

# Ethiopia

## Main objectives

- Promote the voluntary repatriation of 14,000 Somali, 750 Eritrean and 30,000 Sudanese refugees.
- Close one of the Somali camps, consolidate the remaining Somali refugees into one camp and thereafter conduct status determination.
- Help to improve the quality of life of vulnerable refugees (women, children and older persons) by meeting minimum standards of humanitarian assistance in the sectors of food, shelter, water, sanitation, education and health.
- Foster self-reliance and promote local settlement, voluntary repatriation and resettlement among urban refugees.
- Mitigate environmental degradation; increase environmental awareness in and around the nine existing refugee camps.
- Liaise with regional bodies regarding advocacy of refugee law.



The combined effect of WFP food shortages, and the reluctance of Somali refugees to return to their areas of origin, was to bring voluntary repatriation to a halt. This necessitated the postponement of some targeted activities, including the closure of two camps until 2004.

## Constraints

Poor infrastructure, especially road conditions and long distances between camps, have impeded the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance to refugees. Insufficient funds for reintegration and rehabilitation projects initially held up the handover of closed refugee camps to local authorities. Integration efforts are impeded by the paucity of market outlets, and the absence of employment opportunities for skilled refugees. Two other challenges for the United Nations and its partners were tensions – which erupted into incidents of inter and intra-ethnic conflict – in the Sudanese refugee camp in Fugnido and in the Gambella region of Western Ethiopia, and the need

to ensure that the repatriation routes from Aisha to “Somaliland” were free from landmines. UNHCR’s monitoring capacity in the camps was reduced by delays in filling vacant protection officers’ posts and discontinuation of programme posts in the field offices due to financial constraints.

## Working environment

### Recent developments

Continued insecurity in Southern Sudan led to a renewed influx of Sudanese refugees into Ethiopia. It is hoped that the ongoing Machakos Peace talks in Kenya will lead to the repatriation of some 30,000 Sudanese refugees by the end of 2004 and UNHCR has put a plan in place for their repatriation.

Planning figures		
Population	Jan. 2004	Dec. 2004
Sudan (refugees)	98,000	66,000
Somalia (refugees)	26,650	12,600
Eritrea (refugees)	6,200	6,450
Asylum-seekers	20	1,015
Other refugees	500	520
Returnee refugees	60	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>131,430</b>	<b>86,585</b>

**Total requirements: USD 16,960,794**

## Strategy

### Protection and solutions

In 2004, UNHCR will liaise with the Government of Ethiopia and regional organisations to ensure that the basic human rights of refugees and IDPs are included in relevant government policies. Training programmes and workshops will be offered to increase awareness of human rights and empower refugees, particularly with respect to the well-being of refugee women, children and other vulnerable groups.

UNHCR estimates that there will be a population of 96,000 Sudanese refugees in western Ethiopia in early 2004. Insecurity in southern Sudan has prevented implementation of voluntary repatriation as a durable solution for these refugees. The planned repatriation of 30,000 Sudanese in late 2004 will depend on a positive outcome at the Machakos peace talks. Until then, the Office will continue to provide humanitarian assistance to the Sudanese, Somali and Eritrean refugees of Kumana ethnicity.

### Assistance

Vocational training and skills acquisition programmes in carpentry, tailoring, mat-making and incense production will be implemented in 2004. Refugee women will be encouraged to participate in these training activities to make them more self-sufficient and to enable them to contribute to the economic development of their areas of origin when they repatriate. Gender task-force groups will be reinforced and refugee women will be encouraged to assume leadership roles in food distribution activities as well as to seek employment in primary schools and health centres in the camps. UNHCR will focus on completion of the ongoing construction of additional classrooms, raising female school enrolment and providing school meals and uniforms. Greater female participation in sports and recreational facilities will also be encouraged.

The Office will implement its integrated country-level strategy to address sexual and gender-based violence through preventive and remedial measures and by sensitising refugee women against gender-based violence in general, and harmful traditional practices in particular. UNHCR will advocate the rights of children through Action for the Rights of Children (ARC) by training more teachers, integrating ARC modules into the curriculum and by conducting workshops on peace education, gender and exploitation. Greater emphasis will be placed on conflict resolution workshops at all levels to counter inter- and intra-ethnic clashes.

