

Regional Bureau for **Eastern Africa**



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

BREAKTHROUGH IN THE SKIES:

United Nations
Humanitarian Air Services





WFP/Benoit Lognone

WFP-managed United Nations Humanitarian Air Services (UNHAS) played a crucial role in enabling humanitarian response in Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia Kenya and South Sudan. UNHAS provided timely, reliable, cost-effective air transport service to 375 humanitarian partners. This was particularly critical in fragile contexts where access was limited due to conflict or climatic disasters, and no suitable commercial aviation options were available.

UNHAS aviation services facilitated a range of humanitarian responses including the transportation of humanitarian cargo and workers, diplomatic missions, medical evacuations, and interagency assessments. With these services, WFP was able to support partners to reach vulnerable people with timely humanitarian response.

Aligned with Sustainable Development, in Kenya, UNHAS transported more than 15,000 humanitarian workers. Responding to heightened humanitarian demands resulting from drought, UNHAS conducted over 12 special charters, aiding organizations in reaching affected areas like Wajir, Mandera, Garissa, and Lodwar. Concurrently, EU-HAF Kenya transported over 6,000 passengers and 30 metric tons of cargo.



In Somalia, UNHAS played a vital role in ensuring continued assistance during floods and prolonged droughts. Utilizing fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters procured jointly with the logistics cluster. Notably, UNHAS supported flood relief efforts by transporting 15 boats and 570 metric tons of urgent humanitarian cargo.



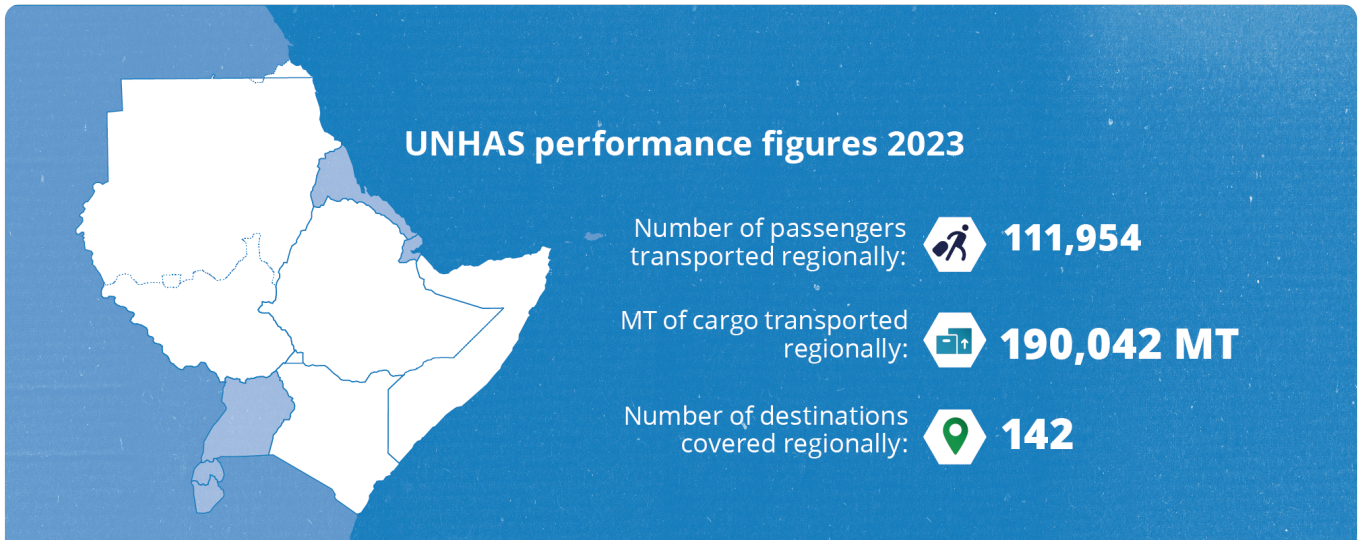
In Ethiopia, UNHAS transported humanitarian workers and cargo to Melkadida, Mekelle, and Shire and supported ad hoc flights in Jijiga. Due to the resumption of regular commercial flights to Tigray and the corresponding decrease in demand, UNHAS ceased its services in July.



