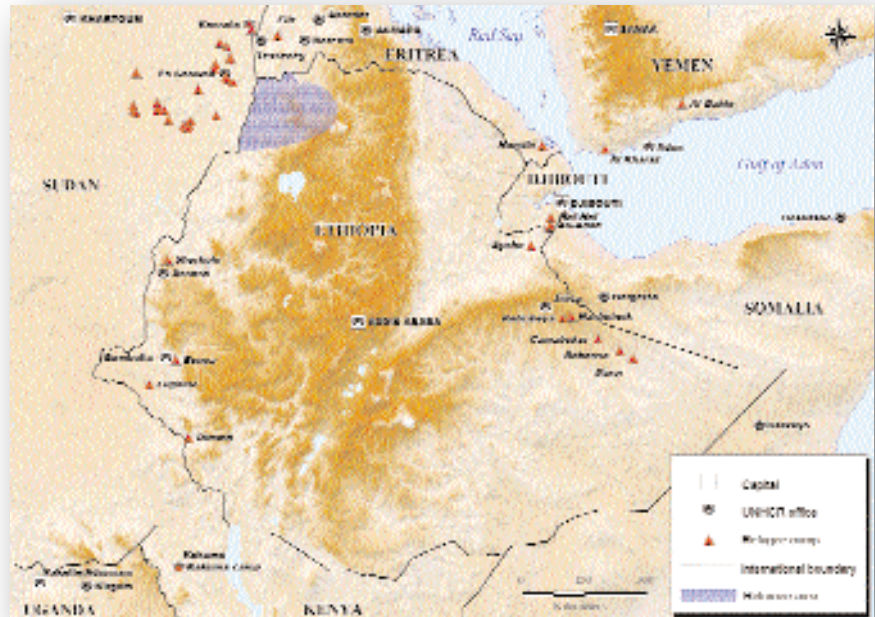


Ethiopia in short

Main Objectives

- Promote the voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees to north-west Somalia and facilitate dispersal from the camps of Ethiopian nationals (of ethnic Somali origin) to their communities of origin in Ethiopia.
- Meet the basic needs of Sudanese refugees and implement activities geared towards local settlement and self-sufficiency.
- Mitigate environmental degradation and rehabilitate areas in and around the refugee settlements.
- Protect and assist urban refugees and help resettle those who are eligible.



WORKING ENVIRONMENT

Recent Developments

Following the voluntary repatriation of 67,000 Somali refugees during 2000, the remaining 100,000 Somalis will be consolidated into six of the existing camps located in the Somali National Regional State (eastern Ethiopia). The camp population includes Ethiopian nationals (of ethnic Somali origin) who returned from Somalia in previous years and settled in the camps. The voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees goes hand in hand with the dispersal from the camps of Ethiopian nationals and their reintegration in communities of origin.

In 2000, an estimated 5,000 new Sudanese refugees fled continuing insecurity in the Blue Nile region of southern Sudan. They crossed into the Bamubudie area of Benishangul-Gumuz, bringing the total number of Sudanese refugees to roughly 75,000. The pattern of new arrivals over the last few years suggests that this number may increase during 2001.

PLANNING FIGURES

Population	Jan. 2001	Dec. 2001
Somali Refugees ¹	100,000	30,000
Sudanese Refugees	75,000	75,000
Eritrean Refugees	3,000	3,000
Urban Refugees	500	500
Total	178,500	108,500

