THE MELKADIDA REFUGEE COMPACT 2023-2028

A 5-year costed plan for inclusive local development: A Government-led and community-owned plan for inclusive & sustainable local development in the refugee-hosting districts of Bokolmayo & Dollo Ado in Ethiopia's south-eastern Somali Region

WHY THE COMPACT?

The humanitarian situation for refugee and host communities in Ethiopia's southeast Somali Region is protracted, complex and deteriorating. Return prospects for refugees from Somalia remain very modest.

Refugee and host communities have been living for almost 15 years peacefully and in an integrated manner.

The five refugee camps that were initially established as temporary measures have become integrated settlements and are future towns.

Due to drought, predominantly pastoralist populations are moving towards peri-urban agglomerations, in search of access to basic needs & services such as food, water, health, and of alternative income generating activities.

We thus anticipate that these agglomerations will grow further in the future.

Humanitarian support to this silent and protracted crisis is decreasing, development and climate adaptation support is urgently required to further empower host and refugee communities socio-economically, to support their adaptation to a rapidly changing climate, and to harness the development dividends of humanitarian assistance by supporting the gradual integration into Government systems.

TOTAL INDICATIVE REQUIREMENTS

$ 333,950,000

$220.3 M

$46.6 M

$54.4 M

$12.6 M

Forcibly displaced and host populations are confronted with

- Acute water scarcity
- Acute food insecurity (IPC level 4: emergency), malnutrition, and disease outbreaks (e.g., cholera);
- Soaring commodity prices
- Insecurity

Climate Adaptation & Resilience, Protection and Solutions
Target Locations and Populations

- 207,819 Target refugees population (31,305 households)
- 147,152 Target host population (11 Kebeles)
- Total host population: 409,971

Refugee and host populations targeted per Woreda

- Dollo Ado: 67,071
- Bokolomyo: 82,081
- Total: 149,152

Refugee population age-gender breakdown

- Women & Children: 83%
- Children (0 - 17 years): 57%
- Adults (18 - 59 years): 37%
- Elderly (60+): 2%

Country of origin

- Somalia: 207,784 (99%)
- Yemen: 30 (<1%)
- Eritrea: 3 (<1%)

Vulnerabilities

- Person with specific needs: 34,687
- Unaccompanied and separated Children: 4,784

Seizing Opportunities for Transition

- Ethiopia’s generous policy framework and forward-leaning Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) and Global Refugee Forum (GRF) pledges allow for access to asylum, energy, land, basic services, economic opportunities, and freedom of movement.
- Recent signings of two MoUs in May 2023 between the Ethiopian Government Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS), Somali Regional State (SRS) and UNHCR are a testament towards realization of inclusive local development pathways.
- Thanks to sustained multi-year support from the IKEA Foundation and other partners, significant progress in terms of socio-economic empowerment and refugee inclusion has been made. However, due to external shocks and lacking longer-term development support, development dividends are fragile.

Additional and concerted investment are required to
1. Further empower host and refugee communities socio-economically,
2. Support their adaptation to a rapidly changing climate,
3. Harness the development dividends of humanitarian assistance by supporting the gradual integration into Government systems.

Investing in innovative approaches and expanding locally available potentials for growth to ensure refugee protection and inclusion, climate adaptation, and better access to socio-economic development opportunities, minimizing their aid dependency now and in the future.

Focus on available opportunities by using the development potential of the

- Sun that shines almost incessantly to enable access to clean and renewable off-grid energy solutions in an area that is not covered by the national electricity grid;
- Water that is available in form of the perennial Genale River to provide sustainable access to water for people, livestock, irrigation schemes, and environmental protection sites;
- Land that can be made productive through climate-smart agricultural and irrigation practices (as proven by previous investments enabling the joint cultivation of 1,000 hectares of land by members of the host and refugee community);
- People by investing into human capital of a dynamic and entrepreneurial population – especially women and youth – providing access to integrated education and health services to host and refugee communities.
This region stands at a critical juncture with five pathways into the future. Its generous and resilient people have five options for the:

- **FIGHT**: Al Shabab’s recruiting campaign is picking up speed
- **FLIGHT**: Millions of people already forcibly displaced
- **FAMINE**: IPC level acute food insecurity at emergency level
- **FARM**: Harness the potential of land and people by investing in climate-smart irrigation agriculture
- **FEMALE EMPOWERMENT**: Harness the potential of women to lead and feed their communities

### ALIGNMENT WITH GOVERNMENT PLANS AND PLEDGES

#### 2016 PLEDGE
- Making 10,000 hectares of irrigable land available, enabling 100,000 people to grow crops;
- Expand and enhance basic (including access to water) and essential social services;
- Providing work permits and permanent residence identification for foreign workers;

#### 2019 PLEDGE
- Creating 90,000 employment opportunities in agricultural and livestock value chains;
- Providing clean and renewable energy solutions for 3 million refugees.

