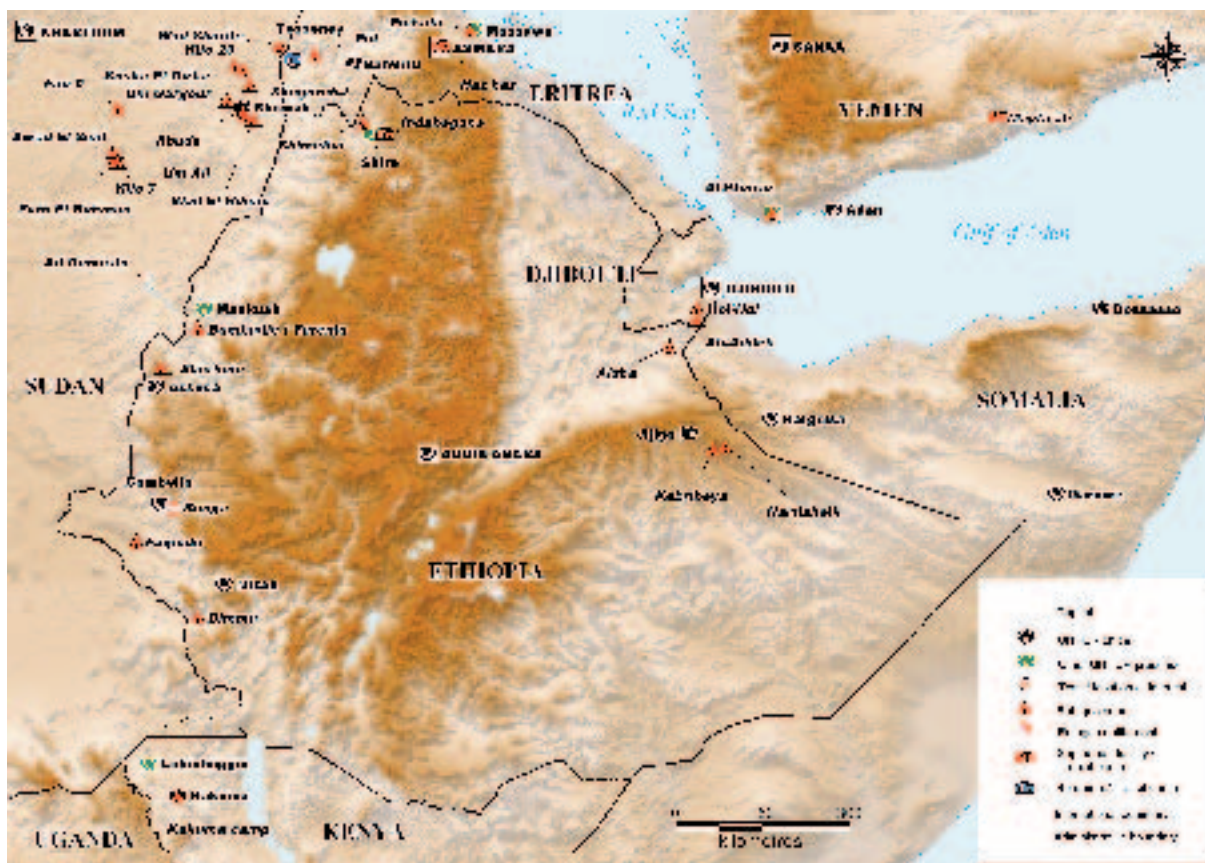


# Ethiopia



## Main objectives

Search for durable solutions through voluntary repatriation of 20,000 Somali, 750 Eritrean and 30,000 Sudanese refugees in camps; seek solutions for urban refugees of various nationalities; close two Somali refugee camps, consolidate the remaining Somali refugees into one camp and thereafter conduct status determination; promote resettlement among certain refugee groups; help to improve the quality of life of vulnerable refugees by meeting minimum standards of humanitarian assistance; foster self-reliance for refugees in camps in western Ethiopia; mitigate environmental degradation in and around the existing refugee camps; liaise with regional bodies regarding advocacy of the newly enacted refugee law.

## Impact

- UNHCR assisted more than 9,500 Somalis to repatriate to "Somaliland". (Repatriation to Eritrea and Sudan could not be carried out, for a number of reasons).
- Hartisheik camp in eastern Ethiopia was closed in June 2004, but the closure of Aisha camp had to be postponed to 2005.
- A total of 594 refugees were resettled abroad.
- For security reasons, some 6,500 Eritrean refugees were relocated from Wa'ala Nhibi camp to Shimelba, further away from the Ethiopian-Eritrean border.
- The Gross Enrolment Rate in primary and secondary schools increased to 55 per cent.
- Ninety-eight per cent of the target population had access to fuel-efficient stoves.
- Some 2.5 million seedlings were planted in refugee/returnee-affected areas.
- UNHCR reinforced its relationships with the African Union, the UN Economic Commission for Africa and IGAD.

