![UNHCR - The UN Refugee Agency]

Ethiopia
August 2020

Ethiopia is one of the **largest refugee-hosting countries** in Africa, sheltering 779,261 registered refugees and asylum seekers as of 31 August 2020.

UNHCR continues to scale up **COVID-19** precaution and prevention efforts among refugees and hosting communities. It is strengthening community awareness, supplying water and soap, installing handwashing stations, improving health services and providing PPEs for health care workers and first responders.

UNHCR is actively engaged in the humanitarian response to **IDP returnees** and other conflict-affected communities, including in **Gedeo**, **West Guji**, **East** and **West Wollega**. Distribution of emergency aid items to Ethiopians displaced by recent flooding in the **Afar**, **Somali**, **Oromia** and other regions is ongoing.

UNHCR PRESENCE
Staff:
338 national staff, **125** international staff (including JPOs)
143 individual contractors; **33** deployees and IUNVs
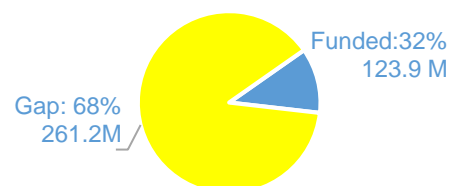**Offices:**
1 Branch Office in (Addis Ababa)**,**
5 Sub-Offices - Melkadida, Gambella, Shire, Assosa and Jijiga,
5 Field Offices – Embamadre, Tongo, Pugnido, Sherkole and Mekelle.

Funding (As of 31 August 2020)
USD 385.1 M requested for Ethiopia

Funded: 32%
123.9 M
Gap: 68%
261.2M

Working with partners

- UNHCR's main government counterpart in the refugee response in Ethiopia is the Agency for Refugees and Returnees Affairs (ARRA). UNHCR also works closely with 57 humanitarian and development partners and is part of the Humanitarian Country Team where refugee programmes are discussed strategically to ensure the needs of refugees are adequately presented and addressed across the UN System. UNHCR builds on a well-established coordination forum, including the inter-sector Refugee Coordination Group, together with national and regional sector working groups. As part of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), UNHCR is furthering partnerships with government line ministries, regional and local authorities, as well as development partners and the private sector.

Main Activities

Protection
- UNHCR, together with the Agency for Refugee and Returnee Affairs, coordinates national action for the protection of refugees and asylum seekers, including in the search for solutions. UNHCR is also part of the inter-agency response to the internal displacement situation in Ethiopia, including by leading the Protection Cluster.

- UNHCR's Partner Action for the Needy in Ethiopia (ANE) has completed construction of 65 of 100 planned shelters in several localities in the Gedeo (SNNP) and West Guji (Oromia) Regions, benefitting 358 vulnerable IDP returnees. In Kamashi Zone of the Benishangul-Gumuz Region, UNHCR conducted monitoring visits in three districts to assess the conditions of return and identify gaps and respond to protection incidents. Meanwhile, UNHCR provided relief items to 530 displaced people in Haro Limu woreda in East Wollega Zone of the Oromia Region.

Education

- The Ministry of Education (MoE) has initiated consultations with education and health partners on possible reopening of schools during the new academic year. Schools have been closed since March due to COVID-19, leaving over 200,000 refugee children out of school. The MoE is also working with partners to develop guidelines on how to mitigate COVID-19 and ensure a safe learning environment. Meanwhile, UNHCR has received US $1.8 million from Education Cannot Wait (ECW) to strengthen its COVID-19 response in education.

Health

- Essential primary healthcare activities are maintained in all refugee camps, which are currently part of the ongoing national campaign to enhance awareness and testing for COVID-19. An additional 200,000 face masks having been delivered to the refugee camps to improve the protection of frontline responders, while infrared thermometers, disposable gloves and surgical masks have been procured for distribution. UNHCR donated 160 hospital beds and 170 mattresses to ARRA in Melkadida to increase camp level capacity and medical equipment to the Dollo Ado COVID-19 treatment center.

Food Security and Nutrition

- Refugees continue to receive only about 84% of the minimum standard food ration of 2,100 kcal per person per day. This has kept the global acute malnutrition rate in most camps higher than the acceptable standards. UNHCR, ARRA and the World Food Programme (WFP) have revised the cash transfer values for refugees in the Somali (Jijiga), Benishangul-Gumuz, Tigray and Afar Regions, where refugees are currently receiving combined cash and food assistance, to reflect commodity price increases in the local markets.

