

Eritrean refugees 2020/2021 Country Operations Planning

Refugee Coordination Group Meeting - 25 March 2019



Operational context



- There are approximately 170,000 Eritrean refugees residing in Ethiopia. Some 70,000 are settled outside of the camps, while 18,000 reside in urban areas. It is expected that the total population figure will decrease by 30% following the L3 registration.
- Ethiopia continues to receive new arrivals, with women and children constituting 86.1% of those seeking asylum; predominantly for the purposes of family reunification, since reopening of official border crossing points in September 2018.
- Refugees, including unaccompanied and separated children, leave the camps to pursue onward movement to urban areas or to third countries, motivated by the desire to reunite with relatives, access to improved educational services and earn an income to support family numbers that have remained in Eritrea.
- The percentage of refugees opting for onward movement is difficult to ascertain.



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency



ARRA

Protection and solutions strategy

- Advocacy with the Government of Ethiopia to ensure continued [access to asylum](#), including maintaining [prima facie refugee status](#) for Eritrean refugees;
- Strengthening refugee protection through the expansion of improved community-based and multi-sectorial [child protection](#) and [SGBV programmes](#);
- Strengthening of [foster](#) and [community care](#) arrangements for a large number of UASCs;
- Well-designed [youth support programmes](#) to provide viable options for meaningful occupation;
- Continuing support for [family reunification](#);
- Continuous joint UNHCR-ARRA [border monitoring](#).





Planning assumptions

- The Eritrea-Ethiopia border will remain open.
- There will be no significant improvements in the political and security environment in Eritrea.
- On average, there are 40 new arrivals per day in Afar and 250 new arrivals per day in Tigray.
- Gradual decrease in the number of new arrivals, and continued onward movement among refugees in Tigray region.
- In Afar, more than 30% of refugees will settle among the host community; 12,000 in Tigray will choose the out-of-camp option.

Operational Priorities

- [Dynamic border situation](#) – need for continued protection presence and border monitoring.
- Full exploitation of [out-of-camp](#) potential with CRRF and emphasis on economic inclusion opportunities.
- Promotion of alternative legal pathways and alternatives to camps as a [response to onward movement](#).
- Increased [Child Protection](#) and [SGBV response](#).
- Sensitization and awareness raising on the [risks of trafficking](#) and detention.
- Enhanced [WASH](#) and [shelter](#) response.
- Facilitation of development actors' engagement in [inclusion of refugees into national services](#) (education and health among others).



Challenges

- A significant **influx** would require additional human and financial resources.
- Raise the quality of service provision, which are currently **below standards**, in particular in education (low enrolment rates), health, WASH, nutrition and shelter.
- Impact of underfunding of **child protection activities**, including foster and community care arrangements.
- Insufficient interventions for **persons with specific needs** such as persons with disabilities and older persons.
- Insufficient **youth** programming.
- Insufficient **household energy** programming.
- Challenges in **providing resources** in the Tigray region due to the fact that Tigray is not deemed to be an emerging region.

Opportunities, Regional initiatives

- IGAD focusing on inclusion of refugees in education and national health services, livelihoods.
- GIZ engagement in TVET.
- UNICEF investments in education, water.
- Dutch partnership focusing on economic inclusion.
- WB IDA 18 and IDA 19 supporting inclusion of refugees in education with a focus on secondary education.
- Engagement with private sector (agriculture).
- Potential inclusion of refugees in regional development plans.



Thank you