### WHAT IS THE MELKADIDA REFUGEE COMPACT

**WHAT**: A costed, 5-year government-led and locally owned plan to harness and increase local, inclusive, and sustainable development opportunities.

**WHO**: For refugees and hosts in Dollo Ado and Bokolmayo districts, in southeast Somali Region of Ethiopia.

**HOW**: By building on existing humanitarian and development investments, harnessing natural assets/resources in the area, leveraging and expanding innovative and development partnerships and mobilizing financial support.

**WHY**: To ensure refugee protection, climate resilience and empowerment for future generations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Melkadida Refugee Compact Objectives</th>
<th>Target population</th>
<th>Aligns with Government of Ethiopia pledges (CRRF/GRF)</th>
<th>Supports Government strategy/policy</th>
<th>Budget requirement 2023-2028</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sun</strong></td>
<td>&gt;350,000</td>
<td>2019 Ethiopia GRF Pledges</td>
<td>2019 Ethiopia Refugee Proclamation</td>
<td>$220.3 million</td>
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<td>Significantly increase access to clean &amp; renewable off-grid solar energy to enhance access to electricity for households, businesses, public services, water pumping, irrigation, and cooking, unlocking local development potential</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Water</strong></td>
<td>&gt;350,000</td>
<td>2016 Leaders’ Summit on Refugees-Summary</td>
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<td>$12.6 million</td>
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<td>Make existing water supply systems and infrastructure sustainable to ensure adequate water supply for human and livestock consumption, irrigation agriculture and environmental protection</td>
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<td><strong>Land</strong></td>
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<td>Expand access to land and irrigation schemes for agriculture and livestock production, protect the natural environment to boost local food production capacity, ensure local food security and promote economic productivity, and to increase protection &amp; climate resilience</td>
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<td><strong>People</strong></td>
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<td>Enhance inclusive local health and education system development through investments into strengthening education and health service facilities, and gradual integration into national systems</td>
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### Opportunities

**The SUN**

- **Year-around sunshine**
  - Having the highest averages of sunlight per year, making interventions in off-grid solar energy more efficient.
  - Tested approach including the ongoing AfDB-EEU 2MW solar project that can be scaled to decrease carbon footprint significantly though solarization.
- **Growing need for energy**
  - For communal and productive use.
  - Identification of electric stoves as the most sustainable and preferred cooking method.

**Lack of national electricity grid** and absence of plans to extend grid to the refugee-hosting areas.

**High dependency on diesel-run generators** for electricity, including to run water supply systems.

- **High dependency on rainwater harvesting** outside areas adjacent to perennial Genale River.
- **>90% of population rely on firewood** for cooking.
- **Only 12% of households** with access to clean energy across 5 refugee settlements.
- **Limited energy production** provided by only six solar mini-grid cooperatives.

### Challenges 2023

- **Diesel dependence:** Old diesel fuel-run water pumps operating for longer hours with limited back-up systems in place.
- **Limited capacity amidst growing population:**
  - The current water supply system was designed to serve one-third of the number of people it is serving today.

### Solutions 2028 (how do we get to the envisaged result)

- Under the renewable energy, the thrust of the plan is to achieve universal access to safe and sustainable energy where the majority of the people in the target areas will have access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy services for electricity, lighting, cooking, as well as water pumping and irrigation through:
  - Installation of 48,000 solar panels (**producing 16 megawatts**) across the five refugee settlements and Dollo Ado town.
  - Installation of 2,700 solar panels for three camps.
  - Installation of 1,800 solar panels to solarize existing water supply systems.
  - Installation of nine solar power pumps and a total of 1,500 solar panels to solarize the pump systems to irrigate 1,000 hectares of farmland.
  - Installation of 31,000 solar DC-Stoves including the solar home system.
  - Installation of over 20 communal and institutional cooking facilities.
  - Technical and managerial trainings on operation and maintenance.

### Expected Result and Budget

- **350,000 refugee and adjacent host community population** have access to clean energy for households, businesses and social services.
  - **Indicative Cost:** $180 million.

