

Ethiopia

AT A GLANCE

Main Objectives and Activities

Provide protection, material assistance and improved services for camp-based Somali and Sudanese refugees, as well as urban refugees from more than 15 countries; promote the voluntary repatriation of Somali and Kenyan refugees, while dispersing Ethiopian nationals who have been living in the camps among the refugees; facilitate the voluntary repatriation and reintegration of pre-1991 Ethiopian refugees from neighbouring countries; take measures to rehabilitate environmentally degraded areas around the refugee settlements.

Impact

- Some 43,500 refugees were successfully repatriated to north-west Somalia, bringing the number of returns there to 125,572 since the start of the operation in 1997. They received a reintegration package to help them during the initial months. Over 8,000 Ethiopians, many of them former returnees, were dispersed and reintegrated in their areas of origin.
- Almost 4,900 Kenyan refugees from Moyale district in southern Ethiopia repatriated to their villages in north-eastern Kenya.
- UNHCR received the remaining 1,780 pre-1991 Ethiopian refugees from Djibouti, bringing that situation to a close. The repatriation of pre-1991 Ethiopian refugees from Sudan commenced on 20 December, and by the end of the year, some 1,200 out of 12,000 who had registered for voluntary repatriation had been received and integrated. (The remaining 10,500 are expected to return in early 2001). Returnees were provided with food,

non-food reintegration packages and cash grants to ensure their full integration into their communities.

- The local population residing around the refugee camps had access to some of the services offered to refugees such as health services, special feeding assistance, water, education, vocational skills training,



Persons of Concern				
Main Refugee Origin/Type of Population	Total in Country	Of whom UNHCR assisted ¹	Per cent Female	Per cent under 18
Somalia (Refugees)	121,100	121,100	54	53
Sudan (Refugees)	71,700	71,700	46	56
Eritrea (Refugees)	3,300	3,300	-	-
Ethiopia (Returnees)	2,900	2,900	-	-
Djibouti (Refugees)	1,600	-	-	-

¹In addition, there were some 400 urban refugees, who had access to limited financial assistance.

Income and Expenditure (USD)				
Annual Programme Budget and Trust Funds				
Revised Budget ³	Income from Contributions ¹	Other Funds Available ²	Total Funds Available	Total Expenditure ³
23,539,406	8,308,947	13,576,005	21,884,952	21,493,517

¹Includes income from contributions earmarked at the country level.

²Includes allocations by UNHCR from unearmarked or broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments.

³Includes budget/expenditure related to the Regional Director's Office (for further details, please refer to the Regional Overview).

The above figures do not include costs at Headquarters.

environmental awareness and fuel-saving stoves. This involved the participation of regional authorities and helped to maintain a harmonious relationship between refugees and nationals.

- UNHCR distributed over 8.3 million litres of water to the refugee camps of Daror and Camaboker and to local villages in the vicinity to reduce the impact of drought that affected the country. This saved the lives of humans and animals.
- UNHCR resettled 940 refugees. Initial arrangements were made for another 560 families (nearly 2,000 persons) who were accepted for resettlement.
- Construction work resumed on the Jerrer Valley pipeline project, which had stalled for over a year due to contractual problems.

WORKING ENVIRONMENT

The Context

The majority of refugees hosted in Ethiopia was from Somalia and Sudan. The population in the Somali camps decreased by almost 52,000 over the course of the year, due to the voluntary repatriation of refugees and the dispersal of Ethiopian nationals, who had also been living in the camps since their return from exile in Somalia in 1991. The Sudanese refugees, however, increased by over 17,000. This renewed influx from southern Sudan was triggered primarily by famine and prevailing insecurity in the area, which saw both rebel incursions and government bombardment. UNHCR and the Administration of Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) jointly screened the new arrivals, of whom 4,300 were camped in a new refugee site in Bambudie, while the rest integrated in the existing camps in Gambella.

At the height of the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea in May 2000, some 3,800 Eritrean refugees of Kunama origin crossed the border into northern Ethiopia. Working closely with ARRA, UNHCR monitored the protection needs of this group. Some 1,500 Djibouti Afars remained integrated within the local communities in northern Ethiopia and received minimal assistance from UNHCR.

