

# ETHIOPIA

ETHIOPIA IN SHORT

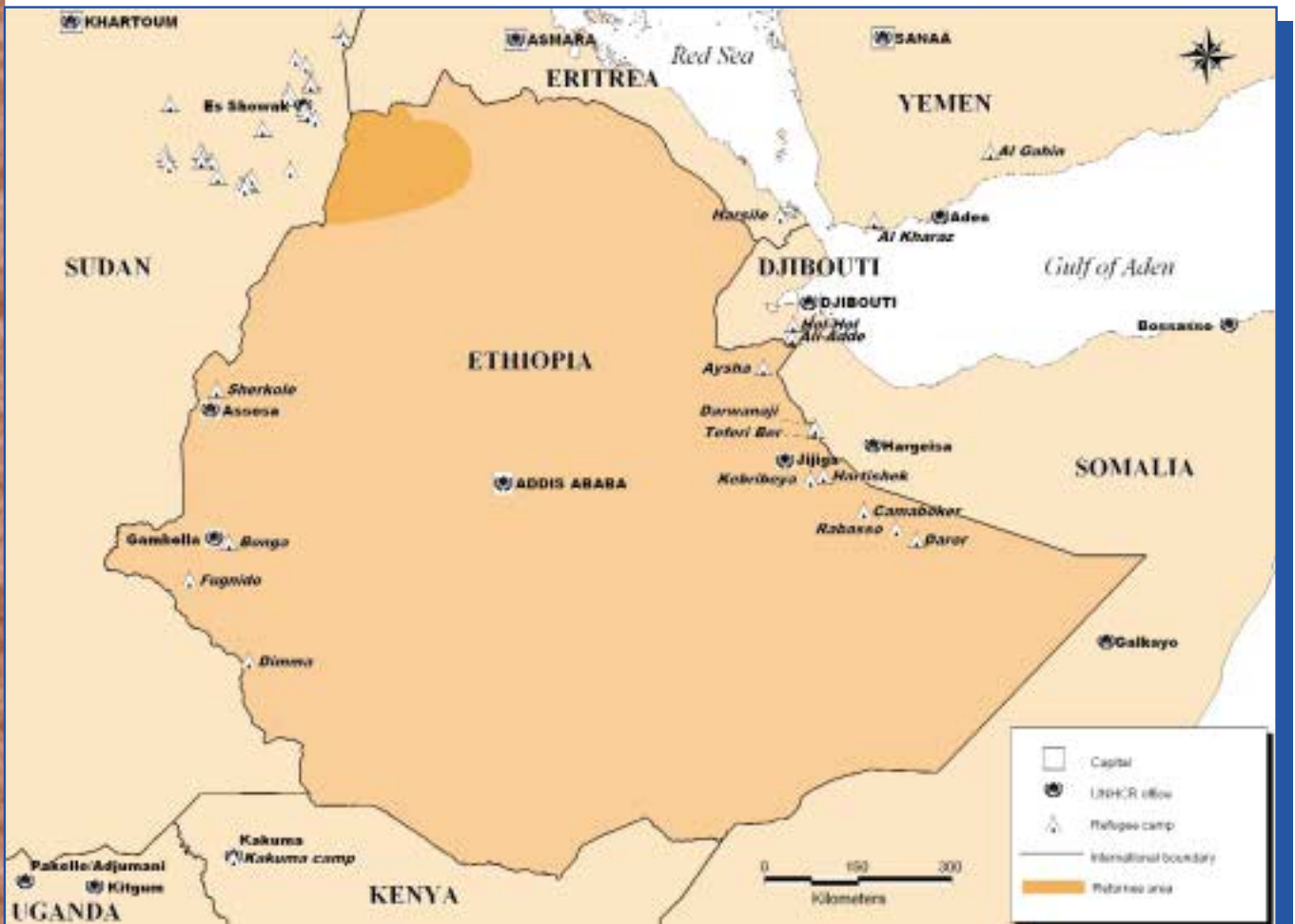


## IN SHORT

### Main Objectives

- Provide protection, material assistance and services for more than 200,000 mainly Somali and Sudanese refugees.
- Promote lasting solutions through voluntary repatriation for Somali refugees, and local settlement and self-sufficiency for Sudanese refugees.
- Improve assistance to respond to the particular needs of refugee women and children.
- Mitigate environmental degradation and rehabilitate degraded areas around the refugee settlements.

Planning Figures		
Population	Jan. 2000	Dec. 2000
Somali Refugees	171,000	111,000
Sudanese Refugees	70,000	90,000
Kenyan Refugees	1,000	0
Djiboutian Refugees	1,300	1,300
Urban Refugees	485	600
<b>Total</b>	<b>243,785</b>	<b>202,900</b>
<b>Total Requirements USD 22,598,062</b>		



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## WORKING ENVIRONMENT

### Recent Developments

The influx of new asylum-seekers from Sudan into Ethiopia has slowed down during the past two years. Nevertheless, Ethiopia continues to host a large refugee population, with Somalis and Sudanese in the majority. Moreover, Ethiopia is accommodating refugees from Djibouti and Kenya, as well as a small group of urban refugees of various origins.

### Constraints

Refugees in Ethiopia have generally been treated in accordance with international protection standards. Nevertheless, a number of concerns remain partly due to the fact that UNHCR's main governmental implementing partner, the Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA), is acting both as a policy-making body and as an implementing partner, which tends to create a conflict of interest. This is a perennial issue that remains unresolved. However, new refugee legislation now being drafted provides scope for a clearer separation of the two functions.

