

# Joint agency response to The Sudanese refugee emergency in Ethiopia, 2011



# Sudan - Ethiopia Operation

## Blue Nile Region

As of September 2011

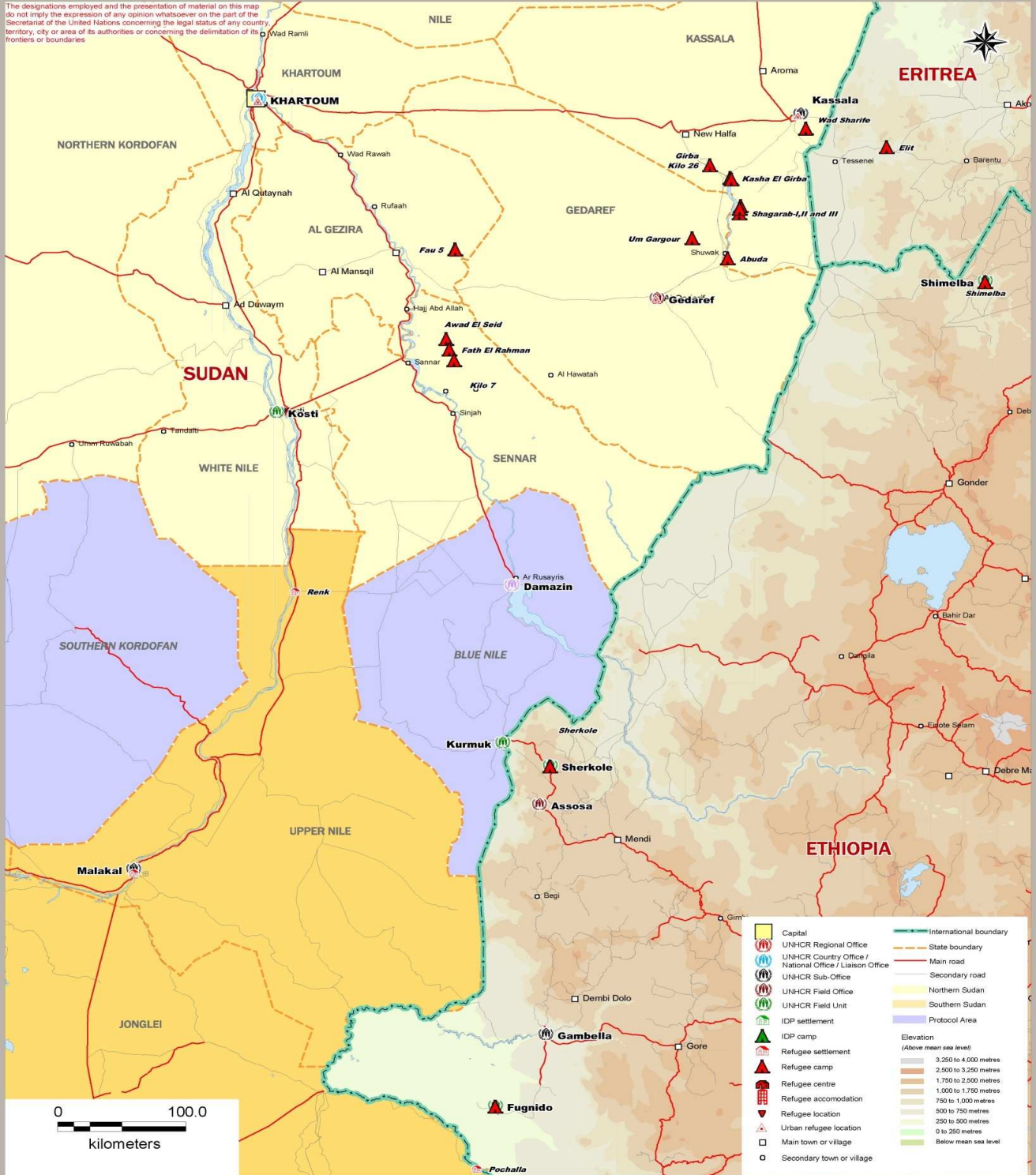


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**FIGSS**  
Field Information and  
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Sudanese refugees arriving in Kurmuk, western Ethiopia, September 2011- UNHCR / T. Gudeta

