

# ETHIOPIA

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## INITIAL OBJECTIVES

- Promote the voluntary repatriation of 35,000 Somali refugees to Northwest Somalia (“Somaliland”) and facilitate the dispersal from the camps of Ethiopian nationals (of ethnic Somali origin) to their communities of origin in Ethiopia.
- Conduct a revalidation exercise and consolidate the remaining Somali refugees in camps.
- Provide international protection and multi-sectoral assistance (with an emphasis on fostering partial self-reliance) to the existing and newly arrived Sudanese refugees in western Ethiopia and to the Somali refugees awaiting voluntary repatriation.
- Mitigate environmental degradation and rehabilitate the areas in and around the refugee settlements.
- Protect and assist urban refugees and help resettle those who are eligible.

## MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS, PROGRESS ACHIEVED, AND CONSTRAINTS

UN Security Council resolution 1398 of 15 March 2002 extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia (UNMEE) until 15 September 2002. The Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission issued its delimitation decision on 13 April 2002, which was accepted by both Ethiopia and Eritrea as final and binding, thereby reaching an important milestone in the peace process between the two countries.

Paragraphs 7 and 9 of the Security Council resolution proposed ways in which UNMEE can contribute to the orderly and expeditious implementation of this delimitation decision, subject to the agreement of the two parties. However, UNHCR does not have access to the Temporary Security Zone and the immediate vicinity except for 4,300 Eritrean refugees

who are currently in Walanhibi. The Office is therefore unable to address problems and advise on solutions, particularly related to statelessness.

The draft asylum law has still not been adopted by Parliament. UNHCR conducted a workshop on international protection and assistance for over 400 members of the Ethiopian House of People’s Representatives to create awareness and understanding of asylum principles in general, and in particular, the importance of enacting national refugee legislation.

An inter-agency mission was sent to refugee camps to identify and propose protection mechanisms to address the allegation of sexual abuse and exploitation of refugee children and women. Over 550 refugees and participants drawn from NGOs, government counterparts and donors were involved in the focus group discussions during the mission. An information leaflet (in English and other languages spoken by the refugees), defining their specific rights and responsibilities, was published and distributed extensively in the camps in May and June 2002, to help create greater awareness of issues related to sexual exploitation.

11,100 Somali refugees were repatriated from Camaboker and Rabasso camps, representing 32 per cent of the target figure of 35,000.

UNESCO Programme of Education for Emergencies and Reconstruction (PEER) and UNHCR conducted a three-day course on environmental management practices for the staff of seven implementing partners. This included exposure to selected Environmental Education (EE) monitoring instruments developed by UNESCO PEER, and guidance on data compilation, using the instruments and hands-on experience in the

Project Plan of Operations (PPO) to plan, monitor and report on EE activities.

Numerous delays in enacting national refugee legislation hampered the development of asylum practices that could empower refugees to contribute meaningfully towards their own well-being, as well as that of their host communities. Furthermore, the lack of adequate expert staff had a negative impact on the processing of resettlement cases, the undertaking of surveys on nutrition, and improving agricultural output. Insecurity in the refugee-hosting regions impeded the movement of the UN and other implementing partners, thereby curtailing the monitoring of programme delivery. Added to this, poor infrastructure, road conditions and long distances between camps also served as deterrents to the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance. Insufficient funds for reintegration and

rehabilitation projects stalled the handover of closed refugee camps to the local authorities.

Constitutional constraints in the allotment of land impeded the prospects for local settlement and integration. This was further compounded by poor and/or non-existent market outlets, as well as the absence of employment opportunities for skilled refugees. Limited capacity and funding of national NGOs also placed limitations on the delivery of services to refugees.

Refugees in all of the camps benefited from multi-sectoral assistance, including the distribution of food and non-food items; health services; water and sanitation; capacity-building through formal and non-formal education, basic skills-training and various income-generating activities.

#### Progress as measured against indicators

Impact/Performance Indicators	Actual Progress
Promote durable solution for refugees.	11,100 refugees were repatriated to "Somaliland" and 270 refugees (170 male and 100 female) were resettled
Rehabilitate access roads to the camps.	36 km. of gravel road in the East and 15.2 km in the West were successfully maintained.
Production and distribution of energy-saving stoves.	2,300 stoves were produced and distributed to refugee families. Demand for firewood was reduced and tree cutting was curtailed.
Produce and distribute sanitary napkins to eligible refugee women and girls.	4,672 sanitary napkins were produced and distributed to refugee women and girls in the Somali camps.
Carry out vocational skills-training and capacity-building.	<p>Somali Camps :</p> <p>24 health workers were trained in reproductive health. 70,800 refugees attended and participated in health education activities.</p> <p>Sudanese Camps:</p> <p>In Bonga, 913 refugees were trained in Sisal and beadwork. In Sherkole, training in various crafts including tailoring, embroidery, weaving, bee-keeping and black smithing was conducted for 15 refugees and 8 nationals. In Fugnido, 39 refugees enrolled in metal work, weaving and modern pottery training.</p>
Provide water to refugees.	<p>Refugees were provided with an average of 15 litres of water per/person/day in the Somali camps.</p> <p>Three Haffir dams in Aware camps were rehabilitated and one Haffir dam in Hartisheik lined. 35 refugees and locals were trained in water management.</p> <p>Civil works on the Jarrer Valley Water Project were completed. Interconnection of boreholes reached 98 per cent completion, while electromechanical installation is at 96 per cent completion.</p>

