

Ethiopia

March 2019

Ethiopia is host to the second largest population in Africa, sheltering registered refugees and asylum seekers **as of 31 August 2018**. More than **385,000** individuals have gone through the Comprehensive Registration (L3), helping to develop a system to better manage and support refugees through the new CRR approach. As the cluster lead for Protection, UNHCR continues to be active in the humanitarian response for the **IDP** situation in **Gedeo** and **West Guji**, supporting the authorities with site management and the coordination of responses to protection needs, as well as the provision of emergency kits.

* 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:

398 national staff, **138** international staff (including JPOs)
253 individual contractors; **36** 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 31 MARCH 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 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.

Main Activities

Protection

- As part of the IDP response, UNHCR is working with UNFPA, UNICEF and OHCHR in the implementation of a protection monitoring project in West Guji zone. The project involves the collecting, verifying and analysing of information in order to identify violations of rights, as well as protection threats and risks encountered by IDPs and returnees for the purpose of informing effective responses. Meanwhile, UNHCR has recently established a Sub-National Protection Cluster in East and West Wollega Zones of the Oromia Region where a significant number of internal displacement has been reported.

Education

- Preliminary data for the 2018/19 academic year show a total of 196,350 refugee students enrolled in the different levels of education, i.e. 55,735 in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), 126,383 in primary, 11,123 in secondary, and 3,109 - including 809 students who freshly joined in the current academic year- in tertiary. Gaps in the provision of education include a lack of available classroom space, trained teachers and scholastic materials, including books, libraries, ICT centres and laboratory facilities and supplies. Over 300 refugee teachers are currently enrolled in teachers' training colleges and are expected to help address the shortage of qualified teachers upon graduation.

Health

- The crude and under-five child mortality rates in all camps stand at 0.10 deaths/1000/month, which is within the expected range. The health service utilization is 1.12 new visits/refugee/year which is again within the standard range of 1 – 4. Child birth with the help of skilled healthcare professionals was kept at 97% against the standard of greater than 90%. Since the declaration of a measles outbreak by the Ministry of Health in Bokolmanyo Woreda in late February 2019, a total of eight suspected cases of measles have been reported in Bokolmanyo (six) and Kobe (two) refugee camps. UNHCR is closely working with the local authorities, ARRA, UNICEF, WHO and other partners to control the outbreak including through social mobilisation, case management and a plan to vaccinate all children under 15 years of age.

Food Security and Nutrition

- The amount of general ration provided to refugees remained less than the minimum requirement of 2,100 Kcal per person per day, ranging from 1,803 Kcal in Gambella, Melkadida, Assosa and Jijiga to 1,920 Kcal in camps in the

Afar and Tigray regions. The global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate in 21 refugee camps is below the emergency threshold of 15%, with 12 camps achieving the UNHCR target of 10%. In the first quarter of 2019, a total of 1,578 and 5,204 children with severe and moderate acute malnutrition respectively, have been treated in the nutrition centres.

Water and Sanitation

- 12 million litres of water 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 day (lppd). This is down from 12 camps previously as the quantity of water supplied to Melkadida camps dropped significantly due to reduction in the water level of the nearby river owing to the dry season. In Itang (Gambella), the provision of water has stabilized at around 15 lppd throughout the month. 18 of the 26 refugee camps have met the minimum standard of 'maximum of 20 persons per latrine', while seven camps are still below the minimum standards.

Shelter

- UNHCR and its partners are working with a target to construct 40,000 transitional shelters in different refugee camps in 2019, covering 30.5% of the identified 131,185 shelter gaps. Shelter prototypes are being produced in line with the relevant guidelines, which form part of the implementation modalities of the 2017-2020 National Shelter Strategy.

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 other locations. Cash will be used in lieu of a range of in-kind aid supplies including, non-food items, shelter materials, livelihoods, cooking energy, education and nutritional support. Cash will also be used to respond to the ongoing Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) 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 in and around the refugee camps. The target for 2019 is to improve access to cooking energy from 13% to 20% of the households, while street lights coverage will grow to 50% from 44% of the camps presently. The aim is to have 90% of refugee households have access to domestic lighting. Two additional camps will be connected to the national electricity grid (5 are already connected) and four more solar mini-grids installed, making a total of 12 solar mini-grids servicing the health centers and water schemes. Over 1 million trees will be raised and planted as part of the environmental rehabilitation effort.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- UNHCR held the first livelihoods sector coordination meeting with the participation of strategic partners including the WB, WFP, FAO, GIZ, DRC, LWF and ZOA. Both development and humanitarian partners have recognized the importance and urgency of establishing a sector coordination mechanism at national level, taking into consideration the compendium of existing and pipeline investments for economic inclusion activities in refugee hosting areas. UNHCR is currently supporting the Government of Ethiopia with the review and development of secondary legislations that will operationalize the rights enshrined in the revised refugee proclamation.

Durable Solutions

- Providing resettlement opportunities remains a top priority, as conditions for voluntary repatriation are unfavourable for most refugees in Ethiopia and local integration programs are yet to be put in place. In 2019, UNHCR plans to submit 3,000 refugees for resettlement. As of 31 March 2019, 460 individuals have been submitted to the Regional Service Centre in Nairobi, Kenya, for onward submission to resettlement countries. In addition, 24 individuals have been processed for Family Reunification while 476 have gone to Italy as part of the 'Humanitarian Corridor' since the programme started in late 2017.

External / Donors Relations

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

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