## THE CONTEXT

### *Sudanese refugee emergency in Ethiopia, September 2011*

<b><u>Key Emergency Indicators</u></b>			
<u>Population Data</u>			
<b>Location</b>	<b>Sudanese refugees in western Ethiopia at 31 August 2011</b>	<b>New arrivals from 1 – 26 September</b>	<b>Total</b>
Bamza		2,000	2,000
Gizen		2,500	2,500
Kurmuk		8,500	8,500
Sherkole	4,374	3,000	7,374
Other locations	22,436	9,000	31,436
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,810</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>51,810</b>

Joint planning figure: 35,000 new arrivals

Entry Points: Refugees are arriving through a variety of entry points across the length of the Sudan/Ethiopia border area, including near Kurmuk, Sherkole, Gizen, Bamza, Toiba, Almahal

Immediate priorities:

- Registration
- Distribution of non-food relief items
- Food and emergency shelter
- Water, sanitation and health
- Transport

Overall Coordination: UNHCR

Partners: Ethiopia's Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA), IOM, UNICEF and WFP

NGO Partners: Africa Humanitarian Action, IMC, IRC, MSF and OXFAM

Following the declaration of independence by the Republic of South Sudan on 9 July 2011, tension increased in the Three Protocol Areas of Abyei, South Kordofan State and Blue Nile State. Hostilities erupted between the Sudan Armed Forces and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North on 1 September in the Blue Nile State's capital, Damazin.

Refugees from Blue Nile State started to arrive in western Ethiopia on 2 September 2011, which led to UNHCR and partners activating their coordinated contingency plans. An initial influx of around 20,000 Sudanese refugees was observed arriving in the Benishangul-Gumuz Regional State in Ethiopia. These new arrivals appeared at the Kurmuk entry point and at other points along the border. Since this initial influx, much movement has been occurring around the border areas. The remoteness of some of the entry points and the back and forth movements across the border make it difficult to establish the exact number of arrivals, but currently some 25,000 are estimated to be present inside Ethiopia. This figure could increase, as large numbers of IDPs are gathering on the Sudanese side of the border and may cross into Ethiopia should conflict in the Blue Nile State intensify and spread to other neighbouring states, in particular following the end of the rainy season. Ethiopia has maintained an open border for new arrivals.

Before this emergency, Ethiopia had been hosting over 26,800 Sudanese refugees in two camps in western Ethiopia: Fugnido in the Gambella Regional State, and Sherkole in the Benishangul-Gumuz Regional State, including some 500 refugees who came from South Kordofan and Abyei in the previous few months.

This refugee emergency is also occurring simultaneously with emergency response activities UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and IOM are carrying out to respond to the needs of people who are fleeing the drought and violence in Somalia and who are arriving in large numbers in south-eastern Ethiopia.

### **Assessment**

At the outset of the emergency, UNHCR and the Ethiopian Government's Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) conducted a joint assessment of the needs of the refugees who crossed into the Benishangul-Gumuz Regional State.

New arrivals have mostly entered Ethiopia through Kurmuk, Gizen, Bamza, Toiba and Almahal. However, increasingly people are arriving through unofficial points along what is a very porous border, as they are fleeing Sudan in great haste. Most refugees have remained at all of these locations, although almost 3,000 have been relocated to the existing refugee camp of Sherkole. Some refugees are sheltered in schools or scattered in near-by border villages.

While the physical condition of the first arriving refugees could be described as reasonable, later arrivals are in worse condition and include entire families. There is an urgent need for food, water and shelter, as the local authorities and the host communities have been sharing their resources with the new arrivals.

The majority of the refugees are women and children. A relative high number of unaccompanied and separated children have so far been received. As of 20 September, 323 unaccompanied children have been registered. The overall majority of new arrivals come from the Blue Nile State.

Before the start of this new influx, Sherkole camp had a population of 4,374. As it has a maximum capacity of 10,000, it can accommodate approximately 5,500 additional refugees. Some 3,000 new arrivals have already been transferred from the border entry points to the existing refugee camp at Sherkole. This brings the total population of Sherkole to 7,374.

