

COUNTRY OPERATION

ETHIOPIA

AT A GLANCE

Main Objectives and Activities

Repatriate some 55,000 Somalis in safety and dignity; protect and assist Somali, Sudanese and Ugandan refugees living in camps, as well as a small number of urban refugees, pending durable solutions for these groups; consolidate and close three camps in Darwonaji, Teferiber and Hartisheik following the planned dispersal of Ethiopian nationals from those camps by the Ethiopian Government; build capacity among refugees through skills-training and income-generating activities; improve community services in the camps; guarantee adequate water supplies by completing the Jerrer Valley pipeline project; ameliorate environmental degradation of refugee-affected areas through rehabilitation and reforestation activities.



Impact

- The delivery of assistance was improved through greater involvement of competent NGOs in the implementation strategy.
- Thanks to stable conditions in northwest Somalia, UNHCR was able to repatriate 22,990 Somali refugees and, consequently, to close Hartisheik B camp.
- Somali refugees who were repatriated received an assistance package to facilitate their return and reintegration.
- Ethiopians living in the vicinity of the camps benefited from services such as water, health, education, vocational skills training, environmental education and the distribution of fuel-saving stoves. This helped to create a harmonious relationship between the two groups.
- UNHCR strengthened regional authorities through capacity-building measures, including the construction of health centres, schools and water systems, the procurement of ambulances, motorbikes and medical equipment, and the training of medical personnel.
- Urban refugees had access to counselling and individual assistance in the form of food, shelter, clothing, health services, skills training and income-generating activities, as well as education for their children in Addis Ababa and other urban centres.



Persons of Concern

MAIN REFUGEE ORIGIN/ TYPE OF POPULATION	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHICH: UNHCR-ASSISTED	PER CENT FEMALE	PER CENT < 18
Djibouti (Refugees)	1,500	1,500	-	-
Kenya (Refugees)	4,780	4,780	-	-
Somalia (Refugees)	180,900	172,900	50	-
Sudan (Refugees)	70,260	70,260	-	-
Other Refugees	280	280	-	-
Asylum-seekers	2,000	2,000	-	-
Returned in 1999	1,860	1,860	-	-

Income and Expenditure - SP Activities (USD)

WORKING BUDGET	INCOME FROM CONTRIBUTIONS*	OTHER FUNDS AVAILABLE**	TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	TOTAL EXPENDITURE
8,171,481	150,000	5,240,145	5,390,145	4,724,118

* Includes contributions earmarked for the Special Operation in East and Horn of Africa.

** Includes opening balance and adjustments.

The above figures do not include costs at Headquarters.

WORKING ENVIRONMENT

The Context

Since 1969, UNHCR Ethiopia has been protecting and assisting camp-based and urban refugees of 20 nationalities, the majority of whom are Somali and Sudanese. While the Sudanese refugee population increased from less than 59,000 to more than 70,000 over the course of the year due to continued insecurity in southern Sudan, the number of Somali refugees decreased from more than 195,000 to less than 173,000 as a result of voluntary repatriation to 'zones of recovery' in north-west Somalia. The Kenyan and Djiboutian refugees, who are integrated in the local communities and receive minimal assistance from UNHCR, are scheduled to repatriate voluntarily in 2000.

Constraints

Security in eastern Ethiopia, where most of the Somali refugees live, remained tense as landmine explosions in the camps and several incidents of hijacking, armed robbery and shootings in the surrounding areas were reported. Although UNHCR was still able safely to repatriate some 22,990 Somali refugees to Somaliland (north-west Somalia), the original target of 55,000 returns could not be met because the Somaliland authorities delayed movements until June. Difficult terrain and recurrent drought were additional obstacles. Moreover, because the Government failed to carry out the planned dispersal of Ethiopian nationals from the camps, UNHCR could not close Darwonaji and Teferiber camps.

Despite generally satisfactory security conditions in the western camps, some tribal clashes between Sudanese refugees caused concern. A shortage of arable land for crop production forestalled any immediate prospects of self-sufficiency for Sudanese refugees.

As a result of insecurity in their areas of return, the scheduled repatriation of Kenyan refugees had to be postponed to the following year.

