



UNHCR Operation in Ethiopia

Fact Sheet | July 2014

UNHCR Operational Highlights

- At the end of July 2014, Ethiopia hosted **629,718** refugees from more than 13 countries. The majority-246,760 (39.19%)-are **South Sudanese** followed by **Somalis**-244,952 (38.90%), **Eritreans**-98,929 (15.71%) and **Sudanese**- 34,766 (5.52%). The country also hosted 4,311 (0.68%) refugees from several other countries, including Kenya, Yemen, Djibouti and the Great Lakes Region.
- Twenty-six thousand and ninety-four new refugees were registered in Ethiopia in July. The overwhelming majority-23,100- are South Sudanese who have fled the on-going conflict in their country. Also, 2,239 Eritreans, 453 Somalis and 84 Sudanese were registered during the reporting month.
- The number of refugees in Ethiopia has crossed the 600,000 mark this month, overtaking Kenya as the largest refugee hosting country in Africa. Moreover, numbering 246, 760, South Sudanese have become the largest refugee group in the country, trailing Somali refugees who number 244,952. Some 183,000 of the South Sudanese arrived over the last seven months.
- Ethiopia's borders remain open and easily accessible to asylum seekers coming from many of its neighbouring countries, most notably from South Sudan, Sudan, Somalia and Eritrea. Despite two IGAD-brokered peace agreements signed by Mr. Salva Kiir and Mr. Riek Machar in January and May, South Sudanese continued to arrive in Ethiopia at a daily average rate of 841 people.
- All the three newly opened refugee camps in Gambella have reached their maximum capacities. UNHCR and ARRA, together with IOM, are relocating new arrivals coming through Pagak to a new transit site at Pamdong which is still under development. Those coming through Burubiey and Akobo are temporarily sheltered at Matar, pending the development of Nip Nip camp. Moreover, a decision has been taken to expand Okugo camp in Dimma-home to some 6,000 refugees- to accommodate up to 30,000 additional refugees.
- Kule 1 camp has been renamed "Kule" camp and Kule 2 has been renamed "Tierkidi" camp following an instruction by the Regional Government in Gambella to change the names accordingly.
- As part of the on-going heightened preparations to prevent a possible cholera outbreak in the camps, an oral cholera vaccination campaign has been launched in all the sites and camps in Gambella sheltering South Sudanese refugees.
- UNHCR provided support to the government of Ethiopia, the ICRC and MSF to assist some 60 seriously injured South Sudanese combatants who crossed into the Ethiopian territory on the third week of July following a renewed conflict in Nasir, Upper Nile State, which borders the Gambella region of Ethiopia. UNHCR's limited involvement was purely on humanitarian grounds.

Refugees and asylum seekers in Country

(by country of origin)

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	TOTAL NUMBER	NEW REGISTRATION IN March 2014	No. of Camps
Somalia	244,952	453	8
Eritrea	98,929	2,239	6
South Sudan	246,760	23,100	5
Sudan	34,766	84	4
Others	4311	218	4*
Total	629,718	26,094	27

*Included in the number of camps are two service delivery sites for Kenyan refugees and two transit site for South Sudanese refugees.

UNHCR operation in 2014

(in million USD)

BY POPULATION	BUDGET	FUNDS AVAILABLE
Refugees	199.807	96.2
Total Budget	199.807	*96.2

*Ethiopia's needs may additionally be covered by un-earmarked sub regional, regional or entirely un-earmarked funding that UNHCR received

*Funds covering the South Sudan Emergency response in Ethiopia are not included.

Working with Partners

UNHCR works with the following implementing and operational partners in extending international protection and delivery of assistance to refugees and the search for durable solutions to their plight:

Government Partners: Administration for Refugees and Returnees Affairs; Bureau of Agriculture; Gambella Rural Roads Authority; Jijiga Water Supply Office; Natural Resources Development Agency-Assosa; Natural Resources Development Agency- Gambella; Tselemti Woreda



Environmental Protection Programme, Gambella Regional Health Bureau.

NGOs: Africa Humanitarian Action; African Humanitarian Aid and Development Agency; Association of Ethiopians Educated in Germany; Gaia Association; Hope for the Horn; International Medical Corps; International Rescue Committee; Lutheran World Federation; MSF-France; Jesuit Refugee Services; Mother and Child Development Organization; Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church; Rehabilitation and Development Organization; Save the Environment; Partnership for Pastoralists Development Association; Save the Children; Norwegian Church Aid; Norwegian Refugee

Council; Opportunities Industrialization Centres-Ethiopia; Pastoralist Welfare Organization; Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency; World Vision Ethiopia, Partners for Refugee Services;

Spain and the Netherlands; Oxfam - UK; ZOA, Centre for Victims of Trauma (CVT)

Operational partners- NGOs: Goal Ethiopia; Danish Refugee Council; Islamic Relief and Development; MSF-Spain and the Netherlands; Oxfam - UK; ZOA.

Other partners: IOM; UNICEF; UNOPS; WF

Operational Developments & Achievements

- UNHCR organized four high-level visits to the Gambella operation which were all successfully concluded. They included visits by US Assistant Secretary of State for PRM, Ms. Anne Richard; Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein of the United Arab Emirates (UAE); Mr. John Ging, OCHA's Director of Operations as well as H.E. Mr. Kazuhiro Suzuki, Ambassador of Japan in Ethiopia. All four officials appreciated the emergency response effort being spearheaded by UNHCR and ARRA but were shocked by the scale of the humanitarian needs on the ground. They called for urgent international financial support to help UNHCR and its partners to be able to respond adequately.
- The results of a multi-agency nutrition survey put the average acute malnutrition rate in Kule, Tierkidi and Leitchuor camps at 28%, which is nearly double the emergency threshold of 15%. Despite the significant reduction from as high as 37% at the beginning of the emergency, the findings show that the situation is still very much concerning. In response, UNHCR and its nutrition and health partners are stepping up intervention including scaling up and strengthening of nutrition treatment programmes, scaling-up and strengthening of outreach activities, including training and recruitment of outreach workers and weekly mass screenings in the camps. The findings also highlight the need for continuation and strengthening of blanket supplementary feeding programme for all children 6-59 months and all pregnant and lactating women. Blanket supplementary feeding program (BSFP), which was already being implemented in the camps, is being strengthened and outreach activities are being added to ensure coverage and compliance, monitoring of coverage and compliance and care-taker counselling and sensitisation.
- Working with the Ethiopian government, the World Health Organization, the refugees themselves, and other partners, UNHCR has contained the spread of Hepatitis E in the three camps in Gambella bordering South Sudan. As a result of interventions which included promotion of better personal and community hygiene, distribution of soaps for hand-washing and building more latrines, the disease that has infected 373 people-including six from the hosting community- and killed 13 people since April, has now been contained.
- In the north, the number of Eritrean refugees continued to grow with 2,239 new refugees registered during the reporting month. This brought the population of the 20,000-capacity Hitsats camp-the newest of four refugee camps in the Tigray Region- to 19,990. UNHCR and ARRA have agreed to do a formal verification of the population of the four camps to be able to establish the actual number of refugees physically living in them. The result of the verification exercise will serve as a basis for a decision on whether to establish a 5th camp or not.
- As part of the effort to provide a durable solution to the plight of refugees, UNHCR resettled 155 refugees in different countries. The majority were Somali refugees from the oldest Kebribeyah camp.

UNHCR Staff

Staff comprise: 328 national, 84 international, 144 UNOPS, 5 IUNV and 23 deployees.

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