

Ethiopia

November 2019

Ethiopia is one of the largest refugee-hosting countries in Africa, sheltering over **720,000** registered refugees and asylum seekers as of 30 November 2019.

As an important refugee-hosting country, Ethiopia is one of five countries co-convening the first **Global Refugee Forum (GCR)** and is finalizing preparations to actively participate in the December 17-18 event. The **GRF** brings together a wide-range of stakeholders including development and humanitarian agencies, the private sector, donors, civil society, and the academia, and is a critical opportunity to mobilize action towards the objectives of the **Global Compact on Refugees**.

UNHCR co-hosted with the Ministry of Peace a **“Law and Policy” workshop** to gather inputs from relevant stakeholders for the preparation of a draft **national IDP law or policy**. The draft is expected to incorporate the key principles of the **Kampala Convention** that Ethiopia is preparing to ratify.

UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

383 national staff, **131** international staff (including JPOs)
146 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 30 NOVEMBER 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), within the Ministry of Peace. In addition, UNHCR works in close coordination with 54 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 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 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

- In line with the National Child Protection Strategy, UNHCR and partners address most pertinent child protection issues by strengthening community-based child protection mechanisms for the benefit of the 451,647 refugee children, representing 63 % of the total refugee population in Ethiopia. Out of these, 39,979 either came alone or were separated from their families or care givers during flight.

Education

- Following the reopening of schools and universities for the new academic year in Ethiopia, 255 refugee students have been placed in different public universities, joining hundreds of others who have already been enrolled in the previous years. UNHCR piloted the 'Digital Education Platform' in Bambasi Refugee Camp, in western Ethiopia, a new tool used to record students' data and provide accurate information on school enrollment rate and out of school children. Once successfully piloted, the service will be established in all camps and accessed by relevant partners and the host government.

Health

- All components of primary health care services were provided within camp level health facilities while referral care was provided at regional health facilities as well as specialized hospitals in the capital Addis Ababa. The crude and under-five children mortality rates remained within the expected range. No disease outbreak has been reported from any of the camps. The number of malaria cases has stabilized after coordinated control measures have been taken. Over 97% percent of pregnant women delivered with the assistance of skilled birth attendants at health facilities. HIV testing and counselling and antiretroviral treatment (ART) services were made accessible in all refugee camps.

Food Security and Nutrition

- Eleven out of the 18 refugee camps that have been surveyed for acute malnutrition so far this year have shown a global acute malnutrition (GAM) prevalence that is within the acceptable range, while the remaining seven camps have higher than acceptable GAM rates. Acute and chronic malnutrition remain a challenge, mainly in camps in the

Tigray and Afar Regions due to household food insecurity contributed to by limited access to livelihoods and reduced food assistance and inappropriate feeding practices, among others. Refugees continue to receive a food basket with 84% of the recommended 2100Kcal/person/day. Emergency nutrition programs are in place in all camps to treat acute malnutrition.

Water and Sanitation

- Nineteen of the 26 refugee camps in Ethiopia meet the acceptable standards in terms of water supply, receiving 15 litres of water per person per day, while the remaining seven receive less. Similarly, 21 refugee camps have met the minimum standards of maximum 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. A total of 131,186 households, equivalent to 54 percent of the total refugee population are in need of transitional shelter solutions, with a target of 40,000 transitional shelters to be constructed country-wide by the end of 2019.

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 among other things. A multipurpose urban cash assistance to refugees continues to be implemented in Addis Ababa on a monthly basis. 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

- UNHCR continues to seek solutions to ensure refugees' access to energy while strengthening environmental protection activities. Refugee and host community cooperatives in Buramono and Bokolmanyo camps in Melkadida, are selling electricity to the community using UNHCR-provided solar mini-grids, bringing power to the community and generating an income. Some 365m³ of firewood has been distributed for south Sudanese refugees relocated to Gure-Shombola camp in Benishangul-Gumuz Region (BGR). The grid connected communal kitchen in Sherkole camp, BGR, has become functional with 26 electric stoves while some 94 solar street lights are installed across the camps in the same region. 35,155 pieces of briquettes have been distributed among 1,222 targeted households in camps in the Afar and Benishangul-Gumuz regions

Livelihoods and Self-Reliance

- UNHCR participated in a joint regional workshop with FAO on operationalizing the two sister agencies' regional partnership and strengthening their collaboration at country level in line with the global Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) they had signed. UNHCR and FAO have already adapted the MoU to the Ethiopian context and have initiated their collaborating in areas including data analysis, resilience and self-reliance as well as on developing inclusive agricultural value chains.

Durable Solutions

- Providing resettlement opportunities 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. As of 30 November 2019, 3,510 individuals have been referred to different resettlement countries, surpassing the original plan of 3,000. An additional 59 individuals have been processed for family reunification. In addition, 2,207 persons have departed to different resettlement countries while 148 others have gone to Italy as part of the Second Protocol of the 'Humanitarian Corridor'.

External / Donors Relations

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Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds:

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