



Contents

| Overview | | | | |
|---|----|--|--|--|
| UNHCR's response to date | | | | |
| Urgent needs | 8 | | | |
| Protection | 9 | | | |
| Shelter and infrastructure, camp coordination and camp management and core relief items | 11 | | | |
| Water, sanitation and hygiene | 13 | | | |
| Health and nutrition | 14 | | | |
| Livelihoods | 15 | | | |
| Logistics | 16 | | | |
| Staff and administration | 16 | | | |
| Key challenges | 17 | | | |
| Coordination | | | | |
| Funding the response | | | | |

Left: An Ethiopian refugee and her child collect mats at a transit site in Hamdayet, Sudan.

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Cover image: An Ethiopian refugee who lives with her husband, their son, and their daughter, in a shelter in Um Rakuba camp, Sudan. She is a volunteer teacher in the camp.

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Overview

Priority populations targeted for assistance

100,000

ETHIOPIAN REFUGEES IN EASTERN SUDAN

80,000

ERITREAN REFUGEES IN TIGRAY REGION, ETHIOPIA 650,000

ETHIOPIAN IDPs IN TIGRAY REGION, ETHIOPIA \$98.9 million

TOTAL REQUIREMENTS (Ethiopia \$49.6 million; Sudan \$49.3 million)

There is a full-scale humanitarian crisis underway in and around Ethiopia's Tigray region since armed conflict broke out there in early November 2020, and a six-month State of Emergency was declared by the Government. The situation regarding forcibly displaced people is complex and overlapping, with refugees fleeing aboard, mostly into neighbouring Sudan; refugees from Eritrea within Tigray affected; and an increasing population of internally displaced people within Tigray and into other areas of Ethiopia.

As of 21 December, more than 52,000 Ethiopian asylum-seekers had crossed into East Sudan, almost all from Tigray. These refugees require essential life-saving assistance and services at reception/transit centers, and timely onward transport of new arrivals from reception centres to camps is urgent in order to better guarantee their physical safety, to address congestion and overcrowding, and to reduce risks related to gender-based violence and communicable diseases.

Within Tigray itself, which had a pre-conflict population of some six million people, conditions are daily becoming more difficult and dangerous, including for some 96,000 Eritrean refugees, most of whom are in four camps and for whom protection and assistance have been seriously disrupted, and for a growing number of internally displaced persons. The updated UN Humanitarian Response Plan for Northern Ethiopia estimates that 2.3 million people might be affected by the conflict within Tigray region and across regional borders into Amhara and Afar.

The blockage of air and road access to Tigray, as well as the regional communication black-out, has significantly affected humanitarian operations and monitoring capacity, and made real time assessments of humanitarian needs all but impossible. However, it is clear a multisectoral response is needed for forcibly displaced people across Tigray, including for basic needs such as food security, health and nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, emergency shelter and infrastructure.

Key protection interventions are also urgently needed for, for example, the prevention of, risk mitigation and response to gender-based violence and family separation. Special attention is required for persons at heightened protection risk, including young children, women and the elderly, persons with specific needs and persons with disabilities.



As the protection lead agency with commitments towards IDPs, returnees and host communities as people of concern, UNHCR will work on mitigating the effects of armed conflict on the civilian population, ensuring a protection lens and adherence to humanitarian principles, as well as the application of the principle to "do no harm" in its activities and advocacy, and that civilians have access to assistance and services in a safe, equitable, accessible, and dignified manner.

