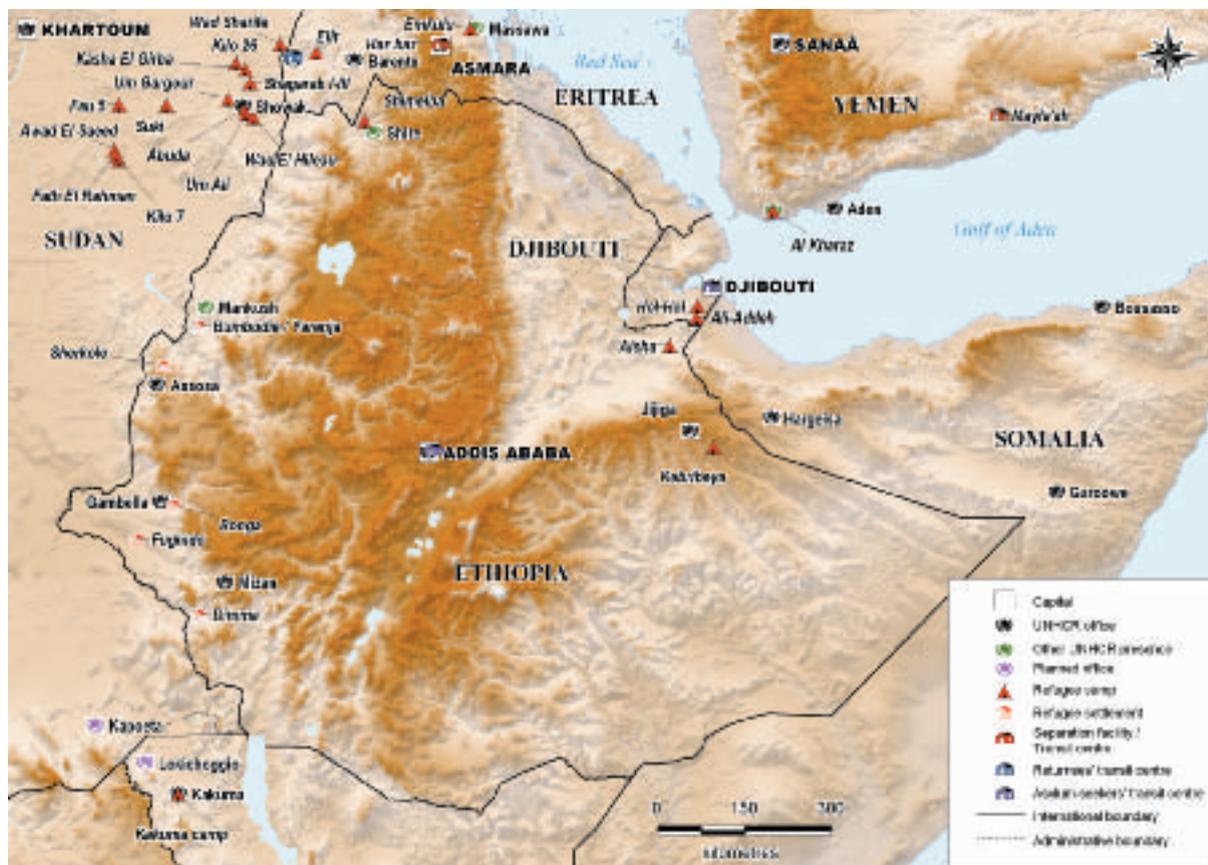


Ethiopia



Main objectives

- Promote the voluntary repatriation of 25,000 Sudanese refugees.
- Promote the voluntary repatriation of residual Somali refugees to north-west 'Somaliland' and facilitate dispersal from the settlements of Ethiopian nationals (of ethnic Somali origin) to their communities of origin.
- Provide international protection and material assistance and seek durable solutions for Sudanese, Eritrean, Somali, and urban refugees; promote the well-being of vulnerable refugees.
- Assist the Government of Ethiopia in the rehabilitation of infrastructure and environment in former refugee camps; mitigate environmental degradation and rehabilitate areas in and around the refugee settlements.

- Strengthen partnerships with the African Union (AU), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

Planning figures		
Population	Jan 2005	Dec 2005
Sudan (refugees)	99,586	77,198
Somalia (refugees)	14,177	12,928
Eritrea (refugees)	9,428	12,457
Other refugees	529	522
Total	123,720	103,105

Total requirements: USD 13,679,942

Working environment

Recent developments

UNHCR staff in the Gambella Region were evacuated due to persistent security problems related to inter/intra-tribal conflicts which led to the death of refugees and local residents. This hampered access to the refugee camps in Fugnido, Dimma and Bonga throughout the first part of 2004. However, in early September 2004, the general security situation in Gambella showed clear signs of improvement. Refugee registration exercises were carried out in Yarenja and Sherkole refugee camps, however delays affected preparations for voluntary repatriation. Due to the proximity of Wa'ala Nhivi camp to the Ethiopian-Eritrean border, some 7,500 Eritrean refugees were relocated to the Shimelba camp.

In eastern Ethiopia, the repatriation of Somali refugees from Aisha camp started after demining of the road to the 'Somaliland' border. One of the largest refugee camps in Hartisheik was closed in June 2004. Aisha camp is provisionally scheduled for closure in June 2005, but this will be conditional upon sufficient absorption capacity in areas of return.

The continued tense situation in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has provoked a significant increase in the arrival of Congolese asylum-seekers in Ethiopia. A surge in the arrival of Burundian asylum-seekers has also been noted.

