



Federal Democratic Republic Of Ethiopia
Administration for Refugee & Returnee Affairs
(ARRA)

**68th session of the Executive Committee
of the High Commissioner's Programme
(ExCom)**

“A Special Segment on the application of the CRRF”

**2 October to 6 October 2017,
Assembly Hall of the Palais des Nations, Geneva**

Outline

- ✓ **Contexts**
- ✓ **Legal and Policy Frameworks**
- ✓ **Strategic roll-out of CRRF in Ethiopia**
- ✓ **Key developments in follow-up to the New York Declaration**
- ✓ **Proposed CRRF Governance structure**
- ✓ **CRRF Progress: Major Challenges**

Contexts

- Ethiopia has a longstanding tradition of hospitality to refugees, dating back to the 7th century
- It is now one of the largest refugee hosting nations in the world and the second largest in the African continent
- The government of Ethiopia is currently providing protection to close a million refugees from over 20 countries.
- The country continues to receive new arrivals from South Sudan, Eritrea, and Somalia.
- Generally, the Ethiopia refugee operation is characterized by both protracted and very complex emergency situations.

Legal and Policy...Cont'd

- Ethiopia is a party to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol as well as to the 1969 OAU Convention governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa.
- In 2004, the country has notably enacted a national Refugee Proclamation. This Proclamation is now amended to strengthen the legal components and ultimately create a conducive legal environment for the application of the CRRF.
- While maintaining its asylum space and its open door policy, the government of Ethiopia has recently made a new policy shifts and voluntarily undertaken new initiatives to improve the lives of both the refugee and host communities who still are living in abject poverty.
- Thus, in Ethiopia, the current refugee response management is based on a mix of three general policies namely: - **Encampment policy, Out of camp policy, and the policy of Local Integration.**
- On top of these, the Government of Ethiopia is committed to maintain the long tradition of an open door policy for asylum seekers and refugee inflows into the country.

