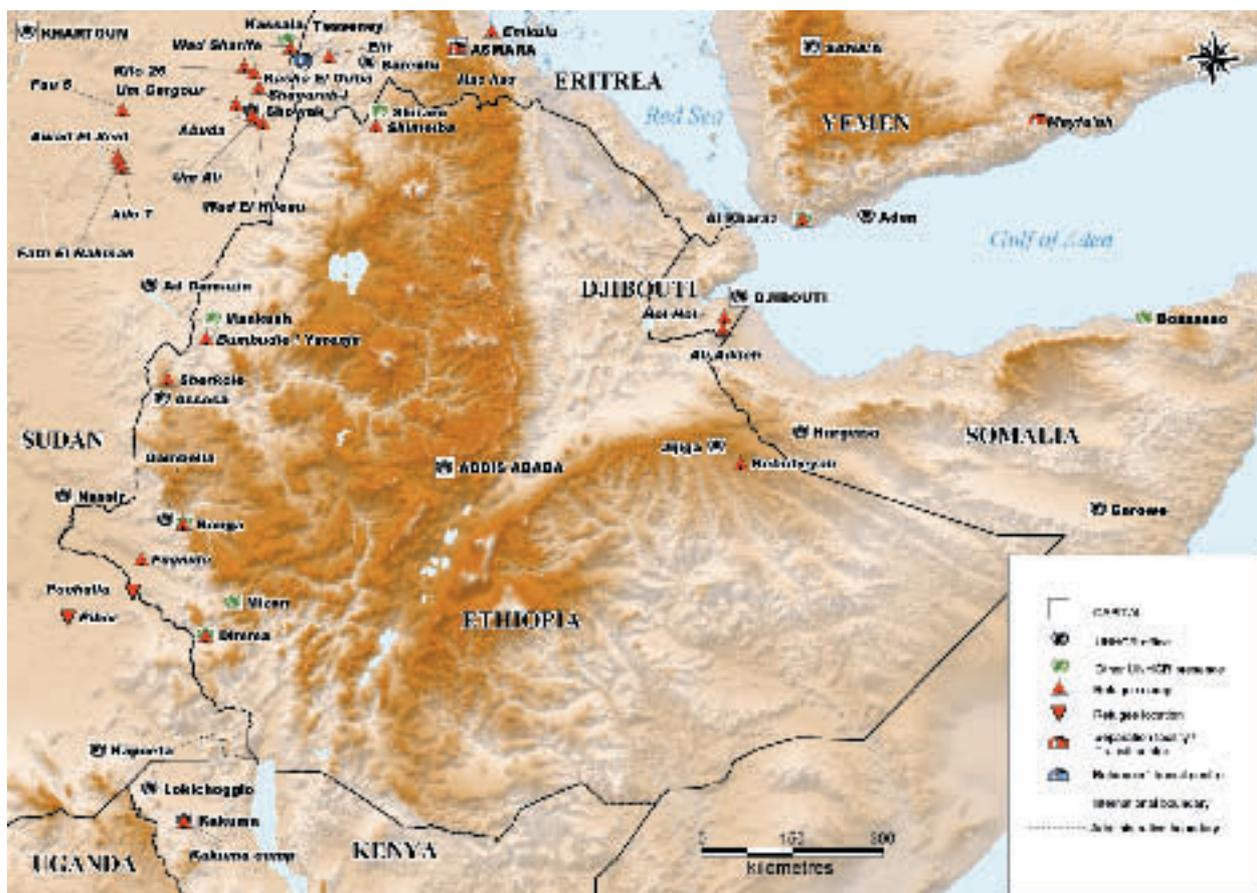


Ethiopia



Main objectives

UNHCR's main objectives in Ethiopia were to provide international protection and material assistance to mainly Sudanese, Eritrean and Somali refugees; promote the voluntary repatriation of 14,000 Sudanese refugees; assist the Government with the rehabilitation of infrastructure and environment in and around refugee camps; promote the well-being of the most vulnerable refugees and pursue resettlement as a durable solution for qualifying urban and camp-based refugees.

Impact

- UNHCR provided international protection and assistance to over 100,000 Sudanese, Somali and Eritrean refugees.
- Aisha camp was closed after over 4,100 Somali refugees returned to *Somaliland* and some 1,800 Ethiopian individuals of Somali ethnic origin returned to their areas of origin.
- In early 2005, some 9,600 Sudanese Anuak refugees who had left Fugnido camp following inter-ethnic violence in late 2002 returned to the camp and were assisted by UNHCR.

