



ARRA UPDATE

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ARRA Deputy Director, Zeynu Jemal, and UNHCR Representative Clementine Salami, pose for a photo with South Sudanese refugees as a group of women refugees welcome them in Jewi camp. Photo: ARRA/Azmeraw B.

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ARRA is a government counterpart of UNHCR in Ethiopia. ARRA UPDATE is a quarterly bulletin published by ARRA.



As 2016 closes and a new year begins, ARRA readies itself to embrace a program with lots of challenges as refugees continue to pour into the Ethiopian border mainly from South Sudan and Eritrea. The influx is yet another big challenge amid a struggling operation with many daunting tasks of refugee assistance and protection services. A new and a big influx would therefore set a precedence to address refugee challenges focusing on emergencies despite a compromise on existing care and maintenance projects being implemented in refugee camps.

Easier said than done, coordination of emergencies requires huge funding and allocation of resources necessary for efficient service delivery often requiring going beyond the expected levels

while amalgamating a large number of refugee service-providing partner organizations.

The recent influx from South Sudan was a manifestation of such coordination at all levels of our refugee programme. ARRA and UNHCR have been primarily spearheading field level coordination together with partners and host community officials and populations.

That level of existing cooperation among partners has often been exemplary managing one of the largest refugee operations in Africa. As we embark to a new level of cooperation, ARRA seizes the opportunity of having

created a bigger opportunity for refugees staying in the country as we initiate new innovative ventures to improving refugee lives.

Financial cuts, however, still loom at large becoming an impediment to our operation. Financial resource shortages would result in an unprecedented level of compromise to our operations and most particularly it would be hurting our program particularly in a situation where the Ethiopian government is preparing to embark to an all new innovative ventures to improving refugee lives such as future plans of expanding the hailed "out-of camp"



The general ration remains as the main source of food for refugees. South Sudanese refugees seen here collecting their monthly ration at Nguenyyiel camp. Photo: ARRA/Azmeraw B.

scheme to include non-Eritrean refugee profiles.

In light of new developments in our Gambella operation, the government of Ethiopia opened a new camp named Nguenyyiel as we record high number of refugees flocking into Ethiopia. The increase in the number of refugees demands a bigger attention on the part of the international community as we require a huge sum of finances to be able to run such big operation.

The election of a former high commissioner as UN Secretary-General is a great favor to minimizing refugee plights for a veteran UN official who is assuming his new role as the ninth Secretary-General of the UN. His election would herald a new chapter and a better focus to refugee programs of developing countries during times of dwindling international support to Sub-Saharan operations.



The children center at Endabaguna as depicted in the above photos, caters child friendly services for young boys & girls most of whom are unaccompanied and separated. Photo: ARRA/Michael T.



A group of South Sudanese refugees are welcomed while crossing the border into Ethiopia through Akobo entry point. Photo: ARRA/Azmeraw B.

ARRA wishes him successful years ahead and a great achievement with his new role in such exciting and yet intricate working environment at the



Children as young as 10 are common faces among the newly arriving refugees from Eritrea where close to 300 of them arrive each month. Photo: ARRA/Suleyman A.

UN.

The government of Ethiopia remains grateful to the continued support it receives from the international community in its endeavors to support refugees. Part of that support would be invested in Ethiopia's proposed construction of new industrial parks that would grant employment to refugees populations of some 30,000 which many currently don't have. Such investment would help tackle challenges and put a lid on irregular and illegal secondary movement of refugees as they pursue a journey out of designated camps. We hope that it would serve as a good lesson and a model for similar operations shouldering huge burdens by hosting large refugee populations elsewhere.

The new year 2017 will bring with it glad tidings of improvements in our refugee works and an end to the cause of refugee displacement and their plights.

At this juncture, ARRA wishes all partners and refugees a happy and prosperous new year.



Newly arriving South Sudanese refugees wait for first level registration at Pagak reception center. Photo: ARRA/Azmeraw B.

Refugee News

ARRA & UNHCR open a new refugee camp in Gambella

ARRA & UNHCR opened a new camp in Gambella on October 20, 2016 called Nguenyyiel as they record high influx of South Sudanese refugees flocking into Ethiopia.

More than 50,000 South Sudanese refugees have arrived in Ethiopia's Gambella region since September 3, 2016.

Most of the new arrivals have been registered and relocated to Jewi, Kule, Tierkidi and Nguenyyiel refugee camps. The new camp ,which is the 7th in the area, is now currently home to more than 28,000 refugees located not far from the other camps in the region.

