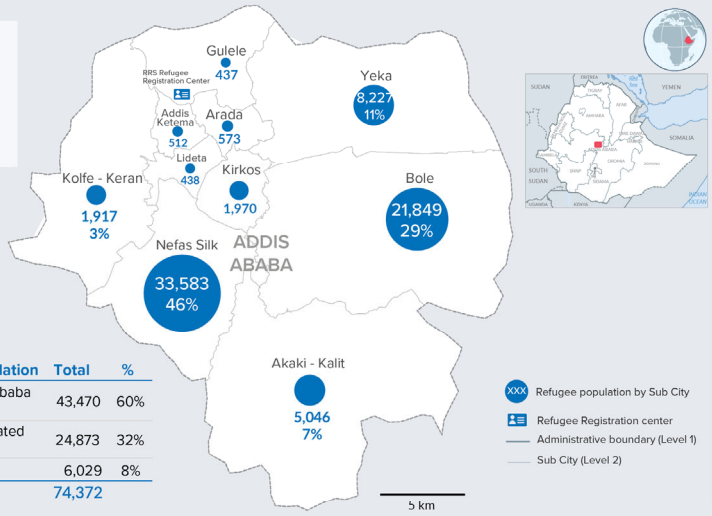
Addis Ababa Quarterly Urban Factsheet
April 2023

©UNHCR/Eduardo Soteras Jalil: Refugees and host community members train together to improve job prospects at Nefas Silk Polytechnic College in Addis Ababa.

74,372 Individuals

45,252 Households



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Category of population	Total	%
Eritreans in Addis Ababa not self-relocated	43,470	60%
Eritreans self-relocated from Tigray	24,873	32%
Other nationalities	6,029	8%
Total	74,372	

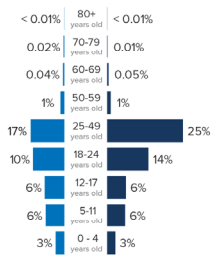
Country of origin

Refugees residing in Addis Ababa are originated from 28 different countries

Eritrea	68,447 (92%)
Yemen	2,448 (3%)
Somalia	1,032
South Sudan	668
Syrian Arab Rep.	695
Congo DRC	484
Sudan	165
Burundi	75
Djibouti	55
Others*	303

Demography

Male 45% | Female 55%



Children (0 -17 years) 30%

Adults (18 - 59 years) 68%

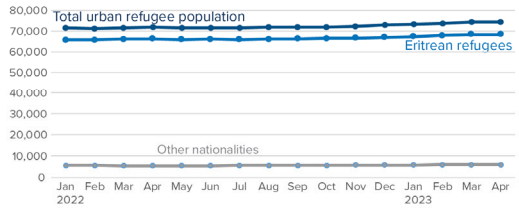
Elderly (60+) 1%

Women & Children 71%

Household representatives

Female 57% | Male 43%

Urban population trends | Jan 2021 - Dec 2022



The refugee population in Addis Ababa has doubled since January 2022, mainly due to self-relocation movements of Eritrean refugees from Tigray region.

Persons with specific needs

Specific Need	F	M	Total
Women at risk	1,624	-	11,624
Single parent	3,102	82	3,184
Child at risk	1,285	1,398	2,683
Unaccompanied or separated child	1,294	1,329	2,623
Serious medical condition	835	760	1,595
Persons with disability	258	380	638

1 January 2023 – 31 March 2023

Operational context

Over the last decade, Ethiopia has witnessed significant influxes of refugees from neighboring countries, primarily Somalia, South Sudan, Eritrea and Sudan. As of June 2023, the country hosts 912,000 refugees, including 74,353 urban refugees living in Addis Ababa.[1] Eritrean refugees make up approximately 92 % of the population in Addis Ababa, followed by Yemenis, Somalis, Congolese, and other nationalities.

Women constitute over half (55 percent) of the urban population, while children make up for 30%. Many are at risk and have specific protection risks such as survivors of gender-based violence, women heads of families or unaccompanied and separated children.

The 2022 Participatory Assessment report revealed that urban refugees and asylum seekers face a range of protection challenges that affect their wellbeing and dignity. Some of the most pressing issues are: the delays in accessing asylum procedures and obtaining valid documentation, the lack of sustainable livelihood opportunities and economic inclusion programs, Child protection challenges such as Unaccompanied and Separated Children, school enrollment and dropout problems, the prevalence of gender-based violence, especially among women and girls, gender-based violence (GBV), physical safety and security issues pertaining to arbitrary arrest and detention, and irregular onward movement.

