UNHCR
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Refugees and Returnees Service

Somali Regional State

Ethiopia

MELKADIDA REFUGEE COMPACT

Building Resilience Together

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Wadajir iyo Wadaag

(2024–2027)

A four-year, costed integrated plan for community-owned, sustainable local development and climate adaptation in refugee-hosting areas in the districts of Bokolmayo and Dollo Ado in south-eastern Ethiopia

Climate Adaptation and Resilience, Protection and Solutions

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AT A GLANCE

Title	Building Resilience together: An integrated plan for community-owned sustainable local development and climate adaptation in refugee-hosting areas in south-eastern Ethiopia
Location	Five refugee settlements, 11 kebeles[1] of Dollo Ado and Bokolmayo districts in Ethiopia's south-eastern Somali Region
Objectives	1. **Enhance access to clean/renewable energy** generated by off-grid systems – ensuring sustainable and reliable electricity for households, businesses, public services, water pumping systems and agriculture operations; fostering economic development and climate adaptation 2. **Strengthen and upgrade existing water supply systems** originally built for the five refugee settlements; ensure adequate and sustainable water supply for both human and animal consumption, irrigation and environmental conservation; promote resilience in the face of climate challenges 3. **Promote the expansion of inclusive irrigation agriculture** through cooperative ventures involving refugees and host community members, enhancing local food production capacity, food security and climate resilience, while prioritizing climate-smart agricultural practices 4. **Facilitate the integration of schools and health centres** established by humanitarian actors, primarily for refugees into national systems, ensuring sustainable access to quality education and healthcare for both refugee and host community members, thereby strengthening social cohesion and human capital
Implementation Period	2024–2027
Number of people targeted for support	A growing population of over 365,000 people supported by the RRS,[2] local government and UNHCR, including 211,000 refugees and around 147,000 people living in communities adjacent to refugee settlements (including the two district capitals)
Estimated Costs	**Total Indicative: $ 395,000,000** 1. Pillar I: Renewable energy for households, businesses, and social services, water pumping, irrigation and cooking – **USD 220.3 M** 2. Pillar II: Sustainable water supply – system maintenance and upgrade, sustainability through a utility model, improved sanitation services – **USD 73.8 M** 3. Pillar III: Improved access to agriculture/food security and environmental protection – **USD 54.42 M** 4. Pillar IV: Investment in people – strengthen integrated local health and education services – **USD 46.59 M**
Melkadida Refugee Compact Pillars	The Melkadida Refugee Compact is a government-led local development plan to mobilise strategic partnerships and support for inclusive and sustainable development for refugee and host communities in Dollo Ado and Bokolmayo districts. The four-year costed plan is pegged on four main pillars: 1) Renewable Energy 2) Sustainable Water Supply and Sanitation, 3) Agriculture and Environmental Protection, and 4) Education and Health

[1] Similar to a ward, a kebele is the smallest administrative unit and is part of a district.
[2] Ethiopian Government Refugees and Returnees Service

Executive summary

Ethiopia has been a generous host to refugees and asylum seekers since the 7th century, following the arrival of persecuted Muslims from Mecca seeking refuge in the then Abyssinian kingdom.

Recently, the country has furthered its long-standing open-door policy by operationalizing more inclusive policies and provisions, thereby amplifying the socio-economic inclusion of refugees. The parts of the country where this has been implemented include the Somali Region – home to hundreds of thousands of refugees since the early 90s.

The refugee operation in the south-eastern part of Ethiopia's Somali Region is in two districts and is home to over 211,000 Somali refugees who have been living peacefully in five refugee camps, adjacent to a host population, since the establishment of the Melkadida operation in 2009. The host population of the two districts is estimated to be over 400,000, with 147,000 living nearby the five refugee settlements making it a vibrant place to pursue an integrated and inclusive socio-economic intervention.

Thanks to sustained and multi-year funding from private philanthropic donors such as the IKEA Foundation, this once underserved, remote border territory has been transformed into a thriving and unified community of refugees and hosts. The High Commissioner for Refugees refers to the Melkadida operation as one of the "first places where the Global Compact on Refugees has been effectively operationalized." Over the last decade, Melkadida has gained a reputation for pursuing bold, innovative and results-driven programming for self-reliance, livelihoods and economic inclusion opportunities.

Mindful of the need to maintain these gains and advance Ethiopia's forward-leaning inclusive refugee policies, the Government of Ethiopia's Refugee Agency (RRS) – in collaboration with UNHCR – brought to table the key stakeholders to agree on a new approach to strengthen the humanitarian-development nexus. In an area hard hit by the effects of climate change, dwindling humanitarian resources, and a protracted caseload of refugees with low prospects for return, this call is more urgent than ever.

For much of 2023, the UNHCR Melkadida operation – in close collaboration with the RRS and the Somali Regional State (SRS) – built a four-year, inclusive, local development and climate adaptation plan aimed at supporting the districts of Bokolmayo and Dollo Ado (comprising approximately 211,000 refugees and 147,000 hosts) in paving the way towards the gradual transformation of the camps into urban settlements, and to implement sustainable and inclusive climate adaptation measures. The Melkadida Refugee Compact (MRC) aims to advance climate adaptation measures in the two districts through effectively harnessing four locally available resources that form the pillars of the plan: Sun, Water, Land, and People. The plan has identified priority investments to support host and refugee populations in adapting to a fast-changing climate, and it builds on a decade of innovative approaches that promote inclusive livelihoods opportunities and reduce aid dependency.

The compact maintains investment gains, invests in climate adaptation measures, and contributes to sustainable livelihoods and food security; it increases access to renewable energy and water supply, as well as integrated and improved basic and social services in health and education. The plan aims to further the enabling environment and strengthen inclusive service delivery and the resilience and capacity of local communities to contribute to the local rural economy amid severe climatic conditions.

The plan is structured within four large yet complementary pillars – each with its own sectoral objectives, costed outcomes and activities. These are designed to achieve the overarching objective of each pillar within four years, and directly contribute to the wider objective of the entire plan. Cross-cutting elements include the strengthening of institutional and technical capacities of local governments and partners as well as protection mainstreaming and empowerment of women. As part of the development process – that included consultations with local government and customary structures – refugees and host community stakeholders helped identify key outcomes and activities under each pillar to address key challenges, achieve the overall objectives of the plan and contribute to national and local development priorities.

The development of the MRC is co-led by the Federal Government of Ethiopia, the Somali Regional State and UNHCR, in close collaboration with all partners – including refugees, host communities and customary institutions.

The plan is aligned to Ethiopia's ten-year development priorities and strategies, the SRS resilience plan, and is informed by the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR). It puts the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) into practice by furthering the Government of Ethiopia's GRF pledges as well as national refugee proclamations and subsidiary legislations granting refugees increased socio-economic inclusion. The planned outcome areas and indicative costs advance inclusive rural development interventions while promoting the socio-economic inclusion of refugees and contributing to the economic growth of the two refugee-hosting districts and the larger Liban zone. The indicative resources required across the four pillars of the four-year period are estimated at USD 395 million with multiple financing streams to be mobilized through the leadership of the Government of Ethiopia in close collaboration with UNHCR and other development partners. The government, supported by UNHCR, will adapt and implement systemic planning to ensure that the projected development plans are implemented in a comprehensive and effective way, through a mechanism for regular follow-up of coordination and implementation.

Introduction

Displacement, inclusion and adaptation at the frontlines of climate change

The Melkadida Refugee Operation in the Liban zone

Located in the southern part of Ethiopia's Somali Region, the districts of Dollo Ado and Bokolmayo have hosted over 200,000 refugees from Somalia for more than a decade. Most refugees live in one of the five refugee settlements – Bokolmayo, Melkadida, Kobe, Hilaweyn and Buramino – which have grown from temporary camps into peri-urban agglomerations, which include the surrounding towns and villages. Given the persistent insecurity and ravaging weather extremes (drought and floods) in their areas of origin across the border in Somalia, and with access to basic services, food, livelihood opportunities, and security being relatively consistent in the five refugee settlements, return prospects are low.

Figure 1: Over 200,000 refugees are hosted across five settlements. © UNHCR/Mary-Sanyu Osire

The MRC comprises five refugee camps that are transforming into integrated human settlements in two districts of the Liban zone: Bokolmayo (Bokolmayo, Melkadida, Kobe) and Dollo Ado (Hilaweyn and Buramino). Established in 2009, the settlements span 90 km along the perennial Genale River and a rudimentary road connecting the border town of Dollo Ado with Bokolmayo. The first camps in Bokolmayo and Melkadida were set up in 2009 and 2010. Following the declaration of famine in southern Somalia in 2011, three of the five camps (Kobe, Hilaweyn and Buramino) were established in just less than a year in 2011. At the peak of the emergency in July 2011, almost 2,000 refugees were arriving every day.

The settlements and host communities are geographically isolated from paved roads, basic services infrastructure, electrical grids and large urban centres of the region. They face limited access to financial institutions and livelihood opportunities beyond pastoralism.

As of October 2023, MRC is home to some 212,000 refugees, of whom adults between the ages of 18 and 59 make up 38% of the population, while more than 60% are children and youth (below 18 years). The camps continued to receive new arrivals since their establishment, including the 16,000 new arrivals in 2022, until the government put the registration on hold in May 2022. In 2023, following consistent advocacy, the RRS exceptionally approved the recognition, relocation, and registration of around 3,000 asylum seekers residing near the Dollo Ado reception centre, who arrived after the suspension of admission to territory in May 2022.

Over the years, more and more internally displaced populations and host communities have settled in towns and villages adjacent to the refugee settlements, benefitting from the availability of basic services, better protection, and security, as well as economic opportunities – including the vibrant local markets that have emerged in the settlements.

The refugee-hosting areas are in one of the epicentres of the climate crisis ravaging the Horn of Africa. After five consecutive failed rainy seasons, the most recent drought was the worst to hit the region since 1981. Water shortages destroyed thousands of acres of crops, killed hundreds of thousands of livestock, and dried up water sources in many communities. The Liban Zone and its neighbouring zones host some 720,00 internally displaced people, primarily displaced by the compounded impacts of climate change and ensuing insecurity (water scarcity, changing vegetation patterns, conflict over increasingly scarce resources, livelihood insecurity). The increase of weather extremes has amplified the transition from a predominantly pastoralist lifestyle to diversified livelihood strategies – including settling in peri-urban areas around the refugee settlements.

This year's (2023) spring rainy season (Gu) has brought some rains and much-needed relief – however, this does not mean the crisis is over. In the refugee-hosting areas, as elsewhere in the region and across the border in Somalia and Kenya, excess rains have led to dangerous flash floods. Shelters, houses, roads and farms have been destroyed as a result, and the flood conditions exacerbated the risk of cholera. More flooding is expected later this year – partly due to the forecasted El Niño cycle.

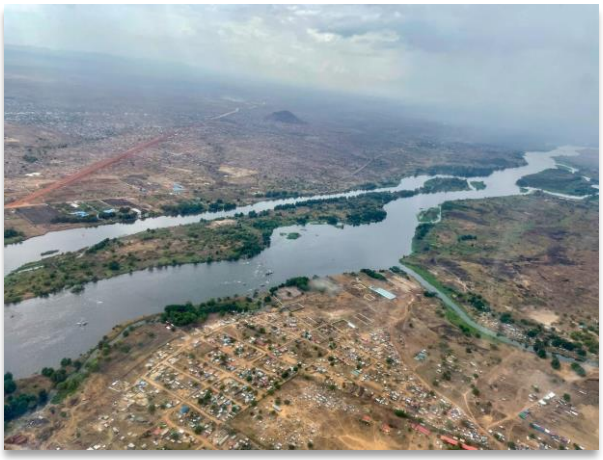

Figure 2: The Genale River is a perennial water body that supports host and refugee populations in southeast Ethiopia. © UNHCR/Mary-Sanyu Osire

The two refugee-hosting districts (Bokolmayo and Dollo Ado) are part of the seven districts of the Liban zone. The districts are made up of kebeles and have functional offices led by district chairs supported by a council of officials who administer various sectoral offices. The total population of both districts is estimated at 410,000. Most of the inhabitants (53%) reside in the Dollo Ado district (22 kebeles), and 47% of that population resides in the Bokolmayo district (12 kebeles).

