

Ethiopia

August 2017

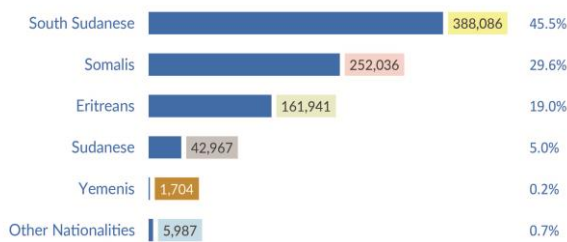
Ethiopia is host to the second largest refugee population in Africa, sheltering **852,721** registered refugees and asylum seekers as of 31 August 2017.

Since January 2017, **72,890** refugees arrived in Ethiopia, mainly from South Sudan (over 44,000), Eritrea (approx. 17,000) and Somalia (over 6,400).

Ethiopia is a pilot country for the **CRRF** and works closely with Government and partners to improve the lives of refugees and host communities.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

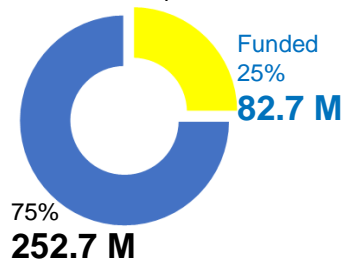
Countries of Origin



FUNDING (AS OF 31 AUGUST 2017)

USD 335.4 M

requested for Ethiopia



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

343 national staff, **96** international staff

179 individual contractors

28 deployees & IUNVs

Offices:

1 Branch Office in (Addis Ababa), **2** Field Offices in (Sherkole) and (Mekelle), **5** Sub-Offices in (Melkadida), (Gambella), (Shire), (Assosa) and (Jijiga)

A UNHCR worker hands a South Sudanese baby boy to his sister, as they arrive at Gure-Shombola Camp in Ethiopia, following relocation from Pagak Reception Centre, Gambella. UNHCR/Diana Diaz



Working with Partners

- UNHCR's main Government counterpart to ensure protection of refugees in Ethiopia is the Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA). In addition, UNHCR works in close coordination with some 40 partners, and is fully engaged in the Humanitarian Country Team in Ethiopia, where refugee programmes are discussed strategically to ensure that the needs of refugees are adequately presented and addressed. UNHCR is also building on well-established coordination fora such as the Refugee Task Force, donor, NGO and inter-agency meetings at the field and camp level. As part of the CRRF, UNHCR is furthering partnerships with line ministries, regional and local authorities- as well as traditional and non-traditional donors.

Main Activities

Protection

- The “**Vital Events Registration and National Identity Card Proclamation**” (Amendment Proclamation 1049/2017) came into force on 7 August 2017. With the amended law, refugees are able to register vital events. Most importantly, refugee children are entitled to receive official birth certificates. Legal documentation is an essential form of protection and ensures that refugee children can claim rights and access services. UNHCR and partners are working closely with the Government to support the set-up of vital events registration for refugees in the country.

Education

- A ‘Back-to-school, Stay-in-School’ campaign has been initiated in all refugee camps to minimize school dropout rate and to increase gross elementary school enrolment rate from 62% to 75%. In parallel, 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 outcome of the workshop is intended to provide momentum and urgency to achieve the targets outlined in the national Refugee Education Strategy.

Health

- To date in 2017, 512,501 persons benefited from consultations in health centres across all refugee camps, 10% of whom were from the host communities. The health facility utilization rate stands at 1.2 consultations per refugee per year and is within the standard of more than 1 consultations per year. The mortality rate in children under five is 0.2/1000/month and remains within the expected range in all camps. 97% of all deliveries in the camps were conducted with the help of skilled birth attendants.

Food Security and Nutrition

- The preliminary results of the annual nutrition survey in the two refugee camps in Afar Region indicated an increase in Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) while prevalence of stunting (chronic malnutrition) is below the critical threshold of 40% (32.7% in Barahle and 32.8% in Aysaita). In Barahle Camp (11,333 Eritrean refugees), the GAM rate showed a slight increase from 20.5% in 2016 to 22.9% in 2017. The same survey, however, indicated a significant increase in GAM in Aysaita Camp (13,169 Eritrean refugees), from 13.7% to 19.2%. The experts are working on a qualitative analysis of the results is currently underway.

Water and Sanitation

- 11.9 million litres of water have been treated, pumped and supplied daily to all camps, at an average of 19 litres of potable water per person, per day. 12 of the 26 camps received above 20 litres of water per person per day. Crude access to sanitation services stands at 1 latrine for 19 persons, far below the standard of one family to one latrine. Hygiene promotion activities have continued, furthering environmental and personal hygiene practises and minimizing public health risks.

Shelter and NFIs

- UNHCR is in the process of finalizing the national shelter strategy, the draft of which will soon be introduced to the national Refugee Task Force before publication.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

- UNHCR and ARRA work in close coordination with partners to ensure efficient and coordinated delivery of protection and assistance. Camp coordination meetings and technical working groups take place both at the zone and camp levels.

Access to Energy

- UNHCR prioritizes access to alternative energy for cooking to mitigate the impact on the natural environment, and reduce firewood collection; and associated protection risks for women and girls. Solar lanterns and solar street lights have been identified as a protection tool, promoting education and enhancing communal life. To date, 369,638 litres of Ethanol fuel, 450 Ethanol stoves, 1,200 fuel saving stoves, 9,080 household solar lanterns and 420 solar street lights have been distributed. Piloting of briquette and biogas energy for cooking is ongoing, to expand alternative energy access.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- In Melkadida, 1,150 Somali refugees from the five camps opened voluntary savings accounts with Dedebit Microfinance and saved a total of 257,240 ETB. Similarly, 83 women and girls in Hilaweyn camp received life skills training to support income generating activities. Trainees acquired skills on henna decoration, tailoring, dyeing clothes, and cooking. The first group of 31 women were provided with start-up materials to initiate their own businesses.

Durable Solutions

- Providing resettlement opportunities is a priority, as conditions for voluntary repatriation are not favourable for most refugees, and options for local integration limited. Ethiopia's resettlement referral target for 2017 dropped significantly from 7,500 to 2,000. To date, 1,468 individuals were referred to the UNHCR Regional Service Centre for submission to resettlement countries, of which 1,221 have been submitted already. So far, 1,633 persons departed for resettlement countries, 82% of them to the USA.

External / Donors Relations

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

[USA | IKEA Foundation | CERF | Japan | Canada | Germany | UK-DFID | Educate A Child Programme-EAC| EU-ECHO| Priv. D. Australia |France| Sweden |Luxemburg | Priv. donors Spain| International Olympic Committee| UN Fund for Intl Partnerships | Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation| Italy| Band Aid |Spain | UN Delivering As One| Denmark

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds:

[USA (200 M) | Sweden (95 M)| Priv. D. Spain (50)| Netherlands (46 M) | UK (45)| Norway (40 M) | Japan (24 M) | Denmark (24 M) | Priv. D. Rep. of Korea (19)| Priv. D. Italy (18)|Canada (16)| Australia (15 M) | Switzerland (15 M) | Priv. D. Japan (15 M) | France (14 M) | Priv. D.USA (14 M) | Priv. D. Sweden (13)| Germany (13 M) | Italy (10 M) |

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