

ETHIOPIA

INITIAL OBJECTIVES

- Promote the voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees to north-west Somalia and facilitate dispersal from the camps of Ethiopian nationals (of ethnic Somali origin) to their communities of origin in Ethiopia.
- Meet the basic needs of Sudanese refugees and implement activities geared towards local settlement and self-sufficiency; and promote resettlement as a durable solution.
- Mitigate environmental degradation and rehabilitate areas in and around the refugee settlements.
- Protect and assist urban refugees and help resettle those who are eligible.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS, ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS

The final draft version of the national refugee legislation has been reviewed by UNHCR and will be presented to Parliament for debate and enactment in autumn.

The overall security situation in Ethiopia remained tense because of dissension among some political factions.

At the regional level, security conditions in the Somali National Regional State (eastern and south-eastern Ethiopia) as well as in the Tigray National Regional State (northern Ethiopia) have remained under UN security phase III (which includes the concentration of all international staff members and their families in safe areas, and relocation of non-essential staff and families elsewhere in, or out, of the country). A total of 28 incidents, including violent crimes, public disorder and landmine explosions, have been reported in the Somali region. At the same time, the security situation in and around refugee camps in western-Ethiopia was relatively calm, except for the killing of three refugee

women by Surma tribes-men in the Dimma area. The case is currently under police investigation.

As part of its efforts to find durable solutions, UNHCR Ethiopia resettled 195 refugees during the first half of the year.

The refugee programme in Ethiopia has been greatly hampered by financial constraints, which have affected the overall implementation. While voluntary repatriation from the eastern camps is proceeding smoothly and on schedule, the plans to hand over vacated camps to the regional authorities after rehabilitation has been slow. Already the closure of the first two camps has started to produce negative effects on health, water and education services for the host communities who are dependent on facilities offered to refugees. In addition, plans to undertake the rehabilitation of selected infrastructure for use by the local community after UNHCR's withdrawal could not take place as a result of the financial crisis as no provision was made for these activities in the 2001 budget. UNHCR has also been restricted in undertaking its protection work in Gambella, Bambudie and Grat Redda due to the inadequate level of protection posts in those areas. Other factors that affected the refugee operations included delays in the signing of sub-agreements with implementing partners pending the results of Actions 1,2 and 3.

It is feared that, in the case of the Sudanese, for whom durable solutions are not available in the near future, the focus on life-sustaining activities and the significant curtailment of community services as a result of budgetary constraints will have a significant impact on the coping mechanisms and self-reliance of these refugees.

Somali Refugees

UNHCR has made progress towards the planned voluntary repatriation of 70,000 Somali refugees hosted in eastern-Ethiopia. By 30 June, a total of 22,516 Somali refugees had been repatriated to north-west Somalia while 3,670 Ethiopians had been dispersed and returned to their various communities of origin in Ethiopia. Hence, 37 per cent of the target for the year had been reached. As a result, Teferi Ber and Darwanaji refugee camps were closed on 30 June.

UNHCR has been providing targeted assistance to women, children, the elderly and other vulnerable persons. In this context, the Office has been offering primary education, skills training, income generation loans as well as distribution and maintenance of orthopaedic devices. It has also been running mine-awareness campaigns as well as healthcare and supplementary feeding programmes. Efforts to raise awareness among refugees, host communities and staff members about sexually transmitted diseases, and in particular, the HIV/AIDS epidemic, have been multiplied, in order to educate people about the impact of these diseases and the need for preventive behaviour.

