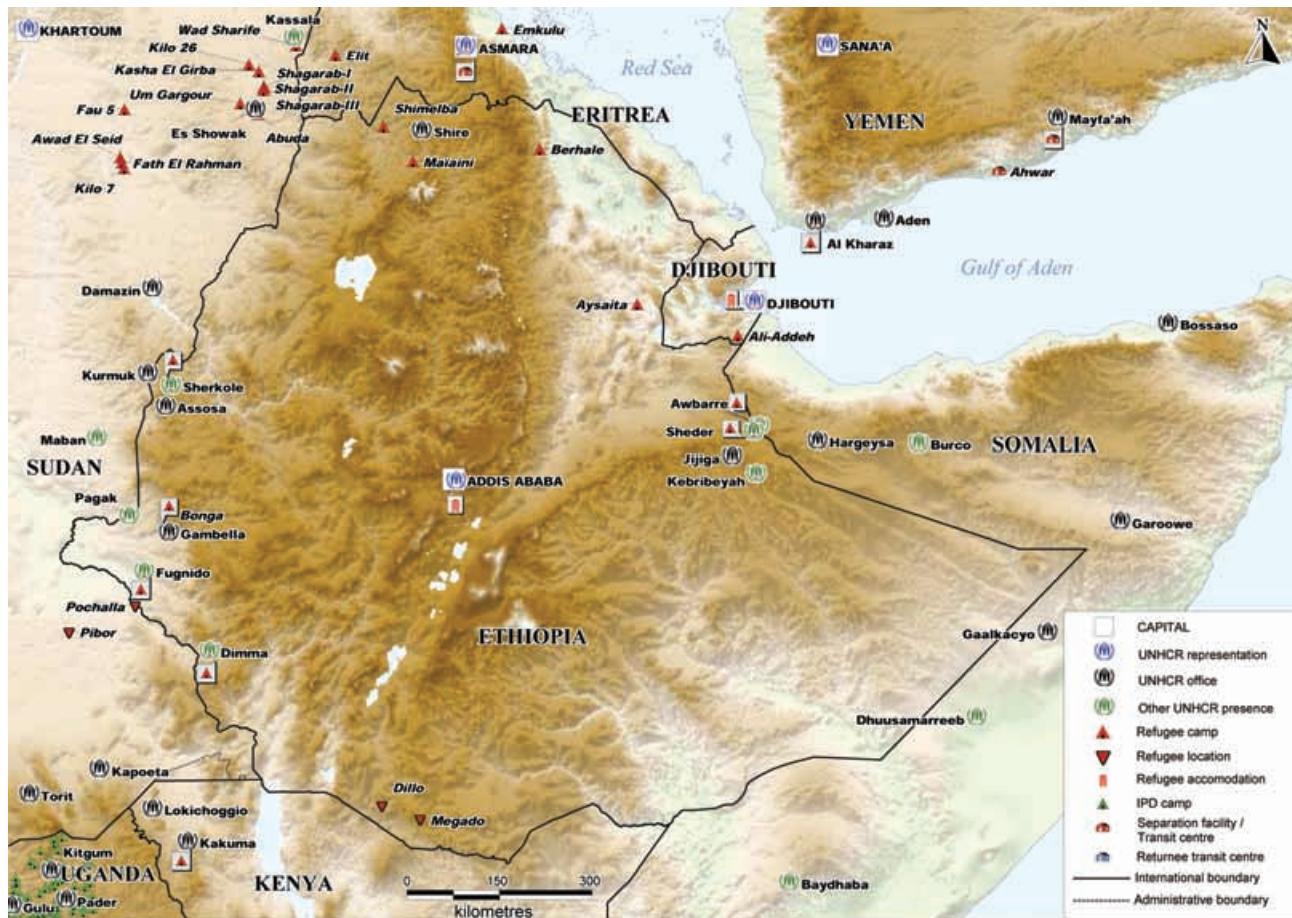


ETHIOPIA



Operational highlights

- UNHCR assisted the repatriation of more than 10,000 Sudanese refugees from the four remaining camps in western Ethiopia. As a result, two long-standing camps, Bonga and Dimma, were closed.
- Nearly 17,000 newly arrived refugees were registered and two new camps, Mai'ayni and Sheder, were opened to accommodate them.
- The Office referred some 9,500 refugees for resettlement, and nearly 600 refugees departed for third countries in 2008.
- UNHCR launched a multi-year, inter-agency initiative to rehabilitate the environment of refugee-affected areas in western Ethiopia.

