



**THE SITUATION OF ERITREAN REFUGEES WHILE  
INTERACTING WITH ETHIOPIAN NATIONALS IN ADDIS  
ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

**BY: TESHOME KASSA**

**ADVISOR: ASHENAFI HAGOS (Ph.D.)**

**SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK**

**ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY**

**JUNE 2022**

**THE SITUATION OF ERITREAN REFUGEES WHILE INTERACTING  
WITH ETHIOPIAN NATIONALS IN ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

**By Teshome Kassa Asfaw**

**Advisor: Ashenafi Hagos (Ph.D.)**

**A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK, ADDIS ABABA  
UNIVERSITY  
IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ART IN  
SOCIAL WORK**

**Addis Ababa University**

**College of Social Sciences**

**School of Social Work**

**June 2022**

**ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY**  
**COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**  
**SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK**

**THE SITUATION OF ERITREAN REFUGEES WHILE INTERACTING WITH  
ETHIOPIAN NATIONALS IN ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

**By: Teshome Kassa Asfaw**

**Approval of Examining Board**

Advisor Name

Signature

Date

Ashenafi Hagos (Ph.D.)

\_\_\_\_\_.

Internal Examiner Name

Signature

Date

\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_.

External Examiner Name

Signature

Date

\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_.

## **Statement of Declaration**

I, the undersigned declare that this thesis work entitled “THE SITUATION OF ERITREAN REFUGEES WHILE INTERACTING WITH ETHIOPIAN NATIONALS IN ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA” submitted to Addis Ababa University School of Social Work for the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Art in Social Work is my original work and has not been presented for the award of any other degree or diploma in this or any other university. All sources of materials used for the study have been duly acknowledged.

**Declared By: Teshome Kassa Asfaw**

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Place of Submission: School of Social Work, AAU**

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

## **Statement of Certification**

This is to certify that the thesis work entitled “THE SITUATION OF ERITREAN REFUGEES WHILE INTERACTING WITH ETHIOPIAN NATIONALS IN ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA” submitted to Addis Ababa University School of Social Work for the partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Social Work, is done by MR. TESHOME KASSA ASFAW has been accepted for submission for the award of Master’s Social Work.

This project paper has been submitted for examination with my approval as the university advisor.

**Ashenafi Hagos (Ph.D.)**

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

## Acknowledgements

Above all, I want to thank and praise the Almighty God, who has blessed me with innumerable blessings, knowledge, and opportunities, allowing me to complete the thesis.

Dr. Ashenafi Hagos, my kind and delightful advisor, deserves an exceptional thank you. Your excellent guidance, encouraging words, and unwavering support made me strong and hopeful. You have the wisdom to simplify and clarify complicated matters. I can't express how grateful I am that you have made my dream a reality.

Thank you, my lovely and caring wife, Freweyni Gerezgher, for your inspiring words and for always being there for me. Thank you, my little angel, Rina Teshome, for your patience while I was away from home for my thesis work. Your smile and cheery welcome especially brightened my heart when I returned home after a long and hard day at the library. Thank you, my younger brother, Shewalem, for your unconditional and wholehearted support in all aspects of my life.

I also would like to thank Refugee and Returnee Service protection staff members, Eritrean refugee community representatives, and condominium residential site committee members from the bottom of my heart. Tilsh, Lensi, Endsh, Feti, and Selam, I enjoyed the time we spent together throughout the class. All of you are beyond a friend. We had a memorable time, especially Tilsh, in the AAU graduate library. I owe you a heartfelt million thanks for your warm wishes and encouragement. Thank you, Bethlehem and Kassahun, for building a dedicated and motivated thesis team.

## Abstract

When the regulations governing refugee-host community interactions become loose, the refugees might influence the host community's socio-economic structure. This study examined the situation of Eritrean refugees while interacting with Ethiopian nationals in Addis Ababa. The study utilized the descriptive qualitative method through purposive sampling. Twelve Eritrean refugees, 11 Ethiopian national residents, and nine employees of the government refugee agency participants were interviewed. The interview identified five themes: the route and travel conditions, Addis Ababa as a transit destination, the two safety features, interaction and actions, and government support. The findings of the study revealed that the way the Eritrean refugees lived with host communities disrupted the living conditions. Understanding this can help responsible agencies such as RRS, the city administration of Addis Ababa, and UNHCR prioritize and respond primarily to the safety and economic burden of the host community.

### **Keywords:**

Addis Ababa, Eritrea, Family reunification, Interaction, National Residents, Refugee, Safety

## List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

AA – Addis Ababa

AAU – Addis Ababa University

DRC – Democratic Republic of Congo

DStv - Digital Satellite Television

EBCG – European Border and Coast Guard

ENDF - Ethiopian National Defense Force

ETB – Ethiopian Birr

EU – European Union

FDRE – Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

ID – Identity Document

IOM – International Organization for Migration

NGO – Non-Governmental Organization

OAU – Organization for African Union

OECD – Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development

RRS – Refugees and Returnees Service

SNNPR – Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Region

TVET - Technical and Vocational Education and Training

UN – United Nations

UNHCR – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

USA – United States of America

USD – United States Dollar

## Table of Contents

Acknowledgments.....	v
Abstract.....	vi
List of Acronyms and Abbreviations .....	vii
List of Tables .....	xi
List of Figures.....	xii
<b>CHAPTER ONE .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1. Introduction.....	1
1.2. Statement of the Problem.....	3
1.3. Research Questions.....	7
1.4. Research Objectives.....	7
1.4.1. General Objective .....	7
1.4.2. Specific Objective.....	7
1.5. Significance of the study.....	8
1.6. Scope of the study.....	10
1.7. Limitations of the study .....	10
<b>CHAPTER TWO .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>2. LITERATURE REVIEW .....</b>	<b>12</b>
2.1. Refugee Context at the Global Level.....	12
2.2. Refugee Context in Africa .....	17
2.3. Refugee Context in Ethiopia.....	20

2.4.	Eritrean Refugees in Ethiopia .....	21
2.5.	Refugee Legal Frameworks in Ethiopia.....	29
2.6.	Out of Camp Scheme in Ethiopia .....	31
<b>CHAPTER THREE</b> .....		<b>34</b>
3.	RESEARCH METHODS .....	34
3.1.	Study Design.....	34
3.2.	Study Area .....	35
3.3.	Sampling and Sample Size.....	36
3.4.	Instrument Development Procedure.....	40
3.5.	Data Collection Procedure .....	42
3.6.	Data Analysis .....	44
3.7.	Ethical Considerations .....	46
<b>CHAPTER FOUR</b> .....		<b>47</b>
4.	DATA PRESENTATION.....	47
4.1.	The Route and Travel Conditions .....	48
4.2.	Addis Ababa as a Transit Destination.....	51
4.3.	The Two Safety Features .....	55
4.4.	Interaction and Actions .....	61
4.5.	Governments' Support.....	68
	Summary of Key Findings .....	73
<b>CHAPTER FIVE</b> .....		<b>74</b>

5. DISCUSSION .....	74
<b>CHAPTER SIX</b> .....	<b>80</b>
6. CONCLUSION AND SOCIAL WORK IMPLICATIONS .....	80
6.1. Conclusion .....	80
6.2. Social Work Implications.....	81
<b>REFERENCES:</b> .....	<b>84</b>
Annex-I .....	92
Interview Guide .....	92
Annex-II.....	97
Interview Participants' Demographic and Background Information.....	97
Annex-III .....	99
Survey questionnaire to residents .....	99
Annex IV.....	101
Survey questionnaire to refugees .....	101
Annex-V.....	103
Survey Participants' Demographic and Background Information.....	103
Annex VI.....	104
Participants Consent Form.....	104