Challenges and opportunities: a tested model for inclusive local development, needing investment to ensure sustainability and bring it to scale

Located in the southeast part of the Somali Region, **the refugee-hosting areas of the Bokolmayo and Dollo Ado districts have continued to benefit from support by humanitarian partners over the last 15 years.** After an initial emergency response, the next phase in supporting the needs of refugees and host communities is to set the foundation for inclusive and sustainable local development.

In addition to traditional humanitarian interventions, significant efforts were made to actively foster social cohesion by integrating host and refugee communities in market-based livelihoods systems. A recently concluded external evaluation concludes that "the approach provides a tangible business model of refugee-host participants that has served as a visible proof of concept to the targeted communities enabling the mindset changes that are critical in transitioning from a humanitarian to development context."[3]

Thanks to IKEA Foundation's sustained multi-year support (2012–24), **considerable and transformative progress has been made to enhance the livelihood and self-reliance of refugees and host communities,** resulting in tangible development dividends for both communities. As the largest philanthropic investment ever made in a refugee context, IKEA Foundation's support is built on an inclusive cooperative model. It brought together more than 2,000 individuals from both communities in more than 50 mixed cooperatives and business groups along different value chains. For instance, nine of the mixed agricultural cooperatives were able to farm some 1,000 hectares of land through irrigation schemes. This model has led to a *de facto* socio-cultural and economic integration of refugees and host communities.[4]

Figure 3: The irrigation schemes in southeast Ethiopia were established with support from IKEA Foundation. © UNHCR/Mary-Sanyu

[3] UNHCR Endline Performance Evaluation of the Phase 3 IKEA Foundation Livelihoods, Energy and Environment, TANGO International, UNHCR Evaluation Service, 2023.

[4] See Building Refugee Economies: An evaluation of the IKEA Foundation's programmes in Dollo Ado, Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford, 2020.

Since 2017, the humanitarian response has supported both districts in peaceful co-existence activities and joint livelihoods and social cohesion programs that benefit the host communities. To promote peaceful coexistence, local and customary institutions, such as the Wabar system of the local King of the Degodia clan, have also been engaged and supported.

1. However, despite this progress, **many refugees remain dependent on aid.** Like the dire situation of their hosts,[5] they continue to have limited opportunities to generate income and meaningfully participate in economic activities to sustain themselves. Dependency on food aid, non-food aid, and access to humanitarian service delivery remains high.

2. The south-eastern Somali Region's **integrated refugee settlements are expanding due to climate change** and persistent development deficiencies. With recurrent droughts, pastoralist populations are migrating to these areas for basic services and livelihood opportunities. In the absence of adequate government support, humanitarian partners have established parallel systems, accommodating the settlement of internally displaced people (IDPs) in peri-urban regions. Anticipated climate change effects will likely exacerbate forced displacement, amplifying the strain on resources and infrastructure as more refugees and IDPs seek sustenance for themselves and their livestock.

3. The **consequences of climate change, including erratic rains and prolonged droughts, exacerbate humanitarian challenges** and foster a shift from pastoralism to alternative livelihoods and urbanization. Water scarcity and reduced pasture result in livestock losses, widespread malnutrition and increased displacement toward peri-urban areas surrounding refugee settlements. Intense rainfall-induced flash floods and intercommunal conflicts over limited resources further drive internal displacement across the region. These complex climate change effects emphasize the urgent need for sustainable resource management, infrastructure development and inclusive programs supporting diversified livelihoods to ensure long-term resilience and stability for both refugee and host communities.

4. **Rising food insecurity, exacerbated by water scarcity, has become a pressing issue affecting all communities** and hampering both human and livestock sustenance and hindering agricultural productivity. The crisis is compounded by the inflation of commodity, energy, and food prices, amplifying the challenges faced by vulnerable populations. Urgent interventions are required to address the complex interplay between water scarcity, agricultural production and economic inflation to ensure food security and stability for the affected communities.

5. In marginalized border areas that host refugees, the **persistent dearth of developmental investments in critical infrastructure exacerbates disparities**. Inadequate roads, healthcare, education and communication services compound existing challenges, alongside a poorly developed transportation network. The absence of significant government investment in vital social services accentuates reliance on services provided within refugee settlements. Urgent strategic investments are imperative to enhance overall well-being and prospects for both host communities and refugees.

6. The **risk of radicalization by Al-Shabaab among the youth of both the refugee and host communities** in the hosting areas is a concerning consequence of the limited access to basic services and economic opportunities that result in a sense of hopelessness. With few prospects for meaningful engagement or a brighter future, vulnerable youth may become susceptible to the influence of extremist ideologies, drawn by promises of purpose and belonging. Without adequate educational and economic opportunities, these marginalized youths are at risk of being exploited by radical groups, posing a threat to their own well-being and the stability and security of the entire region.

Yet **humanitarian assistance to this protracted refugee situation has decreased steadily – even drastically of late.** Available humanitarian budgets primarily support short-term emergency interventions, such as food aid and nutritional support, but are insufficient and not fit-for-purpose to support the urgently required longer-term strategies focused on supporting inclusive local development, including access to clean energy, sustainable water supply systems, access to quality education and comprehensive healthcare

[5] "The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) shows that the incidence of poverty in the Somali region is 94.6% and the percentage of the population in severe poverty is 89.8%", Building Refugee Economies, page 23.

services – as well as building resilience and sustainable food security measures to help affected populations adapt to a rapidly changing climate.

Figure 4: A boy waits on water to flow at a water point in Melkadida refugee settlement. Water scarcity is a pressing issue affecting all communities. © UNHCR/Mary-Sanyu

Rationale for an integrated plan for community-owned sustainable local development and climate adaptation in refugee-hosting areas

Affected populations, the Government of Ethiopia, and the international community stand at a critical juncture. The classic humanitarian response model is inadequate to address the development deficit and support forcibly displaced and host populations in the two refugee-hosting districts of Dollo Ado and Melkadida to adapt to a changing climate. The Government of Ethiopia and humanitarian partners will be left to administer growing misery.

Alternatively, this protracted refugee situation offers an opportunity to build upon the foundational development investments made by humanitarian partners, the IKEA Foundation and others, which led to innovative 'cooperatives', and membership-based income generating groups, typically involving an equal number of refugees and host community members.

The increase of forcibly displaced and host populations congregating in and around refugee settlements with overstretched, aging water supplies and health and education infrastructure; unprecedented climatic conditions; decreasing humanitarian resources and insecurity – stemming from continued fighting for influence in border areas between Al-Shabaab and the Government of Somalia – will likely push more people into a cycle of displacement, food insecurity, and aid dependency.

Given the complexities and interrelated nature of the challenges facing both refugee and host communities, we decided to focus on harnessing and scaling the development dividends achieved through humanitarian interventions, and to jointly develop a comprehensive plan for inclusive and sustainable local development, promoting resilience and climate adaptation to address the multiple dimensions of the crisis.

Based on the generous and progressive policy framework for refugees in Ethiopia, and in line with various pledges made by the Government of Ethiopia to advance the socio-economic inclusion of refugees, we developed a four-year plan to:

(i) empower host and refugee communities, socio-economically;
(ii) support host and refugee communities to adapt to a rapidly changing climate; and
(iii) harness and scale the development dividends of humanitarian assistance.

All stakeholders agreed that by integrating these objectives into a comprehensive area-based response plan, there is a better chance of effectively addressing the multiple challenges faced by the communities in the refugee-hosting areas, fostering sustainable development, and promoting long-term resilience, climate adaptation, and stability.

Throughout a consultative process with the affected communities, government representatives, local and traditional authorities, and partners it was agreed that the integrated plan would focus on harnessing locally available assets and development opportunities as follows:

1. **Sun –** a constant resource enabling access to clean and renewable off-grid energy solutions in an area that is not covered by the national electricity grid;
2. **Water –** available in the form of the perennial Genale River to provide sustainable access to water for people, livestock, irrigation schemes and environmental protection sites;
3. **Land –** riverbanks made productive through climate-smart agricultural and irrigation practices (as proven by previous investments enabling the joint cultivation of 1,000 hectares of land by members of the host and refugee communities);
4. **People –** invest in the human capital of a dynamic and entrepreneurial population, especially women and youth, to provide access to integrated education and health services for host and refugee communities.

Figure 5: The agricultural cooperatives established with support from IKEA Foundation are comprised of both host and refugee populations. © UNHCR/Mary-Sanyu

A government-led and community-owned collaborative needs assessment and planning process

With the leadership of Ethiopia's refugee agency – the Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) – and in collaboration with the Somali Regional State (SRS), UNHCR has been supporting the two local districts of Bokolmayo and Dollo Ado in developing the joint local area-based development plan.

This plan is the result of an inclusive collaborative planning and prioritisation effort – jointly driven by the Government of Ethiopia's Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) and the Somali Regional State (SRS) – and supported by UNHCR. The plan has been developed and validated by the RRS, the SRS, local and customary authorities, partners, refugees, and host community representatives. It is fully aligned with the federal government's policies and plans, including GRF 2019 pledges and those in development for the 2nd Global GRF in December 2023.

The plan went through several processes with the validation of the priority areas by the RRS, SRS, formal and customary institutions, partners, refugees, and host communities. The plan advances inclusive, equitable and sustainable local development pegged on climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience in the two refugee-hosting districts.

Key cross-cutting objectives under the four pillars of the plan

Livelihood Diversification and Economic Empowerment: Build on lessons from livelihoods interventions and scale the implementation of tested and successful programs that promote sustainable livelihoods for both refugees and host communities, including initiatives for skills training, entrepreneurship development and access to market opportunities.

Integrated Service Delivery: Foster collaboration between RRS, government line ministries, zonal and woreda authorities. Humanitarian and development partners make the delivery of essential services, such as water, healthcare, education for both the refugees and the host communities sustainable by increasing local capacity and facilitating gradual integration of parallel humanitarian service delivery into government-led service delivery.

Climate-Resilient Agriculture and Water Management: to mitigate the impact of climate change, improve food security, and enhance the resilience of both communities, to scale up and enhance the implementation of proven climate-smart agricultural practices and roll-out an inclusive and sustainable water management strategy to allow for adequate water supply to a growing population and for productive use (including irrigation and livestock).

Integrated Infrastructure Development: Based on the assumption that former refugee camps are not temporary in nature but part of urban development, advocate for investments in critical infrastructure projects for inclusive off-grid solar energy, connectivity, road networks, and water supply systems, to support the growth and development of refugee and host communities, thereby improving access to essential services and promoting economic activities.

Youth Empowerment and Education: Develop targeted programs that focus on education, skills development, and vocational training for youth to provide them with opportunities for personal and professional growth, thus mitigating the risk of radicalization and fostering a more stable and prosperous future.

Community Engagement and Conflict Resolution: Build on existing practice to actively promote engagement from both communities and participatory approaches in decision-making processes, fostering social cohesion, and implementing conflict resolution mechanisms to address potential tensions arising from resource scarcity and climate-induced displacement.

All stakeholders emphasized the utmost importance of collaboration and integrated efforts.

