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Refugees and Returnees Service

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Ethiopia GRF Pledge Progress Report

December 2021

Cover Photo Caption: ©UNHCR/Diana Diaz: Refugee and host community women farmers say hello at the irrigation scheme. In Melkadida, refugees and host communities share land to grow crops.

"We became friends with refugees, we work as a group. We are all brothers and sisters thanks to our integration through farming. We have given them a home and now we are happy to share the land, like a family," Mohuba from the host community.

©UNHCR/Diana Diaz: Refugee children play at the child friendly space in Nguenyyiel Camp.

ACRONYMS

BIMS	Biometric Identity Management System
CRRF	Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework
CRVS	Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems
DRCS	Digital Request and Complaint System
EEWG	Energy and Environment Working Group
EOP	Economic Opportunities Program
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GCR	Global Compact on Refugees
GoE	Government of Ethiopia
GRF	Global Refugee Forum
HLOM	High Level Officials Meeting
MoLS	Ministry of Labor and Skills
MYS	Multi-year Strategy
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
L3	Level 3 Registration
LoU	Letter of Understanding
OCP	Out of Camp Policy
OSC	One-Stop-Centre
OSS	One-Stop-Shop
PPP	Public Private Partnership
QEP	Qualification and Employment Perspectives
RRS	Refugees and Returnees Service

RSD	Refugee Status Determination
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education Ttraining
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

©UNHCR/Anna Hellge: A Somali refugee girl attending school in Sheder camp

FOREWORD

This document is based on the outcome of the National GRF Pledge Stocktaking Workshop conducted on December 2nd and 3rd, 2021. It is prepared as an effort to inform supportive stakeholders the progress on Ethiopia's pledge commitments made at the 2019 Global Refugee Forum (GRF).

The National Pledge Stocktaking Workshop brought together Government Agencies, INGOs, NGOs and UN Agencies that are supporting the implementation of Ethiopia's four pledges: Jobs and Livelihoods, Education, Protection/Capacity and Energy/Environment (Infrastructure). It was an opportunity for participants to provide updates on pledge progress, share experiences and identify forward-looking opportunities for implementation. Most of the workshop's time was devoted to break-out sessions on the four pledges to enable participants to have a focused discussion on pledge progress, challenges, and recommendations.

This report is prepared ahead of the High Levels Officials Meeting (HLOM) to provide a mid-term review of Ethiopia's GRF pledge commitments. The information contained in the report is framed along the priority areas of the HLOM as well as progress made, challenges and recommendations for the future.

This report testifies to the partnership demonstrated by the Government of Ethiopia and the international community coming together through 'burden-and responsibility-sharing' with strong collaboration and commitment to support the realization of Ethiopia's GRF pledges. The document also highlights where additional developmental support is required to realize the pledge commitments.

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©UNHCR/Diana Diaz: South Sudanese refugee children attending school in Gure Shombola Camp

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ethiopia has made a bold commitment at the 2019 first Global Refugee Forum by making four pledges to improve the lives of refugee and host communities. Ahead of the High Level Officials Meeting which will be held on December 14th and 15th, 2021, this document takes stock of the progress made on the four pledges as a mid-term review. It is also intended to serve as an information and advocacy tool highlighting progress made on the pledges as well as challenges, key areas for further engagement, recommendations, and areas where support is needed.

Ethiopia continues to demonstrate a firm commitment to the GCR and was an early leader in pursuing the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF). Tangible results for refugees and host communities has been furthered with the promulgation of Refugee Proclamation (No. 1110/2019). The proclamation paves the way for more sustainable development-oriented solutions for refugees and asylum seekers. The enabling legal and policy environment allows for further investments in concrete development initiatives to support the realization of Ethiopia's GRF pledges.

As of October 31, 2021, the Refugee and Returnees Service (RRS) and UNHCR had registered 808,530 refugees. With a projected national population of 102.9[1] million, refugees make up about 1% of the population of the country. The majority of refugees are located in the regional states of Afar, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, Tigray and Somali – as well as in Addis Ababa. The origin of refugees residing in Ethiopia is South Sudan (47%), Somalia (27%), Eritrea (19%), and Sudan (6%), with an additional small number of other nationalities (1%). Most refugee hosting regions already lag behind on key development indicators and need increased support for host communities and growing refugee populations.

