

Ethiopia

August 2018

In August, **UNHCR provided 14,800 emergency kits** to internally displaced Ethiopians in South Ethiopia. UNHCR has procured a total of 50,000 emergency kits with funding from CERF (UN's Central Emergency Response Fund).

Ethiopian Government held consultations on the new **National Comprehensive Refugee Response Strategy (NCRRS)** which consolidates Ethiopia's commitment to improve the lives of both refugees and host communities.

UNHCR improves registration data and figures collection. No new population updates and statistics will be produced until the **new population figures are released on 18 January 2019**

KEY INDICATORS (AS OF 31 AUGUST)

905,831

Refugees and asylum seekers registered in Ethiopia

59%

Percentage of refugees below the age of 18

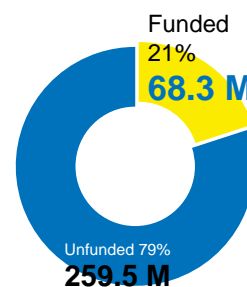
36,135

New arrivals registered in Ethiopia in 2018

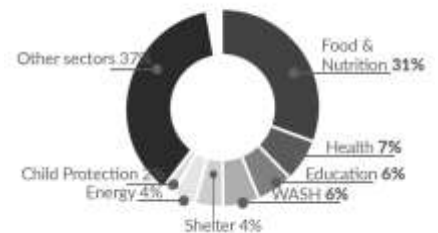
FUNDING (AS OF 28 AUGUST 2018)

USD 327.8 M

requested for the Ethiopia operation



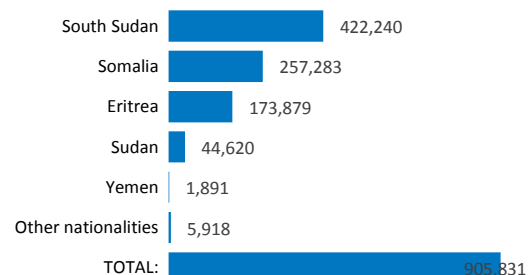
Budget allocation by sector



*Other sectors: Logistics & Telecoms; Durable Solutions; Community Empowerment & Self-Reliance; Core Relief Items; Registration & Documentation; Protection; SGBV.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Refugee Nationalities



"All I want is to go home to my coffee harvest and continue my life," says a young woman at a site for internally displaced persons. Nearly one million people were displaced between April and August in South Ethiopia ©UNHCR/Anna Hellge

UNHCR procures 50,000 kits to displaced Ethiopians

In August, UNHCR provided 14,800 emergency kits to internally displaced Ethiopians in South Ethiopia, as part of the 50,000 kits UNHCR is procuring with funding from CERF (UN's Central Emergency Response Fund). The need for emergency kits is huge due to the recent violence in South Ethiopia which displaced nearly one million people between April and August.

The recent violence followed more than a year of drought and tension over resources. Civilians tell of watching houses being burned to the ground, neighbours turning on neighbours, and being forced to flee with nothing but the clothes they were wearing

While people still continue to flee, government estimates suggest over 200,000 people have returned to their areas of origin. UNHCR and partners are calling for all returns to be voluntary and conducted in safety and dignity, and for assistance in areas of displacement and returns. Those who have returned home to their plots of land or farms often find that there is nothing left. Private houses as well as infrastructure like schools, coffee factories and health centres have been partially or entirely destroyed. Therefore, assistance to the returnees are urgently needed as well. For the coming 12 months, UNHCR requires USD 21.5 million for the response.



Local NGO partner GOAL receives a dispatch of non-food item kits (NFIs) in Yirga Chefe, South Ethiopia.
©UNHCR/Anna Hellge

Government of Ethiopia releases new draft National Comprehensive Refugee Response (CRR) Strategy



Pictures from the consultation on the NCRRS ©UNHCR/Helle Degn

On 30 August, UNHCR and international partners and development actors along with the EU and the World Bank, as well as a range of NGOs, participated in the Government of Ethiopia's consultation on the new National Comprehensive Refugee Response Strategy (NCRRS).

With the NCRRS, the Ethiopian Government through the Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) and relevant line ministries, bureaus and agencies continues to consolidate its commitment to improve the lives of both refugees and host communities in line with the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF).

Over the coming months the new strategy will be finalised, approved by the Council of Ministers as a national strategy – and complemented with operational guidelines through a series of regionally-based action plans.

UNHCR improves registration data and figures collection until December



A South Sudanese refugee child taking her iris scan during L3 registration. @UNHCR/Reath Riek

In August, UNHCR and Ethiopia's Administration for Refugees and Returnees Affairs (ARRA) officially launched the comprehensive (L3) registration of refugees in Ethiopia, with the roll out of the project in the Shire and Gambella camps, hosting thousands of Eritrean and South Sudanese refugees respectively. The registration exercise is funded by the EU, The Netherlands and Denmark and will continue in camps and settlements in Assosa, Borana, Jijiga, Melkadida and South Omo between September and October 2018.

