Urban & Kenya Borena refugees

Refugee Coordination Group Meeting - 25 March 2019
Operational context – Urban refugees

- There are approximately **23,000 urban refugees** (ERT, YEM, SOM and Others) in Addis Ababa and **4,000 Kenya Borena refugees** in Moyale on the border with Kenya.

- The majority of urban refugees have out-of-camp status with **no direct material/CBI assistance**. Some 4,000 (18%) urban refugees receive financial and other assistance.

- Many requests for transfer from camps to urban context for **medical** and **protection** reasons.

- Previously **no right to work** for refugees. The majority of urban refugees rely on remittances from abroad.

- The **new Refugee Proclamation** will provide more rights – freedom of movement and the right to work.
Operational context – Kenya Borena

- Population located in two settlements - Dillo and Megado in Borena zone, Oromia region.

- Socio-cultural and linguistic similarities with host community.

- Out-of-Camp approach implemented; access to basic and social services within national structures.

- 91.6% intend to return to their country of origin. 7.8% do not intend to return and 0.6% are undecided about returning.
Protection and solutions strategy

Urban

• Identification and targeted assistance through CBI to those with the most critical, specific needs.

• Refugee inclusion and expanded refugee coordination - links with national structures for basic and social service providers.

• Self Reliance – Advocacy for increased skills training (TVET) and livelihood opportunities.

• Advancing Solutions - Complementary legal pathways, voluntary repatriation, local integration and resettlement.

Kenya Borena

• Long-term, strategic thinking with a multi-year approach.

• The Government of Ethiopia is in agreement with the roadmap proposed by UNHCR.

• Alternative legal stay options will be sought in tandem with VolRep in 2020/2021, for those who opt to remain in Ethiopia.

• International protection assessments will be undertaken with possibilities of declaration of the cessation clause for those, who may no longer have international protection needs.

• Process undertaken with the government on handover and management of facilities within the Dillo and Megado refugee settlements.
Planning assumptions

- **Onward movement continues** both from the camps to Addis Ababa and from Addis Ababa to other countries.

- More favorable protection environment, i.e. Refugee Proclamation offering **more rights** for refugees.

- **No expectations of major increase** from the camps to Addis Ababa.

- **Voluntary repatriation** will commence for the Kenya Borena refugees.
Operational Priorities

• Border dynamics between Ethiopia and Kenya, including insecurity.

• Full exploitation of out-of-camp potential with CRRF and emphasis on economic inclusion opportunities for urban refugees.

• Enhance RSD capacity of ARRA.

• Support voluntary repatriation of the Kenya Borena caseload through a multi-year approach and including various stakeholders.

• Enhance WASH response for refugees and host communities in Moyale.

• Monitor access to national services (education, health, livelihoods among others) for both urban and Kenya Borena refugee populations.
Challenges

• **Limited child protection** capacity and response is insufficient to cover the multiple specific needs of children, including UASCs.

• Insufficient targeted programming for **persons with specific needs** such as persons with disabilities and older persons among others.

• **Youth** programming needs to be prioritized and strengthened.

• **Subsistence allowances (CBI) insufficient** for refugees to meet basic needs.

• The Kenya Borena refugee situation requires **long-term**, strategic thinking with a multi-year approach and various stakeholders engaged.

• Underlying political issues around the Kenya Borena will require **significant dialogue**.
Thank you