

# Somali refugees 2020/2021 Country Operations Planning

Refugee Coordination Group Meeting - 25 March 2019



# Operational context

- 256,000 Somali refugees residing in Melkadida (5 camps, 215 000 refugees) and Jijiga (3 camps 35 000 refugees), Somali region of Ethiopia.
- L3 registration is ongoing and will be finalized by June 2019. Refugee numbers are likely to decrease by 20%.
- Somali refugees continue to be granted *prima facie* status.
- The camp population is larger than the surrounding host community population (55:45). Refugees have close cultural and ethnic links with the host population.





- Security in the Somali region remains fluid; insecurity within the region caused by ethnic and political conflicts resulting in **1 million IDPs** and continuous threats of cross-border terrorist incursions.
- Appointment of **new government in 2018** has led to a new regional president, cabinet, woreda and kebele level authorities, which requires a renewed engagement by humanitarian and development actors.
- Somali region prone to **drought** and **harsh climatic conditions**.
- Limited road and commercial infrastructure.



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# Protection and solutions strategy

- **Durable solutions:** promote self-reliance and integration opportunities, incl. access to basic services, education and livelihoods, while maintaining the protection space. Pilot interventions will support access to the full range of legal, economic and social rights as part of the expansion of the Out-of-Camp policy.
- While existing essential camp-based services will be maintained, **cash-based interventions** will be prioritized for core relief items, together with phased focus on durable shelter solutions. The investments in utility infrastructure, particularly in the provision of water, will be integrated within the Regional Government's Local Development Plans.
- Strengthening refugee protection through improved **community-based** and **multi-sectorial** child protection and SGBV programmes.
- Further strengthen the **refugee/host community collaboration**, as practiced in the Melkadida area, as an example for other regions to emulate.



- **Implementation of government pledges:**
  - Socio-economic inclusion: Engagement with Development actors to gradually obtain inclusion of refugees in national education, health and wash systems. Continue engagement with IKEA Foundation and World Bank on job creation.
  - Social cohesion: Attract development investments focusing on both refugees and host communities, with refugees as the driver of economic development.
- **Improved refugee data management** with the completion of the L3 registration and establishment of the One-Stop-Shop Registration Model.
- **Increased resettlement** opportunities to emerging resettlement countries.





# Planning assumptions

- The population of Somali refugees is expected to increase modestly as a result of natural population growth and, in the case of Melkadida, [small waves of new arrivals](#).
- [No significant returns](#) expected as violence and civil disturbances in Somalia will remain constant.
- [Environmental/drought](#) conditions remain consistent with past years.
- The security situation remains stable, with [no significant incursions into Ethiopia](#) and/or disruptions of the camp.
- The federal and regional government remains supportive of the new [Refugee Proclamation](#) and the [CRRF/9 pledges](#), particularly in respect of documentation/agriculture/labour rights.



# Operational Priorities

- **Protection:** Enhanced community based protection with a focus on persons with specific needs, child protection and SGBV.
- **Peaceful co-existence:** continued investments in joint refugees/host community projects, continuation of IKEA Foundation interventions with additional financing received for Melkadida. Focus on Jijiga under EUTF.
- **Integrate into national services:** Adequate multi sector service provision in camps with a gradual integration in national services (secondary education, possibly WASH).
- **Economic self-reliance:** partner investments, capacity development.
- **Coordination:** Effective coordination of humanitarian, development and governmental actors.
- **Household energy:** The natural environment in the Region is fragile and access to alternative energy for cooking and light is minimal, necessitating the collection of firewood. As UNHCR budgets will not be able to cover requirements, engagement with others, especially private sector, will be essential.



# Challenges

## Operational:

- Political insecurity and ethnic tensions could jeopardize the CRRF agenda and refugee response in general.
- Melkadida: Sustaining IKEA Foundation investments in an area where there is limited development and private sector investments.

## Financial:

- Sector response:
  - Additional resources required to ensure services provided are of an acceptable standard, especially in education, health, WASH, nutrition and shelter.
  - Need for strengthening of interventions benefitting persons with specific needs.
  - Lack of targeted youth interventions with youth turning to negative coping mechanisms.
  - Household energy requirements cannot be met through the regular budget resulting in deforestation and exposure of refugees to protection and malnutrition risks.



# Opportunities and regional initiatives

- Interest of development partners to engage in the Somali region; local authorities are receptive to CRRF.
- IGAD focusing on inclusion of refugees in education and national health services, livelihoods.
- EU Trust Fund has a focus on investments on economic opportunities in the Jijiga area.
- GIZ engagement in TVET.
- Continuation of Ikea Foundation in Melkadida with a focus on consolidation of investments.
- WB IDA supporting inclusion of refugees in education with a focus on secondary education.
- Engagement with private sector. Leverage the success of the IKEA Foundation to attract private investors.
- Inclusion of refugees in regional development plans. There is an interest of the regional government to mainstream refugee secondary education.

