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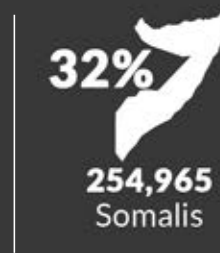
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"Football is what I think I was born to do in life."

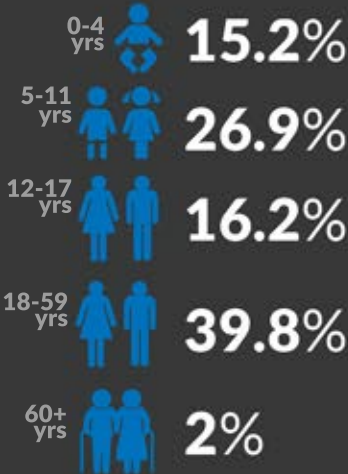
REGIONAL OVERVIEW

As of 31 October 2016

783,340
registered refugees
and asylum-seekers
in Ethiopia



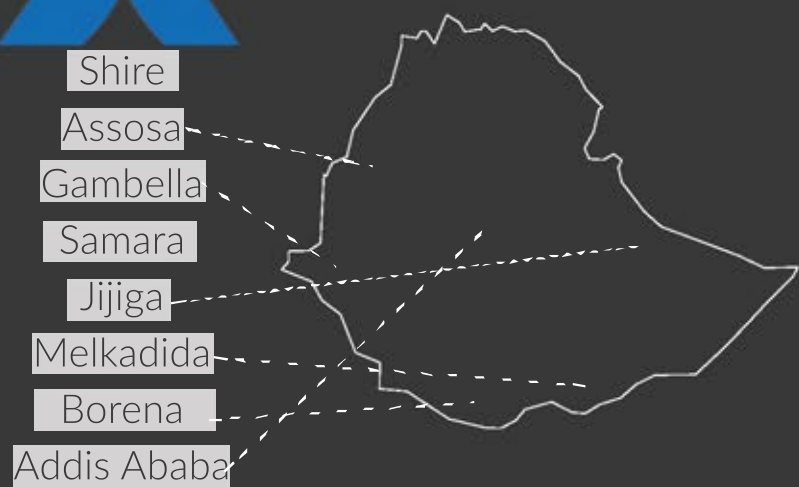
58%
below the
age of 18



12.8%
are youth



25 Camps



19,496 new arrivals
registered in
October

17,416 in Gambella

1,785 in Shire

132 in Assosa

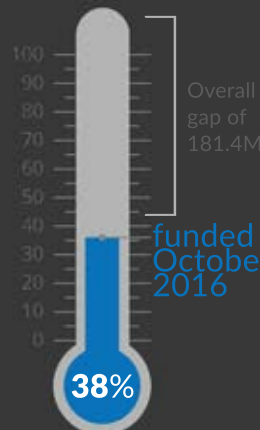
78 in Samara

57 in Melkadida

28 in Addis Ababa

61,970
new arrivals
in 2016

PROVIDING PROTECTION,
ASSISTANCE AND FACILITATING
DURABLE SOLUTIONS FOR REFUGEES
IN COLLABORATION WITH **ARRA**,
UN AGENCIES & NGOs



38% of the refugees' needs in Ethiopia have been covered through the regular programme and through the following situations: Somalia, South Sudan, Yemen and the Crisis in Europe.

*81,078 (10.9 percent) The Shire refugee population decreased by 81,078 refugees in September 2015: these refugees no longer reside in the Shire Camps and are believed to have spontaneously settled elsewhere in Ethiopia, subject to verification

FOCUS ON THE OPERATION

Somali refugees in Ethiopia: Innovative approaches in the country's South



Hot and dusty semi-deserts stretch from Ethiopia's Northeastern Afar region to the country's southeastern borders with Somalia and Kenya; tough locations serving as a temporary home for some 255,000 Somali refugees in Ethiopia. Whereas the Jijiga area hosts more than 37,000 refugees in three camps, including those who arrived as early as 1991, the Dollo Ado area in the South shelter as many as 217,000 refugees, 67.5 percent of whom are children.

In Dollo Ado, the refugees are accommodated in five different camps: Bokolomanyo and Melkadida camps, opened in 2009 and 2010 for refugees fleeing conflict in Somalia, whilst Kobe, Hilaweyn and BurAmino camps were all established in 2011 to shelter an exodus of refugees fleeing hunger and insecurity during the worst drought that affected the Horn of Africa region.

