

**The Refugee Task Force** is held on a monthly basis and serves as the primary national forum for inter-sector coordination in Ethiopia, jointly chaired by ARRA and UNHCR. The below minutes reflect interventions by the Chairs, all sector chairs/co-chairs, and invited participants, together with agreed action points.

**Location:** UNHCR Branch Office, Main Conference Room

**Time and Date:** 3pm, 13 September 2017

**Chairs:** ARRA and UNHCR

**Action Points:**

Reference	Action Point	Who	By When	Status
13.09.17 #1	To sign up for PWG retreat with Richelle Haines	RTF members	Following RTF	
13.09.17 #2	Partners that are not yet on the UNHCR partner portal to register	Relevant partners	ASAP	
13.09.17 #3	Inputs requested for the next RTF	All	Monday 9 October COB	

**A. General Announcements:**

- Relocation of South Sudanese Refugees from Whaat Gash to Nguenyiel Camp. Following a significant influx of South Sudanese new arrivals in Ethiopia's Gambella Region, persons of concern were directed by the regional authorities to Whaat Gash on 27 August, some 50km from Gambella Town for Level 1 Registration. Pamdong; at a distance of some 2.5km from Whaat Gash was identified as a temporary location to initiate Level 2 Registration and extend essential services; which have include the provision of emergency shelter, food, water, sanitation and hygiene. Following a technical assessment of the site to guide the potential development of essential infrastructure, UNHCR concluded that the site was not conducive to prolonged habitation, owing to the rocky terrain and propensity to flooding.

Due to the limited availability of alternative sites to accommodate refugees, the decision was taken on 7 September to facilitate onward relocation to Nguenyiel Camp; previously established in October 2016 and with a resident population of 54,296. The relocation process is being coordinated by ARRA and UNHCR, and implemented by IOM and Plan International. From a caseload of 30,995, 18,509 individuals have been transferred to Nguenyiel Camp to date, with 12,486 temporarily residing in Pamdong and scheduled for onward relocation from 14 September onwards. Whaat Gash was closed to Level 1 Registration on 8 September.

Upon arrival in Nguenyiel Camp, new arrivals have been initially accommodated within school buildings, with phased transition to emergency shelters. Alternative shelter arrangements to accommodate persons upon arrival are being established to coincide with further relocations from Pamdong, to ensure school infrastructure is available at the beginning of the new academic year on 18 September.

*Priorities around the management of the new influx include:*

- Registration
- Child protection and safeguarding the civilian character of camps
- Establishing collection points and processes for onward movement to selected refugee camps and sites through a community based protection approach
- Identify persons with specific needs

## **B. Security**

- To ensure the safety of humanitarian partners within each of the 27 refugee camps in Ethiopia, there is a need to invest in the current security infrastructure. This includes establishing safe rooms through the integration of metal window shutter and reinforced doors. In addition, the additional allocation of VHF to ensure effective communication and coordination between camp management and the police in the event of an emergency is also being prioritized.
- There have been no reported security incidents directly affected humanitarian operations or personnel, however reported border demarcation disputes between Oromia and Somali region continues to have an indirect effect on road movement through this region. Disputes have reported to have taken place in various location from the south around Moyale/Jijiga.
- The South Sudan conflict will continue to affect Ethiopia in terms of refugee influx into Gambella and further south into SNNP (Southern Nations, Nationalities and People). Fighting across the border inside Somalia close to Ethiopia also causes an indirect threat. Eritrea and Djibouti, no change along the borders reported.

## **C. Refugee Task Force Presentation**

- Shelter Strategy 2017 – 2020. PPP included as attachement.

