Ethiopia launched comprehensive refugee response framework

30,000 refugees to benefit from employment opportunities under the “Ethiopian Jobs Compact”

Ethiopia launched a Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) on 28 November 2017, to facilitate durable solutions for refugees in the country. To this end, Ethiopia announced plans for ‘Jobs Compact’ where US$500 million in concessional finance from the World Bank, DFID, European Investment Bank and European Union will be linked to creating employment opportunities for up to 100,000 individuals (30,000 refugees hosted in Ethiopia and 70,000 Ethiopian nationals) in three industrial parks across Ethiopia.

Ethiopia is a pilot country for the roll out of the CRRF with a clear roadmap prepared in consultations with partners. The implementation of the framework is in line with pledges made at the Leaders’ Summit on Refugees in September 2016 in New York. In addition to granting work permit, the Ethiopian Government committed to allow civil registration for refugees. Ethiopia also committed to strengthening access to education, allowing a significant number of refugees to reside outside refugee camps and to locally integrate protracted/long-staying refugees. Ethiopia has called on the international community to maximize its support for the realization of these commitments.

Camp-based protection to end in 10 years through gradual local integration

While Ethiopia still keeps its borders open to refugees, the Government envisages gradual phase out of the encampment policy over the next 10 years while moving towards out-of-camp and local integration options. When the gradual transition ends in 10 years, the country will have closed all 27 refugee camps in its territory. In Ethiopia, CRRF has already started transforming the lives of refugees as witnessed by the increase in the overall school enrollment rate of refugees and the issuance of vital documents, including birth certificates to refugee children. Currently, Ethiopia hosts more than 890,000 refugees from Eritrea,
HIGHLIGHT

- Following the expiration of the extended amnesty on 26 November 2017, some 10,000 Ethiopians illegally residing in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have started to return to Ethiopia since the first week of December.

Some 10,000 undocumented Ethiopian migrants repatriated from Saudi Arabia

According to a 7 December report from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, some 10,000 Ethiopian citizens who have been illegally residing in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) have started to return to Ethiopia from Monday, 4 December.

The KSA started expelling undocumented migrants following the expiration of the third extension of the amnesty window. On 29 March 2017, Saudi Arabia declared that all irregular migrants in the Kingdom should voluntarily leave the country in 90 days. For Ethiopian nationals, the amnesty was extended three times on request by the Ethiopian Government. The third extension of the amnesty window expired on 16 November.

More than 93,000 from an estimated 500,000 undocumented Ethiopians living in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have returned to Ethiopia so far. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), US$30 million is immediately required for post-arrival and reintegration assistance. Many of the deportees return in vulnerable conditions, requiring immediate medical support, food and onward transportation assistance for reunification with families.

Meanwhile, Ethiopia is striving to repatriate stranded citizens in Libya. The Government has gathered the necessary information, including identifying places where Ethiopian migrants are sheltering. The repatriation will be conducted in collaboration with IOM.

OCHA hosts gender mainstreaming training in Ethiopia

Ethiopia hosted 25 of its gender focal points to a 3-day workshop on strengthening gender mainstreaming in humanitarian programming. Participants were provided with concrete tools to support gender mainstreaming through the assessment, development, implementation and monitoring phase of the humanitarian programme cycle.
HIGHLIGHT

- The Global Humanitarian Overview highlighted the majority of population in need for 2018 is due to conflict. Protection intervention remains a priority.

Conflict remains the main driver of humanitarian needs in 2018. Strengthening the gender lens in humanitarian programming is critical to advocating for increased protection support in the year. According to the 2018 Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO) launched on December 1, humanitarian partners will be required to undertake more comprehensive, cross-sectoral and impartial needs assessments in 2018. ‘Overall, more than 135 million people across the world will need humanitarian assistance and protection,’ says Mr. Mark Lowcock, Emergency Response Coordinator/USG.

Mainstreaming gender-focused programming more robustly through the year will facilitate a more effective, efficient and cost-effective response in ways more attuned to the needs of those requiring assistance.

The 2018 GHO is the largest appeal in history with a humanitarian requirement of US$22.5 billion. The workshop is a demonstration of OCHA’s continued commitment to supporting humanitarian partners to ensure the different needs of women, girls, boys and men are taken into account in humanitarian action.

Funding update as of end November

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