An additional camp for some 10,000 refugees is being established at Tongo (approximately 120 km from the main border entry point of Kurmuk). Other potential sites are also being identified by UNHCR and ARRA. Agreement will have to be reached with the regional government to open camps in these locations.

### **Needs and response to date**

The Sudanese refugees who have arrived in western Ethiopia are in urgent need of life-saving assistance, in particular food, water and shelter. There are indications from assessment missions that a large number of separated and unaccompanied children are among the refugees crossing to Ethiopia. A Child Protection Officer is being deployed to carry out a further assessment.

Refugees entering at Kurmuk are temporarily staying at a former refugee reception site on the Ethiopian side of the border. They are subsequently being transported to Sherkole camp, which is 51 kilometres from the border. Due to the limited capacity of Sherkole camp, site preparation is currently ongoing at an additional allocated site, at Tongo. This site is expected to have a capacity for 10,000 refugees. Refugees arriving in Gizen have also started to be relocated to Sherkole camp.

Many refugees, however, are waiting to see if developments in the Blue Nile State will allow a rapid return, as they are concerned about family, livestock, and property in Sudan.

IOM has taken over the transportation of refugees from the border areas to the camps. Transport is one of the key requirements as refugees need to be relocated from the border as soon as possible, to enable the provision of life-saving services. The IOM emergency team has conducted road assessments and movement planning. Partnerships have been established with local transport and bus companies, and IOM-owned buses will increase local transportation capacity as required. Integrated into the transportation services is health assistance, including rapid pre-embarkation health checks to determine whether people are fit to travel onwards. Psychosocial support and referrals are facilitated to the nearest health facility when needed.

ARRA is conducting basic registration and screening at the transit sites. This is followed by full registration and profiling in Sherkole camp, by UNHCR and ARRA jointly. UNHCR has deployed 20 registration clerks from Addis Ababa to assist with registration.

Both the reception sites and refugee camps depend on water trucks for their water supply. UNHCR has secured a water truck to supply the different sites. UNHCR is working with its partners to expand the water services in Sherkole camp as its population grows. This will also require drilling additional boreholes and rehabilitating shallow wells. A site planner and WASH specialist are present at Tongo preparing it for new arrivals when Sherkole has reached the limits of its. UNICEF will be involved in the delivery of water services at the border locations and any new camp location(s), but not in Sherkole camp. UNICEF has contributed 10 water bladders with different capacities (3-10,000 lts). Three of these have been erected in Kurmuk and further sites have been identified in Gizen. UNICEF also provided 250 cartons of water purifier.

WFP has started distribution of dry rations for up to 9,000 refugees at the border reception centres in Kurmuk, Bamza, Gizen and Toiba. Hot meals are being provided by ARRA to all refugees relocated to Sherkole camp.

Basic relief items urgently required for the response effort include tents, blankets, kitchen sets, jerry-cans, soap, mats and other essential items. UNHCR sent core relief items to Assosa at the start of the emergency for immediate distribution, including some 5,000 jerry-cans, kitchen sets, and plastic sheeting. Some 10,000 blankets and 7,500 sleeping mats have also been released. Some of the core relief items currently entering Ethiopia for the emergency response in the south-eastern part of the country needed to be dispatched for immediate relief. These items will need to be replenished. Additional quantities of relief items have been released from the stockpile maintained in Nairobi for the Sudan situation.

UNHCR has a limited number of tents in stock, but an overland delivery to Ethiopia from Djibouti is underway. Some 1,800 tents are en route, with 3,200 following. Tents are urgently needed in order to protect the refugees from rain and cold weather conditions. Plastic sheeting (5,000) has also been dispatched. There is a need to increase storage capacity in Sherkole camp and a temporary warehouse will be erected.

UNHCR's emergency service has activated five new Emergency Response Team staff, including Field, Protection, Community Services, Supply and Registration officers. Four UNHCR staff evacuated to Assosa from Sudan are also supporting the response. Temporary deployments will also take place from Dollo Ado.