Figure 6: A refugee student prepares for an upcoming examination in Bokolmayo settlement. The Melkadida Refugee Compact aims to bolster youth empowerment and education. © UNHCR/Mary-Sanyu

Scope, aim, and budget of the Melkadida Refugee Compact

The MRC is a four-year government-led and locally owned development plan for the two refugee-hosting areas in the Liban zone. It aims to harness and scale local, inclusive, and sustainable development opportunities for refugee and host communities in Dollo Ado and Bokolmayo districts, to advance climate change adaptation measures, and build the resilience of hosting communities through four key resources that form the pillars of the plan: Sun, Water, Land, and the People. Enhancing access to these four essential resources will drive the transition towards increased refugee protection, climate adaptation, resilience, and economic empowerment.

Anticipating sustained drought and dwindling humanitarian funding, MRC aims to mobilise various resources to support the districts. With the leadership of the Government of Ethiopia, the MRC serves as a platform for coordinated, predictable, and targeted multi-year engagement bringing together development and humanitarian partners, as well as development and private sectors. Building on existing humanitarian and development investments and harnessing natural assets/resources in the area, the objective is to leverage and expand innovative development partnerships and mobilise financial support to ensure refugee protection, climate resilience, and empowerment for generations to come.

The MRC targets a growing population of over 360,000 people – refugee and host communities – and covers locations in 11 kebeles located adjacent to the five refugee settlements. The estimated target population is 147,00 host community members,[6] including five kebeles of the two district capitals, and 212,000 refugees.

Needs and responses identified under the MRC amount to **USD 395 million** and are pegged on four needs-driven potentials that could be harnessed, as outlined in Table 1.

[6] Note, the total population of the two districts totals over 409,000 people. The plan only covers those living adjacent to the refugee settlements or in the two district capitals – Bokolmayo and Dollo Ado towns.

Table 1. Summary of compact objectives, alignment with government pledges and indicative cost

Melkadida Refugee Compact Objectives Target Population:[7] >360,000	Aligns with Government of Ethiopia pledges (CRRF/GRF)[8]	Indicative Cost 2024–2027 (USD millions)
Sun Significantly increase access to clean and renewable off-grid solar energy for households, businesses, public services, water pumping, irrigation and cooking	Address the environmental impact resulting from hosting large numbers of refugees by planting 100,000,000 multi-purpose seedlings, executing environmental rehabilitation activities and providing alternative source of energy, including national grid and solar mini-grid connections. Provide market-based, sustainable household and facility-based energy solutions for 3 million host and refugees through promoting clean and renewable energy sources.	$220.3
Water Making existing water supply systems and infrastructure sustainable through system upgrading and cost recovery mechanisms to ensure adequate water supply for human and livestock consumption, irrigated agriculture and environmental protection; improved access to and management of sanitation/hygiene services	Transform selected refugee camps into sustainable urban settlements by enhancing the quality and availability of shelter, infrastructure, and public services, such as roads, electricity, water, sanitation, health and education by aligning them with the masterplan of adjacent towns by 2027. To expand and enhance basic and essential social services for refugees.	$73.8
Land Expand access to land and irrigation schemes for agriculture and livestock production, boost local food production capacity to ensure food security through climate smart farming and private sector engagement	Provide access to 10,000 hectares of irrigable land through lease arrangements and promote climate-smart agriculture and livestock value chain that contribute to improved food security and socio-economic empowerment of refugees and host communities of which at least 50% are women and 30% refugees. Creating up to 90,000 socio-economic opportunities through agricultural & livestock value chains that benefit both refugees and host communities. To make 10,000 hectares of irrigable land available to enable 100,000 refugee & hosts to grow crops.	$54.42
People Enhance inclusive local health and education system development through investments into strengthening education and health service facilities, and gradual integration of refugee structures	Transform selected refugee camps into sustainable urban settlements by enhancing the quality and availability of shelter, infrastructure, and public services, such as roads, electricity, water, sanitation, health, and education by aligning them with adjacent towns' masterplan, by 2027. Increase enrollment of refugee children in preschool, primary, secondary, and tertiary education. to expand and enhance basic and essential social services for refugees	$46.59 million

[7] Growing refugee and host population of kebeles adjacent to refugee settlements, including five kebeles forming Dollo Ado and Bokolmayo towns.

[8] The commitments include pledges from the 2016 Leaders' Summit, the 2019 GRF as well as the upcoming GRF 2023.

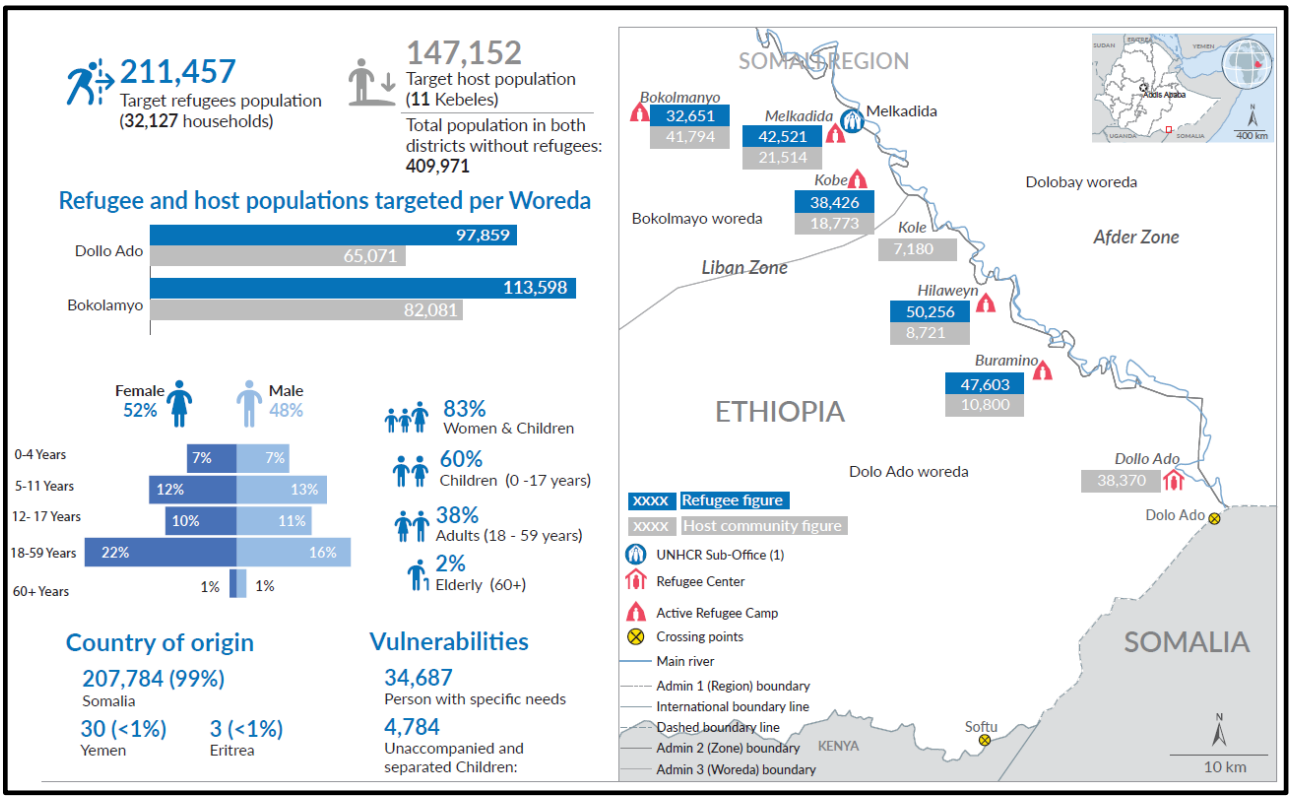

Figure 7: A map illustrating refugee and host populations in southeast Ethiopia, August 2023.

A progressive and conducive policy framework for refugee inclusion

As an integrated area-based platform to advance Government of Ethiopia commitments and pledges – and refugee inclusion – in a context-specific manner, the MRC is informed by and speaks to the generosity of the Government of Ethiopia. These commitments emanate from the country's long-standing hospitality in welcoming refugees which has been furthered in recent years through normative policy provisions and commitments spanning nearly a decade when Ethiopia pledged nine forward-leaning pledges at the Leader's Summit in 2016; to the issuance of a Roadmap for Ethiopia's Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) in August 2017; to the adoption by the Council of Ministers of a new Refugees Proclamation in 2019, enshrining the government's progressive refugee policies; to co-convening the first Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in 2019, where the government made additional far-reaching policy pledges. Similarly, the compact is further informed by the 6 pledges the government endorsed for GRF 2023 including: enhancing access to irrigable land, climate action, private sector engagement, refugee inclusion, and service integration in social and basic services as well as transforming refugee camps into urban settlements spurring local growth.

Ethiopia adopted a series of refugee policies over the past few years. Following the New York Declaration (NYD)[9] and the Leaders' Summit[10] in 2016, Ethiopia made nine pledges along six thematic areas[11] to respond

[9] The New York Declaration lays out a vision for a more predictable and more comprehensive response to refugee situations.

[10] President Barack Obama hosted a Leaders' Summit on the Global Refugee Crisis on the margins of UNGA 71 on September 20, 2016, a day after the adoption of the NYD.

[11] The pledge thematic areas were Education, Basic and Social Services Documentation, Out-of-Camp Residence, Local Integration, and Work and Livelihoods (four pledges – including the specific livelihood pledges on availing 10,000ha farming land and right to work/jobs)

to the needs of refugees comprehensively and sustainably, as well as the host populations living adjacent to refugee-hosting localities. In addition, Ethiopia officially endorsed the CRRF[12] in November 2017 and made additional pledges at the first Global Refugee Forum (GRF)[13] held in December 2019. In line with the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR 2018) and based on the positive experience of pursuing "local solutions'' (article 100 of the GCR), the country enacted policy provisions including the 2019 Refugee Proclamation[14] followed by relevant directives. **These policies reflect Ethiopia's commitment to the inclusion of refugees in national planning.** The enacted proclamation maintains that refugees should be included in their host communities' planning – both economically and socially. The refugees would then transition from dependence on humanitarian assistance to become self-reliant and contribute to local economic development. This is one of the key objectives of the GCR[15] – to enable inclusive and equitable development opportunities for both refugee and host communities. The Government of Ethiopia will make further progressive pledges at the second Global Refugee Forum in December 2023 on six thematic areas, including addressing the adverse impact of climate change on host and refugee communities as well as enhancing access to land and irrigation schemes to improve local food security, climate adaptation and economic empowerment of refugee and host communities supporting the work that UNHCR and its partners are implementing in Melkadida. One pledge statement commits access to 10,000 hectares of irrigable land through lease arrangements and promotes climate-smart agriculture and livestock value chain, contributing to improved food security and socio-economic empowerment of refugees and host communities. Similar pledges aim to transform selected camps into urban settlements**,** include refugees into existing national systems and enhance the investment environment in refugee-hosting areas, which is part of our long-term resilience plan.

Figure 7: The Global Refugee Forum draws leaders from across the world. © UNHCR/Mark Henley

For this to happen, all stakeholders need to redouble efforts to support the Government of Ethiopia in advancing the implementation of pledges and refugee progressive policies at all levels. Viable socio-economic inclusion of refugees in protracted situations such as in Melkadida in the Somali region, requires a concerted effort by government, humanitarian, development, civil society, and private-sector actors.

[12] Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework is a comprehensive set of commitments to be implemented in situations involving large-scale movement of refugees.

[13] Also in 2019, at the first Global Refugee Forum (GRF), Ethiopia made four additional pledges on Jobs and Livelihoods, Education, Protection and Energy.

[14] The Refugee Proclamation (Proclamation No. 1110/2019) – gazetted in February 2019 – granted a wide-ranging set of additional rights to refugees including the right to work (Article 26) and freedom of movement (Article 28), civil registration (Article 36), among others.

