

Ethiopia

June 2018

In 2017 structures were put in place to implement Cash-Based Interventions (CBIs) in Ethiopia. Feasibility assessments were conducted in Jijiga, Assosa, Shire, Afar and Addis Ababa.

37,188 refugees had been provided with laundry soap and kitchen sets and 12,000 women with dignity kits through CBIs in Jijiga. 400 improved shelters were built using cash in Jijiga.

UNHCR continues to support urban refugees in Addis Ababa with monthly cash assistance through a multi-purpose cash grant (MPCG).

HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2017, UNHCR Ethiopia established a CBI institutionalization strategic outline, which presents key milestones towards the implementation of CBI programming based on UNHCR's Corporate Strategy and adjusted to the operational context.
- Following feasibility studies conducted in Assosa, Jijiga, Shire, Afar and Addis Ababa, soap, sanitary materials, cooking fuel, core relief items (CRIs) and shelter construction materials were selected as the goods to be monetized at the initial stage of the programme. A more in-depth CBI feasibility assessment will be conducted in Gambella and Melkedida together with ARRA and WFP.
- In preparation for the roll out of CBIs, in 2017 UNHCR trained a total of 210 of its and partners' personnel on key CBI themes to equip them on the modalities of cash transfers across the country. Training sessions tailored to the needs of each of the Sub-Offices and for partners will continue in 2018 in accordance with the respective CBI stages.
- Key achievements of the cash based implementation during the second quarter of 2018 include: i) 37,188 individuals in the three camps in Jijiga were reached with laundry soap and kitchen sets, 12,000 women of reproductive age with dignity kits and the construction of 400 improved shelters for households in Sheder and Awbarre camps in Jijiga was started; ii) UNHCR responded to the immediate food and non- food needs of approximately 2,100 urban refugees in Addis Ababa with monthly cash assistance through a multi-purpose cash grant; iii) The post distribution monitoring for the Jijiga pilot was launched; iv) A Financial Service Provider was engaged to provide cash delivery services to UNHCR Ethiopia; v) Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) were elaborated for Addis Ababa, Jijiga and Assosa and staff in the concerned field operations received training on the SOPs; vi) Systems and structures were put in place to launch CBIs in Assosa, Shire and Afar in the third quarter; and vii) In line with the strong emphasis on building strong partnership and commitment to pursuing open and collaborative engagement on cash, UNHCR conducted a two-day training for ARRA colleagues on CBIs and explored ways ARRA could be involved in CBIs within the refugee context in Ethiopia.
- In the context of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), the benefits of using cash to respond to refugee needs is evident in Jijiga where improved interactions between the local communities and the refugees have been reported. Due to improved purchasing power brought about by CBIs, the demand of core relief items in the local markets has improved leading to a positive impact on the local economy.
- Based on the initial lessons learnt from the Jijiga CBI pilot, use of cash will be expanded in a phased approach in the third quarter of 2018 to camps around Assosa, Shire and Afar. UNHCR will also directly continue to implement CBIs in Jijiga and the cash assistance to urban refugees in Addis Ababa.
- In collaboration with the national cash working group and ARRA, UNHCR continues the coordination of partners implementing cash based interventions within the refugee camps to ensure appropriate and efficient programming.
- UNHCR continues to be an active member of the national cash working group and participates in the cash working group steering committee. UNHCR seeks to enhance its existing partnerships and to build new ones where appropriate, including with the private sector.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Output 2.2: Opportunities are identified and integrated within the CBI strategy and plan.

Output 2.2: strong partnerships with a range of actors are developed to implement high quality CBIs.

Output 3.1: Direct implementation of CBIs by UNHCR.

Output 3.2: CBI pilots are implemented in Gambella and Dollo Ado/Melkedida by UNHCR under DI.



Output 1.1: Inclusive implementation of the different steps to determine the feasibility of and to establish CBIs.

Output 1.2: Adequate knowledge and skills are built across the organization to systematically consider and implement high quality CBIs.

Output 2.1: Internal processes are adjusted in order to facilitate scalable CBIs.

CHALLENGES

- The main challenge identified in the implementation of CBIs is the limited capacity of markets in remote camp locations, especially on shelter construction materials, which might require potential supply interventions and close market monitoring.
- There are limited financial service providers with coverage in all refugee locations making it difficult to engage one financial service provider to serve all the camps.

EXTERNAL / DONORS RELATIONS

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