## Working environment

### The context

By the end of 2004, UNHCR had assisted over 114,000 refugees, down from some 130,000 refugees at the beginning of the year. Over 4,400 new arrivals, mainly from Eritrea and Sudan, were registered.

The enactment by the Ethiopian Government of the Refugee Proclamation in June represented one of the most important positive developments. The document represented the first refugee-specific legislation ever produced in Ethiopia and embodied the most important protection principles. During the remaining part of the year, UNHCR worked with the Government to ensure implementation of the Proclamation.

### Constraints

Delivery of international protection and assistance was adversely affected in Gambella Region due to the prevailing security situation. As a result, UNHCR

and its partners only had access to refugees for two months of the year and this inevitably affected protection and the monitoring of assistance. Lack of absorption capacity in "Somaliland", and the consequent unwillingness of the authorities there to receive more refugees, resulted in the postponement of the closure of Aisha refugee camp in eastern Ethiopia.

### Funding

In a context in which the concept of self-reliance remains abstract, UNHCR was forced to reduce to a bare minimum the distribution of most of the basic non-food items. This also applied to HIV/AIDS activities as well as actions related to the prevention of SGBV, including female genital mutilation.

In general, most activities related to water, education, community services and income-generation were also affected by the financial situation. Monitoring of activities was also hampered by a lack of sufficient funds to maintain the roads linking offices with the various camps.

Persons of concern				
Main origin/Type of population	Total in country	Of whom UNHCR assisted	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Sudan (refugees)	90,500	90,500	47	61
Somalia (refugees)	16,500	16,500	50	46
Eritrea (refugees)	8,700	7,100	36	34

Income and expenditure (USD) Annual and Supplementary programme budgets					
	Revised budget	Income from contributions <sup>1</sup>	Other funds available <sup>2</sup>	Total funds available	Total expenditure
<b>AB</b>	16,806,497	6,540,340	10,213,855	16,754,195	16,754,195
<b>SB<sup>3</sup></b>	2,400,000	0	714,989	714,989	714,989
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,206,497</b>	<b>6,540,340</b>	<b>10,928,844</b>	<b>17,469,184</b>	<b>17,469,184</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes income from contributions earmarked at the country level.

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

<sup>3</sup> The supplementary programme figures apply to the Supplementary Appeal for the Return and Reintegration of Sudanese refugees in Southern Sudan.

Note: The supplementary programme budget does not include a 7 per cent charge (support costs) that is recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR. The above figures do not include costs at Headquarters.

## Achievements and impact

### Protection and solutions

Registration exercises were successfully carried out in Yarenja and Sherkole. Some 9,500 Somalis were assisted to repatriate to "Somaliland" and this enabled UNHCR subsequently to close Hartisheik camp. In connection with the closure, some 2,300 Somalis of Ethiopian origin integrated into the surrounding communities and settled there. UNHCR assisted 36 Sudanese and two Chadian refugees to repatriate.

To address protection concerns, some 6,500 Eritrean refugees were relocated from the Wa'ala Nhibi refugee camp to a safer location further away from the Ethiopian-Eritrean border. The main protection concerns in the Shimelba camp included the presence of organized opposition movements who tried to hamper resettlement activities and influence the formation of refugee committees in the camp.

### Activities and assistance

**Community services:** New recreational centres were built and existing facilities expanded in various camps, improving access to sports for children and young people. Twenty-five per cent of the unaccompanied minors and separated children integrated into the community through vocational training and income-generating activities that were offered to the foster families. Children's libraries were opened in Dimma and Sherkole camps.

**Crop production:** Refugee families in Bonga camp were engaged in crop and vegetable production (450 hectares planted with cereals, and 14.5 hectares with vegetables and other crops). Sixty-two women used the existing irrigation systems in Dimma camp to grow vegetables.

**Domestic needs/Household support:** UNHCR provided limited quantities of soap, blankets, mosquito nets, plastic sheets, kerosene, energy-saving stoves and jerry cans.

**Education:** The main activities in this sector included teacher training, construction of classrooms to improve the student/classroom ratio, the

provision of textbooks, and efforts to bridge the gap between boys' and girls' enrolment in schools. The student:classroom ratio ranged from 1:35 in Shimelba to 1:180 in Kebribeyah. Over 21,000 refugee students (some 7,700 of them girls) benefited from primary and secondary education.

