

Ethiopia

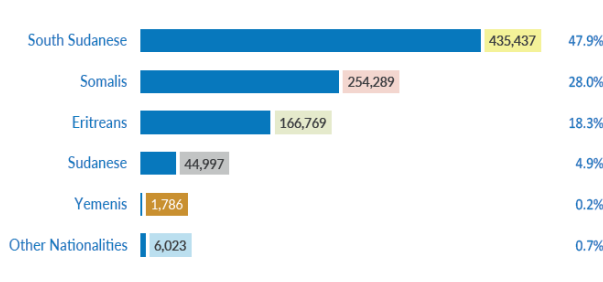
February 2018

Ethiopia is host to the second largest refugee population in Africa, sheltering over **909,301** registered refugees and asylum seekers as of 28 February 2018.

In the first two months of 2018, **15,097** refugees arrived in Ethiopia, including **7,202** in February. They include more than **10,700** from South Sudan and more than **3,700** from Eritrea.

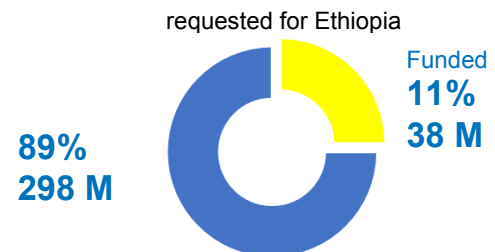
Ethiopia held the first **CRRF** Technical Committee workshops on Education and Basic Social Services following the official launch of the **CRRF** in late **November 2017**. **CRRF** Steering Committee meetings continue to be held during the first week of every month.

POPULATION OF CONCERN



FUNDING (AS OF 13 FEBRUARY 2018)

USD 335.8 M



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

352 national staff, **119** international staff (including JPOs)
145 individual contractors
29 deployees & IUNVs

Offices:

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

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, inter-sectors and sector working group meetings at the national and regional level. As part of the CRRF, UNHCR is furthering partnerships with line ministries, regional and local authorities, as well as development partners.

Main Activities

Protection

- Youth proposals submitted by Field Office Pugnido and Sub-Office Jijiga were selected to benefit from UNHCR's 2018 Youth Initiative Fund. The Pugnido Peace Education Club, a community-based peacebuilding initiative, will use the grant to continue promoting peaceful co-existence between communities. In the Jijiga camps, the project will build on existing sports teams and infrastructure and create a strategic link with awareness raising and skills training. In line with the CRRF, the project promotes integration of refugee programming within the national system through collaboration with the Regional Youth and Sports Bureau.

Education

- Preliminary data on the school enrolment rate show that the number of refugee children in primary schools has increased from 118,275 in 2016/17 to 132,563 in the 2017/2018 academic year. This brings the total elementary school enrolment rate to 72%, which is close to the Ethiopian government's pledge target of increasing refugees' primary school enrolment rate to 75%. Similarly, secondary school enrolment rate has increased to 12% from a mere 9% in the previous academic year. Currently 2,300 refugees are enrolled in tertiary education compared to 1,600 during the last academic year.
- Gaps in the provision of education in Ethiopia include a lack of available classroom space and trained teachers, and quality classroom materials, including books, scientific implements, and stationary materials. The average teacher to student ratio is 1:80, with only 56% of teachers having formal qualifications to teach at the primary school level.

Health

- Refugees and members of the surrounding host communities continue to access health services across the camps. Respiratory tract infections (35%), watery diarrhoea (22%) and malaria (12) are the leading causes of morbidity. The health facility utilization rate stood 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 0.1/1000/month and remains within the expected range. 98% of all deliveries were conducted with

the help of skilled birth attendants. In 2018 access to health services will be further enhanced. This includes the construction of two additional health centres while expanding services for non-communicable and tropical diseases.

Food Security and Nutrition

- Refugee children from six to 24 months of age continued to be enrolled in the blanket supplementary feeding programme in camps other than those in Gambella, Melkadida and Afar where all children under five years old have been targeted due to the prevalence of high global acute malnutrition.
- Findings of a 'nutrition causal analysis' (NCA) conducted in Pugnido I and Kule Camps in Gambella depicted a number of risk factors for malnutrition, including poor maternal care practices, early pregnancies, work overload for women, poor psychosocial well-being of women and children, and a lack of hygiene practices. A multi-sectorial action plan is under-development to address the risk factors.

Water and Sanitation

- 12.3 million litres of potable water were supplied to all camps on a daily basis, representing an average per capita supply of 18 litres of water per day. Average household latrine coverage stands at 32.6%. Five camps are currently enjoying solar energy for water pumping, with 12 additional camps to be solarized in 2018. This will significantly reduce unit cost of water production. The utility approach to water supply is being piloted in Gambella (at Itang) and serving over 200,000 refugees and host communities. Three additional regions in Tigray, Benishangul Gumuz and Jijiga will be targeted during the year with the aim of reducing the unit cost of water production and ensure sustainability.

Shelter and CRIs

- UNHCR has established the necessary structures and systems to roll out Cash Based Interventions (CBIs) in all camps, with the exception of Gambella and Dollo Ado where the roll out will be preceded by an in-depth analysis of operational context. The approach intends to monetize some of the in-kind assistance that refugees receive.
- Following the adoption of a national refugee shelter strategy, shelter experts from UNHCR and ARRA are working on the development of technical guidelines to help implement the strategy in the different refugee camps.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

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

Access to Energy

- In 2018 UNHCR will continue to ensure refugees' access to energy while strengthening environmental protection activities in and around the refugee camps. Planned activities for the year include installation of 500 solar street lights, the distribution of 6,900 solar home systems and 8,500 solar lanterns, the solarisation of 37 schools, 3 health centres, 20 business centres and 3 water pumping systems. Ethanol and briquette fuel will be provided to 13,300 and 7,500 refugee households respectively, while 16 biogas plants will be constructed and 5 refugee camps connected to the national electric grid.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- UNHCR's investment in livelihood activities target refugees and host communities include: agriculture and livestock; vocational skills training; microfinance and small enterprise development. Backyard gardening has been established in Gambella and Assosa, while in Shire refugees are engaged in agriculture and goats and cattle fattening. Vocational training courses are available in all locations, and are increasingly linked to markets, often targeting youth and women. Income generating activities are related to the business skills of refugees and driven by market opportunities. In line with CRRF, UNHCR will focus on enhancing coordination of livelihood interventions with development actors.

Durable Solutions

- Providing resettlement opportunities remains a top priority, as conditions for voluntary repatriation are unfavourable for most refugees in Ethiopia and options for local integration are limited. So far in 2018, 602 individuals were referred to the UNHCR Regional Service Centre for resettlement, with 338 individuals submitted to resettlement countries. As of 28 February, 121 individuals left for resettlement countries while 90 others travelled to different countries on family reunification and private sponsorship. The 'Humanitarian Corridor' project, expected to give a durable solution to approximately 500 refugees, is underway, with a total of 138 refugees already departed to Italy, including a second group of 113 refugees who left on 26 February 2018.

External / Donors Relations

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

Netherlands| UK (DFID)| IKEA Foundation | Denmark| Germany| Educate A Child Programme-EAC/EAA| Republic of Korea| UN Dept. of Economic and Social Affairs

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