Dollo Ado is an "innovation-oriented" operation. Promoting community-based protection, education and quality teaching, as well as participation, self-reliance and livelihoods amongst the refugees and host communities represents the core of UNHCR engagement in the region.

"Dollo Ado is a complex operating environment where creativity and innovation are central to achieve results," says Tonderayi Makumire, UNHCR's Senior Livelihoods Officer based in Melkadida. "We are grateful to our partners and donors, especially the IKEA Foundation for their continued support in this endeavor".

The self-reliance and livelihoods projects help reduce the refugees' dependency on aid and equip them with skills that will prepare them for durable solutions.

They also serve to contribute to a more peaceful relationship between the Somali refugees and their Ethiopian hosts.

The first sector benefiting from the focus on innovation is education. Thus far, the Dollo Ado Education programme has led to the enrollment of some 43,000 students, including almost 20,000 girls; 36% of the refugee children receive an education. Furthermore, substantial increases in the number of teachers, now amounting to 385 refugee incentive teachers and 363 national teachers, have also enabled the development of additional educational institutions, from 18 in 2012 to 71 in 2016. As 11-year-old Zehra Ali Aden mentioned, "education is important for me because it will help me create a better life for myself, my parents and my country Somalia". Zehra is a grade four pupil from Centre A school in Melkadida camp.

Another example for the operation's emphasis on innovation is the Ideas Box, a multi-media library for Somali refugee children and youth and the first one of its kind in the Eastern African region. Implemented by Save the Children and Libraries without Borders, the Box contains books and ICT devices such as tablets, laptops and e-readers.

**“creativity and
innovation are
central to
achieve results”**

*-UNHCR Senior
Livelihoods Officer*

FOCUS ON THE OPERATION

As a versatile tool to empower refugees through access to information and self-education, the Ideas Box is contributing to the protection and self-development of children and youth. Amongst others, it is expected to reduce protection concerns such as child abuse and incidences of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), and raise opportunities for further education through access to information.

The Assets Based Community Development (ABCD) and Livelihoods Information Network and Knowledge Sharing (LINKS) approaches are central to the success of the livelihoods project in Dollo Ado. As indicated by Ms. Clementine Nkweta-Salami, the UNHCR Representative in Ethiopia, a tripartite agreement signed between UNHCR, ARRA and the Somali Regional government will allow refugees to have access to farm land on a 50:50 basis with their host counterparts. “By the end of 2017, about 1,000 ha of irrigated land will have been farmed by 2,000 Somali refugee and host households”, said Ms. Nkweta-Salami, who described the agreement as a remarkable achievement.

The refugees and host communities will see their incomes increase as they sell different crops to the markets, helping their families to meet basic needs and become self-reliant.

The resource-intensive approach in Dollo Ado aims to sustainably improve the livelihoods of refugees and host communities, to promote education, agriculture, agro-pastoralism, business start-ups, vocational training, as well as the development of infrastructure in the camps. Pending the attainment of a lasting solution to the plight of the Somali refugees, UNHCR continues to further develop innovative approaches that not only help the refugees whilst in exile but also prepares them for an eventual durable solutions to their plight.

By Moulaye Aidara in Melkadida

“By the end of 2017, about 1,000 ha of irrigated land will have been farmed by 2,000 Somali refugee and host households”

- UNHCR Representative in Ethiopia



FOCUS ON THE OPERATION

Redwan- a second-generation refugee in Ethiopia's Kebribeyah camp

The Kebribeyah refugee camp, located in Ethiopia's eastern hinterlands, is more than just a temporary harbor for some of the refugees. "I have been living here my entire life," says Redwan Sharif, 23, a Somali refugee born in Kebribeyah refugee camp, one of the three camps under UNHCR's Sub-Office Jijiga, sheltering more than 37,000 Somali refugees. Today, it is the only place she calls home.

In 1991, Redwan's parents and three of her siblings fled the outbreak of the war in Hargeisa, Somalia, where they had found refuge after previous displacements from southern Somalia. "My family walked 11 days and nights without a break to get to Kebribeyah in Ethiopia," Redwan says, lost in thoughts about her family's escape that she only knows from their stories. "There was no water. Many old people died along the way, and some children were left behind by their parents who could not carry all of them."