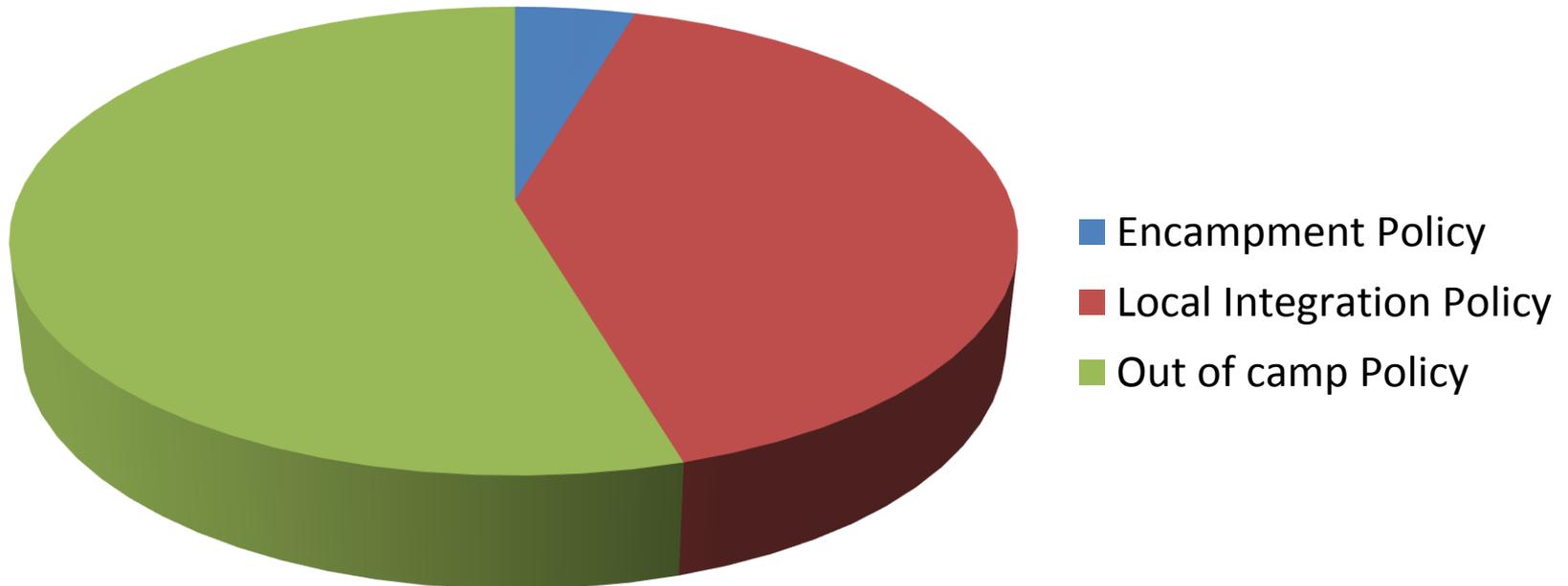
Legal and Policy...Cont'd

- The Government of Ethiopia is already taking very commendable measures with a ten years strategic vision to gradually transform the Ethiopia's refugee operation approach and model from encampment towards hosting refugees in village-style development-oriented settlements and other alternatives to camps like the Out of camp policy.
- While the Government envisages to completely phase-out its encampment policy in ten years period, the refugee camps will still remain as one large incubator mainly to prepare the refugees for various self-reliance schemes through such as education and training.
- The encampment policy will also be applied towards building the overall refugee operation management capacity of refugee-hosting local authorities.
- The government of Ethiopia's out of camp and the local integration policies will be progressively advanced to provide alternative to camps for the refugees until they prefer going back to their countries of origin,
- These two policies will guarantee refugees to live with greater dignity, independence, freedom and normality within their hosting community and ultimately become productive global citizens.

Legal and Policy...cont'd

- As illustrated in the below diagram, generally, the out of camp and local integration policies of the government of Ethiopia will be gradually expanded in the next ten years period whereas the encampment policy will diminish step by step

Ethiopia's General Policies towards Asylum Seekers and Refugees in the next 10 years



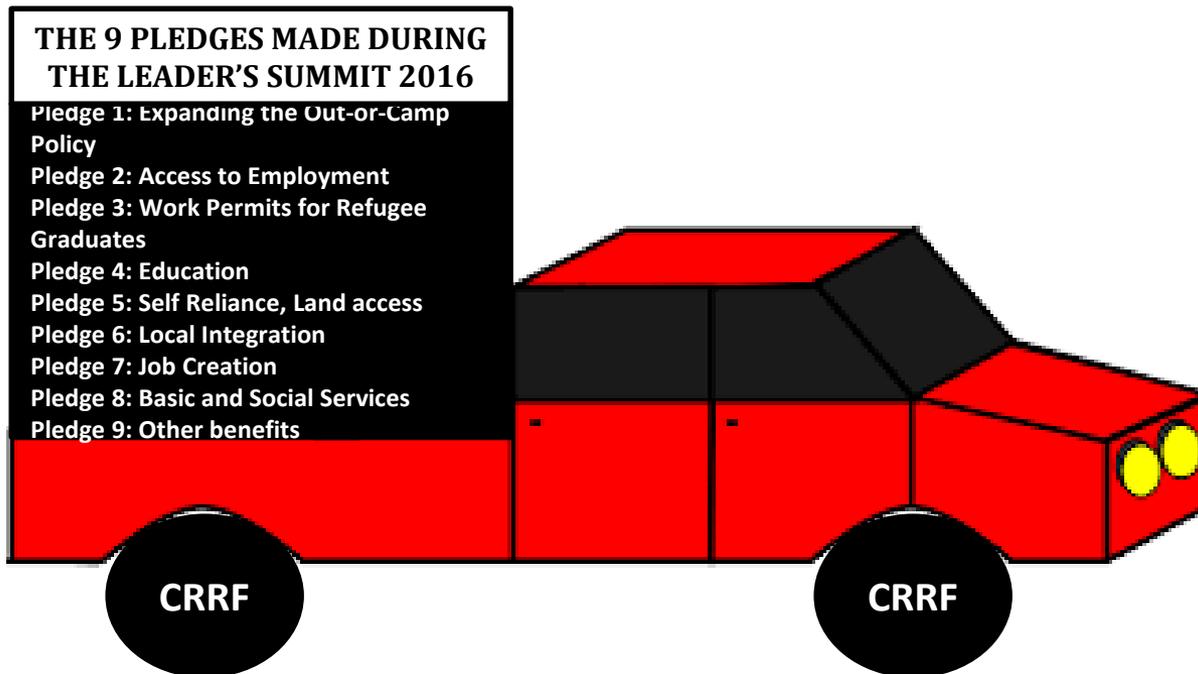
Strategic roll-out of CRRF in Ethiopia

Linkage between the CRRF and Ethiopia's Policy Commitments

- At the Leaders' Summit on Refugees, which Ethiopia co-hosted on 20 September 2016 in New York, the country made Nine Pledges to increase the quality of protection and expand protection solutions for refugees in the country.
- The thematic areas of the 9 pledges are **Education, Work and Livelihoods, Out of camp policy, Local Integration, Basic and Social Services and Documentation.**
- The nine policy commitments of the Government of Ethiopia are among the four key elements of the CRRF as they aim at ensuring the self-reliance of refugees and also supporting the communities that host them.
- Besides, operationalization of the government of Ethiopia pledges highly requires a government led engagement of broader array of stakeholders. This proved how the pledges are aligned with the multi-stakeholder approach of the CRRF.
- The pledges are also aligned with the second growth and transformation plan II of the government of Ethiopia as well as with the current development assistance framework (UNDAF) of the united nation.

