



ERITREA

FACT SHEET

October 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

31

Identified unaccompanied and separated children

2,540

Individuals received food and cash assistance

556

Tents distributed since January

6

Shelters distributed since January

Population of concern

A total of **2604** people of concern

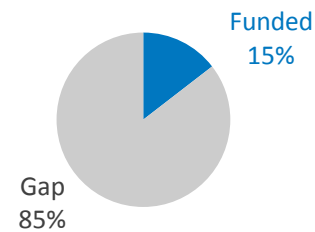
By country of origin

Country	Total PoC*
Somalia	2,540
Others	64
Total	2,604

Note: *PoC stands for "persons of concern"

Funding

USD 5,913,217 requested



9% of the 15% funding above is for Operations (Ops)

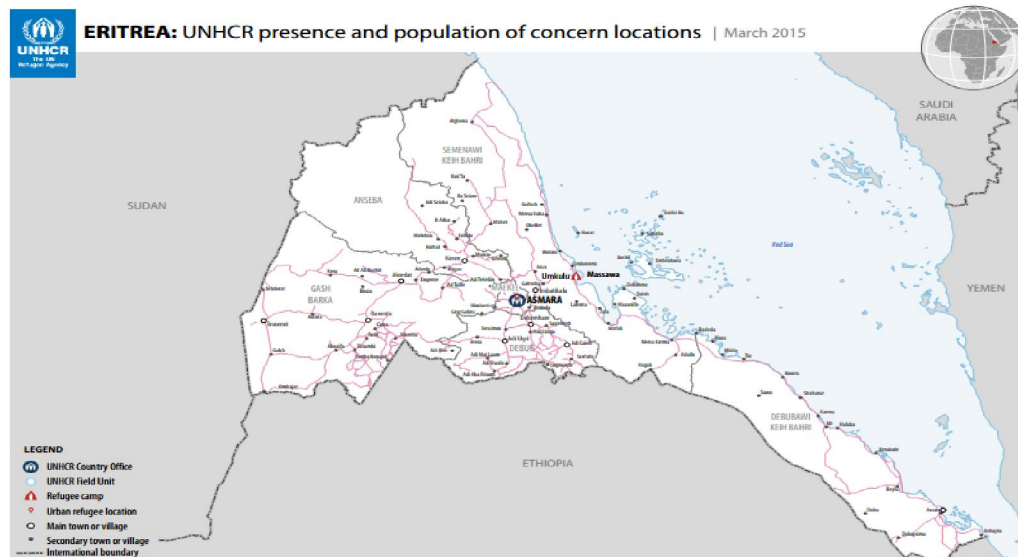
UNHCR Presence

Staff:

- 10 national staff
- 2 international staff
- 3 affiliate staff (International)

Offices:

Asmara and Field presence in Umkulu, Massawa



DEVELOPMENTS

- **134** Individuals departed for resettlement to Australia and Canada respectively, in the month of October. This brings the total UNHCR refugee resettlement departure figures for 2015 to **293** against a planned annual target of **500** persons. Expedited resettlement (RST) processing and movements from Eritrea have yet to pick up despite extensive lobbying and advocacy conducted with various stakeholders. *The photo caption on this month's factsheet captures the most recent departing resettlement group.*
- The UNHCR Eritrea refugee total between Sept and Oct 2015 has decreased by **221** persons owing to the abovementioned resettlement departures, as well as the in-activation of **87** other persons of concern that have not been in contact with the office for over 3years. It is presumed that a number of them have either spontaneously left the country, or found other means of integration within the local community, and especially after the closure of the former Elit Refugee Camp in 2012.