Redwan says that life in the country's oldest camp is far from what she hopes for her future. "The early years were better. Aid agencies used to be very helpful in trying to take care of us, supporting us with access to education and employment." Whilst UNHCR and partners continue to work on improving opportunities for refugees, including an increasing focus on access to education and livelihoods, some of the long term solutions, including voluntary repatriation, remain difficult to attain.

"I don't think I will go to southern Somalia in the near future because the situation that drove my family here has not changed much." Hargeisa, the departure point for her parents' flight to Ethiopia, is neither her nor her parents' home anymore, and she feels that they cannot go back because of Somalia's clan dynamics.

Despite the hardship and continuous struggle, Redwan also has memories of happy and blessed times in Kebribeyah; she got married in the camp and became the mother of two children. Furthermore, she went to school in the camp. "I recently graduated with a diploma. I also used to work as a social worker for a relief agency in the camp, making 700 Ethiopian Birr a month." Her diploma has not helped her to fully enjoy a stable life in Ethiopia yet, but Redwan's neighbour and close relative Halima sets a positive example and bright hopes for the future.

55 years old, Halima owns a private business which she founded with a cash grant provided by UNHCR. As her business grows, she becomes more optimistic about her family's future. "I will now be able to educate my children and become a renowned businesswoman with a lot of opportunities at hand; [and] as an elderly woman, I can advise the young people, including my children, to engage in businesses." Coming from a family with a crop farming background, Halima now supports eight children, including her own, and has the confidence to keep on expanding her horizons.

For the younger Redwan, a lot of questions are left unanswered. "I don't know where I will end up. I don't want my children to grow up and become parents in the camp like me," she declared.

UNHCR's Head of Office in Jijiga, Mr. Mohammed Mamoun Hussein, agrees that a lot needs to be done to improve living conditions and revive the hopes of the over 14,000 Somali refugee in the camp. "With additional funding, further efforts can be invested to encourage refugees like Redwan to follow the footsteps of Halimo and create a better future for themselves and their children."

By Abdirizak Musa in Kebribeyah

“My family walked 11 days and nights without a break to get to Kebribeyah in Ethiopia”



OPERATIONAL UPDATES

DONORS VISIT SOUTH SUDANESE NEW ARRIVALS IN GAMBELLA PART I

In a highly complex environment, with rapidly changing priorities and needs, UNHCR and partners in Ethiopia rely heavily on the generous contributions from donors. These enable us to provide protection, shelter, water, health, education and other essentials to the thousands of refugees and asylum-seekers that need assistance in the country, especially when emergencies flare up. The funds allocated to the operation in Gambella, and the donors' flexibility whenever possible, allow for the successful response to the #GambellaEmergency as well as to the need to find temporary housing for the over 30,000 new arrivals that have been registered since 3 September.

In spite of the great achievements of decongesting the Pagak Transit Centre and finding a suitable land whilst providing life-saving services, challenges remain ahead: address the situation in Akobo and ensure full preparedness for potential new arrivals.

To witness the achievements and the current situation in the field, the German Embassy and the UK's Department for International Development (DFID), two of UNHCR's donors in Ethiopia, held a joint mission to Gambella.

Having visited the Pagak Transit Centre, Simon Kreye, Regional Migration Officer for the Horn of Africa of the German Embassy, got a first-hand insight of the provision of services, including health, food and WASH, recognising and congratulating the amount of efforts being invested in responding to the immediate needs whilst progressing in relocating refugees to temporary shelters. "I was very impressed by the work done by UNHCR, ARRA and NGOs involved. Due to their joint efforts, refugees have found a safe haven in Ethiopia. I share their hope to return one day to their home country and their families, once South Sudan is safe for them. In the meantime, all should be done for them to be able to lead a dignified life. In my view, this includes reducing their dependency on foreign assistance by opening up possibilities to re-gain self-sufficiency."



Mr. Simon Kreye, Embassy of Germany, in Gambella@UNHCR/R. Riek

During technical discussions with UNHCR and partners, Nigel Clarke, DFID's Humanitarian Adviser in Ethiopia, commended the coordination amongst the various stakeholders and provided recommendations to not only address immediate needs but also to enhance long-term interventions. "The 'new' refugees will join a refugee population which has already spent two years in Ethiopia and could be in Ethiopia for years to come. In addition, responding in the short term, DFID is determined to concentrate on the 'protracted' nature of most displacement situations. It makes sense to plan for the longer-term and to integrate the refugee response into longer-term development strategies in hosting countries," he mentioned.

