

# Ethiopia

## Main Objectives

- Promote the voluntary repatriation of 35,000 Somali refugees to north-west Somalia and facilitate dispersal from the camps of Ethiopian nationals (of ethnic Somali origin) to their communities of origin in Ethiopia.
- Conduct a revalidation exercise and consolidate remaining Somali refugees in camps.
- Provide international protection and multi-sectoral assistance (with an emphasis on fostering partial self-reliance) to the existing and newly arrived Sudanese refugees in western Ethiopia.
- Mitigate environmental degradation and rehabilitate areas in and around the refugee settlements.
- Protect and assist urban refugees and help resettle those who are eligible.



## WORKING ENVIRONMENT

### Recent Developments

The final version of the national refugee legislation is still with the Parliament and is yet to be debated and passed.

UNHCR has made progress towards the planned voluntary repatriation of 70,000 Somali refugees hosted in eastern Ethiopia. By the end of October 2001, over 43,000 Somalis had been assisted to return to north-west Somalia. The camps of Teferiber and Dawarnaji were closed in June of this year, while the third, Daror is scheduled for closure by December.

The voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees goes hand in hand with the transfer from the camps of Ethiopian nationals and their reintegration in their original communities.

In 2001, an estimated 10,300 new Sudanese refugees fled continuing insecurity in the Blue Nile region of southern Sudan.

### PLANNING FIGURES

Population	Jan. 2002	Dec. 2002
Somali Refugees	50,906	15,000
Sudanese Refugees	93,500	103,500
Eritrean Refugees	3,871	3,871
Urban Refugees	460	460
<b>Total</b>	<b>148,737</b>	<b>122,831</b>

### TOTAL REQUIREMENTS • USD 21,056,128

They crossed into the Bamubodie area of Benishangul-Gumuz, bringing the total number of Sudanese refugees to roughly 83,500. The pattern of new arrivals over the last few years suggests that this number may further increase in 2002. It is feared that, for the foreseeable, future durable solutions in terms of voluntary repatriation will not be available for most of the Sudanese refugees, who are located in five settlements in the Gambella National Regional State (western Ethiopia).

Ethiopia also hosts more than 3,000 Eritreans who sought asylum in the western zone of Tigray National Regional State following the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea in 2000. They are sheltered in a temporary site at Grat Redda. Due to

absence of other actors in this part of the country and lack of funding, the planned relocation of these refugees to a permanent site has not yet materialised.

A small group of about 500 urban refugees from 15 different countries reside in Addis Ababa.

### Constraints

Chronic instability in southern Somalia and southern Sudan has impeded voluntary repatriation to these areas and directly affects security in Ethiopia's border regions where refugee camps are located. Security conditions in the Somali National Regional State (eastern and south-eastern Ethiopia) as well as in the Tigray National Regional State (northern Ethiopia) have remained under UN security phase III. A number of incidents, including violent crimes, public disorder and landmine explosions, have been reported in the Somali region. However, the security situation in and around refugee camps in western Ethiopia has been relatively calm.

Ethiopia has made a reservation to the 1951 Convention with respect to the right of employment of refugees. This, coupled with limited access to arable land, means that there are only a few prospects for self-sufficiency and local integration of refugees. Some refugees, especially women, have become self-employed small traders with the help of a revolving fund made available by UNHCR and implementing partners. Overall, refugees remain largely dependent on international assistance.

The refugee programme in Ethiopia has been greatly hampered by financial constraints, which have effected the overall implementation. As a result, rehabilitation of vacated camps has been slow, producing negative effects on health, water and education services for the host communities who are dependent on facilities offered to refugees. Moreover, due to inadequate level of protection posts, UNHCR has been restricted in undertaking protection activities in Gambella, Bambudie and Grati Redda.

Refugees from Sudan in Ochum screening site. *UNHCR/R. Chalasani.*



The drought has affected many of the highland areas of Ethiopia, as well as pastoral and agro-pastoral areas, resulting in significant losses of livestock. Food insecurity, malnutrition and land degradation will remain major challenges for many years to come.

## STRATEGY

### Protection and Solutions

Ethiopia has acceded to the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol and the 1969 OAU Convention. UNHCR will continue to work closely with the Government on the adoption of national refugee legislation, and will conduct workshops for government officials and partner staff on international refugee protection and refugee status determination. Particular attention will be paid to the protection needs of women, children and vulnerable persons.