Strategic roll-out of CRRF...Cont'd

- The below picture summarizes how Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) and the Government of Ethiopia pledges are inter-linked, with CRRF serving as a vehicle to implement the pledges.



Strategic roll-out of CRRF...Cont'd

Country-specific strategy designed for practical application of the CRFF in the Ethiopia context

- Ethiopia's commitment to protect refugees has been long-established and further strengthened in the recent times.
- At the Leader's Summit, the Government of Ethiopia has practically shown its global solidarity to share responsibility for refugee protection and has voluntarily undertaken very generous and concrete commitments through the nine pledges relating to further improving the rights and services enjoyed by refugees in the country.
- In February 2017 along the lines of the New York Declaration, Ethiopia has become one of the first countries to initiate the practical application of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF).
- Even if the common objectives of the CRRF remains the same across the board, it is critically important to take into account the regional and contextual diversities that exists on the ground .
- In the context of Ethiopia, therefore, CRRF will be best applied through the implementation of these commitments, and it can be regarded as a vehicle to accompany the implementation of Ethiopia's nine pledges
- This strategy combines wider support to host communities, foster peaceful coexistence and greater inclusion of refugees in national development plans.

Key developments in follow-up to the New York Declaration

- The Government through its refugee agency has continued advocating for a more sustained and broad-based partnership with the wide array of stakeholders identified for the realization of the nine pledges through the practical application of the CRRF in the Ethiopia context.
- A set of new and innovative approaches are required to operationalize the nine pledges of the government and to move towards the Comprehensive Response in Ethiopia.

Generally, the ongoing Government-led collective responses includes the following types of activities :

a. Legal and Policy reforms

b. Assessment and Analysis

c. Technical Assistance

d. Development Oriented Interventions

e. Emergency Response

f. Governance Structure

Some of the activities undertaken so far include:-

Roadmap preparation

- The Government of Ethiopia, together with UNHCR, other humanitarian organizations, development actors, donor agencies, and the private sector, has prepared a **roadmap** detailing the implementation of each pledge.
- As the roadmap outlines key activities required to implement each pledges, opportunities, existing and potential partnerships , timelines and resources, it is central for the gradual application of a comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF)
- This roadmap is now guiding the Government and its partners in mapping the existing capacity of all actors in the Ethiopia Refugee Operation and in identifying critical gaps, and also in mobilizing a need based support .

Key developments...Cont'd

Legal reforms

- The Government in collaboration with UNHCR, and other stakeholders, have worked to ensure that the legal framework governing refugees in Ethiopia reflects the recent policy commitments of the government and is conducive for the practical application of the CRRF.
- In close consultation with UNHCR and other UN agencies, Donors, NGOs and other multiple relevant stakeholders, the nine Pledges are currently incorporated into a legally-binding Comprehensive Proclamation, which is amended in consideration of the international standards of refugee protection provided in international legal instruments.
- The amended Refugee Proclamation enshrine the rights of refugees including but not limited to: stay in the country of asylum, work, all levels of education, freedom of movement, property, access to justice, travel and identification documents , Vital event registration, local integration, naturalization etc .
- The delay in the enactment of the new Ethiopian refugee law was due to the long process held to include the views of many stakeholders .
- The law will be ratified within a month from now during the new Ethiopian fiscal year when the parliament returns from recess.
- Once the draft amendment on 2004 refugee proclamation get an approval on this month by the parliament, it is expected to give wider benefit to the refugees, besides its importance in tackling the legal hurdles in applying the CRRF in Ethiopia