As the mission came to an end, the donors reiterated their commitment to the operation. "Globally, resources are very stretched with record numbers of refugees in need of assistance, but DFID has a good track record of responding to new crises whenever possible," mentioned Clarke. "The German government is well aware of the fact that Ethiopia, though facing its own social and economic challenges, keeps the door open for all those who are in need of protection and refuge. We will continue to assist the Ethiopian government in hosting one of the biggest refugee communities in Africa by supporting UNICEF and other UN organisations," added Kreye.

In early November, a second joint donor mission comprised of PRM, ECHO as well as of the Swiss and Dutch embassies will take place. UNHCR is extremely grateful to all its donors for their continuous support to the refugees and the operation in Ethiopia.



Mr. Simon Kreye, Embassy of Germany, and Mr Nigel Clarke, DFID, in Gambella@UNHCR/R. Riek

RESPONDING TO REFUGEES' NEEDS

UNHCR AND DRC LAUNCH THE 'STUDY ON THE ONWARD MOVEMENT OF REFUGEES FROM ETHIOPIA'

Acknowledging the issue of refugees pursuing dangerous journeys from Ethiopia to seek improved services and a durable solution to their plight elsewhere, UNHCR commissioned a study to the Danish Refugee Council (DRC). In close coordination with partners and the Ethiopian Government Refugee Agency -ARRA -, DRC carried out the study to ascertain the dynamics of the phenomenon of onward movement.

When some refugees and asylum-seekers resort to onward movements, they face heightened risks of violence, exploitation and other human rights violations.

After conducting research in Assosa, Shire and Jijiga, UNHCR and DRC launched the study on 25 October, which includes key findings as well as recommendations that will path the way towards improving and strengthening protection and assistance to provide alternatives to onward movements.



On 13 October, UNHCR Ethiopia participated in the seventh celebration of the International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) held at Addis Ababa. Organized by the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC), the half-day event included an exhibition as well as a series of speeches and a high-level panel around the motto "Live to Tell: Reducing disaster related mortality". Alongside some ten other organizations, including the NDRMC itself, UNHCR displayed its work to support refugees in disaster-affected contexts. The photos showed flooded refugee camps, refugee children receiving vaccination against diseases such as polio, and refugee families fleeing drought and taking their livestock with them. As refugees depend on external support and are exposed to risks related to natural disaster and hazard, UNHCR's participation in the exhibition was warmly welcomed by the NDRMC and other organizations.

Every year the IDDR celebrates how people around the world are reducing their exposure to disasters and raising awareness about the importance of reining in the risks that they face.

TELLING THE REAL STORY

TELLING THE REAL STORY TO REFUGEES IN ETHIOPIA

Since April 2016, UNHCR and partners have been engaging Eritrean and Somali refugee youth and children in the project "Telling the Real Story", seeking to bring messages from refugees in the diaspora who have embarked on onward movements through dangerous journeys. Jointly organizing group discussions and screenings of videos, thousands of refugees in Shire and Jijiga have been able to obtain the necessary information that will enable them to make an informed decision about their future. To date, the refugee youth have become more active through the project's community mobilization component by

using technology like WhatsApp groups to share information. In addition, they gained ownership of the project by arranging a friendly competition to decrease the number of refugees leaving the camps through irregular migration schemes.

"Telling the Real Story" is an online platform (website and social media) through which stories and first-hand testimonies are shared. For further information, visit www.tellingtherealstory.org

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

A day in the life of a UNHCR site planner in the #GambellaEmergency

“[The response requires] quick solutions to ensure that the new arrivals are settled in a dignified manner”

A day in the life of a UNHCR site planner in the Gambella emergency in Ethiopia's hot and humid west is long. Since arrivals from South Sudan have started to increase in early September 2016, Patrick Mutai, 35, UNHCR's site planner for the past three and a half years, has been working from early till darkness falls every day, spending most of the time in the field. Due to his profession, he is at the core of UNHCR's effective and successful response to the ongoing influx of new arrivals from South Sudan, amounting to some 35,000 refugees since 3 September 2016.