## List of Tables

Table 1: Demographic and background information of interview participants among refugees .	97
Table 2: Demographic and background information of interview participants among Ethiopian nationals .....	97
Table 3: Demographic and background information of interview participants among RRS staff members .....	98
Table 4: Demographic and background information of survey participants among refugees ....	103
Table 5: Demographic and background information of survey participants among refugees ....	103

## List of Figures

Figure 1: Conceptual framework: the interaction between Eritrean refugees and host communities in Addis Aaba. June 2022. ....	33
Figure 2: Eritrean refugees' residential location in Addis Ababa, June 2022. ....	36
Figure 3: The desire of Eritrean refugees to go abroad. ....	53
Figure 4: Number of refugees received remittance and frequency. ....	54
Figure 5: Refugees who felt safe in their neighbourhood. ....	57
Figure 6: Ethiopian residents who felt safe in their neighbourhood. ....	59
Figure 7: Safety changes observed after Eritrean refugees started living in the locality. ....	61
Figure 8: Shared social practices among Eritrean refugees and Ethiopian nationals. ....	62
Figure 9: Support one another among Eritrean refugees and Ethiopian nationals when situations are tough. ....	62
Figure 10: Ethiopian residents' response on rental cost of residential houses. ....	65
Figure 11: Response of Eritrean refugees and Ethiopian nationals on the cost of goods in their locality. ....	66
Figure 12: Eritrean refugees' response on rental cost of residential houses. ....	67

## CHAPTER ONE

### 1.1. Introduction

People flee and seek asylum in almost every corner of the world for a variety of reasons, such as persecution, violence, war, and natural calamities. Other factors that contribute to displacement include weak government administration, attacks by rebel and terrorist groups, and religious and ethnic conflicts (Lischer, 2017). As a result, the refugee population globally keeps increasing with occasional periods of falling, predominantly from conflict-ridden parts of Sub-Saharan Africa, Middle East regions, South America, and Southeast Asia (Adesina et al., 2022).

On the other hand, economic reasons are a major factor in fleeing one's home country. Making the distinction between those who desire to immigrate for economic reasons and refugees, as international refugee laws designate those people, is also difficult. This is because a large portion of people who apply for political asylum each year are from impoverished, unstable countries where there is a real risk of persecution and where leaving would have a considerable economic benefit (Hatton, 2020).

Africa is a continent that hosts about one-third of the refugees in the world (UNHCR, 2020). Host countries and refugees in Africa are facing the challenges of destabilizing effects of the huge number of refugees in their economy, environment, politics, and security aspects (Alloush et al., 2017). The camping situation in Africa is also protracted and short of provisions such as shelter, food, water, health facilities, education, and other needs of the refugees. Moreover, finding durable solutions is challenging for humanitarian organizations and governments (Kumssa et al., 2014).

In Ethiopia, refugees from South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea, and Sudan account for the majority of refugees sheltered in Ethiopia (Brown et al., 2018). Eritrean refugees, who are about 161,607, are hosted in Tigray, Amhara, and Afar regions and urban areas of Ethiopia such as Mekele, Bahirdar, Desse, Adama, Bishoftu and Addis Ababa (Poole & Riggan, 2020). Eritreans also make up the majority of those residing in urban areas through the out-of-camp scheme, which the government of Ethiopia has established for refugees who can afford to live outside of the camps.

The out-of-camp scheme allows refugees to move and live in urban areas of the country, which most Eritreans consider a more welcoming destination than the camp settings that are established in border areas (Connell, 2016). Furthermore, in 2019, Ethiopia approved the refugee proclamation, giving refugees more freedom of movement and socioeconomic inclusion, including the right to work (Betts, Fryszler, Omata & Sterck, 2019). Although Eritrean refugees living in Addis Ababa are the majority (82%) of the total refugees in the city (UNHCR, 2022a), they continued to be involved in the onward movement to countries where they perceived it as a place for permanent settlement.

In many ways, the living conditions of Eritrean refugees are similar to those of Ethiopian citizens. They share residential neighbourhoods, and their children attend similar schools, use a shared market, and benefit from other services such as hospitals and consumer association shops like Ethiopians do. Considering the importance of examining the influence and contexts of interaction in managing the refugee operation, this study explored the situation of Eritrean refugees interacting with Ethiopian citizens, particularly in Addis Ababa.

## 1.2. Statement of the Problem

The complex and multifaceted phenomenon of refugees has captivated the attention of researchers across various disciplines. Studies have explored refugee experiences, including crisis dynamics, displacement patterns, social networks, socio-environmental impact, and psychological toll. These studies have also examined the effectiveness of different refugee management strategies, including resettlement, repatriation, and local integration, in promoting the well-being and protection of refugees. Additionally, researchers have explored the ethical and legal dimensions of refugee policies, examining the balance between the rights and responsibilities of refugees and the obligations of host countries (Vogiazides & Mondani, 2020; Yeshwas, 2021; Hoseini & Dideh, 2022).

Conte and Migali (2019) studied “the global refugee crisis”, including associated factors and primary causes. The findings of this study showed that insecurity, organized violence, conflict, and terror, as well as adverse economic and political circumstances, all play a role in the refugee crisis. The higher asylum recognition rates were also positively linked to increased the influx of asylum claimants. Furthermore, the presence of past migrant populations in the destination country and a shared language between the nations of origin and destination are among the factors that contribute to the increase in new asylum claims.

Tuzi (2019) explored the “patterns of movement” of Syrian and Eritrean refugees along the borders of European countries, focusing on insecurity and asylum policies. The findings indicated that the majority of Eritrean asylum seekers cross multiple borders by taking incredibly perilous risks, such as crossing the highly militarized borders between Eritrea and Ethiopia, the Sahara Desert, the Mediterranean Sea as well as borders of countries such as Libya, where

torture and abuses are severe. The study also revealed that after the passage into Italy or Greece, they relocated to other EU member states to share protection obligations based on a quota system that ignored the refugees' interests. As a result, some refugees, particularly those assigned to a nation where they do not want to live, are subjected to onward movement.

The study "Social Cohesion and Refugee-Host Interactions: Evidence from East Africa" by Betts et al. (2022) explores the role of inter-group interaction in shaping social cohesion between refugees and host communities. The study identified the importance of ethnolinguistic proximity in shaping refugee-host interactions in Uganda, Kenya, and Ethiopia. Participants were refugees from Somalia, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, and Burundi. Refugees who share ethnic or linguistic similarities with their host communities are more likely to have positive interactions. The study also identifies that informal interactions and perceptions of economic activities are salient in urban contexts, while in camp-like settings, interactions related to access to resources and perceptions of social cohesion are important.

Yeshwas Admasu (2021) studied "Forced Displacement, Gender, and Livelihoods" in Ethiopia. The study examines the factors influencing the participation of refugees and host communities in various livelihood activities, focusing on gender differences. Among refugees, Somali refugees have relatively better access to employment opportunities compared to other refugee groups, especially those from South Sudan and Sudan. The study revealed that access to employment is attributed to language skills and pre-displacement livelihoods.