According to registration officials, currently on average, some 400 -500 South Sudanese refugees arrive in Ethiopia on a daily basis with a little decline , though, since late December. The new

arrivals, most originate from the Upper Nile and Jonglei States.

In Nguenyyiel refugee camp, water supply continues to remain a key challenge to be addressed as a matter of urgency. Generally, other gaps concern malnutrition in addition to health, WASH and education. The high number of unaccompanied and separated children, as well as other vulnerable children, is the focus of UNHCR, ARRA and partners joint efforts.

Quite unique feature of the South Sudan influx is the increasing trend of underage asylum-seekers which adds to the already young refugee population in Gambella camps.

Since September, the operation in Ethiopia has experienced a fresh influx of refugees from South Sudan fleeing renewed violence and food shortages in their home country.

As numbers of South Sudan refugees rises, we are requesting additional



A delegation from the Embassy of Japan visiting South Sudanese refugees in Gambella region. Photo: ARRA/Azmeraw B.

funds to deliver the necessary humanitarian services.

Currently ARRA and UNHCR assist more than 325,000 South Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers.

Ethiopia provides protection to refugees from some 20 countries, with the majority originating from South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea and Sudan.

Ethiopian delegation participates at the 67th UNHCR ExCom Session

An Ethiopian government high level delegation represented by Ato Hadera Abera, Director of ARRA, his Deputy Zeynu Jemal and Head of Programs, Eyob Awoke, participated in the 67th session of the Executive Committee of the UNHCR held from 3-7 October, 2016.

The ExCom session is held annually to review and approve the agency programs and budgets and to advise on protection matters.

In his statement, Ato Hadera reiterated his government's relationship with UNHCR as one of a solid and long lasting that has managed one of the biggest operations in Sub-Saharan Africa. Ethiopia has surpassed Kenya in becoming the largest refugee hosting nation in Africa since 2014.

Ato Hadera mentioned the importance of teaming up with all partners involved at operational level in way of delivering humanitarian assistance to people in need which is very crucial in saving refugee lives.

"The humanitarian crisis happening in South Sudan prompted by insecurity and lack of humanitarian assistance continued to cause massive displacement and refugee movements to neighboring countries", said Ato Hadera.

He provided an overview on the refugee situation in Ethiopia by reiterating on the need for a continued humanitarian assistance to the numerous refugees living in various locations in the country.

Ato Hadera also highlighted his country's concern about the increasing number of refugees living in its territory by impacting on the environment where refugees are settled. The areas affected by refugee settlements since the past two-three decades needs to be rehabilitated by providing, for instance, alternative energy sources which are absent in most camps.

He reaffirmed his country's commitment to continue to operate very closely with UNHCR and the international



A South Sudanese refugee woman collects her ration as others queue to take their own share at Pagak reception center. Photo: ARRA/Azmeraw

community while discharging its responsibilities.



Refugees are encouraged to construct their own shelters as partner organization run short of finances to construct for refugees. Refugees seen here plastering the walls of new shelters. Photo: ARRA/Azmeraw B.



ARRA protection officer welcomes a newly arriving Somali asylum-seekers at Dollo Ado transit center. Photo: ARRA/Addisu A.



The photo below shows newly arriving South Sudanese refugees as they undergo first-line registration at Pagak reception center. Photo: ARRA/Azmeraw B.

Joint Assessment Mission conducted on food security and related services

A joint assessment mission was carried out in refugee camps by WFP, ARRA, UNHCR and partners from November 20– 28, 2016. The mission comprised of various functional teams and was lead and directed by HQ staff of the three organizations with the participation of partner staff. The mission was deployed to six refugee operations run by ARRA and partners. The first two teams were fielded to Eritrean refugee camps under the Shire and Semera operations. The other two teams were sent to Gambella and Assosa operations hosting South Sudanese and Sudanese refugees while the remaining two were fielded to Somali refugee camps in Dollo Ado and Jijiga operations.

Members of the JAM included expertise drawn from various disciplines and areas of specialization working in refugee settings both at field and headquarter level.

A one day training, attended by participants of the mission, was organized at Addis level prior to the start of the actual field work in order to familiarize individuals taking part in the JAM exercise about the Jam guidelines, previous findings and clarify on the 2016 JAM objectives and thematic areas.

