

# Ethiopia

UNHCR Operational Update, December 2018

A new **Global Compact on Refugees** has been agreed upon by UN members states. The compact will further guide the roll-out of Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) in Ethiopia, and across the world.

Two **multi-dollar investments** were made by the global fund 'Education Cannot Wait' and the African Development Bank in December which have potential to further the Global Compact and CRRF agenda in Ethiopia.

As UNHCR works to enhance registration data, the monthly population of concern figures have been **frozen as of 31 August 2018**, to facilitate the completion of the ongoing Level 3 Registration. **New figures is released on 1 June 2019.**

## KEY INDICATORS (AS OF 31 AUGUST)

**905,831**

Refugees and asylum seekers registered in Ethiopia

**59%**

Percentage of refugees below the age of 18

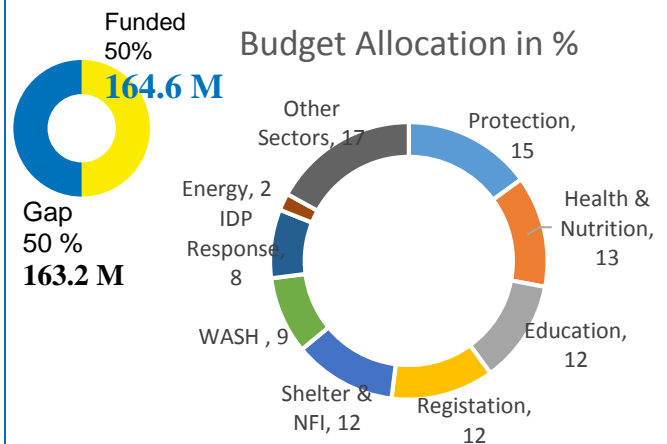
**36,135**

New arrivals registered in Ethiopia in 2018

## FUNDING (AS OF 11 DECEMBER 2018)

**USD 327.8 M**

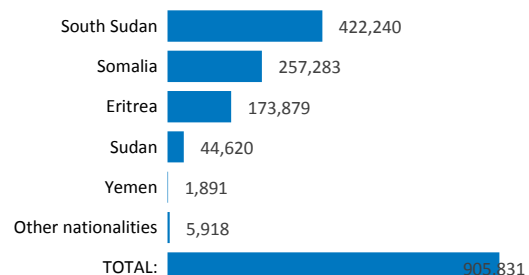
Requested for the Ethiopia operation



These two girls go to the same school in Tigray. One is a refugee, one is not. Who is who doesn't matter much. They are friends. With the new Global Compact, more joint schools for refugees and host communities will be established ©UNHCR/Helle Degn

## POPULATION OF CONCERN (AS OF 31 AUGUST)

### Refugee Nationalities



# New Global Compact of Refugees, benefitting both refugees and host communities

On 17 December, in a historic decision, the UN Member States agreed on a new international framework – known as the Global Compact on Refugees – that will transform the way the world responds to mass displacement and refugee crises, benefiting both refugees and the communities that host them. It builds on the existing international legal system for refugees, notably the 1951 Refugee Convention, and on human rights and humanitarian law. It is a non-binding operational tool to bolster cooperation.

## More support to hosting countries

The new global deal will provide more robust support for the countries where most refugees live:

*“It provides long overdue recognition that countries hosting large numbers of refugees provide a huge service to our shared humanity and sets out ways through which the rest of the world can help share the load,”* said the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi.

Nine out of 10 refugees live in developing countries, where basic services like health or education are already strained. The compact aims to address this issue by providing more investment – from both governments and the private sector – to further strengthen infrastructure and the provision of services for the benefit of both refugees and host communities. It also calls for policies and measures that will enable refugees to access education and to lead productive lives during the time they are in exile.

The compact also aims to address the environmental impact of hosting refugee populations and includes promotion of the use of alternative energy.



*“Refugee crisis call for a global sharing of responsibility.”*

High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi addresses attendees at the Global Compact on Refugees meeting in the Trusteeship Council Chamber at the UN Headquarters in New York  
©UNHCR/ Andrew Kelly

### New Global Compact in Ethiopia

Ethiopia is one of those developing countries that hosts the most refugees. Ethiopia has the second largest refugee population in Africa.

