

# Ethiopia

June 2018

Refugees across Ethiopia commemorate **World Refugee Day**. They call upon the world to stand with them.

**19,195** South Sudanese refugees have been registered in Ethiopia since the beginning of year. 1,344 during June.

**64,000** refugees have been registered in BIMS, enabling UNHCR and partners to expand increasingly targeted forms of assistance to persons of concern.

## KEY INDICATORS

**923,863\***

Refugees and asylum seekers registered in Ethiopia  
[As of 30 June 2018]

**59%\***

Percentage of refugees below the age of 18

**32,477**

New arrivals registered in Ethiopia in 2018  
[As of 30 June 2018]

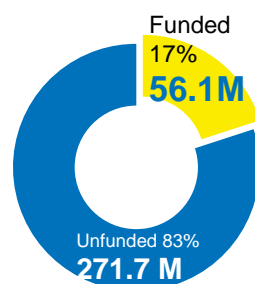


Redwan is a refugee from Yemen who arrived a few months ago to Ethiopia. He shared his art during the World Refugee Day commemoration in Addis Ababa. UNHCR/Diana Diaz

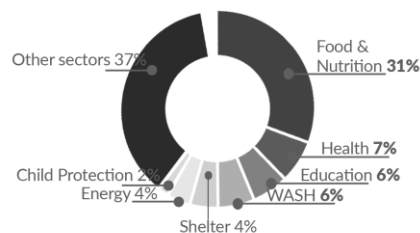
## FUNDING (AS OF 27 JUNE 2018)

**USD 327.8 M**

requested for the Ethiopia operation



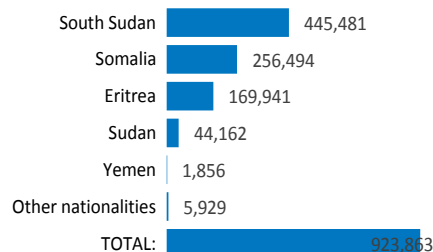
### Budget allocation by sector



\*Other sectors: Logistics & Telecoms; Durable Solutions; Community Empowerment & Self-Reliance; Core Relief Items; Registration & Documentation; Protection; SGBV.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

### Refugee Nationalities



## Refugees across Ethiopia commemorate World Refugee Day

Refugees and host communities across all 26 camps in the country and in Addis Ababa marked World Refugee Day calling for the entire world to stand with refugees. On June 20, Ethiopia commemorated the strength, courage, and perseverance of the almost 1 million refugees that have found safety here.

Across the country, football and volleyball games, performances, arts and crafts fairs, and photograph exhibitions filled the scene, where refugees were protagonists and spokespersons of their own stories and skills.

UNHCR High Profile Supporter Betty G accompanied refugees in a formal event co-hosted with the USA Embassy in Addis Ababa, where she sang with Congolese musician Gaspard. The songs, composed by Gaspard, drew attention to the difficult situation that forces people to flee their homes, as well as how refugees feel welcome in their host countries. North American singer Caroline Herring was also present, sharing her experience of meeting refugees back home.

In September 2016, global leaders agreed to work towards a Global Compact for refugees in 2018, driven by a new way of working where the entire society contributes to making the world more open to refugees. Ethiopia has been pioneering this new way of working, making significant steps towards refugee inclusion in all its systems.

*See more photos on the World Refugee Day events across Ethiopia in the 'Regional Focus' section.*



UNHCR High Profile Supporter Betty G sings with Congolese Gaspard and his band, composed of refugees and Ethiopians - UNHCR/Diana Diaz



## South Sudan Situation – Focus on Okugo Camp



©UNHCR/ Gabriel Masika Hamisi

UNHCR has concluded a multi-partner assessment mission to Okugo Camp, one of the most isolated camps in the country, a mission that had been halted on a number of occasions due to security concerns.

Since April 2018, UNHCR and ARRA in Okugo have registered an increase in Murle and Anguak South Sudanese refugees, with some 300 new arrivals registered and relocated to the camp in June. The new arrivals, fleeing ethnic conflict in South Sudan, crossed into Ethiopia through the Raad entry point, some 60 kilometers from Okugo.

After crossing the border, refugees reportedly walk on foot passing through large tracks of uninhabited land, risking encounters with wild animals and exposed to harsh weather conditions.

Among the critical gaps identified was the need for a formal reception centre at the border, while health and education services remain insufficient to meet the needs of almost 14,000 refugees that live in Okugo Camp. A reception centre with a capacity to accommodate 300 persons is now under construction by UNHCR in partnership with ARRA and the Danish Refugee Council. The facility will improve the reception conditions and provide dignified services to asylum-seekers entering Ethiopian territory.

