



BENISHANGUL-GUMUZ ASSOSA, ETHIOPIA 2019 PLEDGE PROGRESS REPORT

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2019

Based on the:

ROADMAP for the implementation of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) Government Pledges and the practical application of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) in Ethiopia

Pledge Progress from Benishangul-Gumuz, Assosa, Ethiopia. (Version 2019/01 DRAFT)

Cover photo ©UNHCR/Diana Diaz

Caption: A South Sudanese Refugee in Gure Shombola Camp who came to Ethiopia in 2017 fleeing the conflict in South Sudan.

BENISHANGUL-GUMUZ REGIONAL STATE

ASSOSA AREA OF OPERATIONS

ETHIOPIA

2019 PLEDGE PROGRESS REPORT

DISCLAIMER

This document is based on Ethiopia's 'pledge commitments' made at the September 2016 Leaders' Summit in New York as articulated and published in the *'Roadmap for the Implementation of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Government Pledges and for the practical application of the CRRF in Ethiopia'*.

Whilst this report endeavors to largely follow the format of the 'Roadmap', as with the 2018 reports, additional information is also offered where deemed relevant.

This document is not a Government of Ethiopia (GoE) publication. Rather it responds to the requests of stakeholders to have some assessment of pledge implementation made available – relating directly to UNHCR's expected supportive and catalytic role in the Global Compact on Refugees / Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (GCR/CRRF).

Being based on Ethiopia's Leaders' Summit pledges of 2016, this report does not attempt to systematically reflect subsequent pledges, such as those Ethiopia contributed to the Intergovernmental Agency on Development (IGAD:2017-2019) Nairobi Declaration and Action Plan, or the four (4) pledges the GoE made at the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in December 2019.

Information provided in this report is reflected to the best of UNHCR's knowledge. Whilst every effort has been made to source and verify data, it is presented as indicative only – and should not be used for detailed analysis or programming without further verification. Produced by UNHCR, this report in no way implies the GoE's endorsement, nor asserts that it correctly reflects all Government priorities and positions at this time.

UNHCR in Ethiopia

July 2020



South Sudanese refugee children attending school in Gure Shombola Camp ©UNHCR/Diana Diaz

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A Sudanese refugee who found safety in Ethiopia after fleeing a conflict in the Blue Nile ©UNHCR/Diana Diaz

ACRONYMS

ARRA	Agency for Refugee and Returnee Affairs
AGD	Age Gender Diversity
BGRS	Benishangul-Gumuz Regional State
BoARD	Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Development
BoE	Bureau of Education
BoFED	Regional Bureau of Finance and Economic Development
BIMS	Bio-Metric Information System
BSRP	Building Self-Reliance Programme
BMZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Coop. and Development
CDD	Community Driven Development
CIFOR	Centre for International Forestry Research
CRRF	Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework
DAFI	Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative
DFID	UK Department for International Development
DI	Direct Implementation
DICAC	Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission
DRDIP	Development Response for Displacement Impacts Project
EOP	Economic Opportunities Program
EPP	Employment Promotion and Protection
ECW	Education Can't Wait
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
FS	Family Size

FTC	Farmer Training Centre
FVERA	Federal Vital Events Registration Agency
GCR	Global Compact on Refugees
GoE	Government of Ethiopia
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für International Zusammenarbeit
ha	Hectares
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ILO	International Labour Organization
L3	Level 3, Bio-Metric Information System
IRC	International Rescue Committee
LWF	Lutheran World Federation
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoLSA	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
OCP	Out of Camp Policy
PIE	Plan International Ethiopia
PS	Private Sector
PTA	Parent Teacher Association
QEP	Qualifications Employment Perspectives (TVET) programme
R3D	Refugee Displacement Development Digest
REB	Regional Education Bureau
RH	Reproductive Health
TB	Tuberculosis
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UASC	Unaccompanied and Separated Children
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UN-REDD	United Nations Program on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
WB	World Bank

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document is based on Ethiopia's 2016 Leaders' Summit 'pledge commitments' as articulated in the 'Roadmap'¹ of 2017. Combined with the baselines expressed, and follow up reports drafted for 2018, information presented in this 2019 Pledge Progress Report for Ethiopia's Benishangul-Gumuz Regional State (BGRS) is commencing to form a foundation for tracking and evidence-based follow up. Nationally, and in the regions, pledge implementation is clearly advancing, attesting to the impressive commitment of the people and the Government of Ethiopia (GoE), especially with support from line ministries and bureaus, and the Agency for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA).

Compiled as a UNHCR publication, this report serves the wider stakeholder community pursuing the Global Compact on Refugees / Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (GCR/CRRF) in Ethiopia. Data gathering, compilation and presentation is part of UNHCR's expected supportive and catalytic role in the GCR².

Ethiopia's Nine 2016 Pledges³

Out of Camp Pledge

1. Expansion of the "Out-of-Camp" policy to benefit 10% of the current total refugee population.

Education Pledge

2. Increase of enrolment in primary, secondary and tertiary education to all qualified refugees without discrimination and within the available resources.

Work and Livelihoods Pledges

3. Provision of work permits to refugees and to those with permanent residence ID, within the bounds of domestic law.
4. Provision of work permits to refugees in the areas permitted for foreign workers, by giving priority to qualified refugees.
5. Making available irrigable land to allow 100,000 people (amongst them refugees and local communities) to engage in crop production.
6. Building industrial parks where a percentage of jobs will be committed to refugees.

Documentation Pledges

7. Provision of other benefits such as issuance of birth certificates to refugee children born in Ethiopia, possibility of opening bank accounts and obtaining driving licenses.

Social and Basic Services Pledge

8. Enhance the provision of basic and essential social services.

Local Integration Pledge

9. Allowing for local integration for those protracted refugees who have lived for 20 years or more in Ethiopia.

Demonstrated is clear progress being made in Benishangul-Gumuz Regional State during 2019. This attests to the continued, impressive commitment of the people and the GoE, with support from various line ministries and bureaus, and the Agency for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA). Highlights in BGRS are especially in Education, Documentation and Agricultural Livelihoods.

¹ Roadmap for the Implementation of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Government Pledges and for the practical application of the CRRF' <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/62655>

² <https://www.unhcr.org/5b3295167.pdf> End para 33. Multi-stakeholder and partnership approach. End para 33. "While recognizing the primary responsibility and sovereignty of States, a multistakeholder and partnership approach will be pursued, ... UNHCR will play a supportive and catalytic role."

³ Roadmap <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/62655>



Education

Major progress was made in this sector. 2019 refugee Gross Enrolment Rates (GER) rates were 93% for pre-primary and 128% for primary - exceeding pledge targets, but also indicating the highest levels of out-of-age / over enrolment. For secondary, GER was 13%, significantly below the 25% pledge target. Encouragingly, refugee student enrolment in 2019 increased 15% from the 2018 education year – with an impressive 86% improvement in secondary education. TVET trainings were provided to refugees, with 350 enrolled in, or graduating from, vocational skills training sessions. At the end of 2019, 48 refugees were pursuing their university education in Assosa university.



