



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency



ETHIOPIA SUPPLEMENTARY APPEAL

FEBRUARY - DECEMBER 2023



Feria, 50, seeks safety in Ethiopia's Doolo Zone in the Somali region after fleeing violence. Feria left behind her husband and 10 children, and she is not aware of their whereabouts | © UNHCR/Reath Riek

Cover photo: Some of the asylum-seekers arrive in Ethiopia leaving behind their loved ones. Semier, 23, and her five children (Hafta, 9, Mako, 7, Madina, 5, Nimo, 3, and Hiyman, 1) fled to Ethiopia's Somali region. She left behind her husband and other family members to seek safety for her young children. She does not know whether her husband is still alive | © UNHCR/Reath Riek

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\$41.7 million
budget requirements



100,000
projected refugee population

Financial requirements: UNHCR is appealing for **\$41.7 million** to cover UNHCR’s response to the unexpected arrival of Somali refugees in Ethiopia in 2023.

Who is in need: **100,000 Somalis** arriving in Ethiopia since February 2023 to escape clashes and insecurity in the Somali region of Laascaanood. Most are women, children – many of them unaccompanied – or elderly.

The main needs: **Household goods, food, water, hygiene and sanitation (WASH), health and nutrition services, emergency shelter** and **core relief items**, and the urgent establishment of specialized **protection services**, including registration. The appeal will also fund an emergency deployment of UNHCR staff to the region.



43%
of estimated refugees
are women



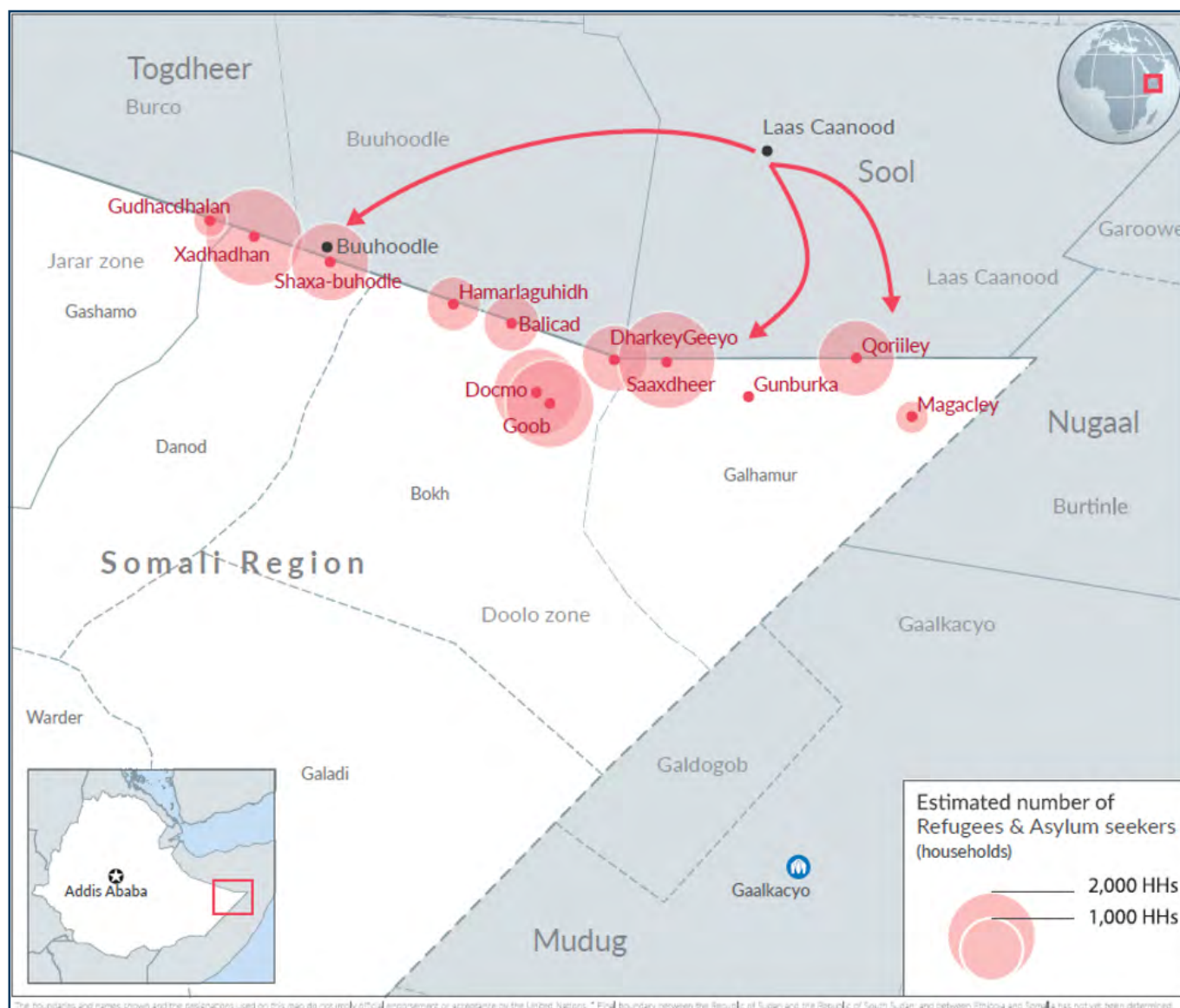
24%
of estimated refugees
are men



33%
of estimated refugees
are children



Newly arrived mothers are staying in the open with their children, after getting separated from their husbands during the fighting and their flight. They received mats from the host community but requested immediate support with food, shelter and family tracing | © UNHCR/Nimo Ahmed Abdullahi



