

Annual Results Report

2024

Ethiopia

Acknowledgements

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Note:

The baseline values presented in this document reflect previous year's progress when available. If such data is not available, strategy baseline values are used instead.

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- 4.1 - Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

Section 1: Context and Overview

1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

Ethiopia hosted 1.1 million refugees, 2.27 million IDPs, and over 16,000 returnees in 2024 amid political volatility, economic instability, and climate shocks. Persistent clashes between government forces and armed groups, including the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA), Amhara forces (FANO), and Unidentified Armed Groups (UAG), destabilized regions such as Amhara, Oromia, and Tigray. Delayed implementation of the 2022 Cessation of Hostilities Agreement in Tigray hindered IDP and refugee returns, exacerbating humanitarian needs.

The government embarked on economic reforms including floating the Ethiopian Birr, triggering a 50 per cent devaluation and surging inflation. Subsidy removals on fuel and commodities spiked prices, straining UNHCR operations and partner contracts. Despite World Bank support for refugee inclusion, only 44 per cent of UNHCR's \$426 Million budget requirements were funded, limiting critical protection and assistance. In April, Ethiopia approved the Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) regulation, solidifying its role in asylum management. Refugees gained formal rights to work and to establish businesses, enhancing self-reliance and local economic integration.

Refugee response in Amhara region faced severe access constraints (Gondar-Metema-Alemwach corridor), disrupting aid and sparking refugee protests. Awlala and Kumer sites closed due to insecurity, leading to the relocation of refugee populations to Aftit. Unidentified armed groups (UAGs) targeted humanitarian workers, with 11 Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) personnel killed. While Gambella saw improved security under the new leadership, Benishangul-Gumuz experienced spillover violence from Oromia.

A Level 3 emergency was declared for Sudan situation from May 2024 leading to a scale up response in Aftit and Ura employing the "Solutions from the Start" approach. Extreme weather -floods, droughts, earthquakes, displaced 57,000 people and damaged infrastructure in Tigray, Afar, and Gambella, with 1.2 million people at risk.

Significant strides were made in refugee inclusion under Makatet roadmap following stakeholder consultations. The government signed MOU with the Agency for Charities and Social Organizations (ACSO) paving the way for the registration of Refugee Led Organizations.

Despite progress in refugee rights, operational hurdles such as funding gaps, inflation, and insecurity underscored the urgent need for sustained international support to stabilize Ethiopia's humanitarian crisis

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.

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2024)
1.1 Proportion of people seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	95.07%	40.74%
1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.00%	0.00%

The combined efforts of all stakeholders, led by the Government contributed towards a favorable protection environment in Ethiopia, including access to territory and asylum, documentation, and the full enjoyment of rights. In late 2024, the Government of Ethiopia confirmed a new directive on Refugee Status Determination and Implementation, with full entry into force country wide, establishing procedures to determine whether a person seeking international protection is considered a refugee under Ethiopian national law. Progress was made in the creation of an asylum corps. Some 75,000 refugees completed a verification process in six pilot sites in 2024. The verification process will be expanded to 19 sites in 2025. Vital events documentation was issued to refugees upon request while completing the verification process, including birth registration for those who had not yet done so. Identification (ID) cards were issued, with refugees being included in the Ethiopian National ID Program (NIDP). A revised directive released in August 2024, along with the 2019 freedom of movement directive, will enhance refugees’ access to economic opportunities, thereby fostering their self-reliance.

Despite these positive developments, access to the asylum system remained constrained, primarily due to the continuing suspension of registration of many profiles and the prevailing security situation in Amhara. These factors presented challenges for individuals seeking international protection in formalizing their claims and accessing essential protection services, resulting in a lower level of engagement with asylum procedures.

In 2024, UNHCR documented 373 cases of denied entry or forced returns of mainly Eritreans in need of international protection, underscoring the urgent need to strengthen asylum claim processing mechanisms and ensure compliance with international protection standards. A factsheet on prevention and response to refoulement was developed and disseminated to enhance awareness and understanding of non-refoulement among stakeholders.

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

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2024)
2.1 Proportion of people living below the national poverty line		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	75.00%
2.2 Proportion of people residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities		
IDPs	22.13%	20.24%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	35.25%	38.12%
2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	54.84%	76.08%

The Socio-Economic Survey of Refugees in Ethiopia (SESRE), conducted jointly by the World Bank, UNHCR, RRS, and Ethiopia Statistical Service revealed that 75 per cent of refugees live below the international poverty line of US \$2.15 per day (in 2017 Purchasing Power Parity), rising to 84 per cent in camps, excluding Addis Ababa, compared to 34 per cent for host communities. No data was available for IDPs, as the study focused solely on refugees.

In 2024, 4,866 shelter units were built in Aftit and Ura, hosting over 5,000 Sudanese refugee households. The units include 3,892 upgradable emergency shelters, 855 sustainable shelters, 19 communal hangars, and 100 family tents. An 18.7 km access road with 15 cross-drainage structures was completed.

In other regions like Gambella, Afar, Amhara, and Somali, 1,569 upgradable emergency shelters and 1,498 transitional shelters for refugees were provided. For the IDP response in Tigray, Gambella, Oromia, Somali and Amhara regions, UNHCR managed to respond to the immediate shelter's needs through provision of emergency shelter repair kits, transitional shelters, minor shelter repair, durable shelters in which 7,211 individuals were reached for displaced population due to floods, conflicts and those who returned homes.

In 2024, 76 per cent of refugees accessed healthcare services (55 per cent in 2023) from irHIS data. In 2024, access to medicines improved due to fewer emergencies (influx and outbreaks) than in 2023. In Alemwach, refugees access health services at the government health center. An agreement was signed between the government Dabat health center and an NGO with a cost-sharing mechanism allowing refugees to access services at the same rate as Ethiopian nationals. UNHCR supported the expansion of the Dabat health center to access all services for refugees within one facility.

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

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2024)
3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers		100.00%
3.2a Proportion of children and young people enrolled in primary education		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	54.85%	46.22%
3.2b Proportion of children and young people enrolled in secondary education		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	20.15%	14.18%
3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers		62.50%

The 2024 Directive No. 1019/2024 further legalized employment for refugees, resulting in 14,714 permits issued (4,053 work permits, 9,046 residence permits, and 1,615 business licenses). The government also committed to refugee inclusion through Global Refugee Forum (GRF) pledges in 2019 and 2023. In education, 181,589 (42 per cent) of refugee children/youth were enrolled in 2024 (pre-primary to secondary), a 4 per cent drop from 2023 due to school closures in Gambella (November 2023 – March 2024) due to funding shortages, forcing students to return to South Sudan. Protection risks, including safety concerns, also drove dropouts. Primary education enrolled 111,440 children (47 per cent gross rate: 62,215 boys, 49,225 girls), with girls comprising 44 per cent. Secondary education saw 19,277 students (18 per cent gross rate: 14,052 boys, 5,225 girls), with girls' participation rising to 27 per cent (up 4 per cent from 2023). Innovations like cash vouchers for girls and baby care units for teen mothers boosted secondary enrollment. Six refugee schools (1 in Asossa, 5 in Gambella) were transferred to government/Regional Education Bureau management, with partners like Development and Inter-church Aid Commission (DICAC), Plan International, and EDUKANS supporting programming. Safety concerns persist, particularly gender-based violence (GBV), 83 per cent of girls in Gondar and 88 per cent of boys reported feeling unsafe, heightening GBV risks. In camps, 26 per cent of adults cited theft as a top concern, while 23 per cent highlighted limited access to justice/legal aid—critical for combating GBV. Urban refugees expressed fears of arbitrary arrest/detention (30 per cent), disproportionately impacting women/girls. Despite 42 per cent awareness of legal aid services, over half lacked knowledge of access points, leaving GBV survivors without support. Urgent interventions are needed to enhance safety, prevent GBV, and improve resource access.