Despite the socio-economic and implementation challenges posed by the COVID 19 pandemic and challenges specific to the various pledge commitments the progress made thus far creates optimism. However, realization of the pledges would require collective efforts and support in the spirit of 'burden-and responsibility-sharing' from the international community.

Ethiopia's Four GRF Pledges:

Jobs and Livelihoods: Create up to 90,000 economic opportunities through agricultural and livestock value chains that benefit both refugees and host communities in an equitable manner.

Progress: Economic opportunities have been created for 17,526 individuals (7,010 refugees and 10,516 host community members). The pledge has also indirectly benefited 80,953 refugee and host communities from agriculture, llivestock, market system development, financial inclusion related services and trainings.

Education: Expand government TVET system and facilities to provide quality and accredited skills training that is linked to the labor market demand to 20,000 host and refugees by 2024.

Progress: 3,071 (1,055 refugees and 2,016 host community members) have received accredited skills training that is linked to the labor market. 2,312 (904 refugees and 1,408 host community members) have been employed (wage and self-employment). In

[1] Population Projection (statsethiopia.gov.et)

addition, 284 trainers were qualified with newly gained skills and 12 TVET colleges were supported.

Protection/Capacity: Strengthening Asylum System and Social Protection (RSD, refugee registration, civil documentation, permits; National social protection system in refugee hosting areas-particularly for vulnerable individuals).

Progress: 814,493 refugees were enrolled in the L3 and BIMS registration system. 250,166 refugees have received ID cards (55% of those eligible). 790,866 refugees have proof of registration. Since 2019, 48,346 Out of Camp Permits were issued to refugees and 16,935 vital event registrations were conducted.

Energy/Environment: Provide market-based sustainable, reliable, affordable, culturally acceptable, environmentally friendly clean/renewable energy solutions for 3 million people

Progress: Currently more than 23,000 refugees have access to alternative cooking fuels while additional 141,000 refugees and 35,000 host community members are expected to benefit from on-going projects. More than 9,000 refugees have market based clean electricity access from solar-mini grids operated by cooperatives.

©UNHCR/Eduardo Soteras Jalil: Somali refugees collect onions in an irrigated farming land in Melkadida

JOBS AND LIVELIHOODS

Pledge

Create up to 90,000 economic opportunities through agricultural and livestock value chains that benefit both refugees and host communities in an equitable manner.

Pledge Progress Update

Ethiopia committed to create 90,000 economic opportunities in agricultural and livestock value chains targeting both refugee and host communities in four years in line with the 1st and 2nd GCR objectives and complementing the 2016 Government of Ethiopia's pledge. The enabling environment created by the Government of Ethiopia for joint projects and lease arrangement for irrigated agricultural production as well as the financial and technical support from the international community contributed to the progress made on this pledge. The pledge is also directly aligned with national development plans and priorities.

The provision and development of irrigable land particularly in the Dollo Ado area is benefiting host and refugee communities as part of the IKEA foundation investment with UNHCR support. These type of development-focused initiatives and investments enabled refugees and host communities to live in peaceful coexistence and to contribute to the local economy. Land sharing and irrigation schemes in refugee hosting regions are also benefiting both refugees and host communities by boosting agricultural outputs and enhancing self-reliance.

Joint projects implemented by partners in Gambella, Assosa and Jigjiga aligned with agricultural and livestock activities are directly and indirectly benefiting refugees and host communities.

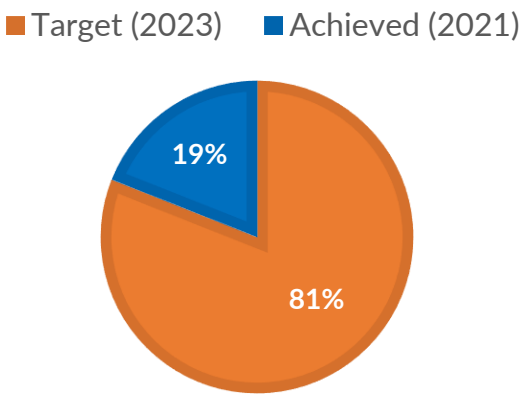
The pledge thus far has benefited directly 17,526 and indirectly 80,953 refugee and host communities from agriculture, llivestock, market system development, financial inclusion related services and trainings.