- Registration was undertaken in four camps and among urban refugees in Addis Ababa, thus completing the registration of all refugees and asylum-seekers in Ethiopia.
- The Government of Ethiopia and UNHCR reached an agreement on the issuance of identity cards to refugees and asylum-seekers. As a result, all urban refugees and asylum-seekers received identity cards.
- Over 1,200 refugees were resettled in other countries.
- Some 1.64 million seedlings were planted in refugee-affected areas, some 450 hectares of land were reforested in all camps and 42 kilometres of terraces and check dams were constructed to contain soil erosion and gully formation.

Working environment

The context

In 2005, the Ethiopia programme focused on four refugee beneficiary groups: Somali refugees in the East, Sudanese in the West, Eritreans in the North and a small urban refugee population of 13 different nationalities living mainly in Addis Ababa.

Tension over the disputed border between Ethiopia and Eritrea remained high even though some Ethiopian troops were pulled back. In September, the United Nations Security Council demanded that Ethiopia allow a boundary commission to begin demarcation of the contested frontier, and in November it urged Eritrea to lift restrictions on peacekeepers' use of helicopters and vehicles and demanded that both countries pull back their troops to December 2004 levels.

At least one million people in south-eastern Ethiopia were affected by a prolonged drought that caused a famine and sparked conflicts over scarce water and land for pasturing. There were unconfirmed reports of children dying of starvation. The food security situation in the Somali Regional State also worsened.

In 2005, despite the repatriation of over 5,800 refugees from Aisha camp and the resettlement of more than 1,200, the total number of refugees in Ethiopia increased slightly. This is explained by the registration of an additional 5,500 refugees, during a revalidation exercise among Somali refugees, and new arrivals (roughly 3,200, including almost 3,000 from Eritrea alone).

Constraints

UNHCR could not achieve its objective of repatriating 14,000 Sudanese refugees, not merely because of delays in signing tripartite agreements and in preparing for the repatriation in both countries but, more importantly, because the communities and localities of origin still lacked the economic and social infrastructure to absorb the returnees.

Refugees in all seven camps did not receive sufficient supplies of water and non-food items. Delays in the delivery of food rations to Bonga and Fugnido camps and a reduction of the ration in Bonga camp in the first half of the year were major problems that seriously affected the nutritional status of refugees.

Although there was a marked improvement in the security situation in Gambella National Regional State, access to Dimma and Fugnido camps continued to be restricted to Mondays and Fridays, with a mandatory military escort.

In Shimelba camp, the arrival of roughly 2,900 new Eritrean refugees caused overcrowding, as the holding capacity of the camp (10,000) was exceeded. A second camp is expected to be opened in 2006, but the identification of a site was hampered by a shortage of suitable land.

Funding

The reduction in funding for the Ethiopia programme during the past two years has seriously affected assistance activities for refugees. UNHCR's failure to meet minimum standards of assistance was evident in all sectors, especially in water and sanitation, education, health, and community services. The nutritional status of the refugee population in most of the camps was also below standard; the access road to Fugnido camp could not be maintained; and environmental rehabilitation, particularly in closed camps in eastern Ethiopia, could not be achieved despite requests by the Regional State Government.

Persons of concern					
Type of population	Origin	Total in country	Of whom UNHCR assisted	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Sudan	73,900	73,927	50	59
	Somalia	15,900	15,900	51	61
	Eritrea	10,700	10,700	30	25
Asylum-seekers	Various	200	200	21	18

Budget, income and expenditure (USD)					
Annual and supplementary programme budgets					
	Final budget	Income from contributions ¹	Other funds available ²	Total funds available	Total expenditure
Annual programme	14,249,074	4,363,480	8,964,588	13,328,068	13,328,068
Supplementary programme ³	4,528,798	1,293,661	1,437,653	2,731,314	2,731,314
Total	18,777,872	5,657,141	10,402,241	16,059,382	16,059,382

¹ Includes income from contributions earmarked at the country level.

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

³ The supplementary programme figures apply to the Supplementary Appeal for Repatriation and Reintegration of Sudanese Refugees to South Sudan.

