

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 January 2018

Chairs: ARRA and UNHCR

Action Points:

Reference	Action Point	Who	By When	Status
13.12.17 #1	CRRF Roadmap to be shared with RTF members following CRRF Launch on 28 November.	ARRA/UNHCR	14.2.18	Pending

BIMS Presentation

- The roll out the Biometric Identity Management System (BIMS) country-wide began at the close of 2017. Refugees are able to have their biometrics taken at registration centres, including iris scans and 10-digit fingerprints. Refugees are asked to provide information on their educational and professional (livelihood) skills, as well as family members located in other countries. This improved data collection system will support the expansion of additional opportunities for refugees, including the right to live outside of the camp or to advance their education. In some instances, the data will be important in reunification of family members abroad. Registration will help refugees to access services while helping partners to increasingly tailor assistance to the needs of refugees.
- The objective is to have all refugees registered under the BIMS in 2018, as well as L3 registered. Some constraints are foreseen around connectivity, which might delay roll-out. After completion of verification in all locations the old system will be closed.
- The improved refugee data will inform the government population data that will be updated following the census that is set to start in February/March.

General Announcements

- On 24 December 2017 at 22:00 hours, an identified gunmen opened gunfire on innocent refugees and killed eight ethnic Murle South Sudanese refugees, including one man, four women and three children. Two other refugees, including an ethnic Anuak woman were severely injured. Federal police were immediately deployed in the area to stop any further escalation. Following a brief restriction on access to the camp, humanitarian services have continued as normal.

CRRF

- The schedule for the CRRF Technical Workshops is pending official approval from the Steering Committee. The Workshops will follow the same structure as the Technical Committees: Provisional dates are as follows:

Tuesday January 23, 2018	Documentation	8:30am – 5pm
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Wednesday January 24, 2018	Education	8:30am – 5pm
Tuesday January 30, 2018	Basic and Social Services	8:30am – 5pm
Wednesday January 31, 2018	Local integration	8:30am – 5pm
Thursday February 1, 2018	Work and Livelihoods	8:30am – 5pm
Friday February 2, 2018	Out of Camp Policy	8:30am – 5pm

- Invitation will be sent out by 10 January, including a concept note and draft ToRs. All partners are invited to attend the workshops and pass on the invitation to other interested parties. The CRRF will change modalities of assistance and broad involvement of partners is necessary to have meaningful discussions on the way forward (e.g. the new way of doing business). Involvement of government actors is actively pursued. The workshops will have a focus on Addis-based institutions and actors, but roll-out on regional level will also be discussed.
- The coordination unit has been established and office premises have been identified and recruitment of staff is under way. Field staff have also started in locations such as Gambella and Jijiga.
- Agreement to be concluded to second development/liaison officers to ARRA.

A. Registration

- As of 31 December 2017, Ethiopia is host to the second largest refugee population in Africa, sheltering 892,555 registered refugees and asylum seekers, mainly from South Sudan (421,867), Somalia (253,889), Eritrea (164,668) and Sudan (44,386). The remaining 7,745 refugees are from Kenya, Yemen and the Great Lakes Region. Since 01 January 2017, 109,851 refugees arrived in Ethiopia, mainly from South Sudan (more than 75,000), Eritrea (more than 25,000) and Somalia (more than 6,600). *Note that despite 3,759 newly registered refugees in December, the overall figures are less by 1,383 compared to 30 November 2017; mainly due to the inactivation of more than 4,000 Eritrean refugees from the Shire camps. Also, Eritrean onward movement seems lower than in previous years.*

B. Protection

- The Protection Working Group has commenced discussion around pursuing solutions for selected refugee groups. For the Kenyan Borena it was noted that after the completion of elections in Kenya, voluntary repatriation opportunities will be explored in line with previous interest expressed by this group. This will include assessment missions in areas of return. For those who do not want to return a local integration opportunity will be discussed.
- In November / December 2017 an intention survey was conducted amongst Sudanese refugees in Assosa, however there was no interest in return. In Melkadida, Somali refugees continue to express interest in return to Somalia.
- Some Ethiopian nationals in Kakuma, Kenya have expressed interested in return to Ethiopia.

C. Health

- Through 2017, 899,671 persons benefited from consultations in health centres across all refugee camps, 8.9% of whom 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 remains within the expected range in all camps. 97% of all deliveries were conducted with the help of skilled birth attendants.

- As part of its engagement with the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework, UNHCR donated four haemodialysis machines to the St. Paul Hospital in Addis Ababa where refugees and Ethiopians with chronic renal diseases have access to renal medical services.
- World AIDS day was commemorated on 1st December in many refugee camps by UNHCR, partners and refugees through awareness raising sessions, promotion of volunteer counselling and testing, games and performances.