- **Nine irrigation schemes and five water supply systems** for peri-urban areas around existing refugee settlements and adjacent host communities will be solarized.
  - **Additional boreholes drilled and solarized** to reduce the need to pump water over long distances:
    - **Indicative Cost:** $7.91 million.

- **All households in refugee settlements (31,000)** have access to clean energy for cooking:
  - **Indicative Cost:** $32.4 million.

### The WATER

**Perennial Genale river**

- With enough flow to cater for the water needs of host and refugee population.

- **Recent collaboration creates more potential for underground water mapping and borehole drilling**.

### Challenges 2023

- **Diesel dependence:** Old diesel fuel-run water pumps operating for longer hours with limited back-up systems in place.

### Ensuring sustainable water supply through upgrading the existing supply system, while establishing an integrated and sustainable water supply utility model through:

- Upgrading pumping stations, pipeline networks, re-development of borehole sources, replacing the existing old generators and pumps, upgrading the water storage tanks and establishing water utility system.

### Expected Result and Budget

- **Improving safe and sufficient access to water (20-25 liters/p/d/) for over 350,000 refugees and host community members**.
  - **The existing water supply infrastructure is upgraded**:
    - **Indicative Cost:** $5.1 million.

- **Integrated water supply utility model established serving refugees and hosts**:
  - **Indicative costs:** $7.5 million.
### Opportunities

- **Willingness on the part of the community to transition from humanitarian intervention to sustainability through cost-recovery methods to ensure sustainability**

### Challenges 2023

- **Old infrastructure that has continued to deteriorate under extreme weather conditions**, with no system upgrade
- **Old and poor yielding boreholes**: Three out of eight shallow well boreholes have significantly decreased production, while two remain non-functional.
- **Below UNHCR post-emergency standard**: The average potable water availability per person is below the UNHCR standard

### Solutions 2028 (how do we get to the envisaged result)

- **The LAND component of the pillar envisages to enhance economic inclusion, improved local food security through environmental protection and climate-smart agriculture and livestock productivity by**
  - implementing advocacy for the inclusion of refugees,
  - supporting land-use planning, expanding vegetation coverage for a total of 770 hectares,
  - implementing conservation measures for 500 hectares, development of additional 2,000 hectares of irrigated land and establishment of cooperatives to support food production,
  - extension service support on animal health and disease control,
  - introducing Cash for Work opportunities especially in the development of agriculture infrastructure.

### Expected Result and Budget

- **Improved protection and economic inclusion of refugees**: **Indicative cost: $7.5 million**
  Support conducive environment for development investments, while ensuring refugee rights

- **Rehabilitation and protection of natural resources**: **Indicative costs:$4.29 million**
  Community-based land use and water resource management

- **Improved agriculture production**: **Indicative cost: $18.05 million**
  Sustainability of existing agriculture cooperatives, while developing additional agriculture land

- **Improved livestock production systems**: **Indicative cost: $2.5 million**
  Improved livestock services and support alongside improving linkages to agriculture productivity
## Detail on Challenges, Opportunities, Solutions and Expected Results/Budgets