Programme delivery in 2000 enjoyed an improved working environment. ARRA was co-operative, particularly in the voluntary repatriation/dispersal operations in the east. Co-ordination among partners generally improved, partly due to the establishment of a mechanism whereby heads of agencies met more regularly to discuss and resolve problems. Regional authorities also

participated in a co-operative manner in the voluntary repatriation, the dispersal of nationals, and training and awareness campaigns on various subjects. In north-west Somalia, continuing peace and stability, as well as the commitment of the authorities, favoured the return movement from Ethiopia.

Constraints

The absorption capacity of north-west Somalia was nonetheless limited, mostly due to the ban on live-stock exports to the Middle East. Furthermore, the authorities required that returnee groups should reflect the prevailing clan balance so as not to destabilise receiving areas. The refugees themselves also insisted on this as the basis for peaceful repatriation. Other constraints included a cholera outbreak in the main area of return, the demand by various refugee committees for increased travel grants, the shortage of funds for reintegration and rehabilitation projects in the areas of dispersal, and inadequate human resources resulting from the discontinuation of posts in 1999. In the transport sector, delays were caused by the withdrawal of one implementing partner, slowing down repatriation.

Another concern was the security situation in eastern Ethiopia, which remained tense during the year. Several incidents were reported, including hijackings, the theft of NGO vehicles, shooting at government vehicles, robberies at gunpoint and one landmine explosion. Precautions were taken to protect aid workers, but the measures limited the number of hours spent in the camps and impacted on programme implementation and monitoring. The safety of Somali refugees was jeopardised by unexploded ordnance in the vicinity of the camps.

In the camps in western Ethiopia, community services were curtailed as local authorities prohibited their delivery by an NGO. The arable land made available to refugees was insufficient for crop production, as a result of which refugees could not achieve any measure of self-reliance and continued to be fully dependent on external assistance.

Funding

The global budget cuts greatly affected UNHCR's capacity to achieve its planned target for the year. The reduction or cancellation of projects was clearly perceived by the beneficiaries as lack of commitment on the part of UNHCR. It also created an atmosphere of mistrust with implementing partners and the Government, and tarnished UNHCR's overall credibility.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT

Protection and Solutions

In order to ensure mainstreaming of the policy priority on women and girls, UNHCR actively promoted increased awareness of gender-related violence, early and forced marriages, harmful traditional practices and the need for girls' education. Concern over the military recruitment of children in the Sudanese camps was addressed through Action for the Rights of Children (ARC) awareness-raising activities, resulting in the prevention of such recruitment and the strengthening of children's rights. Special activities for the protection of refugee children in general, and unaccompanied minors in particular, included a project to assist families who were sending their young children to work (a survey had found 628 children to be engaged in child labour).

A major protection concern was the effect of the Ethiopia-Eritrea conflict on Eritreans or Ethiopians of Eritrean origin residing in Ethiopia. UNHCR explained to the Government its mandate for stateless persons, and intervened on behalf of several individu-

als. UNHCR also provided legal and technical advice on the drafting of the new citizenship legislation. Significant progress was achieved on the draft refugee legislation, into which the Government incorporated many of UNHCR's comments. The Office will continue to advocate the adoption of a national refugee law in the course of 2001. The Eligibility Committee met regularly and dealt with 110 cases, of which 67 were accepted (57 of them Djibouti Afars), five were rejected, and 38 were still pending at the end of the year. Although Ethiopia generally maintained its open-door policy toward refugees and the granting of asylum, a few incidents of *refoulement* occurred. UNHCR was able to intervene in some cases, with the result that the individuals concerned were permitted to re-enter the country.

