

Ethiopia



Main objectives

Provide international protection and material assistance to refugees in Ethiopia (fostering self-reliance whenever feasible); identify a new campsite for Eritrean refugees currently at Wa'ala Nhibi; promote the voluntary repatriation of 20,000 Somali refugees to North-west Somalia ('Somaliland') and mitigate environmental degradation and rehabilitate areas in and around the refugee settlements. Objectives added during 2003 were to: complete the relocation of 24,500 Nuer and Dinka refugees from Fugnido to Odier-Bol; facilitate the return of 5,000 Ethiopian nationals of Somali ethnic origin living in the camps to their places of origin; facilitate the resettlement of eligible refugees; build a strong relationship with the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) initiative to ensure that humanitarian issues and activities become an integral part of the development process.

Impact

- UNHCR assisted 9,245 Somali refugees to repatriate to 'Somaliland'.
- A total of 622 refugees were resettled in 2003, including the backlog of 2002 resettlement cases (555 refugees: 85 Eritrean, 10 Somali, 458 Sudanese and 2 Ugandans).
- Individual interviews for 187 unaccompanied minors and separated children were completed and 66 were recommended for resettlement in third countries.
- A site in Shimelba, northern Ethiopia was identified as the location for a new camp for Eritrean refugees residing at Wa'ala Nhibi camp.
- 10,400 energy-saving stoves were distributed to Somali, Sudanese and Eritrean refugees.
- Over 2.66 million seedlings of different species were planted in refugee/returnee-affected areas. Over 90 per cent of the plants survived.
- UNHCR contributed to the formulation of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.

- UNHCR signed an MOU with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, to implement the Comprehensive Implementation Plan (CIP), adopted in March 2000, to promote implementation of the 1969 OAU Refugee Convention.

Working environment

The context

In 2003, Ethiopia hosted 130,274 refugees from Eritrea, Somalia and Sudan. During the year, 8,269 asylum-seekers were granted refugee status. Some 622 refugees were resettled in third countries of asylum and 9,245 Somali refugees were assisted to repatriate to 'Somaliland'. At the same time, there were 498 urban refugees from Afghanistan, China, the Czech Republic, Iraq, Yemen and 11 African countries.

Constraints

The security situation in Gambella region in western Ethiopia deteriorated during 2003. Several ethnic

clashes in and around Dimma and Fugnido refugee camps resulted in the deaths of 148 persons (16 refugees and 132 nationals) and 24 were injured. United Nations and other agency staff were twice relocated out of Gambella because of the ongoing insecurity in the area. This adversely affected the timely delivery of humanitarian assistance to refugees; interrupted primary education in Fugnido refugee camp; and forced UNHCR to abandon the development of the new camp site at Odier-Bol for the eventual relocation of 24,500 Nuer and Dinka refugees from Fugnido. After the repatriation of 9,245 Somali refugees, the 'Somaliland' authorities halted the repatriation operation due to lack of absorption capacity at Hargeisa. The planned repatriation from Aisha camp which mainly hosts Somali refugees could not take place as there were landmines on the repatriation route between Ethiopia and Somalia.

Funding

Delays in identifying a feasible site led UNHCR to postpone the relocation of Eritrean refugees at Wa'ala Nhibi to the new site at Shimelba which is situated further away from the Ethiopia/Eritrea border. A projected funding shortfall unfortunately

Persons of concern

Main origin/Type of population	Total in country	Of whom UNHCR assisted	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Sudan (refugees)	94,900	94,900	47	58
Somalia (refugees)	28,300	28,300	50	53
Eritrea (refugees)	6,800	6,800	34	35

Income and expenditure (USD)

Annual programme and Supplementary programme budgets

	Revised budget	Income from contributions ¹	Other funds available ²	Total funds available	Total expenditure
AB	18,787,803	6,721,910	11,137,544	17,859,454	17,859,454
SB	959,342	310,000	271,150	581,150	581,150
Total	19,747,145	7,031,910	11,408,694	18,440,604	18,440,604

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. The above figures do not include costs at headquarters.

Note: The Supplementary programme budgets do not include a 7 per cent charge (support costs) that is recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR.