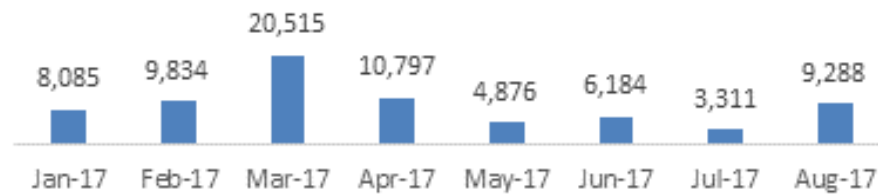
## **D. CRRF**

- A further influx of refugees in the Gambella region of Ethiopia has prompted ARRA to consider implementing an alternative to camps policy for this population. A joint assessment team undertook a mission to the region to consider the suitability of Pamdong as a possible settlement site, and the practicalities of implementing an alternative to camps approach.
- Finalisation of governance structure and Roadmap (guidance on technical committees, incl. consultation with partners).
- Progress on the Pledges:
  - *Progress on the Pledge for Civil Documentation:* Following the amendment to Ethiopian Proclamation 760/2012 which allows issuance of civil documentation to refugees, a further draft Directive providing detail on implementation has been circulated for comments from UNHCR and other stakeholders. ARRA has expressed a commitment to commence the issuance of birth certificates soon through an official launch ceremony.
  - *Progress on the Pledge for Works and Livelihoods:* Technical WG established led by MOFEC to review investments in relation to the job compact.

- *Consultations on DRDIP and the Jobs Compact:* The CRRF team has been involved in consultations with stakeholders on the DRDIP work plans and the plans to create industrial parks with a view to ensuring that refugees benefit from both initiatives.

## **E. Registration**

- *Enhance data quality:* A Registration workshop has been organized in June 2017 in the aim to harmonize countrywide the Registration Data Set and which will enhance the collection of basic biographic data, plus information regarding professional skills, educational history, and information on household income and expenditures.
- *Pilot of the Joint enhanced registration between ARRA and UNHCR in South Omo region:* Since April, for a first time approximately 5,000 persons from Eastern Equatorial region in South Sudan crossed the border and fled to Ethiopia in Nyangatom Woreda, South Omo zone in the SNNP Regional State. In March, joint mission was organized by UNHCR and ARRA to conduct initial assessment of Nynagatom. As of August, UNHCR and ARRA started a joint advanced individual registration exercise in Nyangatom to register 2,787 refugees and enrolled 2,081 refugees into the new UNHCR biometric system (BIMS) and harmonize the proof of registration (POR) has been issued to all registered individuals.
- *BIMS rollout in Ethiopia:* L3 registration has started in Addis Ababa. This includes the collection of basic biographic data, plus information regarding professional skills, educational history, and information on household income and expenditures. As a further advance, level three registration be combined with the collection of fingerprints and iris scans. At the completion of the level three process, all households will receive a proof of registration document, and adults will receive an individual ID card. All 20,930 refugees in Addis Ababa will undergo level three registration within the next 12 months.
- *Enhanced individual registration (L3) and BIMS are rolling out at Reception Centre in Shire,* and then full fledge rollout will proceed in all the camps and the refugee living out of camps in the Tigray region. This timeframe is the same for Melkadida and Gambella Regions.
- *Registered population:* The active population of concern registered in Ethiopia is 852,721, individuals / 242,160 families. The South Sudanese refugee population remains the largest with 388,086 individuals (45.5%), followed by Somalis 252,036 individuals (29.6%), Eritreans 161,941 individuals (19.0%) and Sudanese 42,967 individuals (5.0%). The other nationalities (refugees from Kenya, the Great Lakes, and Yemen etc.) are cumulatively 7,691 individuals (0.9%). Of these other nationalities, there were 1,704 registered Yemeni asylum-seekers and refugees in Addis Ababa as of 31 August 2017.
- *New Arrivals:* During the month of August 9,288 new arrivals were recorded in the operation. The groups of new arrivals were 4,354 South Sudanese in Gambella region (some 46.9%), 2,787 South Sudanese in SNNP regional state (30.0%), 1,393 Eritreans in Tigray region (some 15.0%), 615 refugees in Benishangul region (some 6.6%) and 118 Somalis in Somali region/Dollo Ado (some 1.3%). Since the beginning of 2017, Ethiopia has registered 72,890 new arrivals.



