

Ethiopia

January 2020

Ethiopia is one of the largest refugee-hosting countries in Africa, sheltering **744,143** registered refugees and asylum seekers as of 31 January 2020.

UNHCR and ARRA launched the **2020-2021 Country Refugee Response Plan** appealing for **\$US 658M** to support over **750,000** refugees and more than **half a million** of their Ethiopian hosts this year. The plan outlines the collective response of **57** partners, covering both humanitarian activities and the implementation of long-term resilience and self-reliance programmes.

UNHCR continues responding to the internal displacement situation in Ethiopia, including by leading the **Protection Cluster** at the national and regional levels. It is pursuing area-based approach in supporting the government's reintegration and recovery effort for returnees and other displacement-affected Ethiopians, including host communities.

UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

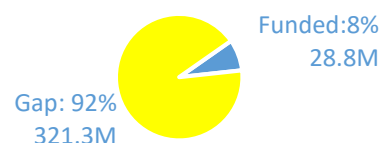
385 national staff, **128** international staff (including JPOs)
143 individual contractors; **33** deployees & IUNVs

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 31 January 2020)

USD 350.1 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), within the Ministry of Peace. UNHCR also works in close coordination with 57 humanitarian and development 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 builds on a well-established coordination forum, including the inter-sector Refugee Coordination Group, together with national and regional sector working groups. As part of the GCR/CRRF, UNHCR is furthering partnerships with line ministries, regional and local authorities, as well as development partners and the private sector.

Main Activities

Protection

- While the strategic objectives are adapted to suit the specific situations and needs, core common objectives of UNHCR's comprehensive protection and solutions strategy in Ethiopia include: preserving and enhancing the protection environment and living conditions for refugees and the 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; supporting the implementation of Ethiopia's pledges to expand access to rights, services, and self-reliance opportunities in the longer-term; contributing to the development of linkages to local and national development interventions and expanding access to solutions when feasible, including legal migration pathways.

Education

- Preliminary enrolment data (pending final data analysis using the Education Management Information System (EMIS)), show a total of 212,722 refugee students are attending school at the pre-primary (59,846), primary (138,249) and secondary (14,627) levels. This is in addition to 255 refugee students who joined public universities in Ethiopia this academic year and hundreds of others who are in their sophomore and advanced levels. The Digital Education Platform - a new tool for recording students' data and provide accurate information on school enrolment rate and out of school children - has been rolled out in all refugee camps in the country.

Health

- The health status of the refugees remains stable with under 5 mortality rate standing at 0.2/ 1,000/ month against the standard of greater than 0.75/100/month. Health facility utilization rate remains within the acceptable standard of 1-4 consultations per person per year. 97% of refugee women deliver at health facilities while all HIV positive individuals have been put on anti-retroviral treatment (ART). The health sector response in 2020 aims to mitigate excess morbidity and mortality and control outbreaks of communicable diseases by ensuring access to comprehensive primary health care and referral services and by strengthening disease surveillance and response.

Food Security and Nutrition

- The prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) in 85% of the refugee camps remains higher than the 10% UNHCR standard for stable operations. This is due to household food insecurity contributed to by limited access to livelihoods, reduced food assistance (refugees continue to receive only 84% of the minimum recommended 2100Kcal/day) and inappropriate feeding practices, among others. The plan for 2020 is to work towards improving

the nutrition status of refugees by strengthening the ongoing nutrition programmes and their monitoring, together with continued advocacy with donors for the reinstatement of the full food ration with 2100Kcal/person/day.

Water and Sanitation

- Out of the 26 refugee camps in Ethiopia 67% meet the acceptable standards in terms of water supply, receiving 15 litres and above of water per person per day, while the remaining 33% receive less. Similarly, 82% of the refugee camps have met the minimum standards of 20 persons per latrine, while only 40 percent of the refugee households have access to family latrines.

Shelter

- The National Shelter Strategy (2017-2020) informs a collective and coherent response, based on available resources, to enable refugees to access shelter solutions. 54 percent of the refugees in Ethiopia need transitional shelter solutions and UNHCR and partners are working to narrow down the gap. UNHCR has completed 450 of the 850 shelters it has been constructing in the Gedeo (SNNPS) and West Guji (Oromia) Regions for the benefit of vulnerable returnees who were previously displaced due to communal violence.

Cash-Based Interventions (CBI)

- Following the successful piloting and subsequent positive assessment results of the Cash Based-Interventions (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. A multipurpose cash assistance continues to be implemented to refugees in Addis Ababa. Cash will also be used to respond to the ongoing IDP situation as well as reintegration support for Ethiopian refugees who 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

- While UNHCR strives to improve refugees' access to energy for cooking, lighting and other uses, the gaps remain huge. Less than 8% of the refugee households have access to alternative cooking energy, while access to alternative household lighting is slightly better at 25%. Twenty-six percent of the households have access to street lighting and 24% of the health facilities within the refugee camps have been powered by solar and grid electricity. The plan for 2020 is, resource permitting, to make a significant improvement in ensuring access to alternative energy for different uses, including the electrification of health facilities and solarization of schools and water infrastructure. Close to a million seedlings will be raised and transplanted during the year to mitigate environmental degradation.

Livelihoods and Self-Reliance

- In 2020, UNHCR will continue to work with the Government to promote economic opportunities for refugees and support their eventual inclusion within the host communities. This will include supporting the implementation of Ethiopia's pledges at the Global Refugee Forum in December 2019 related to creating economic opportunities and skills development for refugees and Ethiopians. UNHCR will support the Agency for Refugees and Returnees Affairs, ARRA, to roll out the procedural directives on work permits, residence permits and business licenses under joint programmes that will be designed to benefit both refugees and their hosts. UNHCR will continue with the coordination of strategic partners as they implement activities in refugee hosting areas, as well as support opportunities for private sector participation and for financial inclusion.

Durable Solutions

- Providing resettlement opportunities for refugees 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. In 2020, 1800 individuals will be referred to the UNHCR Regional Bureau in Nairobi for onward submission to resettlement countries. As of 31 January 2020, 83 individuals have been submitted to different resettlement countries while three others have been processed for family reunification. In January, 98 individuals have departed to different resettlement countries while 77 have gone to Italy as part of the second phase of the Italian Humanitarian Corridor.

External / Donors Relations

UNHCR is grateful for the direct contributions to the UNHCR Ethiopia Operation from:

Denmark | UK (DFID) | Netherlands| IKEA Foundation | European Union (ECHO) | Ireland| Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints |Spain

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Sweden 76.4 million | Norway 41.4 million | Netherlands 36.1 million | Denmark 34.6 million | United Kingdom 31.7 million | Germany 26.4 million | Switzerland 16.4 million

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