Beneficiaries

Out of the 90,000 economic opportunities target, 7,010 economic opportunities have been created for refugees from the joint projects. In addition, 10,516 host community members are engaged in economic opportunities.

Beneficiaries	Total
Economic opportunities created for refugees	7,010
Economic opportunities created for host community members	10,516

Pledge Target Vs. Progress Made



Advancing Implementation of the Pledge

There is a considerable challenge in regard to financial and technical capacity in refugee hosting regions in the agriculture, livestock, market system development and financial sectors. In order to advance the implementation of the pledge a tailored region-specific approach needs to be designed to address the existing impediments and to bring better economic opportunities and self-reliance for both refugee and host communities. In line with the region-specific approach capacity building and support needs to be provided to local governments.

Jobs and livelihoods projects need to have a longer time span to bring about the desired change and sustainable and lasting solutions. There needs to be a strong advocacy and support for multiyear agricultural and livestock projects.

Advocacy for the involvement of local NGOs and the private sector needs to be enhanced to increase their engagement in agriculture, livestock, market system development and financial sectors in refugee hosting regions.

Key Areas for Further Engagement

- Establishing thematic and multi-layer coordination structures.
- Developing guiding principles for interventions, approaches and targeting of beneficiaries.
- Raising awareness on the refugee proclamation – leveraging the conducive environment created.
- Advocacy for additional resources from the international community.
- Strong support for on-going initiatives in their efforts to support the implementation of the pledge.

Expanding Support Through Responsibility Sharing

The realization of the pledge depends on its impact to transform the lives of refugees together with supporting the development aspirations of host communities. In this respect, for countries such as Ethiopia, GRF offers an opportunity to mobilize international support to beef up its job creation drive for both refugees and host communities. There is limitation on the degree of support. There needs to be more engagement and investment to create jobs and livelihood opportunities for hosts and refugees from the international community. The realization of this pledge depends on continued and increased support and investment.

The Impact of COVID 19 on Pledge Progress

The COVID 19 pandemic has posed various socio-economic challenges that undermined the livelihoods of host and refugee communities (in the formal and informal economy). It has also impacted the targeted investment to support the jobs and livelihood programs, as the investment and technical supports had to be shifted towards the COVID 19 response.

Challenges

- The multi-layered nature of the pledge poses a serious coordination challenge between and among stakeholders. The degree of coordination between the stakeholders is low.
- The financial and technical support of the international community to support the pledge as a burden sharing responsibility has declined from the initial stage of pledge implementation.
- There is limited engagement by business license and certification issuing bodies.
- Refugee hosting regions are located in the most peripheral, least developed areas of the country characterized by harsh climate and lack of infrastructure; private sector interest to provide economic opportunities in these regions is very low.
- Most of the jobs and livelihoods projects are short term; this does not allow for a sustainable solution for self-reliance of refugees.
- Refugee community readiness to accept employment pathways is limited. There is dependency on humanitarian assistance.

Recommendations

- Enhancing the enabling environment by addressing the awareness gap that exists among pertinent government partners at all levels to issue business licenses and certification for refugees.
- Establishing a robust coordination mechanism in all levels of government, partners, donors, and development actors to better implement development initiatives.
- Generating evidence-based business case for additional resources to support pledge implementation.
- Tailoring interventions and approaches to the refugee context.
- Improving local government capacity to support the implementation of the pledge.
- Strengthening refugee and host community structures to bring better socio-economic and sociocultural integration (cohesion).
- Expanding financial inclusion for refugees to get access to finance and expand their business.

©UNHCR/Eduardo Soteras Jalil: Refugees and host community members train together to improve job prospects at Nefas Silk Polytechnic College in Addis Ababa.