The advanced registration system, also known as the Biometric Identity Management System (BIMS), involves the collection of biometric information, including fingerprints, iris scan and digital photos. The additional information thus gathered, which include detailed information on individual skills, education, occupation and family members abroad, would inform UNHCR's programming and help both the refugees themselves and the government and agencies trying to assist and manage the refugee population.

In order to prevent data (figures) variations resulting from modifications, which will be undertaken during the comprehensive (L3) registration, the figures for refugees and asylum-seeker will be frozen from August to December 2018. No new population updates and statistics will be produced until the new population figures are released on 18 January 2019.

UNHCR supports airlift of refugees



Refugee girl ready for take-off in the Gambella airport. ©UNHCR/Helle Degn

On 22 August, UNHCR Ethiopia, UN Migration and Plan International (IOM) facilitated the first airlift of South Sudanese refugees from Gambella Assosa in Western Ethiopia, where five camps are established.

The refugees had voluntarily agreed to be relocated.

Gambella currently hosts more than 400,000 refugees and hence in previous months relocation of refugees to camps in Gambella was not feasible. Following efforts of UNHCR and ARRA, opportunities of relocation might be opening up.

News from around the region

SNNPR

On World Humanitarian Day 2018, 19 August, UNHCR and partner agencies stood with the forcibly displaced.

In SNNP region that meant all hands on deck!

Together with the internally displaced people, UNHCR was cleaning a site for displaced people in Dila.



Eritrean refugee in Addis Ababa. ©UNHCR/Diana Diaz

SHIRE

UNHCR and ARRA conducted joint awareness-raising on the peace agreement between Ethiopia and Eritrea with refugees in Aysaita.

The peace agreement was signed 9 July at the conclusion of an unprecedented summit between the two countries focused on normalizing relations after two decades of conflict. Currently, 173,879 refugees from Eritrea are registered in Ethiopia.

MELKADIDA

All 173 students of the DICAC Bokolmanyo Secondary and Preparatory School supported by UNHCR received the minimum score required for entrance to university.

130 were refugee students and 43 were students from the host community.

The construction of the DICAC Bokolmanyo Secondary was funded by the IKEA Foundation.



Graduation in Kobe Camp ©UNHCR/Ariadne Kypriadi



School girls in Jijiga ©UNHCR/Anna Hellge

JIJIGA

'Back to school' campaign has started across all camps.

The periodic maintenance of classrooms and learning materials, painting and decoration, and repositioning of teaching materials were accomplished in preparation of the new school year.

Friends rebuild their lives together – a story from the displacement crisis in South Ethiopia

The sky was full of stars the night the attackers came, remembers Mohamed. *“There was not a single cloud. They didn’t say a word. They set our homes on fire, slaughtered our animals and took all our belongings.”*



Mohamed, one of the many people forced to flee due to violence in the South Ethiopia. ©UNHCR/Anna Hellge

Mohamed and his family, from the Oromo community, were among scores caught up in the ethnic violence that flared up in South Ethiopia earlier this year. The clashes displaced nearly a million people between April and August 2018.

Mohamed’s friend Edede, who belongs to the Gedeo community, was also a victim.

“That night I felt nothing but fear,” he recalls, cradling his two-year-old daughter Bereket. *“I thought: First they burn my house, next they will kill my family.”*

Both families were forced to flee their village of Chaikata. Having now finally returned, the pair are hoping that peace will prevail.

“I was born in this village,” says Mohamed. *“My father, too, was born here. We never had any issues with the Gedeos.”*

“Our children play together and go to school together,” adds Edede. “Oromos and Gedeos have always lived together peacefully here. We speak each other’s language. We marry each other. We have never known violence.”



Edede’s two-year-old daughter Bereket. The family was forced to flee during the violence in South Ethiopia. ©UNHCR/Anna Hellge

UNHCR is responding to the urgent needs of nearly one million people displaced by recent violence in the Gedeo and West Guji areas.

Upon request from the Ethiopian Government, the agency is providing 50,000 emergency relief kits and is now focusing on return and rehabilitation. According to the Government, over 200,000 people have returned to their areas of origin.

Oromos and Gedeos who fled to different parts of the region describe extreme violence during village raids. Many witnessed killings, some of family members, as well as rape, livestock slaughter, and houses burned to the ground.

When the violence started, Mohamed and his family crossed a river into the Oromo community to seek safety. His friend Edede and his family fled up the hill into the Gedeo community. *“We couldn’t take anything with us,”* says Edede. *“We didn’t even have shoes.”*

For two months, Mohamed and his family lived with 13 people in a small hut. *“We slept on the floor and there was not enough food,”* he says. *“We were always hungry. Whenever there was something to eat, we would give it to the children first.”*

“I thought of my friend often,” adds Edede Wone, who was sheltered at a local collective site. *“I prayed every night that he and his family were alive.”*

After two months, Mohamed heard that his Gedeo friends were returning to the village. *“That is when we found the courage to go back too,”* he says. *“I felt so blessed to find my friend and his family there when we returned.”*

Although happy to be home, Mohamed lies awake at night, anxious. *“How will I provide for my family?”* he asks. *“We have lost everything. Our houses, our animals, our property.”*

UNHCR is working hard to provide assistance like plastic sheeting, kitchen utensils and sleeping mats to those who are rebuilding their lives in safety and dignity.



©UNHCR/Anna Hellge

The UNHCR Representative, Ms. Clementine Nkweta Salami, travelled to Gedeo Zone to observe the impact of the displacement. She notes that experience has shown that mounting a response in areas of return takes time and will need significant new investments.

“Monitoring the conditions of return and addressing the root causes of displacement is paramount to ensuring the sustainability of return movements,” she says and continues: *“It is easy to lose hope when faced with human suffering, but UNHCR has worked alongside the Ethiopian Government for years, we have extremely dedicated staff, and we remain committed to finding long-term solutions for these displaced families.”*

For now, Edede is staying positive. *“We feel safe here,”* he says. *“Our children will go back to school. We hope we will never have to flee again.”*

The plastic sheeting UNHCR has given to both Edede and Mohamed will help keep their families safe from the heavy rains of the season.

“We will rebuild our lives and homes together,” says Edede, with a smile. *“We could never do it alone.”*

Working in partnership

- UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, provides protection, assistance and facilitates durable solutions for refugees in Ethiopia in collaboration with ARRA, the Ethiopian Government, UN Agencies and NGOs.

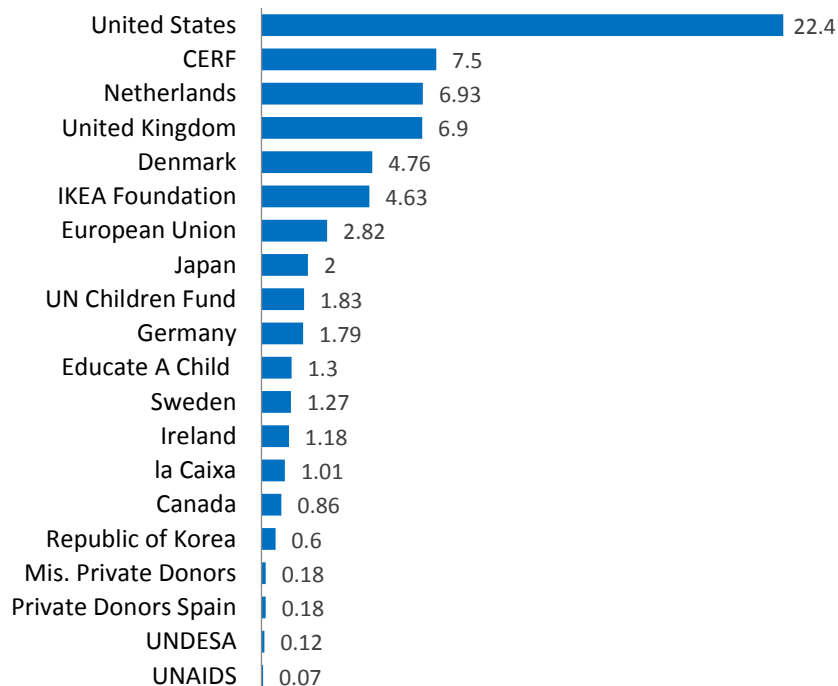
Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the Ethiopia operation in 2018 amount to some

US\$ 68.3 million.

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation, as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

Funding received (in million USD)



External / Donors Relations

Special thanks to the major donors of broadly earmarked regional contributions from:

(2 million USD or more)

United States of America 82.7 million | Germany 15.2 million | Private donors Australia 8.6 million | Sweden 4.2 million | Australia 3.8 million | Canada 3.3 million | Private donors Germany 2.8 million | Norway 2.6 million

Italy | Malta | Private donors

Special thanks to the major donors of unearmarked regional contributions:

(10 million USD or more)

Sweden 98.2 million | Private donors Spain 45.2 million | Norway 42.5 million | Netherlands 39.1 million | United Kingdom 31.7 million | Denmark 25.5 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 22.2 million | Switzerland 15.2 million | France 14 million | Germany 13.7 | Private donors Japan 13 million | Private donors Italy 11.9 million | Italy 11.2 million | Private donors Sweden 10.2 million

Algeria | Argentina | Belgium | Bosnia and Herzegovina | Canada | China | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | India | Indonesia | Ireland | Israel | Kuwait | Liechtenstein | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Philippines | Portugal | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Slovakia | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Turkey | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private donors

CONTACTS

External Relations Unit, UNHCR Ethiopia
 ethader@unhcr.org, Cell +251 966204950

LINKS

Data portal: data2.unhcr.org, Facebook: UNHCR Ethiopia, Twitter: @UNHCREthiopia