**Food:** UNHCR supplied therapeutic milk to malnourished children in all camps. WFP provided the food basket for all camp-based refugees, including voluntary repatriation packages for Somali refugees and food items for supplementary feeding. Due to insufficient funding, WFP was obliged to reduce the cereal ration by 5 kg in March and April.

**Forestry:** In the camps, refugees planted 2.5 million seedlings on 562 hectares of land; 51 km of terraces and check dams were constructed to control soil erosion and gully formation. Firewood consumption was significantly reduced through the distribution of some 10,000 fuel-efficient stoves. To minimize the stress on natural forests, over 600 houses at Shimelba refugee camp were constructed using mud bricks.

**Health/Nutrition:** Basic health services and nutrition programmes were provided in all refugee camps. The average acute malnutrition rate was 11.7 per cent for the under-fives (assessed on the basis of weight and height measurements). The Eritrean camp at Shimelba had the worst malnutrition rate (18.1 per cent). As this considerably exceeded the accepted level of 10 per cent, UNHCR provided therapeutic milk to malnourished children (as described under "food"). Due to budgetary constraints, only basic HIV/AIDS programmes were implemented at various levels in the refugee camps. At Dimma camp, voluntary counselling and testing services (VCT) were initiated and 230 individuals were counselled and tested, of whom 37 tested HIV-positive. More than 80 per cent of the VCT beneficiaries were from the host population.

**Income generation:** Due to budgetary constraints, at some points during the year, UNHCR had to reduce to a bare minimum most activities. In this context, revolving funds for urban and camp refugees as well as soap production in one of the camps were the only income generating activities that could be offered.

**Legal assistance:** Registration exercises were conducted at Yarenja and Sherkole refugee camps.



Ethiopia: Sudanese refugees at Bonga camp receive basic humanitarian assistance provided by UNHCR and its partners. *UNHCR/N. Behring-Chisholm*

UNHCR also covered expenditure on interpretation and translation services as well as photographic supplies, in-country transport and processing fees related to resettlement.

**Livestock:** Some 2,600 families, including 100 local families, benefited from the distribution of chickens in Dimma and Bonga camps and veterinary services were provided for their animals.

**Operational support (to agencies):** UNHCR covered staff costs for all implementing partners, including construction and maintenance of residences and offices (including office equipment and stationery). Costs to cover termination benefits for more than 100 project staff were also met. The main government implementing partner, the Administration of Refugee and Returnee Affairs, was supported to attend Standing Committee and Executive Committee meetings in Geneva.

**Sanitation:** Aiming at reducing the incidence of diarrhoeal and other communicable diseases associated with poor hygiene, the refugees were given the means to dig pit latrines and waste disposal pits. The latrine-to-population ratio ranged from 1:37 in the western camps to 1:66 at Shimelba refugee camp (compared to the UNHCR standard of 1:20).

**Shelter/Other infrastructure:** In the western area, 130 km of access roads to Dimma and Fugnido were maintained to ensure uninterrupted delivery of assistance to the refugees. Several classrooms and

teachers' offices and residences were built. During the Somali repatriation from Aisha, UNHCR rehabilitated and upgraded a 42 km road between Biyokebobe and Harirad as soon as the Ethiopian Government had demined it.

**Transport/Logistics:** UNHCR managed a fleet of eight water trucks to transport water for refugees settled in Hartisheik and Kebribeyah, and 12 trailers and seven cargo trucks for general transport purposes, including repatriation. UNHCR also hired 576 trucks and 233 buses to transport Somali refugees to the Ethiopian-Somali border during the repatriation operation that entailed a total of 16 convoy movements during the year. Private trucks and buses were also hired to relocate Eritrean refugees from Wa'ala Nhibi to Shimelba.

**Water:** Due to the limited managerial capacity of the local water authorities and scarce water resources, the water supply to refugees in Ethiopia varied between six litres per person per day for the Sudanese refugees, eight litres per person per day for the Somali refugees and 16.5 litres per person per day for the Eritrean refugees. At the end of the year, however, the water supply was disrupted at Shimelba refugee camp, when the only borehole gave a reduced yield of only four litres per person per day. To help respond to this crisis, UNHCR provided the Government with a water tanker. A similar situation arose in Kebribeyah camp as a result of the limited capacity of the local Bureau for Water Resources Development to properly manage the Jarar Valley water system.

