

East and Horn of Africa, and the Great Lakes Region

18 June - 1 July 2020

 **4.6** MILLION
 REFUGEES & ASYLUM-SEEKERS

 **8.1** MILLION
 INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

 **469,000**
 REFUGEE RETURNEES

33,858 CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES IN HOSTING COUNTRIES

Operational Context

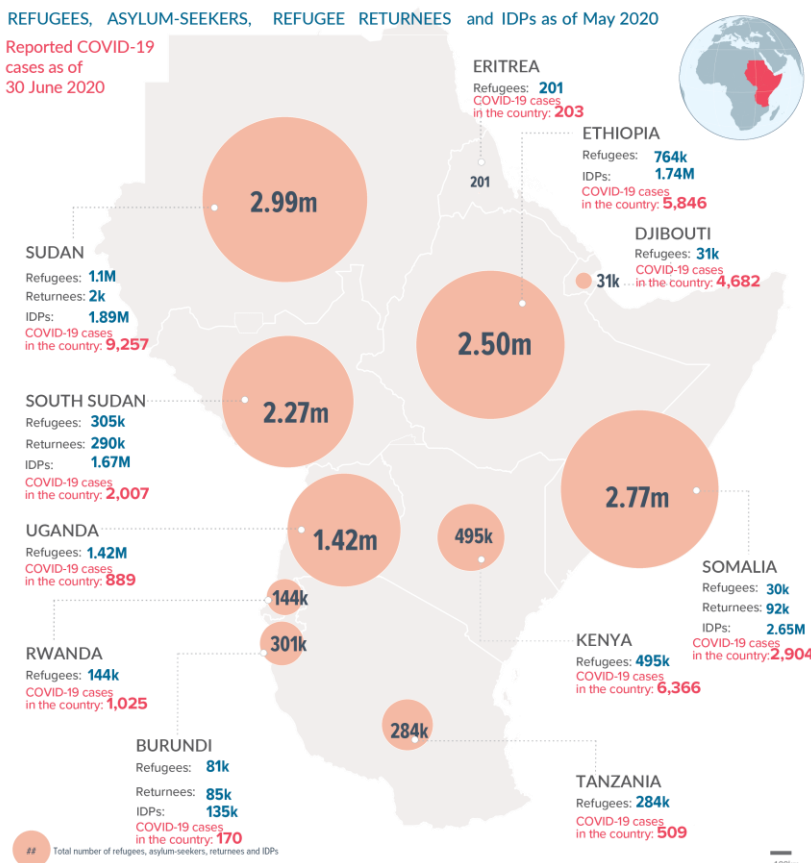
The COVID-19 situation in the East and Horn of Africa, and the Great Lakes (EHAGL) region continues to evolve. While there has been no large-scale outbreak amongst UNHCR's populations of concern so far, 4.6 million refugees and 8.1 million IDPs and their host communities are at risk. The need for preparedness remains urgent as local transmission is ongoing and cases are still rising in all countries of the region. Governments have put in place various measures to contain the spread of the virus and are periodically announcing changes to movement and other restrictions.

As of 30 June, there were 33,858 confirmed COVID-19 cases in all countries covered by UNHCR's EHAGL Regional Bureau. Sudan, with over 9,000 cases, has the highest number in the region followed by Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia and South Sudan.

In **Burundi**, the President elect, Evariste Ndayishimiye, was sworn in on 18 June, two months ahead of the inauguration scheduled for 20 August, following the sudden death of former president Pierre Nkurunziza on 8 June. During his speech, the President urged people who had fled the country, including government critics, human rights activists and refugees, to return. In **Djibouti**, the Ministry of Health will deploy a team in July to proceed with the testing of 1,000 refugees, starting with persons with specific needs.

REFUGEES, ASYLUM-SEEKERS, REFUGEE RETURNEES and IDPs as of May 2020

Reported COVID-19 cases as of 30 June 2020



Key Measures Taken

- Supporting national authorities in ensuring that prevention and response preparedness are ongoing in all locations.
- Ensuring basic assistance and minimum standards during quarantine for new asylum seekers and refugees who have travelled internally within host countries.
- Procurement and distribution of necessary equipment is ongoing.

*COVID-19 Case information: WHO, John Hopkins University, Ministries of Health, Governments. Note: COVID-19 cases refer to total cases reported in the countries of asylum. IDP figures source: IOM, OCHA and UNHCR.