EDUCATION

Pledge

Expand government TVET system and facilities to provide quality and accredited skills training that is linked to the labor market demand to 20,000 hosts and refugees by 2024.

Pledge Progress Update

The Government of Ethiopia through the Ministry of Skills and Labor (MoSL), and Refugees and Returnees Services (RRS) in partnership with various stakeholders are implementing inclusive Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) in five regions of the country (Addis Ababa, Somali, Tigray[2], Benishangul-Gumuz and Gambella).

Qualification and Employment Perspectives (QEP) is one of the key initiatives in operationalizing the GRF education pledge. QEP aims to expand the government TVET system and facilities to provide quality and accredited skills training that is linked to the labor market. The program has been implemented in Addis Ababa, Somali, Tigray, Benishangul-Gumuz and Gambella regions targeting 8,500 refugees and Ethiopian nationals. The programme has a twofold purpose, integrating refugees in national vocational training systems and strengthening the resilience of host communities and refugees. This program is considered a GCR/CRRF flagship in Ethiopia and it continues to enhance employment prospects for refugees and host communities.

Enabling environment and coordination with relevant stakeholders have been created including signing of LoU to implement the QEP. In addition, Ministry of Education's, Education Sector Development Plan (ESDP VI) includes refugee education.

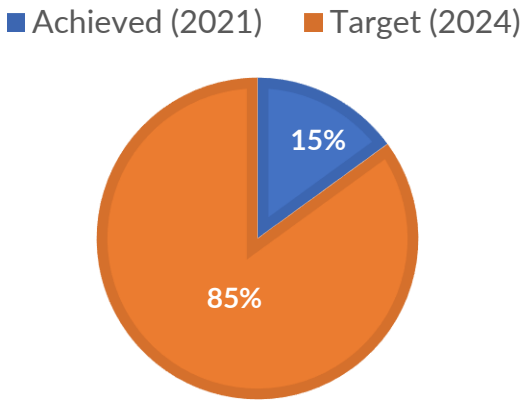
[2] Pledge implementation in the Tigray Region has been suspended since November 2020, due to the ongoing armed conflict in the region.

Beneficiaries

The below table shows host community and refugee beneficiaries from the QEP project. In addition to the TVET training provided by the project, 12 TVET colleges were expanded/supported.

Beneficiaries	Female	Male	Total
Host community	847	1,169	2,016
Refugees	597	458	1,055
Host communities directly employed (wage and self-employment)	629	779	1,408
Refugees directly employed (wage and self-employment)	500	404	904
Number of trainers qualified with newly gained skills	14	270	284

Pledge Target Vs. Progress made



Advancing Implementation of the Pledge

A conducive enabling policy environment for inclusion of refugees in TVET exists under - Article 24(2) and 26 of the refugee proclamation 1110/2019. As the proclamation provides high level government commitment for inclusion of refugees into the public TVET system, it has to be accompanied with directives and action plan which is currently lacking. To address this, a government led - joint UNHCR and GIZ initiative to operationalize the education pledge on inclusion of refugees into public TVET system has been initiated. The aim of the initiative is to develop a national roadmap towards the inclusion of refugees into the Ethiopian TVET system.

A concept note has been prepared to guide the development of the roadmap and the subsequent activities covering mapping of all the TVET institutions in refugee hosting areas. The development of costed action plans to facilitate the roll out of the education pledge and initiation of innovative projects that will benefit both refugees and host communities, have been developed and endorsed by the key partners (GoE, UNHCR and GIZ).

Key Areas for Further Engagement

- Expanding and upgrading of public TVET colleges.
- Sustainable support to the government to expand inclusion of refugees in the public TVET system.
- Capacity building and enabling environment including completion of roadmap and action plan for inclusion of refugees into the public TVET system.
- Strengthening the coordination and engagement of the private sector.

Expanding Support Through Responsibility Sharing

- Increased engagement from partners and donors on accredited Technical and Vocational Education Training linked to the labor market for refugees and host communities to expand the existing support.
- Support on capacity building, expansion, and rehabilitation of public TVET colleges to ensure inclusion of refugees.