Work and Livelihoods

Irrigable land: 67 ha of land was provided inside refugee camps, successfully supporting crop production for refugees and host communities – with technical support from the Regional Bureau of Agriculture with ARRA and UNHCR, and from LWF, GIZ and NRC. This is notable, even if not directly supporting the concept of shared land outside camps.

Other work and livelihood opportunities: 2,216 refugees benefited from work and livelihood opportunities provided in refugee camps.

Overall, BGRS shows considerable agricultural potential – which could become the central sector for refugee and host community livelihoods and economic inclusion over the coming years. The region also has the largest concentration of bamboo resources in Ethiopia.



Documentation

1,825 vital events were registered with formal certification provided to refugees – including 1,762 births certificates for refugee children. The Commercial Bank of Ethiopia issued bank accounts to refugees.



Social and Basic Services

Refugees received primary health care, TB, reproductive health (RH), HIV and other medical services. Refugees were included in routine and mass immunization campaigns in an inclusive, partially integrated manner with national services.



Out of Camp

Although not directly applicable for BGRS in 2019, discussions were held to consider OCP for refugees who are engaged in informal gold mining.



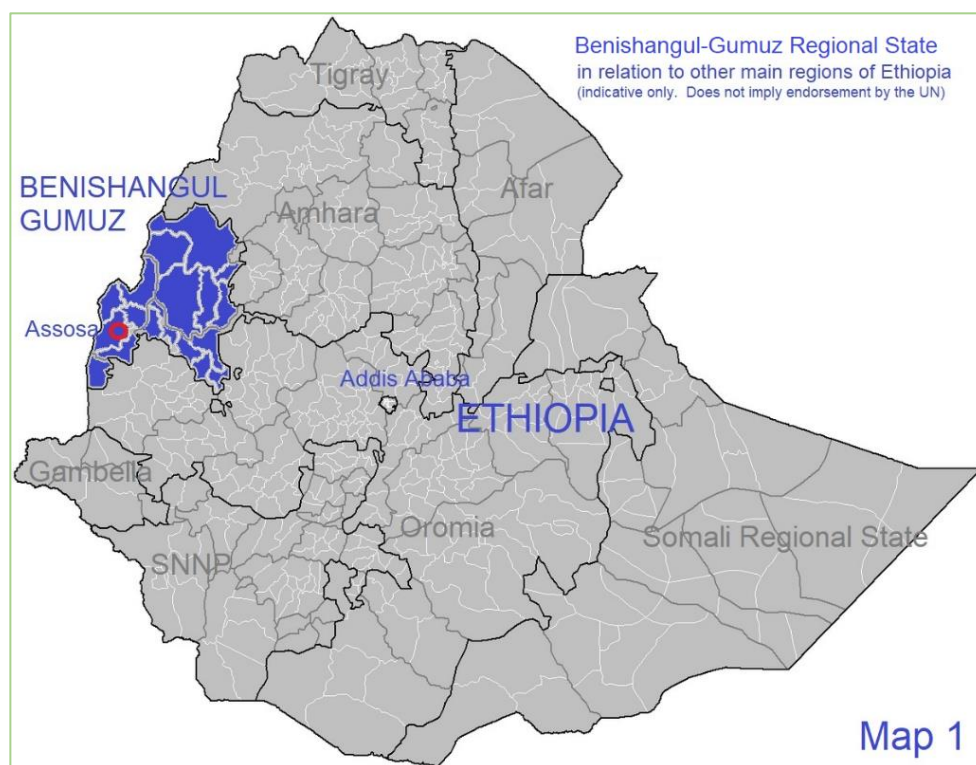
Local Integration

With the finalization of the comprehensive refugee registration exercise, noted was a significant level of skills and intentions related to work and livelihoods. More socio-economic inclusion was planned to start in 2020.

2. REGIONAL CONTEXT

Benishangul-Gumuz is one of the nine (9) regions of Ethiopia, with its capital (seat of regional government) in Assosa. The region covers 50,699 km² and has a population estimate (2018) of 1,127,000. The name of the region comes from two local ethnic groups: the Berta (also called Benishangul) and the Gumuz. The region faces major challenges to economic development largely due to a lack of transportation and communications infrastructure. The Abay River (Blue Nile) divides Benishangul-Gumuz, and there was no bridge crossing it until 2012. Conditions for travel within zones vary, but are often poor and subject to disruption by the rainy season. However, BGRS is also endowed with considerable natural resources, namely water, vegetation land and minerals. Overall, the region exhibits high potential for agricultural economic development.

Bordering south-eastern Sudan, and a smaller portion of South Sudan, the region has received asylum-seekers for many years. **Today more than 62,000 refugees reside in five (5) refugee camps**, from South Sudan, Sudan and a smaller number from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and other countries.



Following Ethiopia's September 2016 Pledges at the *Leaders' Summit*, and the production of the GoE *Roadmap*⁴ in November 2017, the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) was launched in Assosa on 30 April 2018. This launch was in the presence of distinguished guests from federal and regional levels of government, as well as development and humanitarian actors, and representatives of the donor community.

Since then, coordination has continued among the relevant bureaus at the federal, regional, and woreda level with several meetings convened by the Regional Bureau of Finance and Economic Development (BoFED). Additional meetings have also been conducted, aiming to internalize the GoE's pledge commitments, as well as private sector engagement for job creation.

⁴ Roadmap for the Implementation of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Government Pledges and for the practical application of the CRRF' <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/62655>

2.1 REFUGEES

At end December 2019, 62,430 refugees were registered by ARRA and UNHCR residing in BGRS.

