

A young boy with dark skin and curly hair is shown in profile, looking upwards and to the left. He is wearing a pink shirt with a dark blue collar. The background consists of green trees and a cloudy sky. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

ETHIOPIA
COUNTRY
REFUGEE
RESPONSE
PLAN

2019-2020:

The integrated response plan for refugees
from Eritrea, Sudan, South Sudan and Somalia

MID-YEAR REPORT

January — June 2019

CREDITS:

UNHCR wishes to acknowledge the contributions of partners and staff in Ethiopia, Regional Service Center (RSC) - Nairobi and Headquarters

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UNHCR / Diana Diaz



Situation Overview

Ethiopia maintained an open-door policy for new arrivals and facilitated humanitarian access and protection to those seeking asylum on its territory. A total of 46,348 new arrivals sought asylum in Ethiopia during the first half of the year. New arrivals predominantly comprised of Eritrean refugees at 37,532, in addition to those from South Sudan, Somalia and Sudan, and other nationalities. Instances of spontaneous return to South Sudan were observed, whether on a permanent basis or temporarily to visit family members, monitor property and assets, and assess the prevailing security situation in the country.

In January, Ethiopia updated its existing national Refugee Proclamation, making it one of the most progressive in Africa. The new law introduced several new provisions, concerning freedom of movement, the right to work, access to social services and local integration, that will facilitate refugees' enjoyment to rights afforded to other foreign nationals residing in the country. A move away from a traditional camp-based approach to assistance, the revised law not only seeks to further the dignity of

care to those in need but will ensure an investment in essential services that benefit both refugees and Ethiopian nationals.

Sub-clan fighting erupted within Kule, Tierkidi and Nguenyiel Camps in the Gambella Region, resulting in fatalities and temporary movements out of camp. In April, security incidents in the Gambella Region claimed the lives of refugees and resulted in movement restrictions and a temporary reduction in humanitarian service provision. In May, a six-month Contingency Plan to support coordinated response to any potential influx of Sudanese refugees was developed. By mid-year, there was no significant movement of people across the Ethio-Sudan border. In June, a modest number of Somali refugees, who were previously registered in Eritrea, sought asylum in Ethiopia and were scheduled for relocation to camps in the Somali Region.

Comprehensive Level 3 Registration continued during the first half of 2019, consolidating refugee population data in Ethiopia. The exercise covers 26 camps, and 10

settlements, and will support the verification of the active refugee population in Ethiopia. While comprehensive L3 Registration has continued into Q3 2019, as of 30 June 2019, a total of 628,585 individuals had taken part in the exercise. The transition to Level 3 Registration data and the use of (Biometric Identity Management System) BIMS, has allowed refugees to record essential information on their educational and professional skills, and details of family members located in other countries against their individual and family profiles.

The conclusion of the L3 registration exercise in the latter half of 2019 will inform a mid-term review of the Ethiopia Country Refugee Response Plan 2019-2020. With resource allocations to humanitarian programming being

demand driven across all sectors and based predominantly on the needs of the camp-based refugee population, only modest adjustments to resource requirements are envisioned in 2020. Sectorial assistance continues to remain below the minimum international humanitarian standards, and related refugee needs. In several instances, the assistance gap against overall refugee needs has reduced by virtue of the exercise, which should be considered a positive finding. As of 30 June 2019, combined funding to 54 humanitarian and development partners under the Ethiopia Country Refugee Response Plan 2019-2020 totalled USD 163,512,586.32. This represented 25.4% of overall financial requirements of USD 643,431,561.00.



Protection

Achievements



550 SGBV cases received appropriate services, including **medical, physical, legal and psychosocial support**.



77 % of refugee population aged 14 years old and above received **identity cards**.



3,233 UASC were successfully **reunified with family members** inside and outside the camps.



92 % of refugee population aged 5 years old and above were enrolled into **BIMS**, reducing the risk of identity fraud.