The Impact of COVID 19 on Pledge Progress

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic additional investments were required to carry out the QEP project. Closure of TVET colleges has caused delays in completion of trainings and has caused dropouts. Measures needed to be taken to comply with COVID 19 protocols which has impacted the number of refugee and host communities targeted to be enrolled in TVET programs.

Challenges

- High dropout of refugees due to high living costs in the urban centers and towns where the colleges are located.
- Limited capacity (infrastructure, machinery, skilled human resources) of public TVET colleges in refugee hosting regions.
- Implementation of the program could not be carried out in the Tigray region due to the security situation in the northern part of Ethiopia.
- TVET institutions had to be closed because of the COVID 19 pandemic.

Recommendations

- Strengthening the Public Private Partnership (PPP) using various platforms.
- Strengthening partnership with NGOs.
- Capacity building, expansion, and rehabilitation of public TVET colleges.

©UNHCR/Diana Diaz: A UNHCR worker hands a South Sudanese baby boy to his sister, as they arrive at Gure Shembola Camp in Ethiopia, following relocation from Pagak Reception Centre.

PROTECTION/CAPACITY

Pledge

- Strengthening Asylum System and Social Protection:
    - RSD, refugee registration, civil documentation, permits.
    - National social protection system in refugee hosting areas-particularly for vulnerable individuals.

Pledge Progress Update

National legal and regulatory framework has been put in place to advance the implementation of the GRF pledge on Strengthening Asylum System and Social Protection. In this regard, the Refugee Proclamation No. 1110/2019, provides the framework for registration, documentation, and protection of refugees and asylum seekers as well as improved procedures and safeguards for refugee status determination in Ethiopia.

In December 2019, the Government of Ethiopia adopted the following directives to implement provisions of the Refugee Proclamation in relation to protection of refugees:

- Directive to Determine Conditions for Movement and Residence of Refugees Outside of Camps.
- Directive to Determine the Procedures for Refugees Right to Work.
- Refugees and Returnees Grievances and Appeals Handling Directive; and
- Environmental and Social Management Guidelines.

Simplified RSD procedures for asylum seekers from Syria and Sudan are developed with the view to reducing backlog of individual RSD cases. SOPs for RSD case processing and Nationality Screening Forms for group recognition of refugee status are developed to strengthen asylum process in line with the Refugee Proclamation and to ensure accountability.

Gaps and inconsistencies identified in the implementation of the legal framework of birth registration of refugees have been rectified. Refugees are included in a Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems (CRVS). A CRVS comprehensive assessment was conducted in 2021,

which contributed to a CRVS Improvement Strategy (2021 – 2026) and a costed plan inclusive of refugees.

Refugees are included in the National Social and Behaviour Change Strategy to Increase Demand for Vital Events Registration – a strategy aimed at raising awareness about the need for vital events registration among refugees and host communities. A national exercise has commenced to clear backlog of birth registration of nearly 94,000 refugee children. A total of 16,935 vital events (11,216 birth, 5,193 marriages, 344 divorces and 182 deaths) have been registered since 2019.

Refugee ID cards have been issued to 250,166 refugees (55% of eligible refugees) and 790,866 refugees (98%) are issued with proof of registration. Level 3 Registration and Biometric Identity Management System (BIMS) with protection profiling is rolled out in Ethiopia. 814,493 refugees have so far been enrolled in the Level 3 Registration and Biometric Identity Management System (BIMS).

One-Stop-Shops (OSSs) are established in 12 refugee camps to provide registration, documentation, and protection services in one centre. Additional 14 OSSs are under construction.

Refugee women and children are included in the draft National Strategy on Violence Against Women and Children which is at the final stage of validation and endorsement. Refugees are included in the national GBV response services (legal, psychosocial, and medical) in One-Stop-Centres (OSCs) in various locations in Ethiopia. Gender and Protection Action Plan is developed for refugees and host communities in the context of the Economic Opportunities Program (EOP).

Digital Request and Complaint System (DRCS) is established and implemented as part of digitization of refugee protection services in Ethiopia.