At the beginning of 2002, UNHCR estimates that there will be some 50,000 Somali refugees remaining in eastern Ethiopia, of whom approximately 35,000 are expected to repatriate by the end of June 2002. The remaining estimated 15,000 from Southern Somalia will be consolidated in two remaining camps, following a revalidation exercise.

Prospects for the voluntary repatriation of Sudanese refugees remain remote due to the ongoing conflict between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). UNHCR will continue to pursue local settlement opportunities for this group, as well as resettlement in a third country.

To find durable solutions for some of the refugees, it is envisaged that 1200 cases (2500 refugees) will be submitted for resettlement. UNHCR is most concerned about incidences of rape and sexual abuse in refugee camps in Ethiopia and will make increased efforts to address protection needs of refugee women, including through resettlement to third countries.

UNHCR will continue to provide international protection and material assistance to Eritrean refugees of Kunama ethnicity, since prospects of an immediate durable solution in the form of voluntary repatriation in the near future are slim.

### Assistance

#### Somali Refugees

Pending their voluntary repatriation, UNHCR will continue to assist the Somali refugees in the camps. WFP will deliver basic food commodities for gen-

eral and selective feeding programmes, while UNHCR will provide complementary commodities, such as therapeutic milk, to maintain the health and nutritional status of the refugees. Refugee women will be encouraged to take the lead role in the supervision and distribution of food.

Refugees will be allocated with 20 litres of water per person per day, drawn from the Haffir (earth) dams or brought by truck from the Jerrer Valley borewells. Once the construction of the Jerrer Valley pipeline is completed, the current water-trucking operation will be brought to an end. Borewells and pipeline systems will be maintained, as will all major access roads leading to the camps

Basic hygienic standards will be maintained by providing one pit latrine for every 20 persons and organising regular camp cleaning campaigns. Sanitary towels will be provided for all women refugees of reproductive age. To reduce the incidence of malaria, refugee shelters will be sprayed with pesticides. Reproductive health programmes, partly in co-operation with UNFPA, will continue, and information campaigns will raise awareness about the risks of female genital mutilation and HIV/AIDS. Mine-awareness programmes will continue to prepare the refugees for return to areas that could still have hidden mines.

Refugees will be provided with basic household items such as blankets, soap, jerry cans and plastic sheeting. They will be trained to produce and use fuel-saving stoves to mitigate damage to the environment, and will be encouraged to make mud-bricks for the construction of their tukuls (huts) to reduce the strain on scarce forest resources.

The existing skills training courses (e.g. sewing and basket weaving) and other income-generating activities, will continue to be given to interested refugees. A limited amount of money will be provided for women's groups to be used as a revolving fund. Attempts will be made to keep schools running smoothly and increase the enrolment of students, particularly girls. Camp schools will be upgraded and educational materials provided. Peace education will be added to the standard curriculum. Further efforts will be made to enhance the skills of teachers.

Selected infrastructure around the camps will be rehabilitated and handed over to the local authorities for the use of the host population. Priority multi-sectoral projects will be implemented in collaboration with regional and national authorities, UN agencies and NGOs, in order to enhance stability and living conditions for both refugees and the local population.

However, faced with financial constraints, UNHCR will attempt to further prioritise activities. It is planned to outsource sectors such as water, road and environment protection to other actors who have the capacity and relevant expertise. Furthermore, UNHCR will support the strengthening of the capacity of local NGOs and relevant regional bureaux to take over the implementation of various projects in a sustain-

able manner following the phasing down of UNHCR assistance to Somali refugees.

### Sudanese Refugees

As the refugee settlements are located in areas well suited for agriculture, UNHCR will continue to pursue local settlement and self-sufficiency by requesting the central and local authorities to allot additional land to the refugees. Refugees will be encouraged to engage in farming, with emphasis on vegetable production and animal husbandry. WFP will ensure a monthly supply of food, as refugees are not yet able to produce enough for their own needs.

A fully operational water system will be maintained to supply potable water to refugees, as well as the local population. A ratio of one pit latrine for every 20 persons will be assured. An integrated health service will be provided and health facilities will be renovated and maintained. To reduce the incidence of malaria, refugee shelters will be fumigated. Refugees will produce basic household items such as soap, sanitary kits, fuel saving stoves and clothes for their use.

