

The Refugee Task Force is held on a monthly basis and serves as the primary national forum for inter-sector coordination in Ethiopia, jointly chaired by ARRA and UNHCR. The below minutes reflect interventions by the Chairs, all sector chairs/co-chairs, and invited participants, together with agreed action points.

Location: UNHCR Branch Office, Main Conference Room

Time and Date: 3.30pm, 10 October 2017

Chairs: ARRA and UNHCR

Action Points:

Reference	Action Point	Who	By When	Status
11.10.17 #1	none			
11.10.17 #2	none			

Refugee Task Force Presentation

- *Presentation on Cash Based Interventions*

A. General Announcements:

- **The current South Sudanese population in Ethiopia totals 405,000, and is expected to reach 450,000 persons at the close of 2017, with additional new arrivals of 35,000 during the course of 2018.**
- Key objectives for the RRRP in 2018 include:
 - preserving and enhancing the protection environment and living conditions for refugees and promotion of peaceful coexistence;
 - strengthening refugee protection through the expansion of improved community-based and multi-sectorial child protection and SGBV programmes;
 - strengthening access to basic services;
 - expanding labour opportunities;
 - supporting the implementation of the GoE's Pledges to expand access to rights, services, and self-reliance opportunities in the longer-term, in line with the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF);
 - contributing to the development of linkages to local and national development interventions; and,
 - Expanding access to solutions when feasible and legal migration pathways.
- Gure Shembola Refugee Camp was established in Benishangul-Gumuz to ease the pressure on Gambella. Nonetheless, it is anticipated that the Region will continue to host the majority of South Sudanese refugees, with new arrivals traveling with livestock and opting to remain in close proximity to towns and villages of origin in South Sudan.
- The security situation in Gambella remains unpredictable; with past security incidents affected refugees, host communities and humanitarian workers. New arrivals are mostly of Nuer ethnicity, 91% based on current registration profiling. As a consequence, the expansion of existing camps or

urban population centres populated by the Nuer is essential as well as implementing peaceful coexistence and security programmes.

- Total South Sudanese new arrivals from 1 January to 30 September 2017 stands at 66,211 individuals. Ethiopia is currently hosting 405,000 South Sudanese refugees. UNHCR expects to have received a total of 450,000 South Sudanese refugees by the end of 2017, with additional new arrivals of 35,000 during the course of 2018.

Request UNICEF: Would appreciate advice on UNHCR's planned process for contingency planning in Gambella given recent changes in approach and what camp size is now being planned for in Nguenyiyi and current resourcing of this.

B. Registration

Registration – Level 3 Registration is underway, or has been completed, for refugees living in Addis Ababa, SNNP, the Shire area of operation (Endabaguna only), and Melkadida. All newly arriving refugees at each of these locations are issued with a Proof of Registration document. Biometrics included. 238 sets of biometrics equipment have been ordered, and are expected in country on 07 December 2017.

Refugee ID cards are being issued at Addis Ababa. The issuance of refugee ID cards will also begin in Jijiga on 12 October. The rollout will be for refugees at Shedar, Aw Barre and Kebrebiyah camp, in that order, and will be completed in 2018.

The Dutch Government has agreed to release, with immediate effect, some 2.5 million Euro to UNHCR, recognizing on-going delays with the AMIF funding.

Vital Documentation issuance – in line with Pledge #9, the Ethiopian authorities have indicated that they will begin issuing vital events documents, including birth certificates, marriage certificates, and others, to refugees in Addis(?) on 26 October 2017 and continue to roll-out services in Shire and then other regions: Melkdadida, Jijiga, Assosa and Gambella. UNHCR and UNICEF will support the on-going collaboration between ARRA and the Vital Events Registration Agency (VERA, under the Ministry of Justice) to issue the documentation. Documents will be prepared and issued by ARRA, on behalf of VERA and without difference in form or function to those issued to Ethiopian nationals. While the backlog of children without birth certificates are contemplated in the VERA and ARRA's longer term work plan, the focus initially will be on new births.

C. Protection

Humanitarian Corridor – 500 refugees will move to Italy under an innovative "Humanitarian Corridor" project which UNHCR has undertaken with two faith-based organizations, *Caritas Italiana* and *Sant'Egidio Community*. This is not refugee resettlement. Rather Eritrean, Somali and South Sudanese refugees will be identified by UNHCR, and then interviewed by the faith-based team. Those selected will then be flown to Italy, where the asylum interview will take place upon arrival. Per the terms of the agreed Memorandum of Understanding, all persons will be admitted and granted a Limited Territorial Validity Visa, which will restrict movement to within Italy only for the first year. Integration will be handled by the diaspora community, in cooperation with Italian national authorities.