Opas and McMurray (2015) studied "the situation of Eritrean refugees" living in Italy. The study identified the reasons that Eritreans fled their home country, such as lack of safety and freedom, economic opportunities, political and legal reasons, which the regime denied in their

home country. The findings demonstrated that the Eritrean government used people living in the destination country who migrated and worked for the regime to obtain information about refugees. So, most Eritreans fear returning to their home country. Employing information and communication technologies has become the only way to stay connected with their families and relatives remaining in the homeland.

Aregai and Bedemariam (2020) researched “the socio-environmental interactions” between the Eritrean refugee populations and their host communities in North Western Tigray, Ethiopia. The findings revealed that the long-term presence of a high number of Eritrean refugees in the Ainiaini camp has brought a major environmental impact. The impacts are particularly noticeable on natural resources such as forest covering, which has resulted in a decline in local tree species races. This presence also increased social conflicts between the refugees and host communities due to the economic disaster in the area, where the livelihood of the host community depends on agriculture.

Connell (2016) investigated “the movement experience” of Eritrean refugees and the gated nations of Ethiopia, Sudan, and Djibouti. The findings revealed that the Eritrean refugee communities in all three states are characterized as unstable, with many utilizing the states as stopovers on their way to their anticipated destinations. Unlike the other states, Ethiopia's decision to allow an increasing number of Eritreans to move about the urban areas under its Out-of-Camp Scheme has made it a more welcome destination, and the refugees also perceive it as the safest and most secure destination.

Betts et al. (2019) studied “The refugee economies” in Addis Ababa. The findings revealed that Eritrean refugees were employed informally as beauticians/hairdressers, mechanics,

day labourers, teachers, and carpenters. However, the number of employed refugees is small compared to the total population of Eritrean refugees living in the city. The findings, on the other side, indicated that the refugees in the city are bored, idle, and despairing. As a result, the majority of them want to travel to Europe, North America, or Australia.

To summarize, several scholars have studied various aspects of the global refugee crisis, focusing on Africa in general and East Africa and Ethiopia in particular. Among the groups examined the most are those of refugees from Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, the Congo, and Eritrea. According to numerous research and reports from refugee agencies, the number of Eritrean refugees living in urban areas of Ethiopia is on the rise. The number of Eritrean refugees in Addis Ababa rose from 46,052 to 66,018 between June 2021 and June 2022 (UNHCR, 2021a; UNHCR, 2022). However, it is unclear whether the presence of Eritrean refugees in Ethiopia, particularly in Addis Ababa, “burdened or benefited” the host community. Existing studies such as “The Refugee Economies” by Betts et al. (2019), “Acculturation Experiences of Eritrean Immigrants” by Tenaw (2021), “trans-local networks and long-term mobility of Eritrean refugees” by Adugna et al. (2022), and “livelihood impacts of refugees on host communities” by Solomon et al. (2022), ignores the influence of the living conditions of Eritrean refugees and the host society in Addis Ababa. Therefore, this research examined one of the existing gaps by looking into the situation of Eritrean refugees while interacting with the hosting communities of Ethiopian nationals in Addis Ababa.

### **1.3. Research Questions**

1. How do Eritrean refugees interact with Ethiopian nationals in Addis Ababa?
2. How safe are the communities where Eritrean refugees and host communities coexist?
3. How do the living conditions of Eritrean refugees and host communities influence each other?
4. How does the government of Ethiopia treat Eritrean refugees in Addis Ababa?

### **1.4. Research Objectives**

#### **1.4.1. General Objective**

1. To identify the situation of Eritrean refugees while interacting with Ethiopian nationals in Addis Ababa.

#### **1.4.2. Specific Objective**

1. To identify how Eritrean refugees interact with Ethiopian nationals in Addis Ababa.
2. To identify the influence of Eritrean refugees on the safety of the host communities in Addis Ababa.
3. To examine the influence of Eritrean refugees on the living conditions of host communities in Addis Ababa.
4. To explore the Ethiopian government's treatment of Eritrean refugees in Addis Ababa

## 1.5. Significance of the study

Various actors in the international community work to address emergencies and humanitarian aid, focusing on life-saving aspects of the displaced population. On the other hand, other key actors are interested and exert efforts to overcome the root causes of asylum seekers' decision to leave their home country based on the notion that preventive measures are better than curative measure (Alix-Garcia & Saah, 2010). However, this study identified the situation of Eritrean refugees during their interaction with Ethiopian nationals in Addis Ababa. The findings can help actors at international, regional, and local levels to provide due attention in designing projects that can respond durably to the situation of refugees and host communities.

The study can contribute to development implications such as improved refugee integration, enhanced livelihood opportunities, strengthened community relations, and informed policymaking. The study's findings can help improve refugee-host integration, one of the most important aspects of refugee durable solutions, and help guide targeted interventions that foster social cohesion and ease tensions. To further support sustainable development and regional stability, evidence-based suggestions can also be made for policy interventions that cater to the needs of both host and refugee groups.

The results of this study can be applied in practical ways for stakeholders involved with Eritrean refugees residing in Addis Ababa. These stakeholders may include refugee support organizations, government agencies, and community leaders. For instance, refugee support organizations can utilize the findings to design and implement programs that cater to the specific needs of Eritrean refugees, including their social, economic, and cultural integration. Similarly, government agencies can use the results to make informed policy decisions relating to refugee

management, service provision, and integration strategies, thereby ensuring equitable and effective treatment for refugees and host communities.

This research can contribute to the academic discourse on the intricate relationships between refugees and host communities in urban areas, specifically focusing on the political and historical complexities involved in the Eritrea-Ethiopia dynamic. By providing empirical data on the experiences of Eritrean refugees in Addis Ababa, this study can shed light on the situations of their interactions with Ethiopians, ultimately enriching the understanding of refugee integration and intergroup relations. Through a focused examination of refugee-host dynamics in a specific urban context, this data can also inform and refine existing theories in this field.

The study can contribute to the broader field of refugee research by filling a significant gap in understanding Eritrean refugees' experiences in Addis Ababa, particularly in terms of their interactions with Ethiopian nationals. More specifically, the study can also contribute to employing innovative research methodologies that capture the complexities of refugee-host interactions, providing valuable insights for future studies and advancing theoretical frameworks in refugee studies, particularly regarding the influence of political and historical factors on refugee-host dynamics. The study can also help to promote collaboration by fostering collaboration among researchers from different disciplines, bridging the gap between refugee studies, urban studies, and social psychology.

The findings of this study can inform policy development and implementation at local, national, regional, and international levels. Local governments, especially the city administration of Addis Ababa, can be informed about policies related to refugee management, service provision, peaceful co-existence, community relations, and promoting effective and inclusive

integration strategies. National policy decisions regarding refugee resettlement, integration, and protection can also be guided, ensuring equitable treatment and adherence to national and international refugee laws. The study's findings can also contribute to regional initiatives to address refugee flows, promote cooperation among neighbouring countries, and foster regional stability. International organizations and donor agencies can be informed on effective refugee support and integration approaches, ensuring that Eritrean refugees receive adequate attention and opportunities for a dignified life.