4. Impact Area: Securing Solutions

More forcibly displaced persons benefit from a wider range of durable solutions tailored to their needs and desires.

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2024)
4.1 Number of refugees who voluntarily return in safety and dignity to their country of origin		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	621	621
4.2a Number of people who departed on resettlement		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,333	5,823
4.2b Number of people who departed through complementary pathways		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	3,257	3,257
4.3b Number of refugees for whom residency status is granted or confirmed		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	983,146	893,146

In 2024, voluntary repatriation from Ethiopia has been low with only two refugees, including one Ivorian and one Syrian, having spontaneously returned from Ethiopia to their countries of origin. Efforts to support voluntary returns have, however, continued. Intention surveys were conducted for South Sudanese refugees hosted in Gambella, Addis Ababa and Assosa, in which less than 10 per cent expressed their desire to return to South Sudan. On the contrary, more than 88 per cent of Kenyan Borena refugees expressed their wishes to return to their country of origin, through an intention survey conducted in 2024. UNHCR is engaging authorities in Ethiopia and Kenya to facilitate their return, possibly in 2025. An expedited process for issuance of exit permit procedures, and resettlement country commitments to process refugees who had awaited departure for a long time led to at least 5,823 refugees departing for resettlement to ten different countries through UNHCR programs, based on information from IOM (subject to upward revision as additional departures are confirmed).

Additionally, reported departures via complementary pathways increased to approximately 9,700 displaced persons, primarily through family reunification and private sponsorship programs, while some refugees were able to access employment and higher education opportunities in third countries. The Canada Economic Mobility Pathways Programme (EMPP) and partnership with Talent Lift facilitated labor mobility for refugees, with 10 receiving job offers, and nine departing to Canada. Eighteen refugees were awarded scholarships including through Kepler, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and World University Service of Canada (WUSC). Outreach focused on skills-based pathways with WUSC and Finn Church Aid, also increased access to information on these pathways in Ethiopia, reaching 1,309 refugees.

1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

The precarious situation of displaced people in Ethiopia is marked by conflict, limited access to services, and food insecurity. This demands concerted efforts from the Ethiopian government and international bodies. Both forcibly displaced people and many host communities face ongoing challenges that compromise their access to basic services, including education, water, healthcare, food, and shelter of decent quality. Despite the government's efforts to allow recognized refugees and asylum-seekers to work, limited employment opportunities hinder their self-reliance, safe and dignified lives, and economic inclusion. Moreover, the suspension of registration since November 2021 continues to be a major obstacle, leaving many without legal status and limiting their ability to seek protection and access essential services. Ethiopia's refugee management largely remained encampment-based, despite legal advancements promoting freedom of movement. Stringent conditions for obtaining movement permits meant that less than 10 per cent of refugees lived outside camps, with Eritrean refugees notably affected due to conflict-induced relocation.

In terms of durable solutions, resettlement needs far outstripped available quota places. Further, pending implementation of Ethiopia's 2023 GRF pledge No 6 on transition to Machine Readable Travel Documents (MRCTD), continued use of manual booklets marred optimal access to complementary pathways and family reunification while creating protection risks for some refugees relying on such booklets for third country solutions (notably students). Voluntary repatriation opportunities remain limited owing to unchanged conditions in countries of origin. Intention survey shows few refugees expressing their wishes to return. Ethiopian refugee returnees, particularly from Sudan, continued to face challenges in terms of accessing their areas of return amidst ever-decreasing humanitarian and reintegration support up on their return.

1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

Partnerships have played a crucial role in advancing refugee development support in alignment with UNHCR's Strategic Directions, the GCR, and sustainable development goals (SDGs). The Federal Government, through RRS and with the support of UNHCR, has been instrumental in developing the Makatet roadmap, which proves Ethiopia's commitment to the GCR by including refugees into national systems. Development partners, including the World Bank, the European Union, and bilateral donors such as the Netherlands (PROSPECTS 2.0), the UK, and Germany, have provided financial and technical assistance for refugee inclusion, focusing on SDGs related to poverty reduction (SDG 1), quality education (SDG 4), decent work and economic growth (SDG 8), and reduced inequalities (SDG 10). Private sector engagement, notably from IKEA, Hilton, and Mastercard foundations, has contributed to sustainable livelihoods, reinforcing UNHCR's strategic focus on self-reliance and economic empowerment. UNHCR's partnerships with NGOs, civil society, financial institutions, and development agencies have strengthened advocacy, protection, and refugee access to essential services (SDG 16). These collaborations also support infrastructure development in healthcare, education, and energy (SDG 7). By fostering sustainable solutions, they help transition from aid dependency to self-reliance, ensuring refugees are protected and empowered as contributors to Ethiopia's socioeconomic growth.

In 2024, UNHCR and RRS continued to coordinate the national refugee response with a broad range of partners and sectoral working groups, aligned with the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM). This collaborative effort included the preparation of Regional (Sudan and South Sudan refugee situations) and Country Refugee Response Plans (RRP) together with 42 partners in Ethiopia. Despite the challenges, Ethiopia received 38 per cent of the overall requirement for the response, amounting to approximately US\$277.4M out of the total US \$726.23M needed.

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

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
1.1 Proportion of refugees and asylum seekers registered on an individual basis			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	85.85%	100.00%	100.00%
1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	12.24%	75.00%	26.00%
1.3 Proportion of people with legally recognized identity documents or credentials			
IDPs	46.80%	55.00%	0.89%
Others of Concern		100.00%	100.00%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	76.31%	100.00%	83.63%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
01.1.1 Number of people registered on an individual basis	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	30,415
01.2.1 Number of people supported to obtain civil status, identity or legal status documentation	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	897,581

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

During the reporting period, to enhance protection and service access, Ethiopia initiated registration, verification, and documentation for refugees, closely tied with the issuance of refugee identification cards (with inclusion in National ID programme) and vital events civil documentation. Activities targeted 6 key locations: Addis Ababa, Alemwach (Amhara), Kebribeyah (Jijiga), Tierkidi (Gambella), Tsore (Benshangul Gumuz), and Kenya-Borena (Oromia), covering rural/urban populations.

Following the finalization and signing of a tripartite Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in January 2024 and Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) in the third quarter of 2023 between the National Identity Program (NIDP), the Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS), and UNHCR, 80,928 refugees were verified by December 2024, with 65,521 aged 5 and above participating in the national digital ID program. Additionally, 35,844 refugees aged 14 and above received digital refugee ID cards and Proof of Registration (POR) with unique FAYDA number, improving access to healthcare, education, and finance under UNHCR's inclusion

strategy.

Birth registration for under-5 refugees via the government's civil registration and vital statistics system ME-CRVS which had helped to boost VERA birth registration reached 26 per cent (up from 12 per cent in 2023), though gaps persist due to poor internet connectivity in camps, hindering RRS's use of the online platform. Under the EU-funded Interim Measure 3 (IM3) Project, UNHCR, Ethio Telecom, and NIDP enrolled 31,103 IDPs in Tigray into the national ID program, issuing 29,573 digital ID cards (covering 1 per cent of Ethiopia's IDP population). This initiative supports socio-economic integration, enabling activities like cash-based transfers through bank accounts linked to FAYDA IDs in Shire and Mekelle areas of responsibility (AORs) in Tigray region.

As of 31 December 2024, 86 per cent of refugees and asylum seekers in Ethiopia are registered on an individual basis, but an estimated 66,000 individuals or 6 per cent remain unregistered at both the individual and group levels. In addition, 88,608 individuals or 8 per cent of the refugee and asylum seeker population have completed Level 1 registration but are still pending individual Level 3 registration. Furthermore, out of the 89,400 individuals pending Level 3 registration, 39,849 are Somali refugees in Hegale affected by the Laascaanood conflict in Somalia. An additional 7,062 are South Sudanese refugees who arrived from Pochalla and are yet to be individually registered because RRS has deprioritized their registration because they think that many among them are Ethiopians. UNHCR continues to advocate with RRS to ensure these groups are registered as soon as possible.