The JAM exercise aimed at evaluating and assessing the food and non-food items assistance provided to refugees

with emphasis on food security, nutrition, energy supply and livelihood situation of the refugees and to provide workable recommendations to improving the current refugee protection assistance.

Preliminary findings attest to the fact that there are varying degrees in needs and challenges facing refugees that need to be addressed by partners involved in refugee protection assistance.

Some of the challenges refugees mentioned are common that are supposed to exist in refugee



Refugees taking part in a focus group discussion with ARRA and partner officers during the JAM exercise at Kule Photo: ARRA: Azmeraw B.

settlements while others are related to funding shortfalls, poor implementing capacity, among others.

Increasing refugee flows into Ethiopia call for further assistance

The last quarter of 2016 saw an increasing influx of refugees from South Sudan in particular with a steady flow of refugees from Eritrea as well.

Such increase is evident in the number of refugee population we received since September 3, 2016 from South Sudan. More than 52,000 refugees have crossed the border into Ethiopia triggering a relocation of thousands of refugees into Kule and Tierkidi camps while opening a new camp at Nguenyyiel on October 20. The majority of the new



A new group of Somali asylum-seekers gather at Dollo Ado reception center before being transported to Kobe refugee camp. Photo: ARRA/ Addisu A.

arrivals are women and children coming through the Pagak entry point while close to 3,000 Eritreans have entered the country each month through more than 18 crossing points in Tigray and Afar regions. The new

registration as well as natural increases in the existing population brings the total number of refugees in the country to 826,384 in the end of 2016.



Majority of Eritrean refugees are young men from urban centers with some level of educational background. Photo: ARRA/Genet H.



Young Eritrean refugees watch a video demonstration of camp services (above) while unaccompanied and separated children play outside a childe center in Endabaguna Photo: ARRA/ Michael T.



Durable Solutions: Resettlement Opportunities

Hundreds of refugees from Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan and the Great Lakes region have been resettled in the USA, Canada, the Netherlands, Norway, Australia, and other European countries.

The total number of refugees who received resettlement opportunities during the past 13 years has reached 33,225 out of whom 20,636 are Eritreans followed by Somalis who make up 34% of all resettled refugees. The USA remains top resettlement offering nation taking some 21,000 refugees.

Refugees have on several occasions expressed their gratitude to the government of Ethiopia and the UNHCR for facilitating the offer of resettlement opportunities.

Ethiopia appreciates the generosity of the governments of resettlement providing countries particularly the United States for offering group resettlement opportunities for over 6,500 Eritrean refugees back in 2008 and 2009.

The government of Ethiopia in collaboration with UNHCR, IOM and other concerned humanitarian



Resettlement to a third country is an invaluable tool that offers a durable solution to hundreds of refugees every year. In this photo, a group of Somali refugees pose for a photo at a resettlement farewell ceremony in Sheder refugee camp. Photo: ARRA/Mohammed H.

organizations has always been endeavoring to find durable solutions to the problems faced by refugees.

Polio Vaccination Undertaken in Camps

A polio vaccination campaign was held end of December 2016 in all refugee camps. The vaccination is part of a comprehensive EPI services which refugees have access to without discrimination.

The vaccination is part of a six months campaign ARRA undertakes in collaboration with regional health bureaus undertaken through home to home visits as well as at facilities including schools.

In the weeklong campaign, children between the age of 0 to 59 months were all vaccinated during the vaccination campaign. Currently, in all most all camps, polio vaccination coverage stands at 100%.

“Such campaigns are vital to improve the lot of refugee children who are the future change agents of their respective countries. The future of their countries lies in these children.”, said Dr. Alembirhan, ARRA Health & Nutrition coordinator at ARRA headquarters.

The campaign is part of a program aiming at curtailing and minimizing a potential cross-border transmission of polio as refugees easily mingle with hosting communities found along the border areas.

Oral poliovirus vaccines (OPV) are the predominant vaccine used in the fight to eradicate polio though IPV being introduced in refugee camps. There are different types of oral poliovirus vaccine, which may contain one, a combination of



A refugee health worker undertakes an indoor residual spray at Kule South Sudanese refugee camp. Photo: ARRA/Azmeraw B.

pregnant and lactating mothers, children, elderly and



Vitamin A supplementation and deworming campaign at ARRA health center at Shimelba Eritrean refugee camp. Photo: ARRA/

a full participation of refugees through facilitation by incentive community health workers. Part of the prevention activities included indoor residual sprays done in collaboration with the region’s health bureau.