Background to the emergency

In February 2023, fighting arising from a political dispute in Laascaanood forced close to 100,000 refugees to cross the border into the Doolo zone in the Somali region of Ethiopia, a remote area where UNHCR had no prior operational presence and which is over 600 km (two days by road) from the nearest UNHCR office in Jijiga. The total population of the Doolo zone is estimated at 497,000. This zone has not previously hosted refugees, hence there are no established refugee camps/sites. It is a drought-affected area where many Ethiopians have lost their livestock and livelihoods. The drought has also resulted in disease outbreaks and has significantly increased needs for humanitarian assistance in the area. In addition to the refugee influx, there are a reported 44,586 drought- and conflict-induced internally displaced people in the Doolo zone.

An inter-agency Multi-Sectoral Rapid Assessment conducted in Doolo zone from 9 to 15 February indicated a dire need for food, WASH services, shelter, basic goods, and health, nutrition and protection services. Based on the assessment and follow-up missions, the Ethiopian Government's Refugee and Returnee Services (RRS), UNHCR, other UN agencies and NGOs developed an Emergency Response Plan with a total budget of **\$116 million** to provide basic services such as water, shelter, health and education. The plan accords with the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) approach by promoting social cohesion and refugees' inclusion in existing facilities and service infrastructure.

Planned activities for the immediate response

At the initial stages of the response, reception centres will be set up in each identified site to host refugees until the required services are available. The centres will be set up on land designated by the regional government and zonal authorities and will carry out registration and health and nutrition screening. Food, core relief items and shelter materials will be provided as refugees are supported to move to designated settlements with accessible health and WASH facilities. To avoid overcrowded settlements and to mitigate any tension between communities and new arrivals, the number of refugees relocated to

these designated settlements will not exceed host population numbers. Prior to this emergency, there was minimal humanitarian presence in the Doolo zone and minimal services available. UNHCR and most of its partners had no existing operational presence. Therefore the response required UNHCR and partners to set up humanitarian operations in the Doolo zone from scratch. UNHCR and RRS will set up an operational base in Bokh town, opening a new office and securing/constructing accommodation facilities for staff.



Screening, registration and documentation: The RRS will be supported to speedily generate the assistance distribution lists and planning for other sectoral assistance. RRS, UNHCR and partners will undertake protection monitoring in collaboration with the Immigration Department at all border-crossing points.

Preventing and responding to sexual exploitation and abuse: UNHCR, RRS and partners will work with community members to establish complaint and feedback mechanisms. Training sessions on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) will be undertaken to ensure all actors involved in the response adhere to a strict zero-tolerance policy. The training will also include anti-fraud awareness. Information, education and communication materials on PSEA and fraud will also be posted in the local language.

UNHCR and protection partners will conduct **vulnerability screening** for groups at risk amongst new arrivals including unaccompanied and separated children, pregnant and lactating women, the elderly, and persons with a disability or serious medical conditions. Existing community structures will be strengthened to enable community members support each other through support groups. Services will be extended to survivors of violence and trauma including gender-based violence, with partners conducting mass information campaigns for the refugees and host community on gender-based violence prevention and referral pathways for response. Assistance to unaccompanied and separated children will be provided through child protection programmes and support through existing community structures.



Essential life-saving health services: will be led by the Regional Health Bureau (RHB), in collaboration with UNHCR, WHO, UNICEF and key health partners. Activities include measles and polio vaccination, vitamin A supplementation; provision of essential medicines and emergency health kits; implementation of the minimum initial service package in reproductive health; curative and emergency referral services; emergency laboratory investigation; mental health and psychosocial support, community-based preventive and health promotion services.



Emergency nutrition interventions: RRS, in collaboration with the RHB, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and partners, will initiate and scale up nutrition programmes for vulnerable groups, especially pregnant and lactating women and children under five years old.



Food security and food assistance: WFP will lead the food security efforts in collaboration with RRS, local authorities and UNHCR. Food distribution will be prioritized for the refugees as well as host community members who are part of the drought/safety net programmes.



Emergency shelter and core relief items (CRIs): At the initial stage, tents or emergency shelter kits (plastic sheets and poles) will be distributed to each arriving family upon reception. Refugees in host families will receive cash assistance. In the later stages, transitional shelter materials will be distributed, and families will be assisted to construct their own shelters.



WASH facilities: In the initial phase of the response, water trucking will be employed. Later, equipment and expertise will be mobilized to drill a borehole at each reception centre and at least a *birka* (pond) will be established in each site. The appropriate sanitation and hygiene promotion facilities (communal latrines, solid waste disposal pits) will also be installed at the centres. UNHCR will engage the Regional Water Bureau to support the integration of refugees in existing local community water supply systems for the long-term sustainable provision of water supply.



