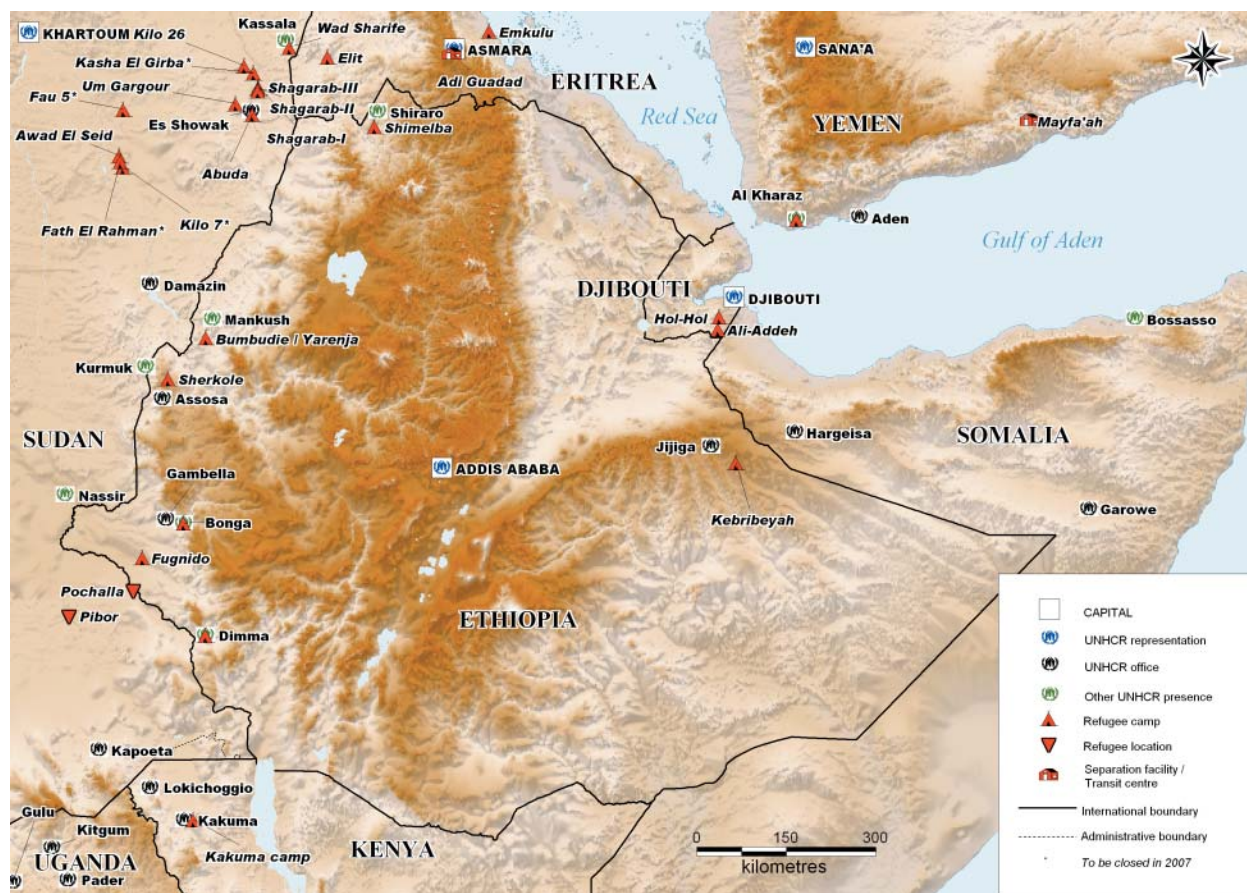


# Ethiopia



## Working environment

### The context

There has been a marked decline in security conditions in Ethiopia. The tense situation at the country's border with Eritrea continued at the time of writing, with troops stationed on each side amidst a political stalemate. Meanwhile, some 300 Eritreans per month cross into Ethiopia seeking asylum.

The situation was also serious in other parts of the country where UNHCR field offices and refugee camps are located. In the northern Somali Region, which hosts more than 16,000 Somali refugees, humanitarian workers have become targets as the conflict between the Ogaden National Liberation Front and the Ethiopian Federal Government has intensified. In August, two UNHCR drivers were attacked and radio equipment was stolen. In September, one expatriate and one national staff member of the ICRC were kidnapped. UNHCR was forced to cancel a mission to assess potential refugee inflows from Somalia because of the dangerous conditions in the area.

Inter-ethnic strife has led to a deterioration in security in the western Gambella Region, where refugees from

Sudan are concentrated. This has forced UNHCR staff and other humanitarian workers to travel under military escort to refugee camps. The conflict in the Gambella region has also resulted in the internal displacement of more than 44,000 people, most of whom have settled along the Baro River and are in dire need of humanitarian assistance. Recent flooding has worsened their already precarious situation.