The overall situation is rapidly evolving, and priority needs and assistance strategies will depend largely on the security situation and logistical challenges, on risk management, and on coordination with UNHCR partners and

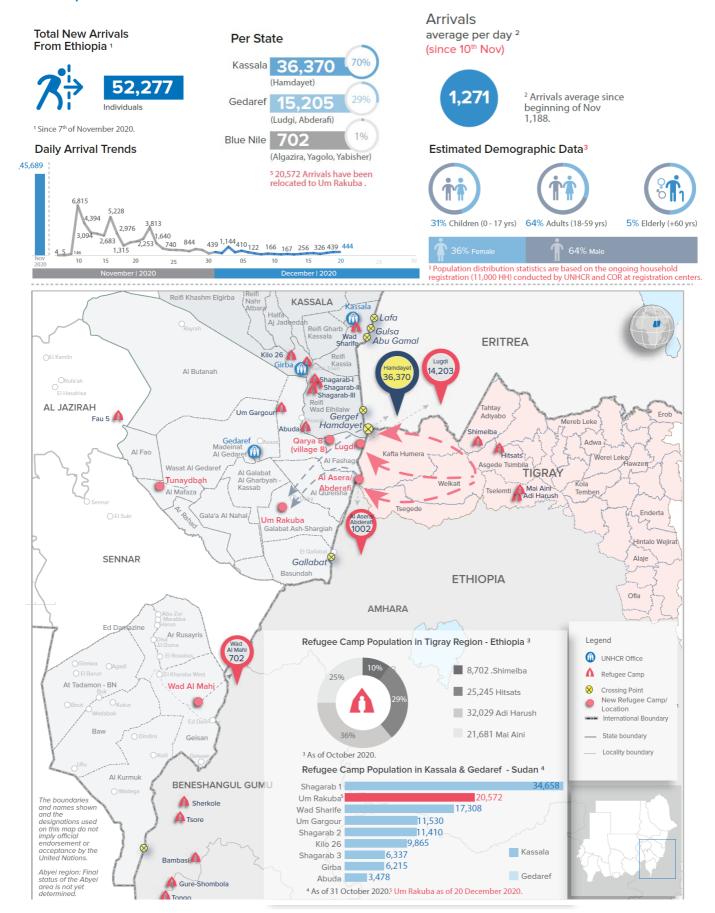
stakeholders in what is a complex humanitarian and operational environment.

To deliver life-saving assistance and protection to 100,000 Ethiopian refugees expected to seek refuge in Sudan; to an estimated 80,000 of the 96,000 Eritrean refugees in Tigray; and to 650,000 IDPs— a number which includes the old case load and those who may be newly displaced within Tigray—UNHCR is appealing for \$98.9 million for the first six months of 2021. This includes \$81.5 million of new supplementary needs in Ethiopia and Sudan and \$17.4 million of re-prioritized requirements from the ExCom-approved budget for Ethiopia for 2021.





Ethiopian new arrivals | as of 20 December 2020





UNHCR's response to date

Sudan I The borders remain open for refugees and UNHCR and partners have full access to border points, with the Government granting prima facie status to all Ethiopian refugees arriving in Sudan related to the Tigray situation. UNHCR and the Sudanese Government's Commissioner for Refugees (COR) are screening and registering new arrivals, and temporarily sheltering them in transit centres located near entry points. Water and meals are provided, as well as health screening including for COVID-19.

Protection teams are identifying persons at heightened risk and referring them to specialized services, including pregnant women, persons with disabilities, unaccompanied children and older persons. Counselling and health services are available for survivors of gender-based violence.

UNHCR and authorities are relocating refugees to a new refugee camp at Um Rakuba, 70 km from the border, where over 20,000 people have been settled so far. Additional sites are being identified.

An Inter-Agency Refugee Response Plan was issued in November 2020 with 30 UN and NGO partners (see Coordination section on p.18 for full details of the inter-agency regional response to the emergency).

Ethiopia I For nearly six weeks, UNHCR and humanitarian partners have had no access to populations in need within Tigray. As of October 2020, some 96,000 Eritrean refugees

were registered in Tigray, mainly in four refugee camps. There were also 8,424 Eritrean refugees officially residing outside of camps benefitting from the Government's Out of Camp Policy. To date, only WFP was able to access two of the Eritrean refugee camps in Tigray in Mai Aini and Adi Harush on 15 December, and provided food assistance for 35,000 refugees for one month. For the remaining two camps in Tigray, a security assessment is underway before assistance can be delivered. In addition, UNHCR and partners reached about 5,000 IDPs in Shire with water, high energy biscuits, clothes, mattresses, sleeping mats and blankets, from pre-existing stocks in the area.