Working environment

Ethiopia's poverty-stricken economy, with an unemployment rate of 80 per cent, continued to pose challenges in 2008. Recurrent droughts, floods, human and livestock diseases, insurgency and conflicts over resources that created famine-like conditions were compounded by soaring food prices.

Furthermore, the de-commissioning of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea in July and the termination of the mandate of the independent border commission charged with the demarcation of the disputed

Ethiopian-Eritrean border led to renewed tension in the northern region.

In December, the Ethiopian Government announced the withdrawal of the forces it had sent into south and central Somalia to support the country's Transitional Federal Government, alerting the humanitarian community to prepare for a potential fresh influx from Somalia.

Achievements and impact

Main objectives

UNHCR's main objectives in 2008 were to ensure international protection, basic services and material assistance to refugees, asylum-seekers and other people of concern. The Office also promoted durable solutions through the voluntary repatriation of Sudanese refugees and resettlement of those with specific needs and in protracted situations. UNHCR aimed at supporting the Government to strengthen its protection regime; working jointly with the authorities to rehabilitate the environment and infrastructure in refugee-affected areas; and at strengthening strategic partnerships with regional bodies on displacement issues, protection, durable solutions and recovery from conflict.

Protection and solutions

UNHCR found durable solutions for some 10,500 Southern Sudanese refugees through organized and assisted voluntary repatriation. Some 130 refugees from Southern



Primary school and classrooms for Somali refugees in Awbarre camp, Jijiga area, Ethiopia

UNHCR / F. COURBET

Sudan were resettled in third countries. The self-reliance of returning refugees was increased by various income-generating activities, training in vocational skills and leadership and enrolment in tertiary education in Ethiopia.

While some 8,000 new Eritrean arrivals were admitted as refugees in 2008, UNHCR submitted a group of some 7,000 Eritreans who had lived in the Shimelba camp for more than five years for resettlement. Meanwhile, some 130 refugees departed for resettlement countries. As a result of a change in government policy, Eritrean refugees benefited from greater freedom of movement.

Durable solutions were sought for some 16,000 Somali refugees who have lived in the Kebrebeya camp for nearly 17 years through a targeted resettlement scheme. At the end of 2008 some 2,000 Somalis were submitted for further processing, and 75 refugees departed for resettlement. Of the 15,000 individuals who sought asylum in Ethiopia, approximately 9,000 were registered and accommodated in the new camp in Sheder.

As the majority of Kenyans are eager to repatriate, regional authorities in areas of origin were contacted to coordinate voluntary repatriation, scheduled to start in mid-2009.

UNHCR strengthened its strategic partnership with regional bodies. Priority was given to support for the African Union (AU) as it finalized the first regional instrument for internally displaced persons (IDPs), the AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of IDPs in Africa. African heads of State will discuss this convention and measures to end forced displacement in the continent at the first AU Special Summit on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons, scheduled to take place in 2009 in Uganda.

In May 2008, following a joint conference hosted by IOM and the Inter-Governmental Authority on Displacement (IGAD) in Addis Ababa on the increase in mixed migration, UNHCR and the Mixed Migration Task Force Somalia convened a Regional Conference on Refugee Protection and International Migration in the Gulf of Aden in Yemen.

Persons of concern

Type of population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Somalia	33,600	33,600	52	62
	Sudan	25,900	25,900	53	60
	Eritrea	21,000	21,000	32	31
	Kenya	2,600	2,600	53	58
	Various	380	380	45	39
Asylum-seekers	Eritrea	700	700	36	48
	Somalia	700	700	54	67
	DRC	130	130	30	23
	Various	120	120	19	27
Returnees (refugees)	Various	170	40	-	-
Total		85,300	85,170		

The AU also participated in this conference. As a follow-up, a sub-regional forum is developing strategies to address mixed migratory movements in the region.

