

# EAST AND HORN OF AFRICA

Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda

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## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

From January to June 2002, the region witnessed several important political developments. Of particular note was the full acceptance by both **Eritrea** and **Ethiopia** of the decision of the Boundary Commission in The Hague, which brought new hope to Ethiopia and Eritrea. The legal framework for the voluntary repatriation of Eritrean refugees established through the Tripartite Repatriation Commission Agreements whose foundation was laid in April 2000, continued to provide sound guidance for the repatriation operation. At two meetings of the Commission held in May 2002, UNHCR announced the introduction of the ceased circumstances clause for Eritrean refugees, which will be implemented on 31 December 2002. This positive development, represents further progress towards the implementation of the cessation clause and its global applicability.

In another development, **Uganda** and **Sudan** signed a Protocol in March 2002, agreeing to facilitate their armies to engage in joint operations against the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in southern Sudan. It was feared that these operations would trigger a refugee influx into Uganda from Sudan. In the same vein, the Government of Uganda played an active role in encouraging the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement (SPLM/SPLA) to embrace the peace negotiations under the framework of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Peace Process.

The UN Security Council's efforts to promote the peace process in **Somalia** continued, in particular, in attempting to enhance coherent co-ordination and expansion of peace building activities in the country. Whilst these were signs of positive efforts to maintain peace and stability in Northwest Somalia ("Somaliland"), unfortunately,

instability and insecurity in Mogadishu and in the southern part of the country persisted. Renewed fighting in April and May 2002 in the Gedo Region of Southern Somalia between rival militia, forced over 10,000 people from Bula Hawa (Southwest Somalia) to flee to Mandera (Northwest **Kenya**). Initial humanitarian relief intervention was hindered by high security risks at the site. By end of June 2002, nearly 2,000 refugees were relocated to Dadaab refugee camp and more than 6,000 others returned spontaneously to Bula Hawa.

In a positive development, the Government of **Djibouti**, the authorities in "Somaliland," and UNHCR completed the registration of some 15,000 refugees who expressed their willingness to return home. The voluntary repatriation exercise of this group is expected to start in July 2002.

During the first six months of 2002, the sub-region also noted a marked increase in the deterioration in the security situation in some of the refugee camps, including some refugee accommodation centres. This unfortunately resulted in the loss of some lives, and had a negative impact on the delivery of assistance.

## PROGRESS TOWARD OBJECTIVES, AND CONSTRAINTS ENCOUNTERED

Tangible progress was made towards meeting the set objectives and a number of achievements were recorded.

Over 19,000 Eritrean refugees were repatriated from **Sudan** in the first half of the year, bringing the total number of those who returned to some 51,000 since the beginning of the repatriation operations in May 2001. The majority went back to the Gash Barka region. The registration of all camp-based and urban refugees for voluntary repatriation should be completed by December 2002.

In a move to consolidate the sustainability of the Eritrean reintegration programme, the Office signed two Letters of Understanding with UNDP, UNICEF and the Gash Barka Zonal Administration. This arrangement is intended to strengthen joint efforts aimed at addressing the social and economic reintegration needs of returning refugees. The Government of **Eritrea** and the UN Country Team also launched a joint strategy to complement UNHCR's short-term assistance programme. A multi-disciplinary needs assessment is to be carried out as soon as possible, which should be followed by the formulation of a joint programme including resource mobilisation initiatives and fast-track implementation. This UN-wide strategy is expected to cater for all displaced populations: returnees, those expellees from Ethiopia, IDPs and demobilised soldiers.

Some 11,100 Somali refugees (representing over thirty-two percent of the initially planned figures) were repatriated from **Ethiopia** to "Somaliland". Another 220 Somalis repatriated from Kenya to "Somaliland" and more than 3,090 were registered and cleared for repatriation to Northeast Somalia. The latter group's subsequent repatriation will be subject to political stability in the Northeast region and the availability of funding. In another development, 184 Ugandan refugees were repatriated from Sudan to **Uganda**. Systematic returnee monitoring was reinforced, providing UNHCR with useful information on the situation of the returnees in the reception/transit centres, and upon arrival in the areas of their final destination. In **Somalia**, staff participated in a returnee monitoring workshop aimed at improving the monitoring system.