## F. Protection

- The Refugee Protection Working Group Retreat will take place 20-21 September. The Retreat will inform the Plan of Action for 2017-2019 through the following activities: Take stock of the work of the RPWG, reviewing objectives, accomplishments and challenges; Strengthen coordination and cooperation with members of the RPWG; Identify key areas of advocacy by the RPWG in order to achieve substantive protection responses; Identify training objectives of the RPWG members for future meetings; Examine the challenges, opportunities, and the way forward in providing coordinated and timely refugee protection interventions in the changing landscape.
- *Amended Vital Events Registration and National Identify Card Proclamation* (Amendment Proclamation 1049/2017) has come into force last month. The new law allows refugees to register vital events.
  - The amended Proclamation allows children born to refugees in Ethiopia to obtain official birth certificates – also retroactively. This makes official birth registration accessible also to approx. 70'000 refugee children born in Ethiopia over the past 10 years.
  - UNHCR is working closely with ARRA to support the roll out of the vital events registration for refugees in the 27 camps and urban areas. ARRA announced that the vital events registration for refugees shall commence countrywide as of 25 September
  - Recommendations on the draft Directive which governs the implementation of the amended Proclamation were provided to ARRA and the wider technical WG (comprising of ARRA and VERA) which developed the Directive.
- Documentation for refugees and asylum seekers has been streamlined and harmonized to further the protection of refugees and asylum seekers in Ethiopia. This includes:
  - The *Proof of Registration* is an identification document, and it is issued by UNHCR to all family members (including new born babies). In the past few months, in Ethiopia, UNHCR will continue issuing six months valid attestation letter to refugees. Since July 2017, the six month valid attestation letter is no longer issued to refugees. However, the document still valid for use for the bearer who have an unexpired six months attestation letter.
  - The Individual Identity Document (ID) is issued by ARRA and UNHCR jointly, and it is issued only to 14 years old and above.
  - The ration card is issued only to the family for assistance purpose in the camps. This document is not issued for refugees residing in the urban area like Addis Ababa.
- Training on PSEA was conducted and a national strategy on SGBV is forthcoming. An assessment was undertaken in Addis Ababa and the findings will inform the strategy.
- Resettlement: US FY to end Sept. Announcement of ceiling regarding resettlement submissions (previously 100,000 individuals, but no clarity yet on next quota).

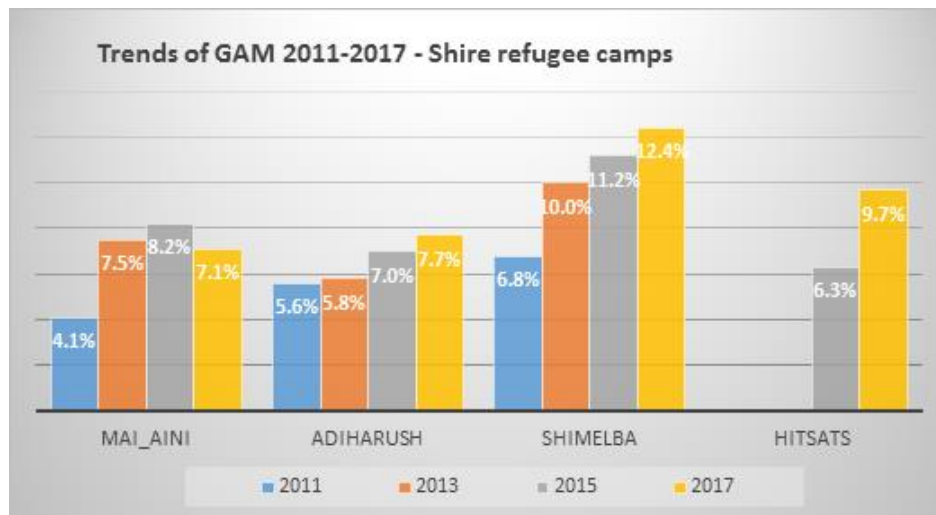
- Supreme Court to review executive order 13780 (travel ban).
- Denmark suspended refugee resettlement program for rest of the year and potentially for near future (e.g. no longer a quota in place).
- Canada: currently many referrals in the pipeline, so limited new cases accepted.
- Italy: announcement of humanitarian corridor between Ethiopia and Italy, approx. 500 cases (based on pilot in Jordan).