Former HC António Guterres appointed next UN Secretary-General

On October 13, 2016, the UN General Assembly appointed the former High Commissioner for Refugees, António Guterres, as the next United Nations Secretary-General, to succeed Ban Ki-moon. A veteran UN official , Mr. Guterres has been a familiar face to the Ethiopian refugee programme visiting Ethiopia's operation during his tenure as the HC.

One of his early comings was in December 2005–only five months following his appointment as the HC–visiting Sherkole—one of the oldest refugee camps in Ethiopia at a time Ethiopia was hosting only 100,000 refugees. Later in 2011,Guterres was also in Ethiopia during the Somali emergency when the country was receiving thousands of refugees from Somalia following a crisis due to the occurrence of a famine and conflict in most parts of Somalia .He was able to see for himself the gravity of the situation.

He has always lauded Ethiopia's hospitality and generosity in welcoming and hosting hundreds of thousands of refugees and referred Ethiopia's open



Secretary-General-designate, António Guterres, addresses the General Assembly on the occasion of his appointment as the next Secretary-General of the United Nations. Photo: UN

border policy as a pillar of refugee protection. Mid 2013, Mr.

Guterres also visited Ethiopia as part of his regional tour.



António Guterres seen here during a field visit with ARRA and UN officials at Tierkidi South Sudanese refugee camp in 2014.Photo: UNHCR

Following a resurgence of refugee outpour from South Sudan, Mr. Guterres came to Ethiopia to pay a visit to South Sudanese refugees in Gambella region in early 2014.

Mr. Guterres, aged 67, was Prime Minister of Portugal from 1995 to 2002, and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees from June 2005 to December 2015. He will become the world's top diplomat on 1 January 2017, and hold that post for the next five years.

Adopting a consensus resolution put forward by its President, Peter Thomson, the Assembly acted on the recommendation on the UN Security Council, which on 6 October forwarded Mr. Guterres' name to the 193-member body as its nominee for UN Secretary-General for a five-year period, ending 31 December 2021.

Thanking the General Assembly for appointing him as the next Secretary-General, Mr. Guterres said he was grateful to the Member States for their trust in him as well as for the transparent and open selection process they undertook.

"I believe this process means that the true winner today is the credibility of the UN. And it also made

very clear to me that, as Secretary-General, having been chosen by all Member States, I must be at the service of them all equally and with no agenda but the one enshrined in the UN Charter," said Mr. Guterres.

He also underlined that alleviating the suffering of the vulnerable people, in particular the refugees and those in conflict zones, and gender equality would remain key priorities for him during his tenure.

Secretary-General-designate Guterres also reiterated his belief in the values of peace, justice, human dignity, tolerance and solidarity, as well as his belief that diversity is a "tremendous asset" and not a threat. Mr. Guterres also applauded the work of the current Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and



António Guterres (right) and former ARRA deputy director (center) visiting new arrival Somali refugees in Dollo Ado on July 8, 2011. Photo: UNHCR

said that he would try his “utmost to honour” Mr. Ban’s legacy.

ARRA/UNHCR hand over vehicles to hosting communities

As a show of solidarity with hosting communities, UNHCR and ARRA donated two hard-top and one long-base Toyota vehicles for use by Dollo Ado and the newly-formed Boqolmayo weredas respectively.

The support will beef up the activities of the weredas in the daily discharge of their responsibilities.

The support of the hosting weredas to ARRA/UNHCR and partner organizations has been exceptional in our many years of engagement in the form of allowing and assisting ARRA and UNHCR and partners to take on many refugee targeted interventions.

Equally important has been the involvement and contribution of clan heads and leaders in facilitating

refugee programs. In light of this and in recognition of their contribution ARRA and UNHCR handed over a hardtop to a respected Degodia clan leader. In Ethiopian Somali areas as it is elsewhere, clan leaders and structures have a substantial powerful influence over communities and government structures which can't be ignored.

Camp Profile: Nguenyyiel Refugee Camp

A General Overview

Established in October 2016 following a new outpour of refugees from South Sudan, Nguenyyiel is the latest and the seventh in a row of refugee camps in Gambella region established since early 2014.

A number of humanitarian organizations often cater services during refugee emergencies as they amalgamate to provide the badly needed services. Nguenyyiel is now home to some 11 humanitarian organizations including ARRA, UNHCR and WFP with a dedicated staff of their own providing services through the implementation of various projects including food supply, education and shelter provision, water and sanitation as well as physical protection, among others.