The Peace Agreement in Sudan has opened the way for repatriation; after a slow start, it is expected that some 20,000 refugees will return to the country in 2007.

Asylum-seekers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) continue to arrive in Ethiopia as the situation in eastern DRC remains volatile.

UNHCR handed over responsibility for refugee status determination to the Ethiopian authorities in 2005. However, the national capacity to fulfil that task needs strengthening.

### The needs

After conducting needs assessments in all the camps in Ethiopia, UNHCR has identified wide gaps in assistance to refugees in the areas of nutrition, non-food items,

water, health, education, sanitation, protection and community services. These shortfalls can be attributed mainly to inadequate funding, as well as to the difficult security and logistical conditions in and around the camps.

During the assessments, in which UNHCR's partners and refugees participated, malnutrition and sexual and gender-based violence emerged as major problems in all camps. Acute malnutrition, linked not only to lack of food but also to insufficient water supplies, had reached 16.2 per cent. Practices such as early and forced marriage, early pregnancy, rape, confinement, discrimination (including denial of education to girls), female genital mutilation and domestic violence, need urgent attention. Many of these problems are related to gaps in assistance.

The number of Eritrean refugees has been steadily increasing throughout 2006, which necessitated the expansion of Shimelba camp, where they are accommodated in northern Ethiopia. As the influx is expected to continue, efforts to establish a new camp will gain more urgency in 2007. Most Eritreans arriving in the Afar region in north-eastern Ethiopia stay with host families but need subsistence support from UNHCR.

The prolonged presence of large numbers of refugees has led to overgrazing, deforestation and land degradation in many areas. Environment rehabilitation is therefore a pressing need.

Though Sudanese refugees are expected to repatriate in larger numbers in 2007, many will remain, and they will require basic assistance.

**Total requirements: USD 14,835,859**

## Main objectives

UNHCR plays a dual role in Ethiopia. Its primary responsibility is to provide protection and assistance to refugees and the internally displaced. On the other



Sudanese refugee and inventor, Repan Sadik, 20, won a UNHCR "Courage Award". With the prize money, he bought parts to build a television set and aerial in Bonga camp. *UNHCR / A. Parness*

hand, it plays a central role in liaising with regional bodies based in Addis Ababa such as the African Union, the UN Economic Commission for Africa, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

## Overall objectives

- 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 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.

Planning figures					
Type of population	Origin	Jan 2007		Dec 2007	
		Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR
Refugees	Sudan	68,880	68,880	48,880	48,880
	Somalia	16,650	16,650	17,470	17,470
	Eritrea	13,100	13,100	15,710	15,710
	Various	450	450	490	490
Asylum-seekers	Various	300	300	200	200
<b>Total</b>		<b>99,380</b>	<b>99,380</b>	<b>82,750</b>	<b>82,750</b>

## Key targets for 2007

- 100 per cent of refugees older than 16 are issued identity documents.
- 100 per cent of newborn refugees are issued with birth certificates.
- 100 per cent of refugees have access to 2,100 kilocalories of nutrition per person per day; the acute malnutrition rate falls below 10 per cent.
- School enrolment is increased to 80 per cent of refugee children in camps and is maintained at 100 per cent for urban refugees.
- 75 per cent of refugees have access to antiretroviral therapy, up from 50 per cent.
- 100 per cent of survivors of sexual and gender-based violence receive medical and other support.
- Ethiopia's Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs routinely decides on asylum applications in the first instance, and UNHCR moves to an observer's role.
- 20,000 Sudanese refugees are repatriated in safety and dignity.
- The number of refugee households practising kitchen gardening increases from 10 to 13 per cent.
- The area rehabilitated through reforestation and tree planting is expanded from 2,800 to 3,420 hectares.
- Action plans on internal displacement and post-primary education, and guidelines on collaboration between humanitarian actors in the Field and the African Union's peacekeeping operations are developed.

## Strategy and activities

Comprehensive needs assessments have allowed UNHCR to design plans to provide the required assistance to both camp-based and urban refugees and asylum-seekers. All asylum-seekers will be provided with temporary identity cards by the Ethiopian Government. Eritrean and urban refugees, who are most in need of identity documents, will be issued with permanent identity cards.

UNHCR's protection strategy seeks improved reporting on sexual and gender-based violence and the establishment of effective response mechanisms in all the camps. As sexual violence has been linked to shortfalls in assistance, UNHCR will ensure that all refugees receive sufficient food and other items and will monitor their distribution and use. Environmental rehabilitation activities will improve the camps' surroundings and provide alternatives to firewood. Refugee students will have increased access to education. UNHCR will help the UN Country Team design a protection strategy for internally displaced persons, but will also provide protection and assistance to them directly.