Southern Sudanese refugees attending school for adults in Bonga camp. *UNHCR/N. Behring*

affected the development of infrastructure at the new camp site.

Achievements and impact

Protection and solutions

UNHCR returned to the Fugnido camp in the western part of the country after security improved in early 2003. The Anuak refugees, who had fled the camp in 2002 because of the insecurity, remained outside the camp with limited access to humanitarian assistance during 2003. The plan to relocate 24,500 Nuers to Odier-Bol was not undertaken during 2003 due to the persistently tense security

situation in Gambella. In July 2003, after consultations between UNHCR, the Ethiopian Government and the Sudanese refugees, the refugee leaders expressed the view that they were in favour of repatriation if the peace process in Sudan was successfully concluded.

The Office continued to screen Eritrean asylum-seekers individually and 1,628 were granted refugee status. The group resettlement policy for the Kunama refugees from Eritrea was temporarily suspended in order to explore all remaining possibilities to find solutions for them. In the absence of a local integration policy in Ethiopia, repatriation and resettlement remained the only durable solutions for urban and camp-based refugees.



Activities and assistance

Community services: UNHCR procured and distributed 1,440 sportswear items including 120 pairs of shoes, footballs, volleyballs and other materials donated by the International Olympic Committee. Sanitary materials were distributed to refugee girls and women between the ages of 11 and 48 in all camps. Refugee women were able to take a more active part in their affairs, thanks to the construction of two new women's centres in Fugnido and Dimma camps. At the same time, the refugee women's association supplied bread for the school feeding programme at Bonga. In Sherkole, clothes, blankets, mattresses and sheets were distributed to 183 older refugees and 88 of the most vulnerable persons. In addition, nine groups of disabled and older refugees

were taught skills in income generation activities. Under the "Children at Risk" project, 114 children attended night classes, while 932 girls enrolled for non-formal education and were supplied with necessary education materials.

Crop production: About 4,125 refugees in the Bonga camp were engaged in crop, vegetable and livestock production. They cultivated cereals on 350 hectares and different horticultural crops on 8.5 hectares of land. Forty-five women were engaged in growing vegetables using irrigation in Dimma. Agricultural hand-tools, fertilizers and seeds were distributed in the camps for Sudanese refugees.

Domestic needs/Household support: During the reporting period, essential household items such as laundry soap, plastic sheets, blankets, jerry cans, kerosene stoves, kitchen sets, plastic plates and teacups were distributed to the Eritrean, Somali and Sudanese refugees.

Education: A total of 23,178 refugee children (38 per cent girls) attended primary education in 30 schools in all the refugee camps. In the Somali refugee camps in eastern Ethiopia, 4,625 children (2,068 girls) attended Kuranic (pre-primary) and primary schools. This represented 45 per cent of school-aged children between 4 and 17 years old. The student to classroom ratio was 110:1 (standard 40:1) while the student to latrine ratio was 127:1 (against the standard of 50:1 for each category). The level of post-secondary scholarship enrolment under the DAFI programme increased from 48 in 2002 to 64 in 2003, 20 of whom were female. In order to improve the student to teacher ratio, 35 classrooms and four teachers' rooms were constructed in nine refugee camps.

Food: WFP provided refugees in camps and settlements with a basic food intake of 2,100 kilocalories (kcal) per person per day. In November 2003, WFP alerted the international community of a possible food shortage during the first quarter of 2004 if additional food pledges were not received in time. UNHCR procured sufficient quantities of therapeutic milk for supplementary and school feeding programmes in the refugee camps.

Forestry: Firewood consumption was reduced by up to 50 per cent through the distribution of 10,400 stoves. Over 2.66 million seedlings of different species were planted in refugee/returnee-affected areas,

with a 90 per cent survival rate. Over 150,000 metres of long terraces and dams were constructed in the Somali and Sudanese camps. Some 20 demonstration plots were established in the eastern camps in order to determine the species of tree seedlings that could survive in refugee-affected areas.

Health/Nutrition: The overall health and nutritional status of the refugees remained within normal limits. Basic health-care services like outpatient and inpatient care, maternal and child health, immunization, nutrition, and supply of essential medicines were provided.

