

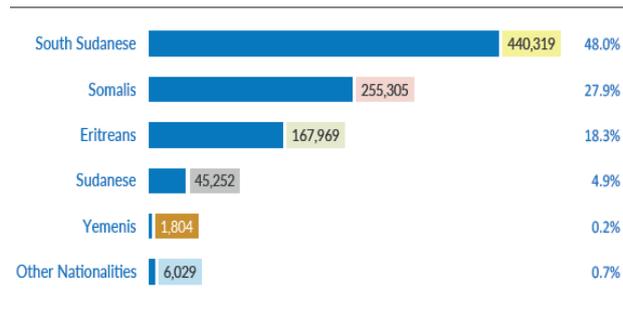
Ethiopia

March 2018

Ethiopia is host to the second largest refugee population in Africa, sheltering over **916,678** registered refugees and asylum seekers as of 31 March 2018.

In the first three months of 2018, **22,093** refugees arrived in Ethiopia, including **6,996** in March. They include **3,886** from South Sudan and **2,772** from Eritrea. Amid a funding shortage that has forced the reduction of rations for some **650,000** refugees in Ethiopia, UNHCR and WFP issued a joint appeal for **\$80 million** to avoid the dire consequences of further ration cuts.

POPULATION OF CONCERN



FUNDING (AS OF 10 APRIL 2018)

USD 334.8 M

requested for Ethiopia



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

361 national staff, **114** international staff (including JPOs)
141 individual contractors
31 deployees & IUNVs

Offices:

1 Branch Office in (Addis Ababa), **2** Field Offices-Sherkole and Mekelle, **5** Sub-Offices- Melkadida, Gambella, Shire, Assosa and Jijiga

Working with Partners

- UNHCR's main Government counterpart to ensure the protection of refugees in Ethiopia is the Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA). In addition, UNHCR works in close coordination with some 50 partners, and is fully engaged in the Humanitarian Country Team in Ethiopia, where refugee programmes are discussed strategically to ensure that the needs of refugees are adequately presented and addressed. UNHCR is also building on a well-established coordination fora such as the Refugee Coordination Group, donor, and sectorial working group meetings at the national and regional level. As part of the CRRF, UNHCR is furthering partnerships with line ministries, regional and local authorities, as well as development partners.

Main Activities

Protection

- UNHCR and ARRA have begun the integration of an advanced registration system in Nguenyiel Camp, Gambella that aims to verify the personal status of some 90,000 South Sudanese refugees in the camp. The L3 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 complimentary information gathered, which includes detailed information on individual skills, education, occupation and family members abroad, allows UNHCR and its partners to develop interventions that are increasingly tailored to individual needs. To date, 10,576 refugees have been registered and issued with proof of registration certificates, including 3,752 who have been issued with ID cards. The L3 registration will be extended to all refugees in Ethiopia.
- In collaboration with ARRA, UNHCR organized the first National Community Based Protection Workshop with the participation of stakeholders, including refugees, host community representatives, governmental authorities and partners. The outcome will inform the preparation of a three-year Community Based Protection Strategy.

Education

- Preliminary data on school enrolment rate reveals that the number of refugee children in primary schools has increased from 118,275 in 2016/17 to 132,563 in the 2017/2018 academic year. This brings the total elementary school enrolment rate to 72%, which is close to the Ethiopian government's pledge target of increasing refugees' primary school enrolment rate to 75%. Similarly, secondary school enrolment rate has increased to 12% from a mere 9% in the previous academic year. Currently 2,300 refugees are enrolled in tertiary education compared to 1,600 during the last academic year.
- Gaps in the provision of education in Ethiopia include a lack of available classroom space and trained teachers, and quality classroom materials, including books, scientific implements, and stationary materials. The average teacher to student ratio is 1:80, with only 56% of teachers having formal qualifications to teach at the primary school level.

