

Ethiopia

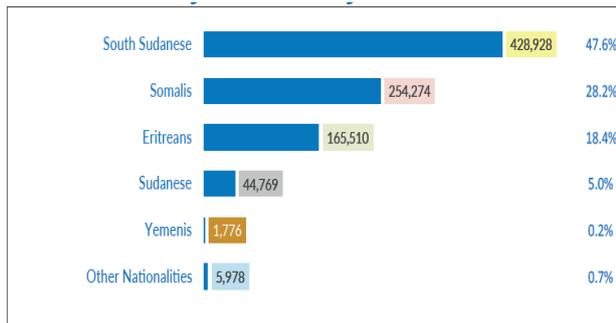
January 2018

Ethiopia is host to the second largest refugee population in Africa, sheltering over **900,000** registered refugees and asylum seekers as of 31 January 2018.

In January 2018, **7,895** refugees arrived in Ethiopia, mainly from South Sudan (**5,960**) and Eritrea (**1,639**)

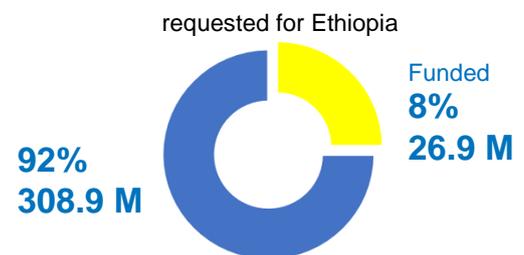
Ethiopia formally launched the **CRRF** in **November 2017**, paving the way for the implementation of the nine pledges it made at the Leaders' Summit on Refugees in September 2016 in New York.

POPULATION OF CONCERN



FUNDING (AS OF 31 JANUARY 2018)

USD 335.8 M



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

341 national staff, **117** international staff (including JPOs)

1536 individual contractors

30 deployees & IUNVs

Offices:

1 Branch Office in (Addis Ababa), **2** Field Offices-Sherkole and Mekelle, **5** Sub-Offices- Melkadida, Gambella, Shire, Assosa and Jijiga

Working with Partners

- UNHCR's main Government counterpart to ensure protection of refugees in Ethiopia is the Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA). In addition, UNHCR works in close coordination with some 40 partners, and is fully engaged in the Humanitarian Country Team in Ethiopia, where refugee programmes are discussed strategically to ensure that the needs of refugees are adequately presented and addressed. UNHCR is also building on well-established coordination fora such as the Refugee Task Force, donor, inter-sectors and sector working group meetings at the national and regional level. As part of the CRRF, UNHCR is furthering partnerships with line ministries, regional and local authorities, as well as development partners.



Eritrean refugee children playing checkers at the Endabaguna staying centre. UNHCR/Kisut G.Egziabher

Main Activities

Protection

- In the context of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), UNHCR plans to renovate the Urban Reception Centre in Addis Ababa in order to enhance its service delivery capacity, and ensuring the presence of all service providers. This will provide refugees access to a range of complimentary services in one central location between Monday and Thursday.

Education

- Preliminary data on the school enrolment rate show that the number of refugee children in primary schools has increased from 118,275 in 2016/17 to 132,563 in the 2017/2018 academic year. This brings the total elementary school enrolment rate to 72%, which is so close to the Ethiopian government's pledge target of increasing refugees' primary school enrolment rate to 75%. Similarly, secondary school enrolment rate has increased to 12% from a mere 9% in the previous academic year. Currently 2,300 refugees are enrolled in tertiary education compared to 1,600 during the last academic year.
- Gaps in the provision of education in Ethiopia include lack of available classroom space, lack of trained teachers, and quality classroom materials, including books, scientific implements, and stationary materials. The average teacher to student ratio is 1:80, with only 56% of teachers having formal qualifications to teach at the primary school level.

Health

- In 2017, 1,053,384 persons received consultations in health centres across the camps, including 10% from the host communities. The health facility utilization rate stood at 1.2 consultations per refugee per year and is within the standard of more than 1 consultations per year. The mortality rate in children under five is 0.2/1000/month and remains within the expected range. 97% of all deliveries were conducted with the help of skilled birth attendants. In 2018 access to health services will be further enhanced including through the construction of two additional health centres while services for non-communicable diseases and neglected tropical diseases will be scaled up.

Food Security and Nutrition

- A recovery rate of 91.0% and 87.3% was achieved (standard: >75%) for children with moderate and severe malnutrition, respectively. All children aged 6 to 24 months continued to be enrolled in the blanket supplementary feeding programme in all camps in order to compliment the general food ration with high energy and nutrient-dense foods appropriate for optimal growth and development. This is extended to children up to 59-months-old in Gambella, Melkadida and Afar regions where the prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) remains above the emergency threshold of 15%. GAM and stunting prevalence remain within the emergency threshold in 15 and 10 of the 26 refugee camps respectively.

Water and Sanitation

- 12.6 million litres of potable water was supplied to all camps on a daily basis, representing an average per capita supply of 18.7 litres of potable water per day. Average household latrine coverage remains 35%. Five camps are currently enjoying solar energy for water pumping, with 12 additional camps planned to be solarized in 2018. This will significantly reduce unit cost of water production, with three more regions joining in 2018. The utility approach to water supply is being piloted in Gambella (at Itang) and serving over 200,000 refugees and host communities. Three additional regions in Tigray, Benishangul Gumuz and Jijiga are planned for 2018 with the aim to reduce unit cost of water production and ensure sustainability.

Shelter and CRIs

- UNHCR has put in place the necessary structures and systems and conducted response analysis for the institutionalisation of Cash-Based Interventions (CBIs) in 2018. Based on the response analysis, it is expected that use of cash in different sectors, including in replacing Core Relief Items (CRIs), will be rolled out in 2018 in all field offices apart from Gambella and Dollo where there are plans for joint CBI assessments by UNHCR, WFP and ARRA.

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 take place both at the zonal and camp levels.

Access to Energy

- In 2018 UNHCR will give continued attention to ensuring refugees' access to energy sources while strengthening environmental protection activities in and around the refugee camps. Planned activities for the year include installation of street lights, distribution of solar home systems and lamps, solarization of schools, health centers and water pumping systems across the refugee camps. A mixed energy solution will be applied for alternative domestic fuel through the provision of ethanol, kerosene, briquette, biogas and grid connected electricity.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- UNHCR's livelihood activities targeting refugees and host communities fall under: agriculture and livestock; vocational skills training; microfinance and small enterprise. Backyard gardening has been established in Gambella and Assosa, while in Shire refugees are largely engaged in agriculture and goats and cattle fattening. Vocational training courses are available in all locations, and are increasingly linked to markets, often targeting youth and women. Income Generating Activities are related to business skills of refugees and driven by market opportunities. In line with CRRF, UNHCR will focus on enhancing coordination of livelihood interventions with development actors.

Durable Solutions

- Providing resettlement opportunities remains a top priority, as conditions for voluntary repatriation are still unfavourable for most refugees in Ethiopia and options for local integration are limited. In January 2018, 261 individuals were referred to the UNHCR Regional Service Centre for resettlement, with additional 112 individuals submitted to resettlement countries. At the end of January, 48 individuals departed to resettlement countries while 51 left for Canada and the USA on family reunification and private sponsorship. The 'Humanitarian Corridor' project, expected to give a durable solution to approximately 500 refugees, is underway, with the first group of 25 refugees already departed to Italy and 113 others scheduled to depart in February 2018.

External / Donors Relations

UNHCR is grateful for the direct contributions to the UNHCR Ethiopia Operation from:

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