Djibouti and Eritrea I No new refugee arrivals have been reported. However, UNHCR and the Government have registered more than 200 Ethiopians of Tigray origin who are stranded in Djibouti. In Eritrea, there have been reports of refugees arriving and possible internal displacement along the border with Ethiopia. These report however cannot be verified as access to the border areas is restricted.

Scenario planning and preparation for potential refugee movements into both Djibouti and Eritrea are ongoing, with UNHCR advocating borders remain open. A regional contingency plan is being updated and UNHCR country operations are stepping up emergency relief preparedness as the situation evolves.

For more information

Global Focus is UNHCR's main operational reporting portal for donors and other key partners. The site provides an overview of the protection risks that refugees and other populations of concern to UNHCR face across the world, as well as regularly updated information about programmes, operations, financial requirements, funding levels and donor contributions.



Global Focus Ethiopia Emergency situation page



Urgent needs

Sudan I Urgent assistance is required for 100,000 refugees expected to arrive by June 2021. This assistance will be required across all sectors, but most particularly protection, education, health, WASH, shelter and core relief items, and logistics. Should efforts to relocate refugees away from the border not keep up with the pace of the influx, additional assistance services at reception and transit sites may be provided. Development of the new sites where refugees are being settled requires significant resources in all essential sectors.

Ethiopia | In Tigray, UNHCR plans to assist 80,000 of the estimated 96,000 Eritrean refugees in the next six months. Given disturbing if still unconfirmed reports of Eritrean refugees being killed, abducted and forcibly returned to Eritrea, Eritrean refugees in camps in Tigray will be affected in different ways by the conflict. However, some 30,000 refugees are expected to be compelled to move within Ethiopia, with it likely that 15,000 refugees will be displaced within the region, moving to safer locations or camps; and an additional 15,000 will be displaced in other parts of Ethiopia, including to Addis Ababa, to which there are increasing reports of refugees arriving through the city of Gondar in the Amhara region south of Tigray.

UNHCR is working with the Ethiopian Government's Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) to establish a protocol for verification and assistance to these refugees, whether still in camps, on the move in Gondar, or in Addis Ababa. It is important to note as well that, since the change in the Government's asylum policy for Eritreans earlier in the year, Tigray also hosts a number of Eritrean asylum-seekers who have not had the opportunity to apply for asylum, and who remain undocumented and unregistered.

In camps in Tigray and other locations within Ethiopia, a multi-sectoral response is needed to respond to the urgent needs of refugees and IDPs. This needs to include basic assistance such as food, health and nutrition, WASH, emergency shelter and infrastructure. Given the critical protection aspects to the crisis, it needs as well to include key protection interventions such as prevention of, risk mitigation and response to gender-based violence, and access to reception facilities with special attention to persons at heightened protection risk such as young children, women and the elderly, persons with specific needs and persons with disabilities.





Protection

Sudan | At the border points and reception centres in Hamdayet and Um Rakuba urgent protection assistance needs to include: border monitoring and initial refugee registration at household level by COR and UNHCR; child protection, including identification of unaccompanied and separated children and family reunification; referral pathways and support for survivors of gender-based violence; psychosocial first aid and prevention of, risk mitigation and response to genderbased violence; provision of PEP kits and reproductive health services; protection desks. with referral to relevant services and identification of persons with specific needs; provision of information and counselling on access to essential services; mental health and psychosocial support for children associated with armed conflicts, and community based protection.

Ethiopia I UNHCR will ensure provision of basic protection services to displaced populations in Tigray, with key protection concerns following the impact of the conflict including prevention of, risk mitigation and response to gender-based violence physical violence, family separation, the needs of unaccompanied and separated children and psychosocial distress and trauma.

UNHCR will focus on protection monitoring and counselling; prevention of, risk mitigation and response to gender-based violence; assistance to unaccompanied and separated children and strengthening family-based care; and maintaining the civilian character of camps and host communities. Protection monitoring and development of community-based protection interventions with community structures will be re-established or put in place in refugee camps, IDP sites, collective centres and nearby areas.