Close to 27,000 refugees are already in the camp only two months after its establishment with an



ARRA/UNHCR Sub-Office Heads hand over a Toyota hardtop to a respected Degodia clan leader at Filtu, capital of Liben zone. Photo: ARRA/Adissu A.

ongoing intake of hundreds of refugees daily. The table below shows population variation since its October 2016 centers, or as we call them, child friendly spaces are

Refugee Camp	Pop. Figure October 2016	Pop. Figure October 2016	Pop. Figure October 2016	Average Pop. Growth per Month(%)
Nguenyyiel	6,416	15,849	26,838	64.4

set up to cater the best for some 3,969 children and a women's center is also serving as a place of get together for women of older ages. The high

monthly population growth.

Relocation and Reception

ARRA in collaboration with UNHCR continues to relocate refugees from reception and transit centers and

transfer them to the camp with security escorts. IOM's CRIIs are distributed upon arrival including sleeping role has been vital and will continue to be in the actual mats, jerry cans, mosquito nets, blankets, kitchen transportation of refugees by deploying up to 25 buses utensils, among others. Four storage warehouses are for the relocation exercise. Upon arrival, refugees are set up to store food and core relief items in the welcomed and briefed about camp services and rules camp.

they should be abide by. Meanwhile, the construction of some 10 emergency shelters and hangars continued while shelter distribution was conducted evenly for all new arrivals.

Protection

Protection in all its forms is available in the camps.

Besides the physical protection ARRA and UNHCR avails, partners do also engage in the support of such interventions. IMC and Plan International are present to ensure women and children are protected emotionally

number of unaccompanied and separated children, as well as other vulnerable children, remains to be the focus of ARRA,UNHCR, and partners joint efforts.

CRIIs and Food Distribution



Officers and refugee representatives often meet regularly to discuss issues of common concern. Photo: ARRA/Azmeraw B.



ARRA officers distribute Core Relief Items (CRIs) to a group of newly arriving refugees at the new Nguenyiel refugee camp. Photo: ARRA/Azmeraw B.



Older individuals and people with disability require a special protection as they are vulnerable. Not few among the new arrivals are older men and women while some have some others came with some kind of disability as shown in these



Education

Education in emergencies is a key and vital protection tool for children of school-age. Currently, semi-permanent school constructions are finalized receiving and registering more than 3000 children while benches were delivered.

Primary education above grade 4 remains a critical gap in the new camp, as well as secondary education.

Health & WASH

Refugees continue to have access to health and nutrition facilities. More than 300 communal latrines were constructed and functional. Routines cleaning of latrines and mass sensitizations on how to use them continued in the camp. The installation of additional temporary/emergency water storage points is ongoing. Water supply continues to remain a key challenge to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

ARRA Refugee Figures: December 31st , 2016

Countries of Origin	Refugee Camps	Registered Refugees	Camp locations
Somalia	Kebribeyah	14,190	Somali Regional State
	Aw-Barre (Teferiber)	11,329	"
	Sheder	10,886	"
	Boqolmayo	42,600	"
	Melkadida	45,165	"
	Kobe	44,763	"
	Haleweyn	45,108	"
	Buramino	39,536	"
Sub-total		254,082	
Eritrea	Shimelba	6,777	Tigray Regional State
	Mai-ayni	31,091	"
	Adi-Harush	49,331	"
	Hitsats	62,573	"
	Assaita	11,797	Afar Regional State
	Berahle	10,056	"
Sub-total		171,625	
South Sudan	Pugnido	63,875	Gambella Regional State
	Okugo	9,777	"
	Kule	51,073	
	Tierkidi	69,597	"
	Jewi	56,989	"
	Pugnido II	16,796	"
	Nguenyyiel	25,399	
	Transit & Other Locations	33,031	
Sub-total		326,537	

Countries of Origin	Refugee Camps	Registered Refugees	Camp locations
Sudan	Sherkole	11,487	Somali Regional State
	Tongo	11,801	“
	Bambasi	16,145	“
	Tsore	10,869	“
		50,302	
Kenya	Dillo & Megado	3,768	Tigray Regional State
Sub-total		3,768	
Various Countries– Urban Refugees	Addis Ababa	4,026	Addis Ababa
‘Out of Camp’	Addis Ababa	16,044	
Sub-total		20,070	
Grand Total		826,384	

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South Sudanese refugees line in a queue as they go through first line-registration at Pagak reception center. Photo: ARRA/Azmeraw B.