Income generation: A total of 308 refugees benefited from income-generating activities. Of these, 203 were engaged in tailoring, bamboo crafts, soap-making, shoe-making and brick-making businesses. They earned enough money to supplement their incomes. The remaining 105 refugees were engaged in running bakeries, butcheries or restaurants, fish-mongering, shop-keeping and photography activities.

Legal assistance: Seminars on the promotion of refugee law were conducted for local government officials, UNHCR staff, implementing partners and refugee representatives. Costs for interpretation and translation services as well as photographic supplies, in-country transport, and processing fees related to resettlement cases were also covered under this sector.

Livestock: Some 1,700 chickens were distributed to 468 families in Dimma while 800 were distributed to 216 families in Bonga. Veterinary services were provided to the livestock in and around the refugee camps.

Operational support (to agencies): Staff costs for over 650 project staff of implementing partners, construction and maintenance of offices/residences, the provision of office equipment and stationery items were covered under this sector. The Administration of Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA), the principal governmental implementing partner, was also given support to send a representative to attend Standing Committee and ExCom meetings in Geneva.

Sanitation: In all camps, refugees dug latrines and waste disposal pits. In order to curb diarrhoeal diseases and other illnesses associated with poor

hygiene, 934 pit latrine slabs were produced and distributed while 880 camp cleaning campaigns were conducted. The average latrine: population ratio in all the camps was 33:1 (compared to the acceptable standard of 20 persons per latrine).

Shelter/Other infrastructure: To facilitate the smooth delivery of assistance to refugees, UNHCR maintained and upgraded 302 kilometres of access roads to refugee camps. The surveying and demarcation of 6,400 plots in the abandoned Odier-Bol site was also completed.

Transport/Logistics: Food, non-food items, and construction materials were transported to the refugee camps. A total of 9,245 Somali refugees were repatriated to 'Somaliland' by road in safety and dignity.

Water: Two *haffir* dams, with a capacity of 45,000 cubic metres, were constructed in selected returnee-impacted areas of eastern Ethiopia. The engineering component of the Jerrer Valley pipeline project was completed during 2003. The electro-mechanical component, under UNICEF's responsibility is pending finalization. On average, Eritrean refugees received 16.5 litres per person per day while Somali refugees received eight litres per person per day and Sudanese refugees received six litres of water per person per day.

Organization and implementation

Management

UNHCR's office in Ethiopia was headed by the Regional Liaison Representative whose responsibilities included the follow-up to and implementation of the CIP and NEPAD, and ensuring that transitional issues of concern to refugees were incorporated into the agenda of the Africa Union (AU) and the broader humanitarian community. In 2003, the programme was supported by 146 staff (24 international including eight JPOs and 122 national staff). In addition to its office in Addis Ababa, UNHCR maintained sub-offices in Gambella and Jijiga, one field office in Assosa and two antenna offices, one in Mankush and the other in Shire. Five government agencies and 10 NGOs assisted UNHCR in the implementation of the refugee programme.

Working with others

During 2003, as the Organization of African Unity was going through its transformation into the African Union (AU), UNHCR ensured that its partnership would also be consolidated with the newly established organs of the AU and its leadership.

Through its enhanced liaison functions, UNHCR's relationship with the AU, the Economic Commission for Africa and IGAD were reinforced during 2003. Based on the 1969 MOU signed between the OAU and UNHCR, the two institutions intensified cooperation on issues relating to refugees in Africa.

UNHCR and the AU commissioned a review of national legislation on refugees of selected Member States of the AU to provide specific recommendations with a view to improving national protection capacities. In addition, the AU began reviewing the 1969 OAU Refugee Convention and other treaties.

UNHCR, with other UN agencies, developed a framework for institutional collaboration in the areas of reintegration and recovery, to support implementation of NEPAD programme priorities through the sub-cluster on Post-Conflict Recovery. UNHCR, UNDP and IGAD collaborated on the rehabilitation of infrastructure and promotion of reintegration activities in an effort to bring durable solutions to refugees and to strengthen the region's capacity to prevent and manage humanitarian crises.

