

Ethiopia

December 2019

Ethiopia is one of the largest refugee-hosting countries in Africa, sheltering **735, 204** registered refugees and asylum seekers as of 31 December 2019.

Ethiopia was represented in the first **Global Refugee Forum** (16-18 December) by its Deputy Prime Minister who announced **4 new pledges** to improve the lives of refugees and their hosts. The pledges are strongly linked with Ethiopia's existing commitments and include creating livelihoods opportunities for up-to 90,000 refugees and Ethiopians; provide quality and accredited skills training for 20,000 people; provide energy solutions for 3 million people and strengthen the country's asylum system and Social Protection Capacity.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Peace, UNHCR hosted a workshop with key stakeholders to review the thematic sections of the draft national IDP legislation for Ethiopia. Similarly, UNHCR held consultations with IDPs and returnees in **West Guji**, **West Wollega**, **East Wollega** and **Kamakshi** areas to garner their inputs for the draft IDP legislation.

UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

385 national staff, **130** international staff (including JPOs)
143 individual contractors; **33** employees & IUNVs

Offices:

1 Branch Office in (Addis Ababa), **5** Sub-Offices - Melkadida, Gambella, Shire, Assosa and Jijiga, **4** Field Offices – Embamatene, Tongo, Pugnido and Mekelle.

FUNDING (AS OF 31 DECEMBER 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), within the Ministry of Peace. In addition, UNHCR works in close coordination with 54 humanitarian and development 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 a well-established coordination fora, including the inter-sector Refugee Coordination Group, together with national and regional sector working groups. As part of the GCR/CRRF, UNHCR is furthering partnerships with line ministries, regional and local authorities, as well as development partners and the private sector.

Main Activities

Protection

- UNHCR in partnership with ZOA Ethiopia organized a 'Refugee Art Therapy' and an 'Art Exhibition' in Addis Ababa with the aim to help improve refugees' personal wellbeing and to showcase the talents of refugee artists, respectively. The Council of Ministers approved the ratification of the 2009 Kampala Convention on International Displacement and referred it to Parliament for a final endorsement.

Education

- Preliminary enrolment data (pending final data analysis using the Education Management Information System (EMIS)), show a total of 212, 722 refugee students are attending school at the pre-primary (59,846), primary (138,249) and secondary (14,627) levels. This is in addition to 255 refugee students who joined public universities in Ethiopia this academic year and hundreds of others who are in their sophomore and advanced levels. The Digital Education Platform - a new tool for recording students' data and provide accurate information on school enrolment rate and out of school children - has been rolled out in all refugee camps in the country.

Health

- All components of primary health care services were provided within camp level health facilities while referral care was facilitated in regional and specialized hospitals. No disease outbreak has been reported from any of the camps. The crude and under-five children mortality rates remained within the expected range. Concerned UNHCR and ARRA personnel were trained on the new Integrated Refugee Health Information System (iRHIS) in preparation for a complete transition into a system which uses mobile tablets for data collection and a web server for storing, processing and visualizing information for timely and effective public health decisions. Supplementary polio vaccination was carried out for 11,640 under-five children in the five refugee camps near Assosa, representing 94% of the populations in that age bracket.

Food Security and Nutrition

- Thirteen out of the 21 refugee camps that have been surveyed for acute malnutrition so far this year have shown a global acute malnutrition (GAM) prevalence that is within the acceptable range, while the remaining eight camps have higher than acceptable GAM rates. Overall, there has been a deteriorating nutritional status in the older camps

hosting Somali and Eritrean refugees and improvements in camps hosting South Sudanese refugees. Addressing acute and chronic malnutrition remains a challenge due to household food insecurity contributed to by limited access to livelihoods and reduced food assistance and inappropriate feeding practices, among others. Refugees continue to receive a food basket with 84% of the recommended 2100Kcal/person/day. Emergency nutrition programs are in place in all camps to treat acute malnutrition.

Water and Sanitation

- Nineteen of the 26 refugee camps in Ethiopia meet the acceptable standards in terms of water supply, receiving 15 litres of water per person per day, while the remaining seven receive less. Similarly, 21 refugee camps have met the minimum standards of maximum of 20 persons per latrine, while only 40 percent of the refugee households have access to family latrines.

Shelter

- The National Shelter Strategy (2017-2020) informs a collective and coherent response, based on available resources, to enable refugees to access shelter solutions. 54 percent of the total refugee population are in need of transitional shelter solutions and UNHCR and partners are working to narrow down the gap. UNHCR has completed 200 of the 850 shelters it has been constructing in the Gedeo (SNNPS) and West Guji (Oromia) Regions for the benefit of vulnerable returnees. The beneficiaries were previously displaced due to communal violence and had their houses destroyed. Most of the completed shelters have been allocated to carefully selected beneficiaries.

Cash-Based Interventions (CBI)

- 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 the other locations. Cash will be used in lieu of a range of in-kind aid supplies including non-food aid items among other things. A multipurpose urban cash assistance to refugees continues to be implemented in Addis Ababa on a monthly basis. Cash will also be used to respond to the ongoing IDP situation as well as reintegration support for Ethiopian refugees who 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 have been taking 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. Refugee and host community cooperatives in Buramono and Bokolmanyo camps in Melkadida, are selling electricity to the community using UNHCR-provided Solar mini-grids, bringing power to the community and generating an income. Some 336m³ of firewood has been distributed for south Sudanese refugees relocated to Gure-Shombola camp in Benishangul-Gumuz Region (BGR). 57,200 pieces of briquettes have been distributed among 1,851 targeted households in camps in the Afar and Benishangul-Gumuz regions, and 3,800 solar lanterns have been distributed in the four refugee camps in Tigray region.

Livelihoods and Self-Reliance

- In 2019, UNHCR completed scoping exercises to identify private sector driven opportunities for refugee economic inclusion in all refugee hosting areas in Ethiopia. The findings will inform refugee economic inclusion programming in 2020. In addition, public private dialogues with Government and the private sector were held in Addis Ababa, Benishangul Gumuz, Somali and Tigray regions.

Durable Solutions

- Providing resettlement opportunities remains a top priority as conditions for voluntary repatriation are unfavourable for most refugees in Ethiopia and local integration programmes are yet to be put in place. As of 31 December 2019, 3,654 individuals have been referred to different resettlement countries, surpassing the original plan of 3,000. An additional 61 individuals have been processed for family reunification. A total of 2,547 persons have departed to different resettlement countries during the year while 77 others have gone to Italy as part of the Second Protocol of the 'Humanitarian Corridor'.

External / Donors Relations

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