UNHCR and ARRA retain a regular border monitoring presence at both Raad and Buoy entry points so to assess the asylum situation and provide the necessary support to those seeking asylum and protection.

## UNHCR Digital Health Information System rolls-out in Ethiopia



©UNHCR/Zinia Sultana

UNHCR has embarked on upgrading its paper-based health information system to a digital platform. Daily data collection will be done through tablets, data will be transferred weekly to a central tablet for quality control by the facility manager and will be submitted thereafter to UNHCR and ARRA for final review. The system was rolled-out in Addis Ababa at the end of June, and will be then implemented across the country.

A UNHCR team provided training to ARRA and other health partners in field locations and 300 tablets were handed over to ARRA and other partners for data collection.

Rolling-out this new and improved Health Information System, UNHCR and partners will be able to collect and explore public health, water-sanitation and nutritional data, at the health facility level across all camps in Ethiopia. This will allow timely data that supports and enhances services to all refugees in the country.



## Registration



©UNHCR/Diana Diaz

UNHCR and ARRA continue to undertake a comprehensive Level 3 registration exercise in all the refugee camps in Ethiopia, where refugees will also be enrolled on Biometric Identity Management System (BIMS).

As of 30 June 2018 a total of 64,040 refugees are now enrolled in the new identity management system. BIMS is a corporate UNHCR identity management tool which captures essential information on refugees. As a result, all refugee families receive a proof of registration document, while every refugee aged 14 and above receives a refugee / asylum-seeker identity card on the same day of registration. When all refugees residing in Ethiopia are part of BIMS, the enhanced information database will enable a more targeted approach to service delivery and durable solutions, in line with the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF).

The current strategy – already agreed upon with the government of Ethiopia – foresees Level 3 registration being conducted in ‘one-stop-shop’ centres in each location, where UNHCR, ARRA, the Vital Events Registration Agency (VERA) and all relevant partners convene to undertake registration, and provide protection, civil documentation and other referral services.

## Regional focus – World Refugee Day

### AFAR

Refugees in Aysaita Camp show off their traditional dance during their main event. Often the only thing refugees are able to take with them are their skills and dreams for the future. Through dancing, refugees not only have fun but also find ways to cope from the often difficult situations that forced them to flee.



### ADDIS ABABA

A UNHCR- US Embassy joint photo exhibition took place, showcasing the stories and skills of refugees across the country. Photos also included messages from host communities supporting refugees. The photos were sold to fundraise for UNHCR partner in Addis Ababa, Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), which provides safe spaces for refugees to learn and have fun in the city.



### SHIRE

In Shire Town, refugees undertook a series of activities to demonstrate their skills, including paintings. Their messages included risks of onward movement and smuggling, as well as the necessary support to provide refugee children with protection and family care. At least 41% of refugee children in the Tigray region have sought asylum unaccompanied or separated from their families.



### ASSOSA

Activities in Assosa included the visit for North American singer Caroline Herring, who spent time with refugees in Bambasi and Sherkole Camp. Holding workshops on music and English as a second language, Ms Herring stood with refugees.



### JIJIGA

Refugees in Jijiga showcased the traditional arts and crafts they produce, bringing colour to the scene during their commemoration. Additional activities included community performances and recreational games.



### MELKADIDA

Refugee women showcased their traditional food during their commemoration, to remember their culture and spend time together. Not only does showing different cultures display the diversity in every country, but it also brings everyone closer together in solidarity.





## Refugee Voices

### Cash assistance comes in handy for refugees in Ethiopia's Somali Region

*Refugees and their hosts are benefiting from UNHCR's recently launched Cash-Based Interventions project in Ethiopia's Somali Region.*



*By Anna Hellge in Jijiga, Ethiopia*

**JIJIGA, Ethiopia**– The heat of the day is not enough to keep away the people who have formed long queues outside the UNHCR field office in Sheder camp in Jijiga, Ethiopia. They are here to collect their eagerly anticipated vouchers, which are being distributed as part of a [cash-based assistance project](#) (CBI) that was launched three months ago.

**“The day I picked my vouchers was one of the luckiest days of my life.”**

With her right leg paralyzed from childhood due to polio, life in Somalia was hard for Fadumo. Fleeing the conflict back home was even harder.

“Life back home was really difficult but I had to leave,” she explains. In July 2008, she set out on the difficult journey to safety, together with extended family members. She however got separated from the rest of her family and arrived in Sheder alone. She has never heard from them since then but counts herself lucky to have made it to safety.