Ethiopia has shown steadfast commitment to the issues embodied in the newly adopted Global Compact for Refugees. Ethiopia is one of the roll-out countries of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), a framework that embodies the ideas of Global Compact.

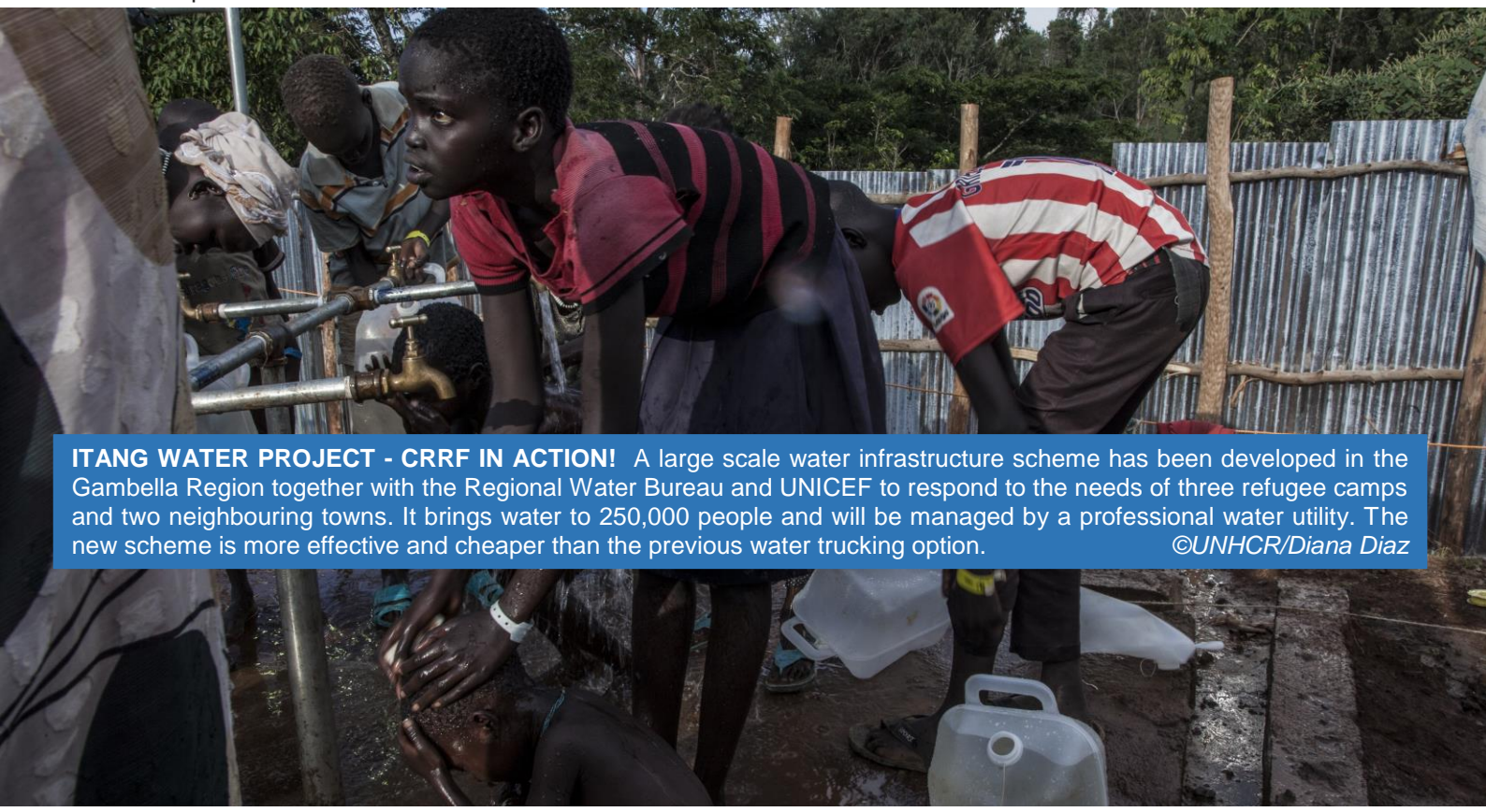
This is manifest by the Government's nine (9) pledges, the setup of a CRRF Steering Committee and a National Coordination Office (NCO), the draft revision of relevant refugee laws (the 'Proclamation'), and more recently the drafting of a 'ten-year' National Comprehensive Refugee Response Strategy (NCRRS).