## **G. Health**

- Between 6. June and 16 August 2017, 16 suspected cases of Acute Watery Diarrhea were treated in Jijiga camps, including two suspected cases from the host community. In Shire, 10 suspected cases were treated since the beginning of last week, including 8 cases from the host community. Case investigation and response measures are conducted in close cooperation with the regional Health Bureau. All patients recovered and were discharged.
- UNHCR and partners successfully completed the first phase of the national HIV “Catch-up Campaign” which was first initiated by the Federal Ministry of Health as part of its commitment towards the “90-90-90” target. So far 126,823 refugees were voluntarily tested, 374 refugees were newly identified as HIV positive and started treatment with antiretroviral therapy. Most cases were identified in Gambella region. Testing still ongoing in the region.
- *Opportunities:* ARRA and UNHCR are expanding its cooperation with the Ministry of Health with special emphasis on capacity building of health care providers. In Gambella, a training on Volunteer Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC) was conducted for 24 health providers and 120 refugees circumcised in two camps. Trained providers will now conduct campaigns in the remaining camps to provide access to this key prevention tool for HIV.
- *Constraints:* as of 2018, HIV test kits will be no longer provided by the Ministry of Health due to funding gaps from Global Fund (also limitations to TB response). UNHCR will procure supplies and will engage to seek long-term solutions as part of the CRRF approach.

## **H. Food and Nutrition**

- Nutrition survey was completed in the four camps in Shire. Preliminary results indicate stable Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) prevalence in all camps except Hitsats where a significant increase was observed.



- UNICEF and UNHCR have finalized their joint action plan for the nutrition sector, for the year mid 2017- mid 2018. UNICEF has committed to provide nutrition supply for the SAM treatment of 13,000 estimated under 5 children cases across the camps in the country.
- *Challenges:* GAM prevalence remains above the emergency threshold in 11 out of 21 camps where surveys were conducted in the past 12 months. To understand underlying causes and inform an Action Plan, a Nutrition Causal Analysis is ongoing in Gambella and will start in Melkadida in November (results expected next year).
- *Rations:* new contributions from US/DFID/ECHO will allow for an increase in cereal ration (10kg to 13.5kg). Unfortunately CSB component cannot be increased. It was highlighted that refugee communities should be well and timely informed regarding any changes in food distribution (communication plan to be shared with WFP shortly that will inform this process).
- It was emphasized that in the occurrence of repeated no-shows at food distribution (currently three months), refugees are inactivated. However, if the individuals reappears it is important to undertake a swift assessment regarding their continued need for international protection, and if recognized a swift reinstating of food distribution.

## I. WASH

- Approximately 11.9 million litres of water are being treated, pumped and supplied daily to all refugee camps, with each refugee receiving an average of 19 litres of potable water per day. 12 of the 26 refugee camps received above 20 litres of water per person per day (lppd).
- Nguenyiel permanent water supply system for about 80% finalised.
- Among the camps which face constraints with provision of water, Adi Harush is among the worst affected with an average of 13.7 lppd. To enhance sustainable access to drinking water, UNICEF has commenced the design review for the permanent water supply system and sanitation master plan for the Adi-Harush and Mai Ani refugee camps in Tigray utilizing the Serenta Dam water source. This system will supply water to Adi-Harush, Mai Ani, Maitsebri, and Embremedir Town.

- Gure Shombola is one of two camps without a permanent water system, water is currently provided by partners through treatment plants and trucking. UNICEF has commenced the design for the permanent water supply system for the Gure Shombola refugee camp in Beneshangul Gumuz. UNICEF is awaiting confirmation of the second phase camp locations to incorporate into the master design for the camps and hosting populations and the recent mission to Pam Dong's conclusion on Gure Shombola infrastructure.