Refugee camps and populations

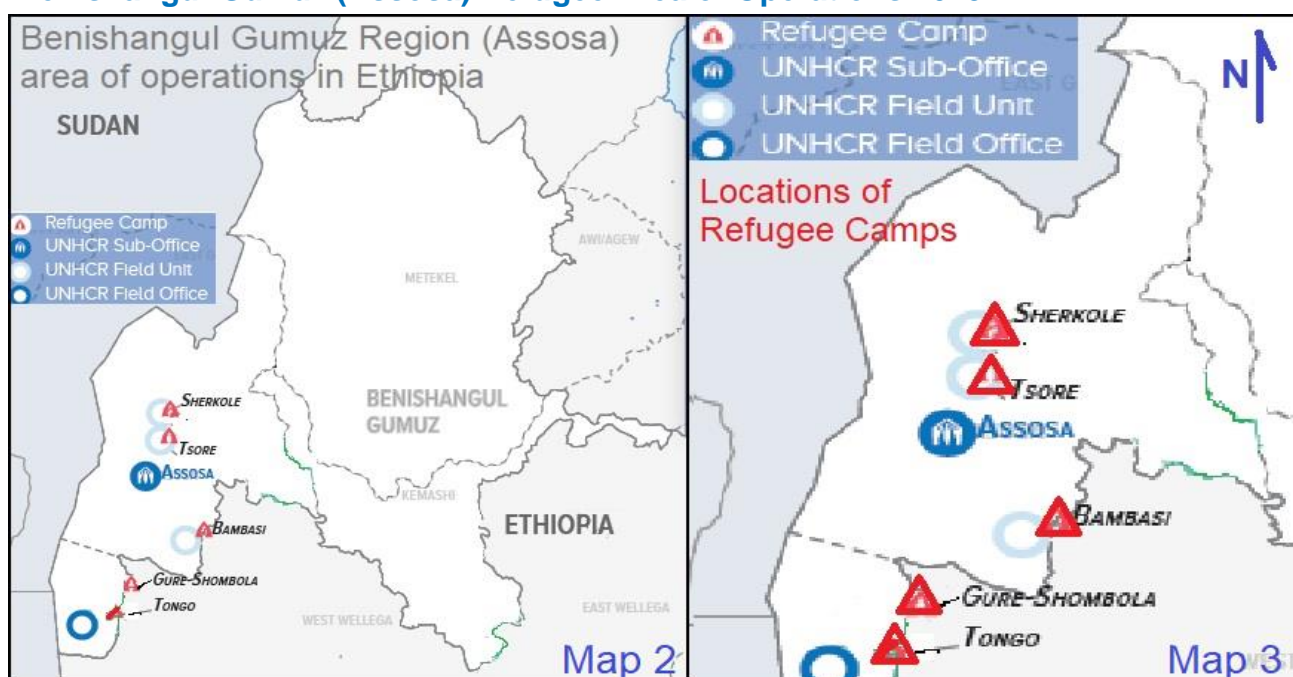
Regional State	Refugee Camp	Population
BGRS	Tsore	14,820
	Sherkole	10,630
	Bambasi	17,653
	Gure Shombola	8,713
	Tongo	10,614
Total		62,430

Source: UNHCR data as of 31 December 2019

The Benishangul-Gumuz Regional State has five (5) camps hosting mainly Sudanese and South Sudanese refugees. 62,430 refugees in 14,816 families (FS 4.2) are living in the camps. 21% of the population is youth (15 to 25 years old). 95% of the population is enrolled in the biometric system, and 87% received the individual Identity document. Only 3% of the total refugee population has reported that they have been in Ethiopia for 20 years or more.

On population-specific needs, unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) are 5,338, women at risk 4,711, and single parents 2,143. An intention survey conducted found 61% (highest of all regions) would like to return, 36% would not, and 3% undecided. The top area for return is Kurmuk (Sudan), with 4,756 persons. However, those intending to return have an uncertain period for doing so, and the top consideration being information received from their community. From the socio-economic perspective, 23,501 refugees aged 18 years and above were surveyed in the L3 exercise and continuous registration. 16,819 are economically engaged and only 161 persons have reported skills without economic engagement. The highest income recorded was ETB 5,600 (US\$ 175), yet most refugees note more likely earnings of ETB 1,400 (US\$ 44). BGRS's refugee population is stable, onward movement of refugees is minimal. 96% of the population receives humanitarian aid.

Benishangul-Gumuz (Assosa) Refugee Area of Operations 2019



In 2019, ARRA and UNHCR completed L3 Bio-Metric Information System (BIMS) registration of refugees in the camps – including a detailed profile on the populations. For more information on all camps please see: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/country/eth>

2.2 REFUGEE-IMPACTED COMMUNITIES

With new commitments expressed through the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR, December 2018), which includes the CRRF as a main component, ARRA and UNHCR, along with bureaus and agencies of the GoE and partners, are increasingly addressing refugee needs within the context of inclusion in local Ethiopian hosting communities. Initial advocacy for development interventions in such communities is well underway. The population statistics of host community woredas adjacent to refugee camps and surroundings indirectly impacted are presented below. Population statistics of the refugees is from UNHCR data as of 31 December 2019.

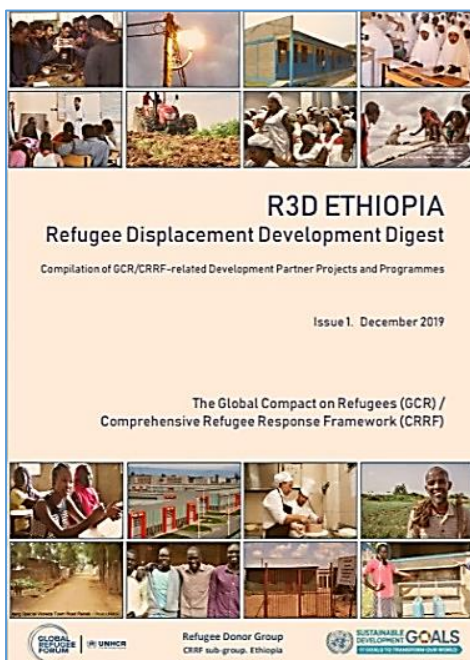
Refugee populations with direct and indirectly impacted hosting communities

Refugee Camp		Host Community adjacent camp (Direct Impact)			Woreda (Indirect Impact)	
Name	Pop.	Names	town/village	Population	Name	Population
Sherkole	10,630	15 Kebeles around two camps	One small town - the rest are villages	29,196	Homesha Woreda	29,196
Tsore	14,820					
Bambasi	17,653	Bambasi town and Bambasi villages	One town and one village /kebele and Bambasi camp	13,621	Bambasi Woreda	72,519
Gure Shombola	8,713	Tongo town, four villages/ kebeles	One town and four villages /Kebeles	17,334	Meakomo special woreda	68,588
Tongo	10,614					
	62,430			60,151		170,303

Source: Benishangul Gumuz region woreda population infographics.

In the Assosa area of operations, the refugee population is approximately equal in number to local directly impacted host communities. This has a considerable impact on natural resources (e.g. competition for firewood) and the socio-economic environment. In the overall woredas hosting refugees, refugees account for about one third (37%) of the total population.

2.3 PARTNER PROJECTS SUPPORTING THE PLEDGES



UNHCR's Refugee Displacement Development Digest (R3D)⁵, Issue 1 of December 2019, accounts for **six (6) projects** and programmes of development partners that have significant components ongoing or planned for Benishangul-Gumuz.

The projects serve to support the overall objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), which includes the CRRF, and many directly target specific pledge areas (as summarised below).

1. Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project (DRDIP): Funded through the World Bank with Ministry of Agriculture implementation, DRDIP is designed to ease the pressure on host communities and the natural environment in the three refugee-hosting Woredas of Benishangul-Gumuz region. Continuing in 2019, the project has been much appreciated by local communities and government officials since its start in 2018. A 'Community Driven Development (CDD)' approach is employed. Refugee-

hosting communities are the primary beneficiaries. Achievements to date include: **Education:** construction a new primary school, 13 school expansions and seven (7) rehabilitations throughout the three (3) refugee-hosting woredas. **Health:** In 2019 four (4) new health posts were constructed, one rehabilitated. **Water, Infrastructure, Agriculture and Livestock / Veterinary:** Construction of nine (9) shallow wells and rehabilitation of 28 water schemes (Public taps); rehabilitation of a diversion canal; Spring development for irrigation / drinking and strengthening 11 farmer training centres (FTC); Construction of 59 km road and two (2) bridges. Four (4) animal health posts were constructed, and one rehabilitated.

2. Building Self Reliance Programme (BSRP): BSRP is a UK-funded programme implemented by UNICEF through its partners with the GoE (including ARRA), NGOs (IRC and PIE) and communities in the three (3) refugee hosting woredas and all camps. Objectives are improving the services of WASH, Education, Nutrition, Health and Child Protection, for refugees and hosts.

3. Jobs Compact / EOP: The 'Jobs Compact' / Economic Opportunities Program (EOP) is being implemented in the context of the Ethiopian government's plans for rapid industrialization and structural transformation, with the ambitious aim of transitioning Ethiopia's economy to lower-middle-income status by 2025 and allowing for refugee employment. The program aims to create 100,000 related jobs in Ethiopia - including 30,000 for refugees. A component of the program, a two-year pilot program of Employment Promotion and Protection (EPP) for Refugees is supported by World Bank and DFID to facilitate refugee access to economic opportunities through wage employment, self-employment, and entrepreneurship and business start-ups. BGRS is an EPP pilot area.

4. Education Cannot Wait (ECW): ECW is a key component of Ethiopia's focus on inclusion and empowerment for refugees as outlined in the CRRF and pledges. Refugees study and learn with their fellow 'host' Ethiopian students. The Ethiopian curriculum has been adopted but language of instruction has been agreed with the refugee community as diverse languages are being spoken.

⁵ <https://regionaldss.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/R3D-ETHIOPIA-Refugee-Displacement-Development-Digest.pdf>

Students are provided with full scholarship which includes fees, room and board, as well as transport between college and refugee camp areas once they qualify to join tertiary education through the two available scholarship programmes, DAFI and ARRA/Government programmes. Regional governments support with training, learning and UNICEF, UNHCR and ARRA coordinate, finance and manage the project which operates in BGRS and Gambella regions.

5. Qualifications & Employment Perspectives (QEP): QEP is commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für International Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. Considered a flagship for the GCR/CRRF in Ethiopia with its proactive focus on the integration of refugees into national educational systems, QEP also aims for overall resilience of host communities. Expected outcomes are improved employment perspectives for both through three (3) output levels: i. Improved quality of TVET colleges in selected areas; ii. Improved training for refugees and host communities; iii. Expanded offers of job orientation and entrepreneurship advice – including links to ongoing businesses, such as the hotel and catering industry.

6. Sustainable Solutions for Refugees and Hosts (KfW Water): In refugee hosting areas in Gambella and Benishangul-Gumuz Regional State, the programme supports capital investments (optimisation, design, supervision and construction) in water supply and sanitation infrastructures and building water utility capacity, with local authorities and communities in refugee-hosting areas. Existing camp water schemes are being upgraded to ensure sufficient, potable water to both refugees and hosts. Sanitation master plans, including for schools and health facilities, are being developed for latrines and household waste management with collection by community / private operators.

The table below summarises the above text and represents related projects being implemented in BSRG with an approximate relation to the pledges – for indicative purposes.

Summary of Projects / Partners in support to the GoE pledges

Proj. / Pledge	OCP	Education	Work and Livelihoods (4)	Documentation	Basic / Social Services	Local Integration
<i>DRDIP</i>		x	x		x	x
<i>BSRP</i>		x		x	x	x
<i>EOP</i>			x			x
<i>QEP</i>		x				x
<i>KfW Water</i>					x	x
<i>Other (NGOs)</i>		x	x		x	

Trainings and Workshops Conducted in 2019

- ILO organized a training workshop on value chain analysis and development in Assosa with participants from across the operation in Ethiopia.
- A Livelihood and economic inclusion training was provided by UNHCR to all CRRF and Livelihood focal points.

3. PLEDGE PROGRESS

Full details of each pledge against key activities as defined in the *Roadmap*. Please see Annex I.

3.1 OUT OF CAMP

The Out of Camp Pledge aims for the “expansion of the ‘Out-of-Camp’ policy (OCP) to benefit 10% of the current total refugee population”. OCP is not yet applicable in BGRS. However, refugees who are engaged in informal gold mining activities may be considered for OCP implementation. Discussions have been held with Bureau of Agriculture and Natural Resources for refugees to get a better wage as their labour contribution is considered important.

3.2 EDUCATION PLEDGE

The education pledge aims to increase:

- Enrolment of pre-school aged refugee children from current 46,276 (44%) to 63,040 (60%)
- Enrolment of primary school aged children from the current 96, 700 (54%) to 137,000 (75%)
- Enrolment of secondary school aged refugees from the current 3,785 (9%) to 10,300 (25%)
- Opportunities for higher education enrolment from the current 1,600 to 2,500 students.

29,564 refugee students were enrolled in the 2018/2019 educational year. Out of those eligible, Gross Enrolment Rates (GER) were 93% for pre-primary, 128% for primary and 13% for secondary. Encouragingly, enrolment rates for pre-primary and primary school are largely above pledge targets. However, secondary enrolment remains significantly below the 25% pledge target.

Number of school-aged and enrolled refugees, 2011 EC (2018/2019)

	Pre-Primary			Primary			Secondary		
Refugee Camp	(ECCE)			(Grade 1-8)			(Grade 9-12)		
	Eligible	Enrolled	GER %	Eligible	Enrolled	GER %	Eligible	Enrolled	GER %
	Age 3 - 6	-		Age 7-14	-		Age15-18	(GER)	
Sherkole	1,637	1,627	99%	2,874	3,801	132%	1,088	456	42%
Tsore	1,961	1,700	87%	3,184	3,543	111%	1,918	144	8%
Bambasi	3,085	3,145	102%	4,258	5,820	137%	1,407	32	2%
Gure	1,184	904	76%	1,975	2,333	118%	963	0	0%
Tongo	1,963	1,786	91%	3,049	3,900	128%	1,113	176	16%
Total	9,830	9,162	93%	15,340	19,594	128%	6,489	808	13%

Source: EMIS, 2018/2019, disaggregate data

ARRA runs primary schools in Sherkole, Tsore, Tongo and Bambasi, and Plan International in Gure-Shombola. Camps have one primary school - except two (2) in Tongo. Primary first cycle (grades 1-4) teachers are mainly refugees, with qualified national teachers for the second cycle (grades 5 -8). DICAC runs Sherkole secondary, and supporting government schools in Tongo, Bambasi and Tsore. The table below compares refugee student enrolment with 2018. Overall in BGRS there is progress in the number of students enrolled – an increase of 15%. Secondary enrolment has improved significantly with an additional 374 students (86%). Pre-primary increased 30% and Primary education, recorded an eight percent (8%) increase, which is positive.

