

**KEY FIGURES:**
**1,073,275**

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

**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:**
 **Protection**
**+24,800**  
refugees

received their refugee ID cards with Fayda numbers in 2024.

 **Education**
**177,386**  
refugees

have registered and enrolled in schools across the country.

 **Health**
**+47,000**  
refugees

have received medical consultations across refugee sites in 2024.

 **Food security + Nutrition**
**+34,592**  
refugee

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

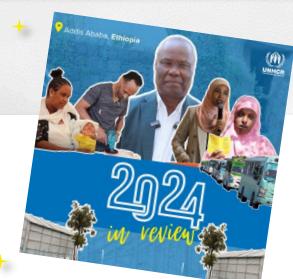
 **Livelihoods**
**4,749**  
refugees

benefited from various livelihood interventions in 2024.

 **Resettlement**
**+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 &amp; many more to come in the new year!

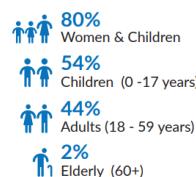
Heartfelt thanks to the Govt of ET &amp; all our donors &amp; partners.

\*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

**1,073,275**

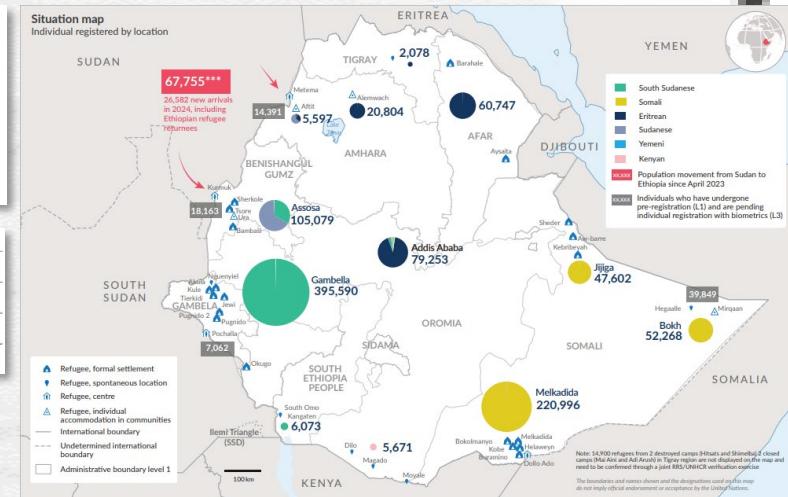
Total Refugees and Asylum-seekers  
(1,002,481 refugees | 70,794<sup>1</sup> asylum-seekers)



**287,565**

Households  
(average family size: 4)

Country of origin	Total Individuals	Percentage
South Sudan	429,216	40%
Somalia	361,949	34%
Eritrea	179,118	17%
Sudan	92,093	9%



### Protection

2,170 new refugees and asylum seekers have arrived in Ethiopia from Sudan, bringing the number of people in need of protection arriving from Sudan to 67,755 since April 2023. Along with partners, UNHCR is providing protection counselling, healthcare, and lifesaving humanitarian assistance to new arrivals in need of international protection. UNHCR continues to support and advocate with the Government of Ethiopia for full resumption of registration across the country.

### Gender Based Violence

In 2024, we provided 32,406 refugee and vulnerable host community women and girls with **dignity kits**, 1,900 menstrual & hygiene management kits while 2,000 vulnerable school-age girls received **sanitary pads**.

We also conducted **home visits** to 1,350 refugees to inform them about available services to gender-based violence (GBV) survivors, early marriage, and the importance of reporting. 75 women at risk received **cash assistance** while 32 girls were provided with **in-kind support**. All GBV survivors have received **psychosocial support** while others received **medical** (90%) and **legal assistance** (33%) respectively.

We also conducted GBV and PSEA **awareness sessions** in various camps and settlements reaching 1,850 refugees through **community discussions** and home visits. Over 1,000 community leaders, incentive workers, and women network members have also been trained in GBV and PSEA. We also engaged 15 **men and boys** in GBV prevention and response awareness sessions.

