

Ethiopia - Standardized Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS) - 2024

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

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Identification

SURVEY ID NUMBER

ETH_2024_SENS_v01_M_v01_A_ESS

TITLE

Standardized Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS) - 2024

COUNTRY

Name	Country code
Ethiopia	ETH

STUDY TYPE

Other Household Survey [hh/oth]

SERIES INFORMATION

The Standardised Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS) is a series of survey methodologies developed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and specifically designed to consider the factors that are most relevant to refugees. SENS measures not only nutritional status data but also measures relevant other data related to household composition, anaemia, measles vaccination, vitamin A supplementation, diarrhoea and other health-related indicators, infant and young child feeding practices, food availability, drinking water, hygiene, latrine usage and mosquito nets at the household-level. By collecting all this data, SENS studies provide a detailed snapshot of the nutritional health of a refugee population at a given point in time.

ABSTRACT

The Standardized Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS) 2024 was conducted in the Mirqaan Refugee Camp, located in Bokh Woreda, Doolo Zone, Somali Region, Ethiopia. The camp was established in April 2023 and hosts over 52 000 refugees and asylum seekers, primarily displaced by the conflict in Lascanood. The survey aimed to assess the nutritional and public health status of the camp population and to inform targeted interventions. Following the version 3 of SENS guidelines and the Standardised Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) methodology, simple random sampling was used to select households, and data was collected between January 25 and 27, 2024.

The study included modules on, among others, anthropometry, child health, infant and young child feeding (IYCF), food security (administered to a sub-sample amounting to 50 percent of total households), demography, and mortality. Results indicate a critical nutrition situation, with a Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate of 24.2 percent and Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) prevalence of 3.8 percent, both exceeding emergency thresholds. The survey also highlights suboptimal IYCF practices, limited vaccination coverage, and gaps in preventive nutrition programming. Findings underscore the urgent need for multisectoral support to restore and strengthen nutrition and health services in the Mirqaan camp.

KIND OF DATA

Sample survey data [ssd]

UNIT OF ANALYSIS

Households

Scope

NOTES

The scope included:

- Demographic profile
- Mortality
- Anthropometric and child health indicators
- Anaemia among children and women
- Infant and young child feeding practices
- Food consumption and coping strategies
- In-kind food assistance
- Ownership and use of mosquito nets
- Access to WASH services and hygiene products

KEYWORDS

Keyword
Health and Nutrition
Water Sanitation Hygiene
Malaria Prevention and Control

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

The study covered the Mirqaan Refugee Camp, located in Bokh Woreda, Doolo Zone, Somali Region, Ethiopia.

UNIVERSE

The population group covered in the study was refugees and asylum seekers residing in Mirqaan Refugee Camp as of January 2024.

Producers and sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATORS

Name
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

PRODUCERS

Name
World Food Programme (WFP)
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS)
Organization for Welfare and Development in Action (OWDA)
Department of Refugee Services (DDS)
Bokh Woreda Health Bureau

Sampling

SAMPLING PROCEDURE

Simple random sampling was used to select households from the Mirqaan Refugee Camp to include in the study. The sample size was calculated using the Emergency Nutrition Assessment (ENA) software for SMART. A 10 percent non-response rate was assumed. Finite population correction was applied to account for the small size of the under-5 population. Prior to the survey, the Organization for Welfare and Development in Action (OWDA) conducted the household verification and labelling.

WEIGHTING

Design weights were calculated using the total refugee population in Mirqaan (52 136) and the sample size for each module.

For modules with sub-sampling, such as Food Security (administered to 50 percent of households), separate weights, based on the selection probability, should be applied.

Data collection

DATES OF DATA COLLECTION

Start	End
2024-01-25	2024-01-27

DATA COLLECTION MODE

Face-to-face [f2f]

DATA COLLECTION NOTES

Data was collected via face-to-face interviews using mobile phones (KoBo Collect, version 2023.2.4). Five survey teams were trained and deployed, each consisting of a team leader, an interviewer, a translator, and an anthropometric assistant. Centralized training included standardization and pilot testing. All eligible children aged 0 to 59 months in the selected households were assessed. Food Security data was collected from a sub-sample amounting to 50 percent of total households.

DATA COLLECTORS

Name
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
World Food Programme (WFP)
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS)
Organization for Welfare and Development in Action (OWDA)
Department of Refugee Services (DDS)
Bokh Woreda Health Bureau

Questionnaires

QUESTIONNAIRES

The standard version 3 of the SENS questionnaires was used, which includes demographic, mortality, anthropometry, child health, infant and young child feeding, food security, and WASH modules.

Access policy

CONTACTS

Name	Affiliation	Email	URL
Curation team	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	dencomdl@unhcr.org	Link

CITATION REQUIREMENTS

UNHCR (2025). Ethiopia: Standardised Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS). Accessed from: <https://microdata.unhcr.org>

Metadata production

DDI DOCUMENT ID

DDI_ETH_2024_SENS_v01_M_v01_A_ESS_FAO

PRODUCERS

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation	Role
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	UNHCR	United Nations	Metadata producer

Statistics Division	ESS	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Metadata adapted for FAM
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Data Dictionary

Data file	Cases	Variables
Children module This file contains the children module data dictionary.	0	46
Demographics & Mortality This file contains the Demographics & Mortality module data dictionary.	0	31
Food Security, Therapeutic Nutrition & WASH This file contains the Food Security, Therapeutic Nutrition & WASH module data dictionary.	0	51