1 81,078 Eritrean refugees previously registered as living in the camps are believed to have spontaneously settled elsewhere in Ethiopia. This figure will be subjected to verification.
WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- The Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) is UNHCR’s main government counterpart with which close cooperation is maintained to ensure the protection of refugees in Ethiopia.
- UNHCR is fully engaged in coordination fora to mainstream the needs of refugees within humanitarian and national plans. These coordination mechanisms include the UN Country Team, the Humanitarian Country Team, the Refugee Task Force, donor, NGO and inter-agency meetings at the national, field and camp levels. This has ensured an effective coordination environment in the context of the Level 3 Emergency for South Sudanese refugees as well as the development of a Regional Refugee Response Plan.
- Since 3 September, UNHCR, ARRA and partners mounted a coordinated emergency response to a fresh influx of refugees from South Sudan fleeing renewed violence and food shortages in their home country. As of 30 November, some 43,000 new arrivals have been recorded with 64% of them being children under the age of 18 and 23% youth between the age of 15 and 24. Some 9,200 are Unaccompanied and Separated Children. This increasing trend of underage asylum-seekers from South Sudan adds to the already young refugee population in Gambella.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection

- A party to both the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, and its 1967 Protocol and the 1969 OAU Convention, the Government of Ethiopia provides protection to refugees from some 20 countries, with the majority originating from South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea and Sudan. South Sudanese, Eritreans, Yemenis and Somalis originating from South and Central Somalia are granted automatic refugee status. To all others, individual refugee status determination is undertaken by the Government’s Eligibility Committee, on which UNHCR sits as an observer.
- The Ethiopian Government maintains the policy requiring refugees to reside in refugee camps. However, the Government allows certain refugees to reside in the urban areas, primarily Addis Ababa. They include refugees in need of special medical attention unavailable in camps; refugees with serious protection concerns or inability to stay in camps for humanitarian reasons; and Eritrean Refugees enrolled in the Out-of-Camp Policy (OCP). A total of 19,647 such refugees reside in Addis Ababa.

Education

- UNHCR is working to roll out the Education Management Information System (EMIS), intended to modernize the collection, reporting and usage of education-related data. In preparation for that, UNHCR and ARRA organized familiarization trainings for all pertinent personnel working in refugee education across all refugee camps in Ethiopia. Education managers, school directors, programme officers and education data managers were some of the participants of the training. The EMIS is a critical education management tool approved by UNESCO.

Health

- As of November 2016, a total of 740,902 persons benefited from consultations in all of the health centers in the refugee camps, 11% of whom were from the host communities. Health facility utilization rate stands at 1.3 consultation per refugee per year (standard: 1 - 4 consultations). The mortality rate in children under five is of 0.2/1000/ month and remains within the expected range in all camps. 96% of all deliveries in the camps were conducted with the help of skilled birth attendants.
- As part of UNHCR’s strategy to integrate mental health care in primary health care services, 20 psychiatric nurses attended a training of trainers on mental health. They will in turn train general health workers and refugee outreach workers in Gambella, Assosa and Jijiga in the identification and follow up of mental health patients. Health workers will also be trained on treatment of mental health patients, using the standard mhGAP Humanitarian Intervention Guide.

Nutrition and Food Security

- So far this year, 6,345 severely acutely malnourished and 10,552 moderately acutely malnourished children aged 6-59 months have been treated in the nutrition centers in all refugee camps.
- The Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) was conducted in 16 refugee camps across all UNHCR Sub/Field Offices in Ethiopia. The objectives include assessing the food security of the refugees, reviewing the on-going food assistance operations and provision of related complementary assistance and services by WFP, UNHCR, ARRA and their partners, and identifying good practices, principal constraints, lessons learned and areas for improvement.

Water and Sanitation

- On average 17.5 liters of water are provided to refugees daily, with four out of 25 camps meeting the UNHCR minimum standard of 20 litres per refugee per day. With the exception of the newly opened Nguenyyiel camp, permanent water schemes are available in all camps.
- Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) partners in Gambella continued to respond to the ongoing emergency through construction of communal sanitation facilities and hygiene promotion activities. UNHCR’s minimum emergency standards of 15 liters of water per person per day and person to latrine ratio of 1:50 are being achieved albeit the growing numbers of refugees.
Camp Coordination and Camp Management

- UNHCR and ARRA work in close coordination with partners to ensure proper and coordinated delivery of protection and assistance. Camp coordination meetings and technical working groups take place both at the zone and camp levels.

Access to Energy and Environment Protection

- Energy for cooking has been provided through access to ethanol fuel, kerosene and bio-mass wood fuel. In addition, solar lanterns for households and solar street lights for illumination and protection are being provided. However, only 8% of the refugees’ domestic energy needs have been addressed in Ethiopia.

- In order to mitigate land degradation, increase wood lot development and access to food, to date over 1.5 million trees, including fruit trees, have been planted in the refugee camps.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- UNHCR, in collaboration with ARRA and its NGO partners, established a Refugee Outreach Volunteer (ROVs) programme in Addis Ababa with the participation of 66 volunteers. The ROVs will help UNHCR and its partners to identify key protection needs, disseminate information and raise awareness among refugees on available services and work closely with the community to respond to the identified needs.

- Self-reliance and livelihoods projects aimed at reducing the refugees’ dependency on aid and equip them with skills, are being implemented in different camps, mainly in the Dollo Ado camps where the IKEA Foundation and other donors are providing funds. Refugees receive training on cooperative development, business management and business grant support to improve their livelihoods. Refugees and host community farmers are involved in irrigated agriculture and share the products on a 50:50 basis.

Durable Solutions

- Given the lack of conditions for voluntary repatriation and local integration, increasing the number of resettlement submissions is a priority for the operation. Resettlement needs for 2016 stand at 50,200 persons amongst whom 6,465 have been prioritized. The Office has already surpassed its target of 6,465 by referring a total of 1,992 cases (7,000 individuals) as of 30 November 2016. This represents 108% of the target. 1,845 cases (6,529 individuals) have been submitted to resettlement countries while 1,097 cases (3,650 individuals) have reached different resettlement countries so far this year.