Key developments...Cont'd

Education

- As it is pointed out in its pledge, the Government of Ethiopia has given top priority for enhancing access to education at all levels
- During the time of the pledge gross enrollment rate for primary and secondary school was 54% and 9% respectively.
- Immediately after the pledge, measures like aligning the educational strategy with the pledge, establishing education management information system to improve refugee education data and strengthening coordination to avoid parallel efforts have been taken
- As a result, an increasing trend in gross enrolment in both primary(62%) and secondary level(10%) has been realized.
- Preparation for the September 2017 intake started at the end of July, 2017 by launching a campaign with the theme “No school aged refugee child will be left behind during the academic year starting September, 2017” with the target gross enrolment of over 70% .
- Expansion of classrooms, recruitment of additional teachers, procurement of school supplies and awareness raising campaigns have been some of the major tasks conducted during this period of preparation.
- Resource mobilization to undertake the above crucial tasks has been additional duty during this campaign period.
- As a result, preliminary report indicates that the new gross enrolment of primary education as of today met the set target of over 70%.
- Similar result has been expected to be obtained both at the secondary and tertiary levels
- This is expected to enhance current government sponsored 1700 university students, learning in 20 universities throughout the country, by significant amount.

Key developments...Cont'd

Livelihood and self-reliance schemes

Irrigated Agriculture

- ✓ In Dollo-Ado wherein the Somali Refugees are sheltered, construction of irrigation infrastructure is continuing in the 1,000 hectare of land that was allocated by the government before the pledge, using available resources.
- ✓ Additional 10,000 hectare of land has been allocated by the government as per the pledge during the leader's summit in September, 2016, in New York
- ✓ Refugees and Host communities started production of crops in the already irrigated land
- ✓ Efforts are enduring to solicit fund for the irrigation development of this additional land

Jobs Compact

- ❖ Site selected for the construction of the industrial park in which refugees will be employed
- ❖ Skills profiling of the refugees and other baseline surveys are under completion, with the support from the World Bank
- ❖ The World Bank has also recently conducted a technical and fiduciary assessments for the Ethiopia Jobs Compact Program for results operation.

- In addition to the above interventions, Various skill training schemes are designed and implementation has continued

Key developments...Cont'd

Local integration

- A study visit has been conducted to Uganda to share experience on local integration (nearly 40,000 refugees who lived in protracted situations in Ethiopia are identified to benefit from Local Integration)
- Preparation for resource mapping, identification of gaps in areas of services, infrastructures, justice, peace building mechanisms and private sector development are taking place in collaboration with world bank and the government of Netherlands
- Creation of awareness within refugees and host communities, resource mobilization and engagement of various stakeholders have been additional tasks.

Documentation

- As part of the implementation process of Ethiopia's pledges preparatory works are finalized to issue vital event registration certificates to the refugees using the national system.
- This includes legal ground works, organizational restructuring, deployment of relevant staffs and building their capacity and other related activities
- The vital event registration of the refugees will be officially launched on October, 2017

Proposed CRRF Governance structure

- A coordination framework is designed to provide support to the government and bring together the Government of Ethiopia, selected humanitarian and development actors, the donor community and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the pledges and the application of the CRRF.
- In general, implementation of the significant and broad ranging commitments made to refugees during the 2016 Leader's summit and the roll-out of CRRF in the country will be led by the government of Ethiopia at the level of the Office of the Prime Minister and, co-chaired by ARRA, UNHCR, MoFEC. A Development Advisor represented from the Donors will provide an advice to the Co-chairing agencies mainly on Development issues.

The Steering Committee

- The Steering Committee under the leadership of the Office of the Prime Minister and the selected Co-chairs will provide overall guidance and recommendations on the implementation of the pledges and the application of the CRRF in the country with the support from humanitarian and development actors.