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

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
2.1 Average processing time (in days) from registration to first instance asylum decision			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	398.00	300.00	50.78
2.2 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to legal representation			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.00%	10.00%	100.00%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
02.1.1 UNHCR has provided capacity development support to strengthen the national status determination system(s), in accordance with international standards	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Yes

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Despite the suspension of registration since November 2021, 2024 saw significant progress in strengthening Ethiopia's national asylum system, with UNHCR playing a key role in supporting the government's efforts to align the asylum process with international rights and standards.

A notable achievement was the development of a nationality screening workplan by RRS to resolve long-pending Somali asylum cases in the Somali region of Ethiopia. Many of these cases had been registered under "not of concern" (NOC) status, and efforts to address the backlog were initiated. As a result, several hundred cases were resolved, contributing to more efficient processing. Additionally, RRS incorporated a

significant number of protracted unregistered asylum-seekers into the registration process further enhancing the integrity of the asylum system and addressing long-standing gaps in registration in the Somali region, with UNHCR providing technical support throughout the process.

In 2024, 50 cases were recognized through first instance Refugee Status Determination (RSD) procedures, while 19,206 individuals were granted refugee status on a prima facie basis. The overall average processing time is shorter due to the high number of prima facie recognitions; however, for individual RSD cases, the waiting time is significantly longer. UNHCR continued to support the government in processing these cases, and the government's endorsement of their recognition reinforced ongoing efforts to standardize the RSD process in line with international protection standards.

A significant milestone in 2024 was the formal adoption of the Directive on Refugee Status Determination and Implementation No: 15/2024 by the RRS in December which is now pending registration by the Ministry of Justice. The Directives establish a framework for standardized RSD procedures, ensuring alignment with international protection standards and promoting equal access to legal aid services for all refugees and asylum-seekers.

Although the Appeal Hearing Council is not operationalized, efforts commenced on drafting the Appeal Hearing Council Guidelines, which are set to be finalized and put into operation by 2025, further reinforcing the procedural framework of the asylum system.

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

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
3.1 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol			
None	Progressing toward alignment	Broadly aligned	Progressing toward alignment
3.2 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness			
None	Progressing toward alignment	Progressing toward alignment	Progressing toward alignment

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
03.1.1 UNHCR has engaged in legislative and judicial processes to strengthen laws and policies for the protection of refugees, IDPs, returnees and stateless people and/or the reduction and prevention of statelessness	
IDPs	Yes
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Yes

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Ethiopia's commitment to refugee protection was further strengthened in 2024 with several key legislative and regulatory advancements.

The Government of Ethiopia (GoE) promulgated Council of Ministers Regulation No. 546/2024, defining the roles and responsibilities of the RRS in protecting asylum-seekers, refugees, and supporting Ethiopian returnees. This Regulation empowers the RRS to develop laws and policies, manage data, oversee protection activities, handle partnership agreements, select refugee hosting sites, and facilitate economic activities for refugees, among other duties. This milestone regulation underscores the GoE's commitment to the socio-economic inclusion of refugees.

In line with Article 26 of the 2019 Refugee Proclamation, the GoE revised the 2019 RRS Directive on the Right to Work for refugees. The revised Directive removes previous restrictions on refugees' access to work permits and business licenses, including capital requirements and limited business areas. The RRS is now authorized to issue work permits for refugees, enhancing their access to employment opportunities similar to those available to other foreigners. This directive is expected to come into force immediately upon registration in August 2024.

The Ethiopian Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) adopted a new Directive on Refugee Status Determination Procedure on December 24, 2024. This Directive establishes comprehensive processes for both individual and group refugee status determination, ensuring fair and consistent procedures in line with international standards. It also includes provisions for an RSD Appeal Hearing Council, set to be operational soon, although the Directive is pending formal registration by the Ministry of Justice.

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, as well as the enrollment of refugees and IDPs in the national ID program. Additionally, Ethiopia's ratification of the Kampala Convention in 2020 underscored its dedication to assisting Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Africa. UNHCR's support in the domestication of this convention continued in 2024 through technical and financial assistance for the development of the IDP proclamation, which is still awaiting government approval.

Through these legislative and regulatory advancements, Ethiopia continues to demonstrate its dedication to the protection and inclusion of refugees, aligning with international standards and enhancing the rights and opportunities available to forcibly displaced persons. UNHCR supported the effort of the government of Ethiopia to enhance the legal and policy framework through targeted advocacy, technical support and capacity strengthening initiatives

4. Outcome Area: Gender-based Violence

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

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	44.77%	100.00%	89.68%
4.2 Proportion of people who do not accept violence against women			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	90.00%	90.00%	86.12%
4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with GBV case management services			
IDPs	98.24%	98.00%	83.54%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	85.19%	100.00%	95.13%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
04.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from specialized GBV programmes	
IDPs	46,000
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	35,711

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, GBV programming needs in Ethiopia grew significantly due to conflict in Amhara and climate disasters, displacing populations and heightening risks for women and children. Influxes of Sudanese refugees and existing refugee populations further strained the situation. Despite funding cuts, UNHCR and partners sustained critical GBV prevention, mitigation, and response services.

Community engagement included prevention programs like SASA! (social activism), EMAP (men/boys' involvement), and Girls Shine (empowering adolescent girls). Over 150,000 refugees, 120,000 IDPs, and 55,000 host community members participated in GBV awareness activities. This included 59,233 women/girls attending life-skills training at Women and Girls Safe Spaces (WGSS). A 2023-2024 assessment revealed 90 per cent awareness of GBV services among participants, with 86 per cent rejecting violence against women/girls, reflecting campaign effectiveness.

Regular safety audits identified common risks, including overcrowded shelters that reduced privacy and increased vulnerability to GBV, particularly for women and children. The lack of adequate lighting, poor infrastructure and inadequate sanitation facilities further heightened safety concerns. Water points were often poorly managed or insufficient for the growing population, leading to tensions and increased risks. The absence of formal security personnel and reliance on community leaders for protection left displaced populations exposed to exploitation and abuse. The insufficient provision of firewood and other resources forced women and girls to travel outside camp areas, exposing them to additional GBV risks. The findings of these assessments were shared with relevant stakeholders to inform mitigation efforts, but due to challenges such as weak coordination mechanisms and ongoing reprioritization of funding, recommendations were not fully implemented.

Regarding the multisectoral response to GBV survivors, 60 per cent received necessary medical care (9 per cent of rape survivors assisted within 72 hours of the incident), 7.75 per cent received safety and security support through safe houses, 13.93 per cent accessed legal assistance, and 100 per cent received psychosocial support (PSS). Survivors expressed varying levels of satisfaction with the services provided, with 80 per cent indicating satisfaction with GBV case management services, reflecting positive outcomes from efforts to improve service delivery. Targeted assistance, including cash and in-kind support, was provided to 17,829 individuals, addressing immediate needs and promoting stability in vulnerable households. This support has been vital in promoting resilience, with increased awareness, positive feedback from survivors, and shifting societal attitudes underscoring the effectiveness of interventions, making continued investment essential.

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.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
5.1 Proportion of children at heightened risk who are supported by a Best Interests Procedure			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	54.39%	80.00%	53.82%
5.2 Proportion of children who participate in community-based child protection programmes			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	35.33%	82.00%	37.83%
5.3 Proportion of unaccompanied and separated children who are in an alternative care arrangement			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	55.65%	70.00%	55.65%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
05.1.1 Number of children and caregivers who received child protection services	
IDPs	1,332
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	19,241

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, a total of 23,698 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) and other vulnerable children (OVC) were identified through collaborative efforts between child protection teams, UNHCR, government entities, forcibly displaced persons, and various other stakeholders. Best Interest Assessments (BIA) were conducted for 11,518 (5,306 female) UASC and OVC. Home to home monitoring visits reached 31,461 (15,956 female). Additionally, family tracing and reunification services were provided for 4,071 (1,338 female) unaccompanied children. In fact, the numbers vary as some cases are old cases which requires follow-ups. On the other hand, it might not be feasible due to resources to conduct and complete the BIA at once for all newly identified children at risk. Alternative care arrangements were facilitated for 5,475 (2,547 female) unaccompanied children, with many placed in foster care to receive essential support and care.