Activities and Assistance

Community Services: The implementing partner for community services in the east continued to develop informal education resources in five of the eight eastern camps. Some 740 men and 2,460 women successfully graduated from adult literacy classes and were given a grade three (primary school) certificate. Literacy classes were initiated for 321 children aged 14 to



18 who had dropped out of school. An exercise to redefine the responsibilities of refugee committees and their members resulted in the creation of sub-committees on social affairs, arbitration, environmental protection and sports. Women's committees participated actively in the process and are now enthusiastically involved in food distribution, income generation and decision-making in the camps. As part of a mine-risk education campaign, youth clubs and theatre groups were established and booklets, leaflets, T-shirts and stickers were distributed. In Kebribeyah, assistance was given to families who had been forced to rely on their young children as wage-earners. By the end of the year, 230 out of 628 child-labourers had been traced, and 24 boys and 29 girls were identified as being at risk of abuse. Their situation is being monitored in a culturally sensitive manner. Koranic schools were introduced, attracting 2,480 children, and assistance was given to some 840 unaccompanied minors in group care and over 2,400 children with foster families. The number of unaccompanied minors fell by 35 per cent compared to 1999, as some of them reached maturity, while others were resettled or integrated into the community. Two workshops targeting 60 women's representatives, community elders, religious leaders and traditional circumcisers were held to create awareness of the dangers of female genital mutilation.

Crop Production: Agricultural tools, fertilisers and assorted seeds were distributed to refugee farmers to improve the yields. Some 150 refugees were trained on how to use oxen to plough their fields while 58 farmers were instructed on new methods of maize and sorghum cultivation. Over 340 refugees learned about horticulture, agro-forestry and bee-keeping.

Domestic Needs/Household Support: Roughly 46,500 plastic sheets, 85,000 blankets, 30,000 jerry cans and 500,000 pieces of soap were provided. Refugee women produced some 50,000 sanitary towels, which were distributed in the camps. To reduce tree cutting for fuel and heating, over 10,000 energy-saving stoves (made out of local materials) were produced and distributed to tree-planters, vulnerable persons and refugee committee members. This also brought some respite to women who would otherwise have had to fetch firewood from remote and dangerous locations. Some 421 urban refugees received a monthly stipend to meet basic expenditure on food, shelter, housing and clothing.

Education: During the school year, a total of 4,957 (3,511 boys and 1,446 girls) attended primary school in the eastern camps. Only 199 refugee pupils sat for the grade eight national examination (192 of them passed).

The number of children attending primary school represented only a fraction of school-age children among the large Somali refugee population. The enrolment of nursery school children in the camps in Gambella increased from 4,534 to 5,602, while 12,400 children (9,642 boys, 2,758 girls) were enrolled in primary schools and 531 (524 boys, seven girls) in secondary schools. Fifteen urban refugee children received assistance to attend nursery and primary schools. School supplies and teaching aids were given to primary schools in the camps, and donated children's clothes were distributed to over 2,700 pupils in Fugnido camp. Roughly 600 people attended vocational training courses in tailoring, agriculture, masonry, carpentry, electricity, leatherwork, plumbing, pottery, weaving and bamboo production, while some 480 teachers (refugees and locals) received training in basic environmental principles. Related textbooks and teacher's manuals on environmental education were distributed to schools in the east and west. The result was a high level of awareness and motivation on environmental issues. Refugee elders, women, young persons, religious leaders and others discussed various environmental issues, including the role of the refugee community vis-à-vis the local host population, in over 50 community meetings.

Food: In all camps in the east WFP-supplied food rations were successfully distributed to heads of family, using the so-called "scooping system", which was considered the most equitable. The same system will be introduced in the western camps in 2001. UNHCR procured therapeutic milk for the special feeding programme, and some 52,000 refugees and nationals who were either repatriated to north-west Somalia or dispersed to their villages received in-transit feeding allowances.

Forestry: UNHCR and its partners undertook environmental activities in all eight camps and in two returnee areas in the east. More than 700,000 seedlings were produced at various nursery sites and transplanted with a survival rate of 80 per cent. To overcome problems of farmland degradation and soil erosion, 450 metres of check-dams were constructed in the three camps in Aware, as well as 1,000 metres of terracing along the hillsides in Gursum. In the west, over 1.4 million tree seedlings were raised and planted in refugee camps and in the Itang area (a former refugee camp). Their survival rate ranged from 75 to 85 per cent. Some 150 metres of check-dams were constructed to control soil erosion in Bonga and Dimma, and a five km firebreak was built in Sherkole.