## **Strategy and activities for further response**

This joint appeal is based on the following assumptions:

- A planning figure of 35,000 new arrivals.
- Sudanese refugees are granted refugee status on a *prima facie* basis.
- Approximately 22,000 are now in need of transport services inside Ethiopia (e.g. from the border area to the camp), while new arrivals will also need to be moved away from the border area.
- Based on UNICEF's past experience with Sudanese refugee demographics, approximately 1.5% of total arrivals will be unaccompanied/separated children, an estimated total of 525.
- It is estimated that 16,000 children in the host and refugee communities (8,000 refugee children) will be in need of education and psycho-social support.
- Services developed and/or provided to refugees in non-camp locations will also be available to the host community.
- The average family size is 5 people.
- Sites will be granted by the Ethiopian authorities for a third camp (and, potentially, a fourth), as early as possible.
- UNICEF will be involved in the delivery of water services at the border locations and any new camp location(s), but not in Sherkole camp.

A major factor that will determine the continued response will be the developing situation in the Blue Nile State and the effect this has on the potential for eventual returns. ARRA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, IOM and other actors are maintaining the immediate emergency response and seeking support, especially in terms of basic needs, including transport, shelter, health, water, and food assistance.

The refugee population consists mainly of women and children. Many unaccompanied and separated children have been received. Mechanisms to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence will be put in place by relevant agencies. The protection of children is a priority, with particular concern for the unaccompanied and separated children.

Once the immediate humanitarian needs are addressed and the emergency phase has stabilized, it is expected that the majority of the new arrivals will return to Blue Nile State or go to South Sudan if conditions allow. The ones who do not want to return will need to remain in Sherkole camp, while in the new camps there will be a transition to non-emergency assistance activities.

## **Coordination and key partners**

UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, and IOM are appealing for funds to respond to the humanitarian needs of the arriving Sudanese refugees in western Ethiopia. Coordination meetings are taking place twice a day in Assosa. While at the camp level most regular services are available, but overstretched, there is a shortage of clean water. UNHCR and ARRA are coordinating with UN and NGO partners to provide sufficient quantities of potable water for refugees, entailing the rehabilitation and drilling of boreholes and the construction of water distribution systems. Partners will be engaged to put in place sanitation and other vital services in the new camps. Other key actors also present in the area include a number of well-known international NGOs.

The partners to this appeal, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and IOM will be responsible, respectively, for the following interventions:

**UNHCR** is coordinating the refugee emergency response, ensuring that the protection and basic needs of refugees are met.

**UNICEF** will be active in the following sectors: water, basic domestic hygiene items, sanitation, nutrition, education, child protection, and psychosocial services.

**WFP** will be responsible for the provision of food (and distribution will be implemented through ARRA).

**IOM** will be responsible for transport, as well as pre-departure health checks and facilitated health referrals as needed, for the relocation of refugees from border entry points to identified refugee camp(s). IOM will also provide psychosocial support and counselling in the refugee camps, and be responsible for transport assistance for return to either Sudan or South Sudan if/when the situation stabilizes.

**Activities by appeal partners:**

<b>AGENCY</b>	<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	<b>SECTOR/ACTIVITY</b>	<b>TARGET</b>
<b>UNHCR</b>	Fair protection processes and documentation  Basic needs and services	<b>Protection:</b> ○ Provide a safe reception environment, register all refugees and identify those refugees with specific needs for referral to the appropriate partner.	○ All refugees received into Ethiopia in appropriate reception conditions and registered.
		<b>Health and nutrition:</b> ○ Through ARRA, deliver health services to address the primary health care and nutrition needs of the new arrivals and provide nutrition services for the malnourished.	○ Health status of new arrivals is stabilised. ○ Primary health care is accessible to all refugees in the camps. ○ Nutrition status of refugees is stabilised and maintained.
		<b>Core relief items (CRIs):</b> ○ Procure and distribute CRIs to the new arrivals.	○ CRIs distributed to all newly arrived households in the camp, including, sleeping mats and kitchen sets.
		<b>Shelter:</b> ○ Provide emergency shelter for new arrivals in the camps.	○ All new arrivals have emergency shelter.
		<b>Education:</b> ○ Provide primary and secondary education to all school-age children in the camps.	○ Educational facilities are extended/built. ○ Educational services are provided.
		<b>Sanitation:</b> ○ Provide latrines and safe waste disposal at the reception sites and camps.	○ Sufficient latrines are provided in all locations. ○ Safe waste disposal systems are established and maintained in all sites.