Refugees are accessing mobile court, and free legal aid services provided by public university legal aid centres.

Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries	Total
Refugees enrolled in the L3 and BIMS registration system	814,493
Refugees with ID cards	250,166
Refugees with proof of registration	790,866
Out of Camp Permit issued to refugees (since 2019)	48,346
Vital event registrations (since 2019)	16,935

Key Areas for Further Engagement

- Operationalizing the RSD Appeal Hearing Council and developing its procedural guidelines.
- Drafting Refugee Regulation to fully implement the Refugee Proclamation and foster implementation of rights of refugees.
- Strengthening coordination and partnership among various protection stakeholders.
- Enhancing awareness raising, sensitization, and capacity development for all relevant stakeholders on key protection and asylum policies, principles, and procedures.

- Finalizing the digitization of refugee CRVS, registration, and documentation services.
- Working towards full inclusion of refugee children into the National Children's Policy and National Child Protection Systems.
- Working towards full inclusion of refugee women in the National Women's Policy and GBV prevention and response systems.
- Developing Access to Justice Strategy for refugees. Justice Needs and Satisfaction Survey of refugees and host communities that was conducted in Somali and Tigray regions in 2020 could be a basis for the strategy.

Expanding Support Through Responsibility Sharing

- Support to address the financial and human resource capacity of the national child protection system at the federal and local levels.
- Technical and financial support to develop a National Access to Justice Strategy for nationals, refugees, and host community.
- Support to address the financial, material, and technical capacity challenges of the existing GBV One-Stop-Centers (OSCs) and expanding the OSCs to all refugee hosting areas.
- Technical and financial support to make the RSD Appeal Hearing Council functional.
- Financial, human resource and training support for RSD, registration and civil documentation services and support digitization of these services.
- Support livelihood opportunities for refugees to ensure their self-reliance so that they could fully benefit from the Out of Camp Policy.

The Impact of COVID 19 on Pledge Progress

The outbreak of the COVID 19 pandemic has affected the implementation of the protection pledge. Due to the pandemic, important protection and asylum-related services including registration, documentation, civil registration, RSD, and other protection services were either suspended or restricted. Refugees access to these services were also impaired due to the COVID protocol/directives that were put in place to respond to the spread of the pandemic.

A comprehensive capacity support is needed for the asylum and protection related services as well as vulnerable refugees, particularly refugees living outside of camps, in order to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 pandemic.

Challenges

- Shortage of dedicated and trained RSD staff resulting in backlog of individual RSD cases, that constitutes a total of 1,972 pending cases.
- Limited awareness of actors working at border entry points on access to territory and access to asylum.
- The RSD Appeal Hearing Council has not been functional because of capacity constraints. Its procedural guidelines have not also been developed.
- Capacity limitation to fully digitize registration and Comprehensive Civil Registration and Vital Statistic System (CRVS) for refugees.

- Shortage of trained human resource to conduct vital events registration of refugees.
- Limited financial and human resource capacity to equip and expand refugee reception facilities.
- Limited self-reliance of refugees to benefit from the out of camp permit.
- The national child protection coordination mechanism needs to be strengthened to include refugees.
- Limited technical, material, and financial capacity of the GBV response services including the One-Stop-Centers (OSCs) and absence of OSCs in some refugee hosting regions.

Recommendations

- Providing continued financial, technical, and training support to the Appeal Hearing Council.
- Expanding and strengthening refugee reception centers by equipping them with necessary facilities.
- Digitization of the registration, documentation and national CRVS and addressing human resources and budget related challenges.
- Supporting the self-reliance and livelihood of refugees to advance the OCP pledge.
- Promoting inclusion of refugee women and children by strengthening the capacity of the national coordination mechanisms.
- Finalizing the draft National Strategy on Violence Against Women and Children that includes refugees.
- Expanding GBV response mechanisms including One-Stop-Centers in all refugee hosting areas.

©UNHCR/Giulia Naboni: Ali (left) and Ahmed, a refugee and host community member, jointly manage the solar minigrid in Buramino refugee camp, supplying power to households, businesses and to the health centre.