UNHCR, in collaboration with the Ethiopian Mapping Authority, has undertaken an

environmental impact assessment in two refugee-impacted areas of eastern-Ethiopia. The draft report of the study is currently being finalised. A total of 2,300 energy-saving stoves have been distributed to a corresponding number of refugee households, while 16 beneficiaries at Rabasso camp have been trained in mud-brick production techniques. To further promote good environmental practice, 16 teachers from the Teacher Training Institute in Jijiga have been trained in the use of environmental education materials. Furthermore, over 650,000 tree seedlings of different species have been raised for transplanting in July and August. WFP has supported these environmental activities with food-for-work incentives. Some 18,000 refugees have benefited from the 400 metric tons of food that were thus supplied to them. Given the progress made in the voluntary repatriation/dispersal operation, and the enthusiasm and co-operation of all concerned parties, it is anticipated that the target for 2001 will be met. However, the achievement of this objective will be subject to the availability of funds. For instance, the repatriation and subsequent closure of Darror camp will depend on the rehabilitation of the road on both sides of the border, which is currently in very poor condition.

Progress as measured against selected indicators

INDICATORS	PROGRESS
70,000 refugees repatriated and dispersed of which 10,000 are Ethiopian nationals; Close Teferi Ber and Darwanaji camps by June 2001 and Darror by December 2001.	22,516 refugees repatriated, 3,670 nationals dispersed (total 26,186); Teferi Ber and Darwanaji camps closed by 30 June 2001
Improved health services delivered and utilised by the refugees in the remaining refugee camps.	EPI coverage exceeded 80 %; Number of refugees accessing health care services increased by 75 %; Number of new visits for Mother and Child Health increased in each health facility
Nutritional status of children under five years improved.	The nutritional status of children under five was improved from an average 15 % to less than 10 % of acute global malnutrition. 80 % of those targeted for selective feeding programs (blanket and supplementary) were covered
Sanitation facilities improved through the construction of ventilated pit latrines and waste disposal pits.	Ventilated improved pit latrines (VIP) constructed with a coverage of 80 % of refugee households;
Tree nurseries developed and seedlings raised with the active participation of refugees and implementing partners.	Over 650,000 tree seedlings of different species were raised and cared for
Women's awareness and willingness to participate in the production and use of energy-saving stoves encouraged.	2,300 energy-saving stoves were produced and distributed to 2,300 refugee families

Sudanese Refugees

A total of 83,634 Sudanese refugees have been assisted in four camps in the Gambella region and on a new site in the Bambudie area. Of these 12,151 new arrivals from the Blue and Upper Nile regions of Sudan have been registered and integrated in the existing camps (Gambella 7,348, Sherkole 776 and Bambudie 4,027).

The assistance programme for the Sudanese refugees has been providing basic and supplementary food commodities, non-food items, potable water, health care, hygiene and sanitation services, HIV/AIDS education, primary education and skills training. It has also been carrying out crop production, income generation and capacity-building activities. Efforts to raise the level of refugee participation in the planning, decision-making and monitoring of activities have been intensified. Sixty refugee heads of family at Fugnido camp are also benefiting from the drip-irrigation initiated by the Office.

In relation to UNHCR's policy priorities improvements have been made to further strengthen women's participation and decision-making power in food distribution. Women have also been targeted in a

functional adult literacy programme, vocational skills training and various income-generation activities. Coverage of as well as in school-aged children in the education sector has risen to 53 per cent and recreational facilities and school feeding services have also been improved.

Regarding environmental awareness and protection activities, some 20 meetings have been held with the refugee community to discuss various environmental and sanitation issues. A total of 48 refugees and nationals have received training in mud-brick production techniques. Some 1.9 million tree seedlings of different species have been raised and maintained. In addition, a workshop on environmental protection was held for some implementing partners' staff, while 16 teachers from the Teachers Training Institute and 4 other staff-members in Gambella were trained in the use of environmental education materials. The main objective of the training was to equip staff with the required knowledge and skills to instruct refugee teachers on how to integrate environmental education into the curriculum. Pupils' booklets and teachers' guides in Anuak and Nuer languages for grades 1 to 4 are being printed. The environmental education materials have also

been reprinted in English to improve the book-to-student ratio.