Given the limited capacity of available implementing partners, especially with regard to community services and environmental activities, UNHCR was forced to implement certain activities directly. Nonetheless, UNHCR noted encouraging developments in terms of NGO capacity and availability, which are likely to continue in the current year. The resumption of the Jerrer valley pipeline project was further delayed by contractual difficulties with local contractors.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT

Protection and Solutions

Significant progress was made through improved co-ordination with the Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA), the Immigration Department, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. With UNHCR's involvement, the Government prepared draft refugee legislation, which incorporates the main refugee protection principles and provisions for a thorough status determination procedure. Improved security led to a reduction in incidents of "round-ups", detentions and threats of expulsion. Some 11,000 newly arrived Sudanese were registered as refugees. The Eligibility Committee met regularly and further reduced the backlog of asylum applications.

Camp-based peace committees were reviewed and strengthened, especially with regard to the role of women and unaccompanied minors in these committees. Protection activities in the Somali refugee camps focused on voluntary repatriation, registration and child labour. A specific project, designed to address the problem of child exploitation in the Kebribeyah camp, will be implemented in 2000.

Between November 1998 and December 1999, 1,443 people (391 families) were nominated for resettlement, and of these 831 people were accepted. Due to the Ethiopia-Eritrea conflict, several resettlement missions had to be cancelled or postponed. Additional ramifications of the border conflict included the deportation of 70,000 persons from Ethiopia to Eritrea and of 40,000 persons from Eritrea to Ethiopia. Some deportees were deprived of their nationality and became de facto stateless persons. UNHCR explained its mandate towards stateless persons to both governments.

Following the announcement of the application of the Ceased Circumstance Cessation Clause to pre-1991 Ethiopian refugees in Sudan, UNHCR and the Ethiopian Government negotiated at length the modalities of implementation. A revised version of UNHCR's host country agreement is also being discussed.

Activities and Assistance

Community Services: The Office organised leadership and business management training as well as social mobilisation programmes in the Somali camps. Four women's training centres were constructed and furnished, and 11 refugees received training in community-based social work.

Crop Production: Refugee farmers received seeds, tools and horticultural products, and 20 refugees attended the Agricultural College in Jimma. UNHCR made available oxen and ploughing equipment for training purposes.

Domestic Needs/Household Support: UNHCR distributed locally and internationally procured non-food items to refugees needing to replace worn-out articles. Soap was distributed monthly. The Office gave fuel-saving stoves to heads of household and sanitary material to women's groups in the camps. Urban refugees received monthly allowances.

Education: UNHCR constructed classrooms for grades seven and eight in Kebribeyah and Teferiber camps and established a Junior Secondary School in Dimma. Fugnido also received additional classrooms. However, girls' education is still a problem; attendance is generally low and, on average, 32 per cent of girls drop out. At present, twice as many boys as girls take advantage of educational facilities. Participants in literacy classes and skills training courses, offered throughout the year, benefited from classroom supplies and training materials. Within the framework of a mine-risk education programme, youth clubs and theatre groups were established and booklets, leaflets and stickers produced and given to refugees.

Food: While WFP was responsible for resourcing all basic commodities for general and selective feeding programmes, UNHCR procured ten metric tonnes of therapeutic milk for a therapeutic feeding programme.

Forestry: A new tree nursery was established in Aisha camp while existing ones were supported with electricity and irrigation systems. Of the 1.6 million tree seedlings distributed and planted, 60-65 per cent survived. Six environment workers were recruited to assist with forestry activities.

Health/Nutrition: Nutritional surveys and therapeutic feeding programmes were carried out in all camps. A network of healthcare facilities and outreach centres in the camps provided preventive and curative health services, including in- and outpatient care, mother and child health care, tuberculosis control

and immunisation. Health workers took part in refresher courses, workshops and on-the-job training. UNHCR provided eight solar-powered refrigerators and four ambulances. Spraying campaigns were undertaken in all camps to combat mosquitoes and other harmful insects.

Income Generation: Tailors earned some income from the production of 80,000 sets of underwear and sanitary materials, which were distributed to refugees.

