspension due to COVID-19 measures. By 4 June, a total of 3,734 individuals had been identified. Of those identified, the majority express the desire for temporary residence in Addis Ababa, while others have requested to return to the camps in Tigray. A few have indicated they would like to obtain the official “Out of camp” policy (OCP) document that requires self-reliance.

UNHCR, ARRA and partners are moving ahead with plans to establish a third camp at Debat in the Amhara region with an estimated capacity for 20,000 people. The process of obtaining the necessary paperwork to designate the land was nearly concluded during the reporting period.

Protection: Data consolidation is ongoing for Mai Aini and Adi Harush refugee camps as refugees continue to be relocated to the camps while some onward movement is also observed. UNHCR is assessing the possible relocation to the camps of registered Eritrean refugees identified in Mekelle and Adigrat. Some of the more than 2,000 refugees and asylum-seekers identified in these locations were displaced from Hitsats and Shimelba camps while others are new arrivals from Eritrea who were not registered in 2020.

Shelter: In Mai Aini and Adi Harush, all refugees have been moved from school facilities to emergency shelters, allowing schools to resume and other activities to restart. On 17 May, ARRA and NRC launched a household level shelter survey to determine the current utilization and condition of shelters in the camps.

In Mai Aini camp, UNHCR has constructed emergency shelters for Eritrean refugees who lost their homes due to the conflict in Tigray.

Food Security and Nutrition: Monthly food distributions have been organized with WFP, UNHCR and ARRA in Mai Aini and Adi Harush since they resumed in December 2020. General food distribution was completed for the month of May and preventive and curative nutrition interventions are ongoing.

Water and Sanitation: The water delivered to Mai Aini and Adi Harush camps is still insufficient to meet the refugees' needs. 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. UNHCR and ARRA are still advocating with the authorities for access to fuel to enable water trucking.

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

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

The Bureau of Labour and Social Affairs (BoLSA) estimates more than 1.7 million people have been displaced by the conflict in Tigray. Displaced persons and families continue to arrive and seek safety in the existing sites hosting internally displaced persons in Shire, Mekelle and other locations.

Protection: Protection monitoring, and rapid assessments are routinely being conducted in IDP sites in Shire, Mekelle and Adigrat. 12 rapid protection assessments were also carried out in other locations in "hard-to-reach" areas. UNHCR is looking to increase its presence and visit additional locations and increase support when security allows.

UNHCR and Protection Cluster members continue to set up more protection desks in IDP sites – with a total so far of 15 protection desks established in Shire and 22 in Mekelle. Training of staff and partners on how to run the protection desks is being scaled up. Through these desks, IDPs have access to information, psychosocial counselling and protection referrals to other key services. The most pressing needs identified from the protection desks include shelter and non-food items, and unaccompanied minors and separated children in need of family tracing and reunification. Many have also reported gender-based violence incidents and feelings of insecurity in the sites.

UNHCR through its partners has identified 5,000 Persons with Specific Needs/disabilities and some 2,000 individuals have been assisted so far. Some 4,000 vulnerable children including unaccompanied children, children headed households, children with chronic illness and others have been identified and are currently being assisted.

The summary report of the "Documentation and Intention to Return" survey carried out 13-17 May has been finalized. Based on interviews with 321 IDPS using the Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD) approach, the survey revealed that the majority of IDPS in Shire are from Western Tigray. 63 per cent have some form of documentation issued by the Ethiopian authority. The individuals who did not possess documentation said they had lost them during flight, or it was destroyed during armed conflict. About 70 per cent of the IDPs plan to return to their place of origin, with most of them indicating that they are planning to return as soon as the security situation improves. 74 per cent of the IDPs do not feel safe living in the IDP sites due to fear of military/armed persons' presence around IDP sites, physical violence and gender-based violence.

Protection cluster Gender-Based Violence (GBV) partners are training social workers and health service providers from hospitals and other health facilities across Tigray in gender-based violence in emergencies (GBViE). In the meantime, dignity kits are being distributed and a safe house and four safe spaces have been set up in IDP sites for women and girls.