		<b>Water:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Provide water of appropriate quality and quantity, for drinking, cooking and maintaining personal hygiene in Sherkole camp.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Refugee population has access to 15 litres of safe water per person per day.</li> </ul>
<b>IOM</b>		<b>Transport:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Provide transport assistance, including pre-departure health checks and referrals for refugees from the border to the identified camps and transit sites.</li> <li>○ Provide transport assistance to refugees to third country destinations or return to the areas they came from.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Refugees provided with safe and dignified humanitarian transport assistance</li> </ul>
		<b>Psychosocial services:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Provide psycho-social support and counselling to refugees.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Refugees with psychological or emotional distress provided with psychosocial support and counselling and referred for further care as needed.</li> </ul>
<b>UNICEF</b>		<b>Water:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Provide water of appropriate quality and quantity, for drinking, cooking and maintaining personal hygiene.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Refugee population has access to 5 litres of safe water per person per day (through emergency water trucking).</li> <li>○ Improved community water supply provides safe water for 15-20,000 people in host community.</li> </ul>
		<b>Basic domestic and hygiene items:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Distribute basic WASH items.</li> <li>○ Implement training and awareness activities relating to basic hygiene and sanitation in local language.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Population are provided with water treatment chemicals, water storage containers and soap.</li> <li>○ Population has access to advice on the safe management of water, hand washing and personal hygiene.</li> </ul>
		<b>Sanitation:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Establish sanitation systems in schools and health facilities in refugee camps and host communities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ All schools and health facilities in refugee camps and host communities have separate latrines for men and women.</li> <li>○ Refugees have access to good sanitary facilities in camps.</li> </ul>



		<p><b>Nutrition:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Undertake rapid nutrition assessment, including infant feeding assessment.</li> <li>○ Support partners to provide therapeutic feeding services for severely malnourished.</li> <li>○ Support partners to improve Infant and Young Child Feeding practices.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Partners have adequate supplies for the management of severe malnutrition.</li> <li>○ Mothers have received advice on young child feeding practices.</li> </ul>
		<p><b>Education:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Support the provision of quality education to children, including girls and marginalised children.</li> <li>○ Build capacity of teachers to provide psycho-social support.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ School-aged children (4-18 years old) in refugee camps and host communities receive learning materials</li> <li>○ School-aged children (4-18 years old) in refugee camps and host communities have access to psycho-social support by trained teachers in learning spaces.</li> </ul>
		<p><b>Child protection:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Establish community care structures in camps and host communities and equip these with capacity to respond to violence, exploitation and abuse of children, as well as gender based violence (GBV).</li> <li>○ Establish system to identify, document, and conduct family tracing, reunification (IDFTR) and establish alternative care system in refugee camps.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Community care structures reach vulnerable populations in refugee camps and host communities.</li> <li>○ Unaccompanied and/or separated children are reunified or placed in appropriate alternative care, in accordance with inter-agency agreement.</li> </ul>
		<p><b>Psychosocial Services:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Establish child-friendly spaces providing minimum psycho-social services to refugee and host communities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Refugee children living in refugee camps and host community have access to child-friendly spaces.</li> </ul>
<b>WFP</b>		<p><b>Food:</b></p> <p>Provision of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mixed food commodities basket for general feeding in the camps.</li> <li>○ High-Energy-Biscuits (HEB) for newly arrived refugees at entry points (3 days estimated) until they transfer to the camp.</li> <li>○ Supplementary food rations, in</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ General feeding rations, with mixed food commodities, are provided to refugees in a timely manner.</li> <li>○ HEB provided in a timely manner.</li> <li>○ Supplementary food rations are provided to vulnerable</li> </ul>