With policy and legal frameworks progressively consolidating, Ethiopia has already, over the past few years, been trailing CRRF-type concepts. With land committed by the Government in the Somali Regional State, funding from the IKEA Foundation has successfully irrigated agricultural land for combined refugee and host community livelihoods. Water projects serve hosts and refugees and some examples of shared educational and health services exist. The Government has also made progress in providing official documentation to refugees on vital events.

With the new Global Compact, there is further momentum to work towards inclusion of refugees into host communities in collaboration with and support from donors, the private sector and civil society. Not only in Ethiopia but all over the world.

### 9 Pledges made by the Ethiopian Government

1. To expand the "out-of-camp" policy to benefit 10% of the current total refugee population.
2. To provide work permits to refugees and those with permanent residence ID.
3. To provide work permits to refugees in the areas permitted for foreign workers.
4. To increase enrolment of refugee children in preschool, primary, secondary and tertiary education, without discrimination and within available resources.
5. To make 10,000 hectares of irrigable land available, to enable 20,000 refugees and host community households (100,000 people) to grow crops.
6. To allow local integration for refugees who have lived in Ethiopia for over 20 years.
7. To work with industrial partners to build industrial parks to employ up to 100,000 individuals, with 30% of the jobs reserved for refugees.
8. To expand and enhance basic and essential social services for refugees.
9. To provide other benefits, such as issuance of birth certificates to refugee children born in Ethiopia, and the possibility of opening bank accounts and obtaining driving licenses.



**ITANG WATER PROJECT - CRRF IN ACTION!** A large scale water infrastructure scheme has been developed in the Gambella Region together with the Regional Water Bureau and UNICEF to respond to the needs of three refugee camps and two neighbouring towns. It brings water to 250,000 people and will be managed by a professional water utility. The new scheme is more effective and cheaper than the previous water trucking option.

©UNHCR/Diana Diaz

# Multi-dollar investments in refugee inclusion



Refugee boy during formation in school  
©UNHCR/Diana Diaz

On 17 December, UN Member States agreed on a new Global Compact to further refugee inclusion into host communities and national system as well as to enhance support to hosting communities. Concurrently, two multi-dollar investments were made by the global fund 'Education Cannot Wait' and the African Development Bank. The former will enhance access to and quality of education for refugee and host community students while supporting the gradual integration of refugee education services into the national education system. The latter has potential to provide an entry point for expansion of agribusiness opportunities in refugee-hosting areas to the benefit of refugees and their hosts

## **Education Cannot Wait**

On 10 December, a project to construct schools in refugee camps and host communities in Gambella and Benishangul-Gumuz regions in Ethiopia was launched. Part of a USD 15 million two-year investment in refugee education in Ethiopia by Education Cannot Wait, the project will construct three new integrated model secondary schools, 41 classrooms in eight secondary schools, and 84 classrooms in four primary schools. About 12,000 children from refugee camps and the surrounding host communities - half of them girls – are expected to benefit.

The project will result in additional 3,600 children being enrolled in secondary school and 8,400 in primary school. The schools are expected to be ready in time for the 2019-2020 academic year.

The project will boost gross enrolment numbers in both regions. Currently, secondary school gross enrolment in host communities is 33% in Benishangul-Gumuz and 66% in the Gambella Region. The numbers are significantly lower among refugees – 8% and 13% in Benishangul-Gumuz and Gambella respectively.

Education Cannot Wait is also improving the quality of education by providing school improvement grants, teaching and learning materials, and improving the capacity of teachers to deliver quality and inclusive education. These efforts benefit both host and refugee communities, thereby enhancing the gradual integration of refugee education services into the national education system. Key project partners include the Ministry of Education, the Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs, UNICEF, and UNHCR.