Cases of detention, expulsion and refoulement mainly of Sudanese refugees are becoming more frequent. UNHCR has negotiated access to detained refugees, but remains concerned by such incidents.

A priority is to maintain the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps, especially in the western settlements hosting Sudanese refugees. UNHCR is endeavouring to make the authorities more receptive to such concerns and to take appropriate action.

## STRATEGY

### Somali Refugees

UNHCR's objective for 2000 is to repatriate some 60,000 Somalis to north-west Somalia. First, the refugees will receive a cash allowance to enable them to feed themselves while in transit. Temporary shelters will be constructed in Ethiopia for screening and registration purposes, and to provide interim housing for refugees pending their return to their communities of origin. Then they will be transported to various areas in north-west Somalia. UNHCR will give special attention to the most vulnerable refugees. Once the camps in

Darwanaji Tefer Ber, Hartisheik and Rabasso close at the end of 2000, UNHCR will begin to consolidate the Aisha, Camaboker and Daror camps. The Somali refugees remaining in Ethiopia will continue to receive protection and assistance.

### Sudanese Refugees

Due to on-going fighting between the Sudanese Government and the SPLA (Sudan People's Liberation Army), UNHCR does not promote voluntary repatriation to Sudan. Hence, some 70,000 Sudanese refugees will continue to receive assistance in the Bonga, Dimma, Fugnido, and Sherkole camps. To make sure that food reaches the most vulnerable, UNHCR will introduce a new distribution system targeting women and single heads of household. Hopefully this will increase the number of women participating in the food management and distribution system. In 2000, non-food items will be distributed to new arrivals and to refugees whose items will need to be replaced. In addition, UNHCR will improve sanitation in the camps and facilitate access to the camps by maintaining and upgrading the road network. In order to maintain satisfactory health and nutrition levels, health centres and clinics will be equipped with additional qualified staff and adequate supplies of drugs. The refugees at Bonga, who are engaging in agricultural activities, will benefit from UNHCR's technical advice and instruction in the use of techniques to improve their yields.

In order to restore some areas in western Ethiopia which have been seriously degraded by the protracted presence of refugees, UNHCR will protect the natural forest and plant hardy trees suitable for the soil and climate.

### Kenyan Refugees

Some 1,000 Kenyan refugees are currently residing in southern Ethiopia. UNHCR will assist and monitor their voluntary repatriation, mostly through the development of an appropriate legal framework for their return in cooperation with the UNHCR Office in Nairobi. Visits by elders to their home villages in northern Kenya will be organised, in order to help them ascertain whether conditions in their areas of origin are conducive to voluntary return in safety and dignity.

### Other Refugees

In addition to the 1,300 Djiboutian refugees living in the Afar region, who will continue to benefit from the limited health and education services provided



by UNHCR, Ethiopia also hosts a small number of urban refugees from various countries in Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Despite efforts to nurture self-reliance (through education, skills training and individual support activities) their successful local integration is hamstrung by the absence of refugee legislation and by restrictions imposed on the employment of refugees.

### Desired Impact

It is UNHCR's objective to meet the protection and assistance needs of the various refugee groups presently residing in Ethiopia, and to find lasting solutions in the form of voluntary repatriation, local integration or resettlement. As conditions are still far from ripe for voluntary repatriation of Sudanese refugees in safety and dignity, the refugees are expected to remain in Ethiopia. Thus, UNHCR will focus on improving overall levels of assistance, and promote local integration where this is considered the most suitable solution. As for the Somali refugees, UNHCR will continue to repatriate those who can safely return from the camps in eastern Ethiopia to the north-west of Somalia.

## ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

### Management Structure

In 1999, the Office of the Regional Director was established in Addis Ababa, and the former Regional Liaison Office became a UNHCR Branch Office. There are 19 international and 173 national UNHCR staff working on the refugee programme in Ethiopia. Seven Junior Professional Officers will assist the UNHCR team.

### Coordination

The regional and sub-regional organisations operating out of Addis Ababa, such as the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), have undergone major institutional and programme restructuring. The changes were deemed necessary to enable these organisations to respond more effectively to the political and socio-economic problems affecting the African continent in general, and the Horn of Africa in particular. These problems relate to refugees and displaced persons, as well as broader humanitarian issues. In line with UNHCR's mandate to work closely with regional and sub-

regional bodies on issues of mutual concern, UNHCR used this period of revitalisation and restructuring to further strengthen collaboration with the relevant organisations, as well as with other UN agencies.

Offices
Addis Ababa Assosa Gambella Jijiga
Partners
<b>Government Agencies</b>
Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs Ethiopian Road Authority Office of Natural Resources Development and Environment Protection Regional Bureau for Water Resources Development
<b>NGOs</b>
CARE Development and Inter-Church Aid of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church Handicap International Hope for the Horn Jesuit Refugee Service Médecins Sans Frontières - Holland Opportunities Industrial Centre - Ethiopia Radda Barnen Rehabilitation and Development Organisation Save the Children - USA

Budget	
Activities and Services	Annual Programme
Protection, Monitoring and Coordination	2,776,529
Community Services	548,160
Crop Production	158,211
Domestic Needs/ Household Support	1,549,169
Education	1,106,722
Food	262,037
Forestry	520,215
Health/Nutrition	1,865,894
Income Generation	98,882
Legal Assistance	387,508
Livestock	69,217
Operational Support (to Agencies)	2,114,389
Sanitation	189,060
Shelter/Other Infrastructure	470,284
Transport/Logistics	4,404,837
Water (non-agricultural)	2,020,215
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>18,541,329</b>
<b>Programme Support</b>	<b>4,056,733</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,598,062</b>