Remaining Gaps



The **participation of women and girls** in representative refugee bodies stands at **36.5%**.



84,000 refugees were assessed to be in need of resettlement, while **only 3,260 individuals were referred to third-countries**.

Refugee children constitutes 63 percent of the total refugee population in Ethiopia. In line with the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action and based on the Refugee National Child Protection Strategy, UNHCR and partners continue providing comprehensive child protection services for child. The child protection programmes cover the components of case managements, provision of Child Friendly Spaces (CFS), and strengthening community-based child protection mechanisms.

In the Gambella Region, there are a total of 21,493 Un-accompanied and Separated Children (UASC), amongst

a total of 198,862 children below 18 years of age. Despite considerable needs and limited resources, 17,452 children with specific protection risks were identified and provided with the necessary support including case management. 2,542 Best Interest Assessments (BIAs) were conducted against the annual target of 12,500. In the Tigray Region, UASC continued to arrive at an average rate of 30 per day, totalling over 5,600. Most arrived alone and needed immediate care arrangements, first at the Endabaguna Reception Centre and upon referral to the camps. This placed a strain on reception facilities, particularly for unaccompanied children who are

necessarily accommodated at Endabaguna until appropriate care arrangement could be identified. Created to host up to 300 children at a time, the Reception Centre hosted upwards of 1,000 children at any one time, negatively impacting emergency education, in addition to individual counselling and psycho-social support services. Nonetheless, 3,233 children were reunified with family members inside and outside the camps; with over 5000 best interest assessments completed. In the Somali Region, a total of 164 new UASC were identified amongst new arrivals in Melkadida. In Jijiga, there were a total of 510 UASC, with individual case management and related referral services provided to 318 individuals.

A total of 550 SGBV survivors received appropriate services, including medical, physical, legal and psychosocial support. As part of ongoing investments to mainstream gender equality across all programmes, risks mitigation efforts were integrated across all sectors as part of the SGBV Preventions, Risks Mitigations and Prevention Mainstreaming Action Plan. Women and girls continued to be at risk of different types of SGBV, including physical and sexual violence, as well as harmful traditional practices. Gender inequality and deeply rooted cultural beliefs continue to contribute to the underreporting of SGBV incidents, restricting some of the survivors from receiving the necessary support. At the same time, gaps in food and material assistance programmes may result in some women and girls engaging in survival sex, a negative coping mechanism that exposes them to the risks of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

Representative community structures led by a Refugee Central Committee (RCC), have been established across all camps in Ethiopia. The RCCs play an essential role as a link between refugees and the humanitarian community working to ensure the provision of refugee entitlements. To strengthen the voice and role of refugees in positively informing service delivery, additional investment in feedback mechanisms and the presence of refugee representatives in coordination and other sector fora is required. To effectively operationalize feedback mechanisms, guidelines are under development and will

be used to harmonize practices on how to process complaints. The active involvement of women; currently at 36.5 percent, and minority groups also requires constant attention and consideration.

While voluntary repatriation is not currently considered a priority for solutions; with instability prevailing in most countries of origin and a lack of immediate intentions to return, intention surveys were conducted for all nationalities, including for Kenya Borena refugees, as part of the L3 registration exercise. Amongst the Kenya Borena refugee caseload, out of the total number of 4,037 individuals, 3,701 (91.7%) expressed their intention to return. Nonetheless, formal bilateral consultations on the feasibility of voluntary return are pending. In the Somali Region, Return Help Desks in the Melkadida area recorded a decline in enquiries during the first half of the year with only 36 enquiries, against an annual enquiry rate of 1,164 in 2018, and 1,674 in 2017.