Health/Nutrition: UNHCR offered preventive and curative health care services in the camps, including in- and

out-patient care, maternal and child health, tuberculosis control, immunisation, as well as awareness of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases. Health workers participated in workshops, refresher courses and on-the-job training on malaria control, maternal and child health, family planning, drug management and reporting. Basic drugs and medical supplies were distributed to the health centres, and a number of health facilities were expanded or rehabilitated to enhance the quality of care. Physiotherapy was offered to 291 newly registered people (refugees and nationals) in need of prosthetic devices. Funds were also made available to 421 urban refugees to cover medical treatment and transportation to hospitals and clinics, and for supplementary feeding of some malnourished children. UNHCR and its partners conducted two nutritional surveys, focusing on the under-fives, pregnant women and nursing mothers. Significant progress was made in bringing health and supplementary feeding services to a larger beneficiary population. A joint food assessment mission made recommendations on special and therapeutic feeding in some camps; these were then implemented over the course of the year.

Income Generation: Some 2,000 students (52 per cent of them women) graduated from vocational skills training courses, including carpentry, masonry, shoemaking, metalwork, embroidery and typing. Following the training, a revolving loan fund helped some women participants to set up small businesses. Ten urban refugees received vocational training in electronics, computing, embroidery, hairdressing, as well as driving lessons. Six of those trained received revolving loans to embark on modest income-generating activities as they had no access to employment.

Legal Assistance: A continuing problem was the detention of refugees for long periods without charge. However, many refugees were released after UNHCR's intervention. To enhance the implementation of operations, UNHCR conducted a workshop and several training sessions on international protection and capacity-building measures. These were attended by refugees, regional and local government authorities, implementing partners and other NGOs.

Livestock: Preventive and curative veterinary services, including vaccination, were provided for over 4,300 cattle. About 2,000 chickens (two per family) were distributed to the refugees.

Operational Support (to Agencies): UNHCR covered some of the administrative expenses of its implementing

partners including the cost of vehicles, office equipment and office rent. Furthermore, implementing partner staff benefited from skills training courses.

Sanitation: To reduce the incidence of malaria, the predominant disease in refugee-hosting areas, insecticides were sprayed twice in each camp. Weekly clean-up campaigns were organised and pit latrine covers (slabs) were produced by the refugees and distributed to refugee families in all the camps. Each pit latrine was used by 17 people on average. Refugees continued to be sensitised with regard to environmental and hygiene issues.

Shelter/Other Infrastructure: Basic infrastructure was maintained, such as school buildings and registration sheds to accommodate refugees before repatriation. A total of 22 km of road from certain camps to border crossing points were repaired, to facilitate repatriation movements to north-west Somalia. Other infrastructure work included the construction of 12 culverts and one bridge, as well as resurfacing 395 km of roads in the west. These works were carried out to ensure food delivery to the camps and to facilitate monitoring and other activities of benefit to the refugees. In Aisha, 26 refugees and locals were trained in mud brick-making; they then used the bricks to build a production centre as well as houses for themselves. This was a major shift for people from an agro-pastoral background, whose houses are customarily made of extremely short-lived materials.

Transport/Logistics: UNHCR organised 35 convoys, using 906 truck journeys and 319 bus journeys to take 43,467 refugees to reception centres at the border with north-west Somalia. Refugees and "dispersees" received a lump sum as part of the repatriation package to assist their return.

Water: Scarcity of water, particularly in the dry season, is a recurring problem in the refugee-hosting areas. In the past, UNHCR implemented a variety of programmes to address this issue, including the construction of a water system in Jerrer Valley, the construction of *haffir* dams and earth dams for the collection of rain-water, and the drilling of boreholes and hand-dug wells in the camps. Maintenance and repair work was carried out on all the installations. Four additional shallow wells were constructed in Teferiber and Darwanaji camps. Some 300,000 litres of water were delivered daily to Hartisheik and Kebribeyah. Each refugee received an average of 13 litres of water per day. This represented a remarkable improvement on the mere five litres per person per day in earlier years. The Jerrer Valley pipeline project resumed in July, showing satisfactory progress.

ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Management

UNHCR maintained a country office in Addis Ababa, as well as four other offices in Jijiga, Gambella, Assosa and Moyale. The total staff of 200 comprised 25 international staff (including seven JPOs and three UNVs) and 175 national staff. At the end of 2000, the office in Moyale was closed, leading to a reduction in national staff to 170. The country office worked closely with the Regional Director's Office in Addis Ababa, the Regional Service Centre in Nairobi, the Liaison Unit in Headquarters and with UNHCR's offices in Djibouti, Somalia and Sudan.