Note: The supplementary programme budget does not include a 7 per cent support cost that is recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR.



Somali refugees in Aisha camp used to leave early in the morning to fetch firewood. The camp had been originally designed for people to have easy access to firewood, but more than seven years later, all the wood around the camp was consumed. The camp was closed in June 2005 after refugees went back to Somalia. *UNHCR / B. Heger*

In late 2005, UNHCR started to establish mechanisms for reporting and to follow up on cases of sexual and gender-based violence for both camp-based and urban refugees. There was unfortunately very little funding for capacity building and refugee law training activities for Government officials. Nonetheless, UNHCR staff taught a one-semester post-graduate refugee law course at the Law Faculty of Addis Ababa University.

The Office also started to consider its cluster lead responsibilities with regard to IDPs and participated in the drafting of a contingency plan in case of

By the end of the year, UNHCR had been not able to pay in full the last instalment to its implementing partners. This adversely affected objectives such as the completion of the water system in Fugnido camp.

renewed conflict with Eritrea, during which displacement of populations from border areas could be expected.

UNHCR's relations with the African Union and other regional bodies based in Ethiopia are described in the regional overview chapter.

Achievements and impact

Protection and solutions

In 2005, over 3,000 people sought asylum in Ethiopia, mostly from Eritrea. Due to shortage of funds and an increase in urban refugees, particularly from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the Office stopped providing financial assistance to asylum-seekers and refugees in Addis Ababa. All newly accepted refugees in need of assistance were relocated to Sherkole camp. Exceptions were made for vulnerable refugees.

UNHCR continued the registration exercise started in three camps in 2004 with exercises in Bonga, Dimma, Fugnido and Kebribeyah camps, and by 31 December 2005 all seven refugee camps and urban refugees were covered. Verification clerks were hired and stationed in the seven camps to update the database. The issuance of identity cards based on the *proGres* database to refugees and asylum-seekers aged 16 years and above started with the urban refugee population in 2005 and will continue in 2006. These identity cards are recognized as legally valid documents by the Government.

The voluntary repatriation programme for refugees from *Somaliland* was brought to a successful conclusion with the closure of Aisha camp in June 2005. Kebribeyah is now the only remaining camp hosting Somali refugees in Ethiopia.

Activities and assistance

Community services: UNHCR's age, gender and diversity mainstreaming strategy was introduced in Ethiopia. In an effort to include female refugees in the decision-making process, new elections to refugee committees were held in all refugee camps. The new committees had a 50 per cent female membership. However, many of the women complained about lacking real power. A women-at-risk consultation and a leadership training workshop were held in Sherkole camp in December 2005. Eight women were identified as leaders and some 40 others as potential leaders.

Domestic needs and household support: Due to budgetary constraints UNHCR provided basic non-food items to new arrivals and needy refugees in Ethiopia. However, sanitary materials and soap were distributed in all seven camps. Refugees repatriating to Somalia and those leaving Aisha camp received a kit comprising blankets, a stove, plastic sheeting and jerry cans. In addition, UNHCR procured non-food items for 25,000 Sudanese refugees in preparation for their repatriation to South Sudan. These items will be distributed to Sudanese refugees returning in 2006 and 2007.

Education: Of 33,500 school-age refugees only 23,000 (69 per cent) attended school in 2005. This

was more than during the previous year, but the ratio of boys to girls remained unchanged at roughly 64 per cent boys to 36 per cent girls. The number of school-age children increased, with financial constraints largely unrelieved. The student-teacher ratio was on average 70:1 (as against a standard of 40:1).

Food: WFP provided food for all camp-based refugees in Ethiopia, including voluntary repatriation packages for Somali refugees and supplementary food. However, WFP faced difficulties in delivering food in a timely manner because of road and security conditions. UNHCR supplied therapeutic milk for over 500 malnourished refugee children.

Forestry: Over 1.64 million seedlings of different species were planted on 449 hectares of land, of which some 65 hectares were planted with fast-growing species to support the refugees' firewood requirements. On average, 25 per cent of the seedlings were distributed to the refugee and local communities. Some 42 km of terraces and check dams were constructed in all camps. Over 4,300 fuel-efficient stoves were produced and used in all camps.

About 33,000 refugees and nationals were sensitized on environmental protection issues and several environmental activities, such as the production of bio-sand water filters and recycled plastic products, and the installation of solar panels, were carried out.

