

Ethiopia

September 2019

Ethiopia is one of the largest refugee-hosting countries in Africa, sheltering over **700,000** registered refugees and asylum seekers as of 30 September 2019. UNHCR and ARRA have successfully concluded a joint verification of refugees and asylum seekers data in Ethiopia. Refugees and asylum seekers had their fingerprints, iris and facial features entered into our database which will increase the level of protection afforded to the community, prevent fraud and promote their socio-economic and digital inclusion. Together with the Global Learning Centre, UNHCR held a Situational Emergency Training (SET) in early September on emergency preparedness, response and coordination to internal displacement. In addition to UNHCR staff from the field and Addis Ababa, several regional government officials and partners' representatives attended the training.

UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

382 national staff, **134** international staff (including JPOs)
142 individual contractors; **33** deployees & IUNVs

Offices:

1 Branch Office in (Addis Ababa), **5** Sub-Offices - Melkadida, Gambella, Shire, Assosa and Jijiga, **4** Field Offices – Embamadre, Tongo, Pugnido and Mekelle.

FUNDING (AS OF 30 SEPTEMBER 2019)

USD 346.5 M requested for Ethiopia



Working with partners

- UNHCR's main government counterpart to ensure the protection of refugees in Ethiopia is the Agency for Refugees and Returnees Affairs (ARRA). In addition, UNHCR works in close coordination with 54 humanitarian partners and is part of the Humanitarian Country Team in Ethiopia where refugee programmes are discussed strategically to ensure the needs of refugees are adequately presented and addressed across the UN System. UNHCR is also building on a well-established coordination fora, including the inter-sector Refugee Coordination Group, together with national and regional sector working groups. As part of the CRRF, UNHCR is furthering partnerships with line ministries, regional and local authorities, as well as development partners and the private sector.

Main Activities

Protection

- As the Protection Cluster lead, UNHCR continues to actively participate in the humanitarian response to the displacement situation in Gedeo/West Guji and East and West Wollega zones. UNHCR identifies protection challenges faced by the displaced and returned and prioritizes services that effectively target those with the most critical humanitarian needs. UNHCR co-chairs the Housing, Land and Property Working Group, jointly with NRC, to facilitate the effective and efficient delivery of protection sensitive services at the community level within both IDP and IDP returnee locations.

Education

- Schools have reopened for the new academic year and 255 refugee students have qualified to join public universities in Ethiopia after successfully passing the 12th grade national examination. The Education Cannot Wait (ECW) program, supported by UNICEF, graduated the first batch of 18 refugee teachers, including two females, with certificates from Gambella Teachers and Health Sciences Training College (HTTC) following completion of a two-year training. This will help address the shortage of qualified teachers in the camp-based schools.

Health

- All components of primary health care services were provided within camp level health facilities while referral care was provided at regional health facilities as well as specialized hospitals in the capital Addis Ababa. The crude and under-five children mortality rates remained within the expected range. No disease outbreak has been reported from any of the camps. However, reports show an increase in malarial incidence in some of the camps following the end of the rainy season. Indoor anti-malaria spray has been administered as a controlling measure.

Food Security and Nutrition

- Twenty of the 26 refugee camps (76.9%) already covered by the standard nutrition surveys have shown a global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate that is below the 15% threshold. Acute malnutrition remains a challenge in many of the refugee camps due to household food insecurity contributed to by limited access to livelihoods and reduced food assistance and inappropriate feeding practices, among others. Refugees continue to receive a food basket with 84% of the recommended 2100Kcal/person/day.

Water and Sanitation

- Twenty-one of the refugee camps in Ethiopia meet the acceptable standards in terms of water supply, receiving 15 litres of water per person per day, while five camps (Tierkidi, Ngunyyiel, Barhale, Hitsats, and kebrebyah) are yet to get to that level. Similarly, 21 refugee camps have met the minimum standards of maximum of 20 persons per latrine, but the household-level latrine coverage remains less than 40%.

Shelter

- UNHCR and its partners have constructed 3,020 transitional shelters so far this year, while preparations are underway to construct additional 3,800 shelters. At the end of 2018, there was a gap of 131,185 shelters in the camps.

Cash-Based Interventions (CBI)

- Following the successful piloting and subsequent positive assessment results of the CBI in camps around Jijiga, UNHCR is working to scale up the use of cash to the other locations. Cash will be used in lieu of a range of in-kind aid supplies including non-food aid items among other things. Cash shall also be used to respond to the ongoing IDP situation as well as reintegration support for Ethiopian refugees who may voluntarily return to their country.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

- UNHCR and ARRA work in close coordination with partners to ensure efficient and coordinated delivery of protection and assistance to refugees. Camp coordination meetings and technical working groups have been taking place both at the zonal and camp levels.

Access to Energy

- UNHCR continues to seek solutions to ensure refugees' access to energy while strengthening environmental protection activities. Refugee and host community cooperatives in Buramono and Bokolmanyo camps in Melkadida, are selling electricity to the community using UNHCR-provided Solar mini-grids, bringing power to the community and generating an income. Charcoaled briquette distribution using the Cash Based-Intervention (CBI) modality has started in camps in the Benishangul-Gumuz Region (BGR) with 4,770 kg of bar type briquettes delivered among 207 households using the voucher system. The grid connected communal kitchen in Sherkole camp, BGR, has become functional with 26 electric stoves while some 94 solar street lights are installed across the camps in the same region. 22,910 pcs of briquettes have been distributed among 1,222 targeted households in camps in the Afar and Benishangul-Gumuz regions.

Livelihoods and Self-Reliance

- UNHCR's government counterpart, the Agency for Refugees and Returnees Affairs (ARRA), has introduced a new Livelihoods and Job Creation Unit within its structure, underpinning the agency's increased involvement in the promotion of inclusion and self-reliance in line with the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR). The new unit is expected to lead the coordination of refugee economic inclusion efforts in delivering Ethiopia's GCR commitments as also stipulated in the revised refugee law. It will create an enabling environment for the socio-economic inclusion of refugees and play a catalytic role for creating economic opportunities for refugees and host communities through facilitating the engagement of strategic government and non-governmental partners including the private sector.

Durable Solutions

- Providing resettlement opportunities remains a top priority as conditions for voluntary repatriation are unfavourable for most refugees in Ethiopia and local integration programmes are yet to be put in place. As of 30 September 2019, 3,260 individuals have been referred to different resettlement countries, surpassing the original plan of 3,000. An additional 54 individuals have been processed for family reunification. To date, 1,791 persons have departed to different resettlement countries while 476 have gone to Italy as part of the 'Humanitarian Corridor' since the programme started in late 2017.

External / Donors Relations

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