Working with Others

UNHCR co-ordinated and monitored the implementation of assistance programmes in collaboration with five government agencies, as well as nine international and nine local NGOs. Monthly co-ordination meetings were held at the field level and in the capital. The Office also actively participated in all the mechanisms set up by the UN Country Team.

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The involvement of a competent partner to implement community services in the eastern camps greatly enhanced activities in this sector as well as the effective mainstreaming of UNHCR's priority policies on women, children and adolescents. Negotiations will be intensified so that this experience can be replicated in the western camps. The involvement of the Regional Bureaux of Agriculture of Oromiya and the Somali National State in eastern Ethiopia in the implementation of the environmental programme yielded positive dividends at the capacity-building level and improved understanding of and participation in the project. This will also support UNHCR's exit strategy, as there will be local agencies to carry the programme forward. In the western camps, UNHCR is likely to remain involved due to the lack of a durable solution for the Sudanese refugee population in the near future. A strategy to bring in other agencies to plan for reintegration and rehabilitation projects was actively pursued through discussions with donors, regional authorities and with UNDP within the context of the Inter-governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) initiative.

Offices

Addis Ababa

Assosa
Gambella
Jijiga
Moyale (closed in 2000)

Partners

Government Agencies

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

NGOs

ATLAS Logistique
Development and Inter-Church Aid of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church
Dink Kistet Letena
Handicap International
Hope for the Horn
Integrated Service for AIDS Prevention and Support Organisation
Jesuit Refugee Service
Lutheran World Federation
Médecins Sans Frontières (Netherlands)
Opportunities Industrial Centre (Ethiopia)
Organisation for Development in Amhara
Oromo Self Help Organisation
Radda Barnen (Sweden)
ZOA Refugee Care (Netherlands)
Rehabilitation and Development Organisation
Relief Society of Tigray
Save the Children Fund (USA)
Society of International Missionaries

Financial Report (USD)				
Expenditure Breakdown	Current Year's Projects		Prior Years' Projects	
	AB/TF	notes		notes
Protection, Monitoring and Co-ordination	2,765,206		44,711	
Community Services	409,722		142,181	
Crop Production	83,528		33,255	
Domestic Needs / Household Support	1,263,147		73,814	
Education	598,135		337,668	
Fisheries	558		3,155	
Food	81,360		30,897	
Forestry	233,567		174,568	
Health / Nutrition	1,167,921		258,849	
Income Generation	50,667		31,013	
Legal Assistance	119,794		29,532	
Livestock	9,864		17,559	
Operational Support (to Agencies)	1,395,588		356,989	
Sanitation	95,730		15,642	
Shelter / Other Infrastructure	252,745		37,013	
Transport / Logistics	3,718,212		1,596,536	
Water	562,850		792,407	
Transit Accounts	8,321		0	
Instalments with Implementing Partners	3,950,112		(2,794,777)	
Combined Projects	150,696		(150,696)	
Sub-total Operational	16,917,723		1,030,316	
Programme Support	3,556,584		196,695	
Sub-total Disbursements / Deliveries	20,474,307	(3)	1,227,011	(6)
Unliquidated Obligations	1,019,210	(3)	0	
Total	21,493,517	(1) (3)	1,227,011	
Instalments with Implementing Partners				
Payments Made	10,645,370		924,542	
Reporting Received	6,695,258		3,719,319	
Balance	3,950,112		(2,794,777)	
Outstanding 1 January	0		7,559,809	
Refunded to UNHCR	0		563,335	
Currency Adjustment	0		(29,463)	
Outstanding 31 December	3,950,112		4,172,234	
Unliquidated Obligations				
Outstanding 1 January	0		2,338,045	(6)
New Obligations	21,493,517	(1)	0	
Disbursements	20,474,307	(3)	1,227,011	(6)
Cancellations	0		1,092,087	(6)
Outstanding 31 December	1,019,210	(3)	18,947	(6)

Figures which cross reference to Accounts:

(1) Annex to Statement 1

(3) Schedule 3

(6) Schedule 6