[15] With four key objectives, the GCR was adopted in December 2018 following the roll-out of the NYD/CRRF and a series of discussions that calls for a more predictable sustainable solution to refugee situations.

As humanitarian resources continue to dwindle, it is vital to harness the dividends of ongoing and prospective interventions by investing in locally available potentials for growth.

At the regional level, the Somali Regional State (SRS) has been a steadfast supporter of finding "local solutions" for refugees hosted in the region – Melkadida in particular. **It aims to "leave no one behind" in its 10-year economic development plan.** Envisioning a "Peaceful and prosperous life for everyone in the region", the plan has six strategic objectives which are in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Goal 1 (Ending Poverty), Goal 3 (Good Health & Wellbeing), Goal 4 (Quality Education), Goal 5 (Gender Equality), Goal 6 (Water and Sanitation), Goal 7 (Access to Energy) and Goal 8 (Economic Growth).[16] The objectives are also in line with UNHCR's global and national priorities: UNHCR Ethiopia 2022–2024 Multi-year Strategy (MYS) which include poverty and hunger eradication (mentioned as primary priority agenda), private sector involvement, human capital development, economic development/infrastructure and youth and gender equality.

Two MoUs were signed in May 2023 between the RRS, SRS, and UNHCR for more refugee inclusion and local integration of protracted settlements in Kebribeyah and surrounding camps, as well as the application of a comprehensive refugee response with a focus on service integration in Doolo Zone of the Somali Region.

Figure 8: In Melkadida, nine mixed agriculture cooperatives are cultivating some 1,000 hectares of land. © UNHCR/Mary-Sanyu Osire

[16] The 17 Sustainable Development Goals were set up by the UN in 2015 to be achieved over a course of 15 years with an overall aim of bringing global prosperity.

Strategies, Outcomes, and Activities by Pillar

Pillar I - Provide Access to Energy Through Off-Grid Solutions (USD 220 M)

Renewable energy for households, businesses and social services, water pumping, irrigation and cooking

What is the issue?

The target districts benefit from **one of the highest global average levels of sunlight per year.** This makes interventions in off-grid solar energy more reliable, efficient and sustainable. In addition, as the refugee settlements are located far away from the nearest national grid connection point, energy needs in the area come from off-grid solutions. The current access in the target area is less than 12% including energy for electricity, cooking, and lighting. Tested approaches include the ongoing 2 MW solar project, managed by the Ethiopian Electric Utility and co-financed by the African Development Bank (AfDB) that could be scaled to decrease carbon footprint significantly through solarization.

Figure 9: Year-round sunshine makes the southeast of Ethiopia an ideal location for solarization projects. © UNHCR/Mary-Sanyu Osire

Limited access to energy for cooking - only 12% of the target population have access to electricity for cooking through solar mini-grids and locally made cooking fuel. Despite the growing demand for renewable energy for communal and productive use, most households, institutions and businesses rely on diesel generators as their primary source of electricity. Limited alternative sources of cooking remain a challenge where most of the population (90%) rely on firewood for cooking, which in turn negatively impacts the already fragile environment. The provision of clean cooking stoves could ensure less environmental degradation, as it uses solar energy instead of firewood.

Access to water – the existing water systems run on costly diesel generator systems which need to undergo an overhaul. The solarization of the system could significantly decrease reliance on increasingly high-priced fuel and minimise carbon footprint.

What can we do about it?

Provide access to off-grid solar powered systems. In line with the government's National Electrification Program (NEP 2.0)[17] – to achieve 35% of electrification access through long-term off-grid systems for deep rural areas such as Bokolmayo and Dollo Ado – the renewable energy pillar proposes systems that will be totally off-grid, either fully or hybrid. The goal is to achieve universal access to safe and sustainable energy where most of the people in the target area will have access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy services for electricity, lighting, cooking, water pumping and irrigation.

How do we plan to do it?

We mobilise support from government and development partners to build solar plants. To improve access to energy, we plan to install solar plants and mini grids, batteries for energy storage, containerized solar solutions, electric network system (deliver electricity from source to the end-user), solar water pumps, solar DC-cookers ("direct current," converting electricity directly from the solar panel), communal kitchens, and solar home systems.

We build on our previous assessments to anticipate needs and intervene effectively. The intervention areas for the plan are the result of UNHCR's technical electrification assessment conducted in 2019. Based on the average energy consumption per household in Ethiopia and energy needs for communal facilities, the study mapped out energy needs for households, businesses, communal facilities in and around the target locations – including Dollo Ado town. According to this assessment, around 48,000 solar panels would be required to produce the 16 MW necessary to ensure access to solar energy across the five refugee settlements and Dollo Ado town. The same study mapped out energy needs to sustainably solarize the drinking water systems using hybrid systems, requiring 1,800 solar panels to generate 600 KW of power.

Figure 10: One of the refugee-run solar mini grids in southeast Ethiopia. © UNHCR/Mary-Sanyu

We draw from the learnings of a successful pilot project in the sector. An IKEA Foundation-funded pilot project to solarize an irrigation pump has proven to be efficient and worth pursuing for an irrigation system run

[17] Refer to Annex on Ethiopian national electrification program 2.0

by a solar water pump (current pilot irrigates 45 hectares of land), which in turn reduced reliance on diesel fuel and maintenance costs. Some 1,500 solar panels will be needed to generate 500 KW of power to pump and irrigate the existing 1,000 hectares. Recent collaboration between UNHCR and water engineering partner through tTEM technology is helping the exploration of potential areas for underground water borehole drilling within the target areas. Going forward, it is imperative to undertake additional mapping exercises to further ascertain the availability of underground potable water for drinking purposes. Another study mapped out the energy needs in Melkadida, Kobe, and Hilaweyn refugee camps in terms of electrification of social institutions and the use of electricity for productive use.

The energy investments presented here will include and are geared towards low-carbon energy technologies that promote universal access to modern energy services – including off-grid energy generation, transmission, and distribution as well as clean cooking fuels and modern cooking technologies.

We expect three outcomes from the provision of off-grid solar systems:

Outcome 1: Access to energy for households, businesses, and social services

Outcome 2: Access to energy for water pumping and irrigation

Outcome 3: Access to electrical and solar cook stoves

Outcome 1: Access to energy for households, businesses and social services

All households, businesses, and communal facilities, such as schools and public health facilities, will have reliable access to solar energy for electricity and indoor/outdoor lighting, benefiting the entire population of over 360,000 people across the five refugee settlements including Dollo Ado town.

Activities:

- Installation of 48,000 solar panels including energy storage systems, electrical networks, and internal wiring across the five refugee settlements and Dollo Ado town;
- Installation of 2,700 solar panels including energy storage systems, electrical networks, and internal wiring for three camps in which productive use of energy was mapped;
- Organization of technical and managerial training to capacitate refugee and host community members on operation and maintenance of the various elements of the systems.

Outcome 2: Access to energy for water pumping and irrigation

All drinking water systems across the five refugee settlements will be solarized using hybrid solar and diesel generator systems to ensure safe, reliable, and sustainable supply of water to over 360,000 people and their livestock. The water pumping systems for irrigation will be equally solarized, ensuring reliable access to water for the 1,000-hectare farming schemes. This is part of our effort to promote climate-resilient and green agricultural water management, including through irrigation development.

Activities:

- Installation, operationalization and maintenance of hybrid solar and diesel generator systems and pumps with 1,800 solar panels needed to solarize existing water supply systems across the five settlements;
- Installation, operationalization, and maintenance of nine solar power pumps through 1,500 solar panels to solarize the irrigation pump systems ensuring water supply for 1,000 hectares of farmland across four settlements.

Outcome 3: Access to electrical and solar cooking stoves

A total of 31,000 refugee and host community households will have access to clean cooking, contributing to improved nutrition, individual safety, and wellbeing. Following a pilot project, UNHCR has identified solar direct current stoves as the most preferred, effective, and sustainable cooking method for families in the area. The stoves have a built-in lithium battery and can be used to charge phones or household equipment.

Activities:

- Installation and maintenance of a maximum of 31,000 solar direct current stoves, converting electricity directly from the solar panel, including the solar home system/panel that powers the cooking stove with solar energy.
- Installation and maintenance of 20+ communal and institutional cooking facilities including in schools (used for feeding programs) and youth centres.

How do we pay for this?

We pool funds. Under the leadership of the government, development actors, humanitarian agencies, local and international private sector companies will be encouraged to pool funds covering investment costs through matching funds, revolving funds and public-private partnerships, etc.

How do we make sure it is sustainable?

We include everyone in designing the project. The proposed activities come with operation and maintenance costs, as well as subsidies to support users financially and ensure sustainability of the services under the ownership and management of governmental structures. To ensure sustainability and cost-effectiveness, as well as an effective implementation and ownership of proposed interventions under this pillar, it is imperative to involve key regional and national government institutions in charge of disbursement of electricity. One way of keeping energy services affordable is through the introduction of special tariffs and subsidies as well as cash-based interventions for the most vulnerable for the first five to seven years, based on the power purchase of the communities.

How much would this cost?

Table 2. Renewable energy pillar outcomes and indicative cost

Supporting refugee and host communities in Dollo Ado and Bokolmayo districts by improving access to renewable energy		**Indicative Cost [18] over five years (USD millions)**				**Total Indicative**
Outcome		**2024**	**2025**	**2026**	**2027**	**2024–2027**
Increased energy access for households, businesses and social services		62	34	38	46	**180**
Increased energy access for 8 water systems and 9 irrigation schemes, conducting underground mapping		3.164	1.582	1.582	1.582	**7.91**
Increased energy access for cooking	Installation, operationalization, and maintenance of solar DC-Stoves	9.4	9.2	8.2	4.2	**32.4**
	Installation and operationalization of 20 communal kitchen systems	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.1	
	Total Estimate Per Year	**75.164**	**45.182**	**48.082**	**51.882**	**220.31**

[18] Costs include operation and maintenance for up to 15 years, and subsidies for up to 5 years

Table 3. The table below presents a breakdown of estimated costs based on priority under Outcome 1: Energy for Households, Businesses and Social Services

Energy Needs	Target Locations	Estimated Costs 2024-2028 (USD millions)	Operation, maintenance, and subsidies[19]	Priority Level
Social Services (Education and Health Facilities)	Hilaweyn	3.6	0.7	High
	Buramino	4	0.8	High
	Melkadida	3.5	0.7	High
	Kobe	5.5	1.1	Medium
	Bokolmayo	5.9	1.18	Medium
	Dollo Ado town	-	-	Medium
Households and Businesses	Buramino	14	2.8	High
	Melkadida	26	5.2	High
	Kobe	16	3.2	High
	Hilaweyn	15	3	High
	Bokolmayo	21	4.2	Medium
	Dollo Ado town	19	3.8	Medium
Total Estimated Costs		**133.5**	**26.68**	

[19] Costs include operation and maintenance for up to 15 years, and subsidies for up to 5 years.

Pillar II - Sustainable Water Supply and Improved Sanitation (USD 74 M)

Sustainable Water supply & Sanitation: system maintenance, upgrade & sustainability, Sanitation (USD 74M)

What are the opportunities and challenges?

There is a river nearby. Much of the water for people, livestock and irrigation comes from the perennial Genale River, which remains the major lifeline for communities in the two districts. The current water supply system was designed to serve one third of the number of people it serves today. Water must be constantly supplied to over 360,000 refugees and host community members, as well as meet the needs of UNHCR, RRS and partner facilities. The Melkadida water supply system was established in 2010 – sourcing surface water from Genale River for Bokolmayo, Kobe, and Melkadida refugee camps and shallow wells for Hilwayen and Buramino refugee camps. The system was designed to serve a total population of 100,000, as well as 12 pumping stations and intakes-treatment-balancing reservoirs. Currently, the system is producing 3.7 million liters of water and consuming more than 2,000 liters of diesel per day, but the average daily consumption is still below the post-emergency standard (14-16 liters per person). UNHCR Melkadida is working towards enhancing the water distribution system and upgrading the infrastructure to ensure equitable access to refugee and host communities. In addition, UNHCR is gradually increasing the capacity of local water utilities in Dollo Ado and Bokolmayo to enable them to take over management of water systems, starting with a phased handover of the Buramino water system in 2024.