In this regard, providing resettlement opportunities; in addition to ongoing consultation of the expansion of the existing Out-of-Camp policy remained a principal focus. Nonetheless, of a total of 84,000 refugees determined to need resettlement this year, only 3,260 individuals were referred at the request of resettlement countries. The operation prioritizes families most in need of resettlement through a robust system of referrals against those that meet one or more of the seven global resettlement criteria. Most cases were submitted under survivors of violence and/or torture criteria; at 52 percent, in addition to women and girls at risk; at 23 percent. Ethiopia's original 2019 quota of 3,000 persons is approximately half of the quota of three years ago. At the same time, complementary pathways that can lead to durable solutions for refugees continue to be explored. This included the Ethiopia operation's inclusion within a family reunification pilot project to support children access family reunification systems; principally in Europe. In addition, a humanitarian corridors programme, first initiated in 2017 continues, with almost 500 persons having departed to Italy; 89 of which during the first half of the year.



Education Achievements



192,765 primary school aged children, 68 % of those eligible were enrolled in school.



The secondary school age population totals **76,801 of which 13 % were enrolled in secondary education**; as opposed to 8.9% prior to L3 Registration.

Remaining Gaps



There was **low participation among girls** in upper primary school, which limits the transition to secondary and tertiary education. The enrolment of girls at secondary education was less than 7%.

Education services in all camps targeted all levels of education. In pre-primary, children were enrolled in over ninety-five early childhood care and education centres within camps, and private and public kindergartens amongst the urban caseload through the cash assisted programme. The lack of a standardized curriculum coupled with untrained facilitators and long distances to schools contributes to low enrolment and quality of education. Comparatively, enrolment in primary education is high, although the participation of girls in Grades 5-8 is low compared to Grades 1-4. Some 32.45 percent of children enrolled in the first cycle in the 2017/2018 academic year were over-age. This over-age number signifies low net enrolment in primary education at 47 percent; 39.73 percent were girls and 55.10 percent were boys.

The investment in primary education and increased enrolment trend is exerting additional pressure on existing secondary schools to accommodate new students. The expansion of secondary schools and support to host community schools is an increasing priority to ensure the absorption of additional learners from the primary level.

At present, secondary school students access education across twelve camp-based secondary schools and ten government-run schools in off-camp locations. The construction of four new inclusive secondary schools supporting both communities; one in the Gambella Region, two in the Benishangul- Gumuz Region and one in the Somali Region, is ongoing and will be handed over to regional education bureaus upon completion. In addition, eight schools are being expanded and upgraded that will provide an additional forty-five classrooms.

While there is an overall increase in primary school enrolment, there remains a shortage of qualified teachers, as the available incentive package remains uncompetitive. All existing secondary schools require material investment in scholastic library materials and scientific laboratories. To scale up the inclusion of refugees in the national education system, additional and sustained investment in host community secondary schools is required as part of local development planning; particularly the construction of additional classrooms to ensure that refugees study together with Ethiopian school children.



Food and Nutrition

Achievements



A combined **cash and in-kind food assistance basket** providing better purchasing power and reducing administrative costs was successfully piloted in **14 out of 26 camps**.



In the Somali Region, **crop irrigation and livestock products** marketing interventions allowed families to partially compensate for the food assistance shortfall.

Remaining Gaps



Food assistance predominantly **provides 85% of the SPHERE daily minimum** requirement (2100 Kcal/p/d) for refugees who have limited access to gainful livelihood activities.

Following the rollout of L3 Registration, initial investment has been made to streamline food assistance through the use of biometrics and the Global Distribution Tool for beneficiary identification and distribution. At the same time, there remains a critical gap in household-level food security. Principal drivers include the sale of food rations to meet food and non-food needs; the reduced food ration and lack of some food commodities in the food basket, which resulted in reduced uptake of macro and micro nutrients; from the minimum standard of 2,100 kilocalories per person, per day, to 1,803. Inadequacies in complementary feeding for infants and young children due to funding shortfalls was observed. In instances where the food ration does not last for the entire month and distribution time delays, refugees use several coping mechanisms some of which are quite negative which include; skipping of meals, borrowing from shopkeepers at high interest rates, working as casual laborers, engaging in child labour and commercial sex in and around the camps, all of which are protection risks.