Targeted support efforts included the distribution of non-food items, benefiting 6,105 (3,114 female) children, while additional in-kind support addressed specific needs for 605 (314 female) children from the host community. Individual and group counseling sessions were offered to 8,213 (3,080 female) children and caregivers, focusing on enhancing psychological well-being, building self-esteem, and improving communication skills within families and communities. Furthermore, 22,100 (10,104 female) children participated in Social Emotional Learning (SEL) sessions designed to promote self-awareness and interpersonal interactions.

Access to Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) was provided for 43,944 (28,243 female) children, who engaged in educational and recreational activities, including alphabet learning and indoor/outdoor games. These activities are crucial for enhancing children's social, mental, and psychological development. Additionally, the children benefited from high-energy biscuits to support their nutritional needs.

Community engagement initiatives reached 33,307 (16,296 female) displaced youth, highlighting the need for recreational spaces, sports activities, and educational and vocational training. Mass awareness sessions on child protection, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), and available services were conducted for 116,544 (55,411 female) refugees and IDPs, ensuring that critical information reaches those in need. These achievements enhanced their access to services while fostering community awareness around child protection.

6. Outcome Area: Safety and Access to Justice

Improved access to justice all for persons of concern

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
06.1.1 Number of people who received legal assistance	
IDPs	25,704
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	4,695

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the 1951 Refugee Convention, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Constitution, and the Refugees Proclamation 1110/2019 are among the International and national legal frameworks which enshrined the right of access for refugees, IDPs and other population groups. In 2024, UNHCR realized the right of access to justice for about 95,000 forcibly displaced people through robust partnership and coordination with legal service providers as well as its tailor-made access to justice interventions.

Through partnerships with public universities located in refugee and IDP hosting areas, UNHCR has played a key role for thousands of refugees to obtain direct legal assistance in response to legal problems they faced including to ensure their housing, land and property rights, preparing statement of claim and defense on their civil and criminal cases and representation before courts of law. UNHCR's partnership with regional supreme courts fostered accessibility of justice services through mobile courts in the rather inaccessible areas in Gambella and Somali region.

Awareness raising campaigns on selected practical legal problems of the refugee and IDP community were conducted throughout the country. These interventions empowered the communities to know their fundamental rights, the avenues to pursue justice as well as where and how they can avail free legal aid services. Moreover, several capacity building trainings were organized targeting hundreds of law enforcement officials and judicial organs. These workshops bridged the awareness gap of the authorities so that the protection needs of forcibly displaced people are duly considered in law enforcement and judicial processes.

2024 witnessed incidents of arbitrary arrest and detention of refugees and asylum seekers in their designated places of residence as well as along irregular onward movement routes. In response to the incidents, UNHCR scaled up detention monitoring in collaboration with OHCHR, the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission and the Refugees and Returnees' services. These initiatives led by the Refugee and Returnees Service's active visit and verification of refugees resulted in the release of hundreds of refugees and asylum seekers from detention. Moreover, UNHCR established two-way communication with communities with a view to deter incidents of detention targeting refugees and asylum seekers.

In 2024, UNHCR conducted multiple capacity building trainings for authorities aimed at advancing protection for refugees and asylum seekers trapped in trafficking and smuggling networks. UNHCR's engagement in National Coordination mechanisms was enhanced through participation in drafting of legal documents and attending periodic meetings with a view to ensure that refugees and asylum seekers are featuring in national migration management initiatives.

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

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

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
7.1 Extent participation of displaced and stateless people across programme phases is supported.			
IDPs		Moderate	Moderate
Refugees and Asylum-seekers		Moderate	Extensive
7.2 Proportion of people who have access to safe feedback and response mechanisms			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	66.00%	90.00%	58.32%
7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures			
IDPs	33.77%	53.00%	29.94%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	43.72%	50.00%	43.84%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2024)
07.1.1 Number of people consulted through Participatory Assessments	
IDPs	382
07.2.1 Number of people who used UNHCR- supported feedback & response mechanisms to voice their needs/ concerns/feedback	
IDPs	18,000
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	36,466
07.3.1 Number of people who received protection services	
IDPs	428,420

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Good progress was made in advancing Age, Gender, and Diversity (AGD) inclusiveness, accountability to affected populations (AAP), and gender equality during the reporting year. Community participation remained central to UNHCR's work, achieved through continuous engagement, effective collaboration with community members, refugee and IDP leaders. In 2024, various feedback channels for refugees and IDPs were in use across different locations. These included phone lines, protection desks, emails, and suggestion boxes. Additionally, the Digital Response and Complaint System (DRCS) was operational in Addis Ababa and Assosa. In 2024, the Help Ethiopia website was developed to provide information on refugee services in Ethiopia, particularly in Addis Ababa.

Regular meetings were held with WFP to advance the WFP/UNHCR Joint Community Feedback Mechanism for General Food Distributions. This included updating the WFP intake form to incorporate the IASC's feedback and response taxonomy and defining the roles and responsibilities of each agency. Participatory Assessments were conducted jointly with RRS and partners across 26 refugee camps, sites,

and 2 urban locations. A representative sample of refugees and host community members participated in the assessment. It involved separate discussions with women, girls, boys, and men, adolescents and persons with disabilities.

Gender equality was promoted by integrating gender mainstreaming into briefs, proposals, and strategies. In early 2024, a mapping on the representation of women and girls in refugee and IDP community leadership was carried out. Following the analysis, steps were taken to enhance the participation of women across the operations. Training on AAP and gender equality were held for community leadership structures across the operation, and Refugee Central Committee elections were held in Addis Ababa and Aftit.

The Regional Youth Peacebuilding Programme (RYPP) continues to make strides in strengthening youth-led peacebuilding efforts in Gambella and Assosa. A total of 387 peacebuilders (287 in Gambella and 100 in Assosa) were trained in 2024, equipping them with conflict mediation skills and enabling them to cascade peacebuilding messages within their communities. Through sports-for-peace initiatives, youth clubs, and joint peace committees involving refugees and host communities, youth have played a key role in conflict de-escalation and mediation. In addition, UNHCR, UNICEF and ILO continued to partner and work on youth empowerment through PROSPECTS 2.0 in the Somali region. For example, in Melkadida, more than 140 youth directly participated in football matches that attracted more than 30,000 refugees and host community spectators.

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

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items			
IDPs	51.49%	87.00%	44.73%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	22.95%	30.00%	40.38%
Returnees		20.00%	9.79%
8.2 Proportion of people with primary reliance on clean (cooking) fuels and technology			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	12.49%	40.00%	5.12%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
08.1.1 Number of people who received cash assistance	
IDPs	28,923
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	37,607

08.2.1 Number of people who received non-food items	
IDPs	38,168
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	458,364
08.3.1 Number of people supported with improved cooking options	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	18,120

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In addressing the critical needs of displaced populations across Tigray, Gambella, Oromia, Somali, Afar, and Amhara regions, significant strides were made toward stabilizing livelihoods, enhancing self-reliance, and mitigating protection risks. UNHCR advanced these outcomes by delivering essential Non-Food Items (NFIs) including blankets, solar lamps, and hygiene supplies to conflict- and flood-affected communities, enabling immediate relief for displaced families and returnees. Complementing this, the operation scaled up multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) to empower vulnerable refugees, IDPs, and returnees, prioritizing dignity and financial autonomy. Cash transfers were strategically deployed to cover urgent needs, shelter maintenance, and livelihood grants, while fostering local market engagement and cost-effective aid delivery. The nationwide rollout of CashAssist, integrated with proGres and KoBo systems, streamlined secure and efficient cash distribution, marking a pivotal shift toward digital solutions.