D. Food and Nutrition

- Nutrition surveys were finalized in all camps and locations. The nutrition causal analysis was completed in Kule and Pugnido 1 camps in Gambella. Findings will be presented on Monday 15 January, 10 am at the UNHCR office in Addis Ababa.
- In 52% (11/23) of the camps assessed so far, the prevalence of global acute malnutrition is below the WHO emergency threshold of 15%. So far in 2017, a total of 25,534 under 5 children have been treated for acute malnutrition in all the Refugee Camps. Food rations increased from October to include 13.5kg of cereals (previously 10kg, standard: 16kg) and 0.5kg of CSB (standard: 1.5kg). Oil, pulses and salt are provided at full ration while sugar remains absent providing a total of 1737Kcal (standard: 2100 Kcal). In camps where malnutrition was already high, the impact of ration cuts was noticeable.
- Critical pipeline break is expected from April 2018 for all commodities including cash. Though slight pipeline break is expected even from March 2018, the plan is to maintain the current ration level until end of March using internal loan mechanism from other projects.
- WFP has requested loan from its HQ to cover food needs for the months of April and May 2018 without any high probable forecast to be used as collateral. Discussions are still underway, including with donors such as the US and ECHO. A broader consultative meeting with donors is proposed.
- Following increased local market prices for major cereals such as maize, sorghum and wheat, cash transfer rates are revised for the cash combined food camps of Jijiga, Assosa and Afar. Accordingly, transfer rates have increased by 10% at Berhale, 15% in Jijiga, and 20% for Aysaita Camp of Afar and all Assosa camps from January 2018 compared to the current transfer rate. The 15% increase from January 2018 in the Jijiga camps is on top of the 18% increase made last October, thus an overall increase of 33% within the second half of the year for the Jijiga camps. Such high increase in market price for grains is contributing its part in aggravating the pipeline break. If the trend continues, providing in-kind food in those Jijiga camps would become cheaper than cash.

E. WASH

- Some 11.5 million litres of water have been treated, pumped and supplied to all camps on a daily basis during the month of December 2017. This is equivalent to an average per capita supply of 19 litres of potable water per day. In 12 of the 26 camps, water was supplied at a rate equal to or greater than 20 litres per person per day. Access to latrine services now stands at an average of 1 latrine for 18 persons, still far below the 1 latrine per household indicator. A consulting firm is recruited to develop water safety plans and water/sanitation master plans for the five Dolo Ado based Refugee camps. This is aimed at optimizing water and sanitation infrastructure and their operation and maintenance.

F. Education

- Following the opening of new primary schools in Zones C and D of Nguenyiel camp, mobilization and registration of students is going with 900 students registered so far. In addition, an upper primary education facility has been opened in the camp, addressing one of the critical gaps in service provision. 999 students who do not have the required certificates sat for the placement examinations of grades 6 and 7 for which grading is under way.

G. Shelter

- In light of new arrivals from Eritrea during 2017; at more than 25,000, and current congestion in existing structures; including at reception hangars in the camps in Tigray, UNHCR is developing a cost sharing approach, while designing models that can be constructed through refugee participation. Discussions are ongoing in Shire to respond to the critical shelter gap and alleviate the congestion in reception centre. With the developing situation in Libya, the onward movement of refugees from the Shire camps has reportedly slowed in recent months.

H. Energy and the Environment

- In the last 12 months 625 solar street lights were installed in all refugee camps, 15,090 solar lanterns and 1.06 million litres of liquid fuel were distributed to refugee households while biomass briquette projects were successfully piloted. In all cases, the achievements exceeded the target set at the start of the year.

I. Livelihoods

- 1,000 ha of land have been made available in the Melkadida area by the government for the Somali refugees and host communities on a 50:50 basis. 498.5 ha of irrigation infrastructure has been constructed and the construction of 250 ha of land is on-going. Overall, 251.5 ha of irrigation schemes will be constructed in 2018. UNHCR is contributing to the establishment of Agricultural Cooperatives. The full legalization of seven cooperatives has been finalized. In 2018, the focus will remain on operationalizing the cooperatives and capacity building.

J. AOB

- Partner selection process has not yet been finalised for 2018. Communication to all partners has gone out and three month short term agreements (LOMI) will cover the first quarter of 2018 to ensure continuation of essential activities and programmes.

- IPFR to be submitted in accordance with existing agreements.
- Regular partnership audits will take place in the first quarter of 2018. Additionally a UN Board of auditors will review UNHCR activities. Some IP's might be visited, but focus will be on the relationship between the IP and UNHCR and not the IP's internal review.
- More information will follow regarding the Operations Plan 2019.

The next Refugee Task Force Meeting will take place on 14 February 2018 at 3.30pm.

Attendance List

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