

Ethiopia

September 2018

The number of refugee children in primary schools has increased from **118,275** in 2016/17 academic year to **132,563** in 2017/18, bringing gross elementary school enrolment rate to **72%**, against the government's Pledge target of **75%**.

Refugee students' enrolment rate in secondary education has increased from **9%** in 2016/17 academic year to **12%** in 2017/18.

2,300 refugees are enrolled in tertiary education compared to **1,600** in 2016/17 academic year.

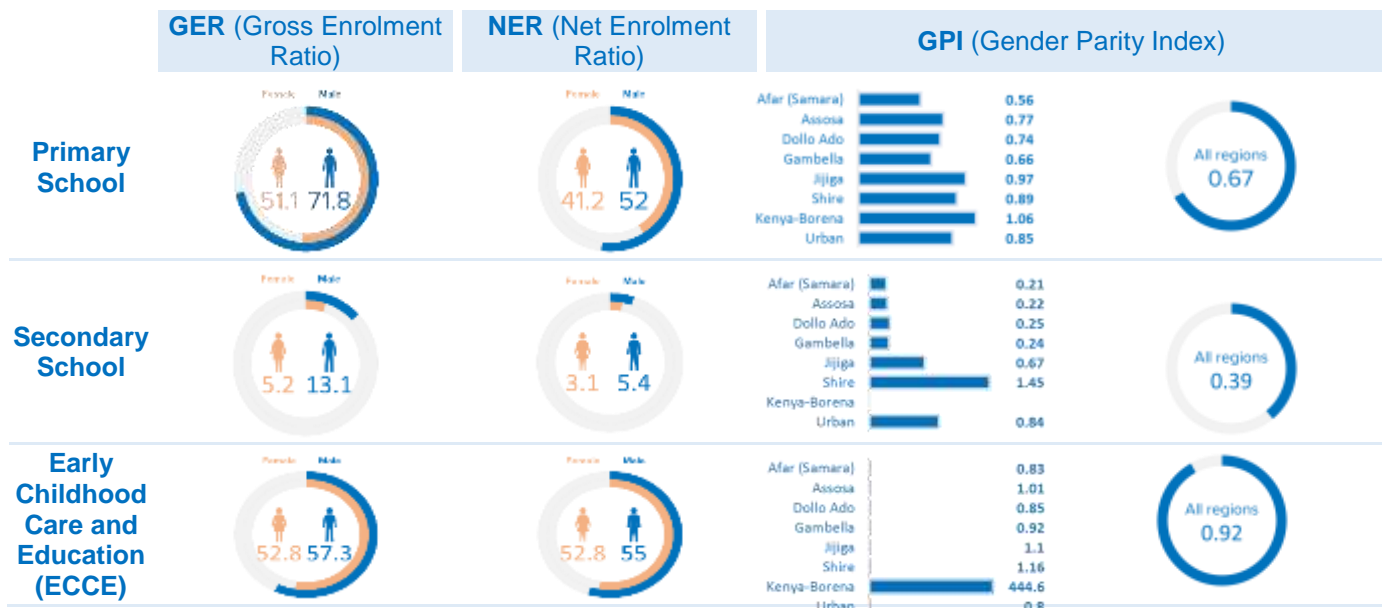
HIGHLIGHTS

- Despite the country's expressed reservation to the provision of education within the 1951 Refugee Convention, refugee children in Ethiopia are afforded equitable access to formal schooling on a par with nationals in elementary schools. The government is expanding this opportunity further in line with one of the nine pledges it made at the Leaders' Summit on Refugees in September 2016 in New York. Accordingly, the Government has committed to "increase enrolment in primary, secondary and tertiary education to all qualified refugees without discrimination and within the available resources". Since pledges were announced in September 2016, primary school enrolment rate has increased by 20%.
- UNHCR's principal government counterpart – ARRA- manages primary education in all refugee camps while secondary education is implemented by NGO partners.
- 54,619 (63%) of 87,004 children aged 3-6 years are supported in 80 Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) centers within refugee camps, and 150 private and public kindergartens in Addis Ababa. In addition, 132,563 children between the ages of seven and 14 are enrolled in 58 primary schools and 20 Alternative Basic Education centers (ABE) in the camps, together with 166 schools in urban areas.
- 7,665 (12%) of 62,106 secondary school-age children (between 15 and 18 yrs) are enrolled in nine camp-based secondary schools, 10 government-run schools near the refugee camps and 43 government and private-owned secondary schools in urban areas.
- 2,300 qualified refugee students are studying in different universities and colleges in Ethiopia, with 1,700 (74%) of them sponsored by the Government of Ethiopia. The balance are sponsored by the DAFI Scholarship, supported by the Government of Germany.
- UNHCR is engaged in three Special Education Projects; Educate A Child (EAC), funded by the Education Above All Foundation, focusing on the provision of quality primary education for out-of-school children; IKEA Foundation, a broadly earmarked funding by the IKEA Foundation targeting Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), Primary and Secondary Education, Alternative Basic Education (ABE), Vocational Skills Training (VST) and Adult Literacy; and Education Cannot Wait (ECW), mainly serving primary and secondary education in the Gambella and Benishangul-Gumuz regions, a joint project of the Ministry of Health (MOE), ARRA, UNHCR, and UNICEF.
- Under Education Cannot Wait (ECW), refugee teachers were selected for certification program in Diploma and certificate and enrolled in Gambella Teachers and Health Sciences College and Assosa Teachers Training College. A total of 288 for Diploma and 20 for certificate program were enrolled for the summer training in August. Such training is the first of its kind to enroll large number of refugee teachers leading to certification/qualification which will contribute to the effort to improve the quality of refugee education in the country.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- **Partnership and Synergies:** the National Refugee Education Strategy (2015-2018) is aligned with the Ethiopian Education and Training Policy and seeks to strengthen partnerships with humanitarian organizations, development agencies, governments and the private sector to increase refugees' access to quality education.
- **Capacity development and measuring progress:** there is a strong need to enhance the capacity of UNHCR personnel and partners to improve education programme management, and advocacy for increased resource mobilization. The Education Management Information System (EMIS) will be used to measure the progress of refugee education. Also, refugee EMIS is being integrated in to the national system.
- **Innovation and technology:** In an effort to improve quality and create better opportunities for refugees, there is a greater need to improve access to Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in refugee education.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT BREAKDOWN



CHALLENGES



External / Donors Relations

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USA| CERF| Netherlands| UK (DFID)| Denmark| IKEA Foundation | European Union (ECHO)| Japan| UN Children Fund| Germany| Educate A Child Programme-EAC/EAA| Sweden| Country-Based Pooled Funds| Ireland| "la Caixa" Banking Foundation| Canada |Republic of Korea| Private Don Spain| UN Dept. of Economic and Social Affairs| UN Program on HIV/AIDS

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