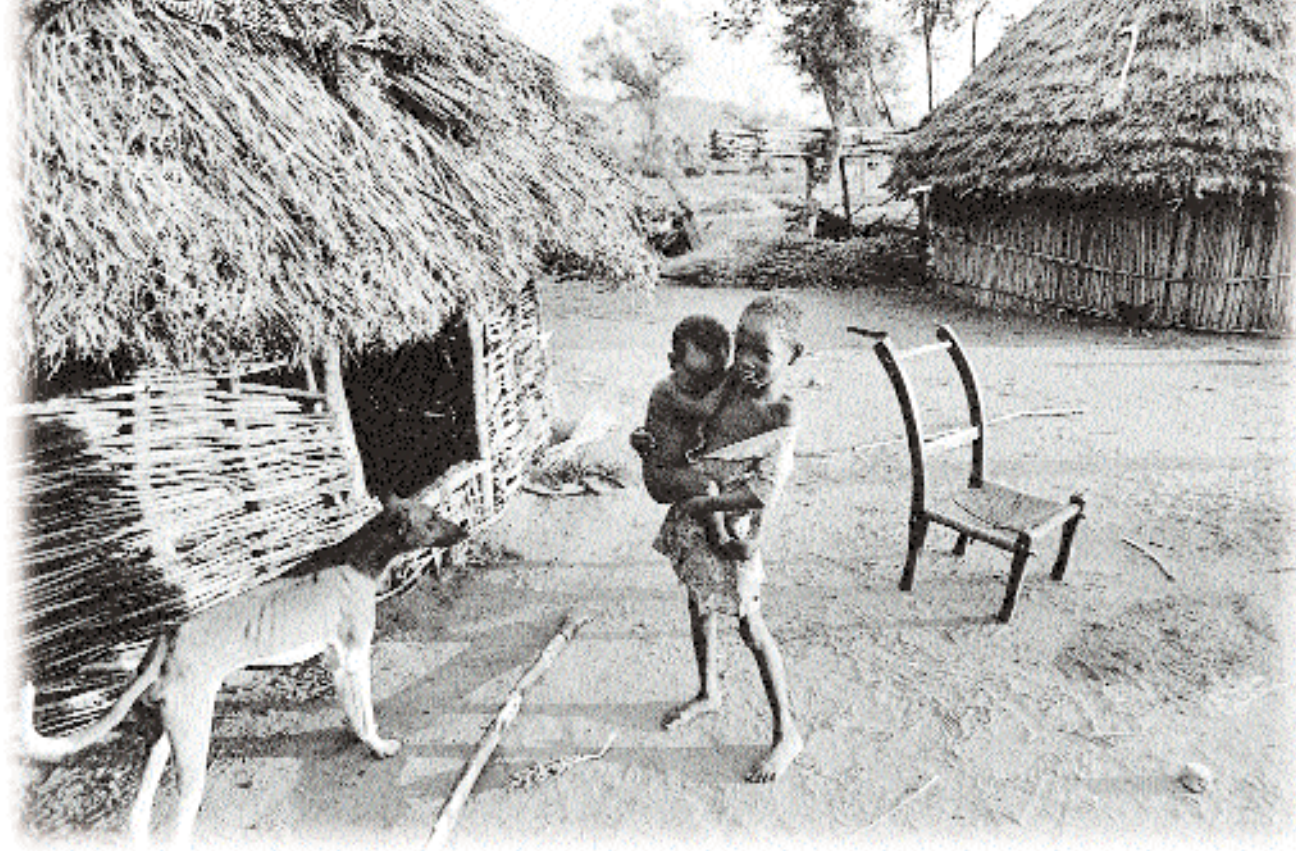
¹ UNHCR expects that by the end of 2001, some 70,000 Somalis will have returned to their homes, while some 30,000, mainly from southern Somalia, will remain in the camps.

TOTAL REQUIREMENTS • USD 23,291,648

The Sudanese refugees are located in four settlements in the Gambella National Regional State (western Ethiopia).

In addition, more than 3,000 Eritreans sought asylum in the western zone of Tigray during the recent conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea. They are sheltered in a temporary site at Wa'ala Nhibi, about 13 kilometres north of Sheraro town.

Following a Tripartite Agreement signed in Nairobi on 20 June 2000 between UNHCR and the Governments of Ethiopia and Kenya, UNHCR facilitated the voluntary repatriation of some 5,000 Kenyan refugees in Moyale.



Refugees from Djibouti are locally integrated in the communities that host them in the Afar National Regional State and are not assisted by UNHCR.

A small group of about 500 urban refugees from 15 different countries resides in Addis Ababa.

Constraints

Chronic instability in southern Somalia and southern Sudan has impeded voluntary repatriation to these areas and directly affects security in Ethiopia's border regions, where the refugee camps are located. Inter-tribal fighting and conflicts among the refugee populations exacerbate insecurity in and around the camps.

There are few opportunities for local integration and self-sufficiency, as refugees have limited access to arable land and virtually no access to local employment. Some refugees, especially women, have become self-employed small traders with the help of a revolving fund made available by UNHCR and implementing partners. Overall, refugees remain largely dependent on international assistance.

The recent drought affected many of the highland areas of Ethiopia, as well as pastoral and agro-pastoral areas, resulting in significant losses of livestock. Food insecurity, malnutrition and land degradation will remain major challenges for many years to come.

STRATEGY

Protection and Solutions

Ethiopia has acceded to the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol and the 1969 OAU Convention. UNHCR will con-