Number of refugee students enrolled in 2017-2018 vs. 2018-2019

	# Enrolled 2017- 2018	# Enrolled 2018-2019	% Increase from 2018
Pre-primary	7,058	9,162	30%
Primary	18,119	19,594	8%
Secondary	434	808	86%
Total	25,611	29,564	15%

Source: ESAA 2010E.C and EMIS 2018/2019 disaggregated data



Sherkole Camp, South Sudanese Refugee Students doing their homework with solar light ©UNHCR/Diana Diaz

Technical Vocation Education Training (TVET): Trainings were provided to refugees in Tsore and Gure camps. 350 refugees were enrolled in and have graduated from various courses. Also, 41 refugee teachers were trained at Gilgelbeles teachers training college.

Camp	# Enrolled	Graduated	Courses offered
Tsore	130	120	IT support, gen. construction, Bamboo furniture making & tailoring for both men & women
Gure	50	50	General construction and tailoring for both men & women.
Total	180	170	

Source: NRC year-end report, 2019

University Education: The DAFI scholarship program supports 48 refugees currently pursuing higher education studies in Assosa University. The Program has established a relationship with Assosa university to support registration, tuition payments, students' performance and other needs. DAFI support is provided through bank accounts opened by the students themselves.

3.3 WORK AND LIVELIHOOD PLEDGES

3.3.1 WORK PERMITS

Ethiopia pledged to provide work permits to refugees with permanent residence ID within the bounds of the domestic laws and work permits to refugee graduates in the areas permitted for foreign workers by giving priority to qualified refugees. In 2019, work permits were not issued to refugees in BGRS.

3.3.2 IRRIGABLE LAND

ARRA identified and provided 67 ha of land inside refugee camps of which 32 ha was made available to date benefitting 420 refugees and 322 host community members. UNHCR purchased and distributed tools, seeds and fertilizers for 1,777 households in all five (5) refugee camps and in one woreda for selected vulnerable host communities.

A good harvest (end 2019) was generally collected. Technical support was provided from the Regional Bureau of Agriculture, ARRA and UNHCR. Cultivation started a bit late, which resulted in late harvesting and animal grazing in some camps. This project was the result of good collaboration between regional and woreda level officials.

Provision of Irrigable land

Implementation Area/Woreda	ha made available	# refugees benefiting	# community benefiting	Remark
Bambasi	28	200	200	LWF / GIZ agric. pilot irrigation project 400 refugees / hosts
Tsore	4	220	122	NRC
Total	32	420	322	

Source: Partner reports (NRC, LWF), 2019

3.3.3 INDUSTRIAL PARKS

The GoE is planning the construction of an industrial park in Assosa, however, in 2019 there were not yet any activities conducted in BGRS in relation to the establishment of an industrial park.

The Economic Opportunities Program (EOP), supported by the World Bank and DFID, aims to create 100,000 jobs in Ethiopia including 30,000 jobs for refugees with establishment of industrial parks. Proclamation No. 1110/2019 gazetted in February 2019 provides a legal framework for the socio-economic integration of refugees into Ethiopia's industrialization agenda and economy. As a component of the EOP, a two-year pilot Employment Promotion and Protection (EPP) for Refugees which operates in BGRS facilitates refugee access to economic opportunities through wage employment, self-employment, entrepreneurship and business start-ups.

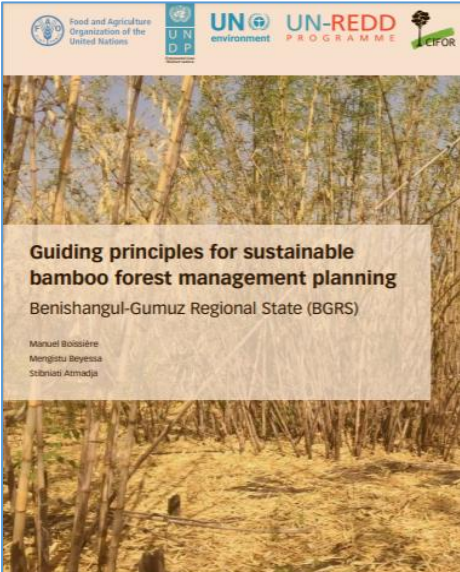
3.3.4 OTHER WORK AND LIVELIHOODS OPPORTUNITIES

2,216 refugees benefited from different livelihood opportunities. The below table details work and livelihood opportunities provided for refugees in 2019 disaggregated by woreda.

Woreda	Livelihood Opportunities Provided	# refugees benefiting	Remark
Homosha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IGA startup supports and BDS services Agric. assistance services CBI startups 	184	Agencies: NRC, UNHCR Location: In the camp
Bambasi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IGA startup and BDS services Agric. assistance services 	291 150	Agencies: LWF, UNHCR Location: In the camp
Maokomo Special Woreda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IGA startup supports and BDS services Agric. assistance services CBI startups 	1,407 184	Agencies: NRC, UNHCR Location: Inside the camp
Total		2,216	



*Sherkole Camp, a refugee university student tending to his small garden behind his shelter
©UNHCR/ Diana Diaz*



BAMBOO IN BGRS

In 2019, the UN's Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) along with UNDP, UN-REDD and CIFOR, produced an analysis of the “substantial potential” of bamboo forests in Benishangul-Gumuz Regional State.

Of the 1,470,000 ha of bamboo land cover in all of Ethiopia, an estimated 900,000 ha (61%) is found in Benishangul-Gumuz (Tsinghua University and INBAR 2018, Durai et al. 2018 – in FAO 2019).

In the domestic market, the main bamboo products traded are bamboo poles (culm), followed by bamboo mats, basketry and furniture (FAO, 2019).

Bamboo furniture-making is a key skill being trained in TVETs. There is significant potential for it to be further developed for joint refugee / host projects and private sector (PS) investment.

3.4 DOCUMENTATION PLEDGE

3.4.1 VITAL EVENTS REGISTRATION FOR REFUGEES

Statistical data from VERA for Tongo, Gure-shembolla, Bambasi, Tsore and Sherkole camps related to vital events registration is summarized in the table below. A total of 1,825 vital events were registered for refugees in 2019, of which 1,762 were births.

Documentation Pledge: Types of registration / certification

Area/Camp	Birth	Death	Marriage	Divorce	Total
Sherkole	514	6	34	1	555
Bambasi	250	3	14	1	268
Tongo	379	2	0	0	381
Tsore	480	1	1	0	482
Gure Shombola	139	0	0	0	139
Total	1,762	12	49	2	1,825

Source: ARRA vital event registration

3.4.2 BANK ACCOUNTS FOR REFUGEES.

Following the proclamation, ARRA communicated with banks to issue accounts for refugees. The information on how many refugees were able to open bank accounts is not yet available.