Overall assessment

In 2003, contrary to the planned repatriation of 20,000 Somali refugees, only 9,245 refugees returned due to the lack of absorption capacity in 'Somaliland'. The relocation of 24,500 Nuer and Dinka refugees from Fugnido did not take place owing to the security situation in the Gambella Regional State. Moreover, it was not considered worthwhile developing a new camp because of the prospects of mass return of Sudanese refugees, after the conclusion of the peace process. Overall, UNHCR in Ethiopia provided international and material assistance to refugees, although serious gaps between what was delivered and the expected standards remained.

Offices

Addis Ababa

Assosa
Gambella
Jijiga
Mankush
Shire

Partners

Government agencies

Administration of Refugee and Returnee Affairs
Bureau of Water Resources and Development
Ethiopian Road Authority
Livestock, Environment and Crop Development Bureau
Natural Resources Development (Gambella and Assosa)

NGOs

Hope for the Horn
Hugh Pilkington Charitable Trust
International Rescue Committee
Jesuit Refugee Service
Opportunities Industrial Centre (Ethiopia)
Refugee Care (Netherlands)
Rehabilitation and Development Organisation
Save the Children (Sweden)
Save the Children (USA)
Society of International Missionaries

Others

UNESCO-PEER
UNICEF
WFP

Financial Report (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current year's projects				Prior years' projects	
	Annual programme budget	Supplementary programme budget	Total	notes	Annual and Supplementary programme budgets	notes
Protection, Monitoring and Coordination	3,129,143	0	3,129,143		2,605	
Community Services	500,523	0	500,523		210,917	
Crop Production	74,727	0	74,727		38,811	
Domestic Needs/Household Support	475,263	0	475,263		106,608	
Education	825,977	0	825,977		464,381	
Food	36,465	0	36,465		9	
Forestry	381,035	0	381,035		220,735	
Health/Nutrition	1,216,564	0	1,216,564		485,529	
Income Generation	32,043	0	32,043		44,454	
Legal Assistance	168,546	0	168,546		79,541	
Livestock	7,413	0	7,413		11,685	
Operational Support (to Agencies)	1,427,306	0	1,427,306		474,498	
Sanitation	107,868	0	107,868		34,475	
Shelter/Other Infrastructure	402,310	0	402,310		127,943	
Transport/Logistics	1,665,917	9,653	1,675,570		449,026	
Water (non-agricultural)	1,013,917	0	1,013,917		406,332	
Transit Accounts	1,167	0	1,167		0	
Instalments with Implementing Partners	2,975,412	288,948	3,264,360		(1,723,099)	
Sub - total Operational	14,441,596	298,601	14,740,197		1,434,450	
Programme Support	2,192,600	0	2,192,600		17,005	
Sub - total Disbursements / Deliveries	16,634,196	298,601	16,932,797	⁽³⁾	1,451,454	⁽⁵⁾
Unliquidated Obligations	1,225,259	282,549	1,507,808	⁽³⁾	0	⁽⁵⁾
Total	17,859,454	581,150	18,440,604	^{(1) (3)}	1,451,454	
Instalments with Implementing Partners						
Payments Made	8,307,664	288,948	8,596,612		322,866	
Reporting Received	5,332,252	0	5,332,252		2,045,965	
Balance	2,975,412	288,948	3,264,360		(1,723,099)	
Outstanding 1st January	0	0	0		2,108,212	
Refunded to UNHCR	0	0	0		312,145	
Currency Adjustment	0	0	0		(72,968)	
Outstanding 31 December	2,975,412	288,948	3,264,360		0	
Unliquidated Obligations						
Outstanding 1st January	0	0	0		2,184,366	⁽⁵⁾
New Obligations	17,859,454	581,150	18,440,604	⁽¹⁾	0	
Disbursements	16,634,196	298,601	16,932,796	⁽³⁾	1,451,454	⁽⁵⁾
Cancellations	0	0	0		732,912	⁽⁵⁾
Outstanding 31 December	1,225,259	282,549	1,507,808	⁽³⁾	0	⁽⁵⁾

Figures which can be cross-referenced to the Accounts:

(1) Annex to Statement 1

(3) Schedule 3

(5) Schedule 5