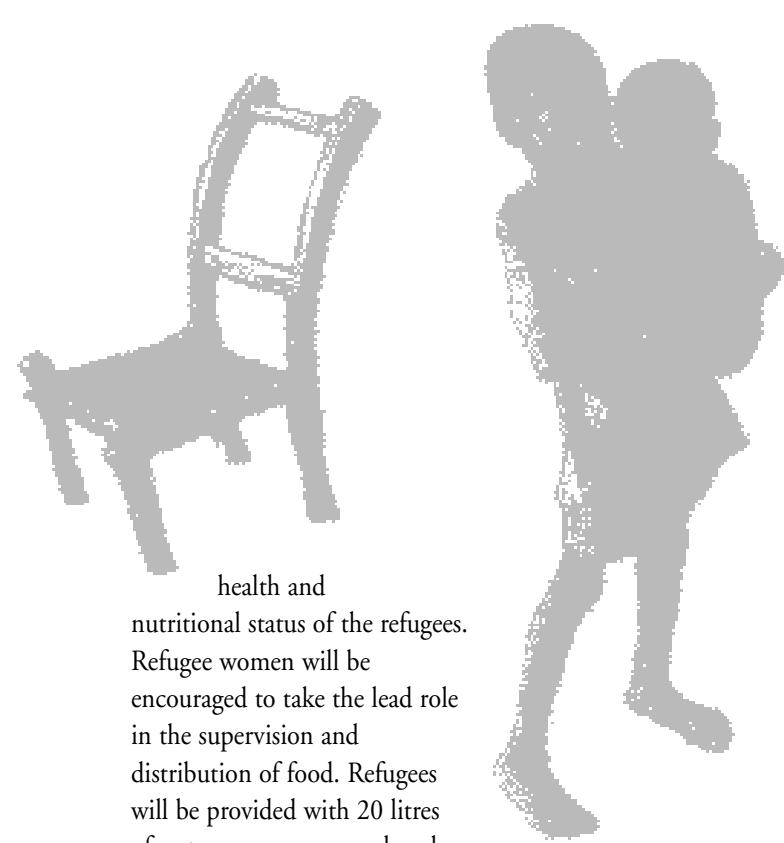
tinue to work closely with the Government on the adoption of national refugee legislation. UNHCR will conduct workshops for government officials and partner staff on international refugee protection and refugee status determination. Particular attention will be paid to the protection needs of women, children and vulnerable individuals.

Capitalising on the momentum gained in 2000, UNHCR will continue to promote the voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees and dispersal from the camps of Ethiopian nationals. To facilitate dispersal, it was agreed that the same repatriation package (food, non-food items and a travel grant) would be given to Ethiopian nationals returning to their communities of origin. It is anticipated that by the end of 2001, some 70,000 Somalis will have returned to their homes, while some 30,000, mainly from southern Somalia, will remain in the camps. Prospects for the voluntary repatriation of Sudanese refugees remain remote due to the ongoing conflict between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). UNHCR will continue to pursue local settlement opportunities for this group, as well as resettlement in a third country. It is not expected that the newly arrived Eritrean refugees will return to Eritrea in the near future. They are mainly of Kunama and Tukri/Hausa origin.

Assistance

Somali Refugees

Pending voluntary repatriation, UNHCR will continue to assist the Somali refugees in the camps. WFP will provide basic food commodities for general and selective feeding programmes, while UNHCR will provide complementary commodities, such as therapeutic milk, to maintain the



health and nutritional status of the refugees. Refugee women will be encouraged to take the lead role in the supervision and distribution of food. Refugees will be provided with 20 litres of water per person per day, drawn from the *Haffir* (earth) dams or brought by truck from the Jerrer Valley borewells. The construction of the Jerrer Valley pipeline is expected to be completed by the end of 2001, bringing to an end the current water trucking operation. Borewells and pipeline systems will be maintained, as will all major access roads leading to the camps.

Basic hygienic standards will be maintained by providing one pit latrine for every 20 persons and organising regular camp cleaning campaigns. To reduce the incidence of malaria, refugee shelters will be sprayed with pesticides. Reproductive health programmes will continue and information campaigns will raise awareness of the risks of female genital mutilation and HIV/AIDS. Mine-awareness programmes will continue to prepare the refugees for return to areas that could be mined.

Refugees will be provided with basic household items such as blankets, soap, jerry cans and plastic sheeting. They will be trained to produce and use fuel-saving stoves to mitigate damage to the environment and reduce exposure to sexual violence for women who usually collect firewood outside the camps. In addition, they will be encouraged to make mud-bricks for the construction of their *tukuls* (huts) to reduce the use of scarce forest resources.

The existing skills training courses (e.g. sewing and basket weaving) and other income-generating activities, will be expanded. A limited amount of money will be provided to women's groups to be used as a revolving fund. Despite poor school attendance, attempts will be made to keep schools running smoothly and increase the enrolment of students, particularly girls. Camp schools will be upgraded and educational materials provided. Peace education will be added to the standard curriculum. Further efforts will be made to enhance the skills of teachers.

Through the Inter-governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) initiative and UNDP/UNHCR collaboration, infrastructure around the camps will be rehabilitated. Priority multi-sectoral projects will be implemented in collaboration with regional and national authorities, UN agencies and NGOs in order to enhance stability for both returnees and the local population.