3.5 SOCIAL AND BASIC SERVICES PLEDGE

The Government pledged to strengthen, expand and enhance basic and essential social services such as health, nutrition, immunization, reproductive health, HIV and other medical services provided for refugees within the bounds of national law.

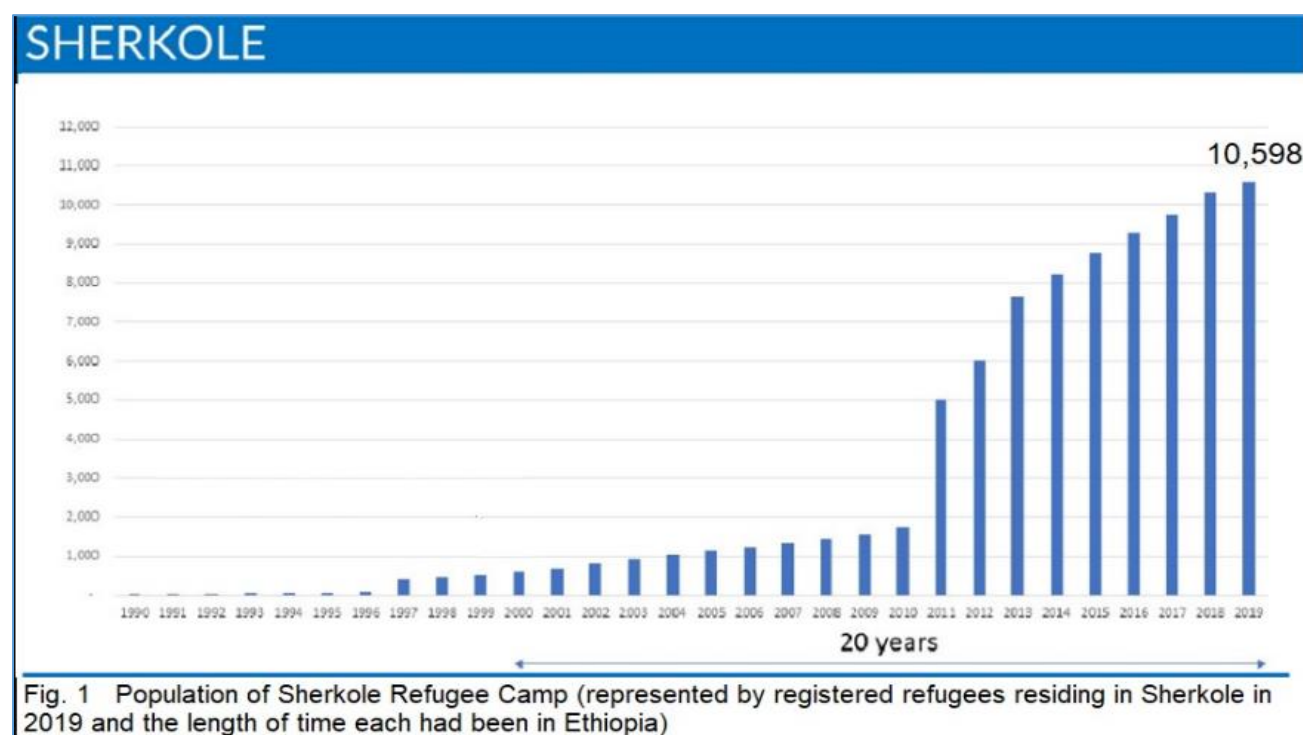
3.5.1 HEALTH SERVICES PROVISION FOR REFUGEES

The below table summarizes health service facilities that are providing services to refugees in BGRS. In addition to camp health services, refugees generally also have access to woreda health facilities. There is one referral hospital in the region.

Camp	# Health Posts in camp	# Health Centres in camp	# Health post in Woreda (excl. camp)	Refugees access woreda health posts (Y/N)	# Health Centres in woreda (excl. camp)	Refugees access woreda health crs.(Y/N)	#referral hospitals in woreda and /or region
Tsore	-	1	11	Y	1	Y	1
Sherkole	-	1					
Bambasi	-	1	42	Y	3	Y	
Tongo	-	1	25	Y	3	Y	
Gure Shombola	-	1					
Total	0	5	78		7		1

3.6 LOCAL INTEGRATION PLEDGE

Ethiopia pledges to allow for local integration for 'protracted refugees'.



The chart (Fig. 1) is an example of data on camp residents by length of stay in Ethiopia. It indicates a small proportion of refugees in Sherkole camp in-country for 20 years or more, with the majority having arrived (or being born into the population) over the past decade. Sherkole is one of the four (4) key camp populations considered for Ethiopia's 'Local Integration' pledge.⁶

To date, there is little specific discussion on direct 'local integration' in BGRS. However, there is clearly much economic potential, as well as opportunity for socio-economic inclusion, especially around agriculture and natural-resource-based activities.

⁶ The Local Integration Pledge prioritizes refugees who have been in Ethiopia for 20 years or more.

ANNEXES

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ANNEX I: KEY ACTIVITY TABLES

This Annex presents a summary of activities undertaken against each of the nine (9) pledges, in six (6) pledge areas – using the format as presented in the *ROADMAP for the implementation of the FDRE Government Pledges and the practical application of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) in Ethiopia*.

1. Out of Camp Pledge

Key Activities	Initial timeline (Roadmap)	Progress in 2019
Prepare a clear policy document for OCP and set clear eligibility criterion for refugees, with emphasis on facilitating opportunities for self-reliance.	2017	▪ Activity not applicable in the region
Increase access to education for the beneficiaries of the OCP, formalize and integrate government higher educational scholarship schemes within the OCP.	Continuous	▪ Activities as related to OCP not yet applicable in the region
Provide skills and vocational training opportunities; further open educational opportunities		
Enhance livelihood opportunities to OCP beneficiaries (enabling refugees to work, support themselves, reduce dependency on Government or aid agencies)		
Enable refugees to increase their access to services which are not available within camps		
Regularly verify the data of the OCP beneficiaries		
Address OCP benefit. needs for self-employment opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Arrange internships and apprentice opportunities; ▪ Improve access to business, finance and start-up capital; ▪ Skill training for business plan development, ▪ Access to markets 		

2. Education Pledge

Key Activities	Initial timeline	Progress in 2019
Establish new pre-primary centers, primary / sec. schools in camps as per minimum standard. Expand school facilities in existing schools [for refugees and hosts].	2017 – 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UNICEF/BSRP supported school construction. ▪ Model secondary schools funded by ECW in Bambasi and Tsore is still under construction. The secondary schools were built in the host communities where both refugees and host community have access.
Review Nat. Strategy and Refugee Education Strategy (2015-2018) to ensure compatibility.	Continuous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Curriculum at all levels across refugee schools harmonized since 2016 for primary. Started in 2019 for pre-schools.
Procure student and school supplies.	Continuous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ School supplies are provided by UNHCR through ARRA for primary schools and through DICAC for secondary schools. ▪ UNICEF was also in process of procurement in 2019.
Recruit new qualified refugee / natl. schoolteacher facilitators existing / newly constructed schools.	2017 – 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 17 Teachers hired in 2019. In the reporting academic period, total number of national teachers was 156 and 378 refugee teachers.