Legal Assistance: UNHCR carried out a re-registration exercise in Aisha camp, and organised a protection workshop for regional authorities and implementing partners in Jimma. Death and birth certificates were introduced for all camp-based refugees in co-operation with ARRA.

Livestock: Cattle, poultry, and traditional and modern beehives were distributed to refugees in all the camps.

Operational Support (to Agencies): UNHCR provided operational support to its implementing partners in the form of vehicles, generators, stationery and other office equipment, as well as allowances for rental and utility cost. Moreover, UNHCR offered skills training courses to staff of partner agencies.

Sanitation: In order to prevent diseases caused by poor sanitary conditions, the programme included the construction of pit latrines and slaughter slabs, as well as weekly camp-cleaning campaigns and health education for refugees. Furthermore, UNHCR covered medical bills for urban refugees.

Shelter/Other Infrastructure: UNHCR built food distribution facilities in all camps and constructed and furnished registration sheds in the holding areas of the three Aware camps. Following the successful repatriation of Somali refugees, Hartisheik B was closed and the remaining refugees moved to Hartisheik A. Refugee labour was utilised to maintain roads within and around the camps.

Transport/Logistics: As WFP was responsible for the delivery of most food items, UNHCR covered costs related to the transport, storage and distribution of mostly non-food items. Scoops, ration cards, storage shelves and other necessary equipment for the storage and distribution of relief items were procured under the programme.

Water: Emergency water supplies to the Aware camps benefited both locals and refugees in the area. Two dams

in Daror and Camaboker were de-silted and re-lined, and their spillways reconstructed. The second phase of the Lafaissa water supply project was undertaken. Funds originally allocated for road maintenance activities, were diverted and used for the construction of a second haffir dam in Hartisheik to improve the availability of water in the area. Darwonaji and Teferiber received additional shallow wells, while more than 128 million litres of water were distributed in the Hartisheik and Kebribeyah camps at an average rate of 5 litres per person per day. Donkey carts and donkeys were purchased to be used for the delivery of water to vulnerable groups and for other income-generating activities.

ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Management

Following the establishment of the UNHCR Regional Directorate for East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes in Addis Ababa, the former Regional Liaison Office became a country office. Staffing levels (formerly 29 international staff and 172 national staff) were consequently reduced to 15 internationals, 165 nationals and five JPOs. UNHCR Ethiopia co-operated closely with UNHCR Hargeisa (north-west Somalia) to ensure smooth implementation of the repatriation programme. Linkages were established with other offices in the region to co-ordinate the educational curriculum for Sudanese refugees and to harmonise strategies for unaccompanied minors.

Working with Others

UNHCR's close co-operation with WFP and UNFPA resulted in more timely delivery of food rations and the establishment of reproductive health activities in the eastern camps. UNHCR maintained good working relations with several local and international NGOs in the region. Monthly co-ordination meetings were held with all implementing partners to review progress. Implementing partners were trained in environmental education, refugee protection issues, health systems management, warehousing and computer skills. UNHCR provided material and human resources to enable implementing partners to adequately serve refugees and the local population.

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

In the eastern camps, community services were greatly improved and the needs of women, children and adolescents effectively mainstreamed as a result of the hand-over of activities to a competent implementing partner. Environmental activities, on the other hand, continued to suffer from the lack of an NGO with relevant expertise. In the current year, this will be rectified, as competent partners have now been identified.

With a view to eventual withdrawal from eastern Ethiopia, UNHCR strove to build up the expertise of local NGOs and regional authorities. In anticipation of the repatriation of refugees and the dispersal of Ethiopian nationals currently residing in the eastern camps, consultants were engaged to carry out a study on the rehabilitation and development of refugee-affected areas. Their findings and recommendations were shared with donors, UN sister agencies and local authorities, with a view to encourage interventions intervention where necessary.

In western Ethiopia, UNHCR will maintain its presence, as there are no lasting solutions in sight for the Sudanese refugees. The influx of refugees into the camps was handled under the existing budget and staffing levels. However, in view of continued insecurity in southern Sudan and the possibility of a major influx, a contingency plan will be developed for the Sudanese operations.