UNHCR Response

Protection

UNHCR continues to assess the impact of border closures and travel restrictions on access to asylum. Access to registration and refugee status determination for new asylum seekers remains difficult due to the current lockdowns. Movements continue through unofficial border crossing points where screening and provision of information is not in place. Across the region, UNHCR has appealed for special measures to be put in place, to allow for asylum-seekers to be screened, quarantined and admitted, and for UNHCR to be granted access to areas where new refugees are arriving. On 30 June, UNHCR launched a global online Platform on the protection impact of temporary measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including access to territory and national asylum systems.

In **Uganda**, preparations have been made to receive refugees from the DRC through two border entry points that were temporarily opened on 1 July to admit Congolese asylum seekers who had been stranded at the border since late May. UNHCR has worked with the Government to ensure that screening, quarantine facilities and emergency assistance are in place, including the prepositioning of 5,000 test kits for COVID-19. The Ministry of Health has deployed a team on the ground in coordination with the National Laboratory for the collection, transportation and testing of samples taken. A joint response strategy for health and nutrition has been developed by all partners on the ground.



Installation of family tents at the Institutional Quarantine Centre (IQC) in Zombo-DFI. UNHCR/AK Taban

In **Ethiopia**, despite the State of Emergency's ban against large-scale movements, there have been concerted efforts by the Government to decongest the overcrowded IDP sites throughout the country during the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout the months of May and June, the Government has been facilitating return movements of up to 750 households in order to decongest the IDP sites in the Oromia regions.

In **Burundi**, on 15 and 16 June, a joint-assessment mission to the Transit Centres used for voluntary repatriation was conducted by the Ministry of Health, the Director General for Repatriation, WHO, UNHCR and IOM to review the COVID-19 prevention measures in place. The mission assessed how to upgrade isolation centres, screening and testing of the returnees and case management. The Ministry of Interior has indicated that repatriation remains a priority of the new government and urged UNHCR to re-start even small convoys, whilst working to increase screening and testing capacity for COVID-19 at the centres. A meeting of the Technical Working Group of the Tripartite Commission is scheduled for 22-24 July in Kigoma, Tanzania. Voluntary repatriation has been on hold since the week of 18 May when elections were held.

8 countries where access to territory is denied. UNHCR continues to advocate with Government partners to be able to carry out border monitoring activities, especially in lockdown situations.

Strengthening and seeking innovative approaches to support in developing guidance documents on Risk Communication & Community Engagement and disseminating information to persons of concern.

Continue to adapt and strengthen provision of Mental Health and Psychological Support to persons of concern through various ways.

Efforts continue to enhance meaningful participation of women, men, girls and boys in order to address their most pressing needs.

Education

With seven countries in the region (**Djibouti, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda**), proposing school reopening in September 2020, preparation is now of essence. **Tanzania** fully reopened all schools on 29 June and the region continues to monitor this to inform other countries as they move forward. Mapping of WASH facilities in schools has been initiated in **Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda** to inform expansion and improvement of WASH facilities in preparation for school re-opening. A data collection tool has been developed to assess the status of WASH facilities in schools and will be administered in early July by all country operations. Education Cannot Wait COVID-19 emergency funding being considered for four countries in the region (**Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan and Tanzania**) would include school reopening activities. Other measures undertaken to prepare country operations for school reopening include an inter-agency and multi-sectoral webinar on school reopening held on 18 June for Education, WASH, Nutrition, Public Health and Protection staff in all country operations to build a consensus on the engagement required by all sectors to prepare schools. Follow up webinars are planned to explore further actions required by each country to move this process forward.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Emphasis remains on blanket prevention activities in camps and working with the health sector to assess and prepare for WASH needs and infection prevention control in identified health structures to isolate and treat COVID-19 patients.

WASH prevention activities targeting all camp populations, such as increased water supply, provision of soap for handwashing and public awareness activities are progressing throughout the region. The replenishment of hygiene material requires longer term planning and additional funding as the timeline of the pandemic continues to extend.