The project, which started in March 2018, is funded by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID), and focuses on the needs of refugee women, girls, boys, the elderly and people with disabilities like Fadumo.

“All refugees in Jijiga can trade their vouchers for laundry soap and new kitchen sets, while women in the reproductive age will receive sanitary kits,” says Mary Karanja, UNHCR's CBI Officer based in Addis Ababa. She adds that vulnerable families will also be supported to improve their shelters.

Fadumo and all other refugees receiving vouchers can claim various items from predetermined local shops in Sheder town, providing the local communities with new business opportunities.

“Investing in efforts like voucher or cash interventions allows refugees and host communities to thrive together,” explains Karanja who adds that such interventions are in line with the new approach to handling refugee issues – the [Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework](#) – launched in Ethiopia in late 2017 and locally in the Somali region in May 2018.

A local shop owner, Abdullahi Aden Rooble agrees. “For us, this is a business and an investment. It will empower refugees and hosts like us and strengthen our local economy.”

He adds that refugees now purchase goods from his shop in larger quantities as compared to before the project launch.

“Now, with the vouchers, I can already see a big difference,” he says. Abdullahi believes that the interventions should not be limited to kitchen sets and soap, but should extend to other locally available services.

The voucher project will continue in Jijiga until the end of June. To date, over 7,000 vouchers have been distributed to over 7,700 refugees.

As part of the cash assistance, UNHCR is also supporting 4,200 refugees in Addis Ababa with a multi-purpose cash grant that enables them meet their immediate food and non-food needs.



## Working in partnership

- UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, provides protection, assistance and facilitates durable solutions for refugees in Ethiopia in collaboration with ARRA, the Ethiopian Government, UN Agencies and NGOs.

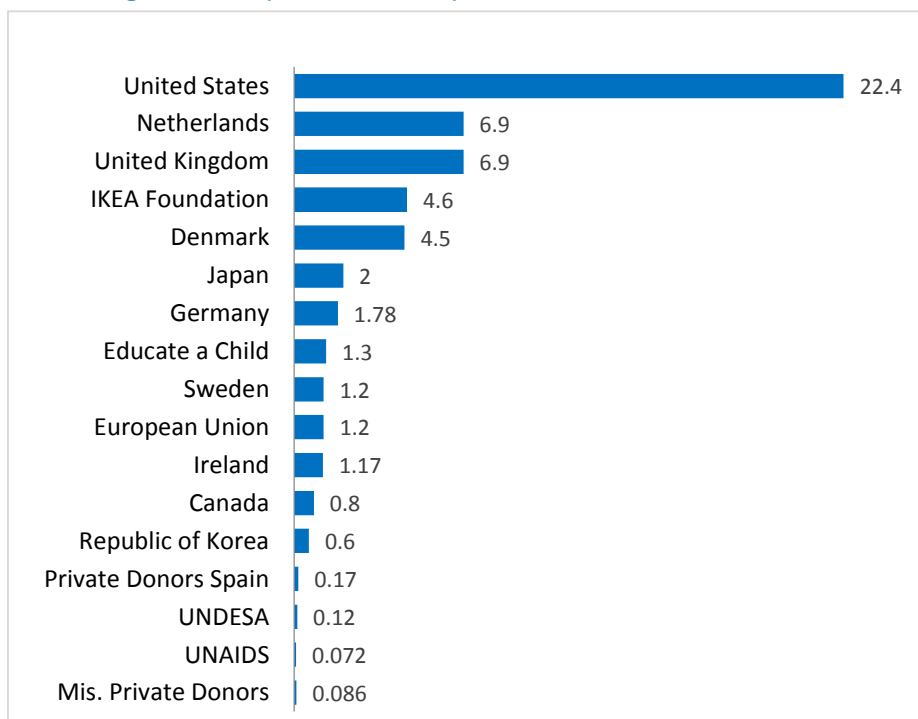
## Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the Ethiopia operation in 2018 amount to some

**US\$ 56 million.**

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

### Funding received (in million USD)



### External / Donors Relations

#### Special thanks to the major donors of broadly earmarked regional contributions from:

(2 million or more)

United States of America 81.2 million | Germany 15.2 million | Private donors Australia 6.2 million | Sweden 4.2 million | Australia 3.8 million | Canada 3.3 million | Private donors Germany 2.8 million | Norway 2.6 million | Italy | Malta | Private donors

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### LINKS

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Cash assistance comes in handy for refugees in Ethiopia's Somali Region