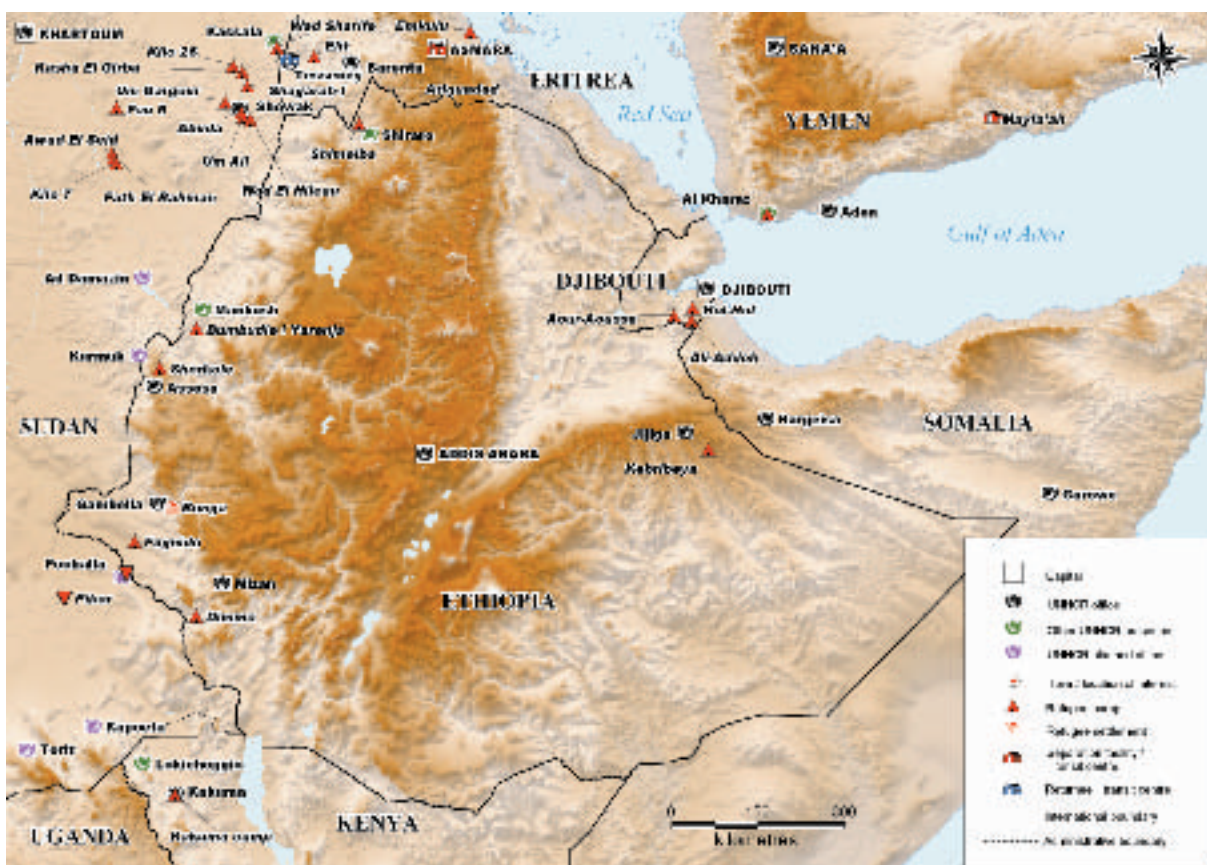


Ethiopia



Main objectives

- Provide international protection and material assistance to mainly Sudanese, Eritrean and Somali refugees.
- Promote the voluntary repatriation of 14,000 Sudanese refugees.
- Assist the Government of Ethiopia in the rehabilitation of infrastructure and the environment in and around refugee camps.
- Promote the well-being of refugees with specific needs (women, children and the elderly).
- Pursue resettlement as a durable solution for qualifying urban and camp-based refugees.

Planning figures

Population	Jan 2006	Dec 2006
Sudan (refugees)	92,800	78,800
Somalia (refugees)	12,600	13,000
Eritrea (refugees)	10,500	11,700
Asylum-seekers	3,150	2,620
Other refugees	480	590
Total	119,530	106,710

Total requirements: USD 15,332,397

Working environment

Recent developments

In 2005, some 5,000 Eritreans sought asylum in Ethiopia, with the influx continuing at a rate of

some 400 persons per month. Ethiopia had also received over 2,200 asylum-seekers from Southern Sudan and another 43 from other countries. During the course of the year, 594 refugees were resettled and almost 6,000 Somali refugees repatriated.

The situation at the border with Eritrea remained of concern, with troops stationed on both sides amid fears of a renewal of conflict. In September 2005, the UN Security Council renewed the mandate of the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) until 15 March 2006 and urged Ethiopia to accept as final the decision of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission on the demarcation of the border and to enable the Commission to demarcate the border without delay.

The security situation in the Gambella region, which had been plagued by inter- and intra-ethnic conflict, improved considerably and refugees who had dispersed to the surrounding areas returned to Fugnido camp. UNHCR was able to regain access and resumed registration activities which will be completed by the end of 2005.

Due to the continuing influx from Eritrea, there are over 10,000 refugees in Shimelba, which is crowded and cannot be expanded. Joint efforts are under way with the Ethiopian authorities to identify a site where a new camp could be developed.

In the east, the remaining 5,600 Somali refugees were repatriated to "Somaliland" and the Aisha camp was closed in June 2005. Only one camp, with some 10,000 refugees from southern Somalia, will remain open.