In **Ethiopia**, UNHCR and partners are focused on upgrading the conditions at the Temporary Assessment Units at the camps in Tigray. While the procurement of required materials is underway, existing resources at the Endabaguna Reception Center (beds and mattresses) have been moved to the TAUs at Adi Harush and Mai Aini camps, as these facilities are currently hosting a significant number of suspected cases. UNHCR, through IRC, has started the construction of trench latrines, showers and waste disposal pits at TAUs in the four camps. UNHCR has also increased the frequency of water trucking, to ensure the water supply to Mai Aini and Adi Harush camps, and the surrounding host community town of Mai Tsebri. In **Sudan**, community-based structures, with participation of refugee volunteers and refugee community leaders, are scaling up the distribution of Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials and hand sanitizers during awareness raising campaigns in Al Meiram and Kharasana refugee settlements (West Kordofan). Awareness raising campaigns and sessions on COVID-19 prevention measures were held with refugees in reception centers, community centers and sub-settlements. A soap distribution was conducted for 10,000 individuals in Kario and El Nimir refugee camps in East Darfur from 14-23 June.

Health

Major health challenges include the immediate availability of equipment necessary to detect, test and treat complicated cases, medical and PPE supplies and adequate quarantine facilities, as well as the feasibility of practicing physical distancing at the community level.

Operations continue to implement preparedness and response plans which involve identification, establishment and equipping of isolation units in often congested camps and settlements.

In the East of **Sudan**, trainings were conducted for 140 community leaders from the Eritrean, Ethiopian and Somali refugee communities to convey information about community surveillance, contact tracing, referral to health facilities, promotion of infection control and hygiene, home care and support to people in self-isolation and care in quarantine, together with International Humanitarian Charity Organization (IHCO), Sudanese Red Crescent (SRCS) and the Ministry of Health (MOH). In **Uganda**, a major concern remains the limited quarantine space in the Palorinya settlement in Moyo District, hosting South Sudanese refugees. The crowded facility presents a high risk for both health workers and those being quarantined as prescribed infection prevention measures and COVID-19 management protocols cannot be sufficiently adhered to due to limited medical facilities. The sustainability of feeding arrangements for those in quarantine is a related challenge.

Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion

Economic inclusion exchange regional forum on displacement

On 25 June UNHCR together with NRC re-initiated a regional forum and exchange on economic inclusion and displacement. A monthly online exchange for practitioners and an associated web portal brings together members of regional INGOs, UN agencies, IFIs, CSOs and research institutes across the humanitarian-development nexus in Eastern Africa. The exchange stimulates discussions, research, and sharing of best practices related to the livelihoods and economic inclusion of refugees, returnees, other persons in displacement and their host communities. It is an open platform for discussion of partners advocating, researching, investing and realizing projects that strengthen self-reliance and resilience, reduce the need for assistance, contribute to economies, increase protection and enhance durable solutions. Upcoming virtual exchange meetings will be dedicated to topics such as livelihood adaptation during COVID-19, coordination efforts of the poverty alleviation coalition, best practices for financial inclusion and presentations of key research findings. Practitioners, researchers and partners who have a regional focus and are interested to join, are encouraged to reach out directly to the group coordinators listed on the [site](#).

Spotlight on refugee artisans

In celebration of World Refugee Day 2020, UNHCR's global brand of artisanal products crafted by refugees, MADE51, launched for the very first time an [online shop](#). Homeware and accessories made by refugee artisans around the globe, including refugees living in **Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan and Tanzania**, can now be purchased by consumers to support UNHCR livelihood programs around the world. MADE51 highlights that when refugees flee, they carry with them traditions, skills and craftsmanship. By including them in global value chains, MADE51 offers refugees a way to earn an income and the opportunity to rebuild their lives and establish independence. This is particularly crucial considering the current COVID-19 pandemic that has affected the livelihood of many refugees. Country operations have



Burundian women, who have recently returned to Burundi from Mtendeli refugee camp in Tanzania, weave together in groups. UNHCR/H. Christ

been pursuing opportunities for refugee artisans to use their skills and continue to generate income by producing items needed to address the COVID-19 pandemic such as face masks, soap and other products.

Inter-agency Coordination

Operations are working closely with UN Country Teams, Resident Coordinators and the World Health Organization on crisis management, personnel and business continuity arrangements, program criticality, preparedness, and response planning. Existing refugee response coordination structures continue to function, through virtual communication where relevant.