During the emergency, Patrick starts his day with an internal meeting with the shelter and site planning team. “We discuss challenges of relocation and accommodation, and potential solutions.” As the absorption capacity of the existing Jewi, Kule and Tierkidi refugee camps is fully filled, the selection and development of a new refugee camp quickly became the sole feasible option and day-defining task for the site planner; the new South Sudanese arrivals need a new refugee camp.

To accommodate the high numbers of new arrivals, as well as to more effectively deliver basic protection, health, and nutrition services to the refugees, UNHCR, together with the Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) and other partners, identified the Nguenyiel site for the development as a new refugee camp, with a capacity to shelter 50,000 refugees. This after assessing several other sites that were found to be likely to flood during the rainy season. According to Patrick, the identification and development of a new site requires, above all, “quick solutions to ensure that the new arrivals are settled in a dignified manner”.

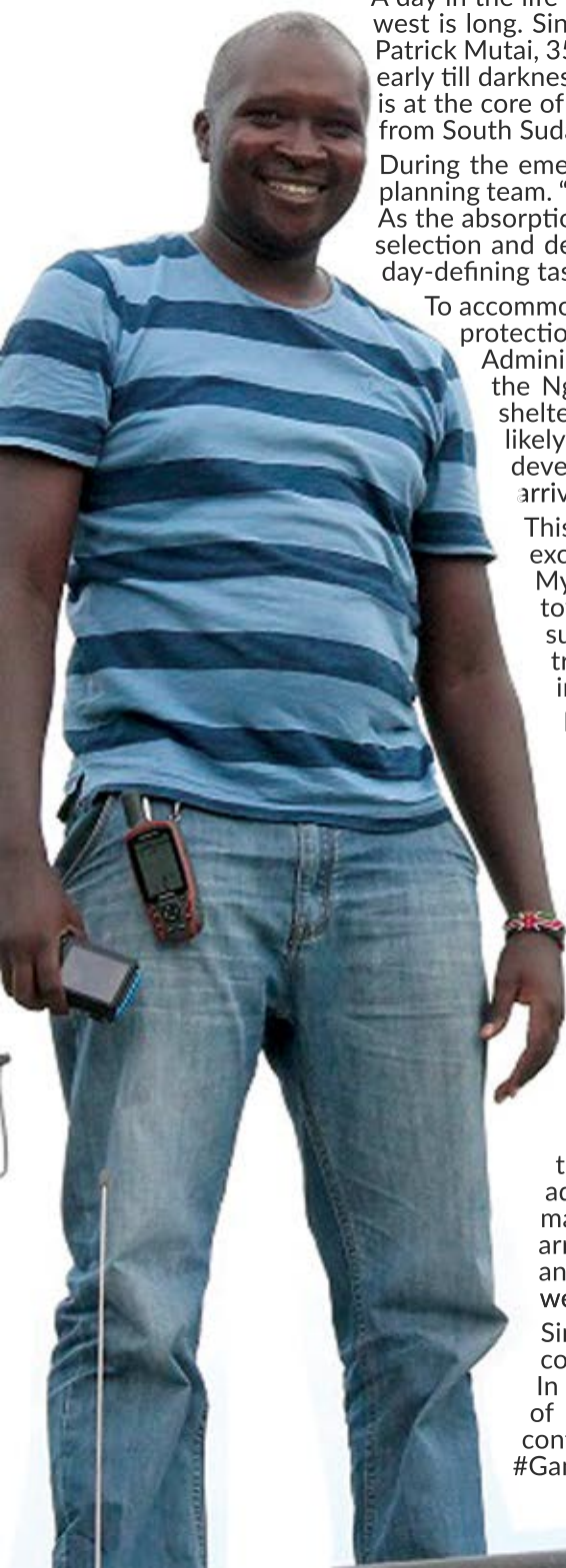
This is where the dynamic site planner, a qualified engineer and father of twins, excels. “I have a passion for humanitarian work, it gives me professional satisfaction. My policy in life is ‘make things happen.’” All optimism and energy are being directed towards the reoccurring challenges that Patrick faces on a daily basis. Finding a suitable site represents a complex and difficult task, often involving extensive travelling through rural areas with poor infrastructure. “The major part of my day involves visits to camps, border reception points, new and proposed sites.”