Health and Nutrition: Antenatal HIV sentinel surveillance was conducted in Dimma, Fugnido and Sherkole camps for the first time in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. Ten health workers from these camps were trained to undertake the activity. The camps are now registered by the Ministry of Health as permanent sites for sentinel surveillance. The preliminary surveillance data for 2005 will be released by the end of April 2006. One voluntary counselling centre was established in Sherkole camp. Refugees who fulfilled the criteria for treatment with antiretroviral therapy (ART) were given free access to it under the national programme. ART was also provided free of charge to refugees living in Addis Ababa. Following a nutrition survey of all refugee camps, the food ration was adjusted to enable refugees in Kebribeyah camp to meet the standard daily requirement of 2,100 calories.

Following the registration exercise in Kebribeyah camp, all children born since 1997 were registered and became entitled to a general food ration. The non-inclusion of newborns in distribution lists had contributed to poor nutrition generally in the camp.

In Kebribeyah camp, a pilot programme for the prevention of female genital mutilation was started with very good initial results. It will continue in 2006 and, if funding is available, in 2007.

Two polio vaccination campaigns were undertaken in refugee camps, reaching over 95 per cent of the target population. Measles coverage increased from 72 to 90 per cent. The factors contributing to the previously low vaccination coverage were insufficient vaccine supplies, cold chain failure and lack of personnel. In 2005, two outbreaks of measles were reported in Fugnido camp, which had a low immunization coverage (66 per cent). During both outbreaks, fewer than one per cent of cases resulted in deaths. UNHCR improved the cold chain system in the camps.

Legal assistance: Registration exercises were conducted at Bonga, Dimma, Fugnido, Kebribeyah camps and in Addis Ababa. UNHCR also covered resettlement-related expenditure, such as interpretation and translation services, as well as photographic supplies, in-country transport and processing fees.

Operational support (to agencies): UNHCR covered staff and related costs for all implementing partners, including construction and maintenance of residences and offices. Costs of termination benefits for project staff were also met.

Sanitation: In order to reduce the incidence of diarrhoea and other diseases associated with poor hygiene, the refugee communities were assisted to dig and use pit latrines and waste-disposal pits, and four camps out of seven attained or exceeded the standard of one drop hole per 20 people. Five camps met the standard number of persons per communal refuse pit. In order to combat malaria, more than 15,000 houses were sprayed with insect-repellent chemicals in four camps in western Ethiopia, protecting some 57,000 beneficiaries. In addition, 14,000 treated mosquito nets were distributed. The use of mosquito nets in the refugee camps varied widely (from 40 to 90 per cent of households).

Shelter and infrastructure: UNHCR helped construct over 800 houses and community buildings using mud-blocks, mostly in Shimeleba camp. Mud-block making is desirable from the perspective of environmental protection, income generation and quality of life. To facilitate delivery of assistance to refugees in Dimma camp, a 32-kilometre access road was maintained. UNHCR also constructed school buildings and toilets in Fugnido and Bonga camps, and rehabilitated a health unit in Fugnido. The Office also set up way stations, assembly points and temporary warehouses in preparation for the repatriation to Sudan.

Transport and logistics: UNHCR hired some 400 commercial trucks and over 80 buses to transport returnees to *Somaliland*. Three UNHCR water tankers were deployed at Sherkole refugee camp to supplement water supplies after the river source dried up. UNHCR also procured vehicles, including two ambulances, three pick-ups, and five hard-tops, as well as communications equipment for the repatriation to Sudan.

Water: Water supply to refugees was below standard: six litres per person per day at Fugnido, Bonga, and Kebribeyah camps, and 16.5 at Shimelba camp. Only in Yarenja camp was the standard of 20 litres per person per day met. UNHCR had to provide diesel and lubricants in order to restore the interrupted water supply in Kebribeyah. Unfortunately, UNHCR was not able to hand over the water supply system in Kebribeyah to the regional state authorities, who lacked the capacity to manage it.

Organization and implementation

Management

The Regional Liaison Office in Ethiopia was headed by a Regional Liaison Representative. In 2005, the programme had 15 international staff, 11 JPOs, 117 national staff, 13 national UNVs and one international UNV. This includes three international and two national staff and one JPO working with the African Union Liaison Unit.