### **1.6. Scope of the study**

This study was limited to Eritrean refugees residing in Addis Ababa, specifically in areas where many refugees and Ethiopian nationals coexisted. The study only focused on two aspects: first, the interaction between Eritrean refugees and host communities in terms of safety, security, and living conditions, and second, how Eritrean refugees were treated by the Ethiopian government in Addis Ababa.

### **1.7. Limitations of the study**

One of the study's primary limitations is that some of the first contacted individuals declined to participate. Despite a sufficient number of individuals participated after being informed of the study's objectives and their freedom to withdraw at any time, as well as their identities, will not be included in the study report.

The other limitation was that, even though the Eritrean refugee participants were able to speak Amharic, it was quite difficult to comprehend their accents for a few words in the middle of a

conversation. To thoroughly understand the terms and concepts, the researcher kept asking questions in different ways. Additionally, the researcher transcribed all interviews and had them reviewed by a native Eritrean speaker to confirm the accuracy of the interpretations.

## CHAPTER TWO

### 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1. Refugee Context at the Global Level

Currently, the world refugee crisis is at all-time high that is caused by a combination of factors that can be explained at the national, regional, and international levels. Conflict, violence, persecution, and human rights violations are the main drivers of this forced displacement. The current world politics is getting more complex than ever (Barry-Murphy & Stephenson, 2018), and the economy is also experiencing the biggest inflation in history (Hatton, 2020). The world environment is causing catastrophic disasters around the world. All these combined features of the world drive the refugee crisis to the highest and is only expected to worsen (McCormack, 2018).

In 2022, the war in Ukraine led to the largest single displacement of people since World War II and it resulted in the exodus of more than 7 million people to the country's borders (Bai et al., 2022). Other major refugee crises include those in Syria, Afghanistan, Yemen, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. As a result, the current refugee crisis has become more complicated in terms of management and response, making it more difficult to find long-term solutions such as repatriation, resettlement, and local socio-economic integration (Lischer, 2017).

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR, 2021b) global trends forced displacement report shows that at the end of 2021, an unprecedented 89.3 million people around the world have been forced to be displaced. Among these, nearly 27.1 million (30.4 %) are recognized refugees and 4.6 million are asylum seekers dispersed around the world. Some of these people are displaced for the first time, while others are displaced recurrently, including

moving onward, both within and outside of their home countries. Various types of conflict, violence, war, persecution, or human rights violations are the major reasons for the escape from the home country.

According to Adesina et al. (2022), nearly three-quarters of the global refugees live in countries bordering their country of origin. Moreover, the vast majority of the refugees are hosted in developing nations, which often are already socially, politically, and economically insecure, and many of these hosting environments are likewise fragile. Correspondingly, based on the global refugee trend analysis of UNHCR (2020), about one-third of the total refugees and asylum seekers in the world are located in Africa.

In his paper, Dagi (2017) argues that the humanitarian crisis in Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan in 2015-2016 should be considered exceptional in Europe. It is because the refugees' demography, politics, sociology, social psychology, and economics have all become extremely complicated. Niemann and Speyer (2018) also indicated that refugees from Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia, suffering chronic poverty, political instability, wars, and climatic catastrophe in their home countries, flee to Europe in search of protection. On the other hand, Europe has viewed itself as a victim of the "crisis," so the European Border and Coast Guard (EBCG) regulation was enacted in October 2016. According to Brekke and Brochmann (2015), onward movement is another worldwide exacerbating feature of the refugee crisis, including in inter-European countries.

Shultz et al. (2020) revealed that the complex conflict in Syria as a result of forces with different objectives, such as religious, secular, ethnic, and political groups, caused the massive displacement of millions of citizens. It began with public rallies calling for democratic reforms

but quickly worsened into bloodshed and a protracted civil conflict. Besides, a systemic and historical analysis by Gleick (2014) indicated that extended drought, agricultural failures, water mismanagement, and rural-urban workforce migrations contributed to the country's political and socio-economic context degradation.

According to Ruaudel and Morrison-Métois (2017), the refugee crisis brought a multi-dimensional burden to the refugee hosting communities. These communities may be able to shoulder a burden for a while or up to a certain point, but unexpected outcomes may occur once the pressure exceeds the community's upper bound for tolerance. Communities in developing countries are more vulnerable, and their tolerance capacity is minimal. When many refugees continue to live in a community under a protracted situation, the community is likely to suffer economic consequences. In contrast, in countries where practicable refugee law and livelihood initiatives are in place, the outcome could be positive and even reinforce the local economy.

Msabah (2018), in his study, also pointed out that refugees might contribute to the socio-economic development of host countries. Although refugees are frequently depicted as helpless people whose only source of income is aid and the generosity of others, they frequently possess a variety of talents and expertise that they have demonstrated in the course of ensuring their dignity and well-being. Often, assistance and humanitarian agencies, including governments of refugee-hosting countries, are not observed employing this capability to contribute to local social and economic development.

Another study by Alix-Garcia and Saah (2010) showed that the refugee presence could enhance the area's economic activities by adding new skills and knowledge as well as a mass labour force. This also contributes to rebuilding social and economic interdependence within and

between communities. A study by Esses et al. (2017) showed that inclusive refugee and local development policies can benefit refugees and host communities, reducing dependency on aid and increasing resilience through mutual development programs.

Different studies revealed that it is very difficult to assess and measure the social contexts of refugees while interacting with communities of host countries (Ayalew, 2018; Msabah, 2018). On the other hand, Fajth et al. (2019) pointed out that when a large number of refugees are sheltered in an impoverished setting and are unwilling to establish traditional and cultural ties, the risk of social tensions, conflicts, and violence is very high. Similarly, Kibreab (2000) also revealed that refugees who share ethnic ties and a common language with the hosting community are more likely to form social bonds than those who do not.

According to Taylor et al. (2016), integrating refugees economically with the host community is easier than social integration. Members of host communities may also believe that the presence of refugees in the area is exacerbating social issues. A study by Aregai and Bedemariam (2020) in the Tigray region of Ethiopia also shows members of the host community perceived Eritrean refugees in the area as bringing various social problems such as alcohol consumption, gambling, smuggling, prostitution, and crimes.

Gebrehiwet et al. (2020), in their research, revealed that prolonged mental health impacts happened because of the presence of refugees in the area for a longer period. According to the findings of the study, Eritrean refugees sheltered in the Mayaini camp in Ethiopia disrupted the socio-cultural norms of the host community. The refugees posed various social and health-related risks, such as sexually transmitted infections and other reproductive health problems to members of the host communities.

According to Fajth et al. (2019), the social impacts of refugees on the host community are highly conditional. The social impact of refugees who live within the community, for example, with relatives in the community, may differ from those who live in a specific camp. On the other hand, refugee management policies that promote integration and social cohesion may positively impact the host community, whereas strict refugee management policies may harm social cohesion.

In countries where refugees are residing on a camp basis, environmental damages such as deforestation, pollution of water resources, soil erosion, and losses of biodiversity are increasing. It is often a result of the presence of a significant number of refugees for a relatively long period in refugee-hosting countries. Predominantly, African countries where encampment is more common are affected much more than those of European countries where urban-based hosting is more common. In Africa, the majority of refugee-hosting communities rely on agriculture, particularly crop cultivation and cattle. These kinds of livelihood are easily utilized and highly exploited by refugees with an agricultural background who have settled in the area (Fajth et al., 2019).