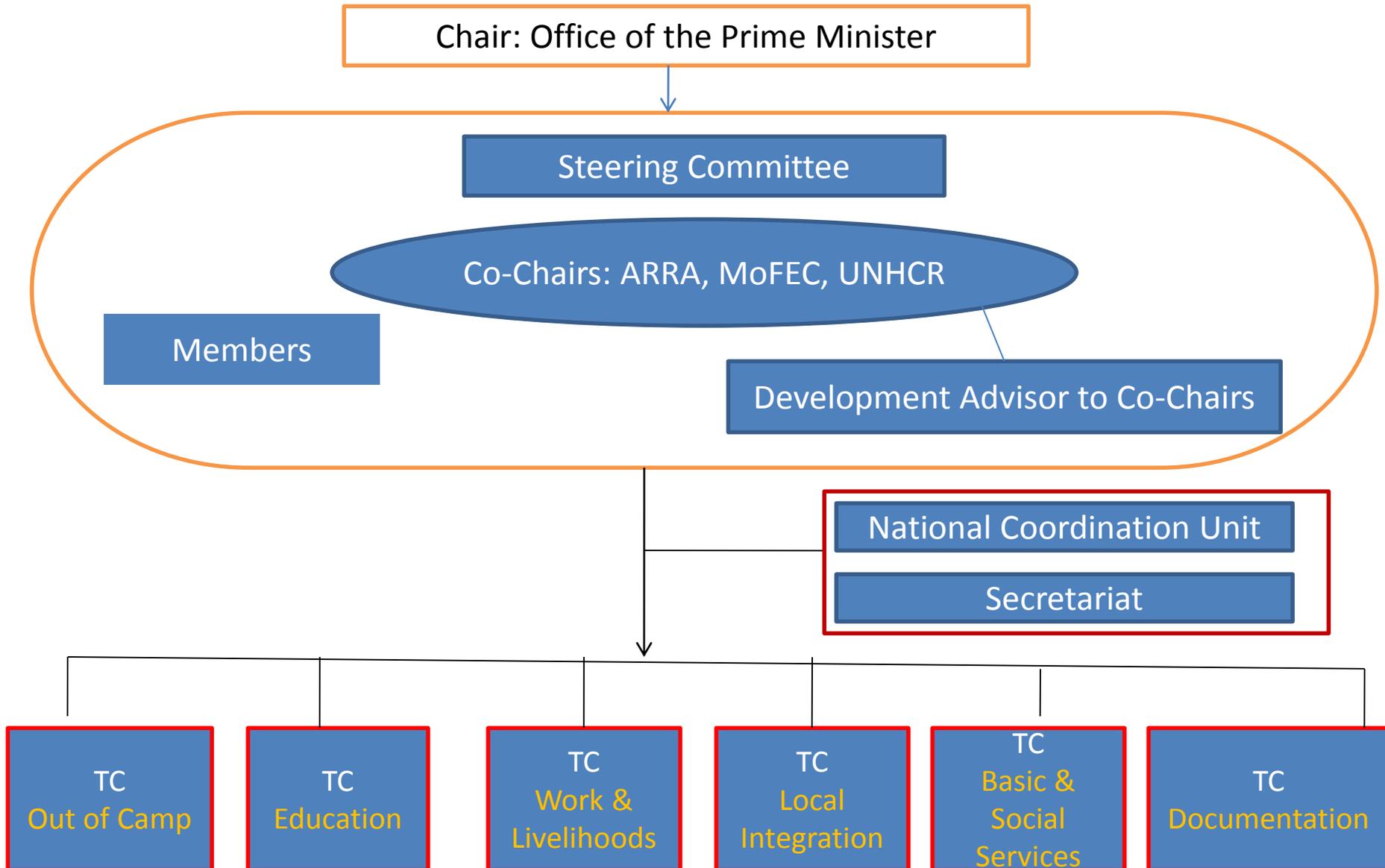
The National CRRF Co-ordination Unit / Secretariat

- The Co-ordination unit and a Secretariat will ensure that the Pledges are implemented through a multi-stakeholder approach.

Technical Committees

- To guide the technical implementation of the pledges, committees focusing on thematic areas, and consisting of relevant stakeholders including government agencies, UN agencies donors and NGO organizations, will be established.

Governance structure...Cont'd



CRRF Progress: Major Challenges

There are several challenges that impact the implementation of the Ethiopian Government Pledges and application of the CRRF in Ethiopia and among these:-

- Lack of finance to respond to complex emergencies through whole of society approach
- Increasing trend of large scale refugee influx with the bigger proportion of youth from the major countries of origin and lack of livelihood opportunities for them
- Less technical assistance comparing to the huge need
- The roadmap which is prepared for the implementation of the Government pledges and for the application of the CRRF is not financially supported by the international community as required
- Very limited Socio-economic opportunities for both the refugees and host communities resulting mainly from shortage of fund
- General Food Ration cut and shortage of other basic services as a result of underfunding of the Ethiopia refugee operation
- An increasing trend in secondary movement of refugee youth, mainly Eritrean refugee youth
- Less improvement in the conditions of the refugees' countries of origin to facilitate voluntary repatriation for them
- The decreasing trend in resettlement opportunities
- In Ethiopia, refugee response plan for the year 2017 requires a finance amounting USD 335.4 million. To date, this operating plan is funded at only 25 per cent.
- Ear marked funding also is another challenge (There is a gap between demands of refugees and available funds to meet the same).
- Therefore, the very generous initiative of the government cannot be materialized into significant outcomes as required, unless the international community maximizes its financial support to the Ethiopia refugee operation which currently has about 75% funding gap.



Thank you