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<tr>
<th>Opportunities</th>
<th>Challenges 2023</th>
<th>Solutions 2028 (how do we get to the envisaged result)</th>
<th>Expected Result and Budget</th>
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</table>
| **The LAND (Continued)** | Poor irrigation and farming practices including monocropping have further impacted the land, resulting in low productivity  
Lack of safety nets to address food insecurity; pushing vulnerable households to adopt negative coping strategies; limited local market linkages | The Education pillar of the PEOPLE component seeks to establish improved access to safe, protective and inclusive learning environment through:  
• renovation of existing and building additional educational infrastructure (construct and equip 24 classrooms in the three secondary schools);  
• equipping newly constructed schools;  
• providing material assistance to students and schools;  
• targeted trainings and ensuring teaching and learning supplies;  
• strengthening national Education Management Information System (EMIS),  
• capacity development of education partners and offices through equipment and logistical support, supporting primary and secondary school children involved in a “sport for protection” program, extracurricular sports activities and competitions. | Food security safety nets:  
Indicative cost: $21.9 million  
Support linkages and establishment of complementary safety nets to function as a transitional measure to support development of agriculture infrastructure |
| **EDUCATION** | **The PEOPLE** | **Education and Health** | **Improved access to primary and secondary education: Indicative Cost: $ 5.1 million** |
| | RRS and UNHCR provide education services in 18 pre-primary centers, 19 primary schools and five secondary schools  
38 schools supported by the Bokolmayo Woreda; 83 host community schools supported by Dollo Ado, up to secondary education. Enrolment is low, with high level of school dropouts.  
**Poor Infrastructure:** Schools lack minimum basic facilities including furniture, ventilated classrooms, and water and sanitation facilities. Learning environment non-conducive and uncomfortable.  
**Low enrolment and poor standards:** In refugee schools, the overall enrolment dropped from 33% in the academic year 2021-2022 to 29% in 2022-2023 academic year. Current classroom-student ratio in secondary school is 1:128, vs. a standard of 1:50.  
**Low capacity of teaching staff:** 52% of teachers in primary schools are ill-trained, leading to challenges in education quality  
**Lack of connectivity hampering the smooth teaching-learning process in schools**  
**Limited number of secondary schools:** few secondary schools in the periphery of the camps: the demand by far outweighs the supply | Provision of equitable access to education to all school-age children across the five refugee camps and in host communities  
Increased enrolment from 40% to 62% (in pre-primary), 13.9% to 16% (in secondary) education  
Decreased classroom-to-student ratio from 1:128 to 1:94  
Meeting the national minimum standard of 1:50 teacher-to-student ratio and addressing high teacher turnover  
Improved teaching and learning resources in target schools:  
Indicative cost: $ 4.8 million  
Improved teaching capacity through harmonisation of salaries and incentives  
Improved engagement of educational stakeholders in education:  
Indicative cost: $ 0.125 million  
Capacity development of education partners and offices through equipment and logistical support, supporting primary and secondary school children involved in a “sport for protection” program, extracurricular sports activities and competitions. | Improved social cohesion and peaceful co-existence |
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## HEALTH

The Liban zone has two hospitals, 16 health centers, 137 health posts, and three mobile health teams. There are five RRS-run health centers targeting 208,000 refugees and over 100,000 of host population.

**Strained health services**: Each of the five refugee health centres are serving over 35,000 people, barely meeting the basic needs.

**Poor infrastructure**: Four of the five health centres are dilapidated, with no significant maintenance and expansion undertaken.

**Turnover of medical personnel remains a challenge**: Each refugee health centre is run by 24 to 26 health workers, as compared to the regional standard of 44 to 46 staff, with at least two medical doctors.

**Challenging road accessibility to emergency and comprehensive obstetric services** at Dollo Ado hospital. More advanced medical services are available at Filtu hospital located 150 km away (via rough terrain), resulting in accumulation of referral backlogs.

**Multiple disease outbreaks** (measles in 2021, acute watery diarrhea in 2022, and cholera in 2023) resulting in fatalities.

## Solutions 2028 (how do we get to the envisaged result)

The HEALTH sub-component aims at investment into enhanced provision of health services, while supporting service integration through:

- **supporting the upgrade (OPD, IPD, Maternity, theatre) of Dollo Ado hospital and construction of a new one in** Dollo Ado,
- **renovation and expansion of five health centres**,
- **construction of additional health posts in refugee-hosting areas with the population of over 25,000**,
- **construction of oxygen plant, blood bank and power-back up in Filtu hospital**,
- **procurement of ambulances, medicines and equipment, strengthening mobile health service for IDPs and host population in remote locations**,
- **introducing incentive mechanisms to attract and retain skilled workforce, building capacity (surveillance, case management) for Epidemic response**,
- **developing roadmap for gradual integration of refugee health delivery into national health system, in partnership with the authorities**

## Expected Result and Budget

- **Upgraded and rehabilitated primary and secondary health care facilities**: Indicative cost: $18.88 million
- **Increased medical supply & capacity building of work force**: Indicative cost: $9.26 million
- **Improved emergency response capacity for timely and appropriate action**: Estimated cost: $1.5 million
- **Inclusion and Integration**: Estimated cost: $0.35 million

Parallel services currently provided at refugee camps will be gradually integrated into the regional health system.

## IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING & FOLLOW-UP

Under the ownership and leadership of the government (RRS and SRS both at regional and district levels), and with the support of UNHCR, the implementation and follow-up of this plan applies a multi-stakeholder approach. A joint comprehensive planning and monitoring coordination forum, led and chaired by RRS and SRS/district level, will meet regularly providing guidance and monitoring alignment of interventions with the four pillars of the Compact.

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