Similarly, in research conducted in Mayaini, an Eritrean refugee camp located in the northwestern part of Ethiopia's Tigray region, there have been several supportive activities for the mutual benefit of both refugees and host community members. For example, sharing health and education facilities, joint committees to strengthen peaceful co-existence, and sharing social services are among the mutual benefits. Contrariwise, the presence of thousands of refugees in the camp brought several consequences, most of which were environmental and socioeconomic. Besides, different consequences, especially in the area of security, such as violence and criminality during fuel wood collection, as well as sexual activities that were outside the

community's social standards, were also mentioned by key informants from the host community (Gebrehiwet et al., 2020).

In the study by Aregai and Bedemariam (2020), the findings showed that the proximity of refugee camps to the forest area and the increasing refugee influx to the area are the two most important contributing causes to environmental degradation. As the number of refugees increases, so does the need to build more houses and use more wood as a source of energy for cooking. Consequently, deforestation occurs, resulting in increased soil erosion and declining agricultural production.

When a new refugee camp is established in areas where the environment is well managed, and host community members are benefiting from it, an impact assessment needs to be conducted before deciding on the establishment. Once the environment is significantly affected by deforestation and soil erosion, it is very challenging and needs an extended period to be restored. Especially when the refugees are dependent on firewood for household energy consumption, the effect is much more devastating because the reforestation program may not be successful (Fajth et al., 2019; Gebrehiwet et al. (2020).

## **2.2. Refugee Context in Africa**

Conflict-related displacement is one of the most critical issues affecting refugees in Africa. The devastating effects of conflict on families and communities and the trauma that refugees often experience are among the major challenges refugees face in Africa. Refugees in their host countries often have limited access to education, employment, and healthcare. They may also experience discrimination and stigma (Kebede et al., 2022).

Aside from the difficulties encountered, the positive aspect of the situation is the contributions refugees make to their host countries. In addition to bringing extensive knowledge and experience, refugees can be significantly important to social and economic advancement. Among the host nations with a more accepting and inclusive approach to refugee resettlement is Ethiopia, which also has a higher level of recognition and support for refugees (Solomon et al., 2022).

In recent decades, conflict and political instability have significantly impacted Central Africa and the Great Lakes sub-region. Recent security and political issues in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi have resulted in large numbers of forcibly displaced people seeking asylum in Rwanda and other neighbouring countries. By the end of 2017, Rwanda had taken in more than 170,000 refugees from neighbouring countries, with more than 80,000 of them coming from the DRC's North Kivu region (Fajth, Bilgili, Loschmann & Siegel, 2019).

East Africa has also recently hosted the largest number of refugees of any African region, in addition to generating a large number of refugees. For instance, in 2017, two-thirds of the world's refugees were from Somalia and are residing mainly in Kenya and Ethiopia. Climate change, environmental degradation, military warfare, and economic disorder may all have contributed to this high number. Political crises, such as unstable governance, terrorism, and human rights violations, are factors of the refugee crisis in Eastern Africa (Kumssa et al., 2014).

According to Ayalew (2018), the Horn of Africa, as one of the most conflict-ridden regions in the world, is also known for a mass exodus of asylum seekers. It is still witnessing an uninterrupted flow of displaced people with an increasing trend as a result of multifaceted and protracted situations in South Sudan, Somalia, Sudan, Eritrea, and Ethiopia that have worsened

over decades. These neighbouring countries live in deprived situations and suffer from recurrent conflicts, economic crises, and political calamities, resulting in an increasing trend of forced displacement and onward movement in the region.

According to Adesina et al. (2022), in the year 2017, there was the biggest number of African refugees, owing primarily to the crisis in South Sudan. The large-scale ethnic-based armed conflicts in South Sudan have caused forcible displacement and involuntary resettlement in the region and neighbouring countries such as Ethiopia. This continuous and complex violence has engulfed whole parts of the country and affected it widely, like its social, economic, and political systems.

According to Zambarki (2015), various countries and agencies have attempted to address the refugee crisis in the country of origin, such as South Sudan. Development, humanitarian, diplomatic, military, and security changes all came together to provide a long-term solution to the crisis in South Sudanese. However, the majority of initiatives failed because of limited funding, less commitment, and other various reasons, so the crisis continued in the form of internal displacement and escape to neighbouring nations.

Eritrea is also one of the major sources of refugees in the Horn of Africa, which has added more than half a million refugees over the last decade, with many of them passing through without being registered or counted (Connell, 2016). According to Ayalew (2018), the refugee crisis in Eritrea is facilitated by people who smuggle. He also identified the causes of economic failure, political instability, and social disorder. The majority of refugees are hosted in neighbouring countries of Ethiopia, Sudan, and Djibouti, both in camp settings and urban areas. Bariagaber (2013) also pointed out that the refugee situation in Eritrea is deep-rooted with

various circumstances, such as its political history, border-related wars, and fight for liberation so it is too complex and not easy to bring a long-lasting solution.

### **2.3. Refugee Context in Ethiopia**

With its long history of open-border policy, Ethiopia is among Africa's top three largest refugee-hosting countries (Gebrehiwet, Abrha, Gebreyesus & Teweldemedhin, 2020). According to UNHCR's monthly fact sheet report, by the end of March 2022, more than 837,533 registered refugees and asylum-seekers from 37 different countries are sheltered in the country. Among these, refugees and asylum seekers from East African countries such as South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea, and Sudan account for the vast majority, respectively. Eritrean refugees in Ethiopia are 158,662, with 65,825 living in Addis Ababa under the out-of-camp arrangement (UNHCR, 2022a).

Refugee and Returnee Service (RRS), which is the government refugee agency, applied both prima facie and individual-based types of refugee recognition (Wood, 2019). After the recognition and registration procedures, the refugees were assigned and relocated to one of the refugee camps in the country based on their nationality and availability of resources. The refugee camps were established in different Regional States of Ethiopia, such as Tigray, Gambella, Afar, Somali, Benishangul Gumuz, Oromia, and SNNPR. About 90% of the refugee population in Ethiopia was living in the refugee camps even though about 80,000 refugees were residing outside of the camps, with more than 71,000 persons in Addis Ababa alone (UNHCR, 2020; Betts et al., 2019).

In partnership with UNHCR, RRS, as a mandated refugee agency of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia /FDRE, coordinates activities of protection and assistance for

refugees and asylum seekers in Ethiopia. RRS and UNHCR are also working on promoting durable solutions for the refugees residing in the country. Voluntary repatriation, local integration, and resettlement to third countries are among the major durable solutions. Because the conditions in the home countries of most refugees in Ethiopia are not conducive to voluntary repatriation, and local integration in Ethiopia is not yet a reality, providing resettlement possibilities remains a foremost priority (Poole and Riggan, 2020; Betts et al., 2019).

Through RRS and the UN Refugee Agency, in collaboration with local and international organizations, the government of Ethiopia is working to strengthen refugee protection in camps and out-of-camp settings (Brown et al., 2018). Different basic and social services such as health care, food, education, housing, and potable water are provided to the refugees who are residing in the camp. On the other hand, refugees who are part of the out-of-camp scheme are dependent on their resources, family assistance, or remittances to support themselves (Gebrehiwet et al., 2020).