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- The Office of Refugee Affairs (ORA), under the Department of Immigration and Nationality remains UNHCR's sole Implementing Partner in Eritrea, with the Ministry of National Development being the third party to the Project Partnership Agreement.
- UNHCR is also a member of the UN Country Team (UNCT), under the Leadership of the UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator, and as such, actively participates in most 'Delivering as One' activities, in addition to engagement in general diplomatic corps relations and especially with key global development partners.
- IOM and ICRC remain privileged and supportive partners of UNHCR. Given that IOM is yet to open up an office in Eritrea, periodic missions are undertaken for Cultural Orientation, RST medicals and RST Departure formalities from the regional office in Kenya. ICRC continues to provide travel documents, transmit Red Cross messages and conducts family re-unification activities where feasible.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

International Protection

- During the regular continuous registration mission of October: nine New Born Babies and two individual re-activations were registered in the UNHCR *ProGres* Database, that is equally shared with the Office of Refugee Affairs.
- There were two Australian High Commissioner Video Conference interviews for 18 refugees in the month of October.
- The monthly Sexual and Gender based Violence (SGBV) and Persons with Specific Needs (PSN) working groups met in the camp. The main focus besides updating the members on ongoing SGBV and PSN refugee activities was advance planning and focus group discussions on activities to be undertaken for the upcoming 16 Days of Activism.
- Some protection counseling interviews were undertaken, as well as a reinvigorated Vol-Rep campaign in the camp. So far, some refugees have expressed interest in return for the trip planned for Nov 2015, but none has come forward to register. In the second week of November, UNHCR will conduct a mission to the camp to verify, register and counsel any interested candidates for return to Somalia and commence preparations for these.
- Refugees that will not have any identified solution by mid-Nov shall begin being interviewed per family to find out what their protection concerns are, and what durable solution would be most suitable, with summary protection assessments interviews to be conducted. Out of the 2,540 camp-based population, this number will add up to a few hundreds less than 1,000 individuals. The exact number keeps varying based on developments on the accepted/rejected cases in the resettlement pipeline.

Education

- A Meeting between UNHCR, Parents and Umkulu Refugee Camp School Teachers was held. In the meeting, all stakeholders discussed on the identified issues that affect the quality of education and way forward.
- For students who have enrolled, ORA the Implementing Partner is in the process of sourcing and eventually distributing school uniforms.

- In the month of Oct, five tertiary students were directly supported by UNHCR to pursue their education owing to a lack of continued DAFI funding for the Eritrean Programme. Education in the programme is promoted as a literary tool, protection tool, and a measure to instil discipline, especially within a protracted refugee community that has limited durable solution options.

Food Security and Nutrition

- A quarterly Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) operation exercise is undertaken every quarter of the year. The third quarter PDM was undertaken from 13 – 14 October 2015. The purpose of the monitoring was to find out satisfaction of the beneficiaries and to learn lessons to improve the humanitarian assistance provided to the camp refugees. In addition, evaluation of the Cash Based Intervention (CBI) was undertaken during the same period. The operation started provision of cash assistance in lieu of part in-kind assistance for two items in the ration, sanitation & hygiene material, and energy allowance since May 2013. This arrangement was made to empower the beneficiaries to make their own decisions about how to spend their funds to meet the need of their family members. The evaluation is the first since the introduction of CBI in the operation. Information gathered is being analysed and it is expected that the evaluation results will provide the successes and challenges faced and lessons learned.

Durable Solutions

- A total of 134 refugees departed to third countries in the month of October 2015. On 21st October 51 refugees went on RST to Australia and 29 refugees went to Canada; 54 refugees departed to Australia on 29th of October.
- UNHCR Eritrea developed a Vol-Rep campaign message aimed at promoting returns to Somalia for one more last trip before the end of 2015.
- In the month of October a group of 73 refugees bound to travel to Australia, undertook cultural orientation session by IOM AUSCO team from 25th September to 5th October 2015 in the camp.

Logistics

- In the month of October, the disposal of authorized archives continued and this was also supported by a physical verification exercise of the Implementing Partner’s warehouse and storage facilities.
- UNHCR Eritrea has yet to make arrangements for the last annual 2015 auction of used vehicles and other equipment that would require to be disposed off as had earlier been planned, owing to staffing shortfalls and other varied end of the year priorities.

UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions of donors who have given earmarked funds and contributions to UNHCR this year as well as the following donors who have directly contributed to the operation:

Swiss Embassy in Sudan | CERF Global Fund

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