**African Development Bank to support Agro-Industrial Parks**

On 13 December, Ethiopia and African Development Bank signed a USD 15 million grant agreement to finance the integrated Agro-Industrial Parks Support Project.

The project will support the development of the four Agro-Industrial Parks located in Amhara, Oromia, SNNP and Tigray regional states. It will strengthen the agro-industrial parks link with producers and Small and Medium Enterprises with strategic industrial clusters.

UNHCR's Representation in Ethiopia has identified potential entry points in agro-processing/value addition in the Tigray region, with a focus on products like sesame, sorghum and teff, noting that enhancing agricultural productivity provides a mean to create jobs and incomes for both refugees and host communities.

The new project could provide an entry point for the expansion of agribusiness opportunities in refugee-hosting areas to the benefit of refugees and their hosts.



An Ethiopian farmer. ©UNHCR/Diana Diaz

# Comprehensive biometric data registration to conclude in March 2019



Betty G, High Profile Supprter of UNHCR, visits registration site in Afar.  
©UNHCR/Helle Degn

Since August 2018, UNHCR and Ethiopia's Agency for Refugees and Returnees Affairs (ARRA) have been conducting the comprehensive (L3) registration of refugees in Ethiopia.

The comprehensive (L3) registration system is accompanied by the Biometric Identity Management System (BIMS) which involves the collection of biometric information, including fingerprints, iris scan and digital photos. The additional information gathered, which include detailed information on individual skills, education, occupation and family members abroad, will inform the planning and programming of the response of UNHCR and its partners through an increasingly specific and targeted approach.

As of 31 December 2018, a total of 230,990 out of the 905,831 individuals (27.7% of the total refugee population) have gone through comprehensive registration (L3) exercise, and 170,932 individuals got enrolled on Biometric Identity Management System (BIMS) in Ethiopia.

To give time for the finalization of the L3 registration and to ensure accurate reporting of refugees and asylum-seekers' figures, UNHCR has frozen the release of official data on populations of concern as of August 2018. While UNHCR will continue to provide registration services during this period, no new population updates and statistics will be produced until June 2019. There have been some delays in roll-out of the project, some caused by security issues in the Gambella and Somali region, hence the original deadline in January has been postponed. It is expected that the data registration will be concluded in March 2019 to then be further validated before publication.

The registration exercise is funded by the EU, the Netherlands, and Denmark.

## News from around the regions

### JIJIGA

In the reporting month, Clowns Without Borders brought joy, smiles and laughter to the children of Kebribeyah, Sheder and Aw Barre Camp in the Jijiga Region.

Clowns Without Borders was founded to offer humour as a means of psychological support to communities that have suffered trauma. They performed totally free of charge in Jijiga.



### SHIRE/JIJIGA

During December, UNHCR facilitated World Bank missions to Shire and Jijiga, aimed to access different sectors, scope potential areas for support and/or explore possibilities for partnerships.

The World Bank will be visiting again in January to review of the IDA18 Sub Window for refugees and host communities to inform planning on IDA19. The objective is to pause and reflect on the experience to date, consolidate evidence, and identify opportunities for strengthening the Bank's engagement in the refugee agenda going forward.

### SOMALI REGION

On 17 December, the EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides announced EUR 89 million in humanitarian support whilst visiting EU aid projects in the Somali region in Eastern Ethiopia where many people have fled their homes due to internal conflict.

The EU funding will be used to address the needs of people displaced within Ethiopia, and refugees from neighboring countries, as well as to respond to natural disasters such as drought.



### ADDIS ABABA

At this year's Diplomatic Bazaar in Addis Ababa, UNHCR was happy to participate alongside refugees from Eritrea, South Sudan, Yemen, Sudan, Somalia and the Great Lakes Region to raise funds for their communities. The Diplomatic Bazaar gathers embassies and country representations from around 50 countries every year before Christmas, selling a variety of goods including handicrafts and food from their respective countries and cultures. The profits of products sold at the UNHCR/refugee booth went to 100% benefit the refugees who produced the handicrafts.

# Refugees and host communities live, farm, and build a better future together

Meet Mohadin Ali Abdula, 52, and Hailo Hanture Ali Miraha, 20, both living in Aysaita in the Afar region of Ethiopia. The former is a refugee from Eritrea and the latter is an Ethiopian born and raised in Aysaita.