#### **2.4. Eritrean Refugees in Ethiopia**

In Ethiopia, about 24 refugee camps where refugees and asylum seekers from 26 countries of origin were sheltered were operational in the middle of 2022. Among these, 158,300 Eritrean asylum seekers and refugees were sheltered in four refugee camps at the end of November 2021, predominantly young age groups. The inflow trend of Eritrean asylum seekers to Ethiopia is characterized by a persistent and sharp increase until the end of 2019 (UNHCR, 2020). According to Poole and Riggan (2020), Eritreans are among the biggest asylum seekers in Europe, with many of them transiting through Ethiopia. Asylum seekers from Eritrea initially arrive in Ethiopia's Tigray region, where they will find shelter, water, food, and other necessities in four main refugee camps: Mayaini, Adi Harush, Hitsats, and Shimelba.

According to research by Betts et al. (2019), about 79 per cent of Eritrean refugees in Addis Ababa are unemployed. Among the employed refugees, only 14% are self-employed even though their income is less than that of Ethiopian nationals compared to those who engaged in a similar job. Hairdressing, mechanics, daily work, teaching, and carpentry are among the occupations in which most Eritrean refugees are engaged.

#### **2.4.1. Eritrean Refugee Flight Reasons**

The reasons for the refugee flight in most African countries are not limited to persecution but also include various non-persecutory factors (Chhangani & Chhangani, 2011). Eritrea, for many reasons, generates hundreds of thousands of refugees and also continues to be one of the world's highest refugee-producing countries. This is due not just to the fact that many refugees in the country of asylum have never returned home but also to the fact that new asylum seekers have continued to escape (Ayalew, 2018).

Bereketeab (2017) also revealed that the process of becoming a nation-state is linked to the substantial beginning of Eritreans' escape to diverse destinations worldwide. It was sparked by a 30-year war of independence that lasted from the 1960s to 1991 and then exacerbated by various internal matters, including severe drought and famine. For instance, a study by Tuzi (2019) identified human rights violations as the most common reason for flight. The study also identified other factors that are fueling the escape, such as the highly corrupted justice system, lack of freedom of speech, and indefinite compulsory military service.

In another study conducted in Ethiopia by Poole and Riggan (2020), Eritrean refugees left their homeland because they had little influence over their future. About half of those recently registered refugees in Ethiopia were men and women under the age of 25 years. This is because

many young citizens of the country are refusing to participate in the country's open-ended national service.

According to Müller (2015), Eritrean refugees left their home country because of a lack of state protection of the basic rights of its citizens. Among these, factors such as oppression, persecution, and denial of social, economic, and political freedoms and human rights are the main reasons mentioned by Eritrean refugees living in Israel. Hirt (2015) further indicated that sanctions imposed on Eritrea from various corners contributed to the country's political and economic instability, exacerbating the country's refugee issue.

Although the imitation behaviour of refugees has not been studied widely, Bariagaber (2013) revealed that imitation is another factor for Eritrean refugees to flee their home country. This is because most Eritreans are aware of the impact of remittances on family members in the home country and the success of other relatives who have fled to other countries. Furthermore, globalization is another enabling factor through various technologies, such as current means of communication and the internet, which make it easier to learn from prior refugees' experiences from different parts of the world.

Refugees in the country of asylum request the right to work, which is one of the reasons to flee, as well as the freedom of movement to widen their job opportunities. On the other hand, host community members consider these rights to share their job opportunities and scramble for resources (Lischer, 2017). Conversely, the majority of humanitarian organizations that are working on refugee emergencies are emphasizing the role of informal work opportunities. Although countries such as Ethiopia and Uganda recently started initiatives of socioeconomic

integration with the host community, countries of asylum around the world overlooked it because little is known about the impact (Brown et al., 2018).

Betts et al. (2019) also found that over 90% of Eritrean refugees in Addis aim to travel to Europe, North America, or Australia. It further stated that Ethiopia's absence of socioeconomic opportunities is a major factor in this aspiration. However, because most refugees are aware of the severe risk of travelling with smuggling persons, the majority of the refugees choose to travel legally to a third country.

Refugee children also participate in secondary movements for various reasons, such as the ambition for family unification, lack of child-friendly services in the refugee camp, and exposure to peer influence. People move to one country and then to other countries for a variety of reasons, including the desire to provide for their children's future opportunities and the desire of children to rejoin family members abroad (Kofman, 2019).

According to Bariagaber (2013), the decision of Eritrean refugees to secondary movement is not only a personal choice but also a result of familial pressure. This is because the refugees' family members expect them to improve the family's socio-economic condition so that their influence is both at the initial decision to leave the home country and onward movements until things are in light of the initial goal.

According to Tuzi (2019), secondary movement by refugees refers to their departure from the country of first asylum or where they were resettled to seek permanent residence elsewhere. It is fueled by the refugees' desire for better living possibilities and also geared up by factors such as social networks, educational developments, family unification requirements, and economic characteristics. As a result, asylum seekers and refugees are willing to take any risks or

dangers, including paying smuggling persons a large amount of money throughout their journey from their home country to their final destination.

Eritrean refugees in European countries know regulations such as ‘The Dublin Regulation’ and restrictions on legal institutions related to refugees and asylum seekers. However, they continue to explore various options for moving from the first-arriving country to another European country, which they perceive to be more generous. Once the refugees arrive in their first European country, they compare the integration options and opportunities across Europe in light of their initial desire to leave their home country. As a result, they repeatedly attempt various travels by playing a game like a lottery until they achieve their final destination, ultimately attaining their individual and family aspirations (Belloni, 2016a).

The issue of secondary movement does not only happen in destination countries in Africa but also in European countries. For several reasons, most Eritreans do not prefer some European countries such as Portugal, Romania, Spain, or Italy as final destinations. The refugees believe that these countries do not provide enough support for their well-timed integration and future socio-economic development. In most countries, the government decides where refugees will be transferred, which can lead to unhappiness with the assignment, particularly when refugees are sent to places they do not wish to dwell permanently (Tuzi, 2019).

According to Belloni (2016a), restrictive policy or legal measures will not prevent Eritrean refugees from moving onward within Europe. When Eritrean refugees flee their home country, they often decide to risk dying in the sea, indicating that regulations of transit countries are unlikely to influence refugee decisions of onward movement. Because of the refugees’ family or relative histories and experiences as well as the goals set to attain, legislative limits of

countries are viewed as one of the challenges they should overcome, similar to those encountered through their journey.

A study by Kofman (2018) revealed that various people worldwide perceive that life in a developed country is stress-free and that if one moves to these countries, one can change one's and family members' living conditions. One of the potential advantages of leaving a poor home country is remittance, in which the exchange rate of the currency of most developed countries is multiple times that of their home countries. They believe this can improve their family income and smooth household consumption.

A study conducted by Rimoldi and Barbiano (2020) pointed out that people, especially youth in developing countries, are widely motivated to overcome poverty by fleeing to the developed part of the world, mostly to Europe. The economic and financial system of most developing countries makes it challenging for youth groups to engage in different types of jobs or to create their own jobs.

In most developing nations, the lack of access to a decent education is one of the root causes of poverty and economic suffering. These overlapping burdens push people to leave their home country to better their education, career prospects, and living conditions for themselves and their families. Economic prospects and education are intimately linked in most refugee-producing countries and are among the main drivers for asylum seekers' departure (Bariagaber, 2013).