Patrick also oversees the emergency shelter construction and maintenance, as well as infrastructure development in all camps in Gambella, including the construction of the access road to the new site. Here, UNHCR and partners have thus far opened eight kilometres of the road and constructed 80 emergency shelters as well as ten hangars. Subsequent steps now include further construction of shelters, and ensuring new arrivals' access to basic health, nutrition and education services.

Asked about the biggest achievement in the Gambella emergency, the site planner emphasizes the quick identification of a suitable site that all partners could agree on. A particular highlight was the visit by the ARRA Zonal Coordinator to the new Nguenyiel refugee camp. “To get an impression of the site, we had to climb up a 20 metres-high steep rocky hill. The team got a perfect view of the site and a better understanding of the advantages, including cover from localized flooding.”

After long hours in the field, Patrick returns to the office desk to finalize essential paperwork and to prepare the next steps, finally ending the day with the daily staff debriefing meeting, long after sunset. However, the thoughts about adequately sheltering the refugees never really leave the site planner's mind. “The main challenge in the Gambella emergency remains the accommodation of all new arrivals. But given the ongoing development of the new Nguenyiel refugee camp and simultaneous plans to improve the facilities at the Pagak Transit centre, I think we can be optimistic about further successfully managing the emergency.”

Since 3 September, more than 35,000 refugees have arrived in Gambella, fleeing conflict, fear over renewed fighting, insecurity and food shortages in South Sudan. In total, Ethiopia is now hosting more than 325,000 South Sudanese refugees, most of whom are being accommodated in Gambella. UNHCR, ARRA and partners continue to closely coordinate their efforts to successfully mitigate the effects of the #GambellaEmergency.



REFUGEE VOICES

“Football is what I think I was born to do in life”

A football-crazy refugee aspires to be in rank of African stars

Olami Simon, a confident-looking young man, was born a refugee. Born to a Ugandan father and a South Sudanese mother in the former Dima refugee camp, western Ethiopia, the 19-year-old considers himself a Ugandan. However, he has never been to the country he calls home.

“Sometimes, on Facebook I meet and chat with some of my late father’s relatives in Uganda who often suggest that I go back home”, he said, trying in vain to retrieve a mental picture of his father’s homeland. “But I often tell them that Uganda is more foreign to me than is Ethiopia.”

Returning to South Sudan any time soon is not a feasible option either as the situation in the world’s youngest nation does not show any marked improvement. “Resettlement to the USA or another developed country is what I see as a lasting solution for myself and my family”.

Ethiopia is the largest refugee hosting country in Africa, with more than 783,000 persons as of the end of October 2016. The overwhelming majority of refugees are sheltered in 25 camps in different parts of the country but some 19,000 refugees, including Olami, his mother and six siblings, live in the capital Addis Ababa as urban refugees. UNHCR transferred Olami and his family from a camp in 2004 so they can enjoy better protection following the death of the father due to natural causes.

Addis Ababa offered better opportunities for Olami at least on two fronts: he got the chance to go to school and to hone his skills in football. “I’m good at sports in general but football is what I think I was born to do in life”, he said, and his achievements so far support that claim.

In spite of not being a citizen in Ethiopia, the young man managed to play for one of the B grade local football clubs in the capital and earn a modest income for his contribution, including scoring a goal in one national league tournament. “They pay me 1,700 Birr (\$78) a month and that complements the small monthly allowance we receive from UNHCR.”