The situation in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) continues to be tense and has provoked a significant increase in the number of Congolese asylum-seekers in Ethiopia. An increase in the arrival of Burundian asylum-seekers has also been noted.

Constraints

Although security in Gambella is much improved, there is still a need for military escorts when travelling to Fugnido and Dimma camps. Heavy rains have destroyed sections of the roads to Dimma,

Fugnido and Yarenja camps and will continue to adversely affect the delivery of relief items to refugees.

The nutritional status of refugees in almost all refugee camps in Ethiopia has been adversely affected by delays in the delivery of food rations, reductions in rations due to incomplete population data in the camps, lack of milling facilities and lack of sufficient funds to procure non-food items (such as kitchen sets and stoves for cooking). This situation is likely to continue in 2006.

With regard to UNHCR's programme, it is feared that a lack of funding will result in insufficient provision in the sectors of water, health, and sanitation, including activities related to HIV/AIDS, gender, prevention of sexual and gender-based violence, children, women and other groups with specific needs.

Due to the security problems and the absence of a situation conducive to return to southern and central Somalia, the Somali refugees in eastern Ethiopia are expected to remain there in 2006.

Strategy

Protection and solutions

In 2006, UNHCR will continue to support the Government and its regional departments with training in order to implement the refugee legislation enacted in mid-2004. This will enable the relevant government departments to conduct refugee status determination (RSD) activities. Training activities will also be carried out to increase awareness of human rights among the refugees. These activities will highlight the well-being of women, children and other groups with specific needs.

In Ethiopia most of the refugee population is from Sudan, with significant numbers from Somalia and Eritrea. There is also a small number of urban refugees from 17 countries. UNHCR plans to repatriate some 14,000 Sudanese refugees from western Ethiopia to southern Sudan and estimates that there will be roughly 119,500 refugees and asylum-seekers in Ethiopia in early 2006.

A Somali boy looks out from his tent in Aisha refugee camp. UNHCR / B. Heger

Efforts to secure resettlement opportunities will be intensified, particularly for cases deserving special attention due to vulnerability or immediate protection concerns. For other refugees, voluntary repatriation will be pursued when conditions in the country of return are acceptable.

Assistance

UNHCR will continue to provide basic assistance in refugee camps in the sectors of water, sanitation, health and primary education. Minimum standards of hygiene will be maintained through the provision of pit latrines and communal refuse pits. Sanitary kits will be provided to women of reproductive age. In addition, non-food items will be supplied to refugees.

UNHCR will continue to counter the excessive use of forest resources through a multifaceted strategy to minimize environmental degradation, promote environmental awareness and include environmental matters in the education curriculum. Tree seedlings will be planted, while continued efforts will be made to persuade refugees to

use renewable sources of energy (such as solar energy stoves) and materials (such as mud bricks for house construction).

Urban refugees will benefit from vocational training and income generation initiatives. UNHCR will also cover subsistence allowances for the basic needs of school-age refugee children enrolled in primary schools in Addis Ababa.

Desired impact

The voluntary repatriation of Sudanese refugees will represent a solution to one of the most protracted refugee programmes in UNHCR's history.

Somali refugees who remain camp-based will continue to benefit from UNHCR's protection and, whenever possible, will be offered some form of durable solution. In addition, refugee students will have increased access to primary and secondary education. UNHCR will continue its advocacy role in the rehabilitation of selected infrastructure in eastern Ethiopia, and will reinforce the involvement of the UN Country Team.

Organization and implementation

Management structure

In 2006, the programme will be supported by 12 international staff, 100 national staff and eight JPOs. In addition, the African Union Liaison Unit in Addis Ababa, whose work and objectives are described in the Regional Overview for the East and Horn of Africa, is staffed by three international staff, two national staff and one JPO.

Coordination

UNHCR works closely with the Government of Ethiopia, international and national NGOs, UN agencies, as well as with IOM, ICRC, the AU, NEPAD and IGAD. Through its active participation in all fora where regional policies concerning Somali, Eritrean and Sudanese refugees are shaped, UNHCR is able to ensure that development and humanitarian issues of concern to refugees and internally displaced people are included in all relevant development strategies.

Offices

Addis Ababa

Assosa
Bonga
Gambella
Jijiga
Mankush
Shiraro

Partners

Government agencies

Administration of Refugee and Returnee Affairs
Bureau of Agriculture and Natural resources (Shiraro/Tigray)
Bureau of Education
Bureau of Health
Ethiopian Road Authority
Natural Resources Development and Environmental Protection (Gambella and Assosa)

NGOs

African Humanitarian Aid and Development Agency
Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church
Hope for the Horn
Hugh Pilkington Charitable Trust
International Rescue Committee
Jesuit Refugee Service
Opportunities Industrial Centre (Ethiopia)
Refugee Care Netherlands
Rehabilitation and Development Organization
Save the Children (Sweden)
Save the Children Fund (GBR)
Society of International Missionaries

Budget (USD)

Activities and services	Annual Programme Budget
Protection, monitoring and coordination	3,314,192
Community services	479,301
Crop production	7,881
Domestic needs	631,378
Education	1,601,649
Food	46,855
Forestry	497,372
Health	1,657,642
Legal assistance	568,293
Operational support (to agencies)	1,632,342
Sanitation	161,884
Shelter/other infrastructure	37,247
Transport/logistics	972,402
Water	603,302
Total operations	12,211,740
Programme support	3,120,657
Total	15,332,397