

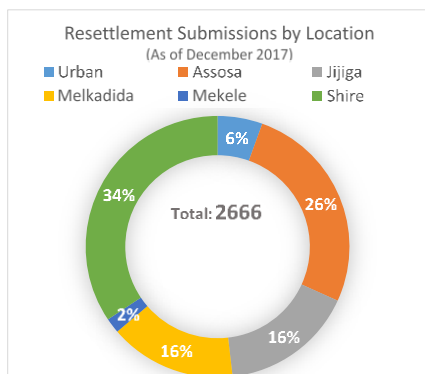
# Ethiopia

December 2017

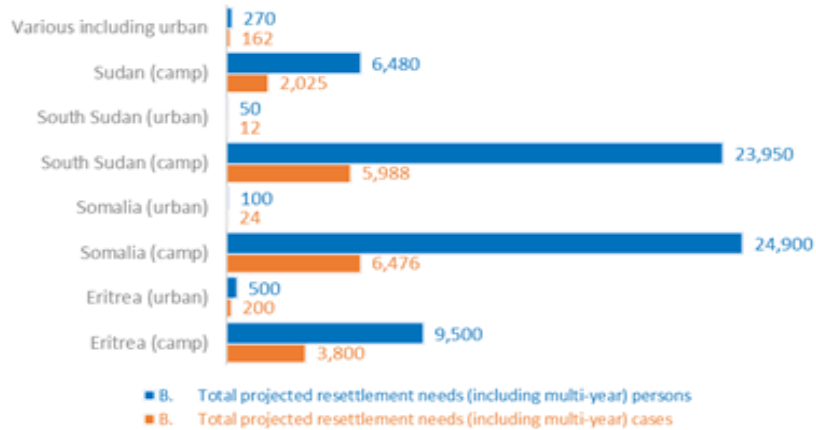
Out of **892,555** registered refugees in Ethiopia, **65,750** are in need of resettlement in 2017.

UNHCR Ethiopia's resettlement submissions target for 2017 was revised from **7,500** down to **2,000** due to the substantial reduction in the global US resettlement figures.

To date, **2,666** refugees were referred to the RSC for onward submission to resettlement countries. **2,680** refugees have been submitted and **2,115** departed to resettlement



## Projected Resettlement Needs in 2018



## Highlights

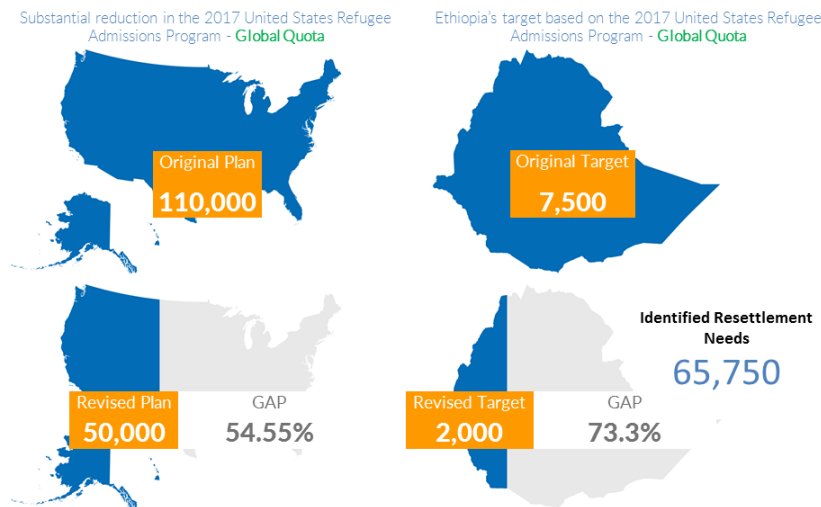
- Resettlement is an invaluable protection tool for UNHCR Ethiopia as it addresses the specific needs of refugees who are vulnerable due to their experiences in their country of origin and/or whose safety, health or other fundamental rights are at risk in Ethiopia, by providing them an opportunity to rebuild their lives in a new country.
- Resettlement remains the primary durable solution available to refugees in Ethiopia due to the continued instability in neighboring countries rendering voluntary repatriation untenable. Opportunities for local integration are limited although the future looks bright in this regard.
- Resettlement as a durable solution is available only to those refugees who meet very precise criteria. Although over 65,000 refugees in Ethiopia satisfy these criteria, the primary constraint on resettlement abroad is the quota provided by countries of resettlement, which is far too low to meet current need.
- As resettlement numbers are dictated by quota and not need, resettlement is not a right that can be claimed by refugees.
- UNHCR Ethiopia identifies and addresses the needs of the vulnerable within all refugee populations hosted in the country, including those with specific needs as well as those trapped in protracted situations. The main refugee populations resettled abroad from Ethiopia are Eritreans, Somalis, South Sudanese and Sudanese as well as a few refugees from the Great Lakes.
- UNHCR Ethiopia's resettlement submissions target for 2017 was originally set at 7,500 refugees but, due to the reduction in the admissions to the United States Refugee Admission Program (USRAP), this target was reduced to 2,000.
- As of December 2017, 2,666 refugees were referred to the Regional Service Centre in Nairobi for onward submission to resettlement countries. 2,680 refugees have been submitted to resettlement countries and 2,115 departed to resettlement countries, with the majority departing to the USA.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- In light of reduced admissions to the United States Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) in 2017 and in anticipation of a similar reduction for 2018, UNHCR Ethiopia continues to prioritize refugees who have urgent resettlement needs for submission to the United States;
- UNHCR Ethiopia will contribute to the Resettlement Innovation Project to explore more efficient and streamlined ways to process refugees for resettlement;
- UNHCR Ethiopia will strengthen its identification mechanisms by liaising with partners and by enhancing the registration of vulnerable refugees with resettlement needs;
- UNCHR will continue to advocate for resettlement as a durable solution and will work with resettlement countries to increase interest in resettling refugees from Ethiopia;
- While still advocating for resettlement as the primary durable solution available to refugees in Ethiopia, UNHCR Ethiopia will promote complementary legal pathways for refugees, including private sponsorship, family reunification and the establishment of humanitarian corridors.
- The innovative new 'Humanitarian Corridor' project is underway, with the first group of 25 refugees already departed to Italy. Approximately 500 refugees will find a durable solution through this project, which UNHCR has undertaken in partnership with Caritas Italiana and Sant'Egidio Community.

## CHALLENGES

The substantial reduction in the 2017 US Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) has resulted in a drastic reduction of Ethiopia's resettlement quota in 2017 and 2018.



## External / Donors Relations

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

- USA | UK (DFID) | IKEA Foundation | EU(ECHO) | Japan | Educate A Child Programme-EAC | Germany | Netherlands | Australia | UN Children's Fund | "la Caixa Banking Foundation | Sweden | Canada | Ireland | Priv. D. Australia | Country-Based Pool Funds | Sheik Thani Bin Abdullah Foundation | UN Dept of Economic and Social Affairs | Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation | Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints | Priv. donors Spain | African Union | UN Foundation(UNFIP) | International Olympic Committee | Priv D. Germany

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