Offices

<u>Addis Ababa</u>	Jijiga	Moyale
Assosa	Mizan (<i>closed as of 1 October 1999</i>)	
Gambella		

Partners

Government Agencies

Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs
Bureau of National Resources and Environmental Planning
Bureau of Water Resources Development
Ethiopian Road Authority
Ministry of Agriculture

NGOs

Care International
Development Inter-Church Aid Commission
Handicap International
Hope for the Horn
Médecins Sans Frontières (Netherlands)
Opportunities Industrialisation Centre - Ethiopia
Radda Barnen (Sweden)
Rehabilitation and Development Organisation
Save the Children Fund (UK) (USA)
Zoa Refugee Care

Financial Report (USD)

Expenditure Breakdown	Current Year's Projects			Prior Years' Projects		
	General Programmes	Special Programmes*	Total	General Programmes	Special Programmes	Total
Protection, Monitoring and Coordination	4,097,093	1,253,383	5,350,476	105,975	59,766	165,741
Community Services	126,946	28,132	155,077	19,523	0	19,523
Crop Production	96,095	0	96,095	34,741	0	34,741
Domestic Needs / Household Support	819,689	211,137	1,030,827	118,898	44,312	163,210
Education	628,525	83,619	712,144	464,314	321,349	785,663
Fisheries	0	0	0	0	(391)	(391)
Food	35,195	4,175	39,370	16,192	0	16,192
Forestry	184,936	0	184,936	45,950	63,806	109,756
Health / Nutrition	1,622,301	0	1,622,301	613,966	11,035	625,001
Income Generation	28,461	0	28,461	32,100	64,692	96,792
Legal Assistance	79,388	9,041	88,429	138,304	0	138,304
Livestock	14,226	0	14,226	15,883	0	15,883
Operational Support (to Agencies)	1,354,470	116,222	1,470,691	676,357	86,983	763,340
Sanitation	130,370	1,162	131,532	86,029	8,124	94,153
Shelter / Other Infrastructure	412,618	13,543	426,161	80,071	222,856	302,927
Transport / Logistics	1,024,586	329,054	1,353,640	1,148,080	44,838	1,192,918
Water	784,431	7,771	792,202	579,466	13,797	593,263
Instalments with Implementing Partners	3,120,617	932,995	4,053,613	(3,540,955)	651,554	(2,889,402)
Combined Projects	0	1,026,810	1,026,810	0	(1,026,810)	(1,026,810)
Sub - total Operational	14,559,947	4,017,045	18,576,991	634,892	565,911	1,200,803
Administrative Support	498,527	290,454	788,982	11,616	115	11,731
Sub - total Disbursements/Deliveries	15,058,474	4,307,499	19,365,973	646,508	566,026	1,212,534
Unliquidated Obligations	1,903,230	416,619	2,319,849	0	0	0
TOTAL	16,961,704	4,724,118	21,685,822	646,508	566,026	1,212,534
Instalments with Implementing Partners						
Payments Made	7,659,441	1,034,202	8,693,643	517,767	2,342,774	2,860,542
Reporting Received	4,538,823	101,207	4,640,030	4,058,722	1,691,221	5,749,943
Balance	3,120,617	932,995	4,053,613	(3,540,955)	651,554	(2,889,402)
Outstanding 1 January	0	0	0	4,323,374	3,568,208	7,891,581
Refunded to UNHCR	0	0	0	196,300	1,283,632	1,479,931
Currency Adjustment	0	0	0	(13,087)	(2,965)	(16,052)
Outstanding 31 December	3,120,617	932,995	4,053,613	573,032	2,933,165	3,506,196
Unliquidated Obligations						
Outstanding 1 January	0	0	0	1,561,541	1,248,990	2,810,532
New Obligations	16,961,704	4,724,118	21,685,822	0	0	0
Disbursements	15,058,474	4,307,499	19,365,973	646,508	566,026	1,212,534
Cancellations	0	0	0	915,033	682,964	1,597,997
Outstanding 31 December	1,903,230	416,619	2,319,849	0	0	0

* Expenditure reported under Special Programmes includes USD 11,308 for activities related to the Great Lakes Operation (also reported in the Regional Overview for the Great Lakes).