At the regional level UNHCR is engaged with the Regional Humanitarian Partners Team (RHPT) to map the impact on humanitarian operations and coordinate on advocacy messaging, as well as with many sectoral groups including health, nutrition, education, and child protection which have been developing context specific inter-agency guidance on programming during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A recent meeting of the RHPT discussed access-related issues, where UNHCR provided an overview of access to refugees and IDPs in the region.

The 14th virtual NGO consultations, held on 24 June, looked at experiences in cash assistance in the COVID-19 response. The meeting featured four cash experts from ICRC, IFRC, NRC and UNHCR and offered a platform for

75 participants to share innovative and effective approaches for cash assistance in the COVID-19 response, and to discuss opportunities and challenges going forward.

On 17 June, the 13th virtual NGO consultation featured UNHCR-led global cluster coordinators (Protection, CCCM, Shelter) and NGO partner Danish Refugee Council. It offered a platform for participants to discuss priorities and challenges in UNHCR-led cluster response during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Regional Bureau, in collaboration with other organisations provided training for 61 participants of the regional Communicating with Communities (CwC) Inter Agency Working Group comprised of government, UN, INGOs and Local NGOs, on collective feedback systems in Kakuma, Kenya. The Regional Bureau is also working collaboratively with inter-agency partners to support the development of a guidance note on risk communication and community engagement in complex setting in Africa (informal settlements, camps and conflict settings).

Funding needs

The revised UN inter-agency *Global Humanitarian Response Plan* was launched on 7 May seeking US\$6.7 billion and includes UNHCR's revised requirements of US\$745 million. UNHCR's *Revised Emergency Appeal* detailing the country and sectoral breakdown of UNHCR's global budget requirements was launched on 11 May. Within the revised appeal, \$126 million has been requested for ten countries in the East and Horn and Great Lakes Region.

This is a revision of the initial *Global Humanitarian Response Plan* launched on 25 March seeking US\$2.01 billion, and which included US\$255 million for initial, prioritized requirements in UNHCR's operations in affected countries.

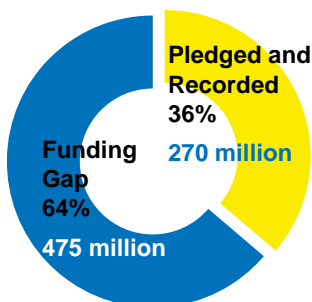
The increase is due to a rapid evolution of humanitarian needs, the inclusion of additional countries, increased cost of essential health and other supplies, and air and sea transportation. UNHCR is further scaling up its health, shelter and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) preparedness and response interventions, providing cash and other support to vulnerable displaced families experiencing economic shock, and ensuring protection and assistance for those most affected.

USD 745 million
 requested by
 UNHCR in the
 revised inter-agency
 Global
 Humanitarian
 Response Plan

USD 126 million
 requested for 10
 countries in the
 East and Horn of
 Africa and Great
 Lakes region

Funding

USD 745M requested for UNHCR's COVID-19 response globally over the next nine months:



Total contributed or pledged to the COVID-19 appeal

USD 270M including:

United States \$64M | Germany \$38M | European Union \$32.8M | United Kingdom \$24.8M | Japan \$23.9M | Denmark \$14.6M | United Nations Foundation \$10M | CERF \$6.9M | Canada \$6.4M | Ireland \$3.3M | Sweden \$3M | Sony Corporation \$3M | Luxembourg \$2.6M | Finland \$2.4M | Education Cannot Wait \$1.8M | Qatar Charity \$1.5M | Norway \$1.4M | USA for UNHCR \$1M

Unearmarked contributions to UNHCR's regular global programmes:

Sweden 76.4M | Norway 41.4M | Netherlands 36.1M | Denmark 34.6M | United Kingdom 31.7M | Private donors in Spain 26.6M | Germany 25.9M | Switzerland 16.4M | Private donors in Republic of Korea 13.9M

Links:

UNHCR Press release: [Uganda provides a safe haven to DRC refugees amid COVID-19 lockdown](#)

UNHCR Blog: [Beneficiaries of monitored livelihoods programmes see gains in employment, income and savings](#)

UNHCR COVID-19 Platform: [Temporary Measures and Impact on Protection](#)

MADE-51 Shop: <https://shop.made51.org/>

Click [here](#) to access a [live dashboard](#) providing information on COVID-19 cases in the region, as well as travel restrictions and movement and border controls put in place by Governments.

Contacts

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