○ *Activities and assistance*

Community services: Some 460 Eritrean refugees were enrolled in vocational training, the majority of who were young, educated males. More than 350 children with specific needs were identified and foster care arrangements were made for some 210 children. A total of 64 sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) cases were reported and assistance, ranging from medical treatment to counselling, was extended to survivors. The Office coordinated with the Ethiopian Red Cross Society to facilitate family reunification for newly arrived asylum-seekers whose family members were already living in the camps.

Domestic needs and household support: UNHCR improved the welfare of refugee women and children by providing more domestic items as a way to lessen sales of food rations and end child labour. Some 15,500 jerry cans, 27,500 blankets, 39,400 pieces of plastic sheeting, 7,000 mosquito nets, 11,300 kitchen sets, 55,000 packets of sanitary materials, 40 metric tons (MT) of soap, 1,800 kerosene stoves and 500 ethanol stoves were distributed to newly arrived Somali refugees. UNHCR also provided financial support to a number of urban refugees through monthly subsistence and clothing allowances.

Education: Primary and secondary school enrollments in Eritrean camps increased by 40 per cent, while registration for non-formal education classes increased by 193 per cent compared to 2007. The primary school enrolment rate for girls increased from 76 to 95 per cent. In Somali camps, the Support Group for Girls, the Empowerment Group for Boys, as well as PTA activities were strengthened.

Food: Some 155 refugee households in Kebrebeya, Teferiber and Shimelba camps were trained to work on small-scale and multi-story gardening as part of the effort to reduce prevalence of anaemia to less than 20 per cent among the under five-year olds and women of reproductive age. Complementary food (100MT of famix, 25MT of lentil, 25MT of tomato paste and 9.5MT of peanut butter) were procured for children of 6-24 months old, as well as for pregnant and lactating women.

Health and nutrition: Rehabilitation of health facilities in camps, support for local hospitals and procurement of medical and laboratory equipment contributed to reducing the level of acute malnutrition and the incidence of malaria. Participation in reproductive health programmes also improved. Throughout 2008, UNHCR continued a complementary feeding programme; procurement of standard drugs, medical supplies and mosquito nets; provision of supplementary domestic items for pregnant women; training of health staff on infant feeding, hygiene and water-facility maintenance; full vaccination coverage; and physical rehabilitation services for people with disabilities.

In the camps for Somalia refugees the rate of iron deficiency in children under the age of five declined from 55 per cent to 39 per cent, while average ante-natal care coverage rose from 86 per cent to 99 per cent in the same period. A community outreach programme on HIV and AIDS benefited more than 19,000 Somali refugees in camps.

Legal assistance: During 2008, the Policy and Procedural Guidelines Regarding Assistance to Urban Refugees in Ethiopia; a memorandum of understanding with the Government on registration and revalidation of refugees; Guidelines for Referral and Transfer of Refugees and Asylum-Seekers; and a plan for reception were finalized. Refugee Status Determination training was provided for government officials.

Sanitation: Family pit latrine coverage in Shimelba camp increased from some 750 in 2007 to almost 1,500 in 2008, i.e., 60 per cent of families had their own latrines in addition to communal latrines. During the last quarter of 2008, seven communal latrines and over 110 individual family latrines were constructed in the newly opened Mai'ayni camp, allowing 20 per cent of families to have their own latrines.

Shelter and other infrastructure: During 2008, construction and development of new camps (Sheder camp for Somalis and Mai'ayni camp for Eritreans) required large-scale procurement of shelter and other construction materials to build basic camp infrastructure. The sharp increase of commodity prices posed a particular challenge, as well as prices for logistical activities. The refugee community was fully mobilized and participated in the construction of the camps.

Transport and logistics: Costs remained high in Ethiopia, especially for the Sudanese programme which included a large-scale organized repatriation movement, requiring organized convoys and airlifts, repair of roads, maintenance of vehicles, assembly points and warehouses, transportation of refugees, food and non-food items for return movements to Sudan. UNHCR also consolidated camps and relocated remaining refugees.