Djibouti I Any Ethiopians fleeing from the conflict in Tigray will be granted prima facie refugee status as agreed by the Government, while others already present in Djibouti will have their individual asylum claims considered to be recognized as refugees sur place. Preparedness measures are in place for asylum-seekers who may arrive from Tigray, with asylum-seekers to be transferred from the border to the existing refugee camps of Ali Addeh, Holl Holl and Ara Oussa.

Although there are no recent arrivals reported in Djibouti, UNHCR and the Government have registered 55 Ethiopians of Tigrayan origin stranded after returning from Yemen, and who have been relocated to Holl Holl. Given the close commercial ties with Tigray, thousands of Tigrayan merchants and truck drivers are currently stranded, and 188 drivers and others working for a logistics company have requested aslyum rather than return to Tigray.

UNHCR Regional Bureau Director, Clementine Nkweta-Salami, meets with Ethiopian refugees at Um Rakuba camp in Al Qadarif state, Sudan.

© UNHCR/Will Swanson





Shelter and infrastructure, camp coordination and camp management and core relief items

Sudan I Shelter and infrastructure: given the ongoing and fast paced mass influx, the main assistance objectives are to provide essential life-saving assistance services and ensure refugee do not stay longer than 24 hours at border entry points and are relocated to reception/transit sites and then to settlements. The aim is to ensure communal shelters and shaded areas are established at border entry points and households are provided with standard core relief item kits.

The Government has designated settlement sites for refugees in Um Rakuba, with capacity for more than 25,000 - 30,000 refugees, with a second site designated at Tenetba. Refugees will be relocated from reception centers at the sites to individual home plots, where multi-sectoral assistance will be made available. This will include emergency shelter,

tents and NFI. Resources are required to establish communal shelter and shades at the reception centers and at the settlement sites.

Camp coordination and camp management: Site infrastructure, preparation, development is required at the reception, transit centers and at the refugee camp sites. Agency offices and accommodation facilities are also required at the different sites.

Core relief item kits including dignity kits for women and girls, sleeping mats, blankets, face mask (COVID-19 prevention), jerrycans, soap and mosquito nets continue to be distributed to all new arrivals, well as fuel-efficient stoves and fuel, and one solar lantern per household.



Ethiopia I UNHCR will support refugees with emergency shelters, construction of transit and collection centers, and procurement and distribution of core relief items. Households with the most critical specific needs, such as female-headed households, unaccompanied and separated children, as well as other groups with specific needs, will be prioritized for assistance.

At least 150,000 IDPs will be targeted for shelter and distributions of core relief items. Where the situation allows, cash assistance may replace core relief items and provide for the shelter needs of displaced populations. Adaptable emergency shelter kits, as defined by the strategy of the Emergency Shelter/NFI Cluster, will be provided to households with specific needs.

Djibouti I Preparedness will include the prepositioning of core relief items and the establishment of adequate reception facilities for new arrivals. Core relief items for 1,000 families and household energy-related items are being procured.

An Ethiopian refugee collects blankets and mattresses at Hamdayet reception centre in Sudan, where days are intensely hot and night-time temperatures plummet.

© UNHCR/Olivier Jobard





Water, sanitation and hygiene

Sudan | At border entry points and designated settlement sites for refugees, WASH actors are working to ensure safe drinking water to emergency standards of 15 l/per person/per day. The response is prioritizing the establishment of sustainable water sources so that water trucking can be phased out as soon as possible. This will include the repair or rehabilitation of existing water systems, expanding pipe networks, drilling new boreholes and facilities for additional water storage. Communal latrines will be established according to emergency standards of one latrine/per 50 people, with separate facilities for women and men as well as separate bathing facilities. Water treatment, including chlorine and purification tablets, will continue. Solid waste bins and solid waste disposal will be put in place, along with more handwashing stations and increased hygiene promotion.