Collaborative efforts with the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia ensured operational reach, while partnerships including with Regional Natural Resource Development and Environmental Protection Bureau (NRDEP) facilitated limited but targeted access to alternative energy sources, such as charcoaled briquettes, electric communal kitchens, and sustainable fuelwood combined with fuel efficient stoves, to reduce environmental degradation and protection risks. Despite progress, persistent gaps in reliable cooking energy access underscored the need for expanded funding and sustained stakeholder engagement. Donor support, including contributions from UK4U and the IKEA Foundation, played a vital role in amplifying these interventions, though challenges in scaling alternative energy solutions highlight opportunities for deeper cross-sector collaboration to achieve lasting impact.

9. Outcome Area: Sustainable Housing and Settlements

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

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
9.1 Proportion of people living in habitable and affordable housing			
IDPs	13.50%	15.00%	20.24%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	35.25%	49.00%	38.12%
9.2 Proportion of people that have energy to ensure lighting			
IDPs	30.96%	50.00%	31.00%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	42.03%	60.00%	41.90%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
09.1.1 Number of people who received shelter and housing assistance	
IDPs	7,211
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	63,500

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Significant progress was achieved in enhancing protection and living standards for refugees, IDPs, and asylum-seekers across targeted regions, aligned with outcome indicators on durable solutions and self-reliance. In Amhara's Aftit settlement, UNHCR's strategic coordination enabled the relocation of refugees into 490 upgradable emergency shelters and 169 sustainable houses, supporting 920 households, alongside 14 communal transit shelters. Critical infrastructure, including 8.1 km of access roads and 3 Rub Halls, improved mobility and service delivery, while ongoing construction of schools, health facilities, and a registration center reinforced community stability. In Benishangul Gumuz's URA settlement, 1,901 emergency shelters were constructed, with 598 transitioning to sustainable models, complemented by 9.2 km of internal roads and partner workspaces to strengthen operational capacity. Across Gambella, Melkadida, and Benishangul Gumuz, over 600 transitional shelters and cash-based assistance for 763 families enhanced resilience for vulnerable refugees, alongside maintenance of 35 shelters to prolong usability.

For IDPs in Tigray, Oromia, Somali, and Amhara, UNHCR's provision of 7,308 emergency shelter kits, transitional shelters, and durable housing solutions improved safety and facilitated returns amid conflict and flood-related displacements, directly correlating with reduced overcrowding and heightened community recovery rates. Energy access saw measurable gains: Spanish Aid's Alianza Shire project solarized 1,800 households in Melkadida and institutions like Kobe Camp's school, while a 254KWp mini grid in Shedder Camp powered households and businesses. Delays in portable solar lamp distribution were offset by progress in installing 369 streetlights in Aftit and Ura, slated for mid-2024 completion, and partial solarization of Metema Hospital and Aftit Health Center.

UNHCR's leadership in multisectoral coordination supported by national authorities, Humanitarian Energy PLC, and donors like Spanish Aid amplified infrastructure development and resource mobilization. Marked shifts, including a 40 per cent rise in durable shelter coverage in Aftit and a 25 per cent increase in IDP households with repaired shelters in Tigray, underscored systemic improvements. These outcomes reflect strengthened protection environments and incremental progress toward long-term self-reliance for displaced populations, despite persistent gaps in energy access for new arrivals.

10. Outcome Area: Healthy Lives

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

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
10.1 Proportion of children aged 9 months to five years who have received measles vaccination			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	94.60%	100.00%	89.75%
10.2. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	90.33%	99.00%	81.81%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
10.1.1 Number of individual consultations in UNHCR supported health care services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	868,141
10.2.1 Number of consultations in UNHCR supported mental health and psychosocial support services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	13,430

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR and partners provided comprehensive primary healthcare services for refugees and host communities through 27 camp/site health facilities and 3 Government health centers. There were 814,396 outpatient consultations, 9 per cent nationals. A total of 4,782 refugees were referred for secondary and tertiary healthcare in government hospitals. Mortality was within UNHCR standards, with a crude mortality rate of 0.03/1000/month, and under 5 mortality rate of 0.1/1000/month. Gambella and Benishangul Gumuz refugee health facilities accessed anti-malarial supplies from the Ministry of Health. There was a malaria surge in Bambasi; polio and measles in Gambella and cholera in Jijiga. A pilot malaria vaccination program begun in Kule supported by MSF-H, targeting children aged 5 – 36 months. Mass drug administration for onchocerciasis in Gambella and tuberculosis screening campaigns in Alemwach and Aysaita were conducted.

The proportion of births attended by skilled healthcare workers was 83 per cent; and 6 maternal deaths were reported amongst refugees. Of 23,870 individuals counseled and tested for HIV, 118 tested positive for HIV were enrolled on treatment.

UNHCR and RRS coordinated with nutrition partners including UNICEF and WFP to provide essential nutritional lifesaving services at 41 nutrition centres in camps/sites, reaching 169,152 children under 5 years and 36,116 pregnant and lactating women (PLW). In 2024, 63,761 (50,427 new admissions) were treated for acute malnutrition at the Community Management of Acute Malnutrition programs. Outpatient Therapeutic Feeding Program cure rate was 89.8 per cent and Targeted Supplementary Feeding Program was 95 per cent, within SPHERE standards. 145,472 children under five years and 56,946 PLWs (new admissions 118,725; 36,116 respectively) accessed Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programs. Over 23,000 PLW were served in the Infant and Young Child Feeding programs, focusing on optimal breastfeeding practices, complementary feeding practices, growth monitoring promotion etc.

UNHCR and partners completed the Standardized Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS) in 23 of 24 refugee camps/sites except Metema due to insecurity related access limitations. The findings indicate recurrent triple burden of malnutrition particularly undernutrition among refugees as is for Ethiopians, indicating both acute and chronic challenges. Overall, one out of two children under five presents with at least one form of undernutrition including acute malnutrition (13.8 per cent); stunting (19.6 per cent), micronutrient deficiency-anaemia is 48.1 per cent. Refugees in climate affected locations have critical global acute malnutrition (GAM) prevalence (25.3 per cent Afar, 24.2 per cent Bokh/Mirqaan, 15.2 per cent Melkadida); Gambella and Jijiga had high GAM prevalence of 13.8 per cent and 12.8 per cent, respectively.

11. Outcome Area: Education

Refugees are integrated into the national education system

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
11.1 Proportion of young people enrolled in tertiary and higher education			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	2.53%	6.00%	1.83%
11.2 Proportion of children and young people enrolled in the national education system			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	3.52%	3.00%	7.69%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
11.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from education programming	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	115,724

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

During the reporting period, of the total 181,335 enrolment in pre-primary, primary and secondary, 24,912 (16,450 boys and 8,462 girls) refugees were integrated into the national education system through various processes. This accounted for 32 per cent of girls' enrolment in education. A total of 11,216 (6,875 boys and 4,341 girls) refugee students in primary and secondary education were enrolled in host community public schools in Alemwach, Bokh, Aftit and Ura settlements. A total of 11,104 (8,321 boys and 2,783 girls) refugee students benefited from the transition of six refugee secondary schools to the management of the Regional Education Bureaus (REBs) in Gambella and Asossa. The two inclusion approaches adapted in Ethiopia Operation, led to a significant increase in refugees' access to education in the national public education system to 7 per cent in 2024 from 3 per cent in 2023.

