

Ethiopia

June 2019

Ethiopia is host to the second largest refugee population in Africa, sheltering **905,831** registered refugees and asylum seekers **as of 31 August 2018**.

UNHCR is working with ARRA, WFP and IOM to relocate to Melkadida **1,300** Somali refugees who were previously registered in Eritrea and have recently crossed to Ethiopia and sought asylum.

As the Cluster lead for Protection, UNHCR continues to be actively participating in the humanitarian response to the **IDP** situation in **Gedeo West Guji, East and West Wollega**, lately focusing its activities on places of return.

* As UNHCR works to enhance registration data, the monthly population update has been frozen as of 31 August 2018, pending completion of the ongoing Level 3 registration.

UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

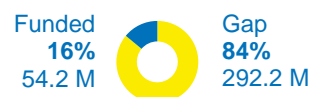
402 national staff, **133** international staff (including JPOs)
171 individual contractors; **33** deployees & IUNVs

Offices:

1 Branch Office in (Addis Ababa), **5** Sub-Offices - Melkadida, Gambella, Shire, Assosa and Jijiga, **4** Field Offices –Embamadre, Tongo, Pugnido and Mekelle.

FUNDING (AS OF 30 JUNE 2019)

USD 346.5 M requested for Ethiopia



Working with Partners

- UNHCR's main government counterpart to ensure the protection of refugees in Ethiopia is the Agency for Refugees and Returnees Affairs (ARRA). In addition, UNHCR works in close coordination with 54 humanitarian partners and is part of the Humanitarian Country Team in Ethiopia where refugee programmes are discussed strategically to ensure the needs of refugees are adequately presented and addressed across the UN System. UNHCR is also building on a well-established coordination fora, including the inter-sector Refugee Coordination Group, together with national and regional sector working groups. As part of the CRRF, UNHCR is furthering partnerships with line ministries, regional and local authorities, as well as development partners and the private sector.

Main Activities

Protection

- As the Protection Cluster lead, UNHCR continues to actively participate in the humanitarian response to the IDP situation in Gedeo West Guji, East and West Wollega zones. After the recent significant returns of IDPs in these zones, UNHCR has participated in joint 'Targeting' exercises and 'Rapid Needs Assessments' with the government and other UN agencies to identify and assess the protection issues of returnees while engaging in protection monitoring together with U N partners in returnee areas in West Guji.

Education

- Preliminary data for the 2018/19 academic year show a total of 196,350 refugee students enrolled in the different levels of education: Early Childhood Care and Education 55,735, primary 126,383, secondary 11,123, and tertiary 3,109, including 809 fresh entrants. The government of Ethiopia has unveiled a draft Action Plan to integrate refugee education in national systems in line with the 2017 IGAD Djibouti Declaration and the 2018 IGAD Addis Ababa Plan of Action. The Action Plan is expected to enter into implementation once approved by the Minister of Education.

Health

- All components of primary health care services including referral to higher healthcare facilities were provided in all camps. The crude and under-five child mortality rates have remained within the expected range with no disease outbreak reported in any of the camps. As part of the effort to control a measles outbreak in the Melkadida camps earlier in the year, a supplementary measles vaccination campaign has been carried out in all 5 camps targeting children aged 6 months to 14 years.

Food Security and Nutrition

- Fourteen of the 26 refugee camps already covered by the standard nutrition surveys have shown a global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate that is above the 15% threshold. The high malnutrition rate is attributed to an increase in the use of negative coping mechanisms such as reducing quantity and frequency of meals which may be a result of the extended ration cuts since November 2017 and the general increase in commodity prices in the market. The recent discontinuation of the supplementary feeding programme for children aged 3 to 5 years in the Melkadida camps may aggravate the situation. UNHCR continues to run nutrition treatment centres to reduce morbidity and supports the

provision of supplementary food to all children under-two years to improve nutrition security and prevent acute malnutrition.

Water and Sanitation

- 12.5 million litres of water per day were supplied across the regions in Ethiopia hosting refugees, with eight of the 26 refugee camps meeting the minimum standard of 20 litres of water per person per person per day (lppd). 11 camps are between 15 and 20 lppd while seven camps are still below the 15 lppd threshold. 19 of the 26 refugee camps have met the minimum standard of 'maximum of 20 persons per latrine' while eight camps are still below the minimum standards.

Shelter

- UNHCR and its partners have constructed 3,020 transitional shelters so far this year, while preparations are underway to construct additional 3,800 shelters. At the end of 2018, there was a gap of 131,185 shelter in the camps.

Cash-Based Interventions

- Following the successful piloting and subsequent positive assessment results of the cash based interventions (CBI) in camps around Jijiga, UNHCR is working to scale up the use of cash to the other locations. Cash will be used in lieu of a range of in-kind aid supplies including, non-food aid items, and shelter materials, livelihoods, cooking energy, education and nutritional support. Cash shall also be used to respond to the ongoing IDP situation as well as reintegration support for Ethiopian refugees who may voluntarily return to their country.

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

- UNHCR continues to seek solutions to ensure refugees' access to energy while strengthening environmental protection activities. Work is ongoing to raise over one million seedlings for planting in and around the refugee camps during 2019. So far this year, more than 55,000 pcs of charcoal briquettes have been distributed to 1,222 targeted households in camps in the Afar and Benishangul-Gumuz regions. Together with the distribution of over 8,000kg of firewood, this forms part of the effort to provide refugees with alternative cooking fuel solutions. To light up the camp houses, streets and community centres within the refugee camps, two solar mini-grids were installed at the 'Bokolmanyoo market and 'Bokolmanyoo Energy Service Centre', in the Somali region while 12,141 solar lanterns were distributed along with installation of 59 solar street lights in camps in the Benishangul-Gumuz region.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- UNHCR in partnership with ILO trained 30 people on how best to implement programmes, geared to ensuring the economic inclusion of refugees in Ethiopia. The tailor-made, market-based training on implementing livelihoods projects benefiting both refugees and host communities, was offered to experts drawn from ARRA, UNHCR and Bureaus of Agriculture of all the refugee-hosting regions. Preceded by an ILO-led rapid market assessment in the Beishangul-Gumuz Region, the training comes at a critical stage when partners focus on refugees' economic inclusion to support Ethiopia's pledges on work and livelihoods. The rapid market assessment was aimed at identifying viable sectors for investment in livelihoods throughout the country.

Durable Solutions

- Providing resettlement opportunities to refugees remains a top priority, as conditions for voluntary repatriation are unfavourable for most refugees in Ethiopia and local integration programmes are yet to be established. In 2019, UNHCR plans to refer 3,000 refugees to the UNHCR Regional Service Centre (RSC) in Nairobi for onward submission to resettlement countries. As of 30 June 2019, 1,669 individuals have been submitted and 935 departed for different resettlement countries. In addition, 47 individuals have been processed for family reunification while 476 refugees have departed to Italy as part of the 'Humanitarian Corridor' programme which started in late 2017.

External / Donors Relations

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

USA| UK (DFID)| Denmark| Denmark| Italy| Ikea Foundation| Japan| European Union (ECHO)| Sweden |" la Caixa Banking Foundation"| Canada| Republic of Korea| Norway| Miscellaneous donors in Canada| Private donors Spain| Spain| UN Programme on HIV/AIDS| Miscellaneous private donors

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Sweden 90.4 million | Norway 44.5 million | Netherlands 37.5 million | United Kingdom 31.7 million | Germany 26.7 million | Private donors Spain 26.3 million | Denmark 24.4 million | Switzerland 15.1 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 13.8 million

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