Services provided in the home plot areas in settlement sites will ensure safe drinking water is provided according to emergency standards. Shared household latrines of one latrine/per 20 people will be provided in the

medium term and training of water management committees established. Soap will be provided along with supply and distribution of household water treatment products, and laundry areas established. Vector control management to mitigate against diseases associated with stagnant water and waste management will be integrated across all sites.

Ethiopia I In the absence of other actors and where UNHCR is the provider of last resort, critical interventions in WASH will establish minimum standards in sanitation facilities. This will include construction of temporary latrines and establishment of solid waste management systems, WASH in health facilities, as well as hygiene promotion. Response modalities will vary according to location. In case of displacement to urban areas, the preferred method of WASH assistance will be through cash assistance. In case of rural displacement, WASH services would be provided through partnerships.

Djibouti | Priority WASH activities will include procurement of water trucks and WASH equipment.



Health and nutrition

Sudan | Emergency health services are provided through two health clinics at reception sites run by the Sudanese Red Crescent, MSF, and Mercy Corps, in addition to roving teams from the Ministry of Health. Health and nutritional screenings are taking place for all new arrivals. Medical services include a medical triage, COVID-19 screening and risk communication measures. identification and referral of malnourished children, identification of individuals on long term treatment for chronic illness such as diabetes, hypertension, tuberculosis, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome. Vaccinations for polio targeting children under five are ongoing. Primary health care services include services for sexual and reproductive health. The Ministry of Health is conducting nutritional screenings for children under five years, with those identified with moderate and severe acute malnutrition referred for

treatment. Pregnant and lactating mothers are also screened and provided with nutritional support.

In settlement sites the enhancement of health and nutrition screening and triage on arrival and distribution of essential supplies such as clean delivery kits for visibly pregnant women is ongoing. An emergency referral for primary and secondary health services is being established, as are COVID-19 prevention and control interventions including risk communication, contact tracing and isolation and referral of suspected cases. Health and protection actors are providing psychological first aid. Health actors continue to surveil diseases.

In the medium term at settlement sites, primary health care services such as mobile clinics will be established along with reproductive health services. Activities include continued



prevention and control of communicable diseases measures including vaccination and mainstreaming of COVID-19 interventions; strengthening emergency referrals with adequately equipped ambulances; supply of emergency blanket supplementary feeding for the first three months for babies and targeted supplementary feeding for three months when needed. Expanded Programs for Immunization services and coverage of the under five children by ongoing vaccination campaigns are being established. TB and HIV services also require scale up.

With the mass influx taking place in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is likely that individuals involved in this response, including people of concern, may be infected. While social distancing in such conditions is difficult to maintain, COVID-19 prevention measures will continue to be implemented.

Ethiopia I UNHCR and partners will provide health services and assistance to the displaced population including drugs and medical supplies, continuation of ART/TB treatments, and emergency primary healthcare. Repair and rehabilitation of health facilities that may have been damaged in fighting will require also require resources.

Djibouti I Preparation measures for health services in reception facilities require significant improvement, including additional drugs and ambulances. COVID-19 screening facilities and supply also need to be set-up.

Livelihoods

Sudan I Livelihood activities during this emergency period include management of livestock for refugees who are arriving with them and require holding pens and fodder. It also includes provision of life-saving livestock support such as applying the Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards, and distribution of appropriate containers for seed storage.





Logistics

Sudan I Transportation from the border areas to reception points and onwards to the Um Rakuba and other camps currently being established is extremely costly, particularly in hard-to-reach border areas. Additional resources are required to maintain these transportation services.

Ethiopia I Timely provision of assistance requires an effective supply chain and logistics support. Bridges have been reportedly destroyed in the region and the airspace is closed. UNHCR will have to provide partners with logistics support, office equipment and other supplies while equipping offices in Shire, Mekelle, Semera and potentially Gondar with an adequate and well-maintained light and heavy-duty vehicle fleet. UNHCR is also coordinating with the Logistics Cluster to establish and facilitate common logistics support and pipelines in-country for the Tigray response.

