

Ethiopia

January 2019

Ethiopia is host to the second largest refugee population in Africa, sheltering **905,831** registered refugees and asylum seekers **as of 31 August 2018**.

* As UNHCR works to enhance registration data, the monthly population update has been frozen as of 31 August 2018, pending completion of the ongoing Level 3 Reaistration.

More than **251,000**, individuals, representing **30.2%** of the current refugee population in Ethiopia, have gone through the comprehensive (L3) registration, helping to develop a system to better manage and support refugees.

As a Cluster lead for Protection, CCCM and Shelter, UNHCR continues to be actively participate in the humanitarian response to the **IDPs** situation in **Gedeo** and **West Guji**, supporting the authorities with site management and the co-ordination of responses to protection needs. UNHCR is also providing emergency kits to the displaced people.

UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

382 national staff, **133** international staff (including JPOs)
244 individual contractors; **37** deployees & IUNVs

Offices:

1 Branch Office in (Addis Ababa), **5** Sub-Offices - Melkadida, Gambella, Shire, Assosa and Jijiga, **3** Field Offices -Tongo, Pugnido and Mekelle.

FUNDING (AS OF 10 JANUARY 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.

Main Activities

Protection

- UNHCR Ethiopia has prepared action plans to mainstream the prevention of, mitigation and response to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in the different sectors including Education, Child Protection, Health and Nutrition, WASH, Shelter and Energy.
- In preparation for the upcoming roll-out of Community Based Complaints Mechanism (CBCM) for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), CBCM action plans have already been developed for the camps in the Afar and Tigray regions.
- The SGBV e-learning Level 1 online course has been introduced as a mandatory course to all UNHCR staff in Ethiopia.

Education

- Preliminary data for the 2018/19 academic year show total of 193,241 refugee students have been enrolled in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) (55,735), primary (126,383) and Secondary (11,123) levels of education. Gaps in the provision of education include a lack of available classroom space and trained teachers, and scholastic materials, including books, libraries, ICT centres and laboratory facilities and supplies. Over 300 refugee teachers are currently enrolled in teachers' training colleges and are expected to help address the shortage of qualified teachers upon graduation.

Health

- All components of the primary health care services were provided across all camps, including a percentage of the hosting communities. The under-five child mortality rate remains within the expected range in all camps, while diseases of epidemic potential are kept below the epidemic threshold level with no outbreaks reported. Health Information System (HIS) has undergone a transition into Integrated Refugee Health information System (iRHIS) during the new year where data are being collected through mobile tablets and stored on a web server for analyses and report generation. When fully implemented, the iRHIS is expected to improve data collection for public health decision-making.

Food Security and Nutrition

- The amount of general ration provided to refugees remained less than the minimum requirement of 2,100 Kcal per person per day, ranging from 1,737 Kcal in Gambella, Melkadida, Assosa and Jijiga to 1,920 Kcal in camps in the Afar and Tigray regions. The global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate in 21 refugee camps is below the emergency threshold of 15%, with 12 camps achieving the UNHCR target of 10%. Nutrition products for the treatment of severe acute malnutrition have been prepositioned in all hosting locations in the country.

Water and Sanitation

- 12.5 million litres of water were supplied across the regions in Ethiopia hosting refugees, representing an average per capita distribution of 17 litres of water per person per day (lppd). 12 of the 26 refugee camps have achieved the minimum standard of 20 l/person/day. 19 of the 26 refugee camps have met the minimum standard of 'maximum of 20 persons per latrine' while 7 camps are still below the minimum standards.

Shelter

- UNHCR and its partners are working with a target to construct 40,000 transitional shelters in different refugee camps in 2019, covering 30.5% of the identified 131,185 shelter gaps. Shelter prototypes are being produced in line with the relevant guidelines which form part of the implementation modalities of the 2017-2020 National Shelter Strategy.

Cash-Based Interventions

- Following the successful piloting and subsequent positive assessment results of the cash based interventions (CBI) in camps around Jijiga, UNHCR will in 2019 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, shelter materials, livelihoods, cooking energy Education and nutritional support. Cash shall also be used to respond to the ongoing Internally Displaced People (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 take 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 in and around the refugee camps. The target for 2019 is to improve access to cooking energy from 13% to 20% of the households while street lights coverage will grow to 50% from 44% of the camps presently. 90% of the refugee households have access to domestic lighting. Two additional camps will be connected to the national electricity grid (5 are already connected) and four more solar mini-grids installed, making a total of 12 solar mini-grids servicing the health centers and water schemes. Over 1 million trees will be raised and planted as part of the environmental rehabilitation effort.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- UNHCR's investment in livelihood activities target refugees and host communities and include: agriculture and livestock; vocational skills training; microfinance and small enterprise development. Backyard gardening has been established in Gambella and Assosa, while in Shire refugees are engaged in agriculture and goats and cattle fattening. Vocational training courses are available in a number of locations, and are increasingly linked to markets, often targeting youth and women.

Durable Solutions

- Providing resettlement opportunities remains a top priority, as conditions for voluntary repatriation are unfavourable for most refugees in Ethiopia and local integration programs are yet to be put in place. In 2019, 3,000 individuals will be referred to the UNHCR Regional Service Centre for onward submission to resettlement countries, with 71 individuals already submitted. As of 31 January 2019, 156 persons have departed to resettlement countries and nine persons have been processed for Family Reunification. In addition, 487 have gone to Italy as part of the 'Humanitarian Corridor' since the programme started in late 2017.

External / Donors Relations

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

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Germany 19.6 million

Special thanks to the major donors of unearmarked funds:

United Kingdom 31.7 million | Switzerland 15.1 million

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