UNHCR distributes humanitarian aid to internally displaced families in Axum in Tigray.

Shelter and Non-food Items: OCHA reports a total of 25,000 households have so far benefitted from core relief item kits, in Shire, Sheraro and Debaguna, and estimates a shelter and NFI gap of 45 per cent for IDPs in Shire, and 75 per cent for IDPs across Tigray. Between November 2020 and May 2021, UNHCR and partners distributed CRIs to over 64,000 IDPs (12,700 households) in Tigray.

In Mekelle, a total of 3,430 emergency shelters have been completed at Sabacare IDP site, by UNHCR and other Shelter partners. Elshadai is confirmed as the second relocation site after Sabacare. The site which is estimated to accommodate 500 households is currently hosting 4,187 IDPs.

The Shelter Cluster in Mekelle formed a committee to assess alternative housing options for IDPs, including renting unoccupied completed buildings and utilizing the buildings under construction with high completion

percentage that are structurally sound. Shelter, CCCM and Protection Clusters are working with IDP leaders to undertake a joint assessment to determine the total number of houses available, the extent of works to be done on the incomplete buildings, the average rental cost, and location of the buildings.

UNHCR plans to pilot a Cash-Based Initiative for rent of shelters for IDPs for a period of six months. 440 households will be targeted in Shire and Mekelle. The pilot will commence once the eligibility criteria is finalized by the Protection Team. Partners in the Cash Working Group – which meets twice a week in Mekelle – are currently implementing multi-purpose cash interventions only.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management: Protection Desks in IDP sites are being utilized to ensure that IDPs are provided with adequate information on the relocation process to help ensure that relocation is done on a voluntary basis and with dignity. So far, CCCM and Protection Clusters are organizing "go and see" activities where IDP representatives visit IDP sites to facilitate informed decisions.

UNHCR is supporting the relocation taskforce for displaced people in Tigray, to move IDPs from public spaces (schools, universities, etc.) to sites identified by the taskforce. UNHCR takes the lead in site planning as well as advocacy with relevant authorities on allocation of more land for permanent shelters for IDPs. UNHCR is continuing to provide technical assistance to the Government to try to regularize the exact number of affected IDPs populations in most locations, as the number still remains unclear.

The CCCM Cluster completed rapid assessments in schools hosting IDPs in Shire. The rapid assessments were aimed to identify needs for improvements and/or set up communal facilities such as communal toilets and kitchens. CCCM has now completed service mapping in all IDP sites in Shire.

Sudan Response

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

Relocation of refugees from border areas to the two camps remains on hold pending Government agreement to resume. UNHCR is closely following up. In the meantime, registration for relocation is ongoing in Hamdayet and Village 8. However, relocation for family reunification has been taking place.

UNHCR and COR record biometrics of refugees in Hamdayet, East Sudan.

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.*

In Um Rakuba, care assessments for Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) began on 22 May targeting UASCs in alternative care arrangements. Shelter assessments for UASCs were conducted on 24 May for foster families who need shelter materials. UNHCR will refer the request to NRC for assistance. Save the Children International (SCI) provided Hazard Mapping training for the State Council for Child Welfare (SCCW) and Commissioner for Refugees (COR) teams. Training on Best Interest Determination (BID) began on 30 May. At the end of the training each child protection partner will have a BID focal person and alternate. Participants for the training include SCI, SCCW, COR and UNHCR.

In Tunaydbah, International Rescue Committee (IRC) continues with the assessment of UASC foster families. UNICEF plans to launch a training on child protection. Plan Sudan is planning to start the works on establishing child friendly space.

Education: The education team in Gedaref contributed to the joint presentation to 12 donor governments by UNHCR, UNICEF and Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) at the Global Education in Emergencies Hub in Geneva on 1 June to mobilize more funds for the Tigray response in Sudan and Ethiopia. The Global Education in Emergencies Hub is an advocacy network that was set up following the Global Refugee Forum as part of a pledge by the Swiss government.

