

Ethiopia

March 2018

UNHCR and WFP appeal for **urgent support to provide food** to refugees in Ethiopia. Without it, ration cuts will drastically impact the integrity of refugees across the country.

14,668 South Sudanese refugees have been registered in Ethiopia since the beginning of year.

1,589 vital events certificates have been issued to refugees since the launch of the vital events registration policy in October 2017.

KEY INDICATORS

916,678*

Refugees and asylum seekers registered in Ethiopia
[As of 31 March 2018]

56%*

Percentage of refugees below the age of 18

22,093

New arrivals registered in Ethiopia in 2018
[As of 31 March 2018]

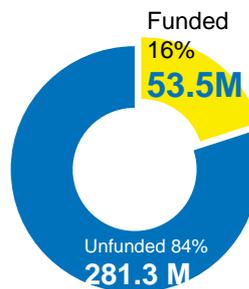


Malnutrition rates are at risk of increasing across all 26 camps in Ethiopia, without the urgent funds required to meet the needs.
UNHCR/Diana Diaz

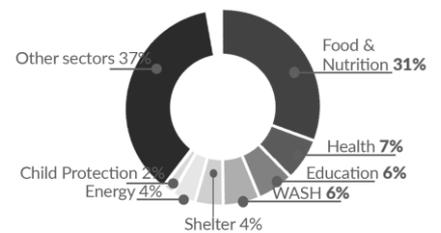
FUNDING (AS OF 27 MARCH 2018)

USD 334.8 M

requested for the Ethiopia operation



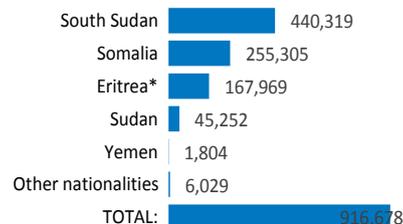
Budget allocation by sector



*Other sectors: Logistics & Telecoms; Durable Solutions; Community Empowerment & Self-Reliance; Core Relief Items; Registration & Documentation; Protection; SGBV.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Refugee Nationalities



* 73,078 Eritrean refugees previously registered as living in camps have settled in urban areas. This confirmed figure represents a reduction of 8,000 refugees, following the conclusion of a comprehensive verification exercise.

Priority Updates

Operational Context

While continuing to respond to three concurrent emergencies, and mindful of the fluid socio-political context within the country, the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) has advocated for stable humanitarian financing, while promoting wider investments in refugees' self-reliance through an improved and sustainable response that goes beyond care and maintenance that combines wider support to host communities, furthering peaceful coexistence and the greater inclusion of refugees as part of broad national development plans.

A number of challenges will impede the application of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) if not addressed in an appropriate manner, including continuous drought in many regions, tensions – that led to the first State of Emergency which concluded in August 2017, conflict in the Somali region creating considerable internal displacement coupled with an increase in cross-border movements in the country since the end of 2016. A further State of Emergency was announced on 16 February 2018 and remains in place despite the inauguration of a Prime Minister on 2 April 2018.

The Government's ability to realize its aspirations to further its duty of care to refugees, relative to its existing resource constraints, will inevitably be based on the level of equitable responsibility-sharing between UN Member States. Within a climate of decreasing humanitarian and development financing (that has led to critical shortfalls in food assistance), limited opportunities for third-country resettlement, together with limited support to youth and a growing population of unaccompanied and separated children, bold financial commitments - for essential humanitarian services and a sustainable solutions-based response - are needed to harness the CRRF's transformational agenda.



South Sudanese refugees in Nguenyiel Camp walk home after collecting their monthly food ration. UNHCR/Diana Diaz

UNHCR and WFP appeal for urgent support to provide food to refugees



©UNHCR/Diana Diaz

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, are appealing for US\$80 million to provide food assistance to refugees in Ethiopia; a ration that was already cut by 20% in 2017. If contributions are not received, over 650,000 refugees will receive an even more reduced ration as of May 2018.

Samir Wanmali, WFP's Acting Country Director in Ethiopia stressed the shared responsibility of protecting the world's most vulnerable populations. "After fleeing conflict and deprivation in their home countries, refugees deserve to be protected and supported."

Ethiopia hosts the second largest number of refugees in Africa, with some 916,000 refugees mainly from South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea and Sudan. 72% of them live in camps and depend on food assistance from WFP and UNHCR. Without food, refugee families are at risk of adopting harmful coping mechanisms, including pursuing onward movement. The risks of increasing malnutrition rates are even higher.

UNHCR Deputy Representative Matthew Crentsil explains how recent assessments indicate that malnutrition rates among children under the age of five are already above the emergency threshold of 15% in nearly half of the 26 refugee camps. "Further ration cuts could have a devastating effect and will hinder efforts being made to help the refugees become more self-sufficient, in line with the objectives of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework."