Refugee Resettlement – The United States Government will admit 19,000 refugees from Africa during the 2018 Fiscal Year. The quota for Ethiopia within this allocation has not yet been determined. Canada has requested resettlement registration forms for an additional 300 persons, through the end of 2017. They have asked for referrals for Eritrean refugees only, which UNHCR has challenged. Australia and New Zealand continue to determine their respective quotas. Ethiopia is also under consideration for a selection mission by Switzerland, though this is quite tentative, and based only upon an initial discussion held at Geneva.

Other Alternative Legal Pathways, including Family Reunification – UNHCR continues to promote refugee mobility and legal entry under other non-traditional programmes, including family reunification, labour mobility, education visas, private sponsorship and regional economic communities. Under family reunification, a working group meeting is being held on a quarterly basis with working level consular officers from several embassies. Persons have departed in 2017 for a number of locations, with emphasis on European countries, the United States and Canada. Statistical tracking of these departures is not exact, as some refugees complete processing without UNHCR intervention. Vital events documentation which the national authorities will issue is expected to further promote reunification opportunities.

Combatant Screening Procedures – a re-write of the Combatant Screening procedures were completed on 24 August. The latest version brings the previous Ethiopia 2012 edition up to standard with established practice. The previous approach confused terminology and approach, among other areas. Missing is still a location where combatants could be separated to. Emphasis in the new version is placed upon the role of ARRA to undertake both nationality and combatant screening at the initial entry point of the refugee into the registration process. Nationality screening also still needs strengthening at field level.

Community-Based Protection – the results of the Participatory Assessment exercise are complete, and will inform the 2018 detailed budgeting exercise. Within the report, emphasis has been placed on capturing the protection risks/rights unmet faced by refugees of varying age, gender and diversity profiles, and to compare results against on-going monitoring and past focus group discussions. Country-wide, concerns continue in particular related to refugee access to information, poor quality healthcare delivery, fear of gender-based violence, and demand for durable solutions.

Access to Justice – With the 26 September arrival of the UN Police Consultant, Mr. Opia Godfrey Aropet, and the expected restarting of Tamara Karaica's consultancy, the implementation of the Security Package / Community Security & Access to Justice (CSAJ) continues to move ahead: 1) Exchanges with UNICEF, UNWOMEN and UNDP have been made to confirm involvement as well as to ensure harmony with their related programmes and projects, 2) Godfrey will travel to Gambella on 11 October, but meanwhile in Addis, he has been presented to ARRA and other relevant government bodies. In particular he has established contacts with the National Police and its Community Policing Unit, with whom there will be close coordination for the new police contingent to be trained and deployed for increased camp security.

On a similar note, NRC's Information, Counseling and Legal Aid (ICLA) Programme will expand beyond Addis into Gambella, Shire and Somali (Jijiga/Melkadida) areas for 2018. For this expansion, As such, they are undertaking assessment mission and have identified. The Protection Unit is closely involved in their planning process and anticipates close collaboration with respect to ARRA-VERA and UNHCR to facilitate implementation of the new Vital Events Registration Proclamation, as well as contribute to Gambella's CSAJ project. Currently, ICLA in Addis focuses on Legal Counselling (one-on-one

counselling with legal offices) and Housing, Land and Property (HLP) / Security of Tenure, by assisting urban refugees to negotiate lease agreements in Addis Ababa and with legal officers will assist by drafting or reviewing lease agreements and providing advice to both the tenant and landlord about the advantages of formalizing their relationship. NRC also supports with collaborative dispute resolution and provides capacity building to refugees.

D. Health

To date in 2017, a total of 607,346 persons benefited from consultations in health centres across all refugee camps. 10% of the consultations were from the host communities. The health facility utilization rate stands at 1.2 consultations per refugee per year and is within the standard of more than 1 consultations per year. The mortality rate in children under five is 0.2/1000/month and is within the expected range in all camps. 98% of all deliveries in the camps were conducted with the help of skilled birth attendants.