In order to start some youth activities in refugee camps UNHCR and NRC met with the Open Society University Network (OSUN) a 'global network of educational institutions that integrates learning and the advancement of knowledge' to explore how this platform can intervene in refugee camps in Eastern Sudan by upskilling students' critical thinking, academic writing, and analysis skills. UNHCR and NRC are still exploring the feasibility of this promising opportunity to support refugee youth in Um Rakuba and Tunaydba refugee camps.

On 24 May, the camp level Education Sector meeting was held in Um Rakuba refugee camp. Education partners (UNHCR, State Ministry of Education (SMoE) in Gedaref, UNICEF, NRC, Save the Children International (SCI), Islamic Relief Worldwide) shared the updates on education activities including construction of semi-permanent classrooms. With this progress, secondary education could start mid-June with 270 children registered, with three shifts arrangements.

On 25 May, the state level Education Sector meeting was held in the State Ministry of Education in Gedaref. Education partners discussed curriculum, harmonized salary for skilled and unskilled refugees, and Arabic teacher training.

Construction of 44 semi- permanent classrooms continued in both Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah (16 for ECCD, 24 for primary and 4 for secondary) with capacity to accommodate an estimated number of 1300 children at all levels. An education needs assessment for Tunaydbah has been completed.

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

COVID-19 vaccinations for health workers is ongoing in Um Rakuba, Tunaydbah and Village 8. The next phase will target people aged 45 and over and those with chronic diseases. Efforts to increase the uptake among health workers continues through awareness raising campaigns.

Forty-two children below five years of age have been vaccinated against the six killer diseases between May 3 and 25 May 2021 in Um Rakuba by Ministry of Health (MoH). The MoH team had concerns about the low

turnout. Protection will engage the community leaders to sensitize the population to ensure all lactating mothers take advantage of the vaccination exercise.

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.

Water and Sanitation: In Um Rakuba, MSF is leading the piping works in zone 4, which have been distributed between Care, WHH and UNICEF. When completed, all of zone 4 will be connected to available network including tap stands, connection to Islamic Relief Worldwide tanks and UNICEF/IOM bladders.

On 25 May, COOPI started provision of clean water from Zahana to the Hamdayet transit center, as well as maintenance of the main water station and filling the installed water elevator in the transit center.

CARE International continues work on semi-permanent latrines in Hamdayet and SORD is working on the garbage collection and disposal in collaboration with MoH.

Due to the opening of the Setiti river Dam, the water levels have significantly dropped, causing a shortage in water supplies to refugees residing in Village 8 reception center. UNHCR through its WASH partner, CARE International, managed to provide alternative water pumps closer to the current water level, using tractors and smaller tanks to ensure continuity of water supplies to the 8 bladders in the reception center. UNHCR has also finalized 56 permanent latrines positioned in the 10 accommodation blocks, while 56 shower facilities being constructed in the same blocks should be completed by end of June.

In Tunaydbah, MSF will construct 100 emergency latrines and CARE will construct both semi-permanent and emergency latrines.

Flood Mitigation / NFI
Shelter and core relief items:

With the onset of the rainy season, extreme weather in late May and early June resulted in damage to a number of household tents, shared latrines, and other facilities in the Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah camps. Heavy rains and strong winds recorded on 2nd,4th, 7th and 13th June damaged shelters approximately 2,500 tents in Um Rakuba and 2,700 in Tunaydbah.

UNHCR and partners ramp up work to reduce the risk of flooding impact to refugees.

NRC has completed a shelter technical assessment, based on which they are providing replacement tents. UNHCR is establishing seven evacuation centers. COR and partners are determining whether temporary shelters like *rakubas* – a rectangular shaped huts made of grass, millet stalks and wooden poles with thatched flat roofs – can be constructed during the rainy season. The construction of tukuls, which are more permanent shelters, is planned for after the rainy season.

In addition to measures underway to repair, reinforce and replace tents and latrines, lost or damaged food stocks and NFIs are also being replenished. UNHCR met with refugee representatives in Tunaydbah on 8 June following refugee protests about the conditions in the camp to discuss their concerns and the measures being taken. Scaling up of flood-preparedness measures remains an urgent priority.