Conflict and drought in neighbouring countries continues to force people to seek refuge in Ethiopia, which has a long tradition of hosting refugees. In 2017, nearly 110,000 refugees arrived in the country.

UNHCR and ARRA launch Level 3 refugee data verification using Biometrics Identity Management System (BIMS) in Gambella



©UNHCR/Reath Riek

The Government of Ethiopia's Administration for Refugee and Returnees Affairs (ARRA) in collaboration with UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, have been establishing the refugee data verification recording system for the over 916,000 refugees across the country. As one of the pilot locations, Nguenyiel Camp in the Gambella Region has been engaging in this exercise to update the information of over 97,000 South Sudanese refugees in order to secure a comprehensive dataset to support the targeted delivery of assistance.

The initiative follows an agreement reached between UNHCR and the government to adopt a data sharing and multi-year registration strategy and the subsequent launch of the Biometrics Identity Management System (BIMS) for urban refugees in Addis Ababa. BIMS supports an enabling environment for the implementation of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) in the country, by enhancing the predictability and quality of the data.

While BIMS is being piloted in Nguenyiel Camp, the development of the programme in Gambella will include the verification of all registered South Sudanese refugees in the other six camps in the Region.

Updates on registration

vitalevents REGISTRATION



1,589
CERTIFICATES
ISSUED SINCE
NEW POLICY FOR
REFUGEES
IN **ETHIOPIA**
IN OCTOBER 2017

Following the launch of vital events registration for refugees in October 2017, over 1,500 certificates – including birth, marriage, death and divorce certificates – have been issued across the country, making it possible for refugees to be included within the national civil registration system. The initiative is in line with the Government of Ethiopia's ongoing commitment to enhance the protection and solutions environment in the country.

The new policy is aligned to Ethiopia's documentation pledge, to enable refugees to gain access to essential services and opportunities for skills training and employment - in line with the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF).

Ethiopia at the IGAD



IGAD convened a Special Summit of Heads of State and Government in March 2017 in Nairobi, bringing together IGAD member states, the international community and other stakeholders. The Summit generated a comprehensive regional approach to durable solutions for Somali refugees, while promoting the reintegration of returnees in Somalia, in support of the New York Declaration's CRRF. The main outcomes were the Nairobi Declaration and a Plan of Action. Key findings from the first phase of a regional mapping exercise of humanitarian and development interventions in support of the Nairobi Plan of Action noted that:

- While the refugee response has largely been historically supported by humanitarian finance, a significant level of new development investment and instruments are increasing their support to refugees and host communities in the region.
- A growth in support to the education sector will support greater integration of refugees into national education systems, a move firmly backed by IGAD Member States at the Djibouti Conference on regional refugee education, while investments in livelihoods through, for example, the US\$500m Jobs Compact in Ethiopia, will help to provide opportunities for refugees and decrease their dependency on formal structures and services.
- While an increase in humanitarian and development funding available is both clear and welcome, the financing data currently available is insufficiently detailed, accurate and comprehensive to provide a clear picture on the adequacy of finance or the scale of the shortfall.

Achievements

JIJIGA

A Somali refugee youth group raises awareness about the dangers of irregular onward movement through culture. They have weekly meetings and sessions to prepare dances, songs and other activities aimed at sending messages to young Somali refugees in the camps and keep each other safe.



ASSOSA

- Partners have begun preparations of seedling beds in line with efforts to preserve natural resources around Gure Shombola Camp. It is foreseen that trees and other plants would grow to reduce the impact of the presence of refugees in the area, and their ongoing energy needs.



AFAR

- Under the theme 'Time is now: Rural and Urban Activists Transforming Women's Lives', refugees in Aysaita Camp celebrated International Women's Day. Refugees and partners engaged in community mobilization, sports and cultural activities to raise awareness of women and girls' rights.



SHIRE

- Through poem and sports competitions, as well as cultural performances, refugee women and men celebrated International Women's Day in Shimelba Camp.



Refugee Voices

Somali refugee paints his way back to happiness



By Johansen Kasenene in Melkadida, Ethiopia

Paint brushes, pencils and paint sit around Mohammed Abubakar's home in Ethiopia's eastern Kobe Camp. The home of an artist who took on the task of bringing colour into UNHCR interview rooms across the five refugee camps in the Melkadida area. With walls and notebooks filled with faces, shapes and strokes of colour, the 42-year-old artist brings life back into fellow refugees' lives.

Each morning, Mohammed sits in his wheel chair to entertain, educate and communicate through images. "I receive individual requests for drawings and I also do my own pictures. This is the work I enjoy and how I can earn an income," he said while painting the interview rooms.

Mohammed is a refugee artist with many talents, which includes music. While singing with friends he was shot and paralyzed in Jowher, Somalia in 2008, following an attack by Al-Shabaab.