Progress as measured against selected indicators

INDICATORS	PROGRESS
International protection and assistance provided to new refugees from Southern Sudan; Continued search for resettlement opportunities	12,151 new arrivals from the Blue and Upper Nile regions were received, screened, registered and integrated in the existing camps; 900 Sudanese refugees were accepted for resettlement and are awaiting departure
New food distribution system implemented at the level of individual households	The new food distribution system became operational at Bonga, Dimma, Fugnido refugee camps
Health care and sanitation services delivered	EPI coverage exceeded 80 percent in the western camps; Number of refugees accessing health care services increased by 75 percent; New visits for MCH increased in each health facility
Enrolment of school age children improved	School enrolment reached 53 percent of all school aged children
Number of refugees benefiting from agricultural assistance packages and farming skills increased	Number of refugee household beneficiaries increased by 33 percent over the year 2000
New house construction technology to reduce the use of forest resources for construction of houses introduced	48 Sudanese refugees (30) and nationals (18) were trained in mud-brick production techniques
Refugee teachers trained to concretely integrate Environmental Education in school curriculum	16 lecturers from the Gambella Teachers Training College (TTC) were given training in the application of Environmental Educational (EE) materials so they could better assist refugee teachers

Eritrean Refugees

UNHCR signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with government authorities, NGOs and the United Nations Mission in Eritrea and Ethiopia (UNMEE) for the provision of potable water; the construction of basic sanitation facilities; and the delivery of adult literacy classes for the 3,871 Eritrean refugees at Grat Redda. However, due to the limited budget, it has not been possible to develop the allocated site and transfer the refugees of this caseload from the temporary site, where they have been accommodated since their arrival in May 2000. Due to the limited number of other actors in this part of the country, it has also not been possible to develop partnerships with others to take over provision of assistance to the Eritrean refugees.

Urban Refugees

Protection, material assistance and community development services have been extended to 426 urban refugees. Governmental restrictions on employment opportunities as well as growing inflation

have curtailed the capacity of these refugees to be self-reliant.

Djibouti Afar Refugees

UNHCR and the Governments of Ethiopia and Djibouti on 24 January signed an MOU for the voluntary repatriation of Djiboutian refugees. The Djiboutian authorities launched information campaigns for repatriation of the refugees in the Afar region. It is anticipated that these refugees will return home before the end of the year.

Pre-1991 Ethiopian Returnees

Whereas the cessation clause for pre-1991 Ethiopian refugees came into effect on 31 March 2000 worldwide, repatriation convoy movements from the Sudan started during December 2000 and were completed by 15 March 2001. UNHCR had to revise the cut-off date for the implementation of voluntary repatriation of this caseload because of the border war between Ethiopia and Eritrea. At the end of the targeted period, a total of

10,512 pre-1991 Ethiopian refugees were assisted to voluntarily return and reintegrate into their former villages of origin in northern Ethiopia.

REVISED OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITY ACTIVITIES FOR JULY-DECEMBER

- Continuation of the voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees to achieve the target set for the year
- Continued international protection and multi-sectoral assistance for the remaining Somali refugees awaiting voluntary repatriation and for those whose return will be considered when relative peace is restored in their areas of origin.
- Registration and revalidation of the Somali refugee population in Kebribeyah camp.
- Relocation of refugees from Teferi Ber and Darwanaji into Kebribeyah camp following a nationality screening. Closure of Darror refugee camp by the end of December 2001 and hand-over of infrastructure facilities in the closed refugee camps to the regional authorities.
- Implementation of the voluntary repatriation of the Djibouti Afar refugees.
- Provision of international protection and multi-sectoral assistance (with an emphasis on fostering partial self-sufficiency) to the existing and newly arrived Sudanese refugees in western Ethiopia. Revalidation of the Sudanese refugees at Sherkole refugee camp.
- Promotion of resettlement opportunities for refugees who meet the criteria.

FINANCIAL DATA (USD)

	Initial Budget	Revised Budget	Total Funds Available¹	Total Funds Obligated
APB and TF	23,291,648	20,972,391	11,236,788	10,023,190

¹Includes income from unrestricted contributions, income from contributions restricted to the regional, sub-regional and/or country level, opening balance and adjustments.

Includes administrative costs related to the Regional Director's Office.