



Biometrics goes live in Shimelba camp to improve food collection procedures

ETHIOPIA

FACTSHEET

March 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

735,165

Total number of refugees

38,995

Number of Unaccompanied Minors and Separated Children

49.7%

Percentage of women and girls

56.7%

Percentage of Children

Population of concern- updated

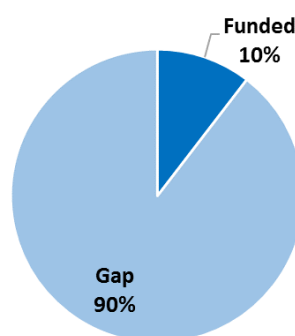
A total of **735,165** population of concern (As of 31 March 2016)

By country of origin

Country	Total PoC
South Sudan	284,016
Somalia	251,101
Eritrea	154,491 *
Sudan	38,853
Other nationalities	6,704
Total	735,165

Funding

USD 280.0 million requested



- **Funding level as of 29 March 2016**

UNHCR Presence

Staff:

319 national staff
111 international staff
75 individual contractors
36 deployees
7 IUNVs

Total: 548

Offices:

24 offices, including the **UNHCR Representation in Ethiopia**, as well as Sub and Field-Offices located in five Regional States: **Afar** (Semera) **Benishangul-Gumuz** (Assosa, Bambasi, Sherkole, Tongo), **Gambella** (Gambella, Dimma, Itang, Jewi, Pugnido), **Somali** (Jijiga, Melkadida, Aw-barre, Sheder, Kebribeyah, Dollo Ado, Bokolmanyoo, Kobe, Hilaweyn, Buramino) and **Tigray** (Shire, Mekele, Embamadre, Shimelba).

**81,078 Eritrean refugees previously registered as living in the camps are believed to have spontaneously settled in Ethiopia. This figure will be subjected to Verification*

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- UNHCR is fully engaged in the Humanitarian Country Team in Ethiopia consisting of UN Agencies, NGOs and donor representatives, where the refugee programmes are discussed strategically to ensure that the needs of refugees are adequately presented and addressed. The Representation Office is also building on well-established coordination fora such as the Refugee Task Force, donor and NGO and inter-agency meetings at the field and camp levels.
- UNHCR's main Government counterpart and implementing partner in Ethiopia is the Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) and the Office works well with it in ensuring continued protection of the refugees.
- Some 40 partners, including government agencies, national and international non-governmental organizations and UN agencies work closely with UNHCR to support the refugees in the country.
- The effective coordination environment that was established in response to the Level 3 emergency with refugees arriving from South Sudan is working well; a Regional Refugee Response Plan was developed with participation of all partners.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection

- The Government of Ethiopia generally maintains open borders for refugees seeking protection in the country. A party to both the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, and its 1967 Protocol and the 1969 OAU Convention, the Government provides protection to refugees from 19 countries, with the majority originating from South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea and Sudan.
- Most asylum-seekers from neighboring countries and lately Yemen are granted automatic refugee status. Individual refugee status determination is undertaken for all others through a government Eligibility Committee, on which UNHCR sits as an observer.
- Refugees and asylum-seekers are generally expected by the Government to reside in camps, although some are permitted to reside in urban areas for medical, security, or humanitarian reasons. There are some 8,478 such refugees in Addis Ababa. The Government's "Out of Camp Policy" provides Eritrean refugees the opportunity to live in Addis Ababa and other locations if they have the necessary means to support themselves. Thousands are benefitting from this opportunity and it is hoped that this programme can be improved and expanded to cover other refugee groups in the country.
- Key protection concerns for the country operation include child protection, education and sexual and gender-based violence. The situation of Eritrean unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) in Shire is of particular concern, given the large numbers and limited family-based care options. Data-collection and case management tools are also being rolled out in the different operations, including the Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS) (in coordination with UNICEF) and the Education Management Information System (EMIS).
- UNHCR is also working closely with the government and key partners to address the issue of trafficking and smuggling of refugees. Livelihoods opportunities are considered a key component of these efforts, as are increased information campaigns and improved services. In addition to implementing UNHCR's Strategy and Regional Action Plan to address Smuggling and Trafficking from the East and Horn of Africa, UNHCR is also contributing to other efforts by the Government of Ethiopia and the UN Country Team in this area.

Education

- A total of 153, 589 (86,981 males and 66,608 females) have been enrolled in schools within and outside of the refugee camps (host community schools) during the current academic year. This represents an average Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of 53% of school-age children. Compared to the same time last year, there is an increase of 16% in the average gross enrollment rate. Similarly, 3,785 (9%) of secondary school-aged refugees are enrolled in seven secondary schools in the camps, in 10 Government Secondary Schools around the camps as well as in over 43 Government and Private schools in urban areas.
- More than 1,600 qualified refugees are enrolled in higher education institutes throughout the country, including some 1,300 sponsored by the Government of Ethiopia, and 300 others supported by UNHCR through the DAFI scholarship programme.
- A total of 2,638 refugees are enrolled in technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and 9,672 adult refugees are enrolled in adult functional literacy and numeracy programmes in the different camps and urban settings. Moreover, some 1,096 refugees are enrolled in language training programmes in camps and urban areas.

Health

- Routine primary health care activities continued uninterrupted in all 24 refugee camps. Services include 24/7 outpatient and inpatient department, maternal and child care services including access to safe delivery and vaccination, mental health care, laboratory and pharmacy. These services are complemented by outreach services to enhance disease prevention and health seeking behavior.
- A suspected measles outbreak in Dimma woreda, Gambella Regional State, was successfully investigated by the Gambella Regional Health Bureau (RHB) in which six blood samples were taken from six cases out of 14 including 1 from Okugo refugee camp. Five samples were diagnosed positive for measles virus. The health working group in Gambella agreed to do a mop-up immunization campaign against measles in Dimma woreda, including Okugo camp in April. A total of 1,684 children under 5 will be targeted in Okugo camp. The health team of the Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) in Okugo camp increased their surveillance activities and are ready to do immunization.

