

Ethiopia

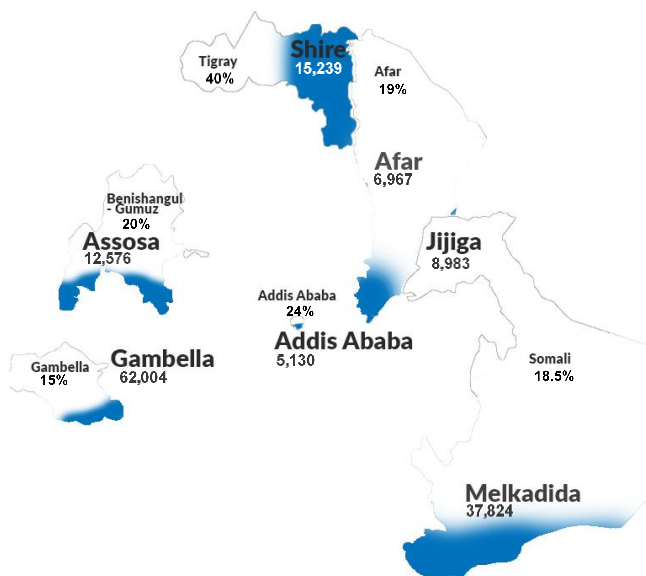
December 2017

157,495 refugees in Ethiopia are between the ages of **15-24**, representing 17.6 % of the registered refugee population in the country.

62,004 refugee youth are South Sudanese sheltered in camps in the Gambella region. They make up **15.4 %** of the youth population across the refugee camps in the country

In Pugnido camp, Gambella, a ‘Youth Peace Education Club’, comprising young people from the refugees and their hosts, works on initiatives aimed at fostering peaceful co-existence and peace-building between the two communities.

REFUGEE YOUTH IN ETHIOPIA



Location	UNHCR partners implementing youth programmes in Ethiopia
Melkadida	-Save the Children International (SCI) -Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)
Assosa	-Save the Children International (SCI) -Plan International (PI)
Jijiga	-
Shire	-Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) -Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
Gambella	-Plan International (PI) -Danish Refugee Council (DRC) -Save the Children International (SCI)
Mekelle	-
Urban	Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)
Kenya Borena	-

Highlights

- The Refugee Camps in the Gambella region- hosting over 400,000 South Sudanese refugees- shelter the largest number of refugee youth in Ethiopia, representing 39.37 % of the overall refugee youth population in the country. In the Shire camps, the youth constitute 40 % of the total refugee population.
- Displaced youth have the ability to play a significant role in the protection and development of their communities as well as those hosting them. Despite the important role refugee youth play, they are rarely reflected in the programmatic responses of UN, NGOs and other organizations working in humanitarian response. Youth have skills, abilities and needs that are rarely fully recognized. Their engagement in peaceful coexistence interventions and to prevent intra- and inter- communal conflicts is crucial.
- The camps in the Gambella and Tigray regions benefit from the 2017 UNHCR Youth Initiative Fund (YIF), a project of the UNHCR’s Division of International Protection. Youth-led proposals for the 2018 YIF have been submitted on behalf of all the the Ethiopia refugee operation.
- As part of the 2017 Youth Initiative Fund (YIF), UNHCR Sub-Office Gambella has established a ‘Youth Peace Education Club’ (YPEC) comprising of young people from the ethnic Anuak and Nuer communities of both the refugees and their hosts in Pugnido refugee camp. The Youth Peace Education Club engages youth in art (theatre, cultural songs and story-telling performances) as well as cooking/culture food-exchange for adolescent girls. The project has greatly contributed to fostering peaceful co-existence and peace-building between the two communities.
- In Sub-Office Shire, the 2017 Youth Initiative Fund supported a group of 47 Eritrean refugees and Ethiopians studying at Axum University to design and implement a youth-led project in Mai-Aini, Adi-Harush and Hitsats refugee camps. Under the project, the youth facilitated community conversations on the risks of irregular migration, SGBV, Child Protection, substance abuse and positive coping mechanisms, and reached approximately 9,400 individuals from both communities.

Strategic priorities

- UNHCR Ethiopia has mainstreamed youth protection into the strategies of Livelihood, Education, Child Protection and the overall Comprehensive Protection and Solutions Strategies of the different refugee groups in the country. A key priority is improving youth access to livelihoods opportunities and life-skills as well as vocational training to ensure their self-reliance and inclusion into the Ethiopian community. Furthermore, UNHCR is a member of the UN Youth Taskforce which was established by the United Nations Country Team in Ethiopia. UNHCR uses the opportunity to advocate for broader inclusion of refugee youth into a multi-sectoral response for sustainable youth development programming.

Challenges



External / Donors Relations

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

USA | UK (DFID)| IKEA Foundation | EU(ECHO)| Japan | Educate A Child Programme-EAC| Germany |Netherlands| Australia| UN Children's Fund | "la Caixa Banking Foundation| Sweden |Canada| |Ireland| Priv. D. Australia | Country-Based Pool Funds| Sheik Thani Bin Abdullah Foundation| UN Dept of Economic and Social Affairs| Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation | Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints | Priv. donors Spain| African Union| UN Foundation(UNFIP) | International Olympic Committee| | Priv D. Germany

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