Staffing and administration

Sudan I UNHCR has a sub-office in Kassala and a field office in Girba, located in close proximity to current border entry points. UNHCR and COR manage a transit centre in Hamdayet where wet feeding, screening and onward transportation to a designated camp are provided. UNHCR staff from within Sudan were initially re-deployed to Kassala and Girba, after which emergency response teams have arrived to support the response. A fast-track recruitment will be announced to further support the response for 2021. An inter-agency base camp has been established with offices and accommodation for Village 8. In Um Rakuba tented accommodation and facilities have been established outside of the camp.

Ethiopia I In order to provide administrative support to the Tigray situation, a field office will be opened in Samara, which will serve as an administrative hub. This being the regional capital of the Afar region, with daily flights to Addis Ababa and Tigray accessible by road, it can provide quick administrative response and support to any of the locations inside Tigray.



Key challenges

Communications and logistics in Sudan I The area along the Sudanese border where refugees are arriving and being sheltered is very remote. For example, relocating arrivals from Hamdayet to Um Rakuba takes a full day, and it takes two days from Hamdayet to reach a new site identified by the Government at Tenetba. Communications are also very difficult as most of Eastern Sudan is out of internet and cellular coverage.

Access in Ethiopia | Flights in and out of the region are prohibited, road travel is limited

because of the security situation and lack of fuel, and communication lines are shut down. Conditions inside Tigray are becoming more difficult by the day with power outages and food and fuel supplies extremely scarce. The UN has been actively advocating and negotiating for access to bring in fuel and humanitarian supplies, and to reach people in need.

Djibouti I The border area is also very remote and overall living conditions are poor. The area is also out of internet and cellular coverage.

Refugees from Ethiopia wait to receive assistance at the Hamdayet border reception centre in Sudan.

© UNHCR/Will Swanson





Coordination

This regional appeal presents UNHCR's financial requirements to respond to the Ethiopia emergency situation from January through June 2021. UNHCR requirements presented here include \$17.4 million of reprioritized requirements from UNHCR's ExCom-approved budget for Ethiopia in 2021, \$32.2 million of new and additional requirements for the response in Ethiopia, and \$49.3 million of new and additional requirements for the response in Sudan. This complements the UNHCR regional appeal for immediate needs for November-December 2020 listed below.

UNHCR's full financial requirements for this emergency response for the period November 2020 through June 2021 are also reflected in various inter-agency response plans developed at country and regional level.



UNHCR appeal for immediate regional needs (Nov-Dec 2020)

In November 2020, UNHCR issued an appeal for urgent immediate needs in Sudan, Ethiopia and Djibouti for the remainder of 2020, which are therefore not reflected in this regional appeal, which covers January to June 2021. However, UNHCR's 2020 requirements for both Sudan and Djibouti have been included in the Regional RRP, as it covers the period November 2020 through June 2021.



OCHA-led Tigray Humanitarian Preparedness Plan (Nov 2020-Jan 2021)
UNHCR-led Inter-agency Refugee Emergency Response Plan for Eritrean
Refugees in Tigray (Nov 2020-Jan 2021)

UNHCR's 2021 six-month requirements of \$49.6 million for the Eritrean refugee and Ethiopian IDP response related to the emergency in Tigray presented here are also partially incorporated in the three-month OCHA-led updated Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for Northern Ethiopia, reissued in December 2020, covering November 2020 to January 2021. The OCHA-led HRP for Northern Ethiopia has fully integrated the UNHCR-led Inter-agency Refugee Emergency Response Plan for the Eritrean Refugees in Tigray (RRP) in which out of the total \$18 million inter-agency requirements, UNHCR's requirements are \$5.2 million. UNHCR's IDP Emergency Response Plan for the Tigray emergency, which is also fully integrated in the above updated UN Humanitarian Response Plan for Northern Ethiopia, requires \$13.2 million for the first three months of the response of November 2020-January 2021. These 2021 requirements are also expected to be included in the 2021 HRP for all of Ethiopia.