Despite their different backgrounds, they believe they have more similarities than differences. Both of them are family fathers, they speak the same language, and share the same culture.

*“Mohadin is like a brother. I don’t think of him as a refugee”, Hailo says.*

They live peacefully side by side and farm 25 hectares of land together. Currently, they are growing cotton. Earlier, they grew maize and will do so again when the weather conditions allow it.

## Sharing land: a win-win situation

The distinction between the two, however, does materialize when it comes to the ownership of the land. Hailo owns the land but lends it out to his ‘refugee brother’ in exchange for 15% of the output of the harvest.

A fair deal, Mohadin thinks:

*“Now, I have a good income to provide for my family and myself. If I couldn’t lend the land, my family and I would only live of food assistance. We are treated fair and well here and can start to dream for the future.”*



Mohadin, in front of the field where he grows cotton.  
©UNHCR/Helle Dean



©UNHCR/Helle Dean





Hailo and Mohadin, both benefitting from sharing land ©UNHCR/Helle Degn

Hailo is happy with the deal too. If Mohadin wouldn't farm the land, the plot would just be fallow land and hence he would not have any outputs to sell at all.

This is not a story of Mohadin and Hailo only. Rather, many other refugees and host community members do the same as part of a Sharecropping Project initiated by Evangelical Church of Mekane Yesus (EECMY) under the umbrella consortium of RDPP EU funded projects coordinated by Danish Church Aid (DCA). EECMY has a partnership agreement with UNHCR while DCA is a valued operational partner. The project started in November 2017 in Aysaita, taking advantage of the nearby Awash River.

In addition to providing training on agriculture, EECMY gives seeds, pesticides, and tools both for the refugees and the host communities.

Currently, 20 households are part of the project in Aysaita but the plan is to expand the project to include more households in the future, mainly based on the positive results so far, both in terms of creating livelihood opportunities for refugees and host communities, enhancing their economy and nutrition, and building peaceful coexistence. In addition, as the current food distribution to refugees is limited, the sharing of the land makes it possible for the refugees to enhance their food intake and improve their nutrition.

### Comprehensive Refugee Response in Action

The project is an example of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), currently being rolled out in Ethiopia, and aligned with the new Global Compact on Refugees. The CRRF is about inclusion of refugees into host communities in ways that benefit both parties, as is the case with Hailo and Mohadin.



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### Background on Eritrean refugees in Ethiopia

