

Support for the Implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees in Ethiopia (S4G)

Advisor to support R-WASH Programme implementation under the GIZ-UNHCR Global Programme

The challenge

With an increasing number of refugees and internally displaced persons globally, the gap between people depending on humanitarian aid and available funding is growing drastically. At the same time, displacement situations protracted are lasting years or decades with no sustainable solution available.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) steered a consultative process leading to the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), as a framework for more predictable and equitable responsibility sharing and as a blueprint for all actors to ensure host communities get the support they need and refugees to lead productive lives. Within the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus, limited coordination among the stakeholders was identified as one of the key opportunities.

Ethiopia, currently hosting the third largest refugee population in Africa, made considerable commitments as part of the Global Compact on Refugees, including on jobs, livelihoods, education, protection and energy. The national Refugee and Returnee Service (RRS) is the government counterpart of UNHCR in Ethiopia, leading the protection and overall coordination of refugee related interventions in the country. With the humanitarian response efforts in the displacement context well coordinated, there is considerable potential in linking those with national and regional development interventions and in engaging government institutions to foster the inclusion of refugees into national services and development plans.

With access to clean water being a major challenge for refugees and their host communities particularly

in the semi-arid regions in East Africa, the German Government is funding the Regional WASH (water, sanitation, hygiene) Programme for Refugees, Internally Displaced People and Host Communities. For Ethiopia, this includes the establishment of a climate resilient fully integrated water system serving refugees and Ethiopians around the three refugee camps near Jijiga in the Somali Regional State.

Project name	Support for the Implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees in Ethiopia (S4G)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Ethiopia: Addis Ababa, Somali Region
Lead executing agency	Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
Duration	09/2021 – 12/2024

Our approach

S4G is a component of the GIZ-UNHCR Global Programme to support the implementation of the GCR. The programme is commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by GIZ in selected refugee contexts, including Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritania, Mozambique, Mexico, Niger, Pakistan, Rwanda, Somalia, and Uganda.

Funded by BMZ and managed through the German Development Bank KfW, R-WASH in Ethiopia is being implemented through UNICEF and UNHCR, to



Family looking at the drilling activities near Sheder camp; the family came to collect water from a local birka

staff from UNHCR, UNICEF, the Somali Water Buero, GIZ, RRS, and technical consultants assessing the soil samples at the drilling site near Sheder camp

establish a sustainable and integrated water solution for refugees in specific camps in Ethiopia. The project aims to put into practice the inclusion of refugees into national service provision, in line with the Global Compact on Refugees and the pledges the Ethiopian Government made at the Global Refugee Forum in 2019. Hence, the key government actors at federal and regional level, including the Ethiopian Refugee and Returnee Service, the Ministry of Water and Energy, as well as the Somali Water Bureau are engaged in the implementation of the project.

The main objective of the S4G project is to strengthen the GCR in Ethiopia, support the partners in the implementation of R-WASH programme and make the project a success regarding the inclusion of refugees into national services, in line with the Global Compact on Refugees. S4G focusses on five work areas, including

1. Coordination with all stakeholders through existing fora, facilitation of R-WASH Coordination Group with a focus on inclusion of refugees in national WASH services
2. Reporting and Monitoring & Evaluation support to the implementing agencies, including support for a remote monitoring tool and impact assessments
3. Training and qualification packages for individuals will be developed based on market requirements to ensure qualified staffing is available for the running and maintenance of the water system and sanitation services
4. Sustainability and advocacy will be increased through the development of a long-term financing plan as well as through liaison with national stakeholders and knowledge management support
5. Visibility and contribution to Global Programme outcomes, lessons learned and global exchanges within the programme will be enhanced, as well as the contribution of Germany towards the Global Compact.

The benefits

The GCR/R-WASH Advisor, as the main component of the project, supports the key actors in the implementation of R-WASH, which enhances coordination between the humanitarian and development actors, and linkages among entities on national, regional and international level. With the direct engagement of the Somali Water Bureau, ownership and accountability by the Government is being created from the onset of the intervention, which will enhance their capacity as well as long-term sustainable engagement and running of the water system. Hence, the intervention will not only foster the development of a sound cooperation network, but also support the successful implementation of an integrated service delivery intervention. Lessons learned, including on cooperation but also technical aspects as well as factors such as utility establishment, tariff setting and engagement of all communities in management and maintenance of the system, can inform further similar interventions in the water and related sectors.

Progress

A collaboration practice with a central coordination mechanism bringing together all stakeholders, including UNICEF, UNHCR, RRS, the Ministry of Water and Energy (MoWE), KfW, and the Somali Water Development Bureau is now established. A comprehensive Operational Plan was developed and validated.

Interventions for further capacity development and a training for water system maintenance within the Qualifications and Employment Perspectives for Refugees and Host Communities Programme (QEP), implemented by GIZ, commissioned by BMZ, are planned and will now be further developed. Opportunities for

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collaboration with universities and private service providers are also being explored.