Having survived the attack, in 2011 he fled Al-Shabab violence towards Yemen. Four years later, he had to flee again towards Ethiopia. "Despite being happy and enjoying international protection in Yemen, the civil war started and I relied on people's support to survive," said Mohammed pointing to his wheelchair.

Mohammed has become an arts teacher following his arrival in Ethiopia. "I am happy to share the knowledge as it was shared with me," he says while explaining how he learned how to draw from his cousin and how this skill has given a new meaning to his life. "I don't want to beg and, considering I have a disability, being able to earn an income is a great achievement."

"This is an empowering experience, when you hear other people appreciating your work, it helps you to cope with your disability."

It is estimated that out of the some 22.5 million refugees world-wide, several million have severe disabilities; 1.7% out of the registered refugees in the Melkadida area have a disability. In forced displacement situations, refugees with disabilities often face barriers when seeking to access services, and are given few opportunities to play an active role in their communities. UNHCR and partners like RaDO in Ethiopia – supported by the UK’s Department for International Development (DFID) – strive to deliver tailored services for refugees with disabilities. “Services for refugees with disabilities include medical and orthopaedic support, the provision of special mobility aids like wheelchairs and crutches, physical therapy, surgical interventions, among others,” explains Ms. June Munala, UNHCR Senior Protection Officer working in Melkadida. Yet, funding constraints mean that the limited resources are often not enough.

For many refugees like Mohammed, being able to use their skills in something productive is life-saving. As they regain control over their lives they become role models to other refugees whose disabilities have left them hopeless. “I know how difficult it is being a refugee and more so when you have a disability; when you cannot walk but depend on wheel chairs, people to support you to access a toilet and cook for you. With the support I have received to earn income through art, I can depend on my own to some extent in terms of food and some clothes. This is an empowering experience, when you hear other people appreciating your work, it helps you to cope with your disability,” he said.

“He has educated refugees to respect people with specific needs, to recognize their skills and that they can too be productive

As Mohammed wheeled around all five camps in the Melkadida area bringing life into interview rooms. “The art work Mohammed does has not only imparted skills by teaching us how to draw, he has been an inspiration to refugees and others with disabilities, and most importantly he has educated refugees to respect people with specific needs, to recognize their skills and that they can too be productive,” said Ali, one of Mohammed’s students.

And art is not the only thing Mohammed has as a legacy, he leaves behind trails of colourful inspiration and joy everywhere he goes.

Working in partnership

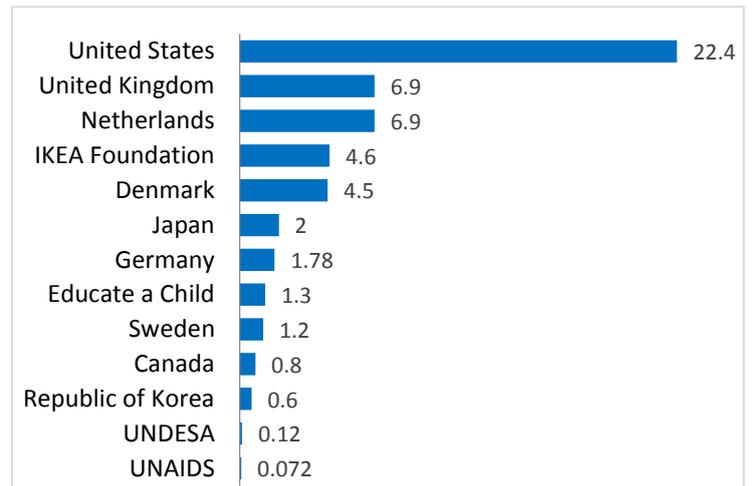
- UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, provides protection, assistance and facilitates durable solutions for refugees in Ethiopia in collaboration with ARRA, the Ethiopian Government, UN Agencies and NGOs.

Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the operation in 2018 amount to some **US\$ 53.5 million**.

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

Funding received (in million USD)



External / Donors Relations

Special thanks to the major donors of broadly earmarked contributions from:

United States of America 56.2 million | Germany 15.2 million | Private donors Australia 3.8 million | Canada 3.3 million | Italy | Malta | Sweden | Private donors

Special thanks to the major donors of unearmarked contributions:

Sweden 98.2 million | Norway 42.5 million | Netherlands 39.1 million | United Kingdom 31.7 million | Denmark 25.5 million | Private donors Spain 19 million | Australia 18.9 million | Switzerland 15.2 million | Italy 11.2 million | Algeria | Argentina | Bosnia and Herzegovina | Canada | China | Estonia | Finland | Germany | Government of India | Iceland | Indonesia | Kuwait | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Philippines | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Serbia | Singapore | Slovakia | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Turkey | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private donors

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LINKS

Regional South Sudan portal – Regional Somalia Situation Portal - [Twitter](#) - [Facebook](#) -
 The COMPASS girls give crucial direction to Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia