Ethiopia

UNHCR delivers lifesaving assistance to respond to the increased Eritrean influx following the reopening of the border between Ethiopia and Eritrea. Ethiopia is experiencing an increase in the number of internally displaced people. In total, over 2.8 million people in Ethiopia are currently internally displaced.

UNHCR enhances registration data and has frozen refugee figures as of 31 August 2018. Hence all figures in this Operation Update are as of August 2018.

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 11 SEPTEMBER 2018)

USD 327.8 M
requested for the Ethiopia operation

Budget Allocation in %

Funded 21%

69.5 M

Unfunded 79%

258.3 M

Protection, 15

Energy, 2

Health & Nutrition, 13

Other Sectors, 12

Registration, 12

Education, 12

RESPONSE

WASH, 9

Shelter & NFI, 12

IDP Response, 8

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Refugee Nationalities

South Sudan 422,240
Somalia 257,283
Eritrea 173,879
Sudan 44,620
Yemen 1,891
Other nationalities 5,918
TOTAL 905,831

“At home I had a football. I made it myself. We couldn’t take it when we fled.”

Ethiopia is currently experiencing an increase in the number of internally displace people, this young boy among one of them. ©UNHCR/Anna Hellge
UNHCR delivers lifesaving aid to respond to the increased Eritrean influx

Following the Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship, signed on 9 July 2018 by the governments of Ethiopia and Eritrea, two border crossing points were reopened on 11 September 2018 – the Ethiopian New Year. The reopening has resulted in a significant increase in the number of new arrivals from Eritrea, with the average daily rate of arrivals increasing from 53 to approximately 390 individuals.

Between 12 September and 02 October 2018, a total of 6,779 refugees were registered at the Endabaguna Reception Centre with a further 2,725 others at the border points awaiting relocation to Endabaguna.

Working with humanitarian partners on the ground, UNHCR and ARRA are coordinating the delivery of lifesaving assistance to the new arrivals, including food, shelter, water and health and sanitation. Essential aid items have been despatched from Addis Ababa for immediate distribution to registered refugees. Additional health and shelter experts are being deployed to the area to support the response.

**Change in Eritrean influx demographics**

Women and children constitute approximately 90% of the new arrivals, in contrast with the current population profile of the Eritrean camps in Tigray, where young men were the majority.

The changing profile is attributed to the reopening of border crossing points, which has facilitated easy transit and safe travel for women and children. Registration data indicates that, in addition to the standard reasons for leaving Eritrea such as involuntary open-ended military conscription and human rights violations, family reunification is cited as an additional motive for movement by 83% of the newly registered.
Internally displaced people in Ethiopia continues to increase in 2018

Ethiopia is currently experiencing an increase in the number of internally displaced people (IDPs). The conflict along the regional Somali-Oromia borders, which intensified in September 2017, led to the displacement of around 1 million individuals from both regions.

Earlier this year, the conflict in the Gedeo and West Guji zones of the SNNP and Oromia Regions displaced more than 950,000 individuals, and the inter-communal conflict in the Somali region in August caused more than 140,000 persons to leave their homes.

In total, over 2.8 million people in Ethiopia are currently internally displaced. Apart from the internal conflicts, climate induced factors are also forcing people to flee. The map below shows the number of internally displaced persons per region.

In August 2018, with the violence having subsided in the Gedeo and West Guji zones of the SNNP and Oromia Regions respectively, the Government of Ethiopia has started actively promoting returns. 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.

In line with UNHCR’s leadership of the Protection Cluster, and active engagement in the Camp Coordination and Camp Management and Shelter clusters, UNHCR is supporting the joint IDP response through protection monitoring and the provision of emergency kits.
UNHCR improves registration data and freezes refugee figures

UNHCR and Ethiopia’s Administration for Refugees and Returnees Affairs (ARRA) are currently rolling-out the comprehensive (L3) registration of refugees in Ethiopia. The registration exercise is funded by the EU, the Netherlands and Denmark.

To ensure accurate reporting on refugee and asylum-seeker population figures in Ethiopia up to the end of the year, official data released by UNHCR will be frozen as of August 2018 during the consolidation of individual profiles as part of the comprehensive (L3) registration process. While UNHCR will continue to provide registration services during this period, no new population updates and statistics will be produced until 18 January 2019.

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 gathered, which include detailed information on individual skills, education, occupation and family members abroad, will inform the programmed response of UNHCR and its partners through increasingly targeted forms of assistance.
News from around the region

**SHIRE**

596 persons (including 234 women) graduated from the Norwegian Refugee Council’s Youth & Education Pack (YEP) in Mai Aini and Adi Harush camps. YEP provides skills trainings on livelihoods support activities. Among the graduates were 50 participants from the host community.

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**MELKADIDA**

A Polio Vaccine Campaign was conducted in all five camps, as well as in the host communities. This is part of a synchronized cross border campaign between Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. Another vaccination campaign is scheduled for October.

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**GAMBELLA**

UNHCR was happy to facilitate the mission of the European Commission - Civil Protection & Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) - and Ms. Androulla Kaminara, ECHO Director for Africa, Asia, Latin America, Caribbean and Pacific, on a mission to Gambella to monitor the refugee situation and response.

©UNHCR/Reath Riek

**JIJIGA**

The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) plans to start up activities in 21 sites with more than 100,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Fafan zone. In the course of the project, DRC will focus on the provision UNHCR core relief items (CRIs) and dignity kits and on enhancing the capacities of existing community-based protection mechanisms among others. The project has commenced in September, with completion due at the end of December.

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Back to School

In Ethiopia, schools reopened after the national Meskel holiday. In Ethiopia’s Somali Region, Sheder Camp, UNHCR met some refugee children happy to return to the school yard and excited about what the new school year will bring.

"I really want to learn English! I think it is the best subject in the world!"
Habon is 12 years old and her name means ‘happy’. Habon is especially happy today, as school has finally started again and she is now in grade 6 and keen on learning English.

"After I graduate, I want to become a doctor so that I can help my community here in the camp."
Sondus is 11 years old and couldn’t be happier as school is finally about to start.

A great place to hang out after school.
12 year-old music lover Nimo likes spending her free time at the child friendly space at Sheder Camp in Ethiopia’s Somali Region. UNHCR's partner IRC runs this child friendly space; a place dedicated to safety and healing for all refugee children.

*Pictures of refugee girls ©UNHCR/Anna Hellge*
Financial Information

- Total recorded contributions for the Ethiopia operation in 2018 amount to some US$ 69.5 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) as of 11 September

- United States: 22.4
- CERF: 7.5
- Netherlands: 6.93
- United Kingdom: 6.9
- Denmark: 4.76
- IKEA Foundation: 4.63
- European Union: 2.82
- Japan: 2
- UN Children Fund: 1.83
- Germany: 1.79
- Educate A Child: 1.3
- Sweden: 1.27
- Country-Based Pooled Funds: 1.2
- Ireland: 1.18
- la Caixa: 1.01
- Canada: 0.86
- Republic of Korea: 0.6
- Mis. Private Donors: 0.18
- Private Donors Spain: 0.18
- UNDESA: 0.12
- UNAIDS: 0.07

External / Donors Relations

Special thanks to the major donors of broadly earmarked regional contributions from:
(2 million USD or more)
United States of America 81.2 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
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Special thanks to the major donors of unearmarked regional contributions:
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