

KEY FIGURES:

1,073,275

Refugees & Asylum seekers in Ethiopia
(as of December 2024)

+2,178 new arrivals

67,755

Refugees and asylum seekers fleeing conflict in Sudan to Ethiopia
(as of December 2024)

3.3M*

Internally displaced people in Ethiopia
(IOM/DTM May 2024)

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Everyday, for nearly 75 years, along with donors and partners, UNHCR strived to provide **protection** and **relief** to refugees. Like all our operations across the globe, UNHCR Ethiopia's objective is to **protect, respond, empower, and solve**.

We **protect**. Along with the government's Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS), UNHCR has successfully assisted over 24,800 refugees in obtaining **refugee ID cards** with Fayda numbers. For refugees fleeing **Sudan**, we built **shelters** to host 9,000 Sudanese in Ura, Benishangul-Gumuz region. We provided over 32,000 refugee and vulnerable host community women and girls with **dignity kits**. With partners, we engaged in **home-to-home visits** and reached 183 individuals in **child protection** awareness sessions, provided **psycho-social support** to 740 children, **alternative care arrangements** for 22 separated children, cash support to 162 Unaccompanied and separated children, children with medical conditions, and other vulnerable children.

We **respond** by making sure that refugees have access to different services, including healthcare. In December alone, we conducted over 47,000 outpatient consultations in refugee health facilities, of which 8% were nationals.

We **empower**. Countrywide, over **177,000 refugees** (44% girls) have registered and enrolled in pre-primary (28%), primary (58%) and secondary school (1%). Over 4,700 refugees and 1,600 host community persons received capacity building trainings on crop production and livestock raising, small enterprises/petty business, and financial services.

In **December** alone, 146 urban refugees graduated from a year-long technical and vocational training in furniture making, leatherwork, graphic design, electrical installation, caregiving, fashion design, photography, and solar installations. In line with the Ethiopian government's pledge to expand refugees' **right to work**, we provided participants with the skills needed to access more sustainable livelihoods and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

We **solve**. Some 15,000 refugees were submitted to various countries for resettlement consideration and durable solutions. In December alone, over 2,000 refugees departed from Ethiopia, including for resettlement and through private sponsorship programs.

None of this would have been possible without the generosity of the Government of Ethiopia, hosting nearly 1.1 million refugees, sharing resources and providing a favorable framework in the context of complex crises. We are also grateful for the consistent support of our donors.

UNHCR works with 45 implementing partners as well as the Ethiopian Government Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS), UN Agencies, international and national NGOs, universities, and other legal entities.

SECTORAL HIGHLIGHTS:



+24,800
refugees

received their refugee ID cards with Fayda numbers in 2024.



177,386
refugees

have registered and enrolled in schools across the country.



+47,000
refugees

have received medical consultations across refugee sites in 2024.



+34,592
refugee

children under five were cured at the Community Management of Acute malnutrition program



4,749
refugees

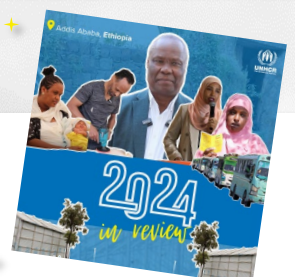
benefited from various livelihood interventions in 2024.



+2,156
refugees

have departed from Ethiopia on private sponsorship and resettlement.

- ✓ Refugees' right to work
- ✓ Digital IDs
- ✓ Makatet roadmap
- ✓ Durable Solutions for IDPs
- ✓ Integrated settlements
- ✓ Development approach

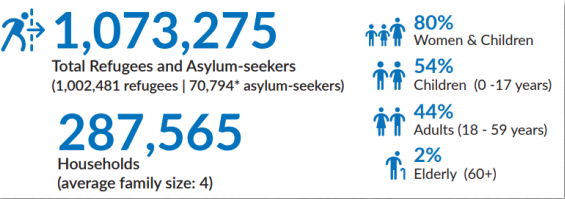


Crucial milestones were achieved in 2024 & many more to come in the new year!

Heartfelt thanks to the Govt of ET & all our donors & partners.

*The Humanitarian Response Plan 2024 estimated that the figure of 4.4M IDPs would be reached at the end of the year.