A total of 2,530 (2,072 M and 518 F (20 per cent female enrolment rate) refugee youth were enrolled in tertiary education. This comprised of 1,825 (1,780 M and 45 F (3 per cent female enrolment rate) refugee youth enrolled in 32 public universities and 705 (244 M and 461 F (65 per cent F enrolment rate) refugee youth enrolled in the public TVET system. Out of the 705 refugees, 60 per cent went on to open businesses or to be employed.

UNHCR's direct contribution towards refugee education was made in primary, secondary and tertiary education. Since the refugees were enrolled in host community schools, the contribution extended to support both refugees and host community children and youth. UNHCR contribution entailed financial support through partnership agreements with the following partners: DICAC, Plan International, OWS-DF and EDUKANS. AEEG supported refugees' access to tertiary education with a focus on higher education, while operational partnership with GIZ, ILO and NRC provided support to TVET activities. Other stakeholders' contribution included the MoE GEQIP-E on refugee integration funded by the World Bank that facilitated transition of three refugee secondary schools (Kule, Tierkidi, Punyido 1 and Ngunyi) to the management of the REB in Gambella in 2024 adding to the two other schools transitioned in 2023. In total, six refugee secondary schools operated under the management of the REB in 2024, covering costs such as payment of teachers' salaries and salaries for the support staff. UNICEF funded five refugee primary schools in Ngunyi camp in Gambella for the entire year, ensuring that these schools remained open even when other schools in Gambella were closed. During the mid-year report, the total number reported for primary education was the enrollment for 2023/3034 academic year that ended in July 2024. For the Year-end value the enrolment figure for 2024/2025 academic year was used which is lower than the mid-year value due to challenges related to availability of resources.

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

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
12.1 Proportion of people using at least basic drinking water services			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	74.00%	85.00%	81.09%
12.2 Proportion of people with access to a safe household toilet			
IDPs	25.08%	20.00%	33.40%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	24.00%	80.00%	33.00%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2024)
12.1.1 Number of people supported with access to water and/or sanitation services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	750,693

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR and partners provided WASH services and timely emergency response, covering 20 refugee camps, 4 refugee settlements and 2 transit sites, reaching approximately 975,000 refugees and 150,511 host communities. About 975,000 refugees were reached by hygiene promotion and awareness. About 1,132,076 pieces of soap were distributed to improve the personal hygiene of the refugees. About 3,000 functional hand washing facilities were installed/constructed and 500 hygiene promoters were trained. In line with the inclusion approach and encouraging peaceful co-existence between host communities and refugees, UNHCR and partners advanced the establishment of 3 water utilities through the R-WASH project in Somali region, expanding the ITANG water utility in Gambella. The model seeks to bring a development approach and a more sustainable 'whole of society' approach of delivering water to both refugees, IDPs and host communities.

Partnering with the Somali Regional Water Bureau in the construction of sustainable durable water systems has enabled the advancement and improvement of WASH services in the Bokh woreda, hosting Somali refugees. Effective coordination through the federal refugee WASH technical Working group enabled timely WASH response to meet the needs of the Sudanese in Benishangul Gumuz and Amhara regions at Kurmuk, Ura and Metema sites. While there has been good progress on water supply through various initiatives, sanitation coverage has grossly remained low at 33 per cent for refugees and 33.4 per cent for IDPs.

Solid waste management has also remained a major issue needing attention. UNHCR, RRS and partners provided emergency water supply through water trucking and construction of gender segregated communal latrines. Partners such as UNICEF supported emergency water treatment kits during the establishment of Ura site in Benishangul Gumuz region as well as providing the much-needed funds to support an effective

WASH response in Metema. The water Bureau in both Amhara and Somali Region played a pivotal role in providing access to existing government owned water sources as well as providing technical support in the design and construction of permanent water systems.

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.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
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	26.00%	50.00%	14.49%
13.2. Proportion of people who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	11.00%	25.00%	3.26%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
13.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions	
IDPs	0
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,082

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, Ethiopia advanced refugee and host community livelihoods through financial inclusion, agriculture, and partnerships. Operational partners supported 67,955 refugees (14 per cent above 18 years old) in accessing bank accounts, savings, loans, and mobile banking, with 40 per cent of refugees above 18 years old now financially included via Fayda-linked IDs. In Gambella, 97 Village Savings and Loans Associations—53 refugee-led and 44 host community—managed ETB 2.7 million in revolving funds for 1,722 households (932 refugee). INKOMOKO provided loans to 613 clients (124 host members) in Benishangul-Gumuz and Addis Ababa, while 2,535 refugees/host entrepreneurs received entrepreneurship training.

Livelihood programs reached 14,441 refugees and 3,477 host members, generating income through business growth or new ventures. This impacted 3 per cent of working-age refugees in 2024 (cumulative 14 per cent). Agriculture and small enterprises created jobs for 5,612 refugees and 2,236 host members. These jobs included crop production, livestock and poultry farming, and access to agricultural assets,

inputs, and extension services in mechanization, fishery, agrovet, and animal drug store services. Additionally, 1,039 refugees and 327 host members launched sustainable businesses, while the World Bank's RHISN project aided 1,862 refugees and 2,450 host members. In Melkadida, 441 individuals (266 women) accessed arable land under SAHEL's climate-smart farming model. Despite progress, 86 per cent of refugees remain unemployed due to limited resources and market access. Partnerships with Mercy Corps, DRC, LWF, ZOA, and others prioritized agricultural support, vocational training, and financial services. RRS and UNHCR strengthened coordination via a Livelihood Technical Working Group, aligning efforts with national development plans. Advocacy under Ethiopia's Right to Work Directive led to 4,053 work permits and 1,615 business licenses for refugees after awareness campaigns funded by the World Bank's Economic Opportunity Fund (EOP). Private sector engagement expanded through collaborations with banks (Shabelle, Oromia International, Dashen) and microfinance institutions (Benishangul Gumz, Akufada). Partnerships with SAHEL Company enhanced agricultural productivity, while initiatives like the EU-INTPA and Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project (DRDIP) aimed to scale climate-resilient practices. These efforts align with Ethiopia's 2023 Global Refugee Forum pledges on economic inclusion and climate action. Challenges persist, including structural unemployment and funding gaps, but Ethiopia's focus on partnerships, policy reforms, and private sector integration offers a pathway to sustainable livelihoods. Continued scaling of financial access, vocational training, and climate-smart agriculture remains critical to reducing dependency and fostering self-reliance among refugees and host communities.

14. Outcome Area: Voluntary Return and Sustainable Reintegration

Voluntary repatriation achieved

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
14.1 Proportion of returnees with legally recognized identity documents or credentials			
Returnees	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
14.1.1 Number of people who received counselling and/or information on voluntary repatriation	
IDPs	300
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	6,527

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, a total of 11,705 refugees have spontaneously returned to Ethiopia. Among which, 43 are from Yemen, and 11,662 consisting of 4650 households are returned to Ethiopia in adverse circumstances fleeing the conflict in Sudan. The majority of the returnees are scattered in various locations across Tigray, mixing with IDPs, as they were not able to return to their place of origin in Western Tigray. And a total of 293 households (1,176 Individuals) of refugee returnees were verified and registered in Guba Woreda of Metekel Zone in Benishangul Gumuz escaping the approaching conflict in Blue Nile State of Sudan. UNHCR has undertaken action to ensure the protection normative aspects of their return. UNHCR conducted profiling and vulnerability assessment in Tigray and Benishangul Gumuz and offered cash support. A total of 163 households (628 individuals) in Benishangul Gumuz, and 354 households (753

individuals) in Tigray were assisted with cash support to address their immediate needs. Overall, 1,381 returnees received assistance through the refugee program.