## **J. Education**

- UNHCR and ARRA organized a two-day workshop to evaluate implementation of the 2015-2018 Ethiopia Refugee Education Strategy and to align it with the current and emerging approaches, such as the CRRF and the SDG4. The workshop provided a platform to garner momentum and urgency to achieve the targets set in the national Refugee Education Strategy.
- ARRA, in partnership with UNHCR and UNICEF, has been engaged in activities to further enrollment rates in refugee camps. These include:
  - A 'Back-to-school, Stay-in-School' campaign has been initiated in all refugee camps in Ethiopia with the aim to minimize school dropout rate and to increase gross elementary school enrolment rate from 62% to 75%.
  - Developed project for accelerating school enrolment expansion of school facilities (temporary classrooms), school and student supplies, and increase of teachers.
  - UNICEF contributed \$1.2 million to this quick win project (focusing in Gambella, Assosa and Melkadida).
- *Challenges:* Low school enrolment ratio (for instance, primary is 62%; secondary 10%); Shortage of classrooms (overcrowded, congested classrooms – up 100 pupils in space meant to be for 50); Low qualification of teachers (only 65% qualified in primary school); Shortage of teachers (national ratio is 1 teacher for 80 pupils); Sub-standard quality of education due the above shortages, and limited funding to address the dire needs of education.
- *Opportunities:* Increased multi-year education projects, incl. focus on host communities: Educate A Child (EAC) funded primary education from 2015-2018; UNICEF/DFID's multi-year project (Building Self-reliance Project) about USD 10 million; Education Cannot Wait (ECW) initial fund: A Fund for Education in Emergencies (\$ 15 million), together with increased resource mobilization by Education Partners: establishment/construction of considerable number schools supported partners.
- *Way forward:* Harmonize the use of Education Management Information System between refugee and host community schools; Enhance community and parental involvement in education of their children and school management; Improve/strengthen joint education assessment and monitoring (to track progress); Reinforce alignment of refugee education with the national system.
- ARRA took the opportunity to highlight the importance of sustained levels of funding to Education to support the implementation of the Government's Education Pledge. UNHCR noted that this issue would be raised during the next UNHCR Donor Meeting. UNICEF noted that additional funding has been secured from USAID to support the Pledge.

**K. Shelter**

- A National Shelter Strategy has been finalized for the period from September 2017 – end of 2020, and shall guide the UNHCR/ARRA shelter and settlement activities in Ethiopia based on the directions set out by the UNHCR Global Shelter Strategy 2014 -2018. It has been designed based on a country-wide Shelter Needs Assessment, which was carried out in March/April 2017, with the participation of all stakeholders, such as UNHCR, ARRA, shelter partners and the beneficiaries in the relevant regions of Ethiopia. Further field assessments to be undertaken in various regions regarding applicability of various shelter types. The Shelter Working Group is the forum to discuss further technicalities around implementation.

**L. Energy and the Environment**

- The energy and environment task forces has recently been re-established holding its first meeting in September.
- A fuel and stove preference analysis has been completed for all camps in Somali's Melkadida Region. The results confirmed the preference for Ethanol and Ethanol stove within Bokolmanyo, Melkadida, Kobe and Hilaweyn, and charcoal and EZY stoves for Bur-amino camp. The Ethanol Stove Carbon Finance program at its final stage of implementation up to the end of the year in Jijiga.
- No single solution for energy for "cooking" At present the absence of a single energy solution for cooking remains a major gap, and a priority for the Energy and Environment Working Group moving forward. The expansion of CBIs for energy and environmental management and resource development present an opportunity to be further explored.

**M. AOB**

- A Cash Based Intervention (CBI) pilot implemented by UNHCR will begin shortly in Jijiga focus on shelter maintenance and CRI (sanitary materials). More information will be shared during the next RTF meeting.
- ARRA, UNHCR and WFP will also undertake a feasibility study in selected locations (Shire, Afar) focusing on shelter, CRI, energy. The outcomes of the study will feed into the 2018 CBI Strategy document.
- A 3 day review of existing partnerships is currently underway as part of the UNHCR IP selection process 2018. Partners will be informed shortly. Calls of expressions of interests need to be directed via the portal. All partners are encouraged to register.

<https://partner.unhcr.org/layouts/15/partnerportal/anonymous/partnerregistrationview.aspx>

**The next Refugee Task Force Meeting will take place on 11 October 2017 at 3pm.**