Working with others

UNHCR worked closely with the Government, international and national NGOs and UN agencies, as well as with IOM, ICRC, the African Union (AU), the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). Through its active participation in all forums where regional policies concerning Somali, Eritrean and Sudanese refugees are shaped, UNHCR was able to ensure that development and humanitarian issues of concern to refugees and IDPs were included in all relevant development strategies. Relations with WFP continued to be very close and joint measures were taken to deal with the high malnutrition rates detected in several camps.

Overall assessment

Despite the chronic financial constraints faced by the Office, there were a number of positive developments in 2005. Assistance improved slightly in Kebribeyah camp; the water problem in Shimelba camp was solved; several outbreaks of measles and polio were

satisfactorily controlled; and vaccination rates improved. Furthermore, a participatory assessment to include refugees in the planning process was carried out in the second half of the year, the results of which were included in 2006 project submissions as well as in the 2007 country operations plan. A more systematic treatment of sexual and gender-based violence was introduced both in the camps and in the urban setting. UNHCR also succeeded in the voluntary repatriation of the residual Somali refugees at Aisha camp and closed it in June.

Regarding plans for returns to South Sudan, although no organized repatriation was undertaken in 2005, construction of most of the assembly points, way stations and warehouses was started during the last quarter of the year. Access roads to camps, necessary for the repatriation, were also repaired and maintained.

Budgetary restrictions, on the other hand, also had a serious impact on refugee welfare: there was minimal distribution of non-food items, and this had a negative impact on the nutritional level of the refugees, who had to sell part of their food ration to procure clothes and other essentials; the inadequate water supply, especially in Fugnido, Dimma and Kebribeyah camps, still constituted a problem and also impacted on the refugees' nutritional status; classrooms were overcrowded, and few teachers were trained, especially as staff turnover among teachers was high; girls' enrolment did not increase; child labour was rampant in Kebribeyah camp, and was unfortunately largely attributed to the minimal assistance provided and the consequent pressures on parents unable to find work themselves.

The financial situation also provoked strained relationships with the Administration of Refugee and Returnee Affairs and other implementing partners, who found it impossible to meet agreed objectives in an uncertain funding environment.

Offices

Addis Ababa

Assossa
Bonga
Dimma
Gambella
Jijiga
Mankush
Shiraro

Partners

Government agencies

Administration of Refugee and Returnee Affairs
Bureau of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Shiraro/Tigray)
Bureau of Education
Bureau of Health
Natural Resources Development and Environmental Protection (Gambella and Assosa)

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 Care Netherlands
Rehabilitation and Development Organization
Save the Children (Sweden)
Society of International Missionaries

Financial Report (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current year's projects			Prior years' projects
	Annual programme budget	Supplementary programme budget	Total	Annual and supplementary programme budgets
Protection, monitoring and coordination	2,551,697	64,384	2,616,081	0
Community services	356,390	110	356,500	118,757
Crop production	0	0	0	42,232
Domestic needs and household support	459,149	296,450	755,599	56,379
Education	872,581	0	872,581	519,961
Food	12,367	0	12,367	637
Forestry	277,250	0	277,250	170,599
Health and nutrition	1,184,607	223,261	1,407,868	350,513
Income generation	0	0	0	13,125
Legal assistance	327,305	294,011	621,316	62,144
Livestock	0	0	0	407
Operational support (to agencies)	1,327,330	224,290	1,551,620	407,302
Sanitation	126,018	0	126,018	27,280
Shelter and infrastructure	24,966	882,138	907,104	22,095
Transport and logistics	1,079,809	584,966	1,664,775	243,860
Water	517,820	14,843	532,663	243,706
Instalments with implementing partners	1,640,178	146,861	1,787,039	(2,278,997)
Sub-total operational activities	10,757,467	2,731,314	13,488,781	0
Programme support	2,570,601	0	2,570,601	0
Total expenditure	13,328,068	2,731,314	16,059,382	0
Cancellation on prior years' expenditure				(143,302)
Instalments with implementing partners				
Payments made	6,411,999	308,024	6,720,023	
Reporting received	(4,771,820)	(161,162)	(4,932,982)	
Balance	1,640,179	0	1,787,041	
Prior years' report				
Instalments with implementing partners				
Outstanding 1 January				2,451,376
Reporting received				(2,278,997)
Refunded to UNHCR				(69,095)
Adjustments				(32,515)
Balance				70,769