Small numbers of Ethiopian refugees also have expressed interest to return from other countries globally, mostly Djibouti, South Sudan and South Africa. An intention survey sample of 892 South Sudanese refugees was undertaken in 2024 with less than 10 per cent expressing an intent to return to South Sudan within the next year. Similarly, intention survey for Kenya Borena refugees in Oromia region was conducted showing that 4,965 (88 per cent) out of 5,643 refugees expressed their intention to return to Kenya. Discussions are underway with the Kenyan and Ethiopian authorities to facilitate the return of the refugees who expressed willingness to return as well as explore alternative stay options for the remaining. In 2024, two refugees, one Ivorian and one Syrian, spontaneously returned to their country of origin

15. Outcome Area: Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

Complementary pathways

Resettlement places secured and candidates identified

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
15.1 Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	4,612	5,950	5,953

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
15.1.1 Country issues machine-readable travel documents	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	No

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

The Ethiopia operation registered significant gains in advancing access to third country solutions for refugees in 2024. The increase in resettlement submissions may be attributed to the full roll-out of P2 processing modalities, as well as increased quota places, which fostered efficiency, enabling a higher number of submissions. In 2024, the allocated quota of 4,425 was surpassed with 5,943 refugees submitted for resettlement consideration, including the addition of young children and other dependent family members to cases submitted in previous years. Meanwhile, UNHCR prioritized improvements in data management and accountability to refugees to ensure the accuracy of resettlement processing status involving over 20,000 refugees with active post-submission cases.

16. Outcome Area: Integration and other Local Solutions

Refugees and IDPs have access to pathways towards legal local integration

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
16.1 Proportion of people with secure tenure rights to housing and/or land			
IDPs		22.00%	20.24%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	40.01%	60.00%	53.88%
16.2 Proportion of people covered by national social protection systems			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	25.02%	35.00%	3.18%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, Ethiopia made significant progress in refugee inclusion and integration through the Makatet Roadmap, reinforcing its 2023 GRF pledges. The government is transforming refugee camps into sustainable urban settlements by 2027, enhancing infrastructure, services, and economic opportunities. Key commitments include planting 100 million trees, expanding renewable energy, integrating refugees into national ID and education systems, and allocating 10,000 hectares for climate-smart agriculture. Ethiopia also aims to strengthen private sector engagement, digital connectivity, and job creation. The Ura settlement, supported by EU-INTPA, serves as a model for this approach, demonstrating Ethiopia's commitment to sustainable refugee inclusion and development. The Makatet Roadmap is set to be officially launched by the end of May 2025.

Despite these advancements, the legal framework for refugees' access to public housing remains unchanged. The Refugees Proclamation, National Social Protection Policy (NSPP), and National Social Protection Strategy (NSPS) continue to guide social protection services for refugees. Currently, only 51 per cent of refugees and asylum-seekers have secure tenure rights, falling short of the 60 per cent target. During the reporting year, UNHCR in partnership with Ethio Telecom and the National Identity Program (NIDP), made notable strides in integrating IDPs into the NIDP. Through the EU-funded IM3 project, 31,103 IDPs in the Tigray region were enrolled, with 29,573 receiving their national digital IDs. This initiative will enhance IDPs' access to government services, social protection, and enable safe movement, preserving their identity and dignity.

In terms of education, 24,191 refugee children were integrated into the national system in 2024. Additionally, 11,216 refugee students were integrated into host community schools, while 11,104 students from six refugee secondary schools transitioned to the management of the Regional Education Bureaus (REBs) in Gambella and Asossa. Furthermore, the Ministry of Health and social protection stakeholders endorsed the pilot enrollment of refugees in Addis Ababa into the community-based health insurance scheme.

2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

Key achievements to advance the implementation of the AGD policy in Ethiopia included the Participatory Assessment 2024, conducted jointly with RRS and partners across 26 refugee camps, sites, and 2 urban locations. The findings informed programming and the development of the Ethiopia Multi-Year Strategy (2025-2029). UNHCR, RRS, and partners also developed a Youth Strategy for Ethiopia (2025-2029).

Regarding the IDP response, the Protection Cluster, with support from HelpAge, appointed an Inclusion Specialist. This role contributed significantly to the 2025 HPC planning and addressed cross-cutting AGD issues. Key actions included developing a tool to assess gaps in including older persons and people with disabilities and revising MIRA (multi-sectoral initial rapid assessment tool), DTM, and other data collection tools to ensure AGD indicators are integrated into humanitarian programming.

Regular engagement with communities continued through townhalls and discussions with diverse groups. Training on AAP and gender equality was provided to community leadership structures, and Refugee Central Committee elections were held in Addis Ababa and Aftit.

The "Step Up on AAP" campaign was launched to strengthen accountability to women and children.

Feedback channels were mapped, and AAP self-assessments were conducted to identify challenges.

Consultations with field offices led to an AAP action plan and report with implementation recommendations for 2025 and beyond.

Disability inclusion was promoted through advocacy and data disaggregation. Protection Brief with seven key recommendations was released to improve identification, accessibility, accountability, and economic empowerment for refugees with disabilities. A disability inclusion training under PROSPECTS 2.0 was held with participants attending from the Ethiopian National Association of the Deaf. UNHCR received 3,258 mobility devices from USA4UNHCR, which were distributed to refugees and host communities with disabilities in 8 locations.

Section 3: Resources

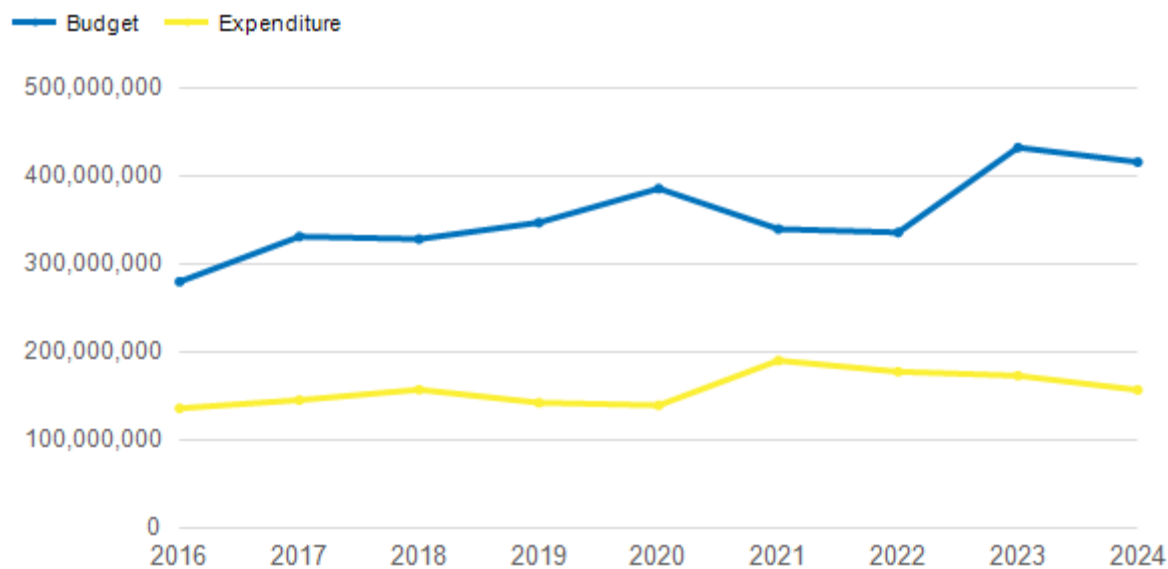
3.1 Financial Data

(Financial figures in USD)