Nutrition and Food Security

- Food, Nutrition and Protection experts from WFP, UNHCR, ARRA and DCA undertook a joint monitoring and review mission to Tierkidi camp in Gambella where the fresh food electronic Voucher (FFeV) project is being piloted. The project targeted 3,000 households with children from 6-23 months of age and pregnant and lactating women up to 6 months of lactation, but actually reached 3,138 households. The team concluded that the project exhibited high level of accountability to beneficiaries, vendors and the donors with a highly systemized electronic system. Moreover, the beneficiaries understood the food contents and appreciated the cooking demonstrations that enabled adoption of new child feeding habits with new foods. They also observed market and vendor expansions though high fluctuations were not experienced. The team also observed high pricing for the high biological proteins (fish, meat, chicken) and as such low consumptions.
- The annual nutrition surveys are ongoing in the five Dollo Ado/Melkadida camps, while preparations are ongoing for the same surveys in the Gambella camps.

Water and Sanitation

- In relation to the ongoing drought, partners implementing water supply for both refugees and hosting communities have intensified ground water monitoring of boreholes, particularly in locations identified as priority #1. Though fluctuations in water table have been noted in almost all boreholes, this has not significantly affected the capacity of the water sources to provide adequate water apart from Adi-Harush camp and Mytsebri host community town in Sub-Office Shire. Pumping hours have been increased in Adi-Harush, Mai-Aini and Hitsats camps to compensate for decreasing yield, and thus an increase in unit cost of water. The decreased yield has particularly affected Mytsebri town which is now receiving only 100,000-150,000 liters of water per day as compared with 250,000 liters/day previously.
- Clear skies and longer sunlight exposures have improved performance of installed solar pumping schemes in Pugnido and Barhale camps, providing more water and the resultant lower unit costs.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

- The Government of Ethiopia (ARRA) manages all the 24 refugee camps in Ethiopia. UNHCR and ARRA work together with partners to ensure proper and coordinated delivery of protection and assistance. Camp coordination meetings take place both at the zone and camp levels. Technical working groups meet regularly on such issues as child protection, SGBV, education, WASH and Health/Nutrition.

Access to Energy

- 46,000 liters of ethanol was transported from Metehara sugar factory to sheder refugee camp while a total of 26,692 liters of ethanol was distributed among 1,700 refugee households in Aw-barre and Sheder camps in the Jijiga area and Sherkole camp in the Assosa area. Furthermore, 10,000 liters of ethanol was transported to Hitsats camp in the Shire area.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- UNHCR's self-reliance programme in Dollo Ado, supported by donors, including the IKEA Foundation, complements the Government's development programme and targets both refugees and host communities focusing on the improvement of livelihoods activities. As the camps are situated in a drought-prone area, this will build refugees' resilience in anticipation of their imminent return to their places of origin in Somalia. An increase in household income including the ownership of animals and agriculture activities has already been noted and is expected to continue.

- Innovative approaches to refugee shelters, renewable energy and camp lay-out have also been piloted in Dollo Ado for eventual implementation in other regions. In addition to providing training on cooperative development and business management, business grant support has been made available by UNHCR to improve the livelihoods of refugees. UNHCR is also piloting an agricultural project focusing on improving the livelihoods of more than 200, 000 Somali refugees in Dollo Ado/Melkadida.
- In the Jijiga area where there are three camps hosting more than 37,300 Somali refugees, UNHCR engages refugees and the host communities in self-reliance activities under its Development Assistance for Refugees (DAR) project. Refugees and members of the host communities around the camps continue to produce agricultural outputs both for domestic consumption and for the local market.

Durable Solutions

- Resettlement remains the only viable durable solution in the Ethiopia operation as conditions in the countries of origin are not conducive for voluntary repatriation, while local integration remains elusive. Ethiopia's resettlement referral target for 2016 is 6,465 individuals.
- As of March, 302 cases (1,265 individuals) were referred to the UNHCR Regional Support Hub in Nairobi for onward submission to resettlement countries.
- 145 cases (525 individuals) have been submitted to resettlement countries by the Hub in Nairobi.
- 351 cases (1,173 individuals) departed Ethiopia to third countries through UNHCR facilitated resettlement program.

Logistics

- In March, 1,258,810 bars of laundry soap; 54,323 Kg of Plumpy nut; 103,248 pcs of dignity kit & 512,000 pcs of women's underwear; 10,000 blankets and 15,000 sleeping mats were received in the Addis Ababa warehouse for onward distribution to the different field offices.
- At the same time, 2,060,649 bars of soap were distributed to Sub-Offices Gambella (500,000), Assosa (195,932), Shire (290,000) and Dollo Ado/Melkadida (1,074,717). Additionally, Sub-Office Gambella received 27,959kg of plumpy nut and 80,000 pcs of dignity kit, while Dollo Ado/Melkadida received 24,706kg of plumpy nut and 126,504 pcs of dignity kit. Sub-Office Assosa received 4,954 kg of plumpy nut and 45,636 pcs of women's underwear.

UNHCR is grateful for the direct contributions to the UNHCR Ethiopia Operation so far in 2016 from:

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Contacts:

Clementine Nkweta-Salami, Representative, nkwetasa@unhcr.org Tel: +251-116612822;
Kisut GebreEgziabher, Asst. Comm/PI Officer, GEGZIABK@unhcr.org, Tel: +251-116612822