

Ethiopia

October 2019

Ethiopia is one of the largest refugee-hosting countries in Africa, sheltering over **700,000** registered refugees and asylum seekers as of 31 October 2019.

The Ministry of Peace jointly with UNHCR and the Danish Embassy, organized a Regional Government-to-Government Conference: “**Delivering the Global Compact on Refugees: Local Approaches to Inclusion**” in Addis Ababa from 31 October - 01 November 2019. The stocktaking conference was attended by Government representatives from Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda.

Together with the Ministry of Peace, UNHCR organized a national consultative meeting on the implementation of the **GCR** in different parts of Ethiopia. The feedback thus gathered fed into the regional stocktaking conference, held ahead of the first **Global Refugee Forum** in December 2019.

UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

382 national staff, **136** international staff (including JPOs)
146 individual contractors; **33** deployees & IUNVs

Offices:

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

FUNDING (AS OF 31 OCTOBER 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

- In line with the National Child Protection Strategy, UNHCR and partners address most pertinent child protection issues by strengthening community-based child protection mechanisms for the benefit of the 448,913 refugee children, representing 63 % of the total refugee population in Ethiopia. Out of these, 37,169 either came alone or were separated from their families or care givers during flight. A total of 11,744 children have been issued with birth certificates since Ethiopia launched vital events registration for refugees in October 2017. As a member of the Executive Committee of the United Nations Network on Migration, UNHCR recently participated in and contributed to a national consultation on the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) in Addis Ababa. The meeting discussed implementation modalities of the GCM and the prioritization of the locally applicable goals.

Education

- Following the reopening of schools and universities for the new academic year in Ethiopia, 255 refugee students have been placed in different public universities, joining hundreds of others who have already been enrolled in the previous years. UNHCR piloted the ‘Digital Education Platform’ in Bambasi Refugee Camp, in western Ethiopia, a new tool used to record students’ data and provide accurate information on school enrollment rate and out of school children. Once successfully piloted, the service will be established in all camps and accessed by relevant partners and the host government.

Health

All components of primary health care services were provided within camp level health facilities while referral care was provided at regional health facilities as well as specialized hospitals in the capital Addis Ababa. The crude and under-five children mortality rates remained within the expected range. No disease outbreak has been reported from any of the camps. The number of malaria cases has stabilized after coordinated control measures have been taken. World Mental Health Day has been celebrated in all Refugee Camps, focusing on suicide prevention.

Food Security and Nutrition

- Eleven out of the 18 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 seven camps

have higher than acceptable GAM rates. Acute and chronic malnutrition remain a challenge, mainly in camps in the Tigray and Afar Regions 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

- Fifteen 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, down from 21 camps in the previous month. This is attributed to breakdown of two surface water pumps in Gambella which have since been fixed. Similarly, 21 refugee camps have met the minimum standards of maximum of 20 persons per latrine, but the household-level latrine coverage remains below the standard.

Shelter

- The National Shelter Strategy (2017-2020) informs a collective and coherent response, based on available resources, to enable refugees to access shelter solutions. A total of 131,186 households, equivalent to 54 percent of the total refugee population are in need of transitional shelter solutions, with a target of 40,000 transitional shelters to be constructed country-wide by the end of 2019.

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 Buramino 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. Charcoaled briquette distribution using the CBI modality has started in camps in the Benishangul-Gumuz Region (BGR) with 4,770 kg of bar type briquettes delivered among 207 households using the voucher system. The grid connected communal kitchen in Sherkole camp, BGR, has become functional with 26 electric stoves while some 94 solar street lights are installed across the camps in the same region. 22,910 pcs of briquettes have been distributed among 1,222 targeted households in camps in the Afar and Benishangul-Gumuz regions.

Livelihoods and Self-Reliance

- UNHCR supported the organization of the first Public-Private Dialogue (PPD) in the Region aimed at exploring ways of creating opportunities for the economic inclusion of displaced persons including refugees. Organized in the context of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), the Dialogue attracted the participation of 140 participants, including more than 80 from the private sector. Participants expressed commitment to play their part in the implementation of the GCR, with a recommendation to set up a mechanism to coordinate their efforts.

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 October 2019, 3,410 individuals have been referred to different resettlement countries, surpassing the original plan of 3,000. An additional 56 individuals have been processed for family reunification. In addition, 1,996 persons have departed to different resettlement countries while 77 have gone to Italy as part of the Second Protocol of the 'Humanitarian Corridor'.

External / Donors Relations

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