Pledge

Provide market-based sustainable, reliable, affordable, culturally acceptable, environmentally friendly clean/renewable energy solutions for 3 million people.

Pledge Progress Update

Refugee and Returnee Services (RRS) and UNHCR in coordination with partners and other stakeholders have been keen to scale-up and expand alternative energy interventions for cooking, lighting, and other uses in refugee and host community areas. The Energy and Environment Working Group (EEWG) co-chaired by RRS, UNHCR, and GIZ is a key taskforce and effective platform that oversees strategies and other initiatives in humanitarian settings. Under the umbrella of UNHCR Global Strategy for Sustainable Energy, the EEWG has developed a National Cooking Fuel Strategy which will guide and define camp specific clean cooking energy options.

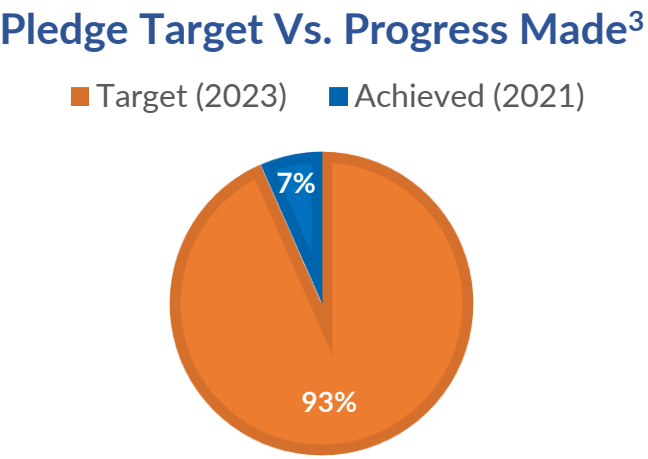
Currently more than 23,000 refugees have access to alternative cooking fuels while additional 141,000 refugees are expected to be benefited in the on-going energy projects in Afar, Gambella and Melkadida camps. More than 9,000 refugees have market based clean electricity access from solar-mini grids operated by cooperatives in Melkadida refugee camps.

To rehabilitate degraded lands more than 1,739,726 seedlings were planted along degraded areas, refugee, and host community households, in service giving institutions as well as roadsides. In addition, 160m^3 check dam and 8kms of soil and stone bands were built in 2020/21.

Beneficiaries

In addition to refugees benefiting and targeted to be benefited from ongoing projects, 35,000 host community members in Pugnido town of Gambella are expected to benefit from briquette production project by GIZ-EnDeV and UNHCR which is in progress.

Beneficiaries	Total
Refugees with access to alternative cooking energy	23,000
Refugees with access to clean electricity	9,000
Refugees intended to benefit from on-going projects	141,000
Host community members intended to benefit from on-going projects	35,000



Advancing Implementation of the Pledge

Inclusion of Energy and Environment as one of the result areas in UNHCR – RRS/MYS (2022-2024) is a good opportunity to expand energy access to refugees and hosting communities. This will also contribute to the successful realization of the energy pledge.

A discussion on how an environmental conservation and rehabilitation component can be included in the pledge will be considered to advance the pledge commitment.

Key Areas for Further Engagement

- Strengthening coordination and partnership through EEWG platform for more advocacy and resource mobilization.
- Showcasing good practices of energy projects for scale-up and expansion into more locations.
- Support ongoing and planned projects that are contributing to the realization of the pledge.

Expanding Support Through Responsibility Sharing

- Environmental impact assessment and extent of natural resource depletion/deforestation due to the presence of refugees needs to be studied and quantified for further engagement.
- Access to alternative energy for cooking and lighting is still very low, more funding and engagements are required to scale-up the access to a reasonable level.
- Urgent intervention is needed in Jigjiga refugee camps. Alternative energy solutions have not been provided for Jigjiga refugees since 2018. It is becoming increasingly difficult for the refugees to cook their food.
- The solar mini grid in Dolo Ado and Jigjiga needs support and funding.
- The national electricity grid needs to be expanded and connected to nearby locations and where it is feasible to connect.