In the Somali Region, during the first half of the year, 5 out of 26 surveys had been completed showing that the nutrition status of refugees in the Melkadida camps had deteriorated from a weighted GAM prevalence of 12.4 percent to 16.5 percent with an even higher increase in severity of acute malnutrition from a weighted SAM prevalence of 2.4 percent to 3.4 percent. Micronutrient deficiency and proxy anaemia, remained at a sustained level of above 40 percent for children and 35 percent for mothers, thus remaining above the public health threshold for a normal population (20 percent).

In the last six months, 6,501 children with acute malnutrition, and 12,549 normal children and pregnant and lactating women were reached with preventive nutrition supplements. This is in addition to 26,082 people, mainly mothers, reached through nutrition messaging. Furthermore, 3,099 new arrivals were served with health screen-

ing, vaccination and wet feeding while at the transition centre. Child feeding practices remained modest with 75 percent of new-borns being initiated on breastfeeding early, and 67 percent of infants exclusively breastfed until six months old. In Melkadida, crop irrigation and livestock products marketing interventions, while allowing direct beneficiaries and their families to cover part of the assistance gap independently, contributing to food commodity supply and price stability, easing the pressure on households.

In the Gambella Region, community management of acute malnutrition programmes were up and running in all seven camps. In total 7,408 acutely malnourished under-five children were admitted for the management of acute malnutrition. A total of 5,889 cases were successfully treated and discharged as cured Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programs (BSFP) are run in 18 BSFP centres for the prevention of malnutrition and to cater for the increased nutrient needs in children from 6-59 months, and pregnant and lactating women. 10,795 children of from 6-59 months and, 5,111 Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW) were admitted in the first half of 2019. A total of 17,049 children under five years and 51,996 PLW have existed the programme. A total of 45,547 of the targeted 70,104 children from 6-59 months and 12,371 of the targeted 13,014 (4 percent of the total population) pregnant and lactating women are enrolled in BSFP.

An estimated 12,371 (5,564 with infants) women received infant and young child feeding (IYCF) information at the nutrition centres. The implementation of the IYCF friendly framework - that considers the multifactorial causes of malnutrition - has been rolled out and is being mainstreamed in all nutrition activities. Community IYCF continued to be promoted; with an estimated 594 Mother-to-Mother Support Groups operational in the camps where an average of 10-15 mothers and 2,025 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) attended the sessions. To enhance reporting and data collection harmonization, IYCF reporting formats have been jointly developed and used. In addition, monthly growth monitoring of children is ongoing, and counselling provided to the mitigate risk of malnutrition.

Other programmes implemented include the establishment of the community outreach programme to support the community on nutrition. Through these programmes approximately 37,181 children 6-59 months are screened monthly at the Community outreach programme. Fresh food electronic vouchers targeted households with PLW and children from 6-23 months. Small scale cash-based intervention were provided through electronic fresh food voucher (eFFV) targeted households with children 6-23 months, PLWs and other vulnerable categories in addition to small scale livestock and agricultural sensitive support. Outreach campaigns have been set up to enable bi-annual vitamin A and deworming supplementation of all refugee children under five years in addition to the routine immunization programmes.



Health Achievements



200,106 medical consultations were facilitated, with a current health facility utilization rate of 1.5 visits, per person, per year.



New arrivals received joint **medical screening and vaccination**; with 4,565 targeted children vaccinated against measles.

Remaining Gaps



Comprehensive **emergency obstetric and neonatal care** for both refugees and their host communities remains a gap.