Figure 11: The perennial Genale River remains a major lifeline for communities in the two refugee-hosting districts. © UNHCR/Mary-Sanyu Osire

But access to water is still an issue. The infrastructure is old and continues to deteriorate under extreme weather conditions. It is fully reliant on resources from UNHCR and humanitarian partners and lacks a cost-recovery mechanism. In addition, relying on diesel-powered water pumps operating for long hours with limited back-up remains a challenge, which is amplified by increasing demand from expanding refugee and host populations.

Under extreme weather conditions and longer operational hours, the water system and its infrastructure continue to deteriorate. No system overhaul has been undertaken since its establishment to meet the needs of the growing population. Other water infrastructure such as pumps, generators and pipelines are also

deteriorating. Three out of eight shallow-well borehole pumping systems at Buramino and Hilaweyn have shown significant reduction in their yield, requiring urgent rehabilitation, while two remain non-functional. All of this results in low potable water per capita consumption – well below the UNHCR post-emergency standard.

Deteriorating hygiene coverage. The hygiene and sanitation service in the camps has been deteriorating for many years, mainly due to limited resources made available for construction of family latrines & other sanitation facilities. Of those existing hygiene facilities, many have been damaged and decommissioned. Most refugees (63%) use shared latrines while only 22% use family latrines built for households, which is far behind the UNHCR post emergency standard of 85%. Still around 15% of refugee households defecate in open fields. Likewise, the host communities have low coverage in terms of communal and private latrines, and solid waste disposal facilities. As most of the host communities are adjacent to the refugee camps, poor sanitation affects both communities.

What can we do about it?

We upgrade and maintain existing water systems and hand it over to the community. Because no significant overhaul has been undertaken for many years, we plan to enhance water supply through an infrastructure upgrade and maintenance of a system that is strained due to limited infrastructural capacity. Finding alternative sources of water will remain a priority. Recent collaboration with new partners specialising in water engineering brings potential for new sources of underground water – and borehole drilling.

All drinking water systems across the five refugee settlements will be solarized using hybrid solar and diesel generator systems to ensure a safe, reliable, and sustainable supply of water to over 360,000 people and their livestock.

Solarizing water supply systems can significantly contribute to making the system more sustainable by decreasing inputs and maintenance costs and reducing the carbon footprint. By incorporating solar energy into water supply systems, traditional reliance on fossil fuels for pumping and treating water can be minimized or eliminated altogether. This not only reduces the operational and maintenance costs of the system, but it also decreases greenhouse gas emissions associated with conventional energy sources.

Additionally, solarizing water supply systems can lead to greater energy independence and resilience, as they are less susceptible to power outages and fluctuations. Overall, solarizing water supply systems offers a promising solution to create a more sustainable and environmentally friendly approach to water management.

Figure 12: UNHCR and partners provide water to refugees and adjacent host communities.
© UNHCR/Mary-Sanyu Osire

With outdated water supply systems built over a decade ago to serve a smaller population, the water supply systems have become weaker resulting in high maintenance costs. Furthermore, as well as powering the water pumps, fuel is also used in the farm irrigation systems across 1,000 hectares of land.

Establishing an integrated water utility system. An equally important task that lies ahead is supporting a sustainable water supply system through establishing a government owned utility structure where communities contribute to system operations and maintenance costs through cost-recovery methods. This would render the system increasingly community-owned and sustainable with an increased role of the government. There remains a need to build on ongoing discussions to formalise and establish an integrated government-led water utility structure serving both refugees and host communities.

What can we expect as a result?

The response plan revolves around two main outcomes to enhance per capita consumption of potable water while investing in system overhaul and establishment of a community-owned and integrated water management system, which will minimise humanitarian costs needed to run the system. The second outcome aims to enhance access to and coverage of sanitation services mainly through increasing the family latrine coverage and related hygiene promotion activities.

Outcome 1: Maintaining and upgrading a functional water supply infrastructure while establishing an integrated government-led water utility

Outcome 2: Increased access to, and coverage of, sanitation services

Outcome 1: Maintaining and upgrading a functional water supply infrastructure while establishing an integrated government-led water utility

To increase the delivery of drinking water for more than 360,000 direct beneficiaries including refugees and host communities, proposed activities include upgrading pump stations, pipeline networks, redevelopment of borehole sources, replacing the existing generators and pumps, and upgrading the water storage tanks. Amidst the soaring price of diesel and unavailability of fuel at local markets, it has become imperative to shift the sources of energy to solar power, which will contribute to reducing operational costs and minimize carbon footprint. Indicative costing is shown under the first pillar in the table above.

As part of transitioning from a system relying on humanitarian actors/UNHCR and leaning more towards the government, a pilot integrated water utility system for Buramino and Hilaweyn refugee and host settlements will be established. This will ensure a cost-effective sustainable approach with the inclusion of adjacent communities and refugee settlements, following a successful pilot from these first two refugee settlements.

Outcome 2: Increased access to and coverage of sanitation services

Enhancing the construction of shared family latrines, promoting good use and maintenance of existing facilities, decommissioning of non-usable latrines, timely desludging and maintenance of communal latrines, low-cost solid waste management remains the thrust of the hygiene and sanitation focus of the plan while devising approaches to promote community ownership of maintaining hygiene and sanitation infrastructure.

How do we make sure this endures?

We include regional and federal authorities from the beginning. Upgrading the existing water supply scheme would require the leadership, guidance and support of key regional and federal water management

authorities from the onset. Similarly, the regional water bureau would provide the necessary guidance and support to set up a community-owned local utility system, where resources would be ploughed back to finance the operational and maintenance costs needed to run the water supply system, thereby ensuring local ownership and government leadership.

Under the leadership of regional and local authorities, RRS and UNHCR will facilitate and strengthen the establishment of such integrated utilities. There has been a modest attempt to study the feasibility and modalities of such a model. Further collaboration with the local and regional authorities would further guide and propose the establishment of the water utility for sustainable operation and management of the water supply.

How much would this cost?

Table 4. Sustainable water supply and sanitation pillar outcomes and indicative cost

Improving the supply of safe and sufficient potable water (20-25 l/p/d/) and increasing sanitation coverage to acceptable standards	**Indicative cost over five years (USD millions)**				**Total indicative**
Outcome	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**	**2027**	**2024-2027**
Maintaining the existing water supply infrastructure	7.134	4.53	4.52	4.516	**20.7**
Upgrading the water system and establishing an integrated government-led water utility structure serving refugees and hosts	15.5	6.5	6.0	5.5	**33.5**
Increased access to and coverage of sanitation services	5.034	4.53	5.52	4.516	**19.6**
Total Estimate Per Year	**27.668**	**15.56**	**16.04**	**14.532**	**73.8**

Pillar III - Environmental Protection and Agriculture (USD 54 M)

Improved access to agriculture/food security and environmental protection.

What is the issue?

Poor agricultural practices are common, and they affect people's lives, their environment, and key infrastructures. Over-exploitation of natural resources in the form of deforestation has negatively impacted a significant part of the original vegetative cover in the area. This has resulted in widespread erosion with landslides and gullies forming on steeper slopes. Subsequently, erosion is increasing the occurrence of natural disasters such as flash floods and fierce winds, which occur seasonally and in unpredictable patterns, resulting in damage to crops, shelters and infrastructure such as roads. As a result, people are losing their livelihoods, shelter, and the few belongings they have, while public infrastructure is being degraded.

Since 2011, Bokolmayo and Dollo Ado districts in the Somali Region of Ethiopia have hosted refugees from Somalia with a current population of 207,116 refugees. Given the limited return prospects of refugees, the Government of Ethiopia and UNHCR have prioritized investments into irrigation agriculture benefiting host and refugee communities with the support of partners such as the IKEA Foundation.

All partners have been working since 2015 to support the development and establishment of 52 mixed cooperatives and business groups composed in equal parts of refugee and host community members providing livelihood opportunities in the sectors of agriculture productivity, agriculture processing, livestock (across the value chain), energy (solar mini-grids, cookstove production), environment (prosopis tree harvesting, gum and incense production) to more than 1,900 cooperative and business group members.

Significant investments have been made in support of the development of agriculture and market infrastructure. There are nine agriculture cooperatives regrouping more than 1,100 refugee and host community members, which cover 1,000 hectares of land with 29 kilometers of irrigation canals and related infrastructure. This includes pumphouses, flood prevention mechanisms, granaries for post-harvest support, and offices for cooperative management.

The agriculture cooperatives focus primarily on two seasons for production – Gu (April to September) and Dhayer (October to March). The main crops grown are onions (cash crop with a small marketing window), maize, sesame, sorghum, vegetables and in recent seasons, wheat as part of a government pilot. In a context of increasing food insecurity due to the impact of climate change, conflict disrupting markets, and inflation – there is a shift to increased production of food for local markets and household consumption.

To take the agriculture investment forward, the World Bank Group's International Finance Corporation (IFC) is investing in a climate-smart sustainable farming model based on the existing cooperatives. The aim of the investment is to increase productivity and promote a market-oriented private sector engagement.

Droughts persist. Modest efforts undertaken in environmental conservation and rehabilitation have not yet been sufficient to mitigate the damage or risk, which are aggravated by the recurrent drought in the region. Noticeable depletion of forest resources is further exacerbating wind erosion that sweeps away the fertile topsoil.

Everybody seeks to be close to Genale River, to overcome the unpredictable climate effects. Both refugee and host communities rely primarily on agriculture and livestock as livelihood strategies. Agriculture

in the target locations is mainly implemented along the riverbanks of the nearby Genale River and is dependent on the development of irrigation infrastructure due to erratic rainfall and the extreme climate conditions.

Figure 13: Most agriculture in southeast Ethiopia is along the banks of Genale River. © UNHCR/Mary-Sanyu

Mostly cultivating cash crops, people often struggle for food. The local food production system focuses on cultivation of cash crops (onions), and a limited variety of crops (maize) has left many households with little or no food stocks. Consequently, communities are highly dependent on markets for food commodities such as wheat, rice and fresh vegetables, resulting in significant food consumption gaps at the household level and making them susceptible to food insecurity. This is further exacerbated by the lack of safety nets to address food insecurity, pushing vulnerable households to adopt negative coping strategies. Income from livestock sales is decreasing due to drought and sustained reduction of access to quality pasture lands and water.

In addition, poor farming practices have lowered agricultural productivity. Poor irrigation and farming practices, including mono-cropping, have further impacted the land, leading to low agricultural productivity and degraded pastureland. Deforestation around farming areas has also reduced soil quality due to exposure to soil erosion. Reductions in humanitarian assistance, including cuts in food rations, are affecting refugee households that depend on food assistance. Achieving and sustaining local food security will therefore necessitate strategies that take into consideration the impact of climate change and environmental degradation and look at improved land use and water resource management as part of sustainable agriculture and livestock productivity.

What can we do about this?

We improve agricultural production and livestock management. This is aligned with the Ethiopian government's national and regional strategies. The national 10-year economic development plan[20] aims to improve the livelihoods of farmers and pastoralists by making agriculture and livestock more productive and competitive, while working towards meeting the food and nutritional needs of communities. This is also in accordance with the Somali Regional State Drought Response Plan, the 10-year Strategic Plan for the Somali Regional State, the Multi-Year Resilience Plan (MYRP) for 2023–2028, and the Agricultural Transformation Plan.