In Sudan, the outbreak of war in April prompted UNHAS to swiftly reconfigure its fleet to adapt to changing demands. This adjustment facilitated the evacuation of approximately 600 humanitarian personnel and their families from Sudan. UNHAS developed a Concept of Operations to establish regular air transport service to and from Sudan through airbridges connecting to Nairobi and Amman. This provided the humanitarian community with reliable air access to Port Sudan to enable the implementation and resumption of humanitarian programmes. In 2023, UNHAS transported over 11,000 passengers for 104 different user organisations.



In South Sudan, to respond to the Sudan crisis, UNHAS increased its weekly flights to Renk, the primary county of entry for new arrivals, from two to eight flights.



 Passengers transported

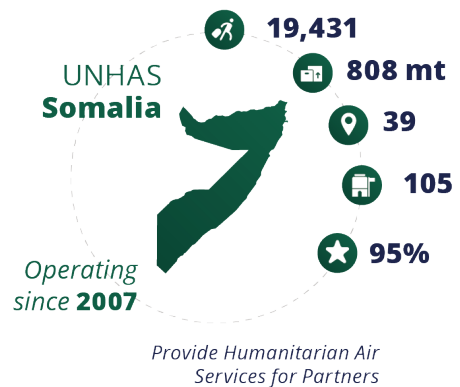
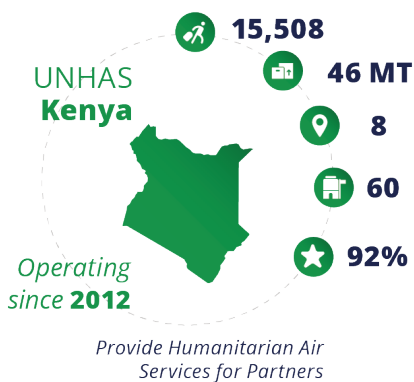
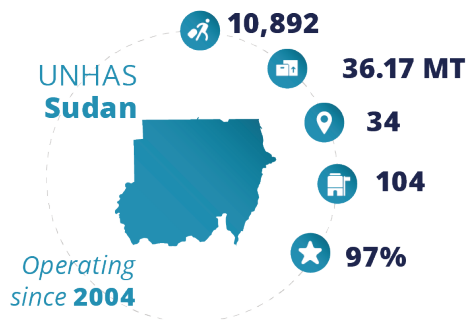
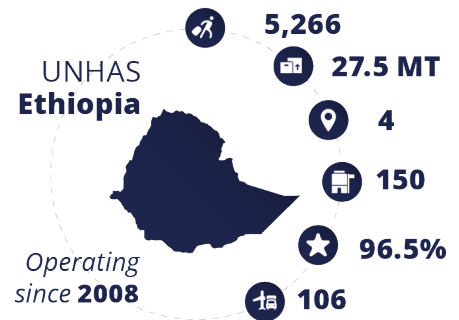
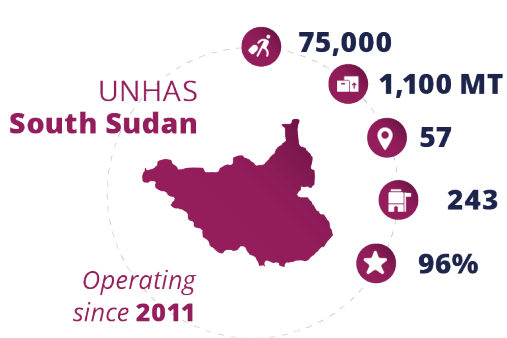
 Cargo transported

 Passenger satisfaction rate

 Locations served

 Supply chain solutions and services provided to the government and partners by WFP

 Agencies and organizations using humanitarian air services



Contact Information

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