Key Activities	Initial timeline	Progress in 2019
Provide special support for the inclusion of students with specific educational needs.	Sept. 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Not addressed yet particularly in secondary and higher education level. ▪ Students with specific needs such as visual, hearing impairment are lacking the required resources for inclusive education access. Ramp access for people with disabilities exist.
Support teacher training programs	Continuous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Teachers are provided capacity building training and workshops by UNICEF and IPs. ▪ 41 refugee primary teachers received summer training in Gilgel Beles teacher inst. center.
Establish and build capacity of the Education Management Committee	Sept. 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UNICEF, Regional Education Bureau (REB) and UNHCR worked together to make sure the committees are established. Training for school committees are provided through the BSRP project.
Improve sanitation and hygiene facilities in all schools.	2017 – 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Awareness raising leaflets duplicated and distributed by PLAN international.
Support/provide school feeding programs in pre-primary and primary schools.	Sept. 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UNICEF supported the school feeding program through ARRA in all the camps except in Gure Shombola camp.
Implement educational planning, management, and monitoring through applying Education Mgmt. Information System (EMIS) tools.	Sept. 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ School standard assessment for input, process and output standard indicator conducted both in refugee and host community schools.
Conduct yearly learning assessments at grade 4 and 8.	Sept. 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ BSRP project conducted school assessments for educational input, process and outcome both in refugee and host community schools.
Equip laboratory, library, pedagogical centers with minimum requirements [sec. school]	Continuous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Laboratory is unavailable for two locations while it's under construction for others.
Procure and install information and communication technology facilities and equipment	2017 – 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This activity was not carried out in 2019.
Implement targeted interventions to increase girls enrolment and retention in schools	Continuous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In progress; with more efforts required to strengthen Girls Clubs and PTAs
Strengthen partnerships with relevant govt. entities, academic institutions, donors / foundations.	Continuous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There is a good collaboration between Regional education bureau, UNICEF, ARRA, DICAC, PLAN, NRC
Enhance access to tertiary education [for refugees]	Continuous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DAFI scholarship program supported 48 refugees to peruse higher education studies at Assosa university where 12 new students joined in 2019.
Support higher public education institutes to strengthen absorption capacity of refugee students.	2017 – 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Activity was not carried out in 2019.
Provide allowances to students on scholarship programme and organize graduation ceremonies	Continuous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UNHCR, ARRA in collaboration with DAFI funding provides allowance and scholarships.
Facilitate refugee access, inclusion into <u>host schools</u> through expansion of existing schools...	Continuous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Refugees access host community schools and host communities also access refugee schools.
Broaden and increase the supervisory role and extension services of regional educational bureau (REBs) in refugee schools	Continuous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Taking place. The REB is inspecting, supervising and giving recommendations.
Provide material support to local schools hosting refugees	Continuous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In Tsotsora secondary school, UNHCR provides school supplies.

Key Activities	Initial timeline	Progress in 2019
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DICAC provides educational materials in Womba, Tongo and Tsore.

3 Work and Livelihoods Pledges

3.1 Work Permits Pledge

Key Activities	Initial timeline	Progress in 2019
Collect, analyze and utilize data on graduate refugees (external certification and graduates from Ethiopian universities); through profiling of refugee skills for linkage with skills needed in Ethiopia.	2017 Continuous	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ L3 registration is finalized and will support refugee skill profile analysis.
Analyze the legal framework and advance on the opportunities; along with the finalization of the updated Refugee Proclamation.	October 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Proclamation is approved. Secondary legislation progressing.
Advocate with the Main Department for Immigration and Nationality for refugee ID cards to be recognized as residence ID cards, for the purpose of work permits.	2017 Continuous	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Applicable at the federal level
Provide administrative and financial support to MoLSA for the issuance of work permits; negotiate lower fees for work permits for refugees; and eventually pay the fees of the first work permits.	Continuous	
Engage educational partners and the private sector and support the development of educational and training programs linked to livelihood and work opportunities .		

3.2 Irrigable Land Pledge

Key Activities	Initial timeline	Progress in 2019
Develop a legal and policy framework outlining the terms and conditions for Access to land by the refugees and sign a MoU on the implementation of the policy.	2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the proclamation was adopted early in 2019, discussions will be started soon.
Allocate irrigable and cultivable land, not less than 10,000 hectares (nationally), for . benefit of both . host .and refugees.	2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LWF initiated agricultural pilot in Bambasi in partnership with GIZ to benefit 400 host community and refugee members
Expand irrigation infra. (include. detailed study/ prep. .design & BoQ . mobilization / collecting const. materials, construction work of the masonry irrigation canals).	2017-2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An irrigation canal is planned to be constructed in Bambasi in 2020.
Design 'Irrigated Agric. Dev.' projects for refugees and host communities as well as formulate cooperatives/self-help groups.	2017-2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of cooperatives is in progress. Full-scale implementation will be carried out in 2020.
Improve access .bus. finance / start-up cap.	2017-2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activity was not conducted in 2019.
Provide agricultural inputs and facilitate technical assistance.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNHCR inputs - direct implementation in collaboration with local Agric. Bureau for tech. support. NGOs inputs and technical assistance.
Prepare warehouses for post-harvest storage and create market linkages.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activity was not conducted in 2019.

Key Activities	Initial timeline	Progress in 2019
Clarify the selection criteria of refugee benefitting from the irrigable land.	2017-2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LWF with GIZ, ARRA and UNHCR conducted beneficiary selection with local administration and refugee reps for pilot in Bambasi. To be further discussed in 2020 with ARRA / relevant regional bureaus.

3.3 Industrial Parks Pledge

Key Activities	Initial timeline	Progress in 2019
Establish industrial parks.	2017-2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GoE announced in 2018 that an industrial park would be established in Assosa. However, no activities started 2019.
Set clear selection criteria for refugees to benefit from jobs created under the government's industrialization policy.	Continuous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No criteria set in 2019.
Provide permits for 30,000 refugees to work under Govt.'s industrialization policy.	2017-2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Currently not applicable for the region – yet will be in relation to EPP.
Monitor overall sit. of refugees working in IPs / related jobs. Detailed assessment and provide refugees with essential information for informed decision to work in IPs	Continuous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Currently not applicable for the region.
Avoid inconveniences /undue hardships, such as long-term family separations and mistreatments, and others, during the selection process and after.		

