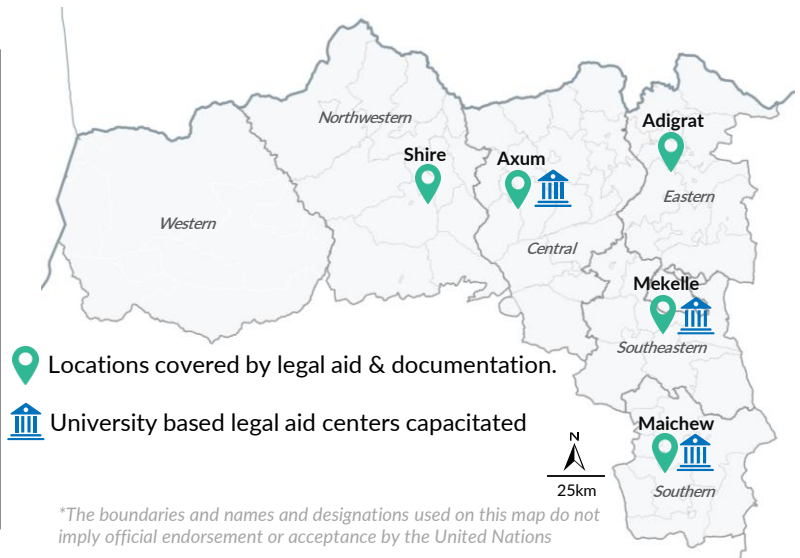


## OVERVIEW

UNHCR Tigray, in partnership with Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus Development & Social Services Commission (EECMY-DASSC), has played a crucial role in enhancing access to justice for the displaced population in Tigray, Ethiopia. The Tigray conflict has had a devastating impact on the region, resulting in widespread displacement and damage to Housing, Land, & Property (HLP) and documentation, as well as significant impairment to justice institutions and service providers. In response, UNHCR, in collaboration with EECMY-DASSC, has provided vital legal aid and capacity-building support to the displaced population in close partnership with university-based legal aid centers, justice institutions, community leaders, and the interim administration of the region.



## MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACTS

### Legal Awareness, Counselling, and Assistance

UNHCR, in collaboration with EECMY-DASSC and university-based legal aid centers, provided **legal counseling to 1,104 individuals** and **raised legal awareness among 16,384 individuals**. Additionally, **413 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and returnees received financial support to cover legal service expenses**, including transportation and court fees. Through these legal aid centers, **42 individuals were represented in court for legal and HLP issues**.

### House, Land and Property (HLP)

UNHCR, through its partner EECMY-DASSC, **identified and managed 3,871 HLP issues**, provided legal aid services, and coordinated the HLP Area of Responsibility (AoR) in collaboration with competent authorities and the national HLP AoR. Further, the HLP AoR led by UNHCR assessed HLP issues in the newly accessible six woredas of the southern zone.

### Documentation

UNHCR Tigray, through its partner EECMY-DASSC, supported the regional government to **restore ID cards and civil status documentation** through the identification of lost documentation for **35,254 individuals**. Further, UNHCR supported the regional roadmap on Kebelle ID through material support to the regional statistics bureau with an A3 scanner, 36 laptops, 2 printers, and 28 Desktops to ensure the inclusion of displaced populations in regional initiatives for Kebelle ID, UNHCR in collaboration with National ID Program (NIDP) and Ethio telecom also supported the **national digital ID card initiative, benefiting 31,103 IDPs to receive national ID card from Ethio-telecom**.

### Way Forward and Key Priorities for 2025

- ❑ **Enhancing** Legal Counseling and Awareness Services in return areas.
- ❑ **Focus** on training justice professionals to ensure a more informed and responsive legal system.
- ❑ **Providing** essential material support to justice institutions at woreda and zonal level.
- ❑ **Manage** HLP issues and leveraging HLP AoR Coordination to conduct assessments in Northwestern.
- ❑ **Enhance** the capacity of community leaders, aligned with the Community Based Protection (CBP) Strategy for Tigray, to manage dispute.

### Material Support to Legal Institutions

UNHCR Tigray provided **material support to 18 governmental and justice institutions**, including Bureau of Social Affairs & Rehabilitation (BOSAR), legal aid centers, the justice bureau, the statistics bureau, supreme courts, and police commissions, with computers, laptops, and stationery materials.

### Capacity Building

UNHCR provided capacity-building training to **591 justice professionals**, including judges, prosecutors, and police, on **protection risks for displaced populations**, including trafficking in persons and smuggling, HLP, and the rights of the displaced. This collaborative effort with other humanitarian agencies such as UNFPA and OHCHR ensures a more informed and responsive legal system. In Shire, OHCHR, IOM, and UNHCR also organized a three-day **training for 36 key role of law actors to combat trafficking and smuggling of Eritrean asylum seekers** in 8 Woredas of the Central Zone. Furthermore, UNHCR has **equipped 425 community leaders**, such as social courts, community prosecutors, and community police, with knowledge of **community dispute resolution mechanisms and HLP**.

### Capacitating Legal Aid Centers through Small-scale Agreements

UNHCR, through its partner EECMY-DASSC, strengthened the capacity of legal aid clinics of **Mekelle University, Raya University, and Axum University** through Memoranda of Understanding to provide free legal counseling and court representation to the host community and displaced populations.

### Key Challenges

- ❑ **Limited** number of humanitarian organizations working on access to justice and HLP.
- ❑ **Damaged** governmental service providers due to conflict and impairment to entertain legal matters and restore documentation.
- ❑ **Limited** humanitarian access and lack of civil administration in the return areas.
- ❑ **Damaged** justice institutions that can address legal referrals and formal justice mechanisms.