

Ethiopia - Standardised Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS) - 2023

**United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Refugees and Returnees
Service (RRS)**

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Identification

SURVEY ID NUMBER

ETH_2023_SENS_v01_M_v01_A_ESS

TITLE

Standardised Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS) - 2023

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 (IYCF), food availability, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), 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

This dataset presents findings from the Standardized Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS) 2023 conducted at the Alemwach refugee site in Ethiopia's Amhara region. Established in 2020, Alemwach refugee site hosts Eritrean refugees relocated from northern Tigray due to conflict. The survey, led by the UN Refugee Agency and Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) in collaboration with government and partner organizations, aimed to assess the health, nutrition, food security, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) conditions of the refugee population. Using version 3 of SENS guidelines (2018) and the Standardised Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) methodology, data were collected through face-to-face interviews with households selected via simple random sampling. As of 1 December 2023, Alemwach hosted 21 557 individuals, including 1940 children under five (9 percent of the population). The anonymized dataset supports evidence-based planning and targeted interventions to address the essential needs of refugees residing in Alemwach.

KIND OF DATA

Sample survey data [ssd]

UNIT OF ANALYSIS

Household

Scope

NOTES

The scope includes:

- Demographic profile
- Mortality
- Anthropometric and child health indicators
- Anaemia among children and women
- Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices
- Food consumption and coping strategies
- In-kind food assistance
- Ownership and use of mosquito nets
- Access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services and hygiene products

KEYWORDS

Keyword

Health and Nutrition
Water Sanitation Hygiene
Malaria Prevention and Control
Food Consumption

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

The study covered the Alemwach Refugee Camp.

UNIVERSE

The population group covered in the study was refugees and asylum seekers residing in Alemwach Refugee Camp.

Producers and sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATORS

Name
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS)

PRODUCERS

Name
World Food Programme (WFP)
PLAN International
World Vision
Medical Teams International (MTI)
Dabat and Gendawuha Woreda Health Office

Sampling

SAMPLING PROCEDURE

Simple random sampling was applied to select households within the Alemwach refugee site. The sample size was calculated using UNHCR SENS Version 3 (2018) guidelines, taking into account estimated prevalence rates, desired precision, and design effect. The survey team conducted household listing prior to selection to ensure a complete sampling frame.

WEIGHTING

Sampling weights were calculated to reflect the inverse probability of selection of each household, accounting for the total refugee population in Alemwach and the achieved sample size. These weights correct for unequal probabilities of selection and allow extrapolation of survey estimates to the entire camp population.

Data collection

DATES OF DATA COLLECTION

Start	End
2023-12-11	2023-12-16

DATA COLLECTION MODE

Face-to-face [f2f]

DATA COLLECTION NOTES

Data collection was conducted through face-to-face interviews using mobile devices between 11 and 16 December 2023, at the Alemwach refugee site. Field teams were trained on the Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) methodology and SENS tools prior to deployment.

DATA COLLECTORS

Name
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS)
World Food Programme
PLAN International
World Vision
Medical Teams International (MTI)
Dabat and Gendawuha Woreda Health Office

Questionnaires

QUESTIONNAIRES

The questionnaire followed the Standardized Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS) Version 3 (2018) tools, covering modules on household demographics, child anthropometry, health, food security, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

Access policy

CONTACTS

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

CITATION REQUIREMENTS

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

Metadata production

DDI DOCUMENT ID

DDI_ETH_2023_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

Data Dictionary

Data file	Cases	Variables
Children module This file contains the children module data dictionary.	0	35
Demographics & Mortality This file contains the Demographics & Mortality module data dictionary.	0	5
Food Security, Therapeutic Nutrition & WASH This file contains the Food Security, Therapeutic Nutrition & WASH module data dictionary.	0	88