RESPONSE AT A GLANCE





POST OF THE MONTH



Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



"Art refreshes my soul & helps me appease my thoughts". Emraldo & other refugee children from Eritrea, South Sudan, Burundi & DRC expressed their thoughts on human rights through art, coming up with original drawings at the [@JesuitRefugee](#) Child Protection Center in [#AddisAbaba](#).



Health

In December, we conducted 47,456 **outpatient consultations** in refugee health facilities, of which 8% were nationals. The leading cause of these medical consultations was **respiratory tract infections** (27%) followed by **malaria** (23%). In this period, there were 895 **births** recorded across the sites, of which 91% were attended to by **skilled healthcare workers**.

UNHCR in collaboration with RRS and ILO participated in organizing a high-level technical dialogue on **community-based health insurance (CBHI)**. The forum culminated in endorsement of a technical working group that will facilitate required steps to **enroll refugees in Addis Ababa into the CBHI scheme** on a pilot basis.

UNHCR and health partners were engaged in the second round of **Polio vaccination campaign**, led by Regional Health bureaus. In **Gambella**, we targeted of 55,196 refugee children under five, achieving a coverage of 104%. In the **Afar** region, the second round of polio vaccination campaign in Aysaita and Barhale reached a total of 2,410 children under five.

Partners in collaboration with **Gambella** Regional Health Bureau conducted a mass drug administration campaign for **River blindness** (onchocerciasis). The target was to treat 184,015 refugees, and a total of 95% of patients in the Gambella refugee camps were treated.

We conducted a mass screening campaign for **tuberculosis** in Aysaita in collaboration with BEZA project and the Regional Health Bureau, whereby 10 new tuberculosis cases were detected and started treatment.



Shelter & CRIs

In December, UNHCR, in collaboration with its partner Action for the Needy in Ethiopia, completed 169 **emergency shelters** for refugees fleeing Sudan. This brings the total to 1,922 shelters, providing accommodation for over **9,000 Sudanese refugees in the Ura settlement**, in Benishangul-Gumuz region. In **Aftit**, Amhara region, 5 additional **hangars** were built, 6 hectares of land developed and a 3km access road completed. In Alemwach site, **63 planned transitional shelters** were completed.

In the **Afar** region, in Aysaita, 35 **transitional shelters** were rehabilitated, and 175 **emergency shelters** are underway, for Eritrean refugees relocated from the Serdo camp. In Gambella, 293 **transitional shelters** were completed and occupied in the Nguenyiel and Pugnido refugee camps.

Despite this progress, overall **shelter coverage** for refugees remains low at **33.3%**. Many refugees still live in old, run-down shelters or overcrowded emergency shelters, compromising their privacy, protection, and well-being.



Food security + Nutrition

In 2024, nutrition partners treated **49,399 children under five** and cured 34,592 at the 'Community Management of Acute Malnutrition' programs run at 41 functional nutrition centers. Additionally, 64,859 children under five and 16,217 pregnant and lactating women were admitted to the 'Blanket Supplementary Feeding' programs to support their increased nutrition needs.



Food security + Nutrition

The 2024 countrywide 'Standardized Expanded Nutrition Survey' (SENS) conducted in 23 out of 24 planned camps and sites indicates that **1 out of 2 refugee children under five in Ethiopia is undernourished** (low weight-to-height ratio, low height-for-age, underweight and/or micronutrient deficient).

14% of refugees across sites in Ethiopia suffer from Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM), a high level according to WHO classification and below UNHCR target of <10%. This can be attributed to a lack of access to adequate health, shelter, WASH, livelihood services.

WFP continues to provide **in-kind food assistance** to refugees, with 60% of recommended dietary allowance. In 2024, WFP scaled up digital **cash assistance** programs from **Jijiga** to include **Benishangul Gumuz** and **Afar** in hopes of improving refugee food choices and enhancing food value chains for refugee and hosting communities. During the peak of 2024, 93% of planned individuals (912,087) have received their rations with a moving average of 76%. However, the food basket is macro in nature and does not meet a healthy diet approach to Food security and nutrition.



Water, Sanitation & Hygiene

In December, UNHCR and partners provided an average of **10 liters of water per person per day (l/p/d)** to new arrivals from Sudan and Somalia, falling short of the emergency threshold of **15 l/p/d**. The latrine-to-user ratio was **1:67**, far below the emergency standard of **1:20**.