The transport and logistics activities for the Eritrean programme required significant resources as well, especially as the number of new arrivals increased and had to be transported from 16 border entry points, the screening centre and transit facilities to the camp.

Water: During 2008, almost all refugee camps witnessed a significant boost in the level of water supplied: Shimelba and Sherkole received 27 litres per person per day, Fugnido 17 litres, Mai'ayni 15 litres and Teferiber and Sheder 13 litres. The chronic water scarcity in Kebrebeya camp was addressed through the electrification of the water pumping system, replacement of old leaking water pipes, as well as capacity-building training.

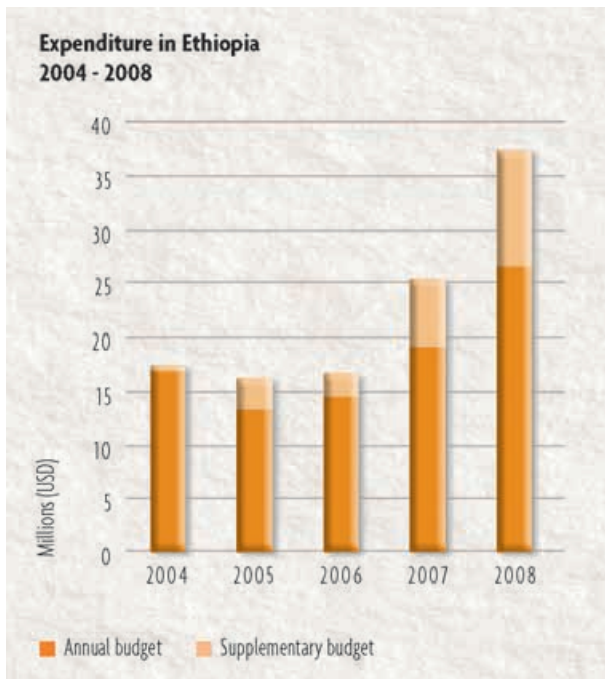
○ Constraints

The costs of fuel, food, commodities and services in Ethiopia rose beyond projected levels in 2008. As a result of an internal re-allocation of resources at mid-year, all planned activities were completed as planned.

Under-reporting of SGBV, including harmful cultural practices, remained a challenge due to entrenched social attitudes, cultural taboos and fear of stigmatization by the community. However, standardized reporting procedures and greater awareness in 2008 led to increased reporting and improved response.

| Financial information |

Up to 2006, Ethiopia's annual expenditure saw a steady decrease from nearly USD 20 million in 2002 to USD 16.5 million in 2006, following the end of the large-scale repatriation of Somali refugees to northern Somalia. Since 2007, with continuous new influxes from Somalia and Eritrea, UNHCR's budget for activities in Ethiopia steadily increased. In 2008, total expenditures reached USD 37.3 million.



| Organization and implementation |

At the end of 2008, UNHCR had a Regional Liaison Office in Addis Ababa, sub-offices in Gambella, Jijiga and Shire and a field office in Assosa as well as five field units in Fugnido, Sherkole, Kebrebeya, Teferiber and Sheder. During the year, a field unit in Dimma was closed and a new one was opened in Sheder. The Office had 186 staff (24 international and 131 national personnel, 6 JPOs, 20 UNVs and 5 secondees).

| Working with others |

Since the introduction of the cluster framework in May 2007, UNHCR has worked to address displacement situations with the UN Country Team and the Government. Strategic partnerships with regional bodies remained strong through implementation of joint work programmes, including organization of AU visits to refugee camps across Africa, preparation for the AU Special Summit, and facilitation of dialogue among States on post-conflict reconstruction.

| Overall assessment |

In 2008, UNHCR continued to implement its multi-year comprehensive protection strategy through, for example, the signing of a memorandum of understanding on registration and documentation with the Government and effective identification of people with specific needs. A comprehensive re-validation of the population data led to the successful submission of group and targeted resettlement cases in unprecedented numbers. UNHCR also saw success in reducing gaps in the provision of non-food items, distribution of clothes (to Eritrean, Somali and urban refugees), health services, complementary food rations, water supply and shelter.

