

Ethiopia

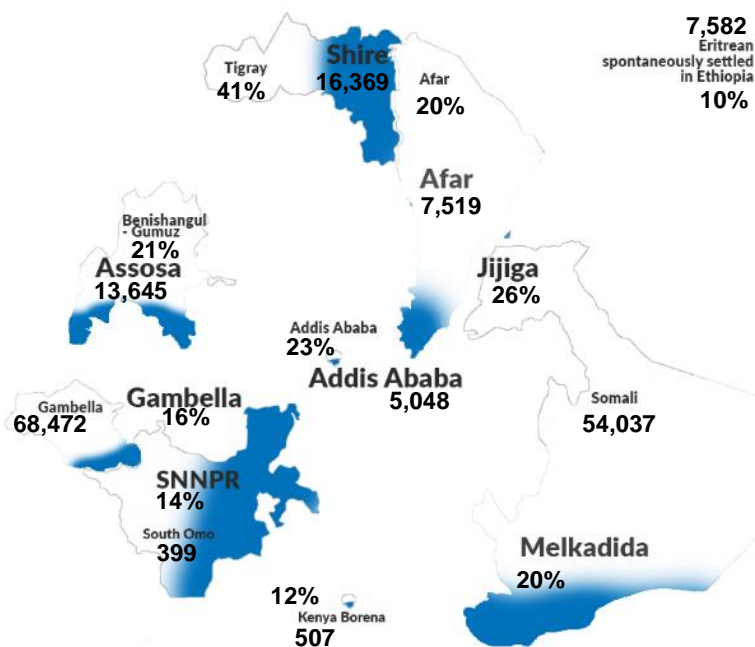
April 2018

173,578 refugees in Ethiopia are between the ages of **15-24**, representing **18.9 %** of the registered refugee population in the country.

68,472 refugee youth are South Sudanese sheltered in camps in the Gambella region. They make up **39.5 %** of the youth refugee population in Ethiopia

In Pugnido camp, Gambella, a **'Youth Peace Education Club'**, comprising young people from the refugees and their hosts, works on initiatives aimed at fostering peaceful co-existence and peace-building between the two communities.

REFUGEE YOUTH IN ETHIOPIA



Location	UNHCR partners implementing youth programmes in Ethiopia
Melkadida	- Save the Children International (SCI) - Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)
Assosa	Plan International Ethiopia (PIE)
Jijiga	-
Shire	- Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) - Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) - Innovative Humanitarian Solutions (IHS) - ZOA
Gambella	- Plan International Ethiopia (PIE) - Danish Refugee Council (DRC) - Save the Children International (SCI) - Lutheran World Federation (LWF)
Mekelle	-
Urban	Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)
Kenya Borena	-

- The refugee camps in the Gambella region- hosting over 400,000 South Sudanese refugees- shelter the largest number of refugee youth in Ethiopia, representing 39.5 % of the overall refugee youth population in the country. In the Shire camps, the youth constitute 40.8 % of the total refugee population.
- Displaced youth have the ability to play a significant role in the protection and development of their communities as well as those hosting them. Despite the important role refugee youth play, their concerns are rarely reflected in the programmatic responses of UN, NGOs and other organizations working in humanitarian response. Youth have skills, abilities and needs that are rarely fully recognized. Their engagement in peaceful coexistence interventions and in preventing intra- and inter- communal conflicts is crucial.
- Out of 119 youth empowerment proposals submitted globally, those from Field Office Pugnido and Sub-Office Jijiga were amongst the 26 proposals selected by UNHCR's Department of International Protection to benefit from the 2018 Youth Initiative Fund. The grant thus received will help the Pugnido Peace Education Club, a community-based peacebuilding initiative established in 2017, to continue its activities. The 'Youth Peace Education Club' is a youth-led

and owned programme, addressing key protection issues of young people in Gambella which is contributing to fostering peaceful co-existence between communities.

- In Jijiga, the youth initiative project will capacitate already existing sports teams and rehabilitate infrastructure (basketball courts) that are no longer in use. With the DIP grant, youth engagement for sports activities is being reignited and strategically linked with awareness raising and skills training. In line with the CRRF, the project promotes integration of refugee programming within the national system through collaboration with the Regional Youth and Sports Bureau.

Strategic priorities

- UNHCR Ethiopia has mainstreamed youth protection into the strategies of Livelihood, Education, Child Protection and the overall Comprehensive Protection and Solutions Strategies of the different refugee groups in the country. A key priority is improving youth access to livelihoods opportunities and life-skills as well as vocational training to ensure their self-reliance and inclusion into the Ethiopian community. Furthermore, UNHCR is a member of the UN Youth Taskforce which was established by the United Nations Country Team in Ethiopia. UNHCR uses the opportunity to advocate for broader inclusion of refugee youth into a multi-sectoral response for sustainable youth development programming.

Challenges



LACK OF **YOUTH PROGRAMMING** BY HUMANITARIAN PARTNERS

External / Donors Relations

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