Water and Sanitation

- Refugees in camps received an average of 18.8 litres of water per person per day (l/p/p/d). Four camps (Barahle, Buramino, Hitsats and Kebribeyah) received less than 15 l/p/p/d, and UNHCR and partners are working improve the situation. Over 80 % of the refugee population in camps have been reached with COVID-19 related hygiene promotion activities and messages. Over 38,600 handwashing facilities (37,218 household and 1,430 communal) have been installed in the camps, meaning just over a quarter of households now have the needed facilities.

Shelter

- Fifty-one percent of the camp-based refugee population in Ethiopia are in need of transitional shelters. UNHCR continues to work to narrow the shelter gap through construction of new transitional and emergency shelters and the maintenance of existing ones.   In August, UNHCR, together with its partner ANE, has completed 44 of the planned 70 shelters for vulnerable IDP returnees in the Gedeo zone of the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region.

Cash-Based Interventions (CBI)

Following successful piloting and assessment results of Cash Based-Interventions (CBI) in camps around Jijiga, UNHCR is working to scale-up the use of cash in other locations. Cash will be used in lieu of a range of in-kind aid supplies. UNHCR is exploring ways to provide support to elderly refugees and those with underlying health conditions as a result of the economic impact of COVID-19. Cash will also be used to respond to the IDP situation as well as reintegration support for Ethiopian refugees who voluntarily return to their country.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

- UNHCR and ARRA work in close coordination with partners to ensure efficient and coordinated delivery of protection and assistance to refugees. Zonal and camp level coordination meetings and technical working groups continue to take place.

Access to Energy

- Despite the effort to improve refugees' access to energy for cooking, lighting and other uses, the gaps remain huge, particularly in cooking energy where only 8% of households have access to alternative sources. UNHCR is working to improve the situation through the distribution of briquettes, solar lights and grid electricity where feasible. In the Afar Region, installation of the necessary infrastructure to connect Aysaita and Barahle refugee camps to the national power grid has been completed. Once powered, it will energize basic services in the camps, including communal kitchens, streetlights, grinding mills, schools and health centres. As part of its environmental rehabilitation and reforestation programme, UNHCR planted approximately 778,000 tree seedlings in and around 24 refugee camps during the current rainy season.

Livelihoods and Self-Reliance

- UNHCR continues to collaborate with the Government of Ethiopia and development partners on advancing economic inclusion of refugees and host communities. UNHCR supports ARRA to roll out the procedural directives

on work and residence permits, as well as business licenses, under joint programmes that will be designed to benefit both refugees and Ethiopians. UNHCR is coordinating with strategic partners to monitor the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in refugee hosting areas and to develop mitigation measures that will minimize the impact on local economies and markets, as well as plan for post-COVID-19 livelihoods recovery interventions for affected populations.

Durable Solutions

■ Providing resettlement opportunities remains a top priority as conditions for voluntary repatriation are unfavourable for most refugees, and local integration programmes are yet to be put in place. In 2020, the target for resettlement submissions is 1,800 individuals, of which 1,024 individuals have already been submitted. 245 individuals have departed for different resettlement countries so far this year. UNHCR also facilitated the transfer of 89 refugees to Italy as part of the Second Protocol of the Italian Humanitarian Corridor. While departures are currently on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic, UNHCR is advocating with ARRA and the Department of Immigration for the resumption of departures to certain resettlement countries as soon as possible.

External / Donors Relations

UNHCR is grateful for the direct contributions to the UNHCR Ethiopia Operation from:

USA| Denmark | UK (DFID) | IKEA Foundation| Netherlands | European Union (ECHO)| Ireland| "la Caixa" Banking Foundation | Sweden| | Canada| Education Cannot Wait| Japan| Finland| Latter-day Saints Charities | Spain| Muslim World League| Luxembourg| Country-Based Pooled Fund| UPS Corporate| France| UN Programme on HIV/AIDS| Other private donors.

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted funds:

Sweden 76.4 million | **Private donors Spain** 45.9 million | **Norway** 41.4 million | **Netherlands** 36.1 million | **Denmark** 34.6 million | **United Kingdom** 31.7 million | **Germany** 25.9 million | **Private donors Republic of Korea** 23.9 million | **Private donors Japan** 17.9 million | **Switzerland** 16.4 million | **France** 14 million | **Private donors Italy** 10.8 million | **Italy** 10.6 million

CONTACTS:
Ann Encontre, Representative, **encontre@unhcr.org**

Juliette Stevenson, Senior External Relations Officer**, stevenso@unhcr.org**

Kisut Gebreegziabher, National Comms/PI Officer**, gegziabk@unhcr.org**

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