According to Ruaudel and Morrison-Métois (2017), most refugee-hosting developing countries, such as Ethiopia (Betts et al., 2019), let alone refugees, lack basic educational facilities for their citizens. Besides, people who take education as a reason for fleeing their home country

associate it with a better job opportunity in the destination country. The majority of parents also believe that their children's education is a long-term investment in their children's future. Therefore, lack of access to the home country or countries of asylum can force people to keep moving in search of better possibilities, especially in developed regions of the world.

According to Kofman (2018), the presence of one or more family members in a certain country abroad is one of the major reasons for leaving the home country to the rest of the family members as a whole or only a specific member of the family. The peak inflows to European countries through the Eastern Mediterranean route, especially in the autumn and winter seasons, comprise increasingly large proportions of women and children who are travelling to rejoin their families.

A study by Berhane and Tyyskä (2017) revealed that family reunification is among the major issues refugees face. Families might pay thousands of money and undertake illegal and highly risky travel for a reason for family reunification, especially for children. Family members may also move to find access to education and prospects for their children, and that individual family member is responsible for reuniting the rest of the family. The destination of the first family member may be a strategic and deliberate decision based on the left-behind family's anticipated opportunities with the expectation of rejoining later.

#### **2.4.2. Eritrean Refugee Mobility Patterns**

Many refugees' mobility patterns are directed by family and friendship ties, and they continue to travel along already-established refugee migration routes. Previous flights help to simplify the challenges and minimize costs related to flights of the new asylum seekers because of the established transportation and network by smugglers. Eritreans who have lived in the host

countries for a relatively long time send remittances or offer aid to those who plan to move or newly arrived refugees, such as giving information about registration, accommodation, and informal employment opportunities (Bariagaber, 2013).

Eritrean refugees cross over a long and challenging journey to Europe and other destinations they desire to settle permanently. In the last two decades, Eritrean asylum seekers have predominantly used the Libyan corridor to reach the Italian border and then move to their final destination (Ciabbari, 2014). On the other hand, Rügger and Bohnet (2018) argue that the destination of most asylum seekers is determined by transnational ethnic ties rather than random arrival or smuggling persons' facilitation. Berhane and Tyyskä (2017) further stated that the mobility patterns of Eritrean refugees are determined by their desires. Their primary goal is to reunite with family members who had previously migrated to the European country. Others choose their destination and pattern of movement depending on their desire to make money and the ease of reuniting with their families in Eritrea.

According to Ayalew (2018), Eritrean refugees in Africa, as well as European countries, crossed a multifaceted migratory route usually guided by smuggling persons and family members moved earlier. In addition, the majority of Eritrean refugees' journeys are fragmented, slow, and gradual, involving prolonged and careful planning. As a result, thousands of Eritreans are struggling to reach their imagined country, usually the USA and other aspired European countries, while other thousands remain in neighbouring countries of Sudan and Ethiopia.

Although it is a low number compared to the number of refugees fleeing Eritrea, in the last decade, Eritreans got many opportunities to be resettled in European nations. However, the refugees who arrived in Ethiopia, Sudan, and Djibouti did not wait for this uncertain opportunity.

Instead, they prefer to travel to Europe or other destinations where they desire to live by their options even though the options are full of risks. Northern and Central European countries such as Germany and Sweden are the most preferred destinations for Eritrean refugees (Belloni, 2016b).

Asylum seekers from war-torn or impoverished countries such as Eritrea are highly involved in perilous journeys to reach their desired destinations. In Eritrea, migration is regarded as the most effective approach for achieving an individual's socio-economic desire and ensuring family survival. Helping family members who want to move is one of the most essential responsibilities of Eritreans living in Europe or other wealthier countries (Belloni, 2016b).

## **2.5. Refugee Legal Frameworks in Ethiopia**

Although Ethiopia has always been safe for asylum seekers and refugees, it never had a comprehensive legal framework to manage issues of refugees until the Ethiopian parliament decided to enact the Refugee Proclamation No. 409/2004 in June 2004. Before this time, Ethiopia simply had neither concrete national policies nor rules to regulate the situations of asylum seekers and refugees (Brown et al., 2018).

Ethiopia is a signatory nation to international and regional conventions such as the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, and the 1969 OAU Refugee Convention. The OAU Refugee Convention of 1969 does not offer civil, political, socio-economic, or cultural rights for refugees as well as asylum seekers. However, Article 17 of the 1951 Convention contains three provisions related to the right to work, including the right to wage-earning employment, self-employment, and liberal professions, despite Ethiopia's reservations about this specific article (Wood, 2019).

The 1969 OAU Convention is widely regarded as having a broad application regarding the reason for flight and categories of asylum seekers who may be granted refugee status. However, it does not give refugee rights other than the right to seek asylum and hence may not provide authority in various aspects to safeguard refugees hosted in African countries that have signed the convention (Bariagaber, 2013; Wood, 2019).

The FDRE Refugee Proclamation No. 409/2004 in Ethiopia was the country's first applied asylum and refugee law that was enacted in accordance with international and regional conventions. It includes rights such as being able to stay in Ethiopia, being given an identity card verifying his refugee status, being given a travel document to travel outside Ethiopia, as well as special protection for vulnerable groups. These rights are given particularly to those who are recognized refugees but not asylum seekers. It further required refugees generally to adhere to the obligations stated in the 1969 OAU refugee convention, such as respecting the laws and regulations of the host country (Teferra, 2017). On the other hand, the 2004 refugee proclamation has been criticized for failing to explain refugees' rights and entitlements explicitly and in an application context. As a result, Ethiopia enacted a new refugee proclamation in 2019, referred to as 1110/2019, which gives righteous benefits to refugees and asylum seekers (Betts et al., 2019).

Ethiopia's open-door policy is maintained in the new proclamation of 1110/2019 to protect refugees and asylum seekers. However, major changes are made in terms of rights for both refugees and asylum seekers. Various rights are granted, including employment, property ownership and transfer, association formation, freedom of movement, and residential choice. Moreover, rights such as access to health, education, banking and financial institutions, telecommunication services, and justice are also widely recognized (Brown et al., 2018).

## 2.6. Out of Camp Scheme in Ethiopia

According to Fábos and Kibreab (2007), most refugee-hosting countries around the world have two types of refugee settlement policies: encampment and out-of-camp. Encampment, where refugees are restricted to living in a specific locality, is typically preferred by developing countries to reduce the socio-economic and environmental impact of refugees. As a result, most African countries, with exceptions such as Egypt and South Africa, allow refugees to settle in camps, usually near their border areas.

Ethiopia, one of the major refugee-hosting countries in Africa, has a policy of both encampments and out-of-camp schemes. The out-of-camp scheme is allowed for the refugees who can support themselves or by others, usually relatives. Because of their living styles, Eritreans and Somalis make up the majority of out-of-camp beneficiaries (Betts et al., 2019).

According to Poole and Riggan (2020), article 28 of the newly enacted FDRE refugee proclamation 1110/2019 recognizes the right of refugees and asylum seekers to move and choose where they want to live. On the other hand, under the same article, sub-article 2 of the proclamation, RRS is mandated to assign places and areas in Ethiopia within which refugees and asylum seekers may encamp or live. However, refugees' right to move freely is a rule, and the designation of restricted regions is an exception.

