



UNHCR Operation in Ethiopia

Fact Sheet | April 2014

UNHCR Operational Highlights

- At the end of April 2014, Ethiopia hosted **536,742** refugees from 13 countries. The majority- 240,302 individuals (44.77%) -are **Somalis** followed by **South Sudanese** 165,630 ind. (30.86%), **Eritreans**- 92,460 ind.(17.23%) and **Sudanese** 34,052 ind.(6.34%). The country also hosted 4,298 (0.80%) refugees from several other countries, including from the Great Lakes Region, Kenya, Yemen and Djibouti.
- **14,905** new refugees were registered in the country in April. The large majority, **12,208** are South Sudanese who have fled the on-going conflict in their country. Also, 2,151 Eritreans and 204 Somalis were registered as refugees during the reporting month.
- Ethiopia's borders remain open and freely accessible by asylum seekers coming from many of its neighbouring countries, most notably from South Sudan, Sudan, Somalia and Eritrea.
- Relocation of new arrivals from the different border crossing points in the Gambella region to the camps continued by land, boat and air (helicopter).
- UNHCR, ARRA and partners transferred thousands of South Sudanese refugees from low-lying and flood-prone parts of Kule and Leichuor camps to higher grounds to prevent flooding of their shelters during the approaching rainy season.
- Women and children made up about 95% of all South Sudanese new arrivals as at end of April, with many of the children in poor nutritional status. UNHCR and partners have enrolled thousands of children, pregnant and lactating women in different nutrition programmes including centres for severe and moderate malnutrition as well as supplementary feeding.
- The UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres and WFP's Executive Director Ertharin Cousin visited Ethiopia and travelled to the Gambella regional State to witness the condition of South Sudanese refugees. (details under "operational developments & achievements below").
- UNHCR airlifted 4,000 emergency tents into Gambella, most of them pitched in Leitchuor and Kule camps.
- A total of 352, mainly Somali refugees from the old camp at Kebribeyah were resettled to different countries during the month of April.

Refugees and asylum seekers in Country

(by country of origin)

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	TOTAL NUMBER	NEW REGISTRATION IN March 2014	No. of Camps
Somalia	240,302	204	8
Eritrea	92,460	2,151	6
South Sudan	165,630	12,208	4
Sudan	34,052	-	4
Others	4,298		2*
Total	536,742	14,905	24

*Included in the number of camps are two service delivery sites for Kenyan refugees.

UNHCR operation in 2014

(in million USD)

BY POPULATION	BUDGET	FUNDS AVAILABLE
Refugees	199.807	56.1
Total Budget	199.807	*64

*Ethiopia's needs may additionally be covered by un-earmarked sub regional, regional or entirely un-earmarked funding that UNHCR received
 *Funds covering the South Sudan Emergency response in Ethiopia are not included.

Working with Partners

UNHCR works with the following implementing and operational partners in extending international protection and delivery of assistance to refugees and the search for durable solutions to their plight:

Government Partners: Administration for Refugees and Returnees Affairs; Bureau of Agriculture; Gambella Rural Roads Authority; Jijiga Water Supply Office; Natural Resources Development Agency-Assosa; Natural

Resources Development Agency- Gambella; Tselemt Woreda Environmental Protection Programme, Gambella Regional Health Bureau.

NGOs: Africa Humanitarian Action; African Humanitarian Aid and Development Agency; Association of Ethiopians Educated in Germany; Gaia Association; Hope for the Horn; International Medical Corps; International Rescue Committee; Lutheran World Federation; MSF-France; Jesuit Refugee Services; Mother and Child Development Organization; Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church; Rehabilitation and Development Organization



the Environment; Partnership for Pastoralists Development Association; Save the Children; Norwegian Church Aid; Norwegian Refugee Council; Opportunities Industrialization Centres-Ethiopia; Pastoralist Welfare Organization; Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency; World Vision Ethiopia, Partners for Refugee Services;

Spain and the Netherlands; Oxfam - UK; ZOA, Centre for Victims of Trauma (CVT)

Operational partners- NGOs: Goal Ethiopia; Danish Refugee Council; Islamic Relief and Development; MSF-Spain and the Netherlands; Oxfam - UK; ZOA.

Other partners: IOM; UNICEF; UNOPS; WFP.

Operational Developments & Achievements

- UNHCR, together with ARRA and other humanitarian partners scaled up the emergency response effort in Ethiopia's Gambella region, bordering South Sudan. Refugees continued to arrive at an average rate of 800-1,000 a day, and this pushed the total arrival figure since mid-December to more than 100,000 as at the end of April. Measures were taken to speed up level I registration at the different entry points, and this helped speed up relocation to the different refugee camps. With support from IOM, new arrivals were relocated from the border by boat and land as appropriate while a UNHCR-contracted helicopter transferred malnourished children and other vulnerable individuals who needed urgent attention. In general, a coordinated humanitarian intervention in areas such as shelter, food and nutrition, health, water and hygiene was well underway under the leadership of UNHCR.
- UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres and WFP's Executive Director Ertharin Cousin visited Ethiopia at the beginning of the month to witness the South Sudanese refugee emergency in the Gambella region as well as to extend their appreciation to the people and government of Ethiopia for their continued hospitality. The two officials directly flew into Gambella from South Sudan and visited Kule refugee camp as well as the Pagak border point through which hundreds of South Sudanese crossed every day. After meeting with refugees both in the camp and at the reception centre, Mr. Guterres said he was shocked by the physical and psychological condition of the people he met. He later told journalists that this was a tragedy "I had hoped I would not see again; many of these people are becoming refugees for the second time." The two Agency chiefs, who also met with senior government officials, expressed concern that the numbers could climb sharply in the coming months if the conflict does not come to an end, and worry that lack of funds could thwart an adequate humanitarian response.
- UNHCR and its partners worked hard to expand accommodation to the soaring number of refugees from South Sudan including airlifting 4,000 emergency tents into Gambella and clearing and demarcating land for a fifth camp near Kule. 2,000 of the tents were set up in Leitchuor camp and another 1,500 in Kule camp. With the two new camps reaching their maximum capacities, UNHCR and partners speeded up work on the fifth camp, expected to accommodate up to 30,000 refugees.
- UNHCR lightened up the streets of Aw-barre and Sheder camps in eastern Ethiopia, and this is believed to significantly reduce the risk of gender-based and other forms of violence that take place in the camps in the dark. A total of 275 solar-powered street lights were installed in almost all the streets in the two camps as well as in key communal facilities such as health centres. Some 10% of the lights were erected in public institutions serving the local refugee-hosting communities surrounding the two camps. The selection of the points was done with the help of a team composed of UNHCR, ARRA, Refugee Central Committee members in the camps, representatives of the local Kebele administration in the host community as well as technicians from UNHCR's partner AHADA who were responsible for the erection of the solar street lights.

UNHCR Staff

Staff comprise: 258 national, including 80 UNOPS, 79 international including 8 under UNV and other arrangements.

For further details, please contact:
UNHCR Representation in Ethiopia
Bole Road, woreda 21 kebele 23
House No. 1255/01-02

Kisut Gebreegziabher
Public Information Unit
Tel.: +251-116612822
E-mail: gegziabk@unhcr.org