Logistics and transport: UNHCR, together with IOM, will organize the transportation of new arrivals from the border areas to reception centres. UNHCR will also ensure that a minimum stock level is in place to assist the new arrivals, including warehousing of CRIs. To kick-start the response, UNHCR borrowed CRIs from the northern Ethiopia IDP programme. This facilitated the distribution of 1,575 CRI kits to vulnerable families, and the pre-positioning of another 9,000 kits in Jijiga. To refund borrowed CRI and to preposition more for the emergency response, the operation has requested 10,000 CRI kits through UNHCR's Nairobi hub. UNHCR will increase its vehicle fleet to facilitate the response.

Settlement, self-reliance and inclusion beyond the initial response

In line with the aims of the GCR, socioeconomic inclusion of refugees is envisaged as early as possible, and efforts will be scaled up after the first three months of emergency response. Development partners are being consulted to include refugees in ongoing and planned initiatives. RRS is being supported to strengthen its partnership with the Somali regional state government and local authorities in Doolo zone for the inclusion of refugees in the national systems for education, basic and social services. RRS and the local authorities have identified two sites (close to

existing towns) to be developed into settlements to host the refugees. A third site will be developed based on the population of new arrivals. The plan is to integrate these settlements into the existing towns/villages. UNHCR and partners will work to strengthen the capacity of existing services to serve both refugees and host communities. As much as possible, UNHCR and partners will avoid creating parallel systems. Refugees living in host families will be provided assistance to expand on accommodation facilities if necessary.



Mariam and other displaced women share their stories of fleeing from Laascaanood. They are exhausted and traumatized, and many have lost loved ones in the violence or were separated as they fled | © UNHCR/Reath Riek

Changes in numbers of refugees

Prior to the emergency, UNHCR's Jijiga sub-office oversaw the protection and assistance of some 45,000 Somali refugees hosted in the Kebribeyah and Aw-Barre *woredas* (districts) of the Somali region. The current crisis prompted a further

98,000 refugees to cross the border into a new location in Doolo zone by early March 2023. RRS, with the support of UNHCR, are undertaking initial registration of the new arrivals which may lead to further adjustment of the population figures.

Partnership and coordination

This emergency response is coordinated by UNHCR with UN partners and NGOs. It aims to support the Government of Ethiopia to meet its international obligations to protect refugees, in line with the Refugee Coordination Model, and to include refugees in national services, fulfilling the Government's commitment under the GCR. Linking the refugee emergency to ongoing national efforts and policies will ensure a comprehensive response that encompasses protection and solutions.

The RRS department, six UN agencies, two international NGOs and two national NGOs are at the forefront of this response, with the support of donors, private sector and development partners.

A localization approach is core to the response, putting the knowledge and capacities of local authorities and the affected populations at the centre.

Local authorities including the Somali regional state and regional government bureaux of health, water, education and planning play a key role in the response. A coordination platform for the refugee emergency in Jijiga has been set up, co-chaired by the RRS and UNHCR and including sector working groups on protection, child protection and gender-based violence. Sub-groups on health, education, WASH, shelter, energy and environment, and livelihoods will be established.



A newly arrived young mother and her six-month-old baby were separated from her husband and family as they fled | © UNHCR/Nimo Ahmed Abdullahi

Financial requirements

Impact Area	Outcome Areas	ExCom approved budget	New requirements USD	Total
Protect	Access to territory, Status, Policy, Justice, Community, Gender-based violence, Child protection			
	Total Protect	\$116,202,508	\$9,171,861	\$125,374,369
Respond	Well-being, Housing, Health, Education, Water, sanitation & hygiene			
	Total Assist	\$226,470,913	\$32,519,030	\$258,989,943
Empower	Livelihoods			
	Total Empower	\$16,056,679		\$16,056,679
Solve	Return, resettlement and integrate			
	Total Solve	\$11,928,790		\$11,928,790
Total USD		\$370,658,890	\$41,690,891*	\$412,349,781

*This amount is in addition to the ExCom Approved Budget requirements that were included for Ethiopia in [UNHCR's 2023 Horn of Africa Drought Situation Appeal](#).

Importance of flexible funding

Flexible funds help UNHCR to kick-start an emergency response, bolster forgotten or under-resourced crises, and implement programmes to their full extent. They also enable UNHCR to plan and manage resources efficiently and effectively, contributing to the collective success in every life that is transformed and saved. Without flexible funding this first phase of the response, which has seen thousands of core

relief items, thousands of health kits, essential shelter supplies and protection assistance delivered to households would have struggled to get off the ground. Flexible funding will remain vital as the response develops, and as protection and assistance needs such as counselling and information sharing, documentation and restoration of family links become clearer.



Elderly refugee women at Totore, Galhamur district in the Doolo zone in Ethiopia's Somali region, express their willingness to move closer to where humanitarian services are provided | © UNHCR/Reath Riek

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ISSUED IN MARCH 2023

For more information

Visit [Global Focus](#), 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.