In response to the increase in suspected Acute Watery Diarrhea cases in Tigray and Somali region, UNHCR and partners have stepped up preparedness measures in the refugee camps. In Hitsats, 10 suspected AWD cases were reported among the refugee community, an additional 20 host community member were treated. All patients recovered and are discharged. UNHCR and partners are members of the woreda/ regional task forces and additional task forces for preparedness are convened in each camps. Stocks are reviewed and mobilized, epidemiological surveillance strengthened, trainings for health workers and volunteers are being conducted. WASH preparedness was strengthened and water trucking was started in Hitsats in affected zones, in addition open water sources were disinfected.

E. Food and Nutrition

With support from UNHCR, health and nutrition partners provided treatment to a total of 5,712 severely and 12,936 moderately malnourished under-fives children in the targeted feeding programs in 24 refugee camps since the beginning of the year.

The UNHCR standardized expanded nutrition survey was conducted in Berhale and Aysaita refugee camps located in Afar region and results revealed a weighted average of prevalence of global acute malnutrition (GAM) of 20.1% and 3.5% severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in children aged 6 – 59 months, which is above the WHO emergency threshold of 15% and 2% for GAM and SAM respectively. Efforts to curb the high prevalence, which include; capacity building to nutrition service providers to ensure case finding and proper management, constant supply of nutrition items, blanket supplementary feeding, improved enrollment of SAM and MAM and proper feeding practice of infant and young children have been put in place.

Food rations increased from October onwards to include 13.5kg of cereals (previous 10kg, standard: 16kg), 0.5kg of CSB (standard: 1.5kg). Oil, pulses and salt are provided at full ration while sugar remains absent.

Update from UNICEF: For refugees in South Omo, SNNP: UNICEF sent 959 CTN of RUTF, 25 SC opening kits, 25 CTN of F75 and 25 CTN of F100 and routine drugs to South Omo zone Health Office.

- **Key issues:** refugees are demanding general food distribution and supplementary food for the under five children: UNICEF was following the issue with WFP and WFP responded that they

are ready to provide general ration similar to the PSNP standard and CSB++ for all under-five children. WFP is waiting for the request to come from ARRA so that they can distribute.

- To ensure effective coverage of nutrition intervention and quality of care, bottleneck assessments will be conducted in Gambella and the result will be used by ARRA/RHB to develop plans to overcome the bottlenecks to nutrition services.
- Nutrition sensitive agriculture and infant and young child nutrition training will be organized by RHB with the support of UNICEF in October and November and refugee nutrition workers will be involved in the training.

F. WASH

- Per capita access in 15 of the 26 camps was above 20 litres per person per day (lpd).
- Due to ongoing AWD outbreak in Hitsats camps, water trucking commenced to raise per capita access to 20 lpd particularly in Zone C of the camp;
- Expansion works for Itang Integrated water scheme serving Kule, Tierkidi & Nguenyiel camp is 95% completed and commissioning is expected in coming month. However, with increased population in Nguenyiel, other additional works are being explored to cover the daily demand beyond initial design capacity of 70,000 refugees;
- Emergency WASH provision is continuing in Nguenyiel camp and Gure Shembola, concurrently with designs & development of sustainable WASH services. This is done in collaboration with respective Regional Water Bureaus of Gambella & Benishagul Gumuz and UNICEF.

UNICEF is requesting confirmation of planning for the capacity and locations of the Gure Shembola camps for the finalization of the designs for the permanent water supply system. We have received differing planning numbers in Assosa and Addis following the last RTF advice.

G. Education

Education – DAFI scholarship applications are now being received. 216 scholarships will be granted for the 2017/2018 year in total, about 50 new scholarships will be awarded. Emphasis also continues in the integration of refugees within national systems.

Update from UNICEF: Construction of temporary learnings spaces have commenced by ARRA (through UNICEF funds transferred through UNHCR) – with many anticipated to be completed within the next week. Additional incentive and other teachers have been recruited and learning material procurement has commenced. This hope to see a bolstering of this year's enrolment rates in the camps in line with the education pledge.

H. Shelter

The National Shelter Strategy (NSS) has been finalized. Now in the process to establish the individual, regional Transitional Shelter guidelines with some shelter cost analysis. Currently drafting the Jijiga guidelines, thereafter followed by Gambella, Assosa, Shire, Afar, and Melkadida.

I. Energy and the Environment

No inputs

The next Refugee Task Force Meeting will take place on 8 November 2017 at 2pm.