Sudan Inter-Agency Refugee Response Plan (Nov 2020-June 2021)

The Regional RRP incorporates the Sudan Inter-Agency Refugee Response Plan, which was issued in November 2020 with 30 UN and NGO partners and includes the UNHCR requirements of \$49.3 million for January through June 2021. While the Sudan country level RRP covers the eight-month period from November 2020 through June 2021, only UNHCR's requirements for the six months of January - June 2021 were included. UNHCR's urgent initial requirements for November and December 2020, which were appealed for separately, are reflected in the Regional RRP.

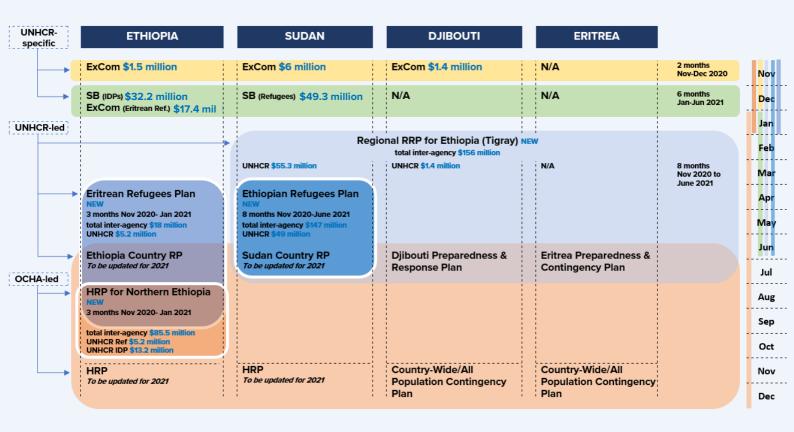


Regional Inter-Agency Refugee Preparedness and Response Plan (Nov 2020-June 2021)

The Regional RRP incorporates the Sudan Inter-Agency Refugee Response Plan, which was issued in November 2020 with 30 UN and NGO partners and includes the UNHCR requirements of \$49.3 million for January through June 2021. While the Sudan country level RRP covers the eight-month period from November 2020 through June 2021, only UNHCR's requirements for the six months of January - June 2021 were included. UNHCR's urgent initial requirements for November and December 2020, which were appealed for separately, are reflected in the Regional RRP.



Coordination architecture





Funding the response

Ethiopia, emergency situation financial requirements | January - June 2021 | USD

| | Ethiopia | | Sudan | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Sector | Refugees ExCom approved | IDPs Supplementary needs | Refugees Supplementary needs | Total requirements |
| Protection | 1,735,000 | 9,066,150 | 9,134,406 | 19,935,556 |
| Shelter | 2,364,506 | 06 5,300,000 | 7,492,941 | 19,640,657 |
| Core relief items | 2,283,210 | 2,200,000 | | 19,640,657 |
| WASH | 4,629,624 | 1,950,000 | 11,020,935 | 17,600,559 |
| Health & nutrition | 2,383,132 | - | 10,236,846 | 12,619,978 |
| Energy & environment | 891,302 | 2,030,000 | 4,264,341 | 7,185,643 |
| Camp coordination & camp management | - | 1,250,000 | 3,693,296 | 4,943,296 |
| Logistics | 224,349 | 2,500,000 | 1,618,346 | 4,342,695 |
| Coordination & partnerships | 1,646,452 | 1,750,000 | - | 3,396,452 |
| Food security & livelihoods | 1 | 1 | 1,849,538 | 1,849,538 |
| Emergency management | - | 325,000 | - | 325,000 |
| Staffing & administration | 1,246,582 | 5,905,600 | - | 7,152,182 |
| Total | 17,404,157 | 32,276,750 | 49,310,649 | 98,991,556 |

The importance of flexible funding

Flexible financial support greatly facilitates UNHCR being able to kick-start an emergency response, bolster forgotten or under-resourced crises, and enable the fullest possible implementation of programmes. Flexible funds enable UNHCR to plan and manage its resources efficiently and effectively, contributing to the collective success in every life that is transformed and saved.

UNHCR is grateful to the donors which have provided unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions. Additional financial and operational information is available on <u>Global Focus</u>.



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