From January to June 2002, there was an expansion in resettlement activities. In **Kenya**, the verification exercise of some 11,000 Somali Bantus was completed. 240 Sudanese refugees were processed for resettlement and another 700 were interviewed and submissions were made for resettlement. More than 100 refugees from Sudan were resettled to third countries.

In an effort to further enhance the understanding of refugee law, two workshops for authorities were organised in Ethiopia and Kenya. In Ethiopia, a joint UNHCR/House of People's Representative Refugee Workshop held in April 2002, was attended by more than 400 members of the House of People's Representatives, including the Speaker of the House. Similarly in Kenya, a conference under the theme "Protecting Refugee Rights in East Africa: the need for a progressive legislative and policy framework" was held in April 2002 for parliamentarians from Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. On this occasion, the UNHCR-Inter-Parliamentary Union Handbook for Parliamentarians on "Refugee Protection: a Guide to International Refugee Law" was officially launched.

Apart from these areas of progress, there were a number of constraints which had an impact on UNHCR's work in the region. Unfavourable weather conditions and heavy rains caused shelter havoc, destroying some refugee homes, as well as hampering some income-generating activities. In Uganda, crop production for food self-sufficiency among the refugee communities was also affected. In several countries, the agenda for self-reliance could not be promoted owing to the lack of available agricultural land. The region continued to experience recurrent problems in the food pipeline leading to a reduction of the food basket in some country programmes. The voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees from **Djibouti** destined for "Somaliland" had to be deferred owing to financial constraints, and only a small number of Somali refugees repatriated from Yemen, due to the insecurity in the areas of return. It is therefore already anticipated that the projected figure of 5,000 Somali refugees to repatriate from Yemen in 2002 may not be met.

**ACTIVITIES UNTIL 30 JUNE 2002**  
(Please refer to individual country chapters)

## OUTLOOK FOR JULY – DECEMBER 2002

The voluntary repatriation of Eritrean refugees will continue during the second half of this year, although the expected numbers of returnees will be revised from the initial projected figure of 90,000 to some 50,000 camp-based refugees. This revision is based on the current pace of the movement. In the meantime, UNHCR will place greater efforts on the implementation of the cessation clause through enhanced information campaigns as well as a rigorous refugee status determination

of urban refugees. The voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees from Ethiopia and Djibouti is also expected to continue, involving some 40,000 people. In the meantime, both in Eritrea and “Somaliland,” every effort will be made to continue engaging developmental agencies and actors so as to address the longer-term reintegration needs of the returnees. In Uganda, efforts will continue towards strengthening the implementation of the self-reliance strategy (SRS) in collaboration with the Government of Uganda and other developmental actors.

### Financial Data (USD)

Country / Activity	Annual Programme Budget and Trust Funds			
	Initial Budget	Revised Budget	Total Funds Available	Obligation Level
Djibouti	2,894,340	3,401,040	1,909,670	1,909,670
Eritrea	28,145,330	27,762,873	13,702,252	13,612,775
Ethiopia	21,056,128	21,188,311	10,201,461	10,133,910
Kenya	18,150,731	22,867,979	9,206,543	9,858,955
Kenya Technical Support Group	4,384,907	4,195,791	3,945,661	3,196,695
Somalia	8,377,519	6,884,799	3,302,363	3,296,500
Sudan	11,707,887	12,271,948	5,823,012	5,851,500
Uganda	16,469,530	16,481,012	9,799,199	8,074,460
Regional Activities <sup>1</sup>	0	89,323	96,560	89,323
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>111,186,372</b>	<b>115,143,076</b>	<b>57,986,721</b>	<b>56,023,788</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes costs for strengthening reproductive health of refugees in the East and Horn of Africa.