

Ethiopia

December 2018

Over 12.5 million litres of water was provided in all 26 refugee camps, representing a daily average per capita water supply of 17 liters.

Itang water scheme in Gambella, supplying fresh water to over **200,000** refugees and Ethiopians was handed over to Itang Town Water Utility Bureau

Sanitation coverage remains satisfactory with an average of **14 pers/ latrine**. Seven camps don't meet the minimum standards of maximum of 20 pers/ latrine.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Itang water scheme, supplying fresh water to over 200,000 refugees and members of the host community in Gambella, was handed over to the Itang Town Water Utility Bureau with the mandate to run the system on a cost recovery basis to ensure sustainability of the project. UNHCR will pay for the water supplied to the three camps on a monthly basis while the institutions located in Turpham will pay for the water consumed within their respective compounds. The funds will be utilized by the Itang Water Utility to procure fuel to run the generators and meet the other costs of running the water system.
- Gender and Sex Based Violence (SGBV) and community based management action plans have been developed at sector level. These plans are part of the mainstreaming activities in WASH programming in order to prevent sexual and gender based violence and enhance community participation at the different stages of the WASH project cycle. The community based approach aims to reinforce the community ownership of WASH facilities and to engage them in the operation and maintenance of the same.
- A workshop to prepare the UNHCR WASH strategy for 2019-2020 was held in Addis Ababa with the participation of the WASH team from the field. Whereas most of the objectives and activities in the WASH strategy 2016-2018 remain pertinent for the next strategy, new subjects have emerged during the discussions such as cash based interventions (CBI), SGBV mainstreaming and integrating WASH services into existing governmental and local entities (CRRF approach). Updating WASH emergency response plans at field level was also considered as a priority. The UNHCR WASH strategy 2019-2020 will be released at the end of the first quarter of 2019

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- UNHCR's is committed to ensuring refugees' access to water and sanitation facilities in sufficient quality and quantity; ensuring that refugees have improved personal and environmental hygiene, and nurturing effective coordination partnerships, and building the capacity of partners' staff. Amongst the range of prioritized interventions within the sector, the Agency, in collaboration with partners will seek to:
 - Explore alternative cost effective and sustainable management models for water schemes supporting both refugees and host communities.

- Lobbying and advocacy for more funds to replace fuel-powered pumping systems with solar-powered ones, while exploring options to connect refugee camps to the national electricity grid where feasible;
- Promote community centred WASH interventions through scaling up the community-based management model.
- Optimize the use of established water schemes that focus on efficient and comprehensive designs that integrate host community growth over time;
- Replicate successes on sustainable sanitation waste to value solutions which have a potential to function for over 15 years, eliminating the need for frequent latrine replacement, with an accrual benefit on energy/livelihood support to families;
- Distribution of household water storage where jerry cans are old and dilapidated; implementation of Cash Based Interventions as an approach will prove beneficial;
- Establish and deepen engagement with the Regional Water Bureau on water provision and management as well as Regional Health bureau for Sanitation and hygiene promotion under the health extension programme.

CHALLENGES



FLUCTUATING **LATRINE**
COVERAGE DUE TO
 FUNDING SHORTFALLS



LOW CAPACITY
 OF **WATER STORAGE**,
 IMPACTING EQUAL
 ACCESS TO ALL
 HOUSEHOLDS

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