## Organization and implementation

### Management

In addition to refugee operations, UNHCR's responsibilities included follow-up and implementation of the Comprehensive Implementation Plan (developed during a joint African Union (AU)/UNHCR meeting in Conakry in March 2000); follow-up on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD); and ensuring that transitional issues of concern to refugees were incorporated into the agenda of the AU and the broader humanitarian community. The programme had 14 international staff, five JPOs and 118 national staff and maintained one sub-office at Gambella, two field offices at Jijiga and Assosa. Four government agencies and ten NGOs assisted UNHCR with the implementation of the refugee programme.

### Working with others

The AU and UNHCR intensified cooperation on issues relating to refugees in Africa. Significant steps were taken to address the subject of national protection capacities. A review of national legislation on refugees for selected Member States of the AU was commissioned and will provide specific recommendations.

In support of implementation of the NEPAD, and through its lead role in the Sub-Cluster on Post-Conflict Recovery, UNHCR worked closely with other UN agencies to develop a framework for institutional collaboration in the area of reintegration and recovery. UNHCR, UNDP and IGAD collaborated on activities related to the rehabilitation of infrastructure and the promotion of reintegration in an effort to bring long-term solutions to refugees and to strengthen the continent's capacity to prevent and manage humanitarian crises. UNHCR also actively participated in the UN Theme Groups on Gender and HIV/AIDS.

## Overall assessment

In 2004, several important goals were attained in respect of operations and relations with the African Union. Furthermore, the enactment by the Ethiopian Government of the Refugee Proclamation in June

was one of the most positive developments that enabled UNHCR to continue with its strategy of strengthening national protection structures.

However, the breadth and quality of assistance to the refugees could hardly escape the effects of financial constraints which impacted upon the overall budget.

Offices
<b>Addis Ababa</b>
Assosa
Gambella
Jijiga
Mankush
Mizan
Shire
Partners
<b>Government agencies</b>
Administration of Refugee and Returnee Affairs
Bureau of Agriculture (Tigray Region)
Bureau of Water Resources and Development
Natural Resources Development Programme (Gambella and Assosa)
<b>NGOs</b>
African Humanitarian Aid and Development Agency
Hope for the Horn
Hugh Pilkington Charitable Trust
International Rescue Committee
Jesuit Refugee Service
Opportunities Industrial Centre (Ethiopia)
Rehabilitation and Development Organization
Refugee Care (Netherlands)
Save the Children (Sweden)
Society International Missionaries
<b>Others</b>
UNESCO-PEER
UNICEF
WFP

## 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	2,918,724	0	<b>2,918,724</b>	0
Community services	37,608	0	<b>37,608</b>	6,846
Crop production	2,199,257	382,851	<b>2,582,108</b>	724,466
Domestic needs / household support	602,442	30,696	<b>633,138</b>	42,329
Education	756,133	47,369	<b>803,502</b>	356,369
Food	125,841	0	<b>125,841</b>	40,821
Forestry	1,182,378	16,550	<b>1,198,928</b>	423,712
Health and nutrition	263,356	0	<b>263,356</b>	65,327
Income generation	370,661	0	<b>370,661</b>	189,074
Legal assistance	971,162	0	<b>971,162</b>	667,557
Livestock	73,506	0	<b>73,506</b>	33,148
Operational support (to agencies)	15,848	0	<b>15,848</b>	4,018
Sanitation	355,330	0	<b>355,330</b>	117,965
Shelter and infrastructure	34,562	0	<b>34,562</b>	11,234
Transport and logistics	213,391	235,457	<b>448,848</b>	126,091
Water	1,962,544	2,067	<b>1,964,611</b>	492,638
Instalments with implementing partners	2,451,376	0	<b>2,451,376</b>	(3,301,594)
<b>Sub-total operational activities</b>	<b>14,534,121</b>	<b>714,989</b>	<b>15,249,110</b>	<b>0</b>
Programme support	2,220,074	0	<b>2,220,074</b>	0
<b>Total disbursements</b>	<b>16,754,195</b>	<b>714,989</b>	<b>17,469,184</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Instalments with implementing partners</b>				
Payments made	7,928,607	0	<b>7,928,607</b>	
Reporting received	(5,477,231)	0	<b>(5,477,231)</b>	
<b>Balance</b>	<b>2,451,376</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,451,376</b>	
<b>Prior years' report</b>				
<b>Instalments with implementing partners</b>				
Outstanding 1 January				3,264,360
Payments made				425,629
Reporting received				(3,301,594)
Refunded to UNHCR				(385,995)
Currency adjustments				(2,400)
<b>Balance</b>				<b>0</b>
<b>Unliquidated obligations</b>				
Outstanding 1 January				1,507,808
Disbursements				(946,092)
Cancellations				(561,716)
<b>Outstanding 31 December</b>				<b>0</b>