Ethiopia currently hosts almost a million refugees drawn from 19 countries. The majority come from neighbouring countries Eritrea, Somalia and South Sudan.

Around 47% of the refugees, mostly from South Sudan, make their way to Ethiopia’s Gambela region creating a huge burden on the host community in terms of access to scarce natural resources.

While the local government and host communities extend their generosity in hosting South Sudanese refugees, the limited employment opportunities and the lack of access to financial capital coupled with recurrent disasters and shocks (drought, flood, ethnic violence) exacerbating vulnerabilities among the local population.

**UNDP’s Approach**

The UNDP supported ‘Enhancing Livelihood Restoration and Resilience of Refugee Hosting Communities and Internally Displaced Peoples’ programme aims to strengthen the resilience of refugee hosting communities to cope with and recover from the impact of large influxes of refugees.

The programme is implemented in four woredas of Gambella Regional State and aims to improve income by creating employment opportunities, rehabilitating the environment and enhancing social cohesion.

The programme focuses on building the resilience of host communities addressing service delivery and livelihood recovery as a means to address the negative impacts of the refugee influx on communities hosting them and the environment.

**Highlight of Project Activities**

- Set up cooperatives for over 24,000 households around livestock, poultry, fishery and grain mills to support their income generating activities
- Ensure the peaceful co-existence of host and refugee communities
- Strengthen conflict prevention and peace structures in the region through organizing dialogue sessions and trainings for public sector officials, the police, religious leaders, elders as well as youth.
- Establish student peace clubs to ensure the young generation grow up with the necessary peace building and conflict resolution skills.
Partnership

- National Disaster Risk Management Commission

Funding partners

- The Government of Japan: USD 1.5 million
- UNDP - USD 50,000

Project Contact

Temesgen Berisso
Programme Analyst - Disaster Risk Management
Temesgen.berisso@undp.org