HIGHLIGHTS

• At the end of June 2018, there were a total of 22,443 refugees in Addis Ababa, mainly from Eritrea, Yemen, Somalia, South Sudan and other nationalities, mainly from the Great Lakes region.

• Of the total population, 859 are children, who arrived alone or were separated from their parents or relatives during flight.

• Of the 22,443 urban refugees, 17,720 (79%) are Eritrean refugees, majority of whom are beneficiaries of the Government’s Out-Of-Camp Policy.

• UNHCR provides reception services at the Urban Refugee Reception Centre, located around what is popularly known as Hayahulet Mazoriya in Addis Ababa. In addition to registration and documentation services, individual protection and resettlement counselling is available at the center from Monday to Thursday every week, between 9:00 am and 4:30 pm.

• Coordination of programmes targeting the urban refugees in Addis Ababa is done through the monthly Urban and Kenya Borena Sub-Working Group meetings held every first Wednesday of the month. The forum brings together the government refugee agency (ARRA), UNHCR and all the partners working with refugees in Addis Ababa in order to ensure coordinated response in service delivery, as well as efficient use of resources.
STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- In line with the 2014 UNHCR Alternatives to Camps Policy and in the context of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Approach, UNHCR is adopting strategies that enhance refugees’ access to basic services through the national institutions; strengthen the protection environment and expand refugees’ access to self-reliance opportunities and durable solutions in coordination with both humanitarian and development actors.

- UNHCR is working to strengthen alternatives to onward movements through promoting local solutions and opportunities for urban refugees, including through advocating for increased access to education, livelihoods and employment opportunities, and resettlement and legal migration opportunities.

- Protection interventions adopt a strong community based protection approach, and UNHCR is currently working with community structures to ensuring full participation and ownership by the refugees, with the inclusion of the host community whenever possible. The Refugee Outreach Volunteers (ROVs) are continually capacitated to conduct home visits and refer vulnerable cases to established service providers and to disseminate important protection information within their communities.

CHALLENGES

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