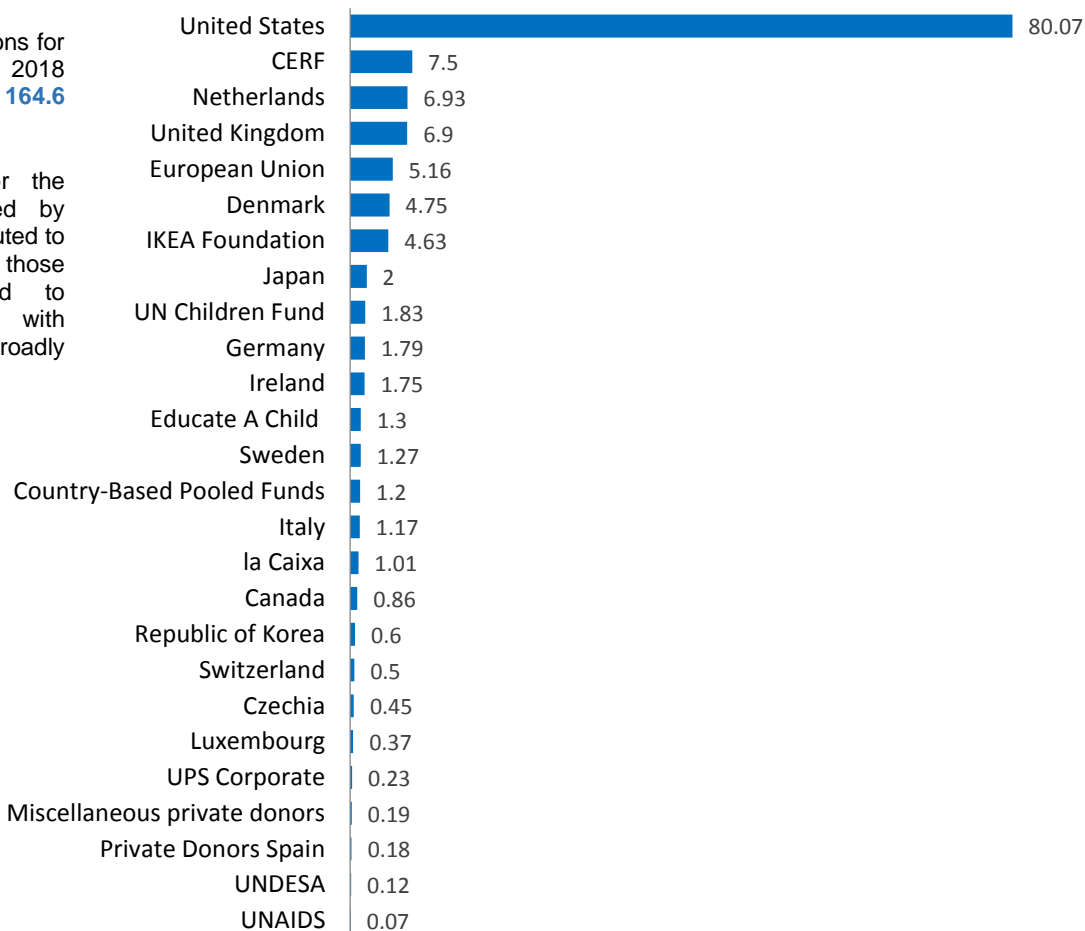
Ethiopia hosts 173,900 Eritrean refugees as per 31 August 2018<sup>1</sup>. Currently, only Eritrean refugees are allowed to live outside camps in Ethiopia as part of the Ethiopian Government's Out of Camp Policy (OCP). As of 31 August 2018, a total of 722 Eritrean refugees were residing in urban centres within the Tigray region as target populations of the OCP programme; an additional 28,416 Eritrean refugees benefit from the OCP elsewhere in the country.

<sup>1</sup> All demographic statistics have been frozen as per 31 August 2018 while UNHCR enhances registration data and figures collection as part of New Biometric Identity Management System currently being rolled-out in Ethiopia. Consolidated population data will be released in June 2019.

# Financial Information

## Funding received (in million USD) as of 11 December 2018

- Total recorded contributions for the Ethiopia operation in 2018 amount to some **US\$ 164.6 million**
- UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation, as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and broadly



### External / Donors Relations

#### Special thanks to the major donors of softly earmarked contributions from:

(2 million USD or more)

United States of America 177.3 million | Germany 65.7 million | Private donors Australia 13.3 million | Denmark 7.2 million | Sweden 5.7 million | Private donors Germany 4 million | Australia 3.8 million | Canada 3.3 million | Private Donors of the Republic of Korea 2.6 million | Norway 2.6 million | Private Donors of Sweden 2.4 million

Japan | Malta | Private donors

#### Special thanks to the major donors of unearmarked contributions:

(10 million USD or more)

Sweden 98.2 million | Private donors Spain 71 million | Netherlands 47.1 million | United Kingdom 45.3 million | Norway 42.5 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 35.2 million | Japan 26.5 | Denmark 25.5 million | Private donors Italy 18.7 million | Private donors Japan 17.9 million | Switzerland 15.8 million | France 14 million | Germany 13.7 | Private donors Sweden 13.2 million | Italy 11.2 million

Algeria | Argentina | Austria | Belgium | Bosnia and Herzegovina | Bulgaria | Canada | Chile | China | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Holy See | Iceland | India | Indonesia | Ireland | Israel | Kuwait | Latvia | Liechtenstein | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Philippines | Portugal | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Slovakia | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Turkey | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private donors

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### LINKS

Data portal: [data2.unhcr.org](http://data2.unhcr.org), Facebook: [UNHCR Ethiopia](https://www.facebook.com/UNHCREthiopia), Twitter: [@UNHCREthiopia](https://twitter.com/UNHCREthiopia)