### Child Protection

In 2024, 8,413 children benefited from **psycho-social support** and indoor & outdoor games in child-friendly spaces. The activities promoted physical activity, social interaction, and emotional well-being of the children. 177 children and youth were engaged in **social-emotional learning**. Additionally, 172 **unaccompanied and separated children** (UASC) were identified and registered. Best Interest Assessments (BIA) were completed for these children to promote their well-being.

UNHCR and Child Protection (CP) partners engaged in **home-to-home visits** and reached 183 individuals in CP awareness sessions. We provided **psycho-social support** to 740 children, **alternative care arrangements** for 22 separated children, **cash support** to 162 UASC, children with medical conditions, and other vulnerable children. Additionally, 605 children were provided with **energy biscuits** and 150 UASC with **non-food items** (NFIs).

We also trained 130 social workers, Refugee Central Committee (RCC), and Child Protection Committee members in Child protection and MHPSS training and 1,982 community members in child protection.

### Education

For the 2024/2025 academic year, refugee students have been enrolled in camp-based or host community schools across the country. So far, **177,386 refugees** (44% girls) have registered and enrolled in **pre-primary** (28%), **primary** (58%) and **secondary** school (1%) except for Doolo Zone for which data is under compilation. Of the total enrolled, 95% are enrolled in **camp-based schools** while 5% are in the **national education system**.

### Registration / Documentation

UNHCR and RRS are currently **conducting verification and documentation** exercises in six locations across Ethiopia. So far, a total of **65,521 refugees** have agreed to participate in the National **Digital ID Program**. Among them, RRS and UNHCR have successfully assisted 24,898 refugees in obtaining refugee ID cards with **Fayda numbers**. Additionally, 35,086 refugees have been issued Fayda ID numbers through their Proof of Registration (POR) documents. In **Tigray**, over 29,300 IDPs (94%) have successfully received their physical **ID cards** following the completion of their registration into the National Fayda Program.

We concluded the "Kenya-Borena verification, documentation, and intended **return survey**" resulting in a final tally of 5,671 verified and registered individuals across 1,250 families. Of these, **88%** expressed their willingness to **return**, while 12% have opted to stay.

Following a relatively stable security situation in the **Amhara** region, the verification and documentation exercise has resumed to ensure that refugees and asylum seekers were provided with identity documents upon verification. In **Ura, Benishangul Gumuz**, preparations are ongoing for the exercise scheduled to begin in January. However, the planned timeline has been impacted by delays in completing the construction of the semi-permanent registration center.

### Urban refugees

In December, UNHCR and RRS maintained efforts to provide **documentation** to refugees in Addis Ababa. So far, 780 IDs and 937 **Proof of Registration** (POR) were issued to **refugees**. Over 1,600 refugees have received **QR codes and Fayda numbers**. Among these, 1,099 IDs and 240 PORs were issued along with the Fayda number and QR code. Further, new registration continued with 110 new **births**, 72 **in situ registrations**, and 17 new arrivals from Eritrea and Sudan.

In terms of livelihoods, 146 **urban refugees** including 82 **women** graduated from a year-long **technical and vocational training** program in areas such as furniture making, leatherwork, graphic design, electrical installation, caregiving, fashion design, photography, and solar installations. Facilitated by partner JRS, this training aligns with the Ethiopian government's pledge to **expand refugees' right to work**, equipping participants with the **skills** needed to **access sustainable livelihoods** and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

In 2024, over 2,500 vulnerable refugees in Addis Ababa received \$1.6 million in **multi-purpose cash assistance**, to cover their essential needs.



## POST OF THE MONTH



### 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 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 Ngueniel and Pugnido refugee camps.

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

### 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](#).

### 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 Sheddler, 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.

### 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.



## Livelihoods & Economic Integration

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.



## LATEST UPDATES

## Resettlement

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.



## DONOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT | 2024

UNHCR is grateful for the generous support provided by:



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## 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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