The process of transforming the Organization of African Unity into the African Union (AU) is now complete, with its new management and operational framework already in place. UNHCR has established an effective working relationship with the AU and in 2005 will continue to develop joint work programmes with both the AU and IGAD.

Constraints

Despite the strong working relationships established with AU and IGAD, the human and material resource constraints on both the AU and UNHCR

could seriously hold back the implementation of joint UNHCR/AU activities. The funds allocated to the programme are not enough to cover the needs of all planned activities related to health, HIV/AIDS, gender, prevention of SGBV, children, women and vulnerable refugees.

Several factors are expected to have a negative impact on the planned voluntary repatriation of Sudanese refugees notably: delays in the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan; the prevailing insecurity in southern Sudan, especially the presence of landmines and unexploded ordnances; the poor road conditions on both sides of the Ethiopia-Sudan border and the absence of essential services.

Reduced absorption capacity in 'Somaliland' may continue to cause delays in the repatriation of Somali refugees.

Tension between Ethiopia and Eritrea is having an impact on freedom of movement and access for the Eritrean refugees to suitable agricultural and grazing land. In addition, the increase in the numbers of refugees from DRC and Burundi may have a serious impact on the programme for urban refugees.

Strategy

Protection and solutions

In 2005, UNHCR will continue to liaise with the Government and other regional organizations to ensure that relevant government policies adopt a refugee rights-based approach. Training activities will be carried out to increase awareness of human rights and to empower the refugees. These activities will highlight the well-being of refugee women, children and other vulnerable groups.

The planned repatriation of 25,000 Sudanese in 2005 will be implemented if the Comprehensive Peace Agreement for Sudan is signed. Until then, the Office will continue to provide humanitarian assistance to the Sudanese refugees. UNHCR estimates that there will be 99,600 Sudanese refugees in western Ethiopia in early 2005. In eastern



Ethiopia

Returnees from Sudan in Gondor transit site benefit from the distribution of basic non food items to help them to re-establish their lives.
UNHCR / B. Neeleman

Ethiopia, UNHCR will continue to support voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees.

Resettlement opportunities will be intensified, particularly for women at risk. For other individual cases, opportunities for voluntary repatriation will be pursued when conditions are suitable.

Assistance

UNHCR will focus its assistance on the continued provision of water, sanitation, health and primary education. Basic hygienic standards will be sustained through the provision of pit latrines and communal refuse pits. Sanitary kits will be provided for refugee women of reproductive age. In addition soap, blankets, plastic sheeting, and jerry cans will be supplied to refugees.

UNHCR will discourage the excessive use of forest resources through a multifaceted strategy to minimize environmental degradation, promote environmental awareness and include environmental matters in the education curriculum. Tree seedlings will be planted. Continued efforts will be made to persuade refugees to use renewable sources of energy (solar energy stoves) and materials (mud bricks for house construction). Urban refugees will continue to benefit from vocational skills training, and income generation initiatives.

UNHCR will cover subsistence allowances for the basic needs of school age refugee children enrolled in primary schools in Addis Ababa.

Desired impact

UNHCR will continue its advocacy role in the rehabilitation of selected infrastructure in eastern Ethiopia, and will seek the active involvement of the UN country team in rehabilitation projects. UNHCR will also continue to provide protection and search for durable solutions for the residual beneficiaries in the one remaining Somali refugee camp. In addition, there will be efforts to ensure that female students have increased access to primary and secondary education, and that the environmental awareness of refugees is deepened.

The eventual voluntary repatriation of Sudanese refugees will represent a solution to one of the most protracted refugee programmes in UNHCR's history.

In 2005, UNHCR will strive to strengthen and consolidate its links with the AU and IGAD. These links will not only serve as a channel of support to the regional institutions but also as a means of developing expertise on refugee matters to foster overall development plans for the region.

Organization and implementation

Management structure

In 2005, the programme will be supported by 13 international staff, 100 national staff and nine JPOs.

Coordination

UNHCR works closely with the Government of Ethiopia, international and national NGOs, UN agencies, as well as with IOM, ICRC, the AU, NEPAD and IGAD. Links are being strengthened with UNHCR's offices in Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti, Kenya, and Somalia in order to better enhance the implementation of activities. Through its active participation in all fora where regional policies concerning Somali, Eritrean and Sudanese refugees are shaped, UNHCR ensures that development and humanitarian issues of concern to refugees and IDPs are included in all relevant development strategies.

Offices

Addis Ababa

Assosa
Gambella
Jijiga
Mankush
Mizan
Shire

Partners

Government agencies

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)
Tigray National Regional Bureau of Agriculture
Zonal Bureau of Agriculture

NGOS

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)
Refugee and Returnee Affairs Department
Refugee Care Netherlands
Rehabilitation and Development Organization
Save the Children (Sweden)
Save the Children Fund (UK)
Society of International Missionaries

Budget (USD)

Activities and services	Annual Programme
Protection, monitoring and coordination	2,609,225
Community services	460,549
Crop production	220,207
Domestic needs	661,600
Education	979,679
Fisheries	162,000
Food	25,929
Forestry	507,221
Health	1,199,731
Income generation	63,731
Legal assistance	410,286
Livestock	37,336
Operational support (to agencies)	1,600,615
Sanitation	177,748
Shelter/other infrastructure	198,086
Transport/logistics	1,032,992
Water (non-agricultural)	554,515
Total operations	10,901,450
Programme support	2,778,492
Total	13,679,942