4. Documentation Pledge

Key Activities	Initial timeline	Progress in 2019
Establish info. sharing mechanism between ARRA, FVERA and UNHCR on refugees vital events registration	2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Activity was started in 2019.
Provide equipment to support ARRA in the vital event registration system	February 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EUTF has provided office equipment (chair, printers and computers)
Training for ARRA staff / Vital Event Registration, data collection, management, use of registration books /certificates.	June-December 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provided by VERA
Provide access to bank accounts	Continuous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Process ongoing. Some refugees have opened bank accounts however no specific data available
Provide access for refugees who meet requirements to acquire driving license		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Driving licenses are allowed with the proclamation.

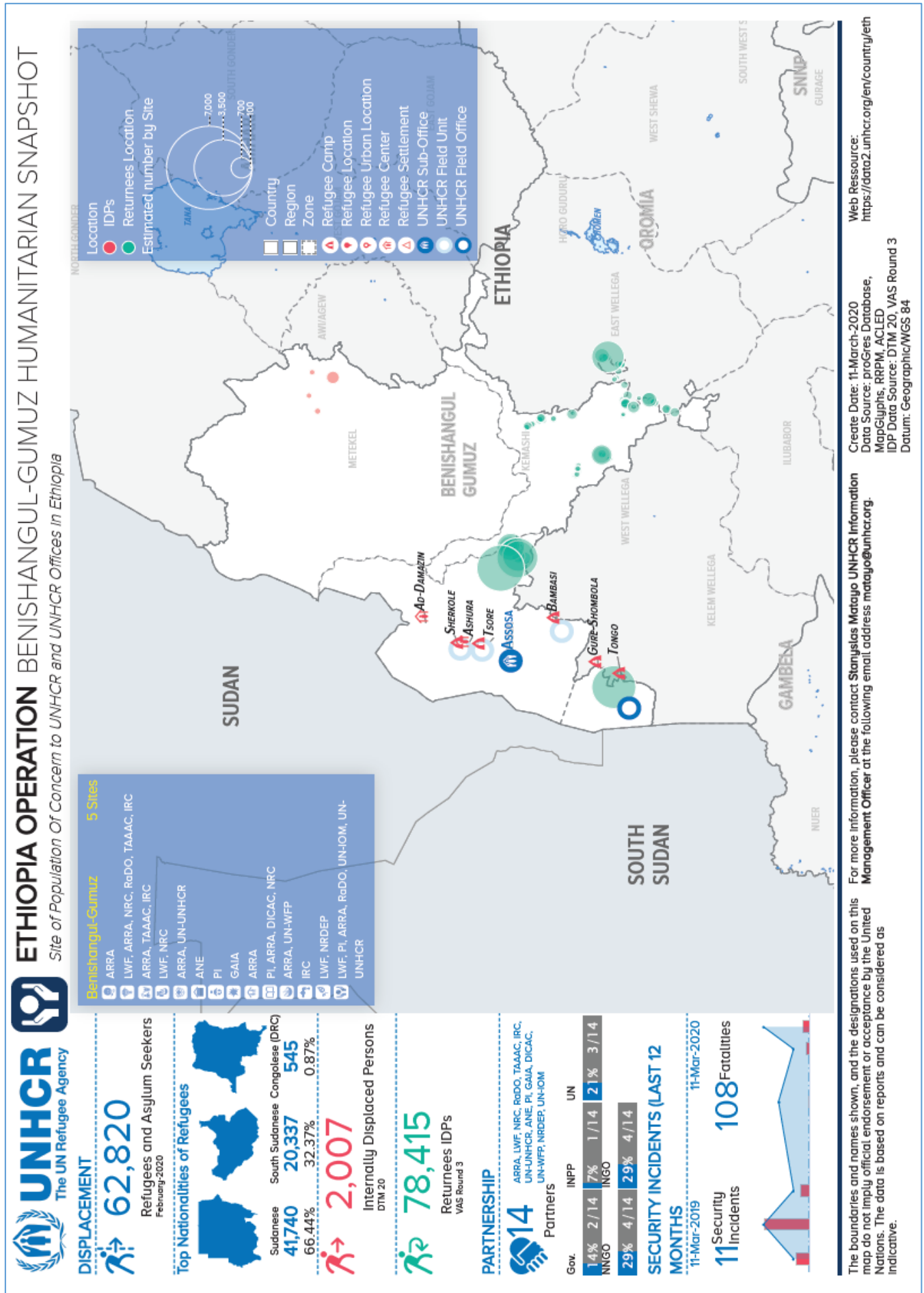
5. Basic and Social Services Pledge

Key Activities	Initial timeline	Progress in 2019
Strengthen primary health care, nutrition, TB, RH, HIV /other med. services provided for refugees.	Continuous	▪ Carried out routinely. All prim. health services provided in an integrated manner in all locations including TB and HIV and other medical services.
Ensure refugees continue to have free access to national and regional HIV and TB programmes.	Continuous	▪ All refugees receive 100% access to free HIV/ TB services as nationals.
Ensure refugees included in routine /mass immunization campaigns.	Continuous	▪ Activity carried out routinely. ▪ Conducted as per standard of MoH.
Conduct joint investigations / response to outbreaks of communicable diseases.	Continuous	▪ Already happening routinely.
Capacity building health staff on health /nutrition key interventions	Continuous	▪ Conducted in collaboration with regional health bureau and IRC.
Strengthen supervisory role/ extension RHB services in camps	Continuous	▪ Supportive supervision conducted and cascaded.

6. Local Integration Pledge

Key Activities	Initial timeline	Progress in 2019
Collect and present refugee data for those in Ethiopia 20 years or more.	February 2017	▪ Has been compiled by UNHCR through comprehensive registration.
Facilitate ARRA field study to country where LI practiced. Adapt to Eth. context best UG practices	January 2017	▪ Activity not carried out in 2019.
Elaborate LI strategy define comprehensive components: legal, socio-economic, cultural.	April 2017	
Legal Component		
Draft Ethiopia local integration outline, following workshop with key actors	April 2017	▪ Activity not carried out in 2019.
Sensitize eligible refugees about local integration and its benefits in Ethiopia.	Continuous	
Issue relevant documents to eligible refugees who opt for local integration.		
Socio Economic Component		
Facilitate /support use of land to eligible refugees, for a longer term and provide support for shelter.	Continuous	▪ Activity not carried out in 2019
Facilitate skills /entrepreneurial training / certification - & start-up kits	2017-2019	
Facilitate peaceful coexistence with host population through an increase of peace building projects	2017-2019	▪ In progress
Cultural Component		
Provide cultural orientation.	2017-2019	▪ Activity not carried out in 2019.
Support sporting and other cultural events.	2017-2019	▪ LWF prepared sporting tournaments and conducted competitions in camps.

ANNEX II: MAP - Humanitarian Snapshot (Feb. 2020)



UNHCR Ethiopia July 2020