[3] The progress includes host and refugee communities intended to benefit from on-going projects.

- Gambella and Assosa regions have good rainfall potentials to expand wood lot development for household cooking energy needs.
- Streamline energy in other sectors that has been directly or indirectly impacted by lack of clean energy access (Protection, Education and Nutrition)

The Impact of COVID 19 on Pledge Progress

The COVID 19 pandemic has caused a delay in the implementation of energy projects. There needs to be consideration to electrify quarantine and health centres in the medium- and long-term plan. COVID 19 emergency fund needs to be considered to make adjustments to projects and plans to comply with COVID 19 prevention protocols.

Challenges

- Lack of funding to implement alternative energy and environment rehabilitation.
- Limited baseline data on energy access and population data for refugees and host communities.
- Increasing of deforested area around refugee settlements because of 90% of the refugee households are still dependent on firewood and charcoal. There is a need to plant more trees to compensate and rehabilitate the deforested areas.
- The ability and willingness to pay for energy amongst refugee and host communities is very limited. This needs assessment and continuous awareness creation as well as increase in livelihood activities and other mechanisms.
- COVID 19 and the security situation in the north have delayed/shifted some energy and environment projects.
- Organizations that were expected to engage in alternative energy support were not engaged to support the realization of the pledge. There is a need to attract and engage more partners in the energy and environment sector.

Recommendations

- Increasing engagement of local NGOs.
- Including an environmental rehabilitation and natural resource management component to the pledge.
- Increasing awareness on energy and the environment.
- Advocating for projects that focus on enhancing grid connectivity in areas where the connectivity is feasible.
- Integrating energy and livelihood projects to increase ability to pay and strengthening cooperatives.
- Awareness creation and advocacy to involve entrepreneurs and to build the capacity of local governments to support the implementation of the pledge.

PARTNERS SUPPORTING THE REALIZATION OF ETHIOPIA'S PLEDGE COMMITMENTS

Jobs and Livelihoods

- **Government Agencies**: Refugee and Returnees Services and Ministry of Agriculture.
- **Donors**: Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), European Union Trust Fund (ETUF), Netherlands (Prospect Partnership), World Bank, and IKEA Foundation.
- **UN Agencies**: UNHCR and WFP
- **NGOs**: Farm Africa, ZOA, International Rescue Committee (IRC), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Women and Pastoralist Youth Development Organization (WaPydo), Concern Ethiopia and Mercy Corps.
- **Private Sector**: Development Alternatives Incorporated (DAI)

Education

- **Government Agencies**: Refugee and Returnees Services, Ministry of Skills, and labor, Ministry of Agriculture, Federal TVET Agency, TVET Colleges, and TVET Bureaus and Job Creation Agency.
- **Donors**: Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Germany), Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), and Netherlands (Prospect Partnership).
- **UN Agencies**: UNHCR
- **NGOs**: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission (DICAC), Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA).

Protection/Capacity

- **Government Agencies**: Refugees and Returnees Services (RRS), Immigration, Nationality and Vital Events Agency (INVEA), Ministry of Women and Social Affairs and Ethiopian Human Rights Commission.
- **Donors**: World Bank, Asylum, Migration, and Integration Fund (AMIF), Netherlands (Prospects Partnership), European Union and Danish Embassy.
- **UN Agencies**: UNHCR, UNICEF, UNWOMEN and UNFPA.
- **NGOs**: Save the Children, Plan International, Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), International Rescue Committee (IRC), African Child Policy Forum, International Medical Corps (IMC), Rehabilitation and Development Organization (RADO), Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).

Energy/Environment

- **Government Agencies**: Refugee and Returnees Services, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Ministry of Water and Energy, Ethiopian Electric Utility (EEU)
- **Donors:** EU (RDPP), Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Germany)/GIZ, IKEA, Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) and IFC.
- **UN Agencies**: UNHCR and WFP.
- **NGOs:** DCA, AECID, ZOA, Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP), Action for the Needy Ethiopia (ANE), Save the Environment Ethiopia (SEE), Natural Resource Development and Environmental Protection (NRDEP) and SHARPE.