The health situation of the population has improved and stabilized, with mortality indicators remaining within the standard and outbreaks effectively prevented and/or managed. All health facilities were maintained, staffed, and equipped with essential medicines and laboratory supplies. Additional investments were made to expand services to detect, monitor, and control non-communicable diseases and neglected tropical diseases. The establishment of a Health Information System (HIS) was initiated to enhance data management and improve disease surveillance. Nonetheless, internet accessibility has delayed full deployment. In the first half of the year, 200,106 medical consultations were facilitated, while the Under 5 Mortality Rate (U5MR) dropped to 0.1 death/1000/month. A total of 1,959 people living with HIV benefited from antiretroviral therapy treatment in camp-based health clinics. New arrivals received joint medical screening and vaccination; with 4,565 targeted children vaccinated against measles, as well as emergency treatment and referral.

Comprehensive safe motherhood services were provided along with services to prevent vertical transmission of HIV. Tuberculosis treatment and anti-retroviral drugs

were provided. The utilization of family planning care amongst women of reproductive age was low, with a need to improve access in underserved areas. Mortality indicators remained within the standard; although the maternal mortality indicator will not be achieved due to one recorded maternal death. Progress in antenatal care remains partial, with access limitations due to insufficient staffing, leading to long queuing times and inadequate knowledge on the benefits of antenatal care. At the same time, referrals to health facilities for sexual reproductive health services had increased and is expected to further antenatal attendance. A sustainable solution to comprehensive emergency obstetric and neonatal care for both refugees and their host communities remains a pressing operational gap. An increased focus on community based reproductive health will be prioritized during the latter half of the year to promote safe motherhood and prevent poor maternal and neonatal outcomes. Overall, awareness on access to healthcare has improved with regional health bureaus gradually including refugees in their planning, with refugees already included in expanded programme on immunisation, Tuberculosis control, HIV, family planning and outbreak preparedness and response.



Energy and Environment

Achievements



85.2 hectares of degraded forest land was prepared for woodlot plantation and reforestation; with **217,000 fruit trees** seedlings being raised.

Remaining Gaps



Only 27 % of the **water utilities use solar energy** for pumping.



Only 4 % of the refugee households have **access to fuel saving stoves**.

Investments in energy and the environment were guided by the National Safe Access to Fuels and Energy (SAFE) Strategy which provides guidance on the provision of alternative and sustainable clean fuels, fuel-efficient cook stoves, solar-powered street lighting and household energy. The gaps in the sector remain considerable. By mid-year, 4 percent of the refugee households had access to fuel saving stoves; 35 percent of households had access to home lighting; 30 percent of households had access to street lights, with 12 percent of households having been provided with alternative domestic cooking fuel. Wood-fuel remained the primary cooking energy in most of the refugee camps, which continues to negatively impact the natural environment, and expose refugees, principally women and girls, to protection risks.

Pertaining to service infrastructure, 27 percent of the water utilities utilized solar energy for pumping, while 28 percent of the health facilities had access to reliable electricity. No education facilities had access to a sustainable energy supply. The connection of six camps to the national electricity grid in the Tigray and Afar regions continued and is scheduled for completion by the end of 2020. An additional eight camps in the Benishangul-Gumuz and Somali regions remain prioritized for national grid integration subject to additional resources.



Livelihoods

Achievements



The Refugee Proclamation in January provides new rights for refugees in Ethiopia, including the **right to work**.



15,688 refugee, and 9,663 host-community households received productive assets in the **agriculture and livestock** sectors.

Remaining Gaps



Livelihoods interventions supporting refugees continue to follow **traditional practices**, approaches, and partnership arrangements, limiting impact and sustainability.

In order to fully realize Ethiopia's CRRF pledges related to job creation and livelihoods and following the passage of the revised Refugee Proclamation in January, a legal analysis of related laws and legislation was initiated. This review will provide a basis for the development of supportive directives that will open formal economic opportunities for refugees. During the first half of the year, refugees continued to engage in ad hoc informal economic partnerships with local communities, although there was a significant variation between refugee population groups in terms of their degree of participation in the informal economy.