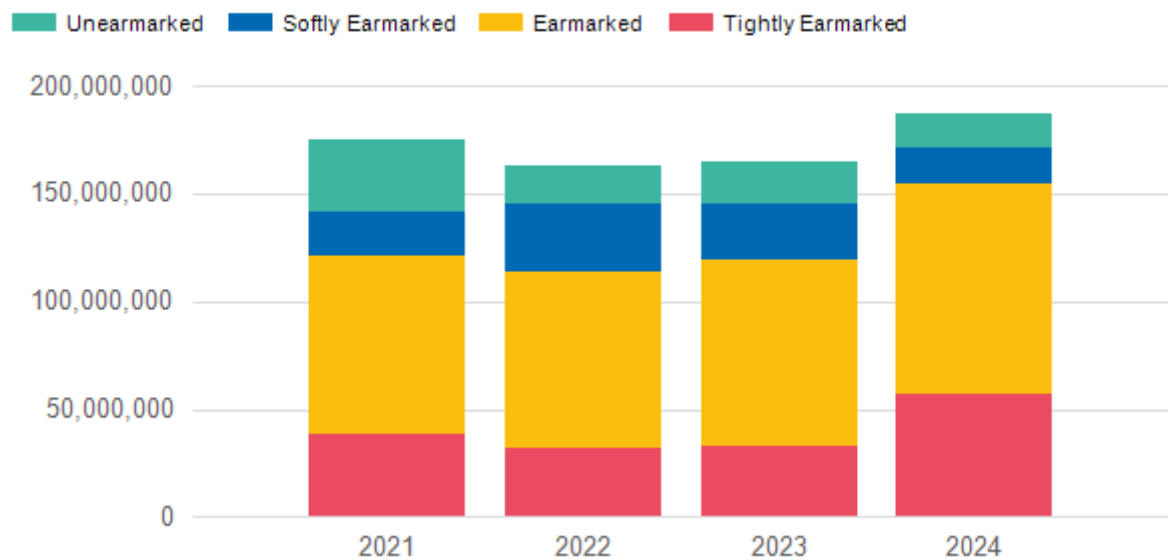
Impact Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
IA1: Protect	86,403,258	36,690,301	42.46%	36,690,301	100.00%
IA2: Assist	306,964,785	110,865,287	36.12%	110,244,667	99.44%
IA3: Empower	13,485,695	5,609,057	41.59%	5,265,616	93.88%
IA4: Solve	8,367,116	4,337,337	51.84%	4,291,100	98.93%
All Impact Areas		26,869,308			
Total	415,220,853	184,371,290	44.40%	156,491,685	84.88%

Outcome Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
OA1: Access/Doc	17,825,620	14,898,898	83.58%	14,898,898	100.00%
OA2: Status	3,381,441	1,120,944	33.15%	1,120,944	100.00%
OA3: Policy/Law	8,931,350	2,198,046	24.61%	2,198,046	100.00%
OA4: GBV	18,990,115	7,093,386	37.35%	7,093,386	100.00%
OA5: Children	13,139,968	4,265,843	32.46%	4,265,843	100.00%
OA6: Justice	7,281,735	3,359,041	46.13%	3,359,041	100.00%
OA7: Community	16,853,029	3,754,144	22.28%	3,754,144	100.00%
OA8: Well-being	64,198,637	33,809,981	52.66%	33,350,861	98.64%
OA9: Housing	109,123,122	16,985,834	15.57%	16,824,334	99.05%
OA10: Health	61,063,063	21,274,707	34.84%	21,274,707	100.00%
OA11: Education	33,063,105	14,591,399	44.13%	14,591,399	100.00%
OA12: WASH	39,516,858	24,203,366	61.25%	24,203,366	100.00%
OA13: Livelihood	13,485,695	5,609,057	41.59%	5,265,616	93.88%
OA14: Return	2,209,220	1,465,766	66.35%	1,465,766	100.00%
OA15: Resettle	5,031,724	2,384,234	47.38%	2,337,997	98.06%
OA16: Integrate	1,126,172	487,337	43.27%	487,337	100.00%
All Outcome Areas		26,869,308			
Total	415,220,853	184,371,290	44.40%	156,491,685	84.88%

Budget and Expenditure Trend



Contributions Trend by Type



3.2. Resources Overview

UNHCR balanced emergency response with durable solutions and refugee inclusion in Benishangul Gumuz and Amhara. Somali and Afar prioritized education, livelihoods, and national service inclusion. Gambella addressed ethnic tensions through social cohesion and sustainable services. For Northern Ethiopia's IDPs/returnees, support focused on reintegration, housing, and livelihoods. The operation began the year with a reduced prioritized budget followed by ten per cent freeze due to the challenging funding outlook for 2024. Despite this initial setback, the operation remained committed to its goals and worked diligently throughout the year to secure additional funding. With the limited resources, the operation prioritized inclusion of education, health, water and sanitation

sectors as well as registration and documentation in the national system as part of its sustainable response.

UNHCR expanded cash-based interventions (CBI) with the aim of boosting refugee self-reliance and autonomy. Registration, verification and issuance of documentation was prioritized to enhance legal safeguards and access to services. However, the operation was constrained by insufficient resources to completely roll out the aforementioned exercise as it needed some US\$ 4.5 million to complete inclusion of refugees into the national ID programme.

The most critical gaps in the refugee response in 2024 included housing, especially in Somali region, WASH, well-being, education, livelihoods, Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support (MHPSS) as well as Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Child Protection. The lack of resources contributed to delaying the effective response to the Sudan emergency as well as provision of basic services in protracted refugee areas.

Through office restructuring and staff realignment, savings were generated that were reallocated to operations.

In 2024, Ethiopia continued its efforts to further diversify funding opportunities in line with global and regional efforts, realizing that dependency on humanitarian funding alone is not sustainable. To bridge the gaps, UNHCR intensified resource mobilization, engaging development and private partners such as IKEA, Mastercard, Ethio/Safaricom, African Development Bank, IFC, World Bank. The operation has successfully engaged with development donors such as WB, IFC, EU and Netherlands to attract development funding for the refugee response. The operation has also undertaken initial steps to explore climate funding related opportunities. Importantly, much efforts were put on expanding existing and identifying new funding opportunities by combining the following elements, channelling existing resources available through UN; applying a sustainable response approach; utilizing an area-based approach; building on synergies by closely collaborating with other UN partners; and utilizing opportunities in the humanitarian development peace nexus sphere; re-strengthening the partnership with traditional key government donors as well as exploring new partnerships in private and public sector domain as well as academia.

Strategic engagements included the High Commissioner's engagement with Government during his mission in January focusing on the Sudan response; a multi-donor mission in April with 16 delegates from Geneva including Embassies visiting three field locations to appreciate the refugee response and its challenges. Furthermore, a Priority Situation Core Group mission in May with eight donor-country delegates to discuss ways of finding long term solution to the plight of refugees.

Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

4.1 Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

Lessons learned and findings from the Strategic Moment of Reflection covers 3 areas of focus for implementing the multi-year strategy from 2025 onwards: engaging with RRS, development partners, private actors, and refugee-led organizations; mainstreaming sustainability; and aligning activities and initiatives with the Makatet Roadmap.

The importance of further engagement and collaboration with development partners and private actors was highlighted. Involving non-humanitarian stakeholders will enable the diversification of funding sources as well as sustainable responses, crucial in addressing financial challenges, expertise gaps in certain sectors, and capacity constraints. In 2024, the Council of Ministers approved the status of RRS, enabling development partners to approach RRS more easily. Maintaining and expanding partnerships with development and private actors will be vital in implementing and advancing the operation's multi-year strategy.

Sustainability has been identified as a key focus area across technical sectors, with cross-sectoral coordination becoming increasingly important. Efforts include providing sustainable housing and livelihood opportunities to foster self-reliance, transitioning to government-led processes, empowering refugees to become active contributors to society alongside host community members, and involving refugee-led organizations and community structures in protection and response efforts. Good practices include the application of the "Solution from the Start" approach in Aftit and Ura, where inclusion and sustainability are considered from the planning and designing phases.

From 2025 onwards, it will be essential to leverage the Makatet Roadmap and align both existing and new projects and initiatives with it to ensure commitments are implemented in a coordinated and sustainable manner. Mapping ongoing activities will help identify good practices that can be widely replicated within the operation and highlight any gaps.



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