Sudanese Refugees

As the refugee settlements are located in areas well suited for agriculture, UNHCR will continue to pursue local settlement and self-sufficiency by requesting the central and local authorities to allot additional land to the refugees. Refugees will be encouraged to engage in farming, with emphasis on vegetable production and animal husbandry. WFP will ensure a monthly supply of food, as refugees are not yet able to produce enough.

A fully operational water system will be maintained to supply potable water for the refugees, as well as the local population. A ratio of one pit latrine for every 20 persons will be ensured. An integrated health service will be provided and health facilities will be renovated and maintained. To reduce the incidence of malaria, refugee shelters will be fumigated. Refugees will produce basic household items such as soap, sanitary kits, fuel-saving stoves and clothes for their use. This will be supplemented by local and international procurement.

Refugees will be mobilised to actively participate in all activities in order to create a sense of ownership of the programme. Greater efforts will be made to empower refugee women by involving them in decision-making. UNHCR will continue to advocate the rights of children. Family tracing and family reunification activities for unaccompanied minors will also continue. The enrolment of children in formal and non-formal education activities will be increased. Students who complete their primary education will be assisted to continue their secondary education in public schools.

Refugees, as well as the local population, will be encouraged to participate in mitigating environmental degradation in and around the refugee settlements. Activities will include water conservation, weeding, tree-planting and environmental education and awareness-raising.

Eritrean Refugees

Discussions are underway concerning the transfer of the Eritrean refugees to a site away from the border. UNHCR is negotiating for a suitable site that would offer more space in the event of additional arrivals and better grazing land for the refugees' livestock. Following their transfer to the new site, UNHCR will address the water, shelter, health and sanitation needs of the refugees.

Urban Refugees

Most of the urban refugees are recognised refugees. UNHCR will intervene to speed up the process for those still awaiting status determination. Resettlement opportunities will be pursued for those who are eligible, in particular for women at risk. Allowances will be provided to cover food, housing and clothing expenses, as well as medical services. School-age children will be enrolled in primary schools. Vocational skills training and income-generating schemes will continue.

Desired Impact

The success of the voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees will depend largely on sustained peace and security, as well as increased absorption capacity in areas of return. The success of the local settlement of Sudanese refugees and their increased self-reliance will depend primarily on the provision of adequate land and its effective utilisation. Pending durable solutions, the provision of protection and assistance will improve the general well-being of the refugees, thereby enhancing the quality of asylum. The rehabilitation of infrastructure and of the environment in and around the refugee camps will improve relations between the refugees and local populations.

ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Management

UNHCR has established a Regional Directorate in Addis Ababa with overall responsibility for the East and Horn, and Great Lakes regions of Africa. In Addis Ababa, there is also a Branch Office for the Ethiopia country operation, supported by offices in Assosa, Gambella, Jijiga and Moyale. These offices (including the Regional Directorate) will be administered by a total of 22 international staff (including six Junior Professional Officers and four United Nations Volunteers) and 170 national staff.

OFFICES

Addis Ababa
Assosa
Gambella
Jijiga
Moyale (will be closed in 2001)

Co-ordination

In 2001, UNHCR will work closely with the Government, nine international and six national NGOs, other UN agencies, such as WFP, UNFPA, UNDP, WHO, UNICEF and UNESCO, as well as with IOM, ECA, OAU, ICRC and IGAD. UNHCR will urge

donors and development actors to implement longer-term rehabilitation and reintegration activities.

PARTNERS

Government Agencies

Administration of Refugee and Returnee Affairs
Bureau of Agriculture
Bureau of Natural Resources Development and Environmental Protection
Ethiopian Road Authority
Regional Bureau for Water Resources Development

NGOs

ATLAS
Development and Inter-Church Aid of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church
Handicap International
Hope for the Horn
Jesuit Refugee Service
Lutheran World Federation
Médecins sans Frontières (NL)
Opportunities Industrial Centre
Organisation for Development in Amhara
Oromo Self Help Organisation
Radda Barnen (S)
Refugee Care Netherlands
Rehabilitation and Development Organisation
Relief Society of Tigray
Save the Children Fund (USA)
Society of International Ministries

BUDGET (USD)

Activities and Services	Annual Programme
Protection, Monitoring and Co-ordination	2,861,523
Community Services	906,869
Crop Production	180,000
Domestic Needs/Household Support	1,873,125
Education	1,082,712
Fisheries	10,000
Food	99,025
Forestry	585,134
Health/Nutrition	1,642,507
Income Generation	90,000
Legal Assistance	340,112
Livestock	40,000
Operational Support (to Agencies)	1,940,827
Sanitation	137,830
Shelter/Other Infrastructure	475,406
Transport/Logistics	5,308,113
Water (non-agricultural)	1,824,940
Total Operations	19,398,123
Programme Support ¹	3,893,525
Total	23,291,648

¹ Includes USD 1,512,008 for the costs of the Regional Director's Office.