	Two boreholes were drilled in Fugnido. UNHCR is waiting for the installation of an engine on the second borehole.
Active participation of refugees and implementing partners in the development of tree nurseries, raising seedlings, and environmental activities.	<p>Over one million tree seedlings of different species were raised and cared for in the eastern camps.</p> <p>Over 1.8 million tree seedlings were raised, the communities had access to seedlings and learned good nursery practices in the western camps.</p> <p>In addition, about 165,000 tree seedlings of different species including fruit trees were produced and cared for in the camp for Eritreans.</p>

Two national environmental management-training workshops were organised in Dire Dawa and Jimma for 65 participants to improve their ability to mainstream environmental concerns into the planning, management and implementation of projects. A three-month training on environmental protection was given to 23 environmental animators who were assigned to raise awareness and mobilise the community. They organised community meetings with over 1,750 participants to discuss environmental issues. Ten plots were established in order to show the types of appropriate species of tree seedling that will survive in the affected areas. Six environmental clubs were established. 35 refugees and locals were trained for 15 days in water management.

Sustained negotiations with the authorities to improve community services in the western camps led to an agreement to review roles and responsibilities and thereafter, to engage the services of competent partners to deliver services in this sector.

In some of the Sudanese camps, women were responsible for 90 per cent of the food distribution, crowd control and guard service. Refugee women managed the pre and primary schools and a school feeding programme in the west. Recreational supplies, including table tennis, volleyball equipment, and dominos were provided to encourage girls' participation in youth activities.

A pilot peer education-training programme on HIV/AIDS is ongoing, to build the capacity of refugees and nationals between

the ages of 15 to 30, and to provide free access to quality and friendly health care services.

In view of the high drop out rate of girls after the fifth grade in western camps, UNHCR held a workshop to create more awareness on the rights of the child, particularly on girls' education. Education committees were established in all camps to help improve the enrolment and retention of girls in school. Workshops for teachers were held with the purpose of improving the quality of teacher training education. Student-centred methodologies and teaching ethics were introduced, as well as techniques for producing learning aids from no-cost to low-cost materials. Eight Refugee Peace Education facilitators trained a group of refugee peacemakers and distributed pamphlets designed to promote inter-tribal reconciliation and harmony. A number of community meetings were also organised for refugee elders, women, youth, religious leaders and others, to discuss environmental issues. 10,644 community members attended the sessions.

The scheduled transfer of Eritrean refugees to a newly designated site was cancelled due to its proximity to the temporary security zone (TSZ). Instead, efforts were made during the first half of the year, to upgrade the facilities at the Wa'ala Nhibi site.

UNHCR declared that the Cessation Clause for Eritrean refugees would come into force on 31 December 2002. A one-page questionnaire on the application of the clause was circulated to assess the

willingness of the refugees to voluntarily return. The responses are being analysed. A revalidation of the population was carried out with the co-operation of other parties, including donors.

To expand psychosocial protection activities, “mini youth centres” were created to provide recreational activities and basic education classes. Teachers and youth leaders were assigned to oversee activities and continue registration for interested community members.

The importance of the education of women and girls in the community, led to the formation of a “girls’ social club” with 77 girls of 12 years and above. New activities such as gymnastics (80 girls enrolled) and circuses were established and sports and recreational materials distributed. Psycho-social tools were used to develop self-selected activities for an outreach youth programme (80 community members participated).

International protection and material assistance was extended to 410 urban refugees of various nationalities whose urban status is currently being reviewed by UNHCR and the Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA).

UNHCR performed liaison functions with the OAU/AU, the Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Country Team. A UNHCR staff member was seconded to the Refugees and Displaced Persons Unit in the OAU’s Division for

Humanitarian Affairs, for an initial period of one year, to further strengthen the OAU’s institutional capacity with regard to refugee issues. UNHCR is poised to fully explore the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) initiative to ensure that humanitarian issues and concerns form an integral part of the development process through the implementation of humanitarian activities.

### **REVISED OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITY ACTIVITIES FOR JULY-DECEMBER 2002**

- Relocating refugees still in need of protection to Kebribeyah after joint screening. Closure of Rabasso and Camaboker refugee camps by the end of July and November/December 2002 respectively. Hand-over of the facilities in the closed camps to regional authorities.
- Voluntary repatriation of the Somali refugees in Aisha and possibly, Hartisheik camps, depending on the availability of funds, absorption capacity and willingness of “Somaliland” authorities to receive repatriants.
- Establish a working group to review urban refugees by verifying their presence, reviewing asylum claims, and making recommendations for durable solutions.
- Complete the eligibility review process for 60 Djiboutian refugees currently in Addis Ababa.

### **Financial Data (USD)**

<b>Annual Programme Budget and Trust Funds</b>			
<b>Initial Budget</b>	<b>Revised Budget</b>	<b>Total Funds Available</b>	<b>Obligation Level</b>
21,056,128	21,188,311	10,201,461	10,133,910