Partners

Implementing partners

Government: Administration of Refugees and Returnee Affairs, Gambella Rural Road Authority, Natural Resources Development and Environmental Protection, (Gambella and Assosa), Jijiga Water Supply Office, Ethiopian Electric Power Agency

NGOs: African Humanitarian Aid and Development Agency, Development and Inter-Church Aid, Commission of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, Hope for the Horn, International Rescue Committee, Jesuit Refugee Service, Mother and Child Development Organization, Opportunities Industrial Centre for Ethiopia, Refugee Care Netherlands, Rehabilitation and Development Organization, Society of International Missionaries, Gaia Association, Lutheran World Federation, Save the Rural Society, International Medical Corps, African Humanitarian Action

Others: UNV Programme, IOM

Operational partners

Government: Bureau of Agriculture and Natural resources, Bureau of Education, Bureau of Health, Ethiopian Road Authority

Others: UNICEF, WFP, UNFPA, WHO, UNAIDS

Budget, income and expenditure in Ethiopia (USD)

	Final budget	Income from contributions	Other funds available	Total funds available ¹	Total expenditure
Annual budget	27,683,999	11,596,038	15,017,353	26,613,391	26,594,583
Somalia situation SB	8,272,023	4,738,625	1,992,294	6,730,919	6,677,560
Return and reintegration of Sudanese refugees SB	4,177,897	11,264	3,248,522	3,259,786	3,264,537
Anaemia control and prevention SB	527,714	259,068	95,668	354,736	354,736
Avian and human influenza preparedness SB	200,000	0	198,487	198,487	198,487
Water and sanitation SB	200,000	0	199,736	199,736	199,737
Supplementary budget subtotal	13,377,634	5,008,957	5,734,708	10,743,666	10,695,057
Total	41,061,633	16,604,996	20,752,061	37,357,057	37,289,640

Note: Supplementary programmes do not include seven per cent support costs that are recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR. Income from contributions includes contributions earmarked at the country level. Other funds available include transfers from unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments.

¹ Total funds available include currency adjustments.

Financial report for UNHCR's operations in Ethiopia (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current year's projects			Prior years' project
	Annual programme budget	Supplementary programme budget	Total	Annual and supplementary budgets
Protection, monitoring and coordination	4,014,381	1,656,321	5,670,702	0
Community services	385,500	328,525	714,025	70,908
Crop production	6,529	2	6,531	1,616
Domestic needs and household support	1,514,836	1,269,488	2,784,324	16,507
Education	794,132	63,423	857,555	554,303
Food	114,755	345,281	460,036	90,279
Forestry	220,548	216,345	436,893	152,998
Health and nutrition	1,763,477	395,293	2,158,770	816,109
Income generation	0	0	0	24,891
Legal assistance	1,136,620	292,116	1,428,736	80,683
Operational support (to agencies)	2,875,516	281,793	3,157,309	469,280
Sanitation	71,393	38,841	110,234	47,617
Shelter and infrastructure	228,644	436,289	664,933	285,709
Transport and logistics	1,539,412	382,220	1,921,632	435,880
Water	1,187,703	505,228	1,692,931	252,235
Instalments to implementing partners	7,759,737	4,162,736	11,922,473	(3,299,015)
Subtotal operational activities	23,613,183	10,373,901	33,987,084	0
Programme support	2,981,400	321,156	3,302,556	0
Total expenditure	26,594,583	10,695,057	37,289,640	0
Cancellation on prior years' expenditure				(454,169)
Instalments with implementing partners				
Payments made	13,751,778	5,925,195	19,676,973	
Reporting received	(5,992,041)	(1,762,459)	(7,754,500)	
Balance	7,759,737	4,162,736	11,922,473	
Outstanding 1st January				3,548,132
Reporting received				(3,299,015)
Refunded to UNHCR				(38,801)
Currency adjustment				(56,912)
Outstanding 31st December				153,404