Refugees will be mobilised to participate actively in all activities in order to create a sense of ownership of the programme. Greater efforts will be made to empower refugee women by involving them in decision-making. UNHCR will continue to advocate the rights of children through training in legislation on the rights of children, integrated with ongoing field protection training, and the promotion of girls' education. Family tracing and family reunification activities for unaccompanied minors will also continue. The enrolment of children in formal and non-formal education activities will be increased. Students who complete their primary education will be assisted to continue their secondary education in public schools.

Refugees, as well as the local population, will be encouraged to participate in mitigating environmental degradation in and around refugee settlements. Activities will include water conservation, weeding, tree-planting and environmental education.

### Eritrean Refugees

Discussions are underway concerning the transfer of the Eritrean refugees away from the temporary site Wa'ala Nhibi close to the border to the new site of Grat Redda.

Following their transfer to the new site, UNHCR will address the water, shelter, health and sanitation needs of the refugees.

### Urban Refugees

Most of the urban cases are recognised refugees. UNHCR will intervene to speed up the process for those still awaiting status determination. Resettlement opportunities will be pursued for those who are eligible, in particular for women at risk.

Allowances will be provided to cover food, housing and clothing expenses, as well as medical services. School-age children will be enrolled in primary schools. Vocational skills training and income-generation schemes will continue.

### Desired Impact

The success of the voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees will depend largely on sustained peace and security, as well as an increased absorption capacity in areas of return. The success of the local settlement of Sudanese refugees and their increased self-reliance will depend primarily on the provision of adequate land and its effective utilisation. Pending durable solutions, the provision of protection and assistance will improve the general well-being of the refugees, thereby enhancing the quality of asylum. The rehabilitation of infrastructure and the environment in and around the refugee camps will improve relations between the refugees and local populations.

## ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

### Management Structure

In 2001, UNHCR moved its Regional Directorate with overall responsibility for the East and Horn of Africa from Addis Ababa to Nairobi. The remaining Branch Office for the Ethiopia country operation is supported by offices in Assosa, Gambella and Jijiga. The offices will be administered by a total of 23 international staff (including eight JPOs and one UNV) as well as 122 national staff.

### Co-ordination

In 2002, UNHCR will work closely with the Government, international and national NGOs, other UN agencies, such as WFP, UNFPA, UNDP, WHO, UNICEF and UNESCO, as well as with IOM, ECA, OAU, ICRC and IGAD. UNHCR will continue to participate actively in all fora and mechanisms set up by the UN Country Team to ensure that development and humanitarian issues of concern to refugees and host populations receive maximum attention and are included in relevant relief and development strategies. UNHCR will urge donors and development actors to implement longer-term rehabilitation and reintegration activities including implementation of selected infrastructure and environmental rehabilitation in refugee/ refugee-impacted areas.

### OFFICES

Addis Ababa
Assosa
Gambella
Jijiga

### PARTNERS

<b>Government Agencies</b>
Administration of Refugee and Returnee Affairs
Bureau of Agriculture
Bureau of Natural Resources Development and Environmental Protection
Ethiopian Road Authority
Regional Bureau for Water Resources Development
<b>NGOs</b>
ATLAS
Development and Inter-Church Aid of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church
Handicap International
Hope for the Horn
International Rescue Committee
Integrated Service for Aids Prevention and Support Organisation (ISAPSO)
Jesuit Refugee Service
Lutheran World Federation
<i>Médecins sans Frontières (NL)</i>
Opportunities Industrial Centre
Organisation for Development in Amhara
Oromo Self Help Organisation
Radda Barnen (S)
Refugee Care Netherlands
Rehabilitation and Development Organisation
Relief Society of Tigray
Save the Children (UK)
Save the Children Fund (USA)
Society of International Missionaries

### BUDGET (USD)

Activities and Services	Annual Programme
Protection, Monitoring and Co-ordination	2,953,776
Community Services	1,056,652
Crop Production	202,686
Domestic Needs	1,257,587
Education	1,481,698
Fisheries	4,999
Food	104,846
Forestry	595,290
Health	1,877,278
Income Generation	59,993
Legal Assistance	267,123
Livestock	107,614
Operational Support (to Agencies)	2,426,496
Sanitation	150,199
Shelter/Other Infrastructure	460,261
Transport/Logistics	4,426,001
Water	1,514,577
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>18,947,076</b>
Programme Support	2,109,052
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,056,128</b>