



# Food Assistance to Refugees in Ethiopia

Decades of drought, conflict, and civil wars have troubled East Africa. As a result, Ethiopia now hosts more refugees than any other country on the continent. By mid-2016, the total refugee population in Ethiopia reached **over 741,000 people**, according to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Continued insecurity in neighboring South Sudan has brought more than **280,000 South Sudanese** to Ethiopia. Roughly 70 percent of all South Sudanese arrivals are children and 60 percent of the adult population are women. Additionally, those seeking refuge in Ethiopia include nearly 253,000 Somalis who have fled ongoing conflict and drought since the 2011 famine, as well as 162,000 Eritreans.

**USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)** continued its support for refugees in Ethiopia in Fiscal Year 2016, and provided **52,080 metric tons of U.S. in-kind food assistance**, valued at an estimated **\$39.3 million** to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP). With this assistance, WFP provided general food distributions of yellow split peas or lentils, vegetable oil, and sorghum or wheat for all refugees, and supplementary nutritious foods for pregnant and lactating women and children under age two.

Breakdown by Nationality		
South Sudanese	280,301	38%
Somalis	252,959	34%
Eritreans	162,180	22%
Sudanese	39,092	5%
Yemenis	1,526	0.2%
Other Nationalities	5,230	0.7%

Through USAID/FFP, WFP provides a hot meal to refugee students in primary schools, helps diversify diets through small-scale livelihood activities, and addresses risks to refugee women and girls through environmental interventions.

In FY 2015, in addition to 49,700 metric tons of food assistance, USAID/FFP also provided \$2 million in enhanced 202(e) Impact Funds to the WFP biometrics pilot program, helping improve beneficiary targeting and potentially gain significant cost savings by ensuring that only food insecure refugees get the assistance they critically need.



A young Somali boy with his kid brother in tow wait their turn to fetch water in Hiliwoyne Refucee Camp, Dollo Ado. Photo Credit: USAID/Ethiopia

Total refugee populations based on UNHCR as of August 2016