Voluntary repatriation will be pursued for Sudanese refugees as long as conditions in their homeland allow it. Efforts to find resettlement opportunities will be intensified, particularly for vulnerable people or for those with immediate protection concerns.

With regard to capacity building, a training programme will target government staff involved in refugee status determination. UNHCR will also monitor registration and status determination procedures in camps and will assist local authorities to carry out this task.

UNHCR's regional activities include close collaboration with the African Union to ensure implementation throughout the continent of international legal instruments, decisions and declarations. Another role for UNHCR is to support the African Union in implementing policies and frameworks for post-conflict reconstruction and development.

## Constraints

Security constraints in the Gambella and Somali regions are likely to continue in 2007, and may hamper implementation of the programme. In addition, poor road conditions, especially during the rainy season, render the provision of relief items impossible at times.

Unless adequate funding is received, UNHCR will be unable to improve the basic living conditions of refugees and internally displaced people.

## Organization and implementation

### UNHCR presence

Number of offices	9
Total staff	137
International	14
National	96
UNVs	17
JPOs	8
Deployees	2

### Coordination

UNHCR works closely with the Government of Ethiopia, NGOs, UN agencies, the ICRC, IOM, and regional bodies such as the African Union, NEPAD and IGAD. Joint assessments with WFP have resulted in concrete plans to reduce malnutrition. Through its participation in all forums where regional policies concerning Somali, Eritrean and Sudanese refugees are shaped, UNHCR is able to ensure that refugees and the internally displaced are included in development strategies.

## Partners

### Implementing partners

**Government:** Administration of Refugee and Returnee Affairs, Bureau of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Shiraro/Tigray).

**NGOs:** African Humanitarian Aid and Development Agency, Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, Hope for the Horn, Hugh Pilkington Charitable Trust, International Rescue Committee, Jesuit Refugee Service.

### Operational partners

**Government:** Bureau of Education and Health, Ethiopian Road Authority, Natural Resources Development and Environmental Protection Agency (Gambella and Assosa).

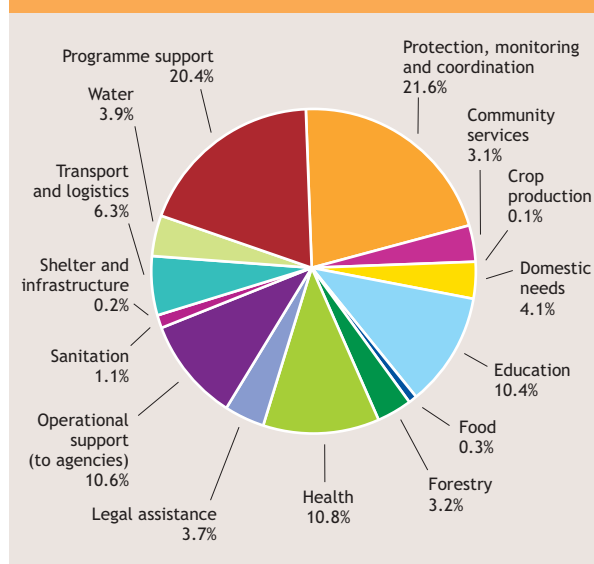
**NGOs:** Opportunities Industrial Centre (Ethiopia), Refugee Care Netherlands, Rehabilitation and Development Organization, Save the Children (Sweden), Save the Children Fund (UK), Society of International Missionaries.

**Others:** African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, African Development Bank, African Union, Intergovernmental Authority on Development, Institute for Strategic Studies, the New Partnership for Africa's Development, Organization for Social Science Research in East Africa, Safer Africa, UN Economic Commission for Africa.

## Budget (USD)

Activities and services	Annual Programme Budget	
	2006	2007
Protection, monitoring and coordination	3,314,192	3,224,754
Community services	479,301	440,656
Crop production	7,881	2,304
Domestic needs	631,378	666,966
Education	1,601,649	1,548,536
Food	46,855	36,916
Forestry	497,372	389,758
Health	1,657,642	1,549,092
Legal assistance	568,293	489,956
Operational support (to agencies)	1,632,342	1,573,016
Sanitation	161,884	211,669
Shelter and infrastructure	37,247	37,786
Transport and logistics	972,402	1,123,036
Water	603,302	568,908
<b>Total operations</b>	<b>12,211,740</b>	<b>11,863,353</b>
Programme support	3,120,657	2,972,506
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,332,397</b>	<b>14,835,859</b>

### 2006 Annual Programme Budget by sector



### 2007 Annual Programme Budget by sector

