



UNHCR Operation in Ethiopia

Fact Sheet | July 2013

UNHCR operational highlights

- At the end of July 2013, Ethiopia hosted a total of 415,038 refugees broken down into 240,226 (57.88%) Somalis, 74,513(17.95%) Eritreans, 65,447 (15.77%) South Sudanese, 30,614 (7.38%) Sudanese and 4,238 (1.02%) refugees from several other countries.
- The operation registered a total of 5,779 new arrivals in July-up from 3,555 last month. Over 3,000 of this month's new arrivals originated from South Sudan, with another 1,519 coming from Eritrea, representing the highest arrival figure from that country so far this year. The new camp at Hitsats now accommodates 2,570 Eritrean refugees.
- As part of his effort to garner support for the global initiative for solutions for Somali refugees, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr António Guterres, visited Ethiopia and met with senior AU and Government officials. (**Details under 'operational developments & achievements'**)
- UNHCR has secured a new site in western Ethiopia, to be developed into a refugee camp to host South Sudanese refugees fleeing conflict in Jonglie State, Pibor County. The number of refugees arriving from Pibor since May has crossed the 5,000 mark, underpinning the need to quickly develop the camp and transfer the refugees. A recent field reconnaissance mission to the new site at Okugo, near the former refugee camp of Dimma, indicated that the site can accommodate up to 24,000 people.
- A decision has been made to relocate UNHCR's Field Office from Alamata to Semera, the capital of the Afar Regional Government. This will bring UNHCR closer to where government structures are. In the same region, sports materials were distributed to 90 Eritrean refugees in the remote Barahle camp. Donated by the International Olympic Committee, the kit will support UNHCR's drive to provide entertainment and constructive engagement to refugee youth.
- The second round of polio vaccination was administered to refugee children under 15 years in the five refugee camps in Dollo Ado. This was carried out side by side with measles and Vitamin A vaccination campaign to children under 5 years. Over 76,000 refugee children were vaccinated in June following reports of the identification of the first wild polio virus in Somalia.
- The Refugee Housing Unit (RHU) has started pilot-testing of the new shelter prototype in Dollo Ado. Following a hands-on training to 13 selected families in Hilaweyn camp, the RHU team commenced wind speed and household comfort testings. So far, six of the 13 units have been built with full participation of refugees and occupied by six families.
- UNHCR has distributed solar lanterns to 1,115 refugee households in Aw-barre camp, reaching 52.7% of the camp's population. Two experts from SunLite, the company which has produced the solar lanterns, visited the Jijiga camps in order to provide technical and operational training to all refugee users.
- UNHCR is following up on a possible trafficking case reported by a refugee family in Kebribeyah refugee camp. According to the parents their daughter, who is 18 years old, disappeared from the camp and they were contacted by individuals, allegedly calling from Libya, who requested them to deposit 2, 600 dollars as a ransom for her release or face her death.

Refugees and asylum seekers in Country (by country of origin)

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	TOTAL NUMBER	NEW REGISTRATION IN July 2013
Somalia	240,226	1,006
Eritrea	74,513	1,519
Sudan	30,614	132
South Sudan	65,447	3,117
Others	4,238	5
Total	415,038	5,779

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 Returnee Affairs; Bureau of Agriculture; Gambella Rural Roads Authority; Jijiga Water Supply Office; Natural Resources Development Agency-Assosa; Natural Resources



Development Agency- Gambella; Tselemt Woreda Environmental Protection Programme.

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; Pastoralist Welfare Organization; Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency; World Vision Ethiopia, Partners for Refugee Services.

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; WFP.

UNHCR operation in 2013 (in million USD)

BY POPULATION	BUDGET	FUNDS AVAILABLE
Refugees	192.66	
Stateless	0.156	
Total Budget	192.817	*82.75

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

Operational developments & achievements

- As part of his effort to garner support for the global initiative for solutions for Somali refugees, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr António Guterres, visited Ethiopia earlier in the month and had very constructive discussions with senior AU and Government officials. The High Commissioner described his visit to Ethiopia as very successful. "If all my missions were nearly as successful, my job would be much easier", he told an audience of ambassadors and other dignitaries who attended his welcome cocktail party. Mr Guterres had meetings with the Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs as well as the Director of the government refugee agency, ARRA. In all his meetings, he was given assurance that Somalis will not be pushed to return to their country before the time was ripe. The High Commissioner lauded Ethiopia for its open-door and asylum policy and said it was "a pillar of refugee protection".
- UNHCR successfully concluded the relocation of 6,076 South Sudanese refugees from Wanthowa Woreda at the border with South Sudan to Pugnido refugee camp. This followed a government decision to relocate to the camp some 6,000 of the 20,000 asylum seekers who have been living with the host communities along the border since early 2012. The remaining estimated 14,000 people keep large heads of livestock, making their relocation to Pugnido more difficult. UNHCR is closely working with the Government on how best to ensure the protection of those still staying closer to the border.
- The much awaited pilot cash transfer scheme for refugees was launched in Sheder refugee camp during the reporting period. WFP provided refugees with 100 birr (\$5.4) per individual per month in return for reduction of 5kg of wheat out of their monthly food ration. The idea is for refugees to use the cash mainly to buy their preferred food items but also to cover their other expenses instead of selling their ration at throw-away prices in order to meet those needs. The scheme will be piloted in Aw-barre camp later in the year before it is expanded to the rest of the refugee camps in the country.
- Fifty refugee students in Sheder refugee camp, representing 100% of those who sat for the 2013/2014 National Higher Education Entrance Examination, scored a passing mark. This is indeed a remarkable achievement and, if all goes well, the 50 students will be joining colleges and universities in the next academic year.
- A school was handed over to local authorities in Nedjo town, Oromiya region. It was a structure previously used as a way-station for the repatriation of Sudanese refugees and converted to a school. The reconstructed structure has five blocks of 32 class rooms which can handle about 1,000 students. The reconstruction cost UNHCR 1.8 million Birr.

UNHCR staff

Staff comprise: **333** national staff, including **70** UNOPS as well as **79** international staff including **5** International UN Volunteers and **3** Consultants.

For further details, please contact:
UNHCR Representation in Ethiopia

Bole Road, woreda 21 kebele 23
House No. 1255/01-02

Kisut Gebreegziabher
Snr. Public Information
Associate
Tel.: +251-116612822
E-mail: gegziabk@unhcr.org