For Sudanese refugees in Ura, Benishangul Gumuz, we completed 77 blocks of **communal latrines** and 12 solid waste pits. In **Aftit**, Amhara region, our partner Catholic Relief Services (CRS) has concluded a **borehole** drilling. To **raise awareness** on hygiene, Innovative Humanitarian Services (IHS) has provided hygiene and sanitation training to school children in Aftit. In the Metema Transit Centre, IHS has completed the drilling of a shallow well. As part of the support to the host community, CRS is also rehabilitating a **borehole** in Gende wuha town.

In **Mirqaan**, Somali region, 7 km of piping, an elevated water tank and an operator house have been completed. We also provided **awareness sessions** in hygiene and sanitation, handwashing practices and waste disposal management to 740 refugee families.

In **other refugee-hosting areas**, refugees received an average of **14 l/p/d** but still below the standard of 20 l/p/d. **Sanitation coverage** in camps was **33%**, well under the **85%** standard, with funding shortfalls, insecurity, and access challenges delaying ongoing WASH expansions.

The **solarization** of two boreholes at Aw-barre refugee camp in the **Somali** region was completed, enabling water pumping to the existing booster station. Additionally, we installed two generators and a separate pressure line at Shedder, and a main pressure line leading to Kebribeyah to stop water trucking to these refugee communities.

In Tsore, **Benishangul Gumuz** region, we held **mass hygiene education sessions** in public areas. Through International Medical Corps (IMC), we have completed the **solarization** of **three boreholes** in the **Afar** region (Barahle). In **Gambella**, we have built 54 **latrines** and 157 **bathing shelters** through a **community engagement** approach. We have reached 15,139 families, with hygiene education and handwashing and waste management initiatives. Finally, in **Alemwach**, we distributed soap to 10,469 refugees.

With support from the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, UNHCR provided **business entrepreneurship** and **financial management** training to 35 Sudanese refugees and 35 host community entrepreneurs in Ura, Benishangul Gumuz.

In **Afar**, our livelihood partner Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, has distributed **startup kits** to 86 refugees who completed skills training in Aysaita and Barahle TVET colleges. In addition, 6 "Income Generating Activities" group have opened their business **shops** in Aysaita town, and the partner has covered six months of shop rent for each of the groups.

Through Organization for Rehabilitation and Development in Amhara, we selected 100 maize production "rights holders" to implement a share cropping package. Out of these, 90 refugees have been verified and organized into nine groups, each consisting of 10 members.

In 2024, a total of 4,749 refugees and 1,613 host communities benefited from livelihood interventions including capacity building trainings, crop and livestock production, small enterprises/petty business, and financial service. However, the security situation in the Amhara region remains as big challenge to implement livelihood projects within planned periods.

In 2024, **5,975 refugees** were submitted to various countries for **resettlement** consideration. In **December** alone, **2,156 refugees** departed from Ethiopia, including 824 for **resettlement** and 1,332 through **private sponsorship** programs. UNHCR also facilitated the renewal of **Convention Travel Documents** (CTDs) for two individuals and assisted one refugee in obtaining an **Emergency Travel Document** (ETD). Additionally, workshops focusing on **Machine-Readable Convention Travel Documents** and complementary pathways were conducted in collaboration with the Ethiopian Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS), Ethiopian Immigration and Citizenship Services (ICS), and other partner organizations.



IDPs

"With my ID card, I can now open a bank account, get a loan and access services to rebuild my life"

As an internally displaced person, Iman, a mother of two who recently moved to Beyahow #Somali ET is grateful to get the documentation she needs for a fresh start.

LATEST UPDATES

DONOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT | 2024

UNHCR is grateful for the generous support provided by:



And Private Donors in Australia, China, Germany, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, The Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, UK, and USA

FOR MORE INFORMATION:



Together with the Government Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS), UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency aims to protect, assist and provide durable solutions for refugees and asylum-seekers in Ethiopia. UNHCR works to strengthen refugee protection through the expansion of improved community-based and multi-sectoral child protection and programs addressing gender-based violence (GBV).

Visit UNHCR Ethiopia's Operational Data Portal for more information products [here](#).

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