

UNHCR ETHIOPIA National Programme: Fact Sheet

APRIL 2008



HIGHLIGHTS

Political:

Increased rhetoric and exchange of accusations and counter-accusations with Eritrea have continued. Following restrictions posed by Eritrea to UNMEE, including stoppage of fuel supplies the UN had been compelled to temporarily relocate UNMEE military personnel from Eritrea to their home countries. In a 30th April 2008 Presidential Statement, the UN Security Council said “The Security Council notes that the continuation of Eritrea’s obstructions towards UNMEE has reached a level so as to undermine the basis of the mission’s mandate and has compelled UNMEE to temporarily relocate.... The Security Council will, in the light of consultations with the parties, decide on the terms of a future UN engagement and on the future of UNMEE.”

Security:

The situation on the common border between Ethiopia and Eritrea remains tense, with a number of incidents over the last few months. One such incident involved a bomb explosion in a public transport bus in Humera (close to the boarder) that left at least 20 civilians dead and many wounded. Both sides are reported to have heavy military build up on their sides of the boarder

The security situation in eastern Ethiopia remains volatile following last year’s government counter insurgency against the Oganden National Liberation Front (ONLF). The group claimed responsibility for an attack on a Chinese oil field which killed 74 people, including nine Chinese oil workers. There are reports of sporadic clashes in Fik and Deghabur localities of the Somali Regional State

Overall Objectives of country programme:

Ensure international protection and improve material assistance to all refugees, newly arrived asylum-seekers and internally displaced people. Assist the Government of Ethiopia in strengthening the protection regime, in particular by helping it establish the mechanisms required to implement refugee legislation passed in 2004. Promote durable solutions especially through the voluntary repatriation of Sudanese refugees, resettlement of refugees with special needs, and the promotion of self reliance among camp based refugees. Assist the Government of Ethiopia in the rehabilitation of infrastructure and the environment in and around the refugee camps.

Strengthen strategic partnerships with regional bodies and their Member States on issues such as displacement, protection, durable solutions and the recovery of countries emerging from conflict; ensure effective implementation of joint work programmes.

2008 Key Facts and Figures

Number of beneficiaries:

Refugees: 80,492

Sudanese:	27,537
Somalis	26,721
Eritreans	22,385
Kenyans	2644
Urban	1,205

Number of camps: 5

Kebribeya, Aw-Barre(or Teferi Ber),
Shimelba, Fugnido, Sherkole

UNHCR Presence:

Regional Liaison Office Addis Ababa,
Sub offices in Gambella
Field Offices in Jijiga and Assosa,
Field Units in Shire & Fugnido

Total Number of Staff: 188

International Staff:	24
National staff	131
JPOs	6
National UNVs	17
Secondees	4
Consultant	1
IUNV	5

Number of Partners: 22, and WFP

Influx:

Currently, Ethiopia is receiving an influx of both Eritrean and Somali refugees. The new arrivals are joining refugees who have been in Ethiopia for a prolonged period of time, and who currently have no repatriation prospects due to the political situation in their countries of origin.

The new influx of Somalis in 2007 has led to the opening of a new camp in Eastern Ethiopia. This camp, Aw Barre (Teferiber), now hosts some 10,000 new arrivals that have undergone refugee status determination by the Government and UNHCR. Field Office Jijiga has for some time now been receiving an average of more than 800 new arrivals a month and is in the process of opening a third camp in the region to accommodate the ever increasing number of asylum seekers. To date, more than 12,000 asylum seekers are waiting to be screened.

Following reports by local authorities about an additional influx of Somali refugees in the southern Ogaden, UNHCR emergency response teams have last year identified some 16,000 Somalis in Gode area, who claim to have fled generalized violence in Somalia and are currently undergoing profiling. Government recognition of those Somali refugees is pending.

An average of 600 new Eritreans arrive every month and undergo refugee status determination. The refugees claim to be fleeing forced conscription and human rights

abuses. UNHCR and the government of Ethiopia have identified a site for a second camp in the region and are laying key infrastructure to be able to receive new arrivals soon.

Achievements:

The Voluntary Repatriation of Sudanese refugee from Western Ethiopia to Southern Sudan started in March 2006 following the signing of the Tripartite Agreement between the two Governments and UNHCR. More than 30,000 refugees have been assisted to return to date resulting in the closure of three of the five camps hosting Sudanese refugees. Once the current rainy season is over some time in November, UNHCR plans to repatriate more Sudanese refugees.

In addition to the camp based assistance available in Ethiopia, UNHCR also negotiates for resettlement opportunities for refugees, in particular for the old caseloads of Eritrean and Somali refugees.

The Office’s regional liaison activities continue to make significant progress on several fronts. Ongoing partnership activities include mobilization of political and material support for UNHCR programmes in the continent, collaboration with the AU Commission in the implementation of the AU Policy on Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development, support to the AU on the organization of its first Special Summit to address the problem of forced population displacement, development of an AU convention on internal displacement, a policy on post-primary education and support to AU’s NEPAD programme including through the UN-AU 10 year capacity-building programme.

Constraints:

UNHCR is facing difficulties in regards to access to, and recognition of, asylum seekers in the southern part of the Somali region (Ogaden). The Government counterpart, ARRA, has yet to open offices in this region, and a planned UNHCR mission to Warder area has been postponed pending the Government clearance for the mission. These constraints follow a pattern experienced by the UN system as a whole, due to a military offensive targeting ONLF in 5 zones in Ogaden. The conflict also has the potential to create internal displacement in the Somali region, including the current refugee camp at Kebribeyah.

<u>2008 Current Appropriation</u>	
Programme:	US\$ 15,406,901
ABOD:	US\$ <u>2,661,041</u>
Staffing:	US\$ <u>4,955,438</u>
Total AB Budget:	US\$ <u>22,923,380</u>
Somalia Situation	US\$ <u>6,200,000</u>
Sudan Repatriation	US\$ <u>3,312,000</u>
Total SB Budget	US\$ <u>9,512,000</u>
Total for Ethiopia	US\$ <u>32,135,380</u>
<u>Current Funding:</u>	
AB	US\$ 15,406,901
SB – Somalia Situation	US\$ 3,229,640
SB - Sudan Repatriation	US\$ <u>3,312,000</u>
Total for Ethiopia	US\$ <u>21,948,541</u>