Energy: A total of 500 cubic meter of firewood has been distributed in Um Rakuba camp. After the firewood was deemed to be low quality, the supplier agreed to replace it. A total of 3,102 bags of charcoal have been distributed.

Djibouti

UNHCR released a statement following reports that three individuals, two of whom are recognized Ethiopian refugees in Djibouti were returned against their will to Addis Ababa. Upon learning of this action UNHCR immediately approached the Djiboutian and Ethiopian authorities to raise its concerns about this breach of international law, and about the safety and security of the individuals.

Eritrea

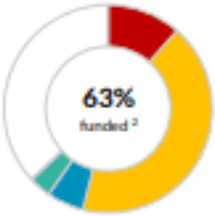
There have been reports of refugees arriving and possible internal displacement along the border with Ethiopia, which cannot be verified as access to the border areas remains restricted.

Funding Overview

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

FUNDING UPDATE | 2021

$99.0 million
UNHCR's financial requirements 2021 [1]



ETHIOPIA EMERGENCY
as of 16 June 2021

- Tightly earmarked
- Earmarked
- Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)
- Unearmarked (indicative allocation)
- Funding gap (indicative)

CONTRIBUTIONS [3] | USD

	Unearmarked	Softly earmarked	Earmarked	Tightly earmarked	Total
United States of America	-	-	19,130,000	-	19,130,000
European Union	-	-	-	3,688,984	3,688,984
Finland	-	2,389,486	-	-	2,389,486
Norway	-	-	1,219,066	-	1,219,066
Japan	-	-	-	1,100,000	1,100,000
UNO-Fluechtlingshilfe	-	866,882	-	-	866,882
United Kingdom	-	-	810,811	-	810,811
Italy	-	-	-	586,166	586,166
Education Cannot Wait	-	-	-	500,000	500,000
France	-	351,700	-	-	351,700
Novo Nordisk Foundation	-	327,004	-	-	327,004
Luxembourg	-	305,998	-	-	305,998
Australia for UNHCR	-	229,907	-	-	229,907
Latter-day Saints Charities	-	-	-	172,200	172,200
Private donors Canada	-	159,050	-	-	159,050
Liechtenstein	-	110,375	-	-	110,375
Private donors USA	-	100,000	-	-	100,000
Other private donors	-	225,906	-	-	225,906
Sub-total	-	5,066,308	21,159,877	6,047,351	32,273,536
Indicative allocation of funds and adjustments [4]	2,715,070	626,543	21,509,339	5,360,089	30,211,041
Total	2,715,070	5,692,850	42,669,216	11,407,440	62,484,577

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 42.2 million | **Canada** 8.7 million | **Private donors Australia** 4.8 million | **Sweden** 3.5 million | **Denmark** 2.9 million | **Switzerland** 2 million

IGAD | Ireland | Luxembourg | Netherlands | Norway | Private donors

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS [5] | USD

Norway 80 million | **Sweden** 66.9 million | **Netherlands** 36.1 million | **Private donors Spain** 35.4 million | **Denmark** 34.6 million | **Germany** 26 million | **France** 20 million | **Private donors Republic of Korea** 17.9 million | **Switzerland** 16.4 million | **Ireland** 12.5 million | **Belgium** 11.9 million | **Private donors Japan** 10.9 million

Algeria | Armenia | Australia | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Holy See | Iceland | Liechtenstein | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Portugal | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Singapore | Thailand | Turkey | Uruguay | Private donors

Notes:
1. The financial requirements of the Ethiopia Emergency include requirements in Ethiopia and Sudan.
2. The percentage funded (63%) and total funding amount ($62,484,577) are indicative based on the methodology described above. This leaves an indicative funding gap of $36,926,979 representing 37% of the financial requirements.
3. Contributions to the Ethiopia Emergency are shown by the earmarking modality as defined in the Grand Bargain.

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