To mitigate and address these risks, UNHCR together with the Governments Refugee and Returnee Services and partners have been working closely with the refugee community to strengthen existing community-based protection mechanisms. The RRS conducts registration and documentation with support of UNHCR. UNHCR advocates for access to asylum, provides cash-based interventions, protection case management and response, child protection (CP) interventions, provides protection from sexual and gender-based violence including Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), supports health and education services, individual counselling and legal aid, and facilitates livelihood opportunities and durable solutions.

Immediate needs

Protection
Access to asylum, registration, and issuance of documentation

Child Protection
Adequate family-based care for unaccompanied children & birth registration

Livelihood
Work permit & business license issuance, development of skill sets for refugees

Prevention & Response
to Gender-Based Violence

Health & MHPSS Assistance
for Self-relocated Eritrean refugees

CBI (Cash Based Intervention)
Regular and targeted assistance

Strategic objectives of the Urban Refugee Management Programme for 2023-2026

- Ensure that the most vulnerable urban refugees have access to basic needs & national social protection schemes;

[1] The country wide figure does not include the nearly 100,000 Somali refugees who fled from Laascaanood since February 2023.

- Strengthen community-based mechanisms and improve meaningful participation of boys, girls, men and women;
- Strengthen women's and girls' participation and empowerment and protection from exploitation and abuse through CP, GBV and PSEA interventions.
- Increase opportunities for self-reliance through access to viable economic opportunities.
- Facilitate the integration and inclusion of refugees into the national education and health systems.
- Support a wider range of durable solution for more refugees.

UNHCR's response

Legal Protection

- Registration and documentation: UNHCR supports the Ethiopian government's Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) to conduct registration and documentation interventions for refugees and asylum-seekers in Addis Ababa.
- Registration and documentation for newly born children has been resumed since January 2023.

Cash Assistance to Urban Refugees

- Between 1 January and 31 March 2023, 5,205 refugees and asylum-seekers have been included in the cash assistance program for medical, protection, and humanitarian reasons to cover part of their basic needs. Moreover, one-off cash assistance was provided through UNHCR's partner Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission (DICAC) to cover the refugees' immediate need for additional 170, newly identified families.
- Despite continuous needs, budget constraints prevented UNHCR from continuing to aid with refugees who had spontaneously moved to Addis Ababa. UNHCR continues to engage with donors to bridge the funding shortfall.
- Results of the Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) conducted in June 2022 are featured in the below chart:

Findings CBI Post Distribution Monitoring | 687 respondents

Housing situation and monthly average costs

	Average cost
Rent (Monthly rent)	4,300 ETB
Electricity (Payment per month)	305
Water (Payment per month)	110

ETB : Ethiopian Birr | 1USD = 51,6 ETB

Renting is by far the most common housing arrangement among urban refugees, and 90% of those who do, live in one 1-bedroom apartments. The average cost of a 1-bedroom apartment is 4,300 ETB, which alone, exceeds the entire monthly amount that most households in the Programme receive.

Top 3 expenditures

1. Rent
2. Food
3. Clothes & shoes

Top 4 basic needs households can not afford

1. Clothes & shoes
2. Rent
3. Food
4. Education

All respondents reported spending the majority of their cash assistance on rent and food, respectively. However, for Self-relocated Eritrean refugees, shoes and clothes were particularly important as both a prioritized purchase but also first among the expressed items they could not afford.

Top 2 coping mechanisms

Female respondents (378 respondents)

1. Reduce expenditure hygiene items, water, baby items, health, or education (43%)
2. Take out new loans or borrowed money (40%)

Male respondents (309 respondents)

1. Take out new loans or borrowed money (48%)
2. Move to a poorer quality shelter (40%)

Health

- More than 5,200 urban refugees and asylum-seekers are included in the UNHCR health assistance program implemented through its partner organization, DICAC. Moreover, most vulnerable refugees benefit from emergency medical assistance and targeted cash support. Refugees who had self-relocated from Tigray camps are not included in the health assistance program due to budget constraints, with targeted assistance being provided to those most vulnerable only.

