



# UNHCR Operation in Ethiopia

Fact Sheet | May 2014

## UNHCR Operational Highlights

- At the end of May 2014, Ethiopia hosted **569,286** refugees from 13 countries. The majority- 242,765 individuals (42.64%) -are **Somalis** followed by **South Sudanese**-193,389 ind. (33.97%), **Eritreans**-94,492 ind.(16.60%) and **Sudanese**- 34,331 ind.(6.03%). The country also hosted 4,304 (0.76%) refugees from several other countries, including from the Great Lakes Region, Kenya, Yemen and Djibouti.
- **40,095** new refugees were registered in the country in May, and this represented the largest arrival figure in a single month so far this year. The largest majority, **37,572**, are South Sudanese who have fled the on-going conflict in their country. Also, 2,050 Eritreans, 332 Somalis (who arrived through Dollo Ado) and 105 Sudanese were registered during the reporting month.
- Ethiopia's borders remain open and freely accessible to asylum seekers coming from many of its neighbouring countries, most notably from South Sudan, Sudan, Somalia and Eritrea. Despite the peace agreement signed by Mr. Salva Kiir and Mr. Riek Machar, South Sudanese continued to arrive in Ethiopia at a daily average rate of 1000 people.
- Relocation of new arrivals from the three main border crossing points in Akobo, Pagak and Burubie in the Gambella region to the camps continued by land, boat and air (helicopter).
- UNHCR, ARRA, and partners transferred South Sudanese refugees from low-lying and flood-prone parts of Kule and Leichuor camps to higher grounds to prevent flooding of their shelters during the approaching rainy season.
- Women and children still made up a large majority of all South Sudanese new arrivals during the month, with many of the children arriving in poor nutritional status. UNHCR, ARRA, UNICEF, GOAL, MSF-F and ACF supported the enrolment of more than 10,000 children under five years of age in different nutrition programmes in the camps.
- In the Benishangul-Gumuz region (western Ethiopia) UNHCR and ARRA continued to closely monitor the situation along the border in view of the deteriorating security and humanitarian situations in the Upper Nile State of South Sudan and the Blue Nile State of Sudan. Out of 550 new arrivals registered in May by Sub-Office Assosa, 440 are South Sudanese while the balance is Sudanese refugees.
- Dollo Ado continued to receive new arrivals from Somalia albeit in smaller numbers. The last week of May, however, saw a significant increase in arrivals and this raised concerns that the figures may pick up in the coming weeks. The new arrivals, mainly from Elbone and Sidegreere areas in Bakol region, reported, in addition to general insecurity, crop failure of the past rainy season was the reason for their flight.

## Refugees and asylum seekers in Country

(by country of origin)

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	TOTAL NUMBER	NEW REGISTRATION IN March 2014	No. of Camps
Somalia	242,765	332	8
Eritrea	94,492	2050	6
South Sudan	193,389	37,572	5
Sudan	34,331	105	4
Others	4304	36	2*
<b>Total</b>	<b>569,286</b>	<b>40,095</b>	<b>25</b>

\*Included in the number of camps are two service delivery sites for Kenyan refugees.

## UNHCR operation in 2014

(in million USD)

BY POPULATION	BUDGET	FUNDS AVAILABLE
Refugees	199.807	56.1
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>199.807</b>	<b>*75.5</b>

\*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; Tselemt



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; WFP.

## Operational Developments & Achievements

- UNHCR, together with ARRA and other humanitarian partners scaled up the emergency response effort in Ethiopia's Gambella region, bordering South Sudan. Refugees continued to arrive at an average rate of 1,000 a day, and this pushed the total arrival figure since mid-December to some 140,000. Measures were taken to accelerate level I registration at the different entry points, which in turn helped speed up relocation to the different refugee camps, although there's still a significant backlog to deal with. With support from IOM, new arrivals were relocated from the border by boat and land to Kule camps as appropriate while a UNHCR-contracted helicopter transferred malnourished children and other vulnerable individuals who needed urgent attention. In general, a coordinated humanitarian intervention in areas such as shelter, food and nutrition, health, water and hygiene was well underway under the leadership of UNHCR.
- Renewed fighting in Nassir, South Sudan, since 4 May resulted in a fresh wave of refugee arrivals into the Gambella region of Ethiopia. Since then some 37,500 refugees arrived mainly through the Burubie crossing point where UNHCR and partners manage a reception and registration centre. Most of the new arrivals underwent preliminary registration at Burubie before they were relocated to the refugee camps.
- UNHCR and ARRA opened Kule 2 camp in mid-May to accommodate the growing number of refugees arriving from South Sudan. This is the third camp to be opened in Gambella since last December to respond to the wave of refugee arrivals from South Sudan. UNHCR, ARRA and other partners continued to put in place key infrastructure such as shelter, water, health and sanitation facilities in the new camp, expected to accommodate 30,000 people. Delivery of services by partners continued throughout the month. Meanwhile, UNHCR airlifted additional aid items including 4,261 tents, 9,766 kitchen sets and eight vehicles into the country for use in the on-going emergency response in the Gambella region.
- In the north, the number of Eritrean refugees continued to grow with 2050 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 19,119, leaving UNHCR and ARRA looking for additional space to accommodate new arrivals.
- Also in Tigray, UNHCR successfully relocated all Un Accompanied Minors (UAMs) from the Endabaguna reception centre to various care arrangements in the camps. This is the first time in many months that the UAM compound in Endabaguna was emptied. UNHCR and ARRA put in place a system to expedite registration and relocation of newly arriving UAMs in order to avoid accumulation of the UAMs in the reception centre.

## UNHCR Staff

Staff comprise: 398 national, including 117 UNOPS, 91 international including 8 under UNV and other arrangements.

For further details, please contact:  
**UNHCR Representation in Ethiopia**  
Bole Road, woreda 21 kebele 23  
House No. 1255/01-02

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