Health

- To date a total of 128,561 persons received consultations across the health facilities in refugee camps, including 8% from the host communities. Respiratory tract infections (32%), watery diarrhoea (9%) and malaria (8%) are the leading causes of morbidity, with

no outbreak reported in any of the refugee camps. The health facility utilization rate stood at 1 consultation per refugee per year and is within the standard. The mortality rate in children under five is 0.1/1000/month and remains within the expected range. 98% of all deliveries were conducted with the help of skilled birth attendants.

Food Security and Nutrition

- 3,848 children with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and 1,211 children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were admitted in nutrition programs and treated in the first three months of the year. A recovery rate of 93.1% for MAM and 88.3% for SAM was achieved against the standard of more than 75%. Refugee children from six to 24 months of age continued to be enrolled in the blanket supplementary feeding programme in camps other than those in Gambella, Melkadida and Afar where all children under five years old have been targeted due to the prevalence of high global acute malnutrition (GAM).
- GAM and stunting prevalence remain within the emergency threshold in 15 and 10 of the 26 refugee camps, respectively. The current food ration level of 1,770 Kcal, against the standard of 2,100Kcal, will be further reduced to 1,278Kcal as of May due to funding shortage. UNHCR and WFP have appealed for urgent donor support to avoid undesirable consequences.

Water and Sanitation

- On average 12.6 million litres of potable water were supplied to all the 26 refugee camps on a daily basis, representing an average per capita supply of 18 litres of water per day. Average household latrine coverage stands at 32.6%. The utility approach to water supply is being piloted in Gambella (at Itang) and serving over 200,000 refugees and host communities. The utility management as well as the implementation of the water schemes were recently reviewed by a high level delegation representing the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Electricity, UNICEF, ARRA and UNHCR.

Shelter and CRIs

- Following the adoption of a national Refugee Shelter Strategy, shelter experts from UNHCR and ARRA are working on the development of technical guidelines to help implement the strategy in the different refugee camps.
- UNHCR launched a cash based intervention pilot project in Jijiga covering all the three camps, sheltering more than 37,000 Somali refugees. The project employs cash as a modality to meet the needs of refugees through commodity vouchers to access core relief items and dignity kits for women from the local market. More than 540 transitional shelters will also be constructed using a combination of commodity vouchers and direct cash in Aw-barre and Sheder Camps. Based on the lessons learnt from this voucher pilot, the use of CBI is expected to be expanded to refugee camps around Shire, Afar and Assosa.

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 ensure refugees' access to energy while strengthening environmental protection activities in and around refugee camps, thereby contributing to the reduction of protection risks. In the last three months, 39,487 pieces of charcoal briquettes were distributed among 1,176 households of vulnerable refugees in camps in the Afar and Benishangul-Gumuz regions. Similarly, 213,159 litres of ethanol fuel were distributed among 4,462 refugee households in the Jijiga camps. Two health centres in Kobe and Hilaweyn refugee camps, Dollo Ado area, have been connected to solar-powered electric system to reduce operational costs and provide an environmentally friendly source of energy.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- UNHCR's investment in livelihood activities target refugees and host communities and include: agriculture and livestock; vocational skills training; microfinance and small enterprise development. Backyard gardening has been established in Gambella and Assosa, while in Shire refugees are engaged in agriculture and goats and cattle fattening. Vocational training courses are available in all locations, and are increasingly linked to markets, often targeting youth and women. Income generating activities are related to the business skills of refugees and driven by market opportunities. In line with CRRF, UNHCR will focus on enhancing coordination of livelihood interventions with development actors.

Durable Solutions

- Providing resettlement opportunities remains a top priority, as conditions for voluntary repatriation are unfavourable for most refugees in Ethiopia and options for local integration are limited. So far in 2018, 833 individuals were referred to the UNHCR Regional Service Centre for resettlement, with 528 individuals submitted to resettlement countries. As of 31 March, 230 individuals left for resettlement countries while 109 others travelled to different countries on family reunification and private sponsorship.

External / Donors Relations

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

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