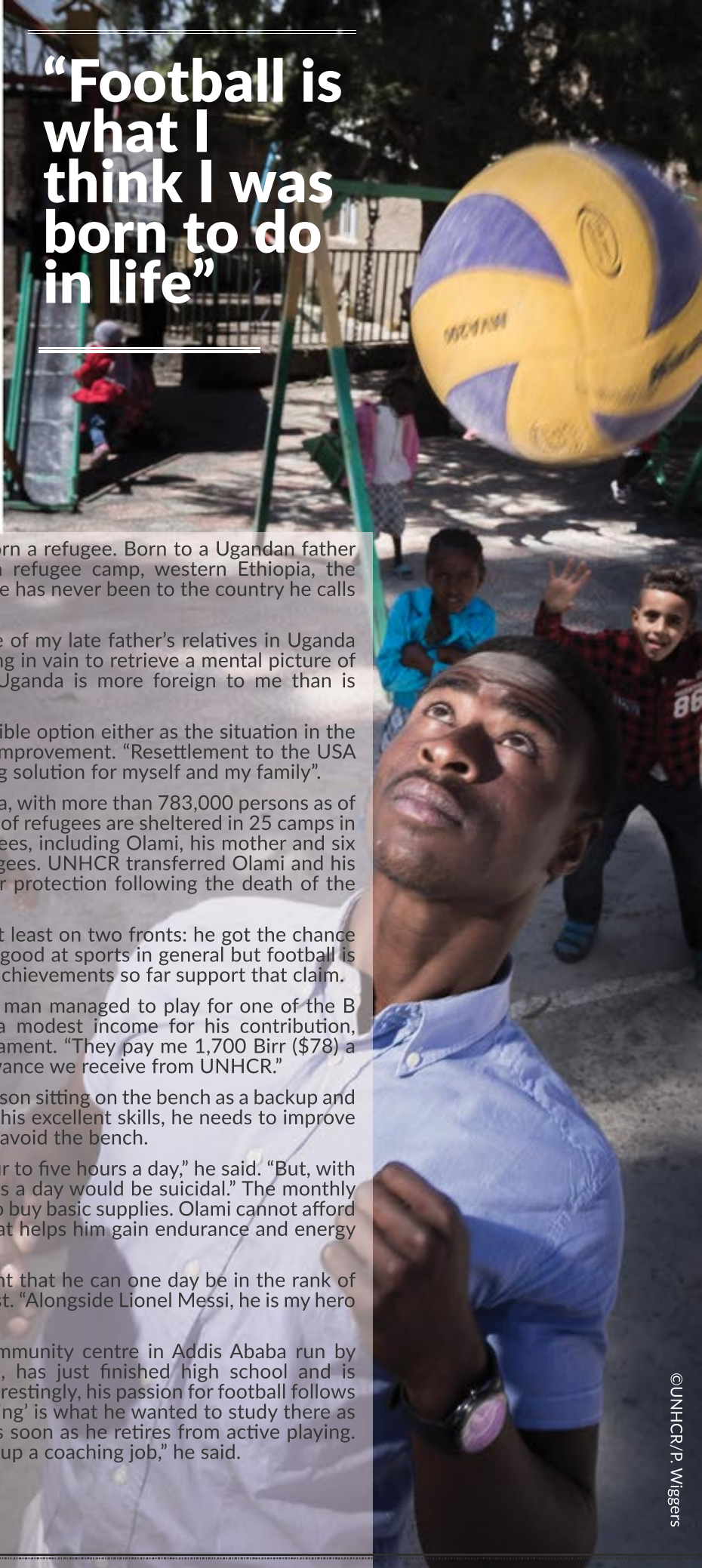
Unfortunately, Olami spent most of the last soccer season sitting on the bench as a backup and he confessed it was not a good feeling at all. Despite his excellent skills, he needs to improve his fitness to keep up with other physical players and avoid the bench.

“I know I can bring that level of fitness if I train for four to five hours a day,” he said. “But, with the kind of food I eat, exercising for four to five hours a day would be suicidal.” The monthly living allowance provided by UNHCR is only enough to buy basic supplies. Olami cannot afford to eat a healthy blend of all the required nutrients that helps him gain endurance and energy to sustain the game for long.

Given the right conditions, the young man is confident that he can one day be in the rank of African superstars such as Didier Drogba of Ivory Coast. “Alongside Lionel Messi, he is my hero and role model”.

Olami, who regularly trains and practices at the community centre in Addis Ababa run by UNHCR’s partner, the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), has just finished high school and is preparing to start his college education very soon. Interestingly, his passion for football follows him all the way to college and he says ‘football coaching’ is what he wanted to study there as part of his strategy to remain involved in the sport as soon as he retires from active playing. “The moment I retire from playing football, I can take up a coaching job,” he said.

By Kisut Gebre Egziabher in Addis Ababa



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UNHCR is grateful for the direct contributions made to the operation in Ethiopia so far in 2016 from: USA | IKEA Foundation | Japan | Canada | CERF | Germany | Educate a Child Programme - EACI | Denmark | France | Sweden | International Olympic Committee | Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation | Italy | Band Aid | Priv. Donors Australia | Priv. Donors Spain

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