- In the first quarter of 2023, 1,508 refugees benefitted from Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services. Of these, 178 participated in individual and group counselling sessions, while 1,207 refugees were reached through community-based psychosocial support. A total of 108 refugees

benefitted from MHPSS capacity-building programs, while 15 were assisted through MHPSS assessment and referral to the urban protection reception center. MHPSS monitoring and reporting tools have been developed and are anticipated to be put in use as of April.

Education

- UNHCR has worked to ensure the inclusion of refugee children in the national education system by promoting and strengthening school enrollment.
- In the 2022/23 academic year, 877 refugee students (406 girls), who were enrolled in school, received education assistance. The education assistance program supported 877 refugee students (406 girls) who attended school in the 2022/23 academic year. The program provided funds for transportation and stationary materials for the students, who were distributed across different levels of education: 135 (55 girls) in pre-primary, 584 (281 girls) in primary, and 158 (70 girls) in secondary education.

Child Protection and Youth Program

- During the first three months of 2023, over 900 refugee children were reached through the child protection interventions. A total of 362 Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC), and other children at-risk received targeted support, including family-based alternative care, cash assistance and MHPSS.
- A total of 231 children at risk benefitted from Best Interests Procedure (BIP) and specialized child protection case management services.
- Some 3,300 refugee children and youth benefited from services at three Child Protection and Youth Centers, managed by the implementing partner JRS. Refugee children and youth benefited from art therapy, language and computer classes, life skills training, individual/group counselling services.
- To enhance community-based child protection mechanisms, 49 Refugee Outreach Volunteers (ROVs) and 61 other refugee community members received child protection training.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

- Survivors of GBV were supported and were referred to appropriate services, including psycho-social, medical and legal support, based on their wishes and needs.
- UNHCR and DICAC provided material support to three one-stop centers to strengthen access to quality multi-sectoral response services, including access to health, psychosocial support, and case management.
- In Addis Ababa, UNHCR and its partner celebrated International Women's Day under the theme "DigitALL: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality" highlighting the importance of gender equality, and fight against GBV and PSEA. Moreover, the Great Ethiopian Run organized a women-only run on 26 March, with the participation of 60 refugee women and girls.

Access to Justice

- UNHCR in collaboration with the Addis Ababa University Law School provided free legal aid services for urban refugees.
- The program supports urban refugees by providing services such as legal counselling, support in the drafting of legal statements and other documents, such as such as tenancy contracts petitions, and application letters to government institutions.
- In addition, representation before courts of law is also being considered for selected cases identified based on vulnerability. Between 1 January [t] and 31 March, 21 Eritrean and Yemeni refugees received direct legal assistance. Legal information sessions targeting close to 200 refugees are planned for the second quarter 2023.

Accountability to the Affected People (AAP)

- To discuss 2023 priority activities, UNHCR organized a two-day consultative workshop with refugee representatives, UNHCR and partners' staff. The workshop aimed at examining the 2023 projects and determine if they address the concerns raised by the urban refugee population in the 2022 PA.
- The protection reception desk provided individual counselling to 711 refugees between 1 January to 31 March, while the call centre supported 957 individuals through counselling. In addition, 302 callers were also supported to submit their complaints through the UNHCR online digital platform (Digital Request Compliant System). Most of the complaints were related to lack of assistance and livelihood opportunities in Addis Ababa.

Refugee Community-Based Structure

- Refugee leadership structures and community-based structures are established to ensure participation and enhance community-based interventions. They provide an essential bridge between humanitarian actors and communities and support the delivery of protection services. These structures also aim to empower refugees and create a sense of ownership over projects and initiatives.
- Training was provided to ROVs, refugee youth, and women's associations to strengthen their skills and knowledge on community structures and to help them better serve and protect those most vulnerable, including women and children.

Self-reliance

- About 4,917 refugees in the urban program have gained skills in several professions. Many of these refugees have been targeted in technical and vocational training programs organized by UNHCR partners in Addis Ababa such as the Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS) and Organization for Women in Self Employment (WISE) to help refugees build the required skills and enhance livelihood opportunities. Moreover, UNHCR continues to work with RRS to mitigate legal and procedural hurdles for skilled refugees to gain access to employment.

With thanks to our donors:

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Further documents and information are available on UNHCR data-portal Ethiopia page, please click on the following link: https://data.unhcr.org/en/country/eth