		<p>sufficient quantity and quality, to vulnerable individuals for targeted supplementary feeding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Supplementary food rations in sufficient quantity and quality to vulnerable individuals for blanket feeding, (blanket feeding programme will be initiated in case GAM is above 15 percent for all children aged 6-59 months).</li> <li>○ School meals for school-aged children to stabilize enrolment of refugee girls and boys in schools in the camps.</li> </ul>	<p>individuals in targeted supplementary feeding activities in a timely manner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Supplementary food rations are provided to vulnerable individuals in blanket feeding programme in a timely manner.</li> <li>○ School meals for school aged refugees are provided to WFP-assisted schools in refugee camps in a timely manner.</li> </ul>
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## JOINT FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

<b>OVERALL BUDGET REQUIREMENTS</b>	
<b>Organization</b>	<b>Total USD</b>
UNHCR	10,000,000
UNICEF	4,883,819
WFP	2,341,141
IOM	1,116,350
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18,341,310</b>

### UNHCR

UNHCR immediately made USD 2,994,000 available to ensure assistance without delay for newly arriving refugees. The initial allocation is to cover food, including biscuits, water trucking, and transport for refugees, non-food relief items, health, shelter procurement, air transport and other costs. In this supplementary appeal UNHCR is requesting USD 10 million to assist 35,000 newly arriving refugees until the end of 2011.

<b>UNHCR BUDGET</b>	
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Pillar 1 (USD)</b>
<b><i>Fair protection processes and documentation</i></b>	
Reception conditions	444,267
Registration and profiling	389,283
<b><i>Favourable protection environment</i></b>	
Natural resources and shared environment protected	646,150
<b><i>Security from violence and exploitation</i></b>	
Protection of children	129,850
Gender-based violence	235,513
<b><i>Basic needs and services</i></b>	
Health	567,308
Education	473,827
Basic domestic and hygiene items	271,407
HIV/ AIDS response	100,000
Services for groups with specific needs	151,608
Shelter and infrastructure	1,333,604
Sanitation	337,421
Water	1,051,751
Nutrition	607,979
<b><i>Community participation and self-management</i></b>	
Participatory assessment and community mobilization	77,362
<b><i>Durable solutions</i></b>	
Voluntary Return	100,000
<b><i>External relations</i></b>	
Public information	133,611
<b><i>Logistics and operations support</i></b>	
Logistics and supply	1,437,902
Programme management, coordination and support	1,511,158
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,000,000</b>

\*includes 7% support costs

## WFP

The WFP Budget of USD 2,341,141 is for 3 months for 35,000 planned beneficiaries. The total includes provision for 2,551 MT of food commodities for general feeding, targeted supplementary feeding, blanket feeding and school feeding. This includes transport costs, direct support costs, other direct operational costs, Landside Transport, Storage and Handling and 7 % indirect support costs.

<b>Commodity Breakdown</b>										
Activities	Beneficiaries	Cereals MT	Pulses	Oil	salt	CSB+	HEB	RUSF	Sugar	Total
<b>GFD</b>	35,000	1,680	158	95	16	158	32		47	2,184
<b>Regular TSF</b>	2,818			6		51			5	62
<b>TSF RUSF</b>	4,200							35		35
<b>Blanket feeding</b>	10,500			24		189			19	232

<b>WFP BUDGET</b>	
<b>Sector</b>	<b>USD</b>
Transport	614,086
Food security	1,727,055
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,341,141</b>

## UNICEF

UNICEF's immediate financial requirements for this emergency are:

<b>UNICEF BUDGET</b>	
<b>Sector</b>	<b>USD</b>
Protection of children	938,872
Health	1,135,912
Education	629,695
Basic domestic and hygiene items	94,160
Sanitation	530,185
Water	1,474,995
Nutrition	80,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,883,819</b>

## **IOM**

The IOM requirements for refugee transportation, including pre-departure health checks and referrals, and provision of psychosocial assistance, are as follows:

<b>IOM BUDGET</b>	
<b>Sector</b>	<b>USD</b>
Transport assistance to refugees	1,005,850
Psychosocial assistance and counselling	110,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,116,350</b>

This initial joint appeal is based on preliminary assessments of the situation and may be adjusted as the situation evolves.

Contact details:

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