Livelihoods interventions in most regions supporting refugees follow traditional practices and approaches; including incentive work and partnership arrangements. A reliance on annual, rather than multi-year funding similarly reduced overall impact and sustainability. During the first half of the year, multi-partner consultations were advanced to inform the development of a multi-year 2019-2021 Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion Strategy to inform programme design. The Strategy, will focus on strategic priority areas including policy, coordination, job creation and capacity building. Refugee protection will remain the mandated focus, as concerns the terms and conditions of engagement as refugees participate in self and wage employment initiatives.



Shelter & NFIs

Achievements



616 transitional shelters have been constructed for Eritrean refugees in the Tigray Region.



SIM cards were provided to 4,325 families in the Somali Region to support cash transfers.

Remaining Gaps



Transitional shelter coverage country-wide remains low at 54 %.

While all new arrivals were provided with an emergency shelter, either as a shelter kit or a tent, the limited lifespan of six months to one year; depending on climate conditions, necessitates transitional or more permanent shelter solutions. Based on the criteria outlined within the National Shelter Strategy (2017-2020), a total of 131,186 households country-wide, equivalent to 54 percent of the total refugee population, need transitional shelter solutions. Transitional shelter coverage is particularly low in the Tigray Region, at 33 percent, reflecting a relatively high new arrival rate from Eritrea since September 2018; and 34,312 new arrivals during the first six months of the year. By mid-year, 616 transitional shelters had been constructed. In the Somali Region, the unforeseen relocation of close to 900 households of Somali refugees from Eritrea has similarly placed additional strains on the sector response.

The provision of core relief items as regular replenishments and to new arrivals is currently below the minimum standard. While soap has been provided consistently every month alongside the distribution of food assistance, the provision of kitchen sets, collection and storage of containers remained limited. Following the successful rollout of cash within the food and nutrition and shelter sectors in Jijiga in the Somali Region, its expansion to other camps in the country is planned for the second half of the year. As part of a transition to the use of digital cash transfers and the wider digital inclusion of refugees, the pilot distribution of SIM cards in the Somali Region reached 4,325 families.



WASH

Achievements



Against the minimum standard of 5 persons per latrine, **coverage has improved from 14 persons per latrine to 11.**



The **water supply** systems in two camps **has transitioned to the use of solar energy.**

Remaining Gaps



7 refugee camps had access to **less than 15 litres of water, per person, per day.**

Interventions in the WASH sector supported access to water in sufficient quality and quantity; ensuring refugees' access to quality sanitation services; ensuring that refugees have improved personal and environmental hygiene. Overall, 12.5 million litres of water per day were supplied across the 26 refugee camps in Ethiopia. In total, eight camps met the minimum standard of 20 litres, per person, per day, 11 camps received between 15 to 20 litres, per person, per day, while 7 camps are under 15 litres, per person, per day. For sanitation, 19 of the 26 camps met the minimum standards of a maximum of 20 persons per latrine.

In the Tigray Region, WASH services were placed under strain following a noticeable increase in the rate of arrivals from Eritrea. Approximately 36 percent of the households were provided with a drop-hole latrine or drop-hole toilet. Although slight progress has been achieved in improving coverage, the construction of 75 blocks of emergency latrines were prioritized. Approximately 48,000 refugees participated in the hygiene awareness activities. Priorities areas for investment include the integration of latrine and transitional shelter construction.

In the Gambella Region, the solarization of the Okugo Camp water supply system was completed. A total of 1,163 household latrines were completed across the seven camps in the Region. In addition, 208,976 refugees were reached through environmental and hygiene campaigns. In the Benishangul Gumuz Region, the solarization of the Sherkole Camp water supply system was completed, with additional works remaining in Tongo Camp. In addition, 23,582 refugees were reached through environmental and hygiene campaigns.

In the Somali Region, a dedicated Community Health Committee facilitation and training continued in Kobe Camp, with selected households trained to keep their environment clean and safe, and free from potential communicable diseases. In Hilaweyn Camp, the refugee community constructed 35 simple pit latrines from recyclable construction materials, an initiative that will be expanded during the remainder of the year.



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