Basic health care services will be made accessible to all registered refugees, coupled with efforts to reduce morbidity and mortality rates. Physically disabled refugees will have increased access to rehabilitation facilities. UNHCR will promote campaigns on HIV/AIDS awareness and reproductive health among refugee women and youth respectively. Basic standards of hygiene will be maintained by providing one pit latrine per family and one communal refuse pit for every fifty persons. Sanitary materials will be provided for all refugee women of reproductive age. In addition, soap, blankets, plastic sheets, jerry cans, tents, kitchen utensils and agricultural tools will be supplied to refugees.

To improve access to water in 2004, the existing Jerrer valley pipeline (in the east of the country) will become fully operational, with additional bore holes and a new surface water treatment system.

To counter the excessive use of forest resources, a strategy focusing on reversing environmental degradation, promoting education and implementing durable solutions was adopted in 2003. UNHCR will promote the planting of tree seedlings and restoring deforested land by building terraces and check-dams. UNHCR will continue to persuade refugees to use renewable sources of energy, through the distribution of solar energy stoves and the use mud bricks for construction. Emphasis will be placed on laying a sound foundation for environmental awareness in schools. Sensitisation programmes will include training teachers to integrate environmental education into school curricula and the establishment of "Roots and Shoots" clubs for young refugees.

Urban refugees will continue to benefit from vocational training and income generation initiatives. These will include a sewing training project launched by a fashion designer who is a refugee. Resettlement opportunities will be intensified, particularly for women-at-risk. Voluntary repatriation opportunities will be pursued for individual cases when it is found to be the more suitable solution for them. UNHCR will provide subsistence allowances to cover the basic needs of school-age refugee children enrolled in primary schools in Addis Ababa.

### Desired impact

If the voluntary repatriation of Somali and Sudanese refugees takes place as foreseen, some of the protracted refugee programmes in Ethiopia could be brought to an end, and the cost of assistance to refugees will be reduced. In 2004, UNHCR will concentrate on ensuring that female refugees have increased access to primary and secondary education and that there is greater environmental awareness and self-reliance among refugees.



Ethiopia

Sudanese refugees growing food crops in the fields near Bonga Camp, Gambella. UN-HCR / B. Neeleman

## Organisation and implementation

### Management structure

In 2004, the programme will be supported by 12 international, 112 national staff and nine JPOs.

### Co-ordination

UNHCR will work closely with the Government of Ethiopia, international and national NGOs, UN agencies, as well as with AU, ICRC, IGAD and IOM. Links with UNHCR

offices in Djibouti, Eritrea, Somalia and Sudan will be reinforced to enhance implementation of activities in a situational context. The UNHCR office in Ethiopia will actively participate in all fora where regional policies concerning Eritrean, Somali and Sudanese refugees are discussed, to ensure that development and humanitarian issues of concern to refugees and IDPs are included in development strategies.

Offices
<b>Addis Ababa</b>
Assosa
Gambella
Jijiga
Yarenja

Partners
<b>Government agencies</b>
Administration of Refugee and Returnee Affairs
Bureau of Education
Bureau of Health
Bureau of Water Resource and Development
Ethiopian Road Authority
Natural Resources Development, Gambella and Assosa
Refugee and Returnee Affairs Department
Tigray National Regional Bureau of Agriculture
Zonal Bureau of Agriculture
<b>NGOs</b>
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
Rehabilitation and Development Organisation
Refugee Care Netherlands
Save the Children (USA)
Save the Children Fund (UK)
Save the Children (Sweden)
Society of International Missionaries

Budget (USD)	
Activities and services	Annual Programme
Protection, monitoring and co-ordination	2,796,643
Community services	807,013
Crop production	184,294
Domestic needs	864,086
Education	1,886,927
Food	55,162
Forestry	784,499
Health	1,625,108
Income generation	94,187
Legal assistance	398,851
Livestock	54,657
Operational support (to agencies)	1,580,818
Sanitation	237,746
Shelter / other infrastructure	398,299
Transport / logistics	2,192,762
Water	770,591
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>14,731,643</b>
Programme support	2,229,151
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,960,794</b>