[20] Government of Ethiopia's Ten-Year Development Plan: A Homegrown Economic Reform Agenda

Crop diversification to support local food security. While contributing to local food security and healthy food for everyone, investments in climate-smart and inclusive agriculture and livestock are essential. Recognizing local market demands and prioritisation of local food security, RRS and UNHCR have, for the first time in the history of the Liban zone, collaborated with the Somali regional government on the production of wheat, as part of crop diversification. Across four agriculture cooperatives, 82 hectares of land were planted marking a significant shift from cash crop production (onions) and fodder (maize), to staple food production.

Figure 14: This development plan targets a growing population of over 360,000 people in southeast Ethiopia. © UNHCR/Mary-Sanyu

We help farmers to enhance their productivity and commercial viability. RRS, SRS, and UNHCR have been collaborating with the IFC to enhance the commercial viability of the farming schemes to roll out a shared farming irrigation model. The partnership is soon to be materialised through the onboarding of a farm-management company and amalgamation of existing farming cooperatives into a joint union comprising host and refugee communities. The model recognizes a proven concept of joint refugee-host cooperative farming model built on an established mechanism to manage joint land use with the possibility of expanding improved farming practices on additional plots, to be provided in view of scalability and profitability.

We train people to take better care of the land. It is equally important to address immediate measures to mitigate further environmental degradation to ensure protection in the short term, and to ensure sustainable community land use and resource management for the longer term.

Through mobilising additional support, leveraging and expanding partnerships, the land component of the compact envisages improved economic inclusion, food security, agriculture support, livestock production, rehabilitation of natural resources, vegetation and agroforestry development, land use and water management and flood protection.

What do we expect as a result?

Outcome 1: Improved protection and economic inclusion of refugees

Outcome 2: Rehabilitation and protection of natural resources

Outcome 3: Improved agricultural production

Outcome 4: Improved livestock production systems

Outcome 5: Food security safety nets

Outcome 1: Improved protection and economic inclusion of refugees

Led by the RRS and supported by UNHCR, this outcome aims to support a conducive environment for investments, while ensuring protection of refugee rights and access to assets for economic inclusion and strengthening community-based protection.

Activities:

- Advocate and ensure the inclusion of refugees and equitable participation;
- Advocate and support rights of all through community-based protection and rights interventions;
- Facilitate access for development partners in refugee-hosting areas in Bokolmayo and Dollo Ado districts;
- Support targeting of refugees for social safety nets and livelihoods initiatives based on registration and protection profiling.

Outcome 2: Rehabilitation and protection of natural resources

Led by relevant Somali Regional State authorities and local bodies, this outcome recognizes the need for community-based natural resource management, specifically around land use and water resource management as the main assets ensuring agriculture and livestock strategies. However, recognizing the impact of displacement and settlements on the environment, it works towards implementing urgent environmental rehabilitation measures and supporting improved land use through community engagement and capacity development.

Activities:

- Strengthen the technical and material capacity of key local stakeholders, led by the relevant SRS authorities, on environmental protection and natural resource management;
- Coordinate the development and implementation of community action plans:
    - Participatory land use planning for Bokolmayo and Dollo Ado districts
    - Awareness-raising and training sessions on sustainable use of natural resources
    - Integration of community-based disaster risk management
- Environmental protection measures to address immediate impact of displacement and settlements, including expanding vegetation coverage for a total of 770 hectares, establishing protected forest sites for 500 hectares, soil, and water conservation measures for 500 hectares;
- Implement water and land rehabilitation measures and resource management through watershed management and establishing disaster risk reduction infrastructure.

Outcome 3: Improved agricultural production

This outcome focuses on ensuring sustainability of existing agriculture cooperatives, but also puts forward a plan for development of additional agricultural land, under the leadership of the SRS and local authorities, as a blueprint for a longer-term engagement and sustainability. Improved agricultural development will be achieved through infrastructure development and maintenance of existing structures, as well as establishment of agricultural cooperatives to support food production while establishing linkages with local food markets.

Activities:

- Build and sustain energy-efficient sustainable agriculture irrigation infrastructure covering 2,000 hectares;
- Establish and strengthen mixed cooperatives in food production for a minimum of 2,000 refugee and host community households;
- Provide agricultural services including risk management (disaster risk reduction measures, and pest and disease management);
- Facilitate inclusion and development of local market systems for sustainability through post-harvest support, value addition and market linkages.

Outcome 4: Improved livestock production systems

Recognizing livestock as a priority livelihood strategy, this outcome aims to improve livestock services and support, while enhancing linkages to agricultural productivity. For example, support skills and capacity development to produce diverse and quality crops and engage with the local market.

Activities:

- Community-led agreement on efficient grazing management systems;
- Extend service support on animal health and disease control;
- Improve feed conversion and animal waste management;
- Link into and advocate for improved livestock market linkages at local and national levels;
- Pilot livestock micro-insurance schemes for asset safeguarding

Outcome 5: Ensuring food security safety nets

Recognizing the vulnerability of both refugee and host communities to shocks and crises that impact their ability to meet basic needs and access vital services, and in line with the protection mandate of RRS and UNHCR, this outcome aims to support linkages and establish complementary safety nets. The safety nets aim to work as a transitional measure recognizing the need for intensive development investment in agricultural and livestock sectors. Furthermore, it aims to continue incentivizing agriculture and livestock productivity by leveraging key safety net measures targeting extremely vulnerable refugee and host community households. This includes supporting improved nutrition measures, school-feeding – both as incentive for nutrition and school enrolment – and supporting local markets as part of transition to local procurement for general food distribution.

Activities:

- Establishment of programs including Cash-for-Work opportunities, especially in the development of agriculture infrastructure to secure a food security safety net;
- Ensure early development and incentivization of food production by creating an understanding of the trade market system
    - Supplementary nutrition vouchers for vulnerable households;
- Support improved linkages to existing safety net and social protection mechanisms for refugees and host communities.

How do we achieve this?

We partner with the government, host communities and development partners. The development and implementation across each outcome and proposed activities will have RRS, SRS, local authorities and communities leading the process with UNHCR playing an advocacy, partnership facilitation, and technical advisory role. It also forms the base for leveraging and expanding development partnerships and directing complementary investments.

How do we make sure this is viable?

We hand it over to the government. With a government-led approach, a smooth transition from implementing NGO partners to governmental local development plans and ownership should be ensured in cooperation with all involved stakeholders. Existing partnerships will also be leveraged to effectively support environmental protection and improve agriculture productivity for the target location. UNHCR will support key partnership facilitation and protection mainstreaming, as well as social safety net activities.

How much would this cost?

Table 5. Access to land, agriculture and environmental protection pillar outcomes and indicative cost

Improved local food security through environmental protection and climate-smart agriculture and livestock productivity linked into and serving a resilient local market		Indicative cost over five years (USD millions)				Total Indicative
Outcome		**2024**	**2025**	**2026**	**2027**	**2024-2027**
Improved protection and economic inclusion of refugees		**3**	**1.5**	**1.5**	**1.5**	**7.5**
Improved environmental protection	**Capacity of local stakeholders**	**0.5**	**0.35**	**0.38**	**0.1**	**4.29**
	Environment implementation measures	**1.18**	**0.88**	**0.6**	**0.3**	
Improved agricultural production	**Infrastructure Development**	**11**	**0.5**	**0.5**	**0.5**	**18.05**
	Supporting Cooperatives with inputs	**1.5**	**1**	**0.5**	**0.5**	
	Technical Capacity/services	**0.3**	**0.35**	**0.35**	**0.35**	
	Post-harvest/market linkages	**0.3**	**0.2**	**0.1**	**0.1**	
Improved livestock production systems		**1**	**0.5**	**0.5**	**0.5**	**2.5**
Food security safety nets	**Safety net/Cash for Work**	**0.6**	**0.3**			**21.9**
	Cash for nutrition	**8.1**	**4.05**	**4.05**	**4.05**	
	Linkages with existing safety nets	**0.3**	**0.15**	**0.15**	**0.15**	
	Total Estimate Per Year	**27.78**	**9.78**	**8.63**	**8.05**	**54.24**

Pillar IV - (1) Education (USD 46 M)

Strengthening local health & education services through gradual integration

What is the issue?

There are not enough schools in the area. Currently, RRS and UNHCR provide education services to refugees hosted across five camps in 18 pre-primary, 19 primary, and five secondary schools, two of which are government-supported. There are 38 schools supported by the Bokolmayo District Education Office, while Dollo Ado District supports 83 host community schools at all levels up to secondary. There are limited secondary schools on the periphery of the camps; demand far outweighs supply, which affects the quality of education. The total number of host community students at all levels of education is 21,311, of which 39% are female. Fifteen host community schools have been closed because of the drought due to migration and lack of access to sufficient water, affecting some 3,000 students.

There are too many students and too few teachers. There are significantly fewer female teachers – both in refugee and host community schools, especially at secondary level. The majority (52%) of teachers in primary schools are not trained, leading to challenges in the quality of teaching and learning in refugee settings.

Current classroom-student ratio at secondary school level is 1:128, against a standard of 1:50. Schools lack very basic facilities including furniture, well-ventilated classrooms, and water and sanitation facilities including lack of separate latrines or handwashing facilities. Current classrooms are dilapidated, while temporary ones are made of iron sheets that makes the environment uncomfortable and non-conducive to learning.

Trained teachers do not stay long. Qualified national teachers receive higher salaries, in line with national benchmarks, compared to the qualified refugee teachers. Refugee secondary schools have qualified teachers who are all Ethiopian nationals, but not from the Somali region, resulting in a lot of turnover and vacant positions. On-going investments in in-service training are challenged by a high turnover of the trained teachers.

Students are not signing up to attend school. In refugee schools (supported by UNHCR and RRS), the overall enrolment has dropped from 33% in the academic year 2021-2022 to 29% in 2022–2023 academic year. By May 2023, 33,282 refugee students were enrolled in schools across all education levels. In 2021–2022, the Melkadida area received more than 15,000 new arrivals from Somalia, including around 8,000 school-age children, adding pressure on the already sub-standard classroom to student ratio. The barriers to enrolment are higher for refugee and host community girls who often face socio-cultural restrictions along with heightened risk of sexual and gender-based violence and harassment. The prolonged drought is negatively affecting school enrolment and retention. This is a significant learning setback across communities, as households mobilise labour (including children) towards any form of employment especially in the informal economy for either cash or in-kind payment to meet their basic needs.

Lack of food at home makes students drop out. School feeding programs were phased out for pre-primary school children in 2020, which led to school dropouts, especially at the time when many households are unable to produce or buy food and meet their basic needs. The school feeding in primary schools is also irregular due to lack of cooking fuel. Shortage of water in certain areas has equally affected school enrolment and attendance.

What can we do about this?

We invest in local education bureaus. Building on the government commitment to enhance refugee access to education and inclusion – such as in the 2019 Refugee Proclamation granting refugees the right to access primary education on the same terms as nationals – RRS and UNHCR invested in local education services aimed at an integrated service delivery in collaboration with regional and local education bureaus. Similar commitments were made at the 2019 GRF on TVET, the inclusion of refugees in the Education Sector Development Program (ESDP V1) in 2020. In line with these policy provisions, the education component aims to support the government towards a gradual transfer of primary and secondary education to the regional education bureaus.

We build schools and train teachers. In addition, proposed interventions in the education sector aim at infrastructure development, including upgrading existing infrastructure to address congestion and inadequate learning spaces. Equally important is the need for professional development of teachers by providing a combination of training and peer coaching in collaboration with the College of Teacher Training in Dollo Ado and District

We make sure teachers are paid well. Noting the need to minimise staff turnover, RRS and the regional education bureaus need to work on harmonising teacher management policies and salaries to meet the minimum government standards.

What do we expect as a result?

Outcome 1: Improved access to primary and secondary education

Outcome 2: Improved teaching and learning resources in the target schools

Outcome 3: Improved engagement of educational stakeholders in education

Outcome 4: Improved child wellbeing, resilience, and learning readiness

Outcome 1: Improved access to primary and secondary education

Activities under this outcome seek to enhance enrolment and retention rates through infrastructure upgrades and construction of new facilities and availability of school materials.

Activities:

- Construct additional educational infrastructure to accommodate both refugee and host community students
- Renovate existing educational infrastructure
- Equip newly constructed schools
- Provide material assistance to students and schools
- Support improved access to education of girls through targeted activities and incentives
- Support children with special needs through improved accessibility and capacitated support

Outcome 2: Improved teaching and learning resources in the target schools

This outcome aims to support improved teaching capacity through harmonisation of salaries and incentives and targeted training. Special focus will be given to improving and increasing the number of female teachers to address the gender disparity within the education space.

Activities:

- Harmonisation and provision of teacher incentives and salaries
- Provision of incentives and salaries for school administrators, education officers, school counsellors, other project staff (school guards, cooks etc.)
- Support in-service training program for teachers including incentivising return to teaching posts
- Ensure supply of updated and necessary teaching and learning supplies
- Support schools with systems for collecting aggregated data
- Support the strengthening of national Education Management Information System (EMIS)

Outcome 3: Improved engagement of educational stakeholders in education

Capacity development of education partners at all levels is important with the view to improve education service delivery and awareness raising on the GRF commitments. Bokolmayo and Dollo Ado District Education

Offices will be supported to enhance their capacity to monitor teaching and learning processes in all schools in the area.

Activities

- Provide training for district and NGO personnel and School Management Committee (SMC) members
- Train student group/committee members
- Enhance capacity of district education officers through capacity building, equipment, and logistical support.

Outcome 4: Improved child well-being, resilience and readiness to learn

Sports and extracurricular activities are essential for child wellbeing, resilience, and learning readiness, and contribute to improved social cohesion and peaceful co-existence.

Activities

- Rehabilitate sports facilities (playgrounds) at school sites
- Support primary and secondary school children involved in a sport-for-protection program, extra-curricular sports activities, and competitions
- Purchase/provide sports uniforms and equipment for children

How much would this cost?

Table 6. Education pillar outcomes and indicative cost

Improved access to safe, protective and inclusive learning environment through strengthening education services in an integrated manner		Indicative cost over five years (USD millions)				Total Indicative
Outcome		**2024**	**2025**	**2026**	**2027**	**2024-2027**
Improved access to primary and secondary education – Infrastructure Development	**Primary Education**	**1.66**	**0.09**	**0.45**	**-**	**5.09**
	Secondary Education	**0.77**	**0.74**	**0.69**	**0.69**	
Improved teaching and learning resources in target schools		**1.62**	**1.06**	**1.06**	**1.07**	**4.8**
Improved engagement of educational stakeholders		**0.044**	**0.027**	**0.027**	**0.027**	**0.125**
Improved child wellbeing, resilience, and learning readiness		**2.91**	**1.5**	**1.7**	**0.53**	**6.64**
	Total Estimate Per Year	**6.99**	**3.4**	**3.91**	**2.31**	**16.6**

Pillar IV - (2) Primary Health Care (USD 46 M)

Strengthening local health services through gradual integration

What is the issue?

Hospitals are few and far from reach. The Liban zone has two hospitals, 16 health centres, 137 health posts and three mobile health teams providing services to hard-to-reach populations. There are five health centres run by the RRS under MRC targeting 207,000 refugees and over 100,000 host population. Emergency and comprehensive obstetric services are sought at Dollo Ado hospital, 70 km from Melkadida, while higher-level medical services are provided by Filtu hospital, 150 km from Melkadida. The five refugee health centres were built between 2009 and 2013 with a capacity to serve a population of 20,000–25,000 each. The existing refugee camps now host over 35,000 people each, making it difficult to meet the additional needs.

Dilapidated health facilities. Four of the five health centres are dilapidated, with no major maintenance and expansion undertaken since establishment. There was a plan to construct a general hospital in Dollo Ado in 2022, however, the allocated resources were reprioritized to support emergency relief, including drought response in the area. In 2020, the health center in Dollo Ado town was upgraded to a 'primary hospital' with the addition of a few blocks and medical personnel. But after the departure of Médecins Sans Frontières (who provided a lot of financial and in-kind support) and a complete takeover by the regional health office, local authorities are finding it difficult to provide required services due to lack of rooms, equipment, medicine, and skilled personnel.

Doctors and skilled health workers turnover. Each refugee health center is run by 24 to 26 health workers including one medical doctor serving 35 to 40,000 people as opposed to the regional standard of 44 to 46 health workers and at least two medical doctors. On top of this, the refugee health service is battling with high turnover of experienced health staff, especially medical doctors and health officers, due to the low benefit package, remote location, and limited opportunity for career development. The ratio of doctors and midwives to population in the refugee sites is above 1:35,000 and 1:7,000 respectively, against the national average of 1:12,500 and 1:1,500 respectively.

Referrals are swamped. Secondary and tertiary medical referrals have remained an outstanding challenge for the Melkadida operation, leading to a referral backlog of over 500 cases by April 2023. Investment in local health services and technologies for remote health service delivery will reduce costs for referrals, especially to remote areas, and so improve the wellbeing and safety of refugees and host communities.

Disease outbreaks are common. The two districts hosting the refugee have experienced multiple disease outbreaks in 2021 and 2022, including measles and acute watery diarrheal outbreak. The most recent Cholera outbreak, in 2023, has led to fatalities of refugees and host communities, affecting over 700 people.

What can we do about this?

We strengthen government-run health systems. Mindful of existing and upcoming pledges on enhancing health services for refugees, and in view of the close collaboration between local and regional health authorities, we work on a roadmap towards synergy and a gradual integration with local health services. We strengthen the refugee health system and invest in local health structures, gradually handing it over to the government.

We scale up their capacity to respond to emergencies. We enhance emergency capacity to timely detect and respond, and to effectively undertake surveillance activities.

We integrate refugees to the local health system. RRS and UNHCR would be working together on a joint advocacy and developing a roadmap for gradual integration of refugee health services in the national health system, in partnership with local government and development partners.

What do we expect as a result?

Outcome 1: Strong refugee and local health systems
- Upgraded health infrastructure serving both communities
- Sufficient medical supplies, equipment, and medicines
- Qualified health workforce

Outcome 2: Enhanced emergency preparedness & response capacity

Outcome 3: Gradual integration and synergy with local health services

Outcome 1: Strong refugee and local health systems

Upgraded health infrastructures serving both communities

The infrastructure of the five refugee health centres and two referral hospitals will be expanded through provision of medical equipment and supplies. This would enable health services to adequately respond to the growing population. The government's plan of building a new hospital at Dollo Ado town to replace the old facility will be supported and key gaps at Filtu Hospital addressed.

Activities:

- Refurbish and expand the five health centres and two referral hospitals, for comprehensive and quality service delivery
- Initiate additional health post structures in refugee-hosting areas, surpassing over 25,000 population per health centre

Sufficient medical supplies, equipment, and medicines

While the primary health care approach revolves around core intervention, access to secondary and tertiary health care is also important. Under this outcome, the five health centers and two referral hospitals will be equipped with essential diagnostic and therapeutic equipment, essential medicines, and supplies that cannot be availed through the regular supply chain. In order to improve referral services, ambulances, operation theatre, oxygen production and blood bank services will be established. To improve accessibility of medical services to people in remote locations, the existing mobile health service will be expanded to include the two districts. In addition, an outreach specialist will be introduced.

Activities:

- Procure medicines, medical supplies and equipment for the five refugee health centres and the two referral hospitals
- Support provision of medical referrals, as well as outreach services for refugees and host community
- Strengthen mobile health services for the internally displaced and host populations in remote locations

Qualified health workforce

To address the shortage of skilled health workforce and minimise turnover, skills trainings will be organised, including sponsorship of short-term scholarships in collaboration with regional universities and health bureaus. This should expand the skills base of existing staff and produce new medical specialists such as radiologists, emergency medical officers, public health epidemiologist, etc. Incentive mechanisms for extra-hours services and benefits for hardship will be implemented to attract and keep the health professionals.

Activities:

- Recruit and deploy critical health care cadres in health centres, referral facilities and at health posts
- Capacity-building of health workers to equip them for provision of client-focused quality services

- Introduce incentive mechanisms to attract and retain skilled workforce

Outcome 2: Enhanced emergency preparedness and response capacity

Under this outcome, a series of activities will be implemented to reduce the susceptibility and likelihood of occurrence and enhance response capacity of the district and refugee health offices. Essential medical items including diagnostic and treatment kits will be prepositioned; surveillance, early detection and reporting capacity will be strengthened. A core team of trained clinical and public health teams will be formed; a joint outbreak response unit, involving the community, will be strengthened.

Activities:

- Build capacity (surveillance, case management, coordination mechanisms) of the health system for epidemic response
- Avail supplies, equipment and maintenance for isolation and case management centers

Outcome 3: Gradual integration and synergy with local health services

Under the leadership of the RRS, the gradual integration and establishment of synergies between the refugee and local government services require advocacy and agreements both at the regional and local levels. UNHCR will facilitate and support the development of a transition roadmap, including mapping of facilities for integration, standardising refugee facilities to meet the national standard, linking the host and refugee health information systems, in partnership with the regional and local health offices.

Activities:

- Consultation and workshops with stakeholders and community on service provision and integration
- Developing a government-led interagency health integration roadmap, piloting service integration in selected health facilities and services
- Coding and accreditation of refugee health facilities
- Harmonising reporting systems, and integration of refugee health data into a regional health report system

How much would this cost?

Table 7. Primary and secondary health care outcomes and indicative cost

System strengthening through investment into local health systems for a comprehensive, quality, and integrated health service delivery for both refugee and host communities	Indicative cost over five years (USD millions)				Total Indicative
Outcome	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**	**2027**	**2024-2027**
Investment in and strengthening of refugee and local health systems for an inclusive health service: – **Upgraded health infrastructure serving both communities** – **Provision of medical supplies, equipment, and medicines** – **Capacity building of health professionals**	**10.44**	**7.62**	**5.07**	**5.01**	**28.14**
Enhance emergency preparedness and response capacity	**0.5**	**0.4**	**0.3**	**0.3**	**1.5**
Gradual integration and synergy with local health services	**0.1**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**0.5**	**0.8**
Total Estimate Per Year	**11.04**	**8.12**	**5.47**	**5.81**	**30.44**

How do we achieve this?

We adopt a systemic approach to our planning. The RRS and the SRS, supported by UNHCR, will adapt and implement systemic planning to ensure that the projected development plans are implemented in a comprehensive and effective way, through a mechanism for regular follow-up of coordination and implementation.

We invite relevant actors to the table. Under the ownership and leadership of the government (at regional and local levels, as well as RRS) and with the support of the UNHCR, the implementation and follow-up of this plan applies a multi-stakeholder approach.

We meet regularly. A joint forum to coordinate comprehensive planning and monitoring, chaired by RRS and SRS/district level) will provide guidance and monitor alignment of interventions along the four pillars of the compact with existing government priorities and plans. UNHCR provides technical and financial support to this coordination forum and may serve as a secretariat as necessary.

We regularly review the plan and adjust if needed. The coordination forum will devise a system to monitor achievements towards the objectives of the plan through regular reviews, recommending revisions when necessary.

Figure 13: The Melkadida Refugee Compact aims to improve health systems to foster vibrant communities.
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Annex I: Summary overview

Opportunities	Challenges 2023	Solutions 2028 (how to reach envisaged result)	Expected result and budget
  Highest average sunlight per year, making interventions in off-grid solar energy more efficient Tested approach including the ongoing AfDB-EEU 2MW solar project that can be scaled to decrease carbon footprint significantly though solarization Growing need for energy for communal and productive use Identification of electric stoves as the most sustainable and preferred cooking method	Lack of national electricity grid and absence of plans to extend grid to the refugee-hosting areas High dependency on diesel-run generators for electricity, including for water supply systems High dependency on rainwater harvesting areas adjacent to perennial Genale River >90% of population rely on firewood for cooking Only 12% of households with access to clean energy across five refugee settlements Limited energy production provided by only six solar mini-grid cooperatives	Under the renewable energy, the thrust of the plan is to achieve universal access to safe and sustainable energy, where most of the people in the target areas will have access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy services for electricity, lighting, cooking, and water pumping and irrigation through: Installation of 48,000 solar panels (producing 16 megawatts) across the five refugee settlements and Dollo Ado town Installation of 2,700 solar panels for three camps Installation of 1,800 solar panels to solarize existing water supply systems Installation of nine solar power pumps and a total of 1,500 solar panels to solarize the pump systems to irrigate 1,000 hectares of farmland Installation of 31,000 solar DC-Stoves including the solar home system Installation of over 20 communal and institutional cooking facilities	360,000 refugees and adjacent host community members have access to clean energy for households, businesses, and social services: Indicative Cost: $180 million Nine irrigation schemes and five water supply systems for peri-urban areas around existing refugee settlements and adjacent host communities solarized Additional boreholes drilled and solarized to reduce the need to pump water over long distances: Indicative Cost: $ 7.91million All 31,000 households in refugee settlements have access to clean energy for cooking: Indicative Cost: $32.4 million

Opportunities	Challenges 2023	Solutions 2028 (how to reach envisaged result)	Expected result and budget
 Perennial Genale River with enough flow to cater for the water needs of host and refugee population Recent collaboration creates more potential for underground water mapping and borehole drilling. Willingness on the part of the community to transition from humanitarian intervention to sustainability through cost-recovery methods to ensure sustainability	Diesel dependence: old diesel fuel-run water pumps operating for longer hours with limited back-up systems in place Limited capacity amidst growing population: The current water supply system was designed to serve one third of the number of people it is serving today Old infrastructure that has continued to deteriorate under extreme weather conditions, with no system upgrade Old and poor yielding boreholes: Three out of eight shallow well boreholes have a significantly decreased production, while two remain non-functional. Below UNHCR post-emergency standard: The average potable water availability per person is below the UNHCR standard. Poor hygienic practices and low family latrine coverage (22%) - far behind the UNHCR post emergency standard of 85%, open defecation	Ensuring sustainable water supply through maintaining & upgrading the existing supply system, while establishing an integrated and sustainable locally owned water supply utility structure Upgrading pumping stations, pipeline networks, re-development and construction of borehole sources, replacing the existing old generators and pumps, upgrading the water storage tanks, construction of additional water points etc and establishing integrated water utility system Improving access to and management of Sanitation/Hygiene services Construction and maintenance of family & shared household latrines, decommissioning of non-usable latrines, timely desludging and maintenance of communal latrines, availing innovative systems for sanitation services and waste disposal	Safe and sufficient access to water (20-25/Liters/person/day) for over 360,000 refugees and host community members improved Maintaining current water supply system: Indicative Cost: $ 20.7 Upgrading the water system while establishing an integrated water supply utility structure, serving refugees and hosts: Indicative Cost: $ 33.5 million Increasing current household latrine coverage from 22% to 85% through construction and maintenance of latrines, promoting good hygiene practices: Indicative Cost: $ 19.6 million

Opportunities	Challenges 2023	Solutions 2028 (how to reach envisaged result)	Expected result and budget
 Alignment with national and local development priorities Collaboration with the government to pilot food crops/wheat production Availability of land for farming purposes with a potential to add more land Introduction of climate-smart inclusive agriculture practices through private sector partnership to enhance productivity Proven concept of a joint refugee-host cooperative farming model Established mechanism to manage joint land use between host and refugee communities	Overexploitation of natural resources (deforestation) had negative impact on a significant part of the original vegetative cover in the area. Erosion is exacerbated by natural disasters such as flash flooding and fierce winds, which cause widespread damage to crops, shelters and infrastructure. The recurrent drought in the region is further undermining ongoing environmental protection efforts. Establishment of cooperatives to support food production Dependence on cash crops with limited cultivation of food crops: local communities continue to be highly dependent on markets for food commodities making them susceptible to food insecurity. Poor irrigation and farming practices including mono-cropping have further impacted the land, resulting in low productivity. Lack of safety nets to address food insecurity, pushing vulnerable households to adopt negative coping strategies	The LAND component of the pillar envisages economic inclusion, improved local food security through environmental protection and climate-smart agriculture and livestock productivity by: implementing advocacy for the inclusion of refugees supporting land-use planning, expanding vegetation coverage for a total of 770 hectares implementing conservation measures for 500 hectares development of additional 2,000 hectares of irrigated land extension service support on animal health and disease control, introducing "cash for work" opportunities especially in the development of agriculture infrastructure.	Improved protection and economic inclusion of refugees: Support conducive environment for development investments, while ensuring refugee rights: Indicative Cost: $7.5 million Rehabilitation and protection of natural resources achieved: Community-based land use and water resource management: Indicative Cost: 4.29million Improved agriculture production: Sustainability of existing agriculture cooperatives, while developing additional agriculture land: Indicative Cost: 18.05million Improved livestock production systems: Improved livestock services and support alongside improving linkages to agriculture productivity: Indicative Cost: $ 2.5 million Food security safety nets: Support linkages and establishment of complementary safety nets to function as a transitional measure to support development of agriculture infrastructure: Indicative Cost: $21.9 million

Opportunities	Challenges 2023	Solutions 2028 (how to reach envisaged result)	Expected result and budget
   Dynamic and entrepreneurial population – especially women and youth – providing access to integrated education and health services to host and refugee communities Opportunities for integration of services in the near future, with an expanded inclusion space through government interventions Opportunity to complement a plan of establishing a new general hospital in Dollo Ado, while upgrading the existing one to reduce high referral expenses	Education RRS and UNHCR provide education services in 18 pre-primary centres, 19 primary schools and five secondary schools 38 schools supported by the Bokolmayo District; 83 host community schools supported by Dollo Ado, up to secondary education. Enrolment is low, with high level of school dropouts. Poor Infrastructure: Schools lack minimum of basic facilities including furniture, ventilated classrooms, water, and sanitation facilities. Current classrooms are dilapidated, while temporary ones are made of iron sheets that make the learning environment non-conducive and uncomfortable. Low enrolment and poor standards: In refugee schools, the overall enrolment dropped from 33% in the academic year 2021-2022 to 29% in 2022-2023 academic year, despite an increasing number of school-aged children. Current classroom-student ratio in secondary school is 1:128, vs. a standard of 1:50. Phaseout of school-feeding from pre-primary education	Education The Education pillar of the PEOPLE component seeks to establish improved access to a safe, protective, and inclusive learning environment through: renovation of existing infrastructure and building additional (construct and equip 24 classrooms in the three secondary schools); equipping newly constructed schools; harmonisation of salaries and incentives (incentive to refugees (264) and salary to host community teachers (248), targeted trainings and provision of teaching and learning supplies strengthening national Education Management Information System (EMIS), capacity development of education partners and offices, supporting extra-curricular sports activities and competitions	Improved access to primary and secondary education: Provision of equitable access to education to all school-age children Increased enrolment from 40% to 62% (in pre-primary), 13.9% to 16% (in secondary) education Decreased classroom-to-student ratio from 1:128 to 1:94 Meeting the national minimum standard of 1:50 teacher-to-student ratio and addressing high teacher turnover: Indicative Cost: $ 5.1 million Improved teaching and learning resources in target schools: Improved teaching capacity through harmonisation of salaries and incentives Indicative Cost: $ 4.8 million Improved engagement of educational stakeholders: Capacity development of education partners at all levels Indicative Cost: $ 0.125 million

Opportunities	Challenges 2023	Solutions 2028 (how to reach envisaged result)	Expected result and budget
The PEOPLE [Continued]	Low capacity of teaching staff: 52% of teachers in primary schools are ill-trained, leading to challenges in education quality Lack of connectivity hampering the smooth teaching and learning process in schools Limited number of secondary schools: the demand by far outweighs the supply, affecting the quality of education. **Health** Strained health services: Each of the five refugee health centres are serving over 35,000 people, barely meeting the basic needs Poor infrastructure: Four of the five health centers are dilapidated, with no significant maintenance and expansion undertaken Turnover of medical personnel: Each refugee health centre is run by 24-26 health workers, as compared to the regional standard of 44 to 46 staff (with at least two medical doctors)	**Health** The health sub-component invests in the health services, while supporting service integration through: supporting the upgrade (OPD, IPD, Maternity, theatre) of Dollo Ado hospital and construction of a new one in Dollo Ado, renovation and expansion of five health centers construction of additional health posts in refugee-hosting areas with a population of over 25,000, construction of oxygen plant, blood bank and power-back up in Filtu Hospital, procurement of ambulances, medicines and equipment, strengthening mobile health service for IDPs and host population in remote locations, introducing incentive mechanisms to attract and retain skilled workforce, building capacity (surveillance, case management) for epidemic response, developing roadmap for gradual integration of refugee health delivery into national health system in partnership with the government	Improved child wellbeing, resilience, and learning. Improved social cohesion and peaceful co-existence: Indicative Cost $6.6 million Upgraded and rehabilitated primary and secondary health care facilities: Indicative Cost: $18.88 million Increased medical supply and capacity building of work force: Indicative Cost: $9.26 million Improved emergency response capacity for timely and appropriate action: Indicative Cost: $1.5 million Supporting the gradual inclusion and integration of refugee health structures into local health services: Indicative Cost: $ 0.35 million

Opportunities	Challenges 2023	Solutions 2028 (how to reach envisaged result)	Expected result and budget
The PEOPLE [Continued]	Poor roads & limited accessibility to emergency and comprehensive health services at Dollo Ado hospital. More advanced medical services are available at Filtu Hospital located 150 km away (via rough terrain), resulting in accumulation of referral backlogs Multiple disease outbreaks (measles in 2021, acute watery diarrhea in 2022, and cholera in 2023) resulting in fatalities.		

Abbreviations

AfDB - African Development Bank

CRRF - Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework

DC - Direct Current

EEU - Ethiopian Electric Utility

ESDP - Education Sector Development Program

GCR - Global Compact on Refugees

GRF - Global Refugee Forum

IFC - International Finance Corporation

IKEA F - IKEA Foundation

IPC - Integrated Food Security Phase Classification

Kebele - the smallest administrative unit, part of a district (Woreda)

KW - Kilowatt

L/p/d - litres per person per day

MRC - Melkadida Refugee Compact

MW - Megawatt

MYRP - Multi-year Resilience Plan

NEP - National Electrification Program

NGO - Non- Governmental Organization

NYD - New York Declaration

RRS - Refugees & Returnees Service

SDGs - Sustainable Development Goals

SRS - Somali Regional State

tTEM - geophysical and geological water-mapping system of the shallow subsurface in a fast/ cost-efficient way

TVET - Technical, Vocational Education & Training

UNHCR - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

USD - United States Dollar

WB - World Bank

Districts - Woreda: Administrative divisions made up of kebeles. Districts make up zones.

Annexes

The 2019 Refugee Proclamation of Ethiopia
Ten Years Development Plan: A Pathway to Prosperity
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