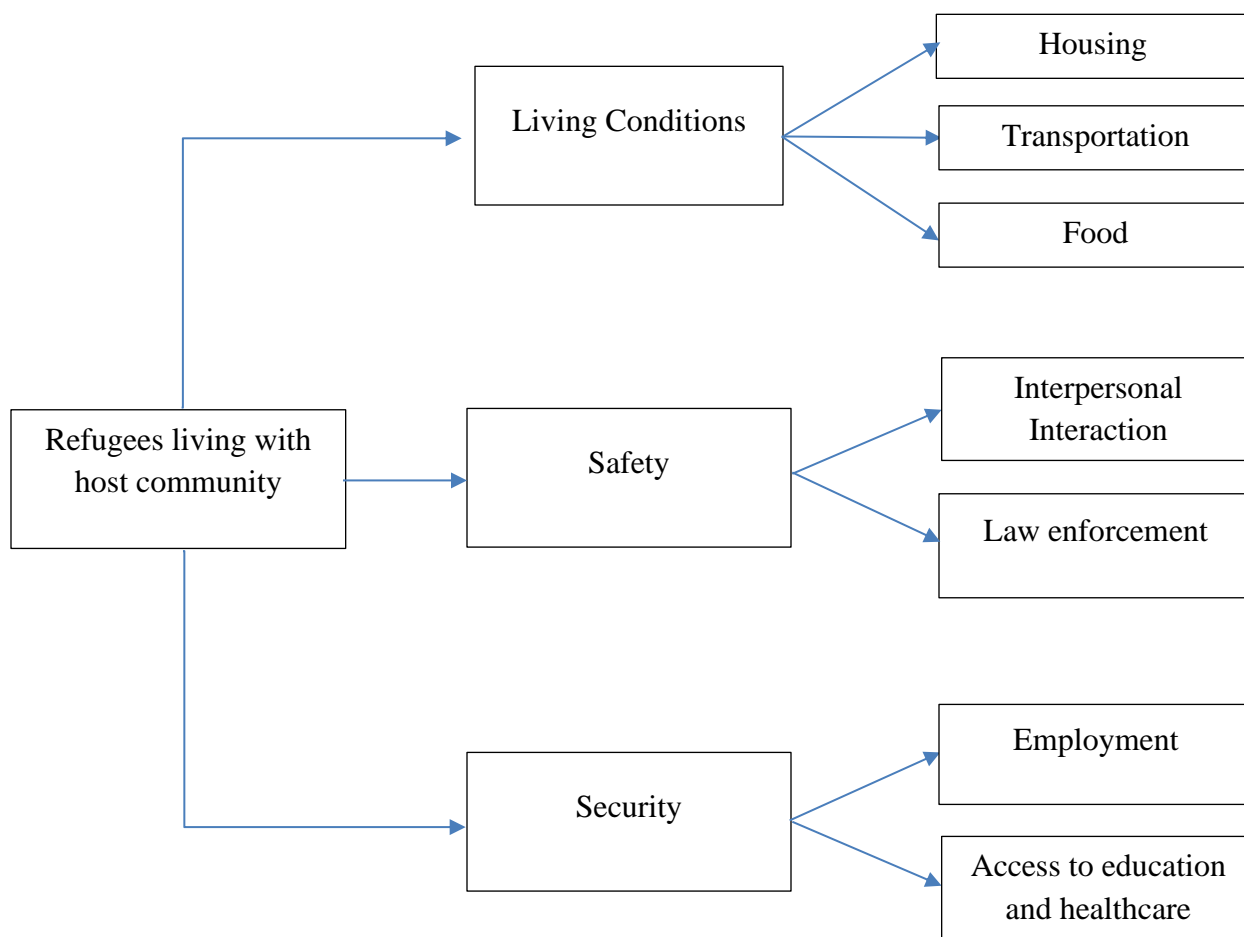
A refugee or asylum seeker residing in a camp can apply for an out-of-camp scheme at any time by requesting pass permits from RRS. The reason to leave may be related to case processing for resettlement to a third country, for educational scholarship opportunities from universities abroad, for medical referral purposes, to visit family in any part of the country, or when a refugee is required to leave the camp due to security concerns or to live out of camp permanently based on eligibility criteria (Betts et al., 2019).

## **Conceptual Framework**

According to UNHCR (2022), there are 158,662 Eritrean refugees living in Ethiopia, out of which 65,825 reside in Addis Ababa under the out-of-camp arrangement. These refugees have been registered and recognized by the Ethiopian government and UNHCR, due to political or humanitarian reasons. Various studies, such as Ayalew (2018), Berhane and Tyyskä (2017) and Belloni (2016b), have indicated that Eritrean refugees are highly mobile with the aim of reaching Europe or the US. They may stay in Addis Ababa or other parts of the country for several years, but they have a mindset of movement and remain open to different options to reach their desired destinations.

Host communities in the study are citizens of Ethiopia who reside in Addis Ababa. The interaction and coexistence of these two groups could potentially influence each other's living conditions in various ways. For example, the presence of refugees could put additional strain on the already limited resources of the city, while also potentially creating cultural and other barriers. Conversely, the presence of refugees could also bring new perspectives and experiences to the host communities, fostering greater understanding and cooperation among the groups.

In the literature review, many variables have been identified as significant in studying the interaction between Eritrean refugees and their host communities. After careful consideration, the following have been adopted from a study by Fajth et al. (2019) to be included in the framework: living condition (branched out to include housing, transportation and food), safety (branched out to include interpersonal interaction and law enforcement), and security (branched out to include employment and access to education and health care).



**Figure 1: Conceptual framework: the interaction between Eritrean refugees and host communities in Addis Aaba. June 2022.**

By examining these key concepts and variables within the conceptual framework, this study identified a comprehensive understanding of the situation of Eritrean refugees while interacting with Ethiopian nationals in Addis Ababa. The findings can contribute to developing strategies and interventions that promote better living conditions, safety, security, and positive interactions for both groups by the refugee agencies and other actors with a stake in the refugee and host community area.

## CHAPTER THREE

### 3. RESEARCH METHODS

#### 3.1. Study Design

This study utilized a mixed-method approach, combining qualitative interviews and quantitative surveys, to comprehensively explore the situation of Eritrean refugees while interacting with Ethiopian nationals in Addis Ababa. The study aimed to gain in-depth insights through interviews and gather broader perspectives through surveys. Combining qualitative interviews and quantitative surveys can help gather in-depth insights from individual experiences and broad perspectives from a larger sample size (Creswell & Plano Clark, 2018). This also enables data triangulation, enhancing the findings' validity and reliability (Johnson & Onwuegbuzie, 2004).

Firstly, qualitative interviews were conducted with a purposive sample of Eritrean refugees and Ethiopian nationals residing in Addis Ababa. These interviews delved into their personal lived experiences, perceptions, challenges, and interactions within the community. The interviews were semi-structured to allow for flexibility and exploration of emerging themes.

Secondly, a quantitative survey was administered to a larger sample size of both Eritrean refugees and Ethiopian immigrants of Addis Ababa residents. The survey questionnaire was designed based on the identified key concepts and research questions. It captured data on participants' demographics, interaction patterns, perceived safety levels, living conditions, and their views on government treatment.

Finally, the data collected from both methods was analyzed separately using appropriate qualitative analysis techniques for the interviews (thematic analysis) and quantitative analysis methods for the survey data (descriptive statistics). The findings from both approaches were integrated to provide a comprehensive understanding of the situation of Eritrean refugees interacting with Ethiopian nationals in Addis Ababa.

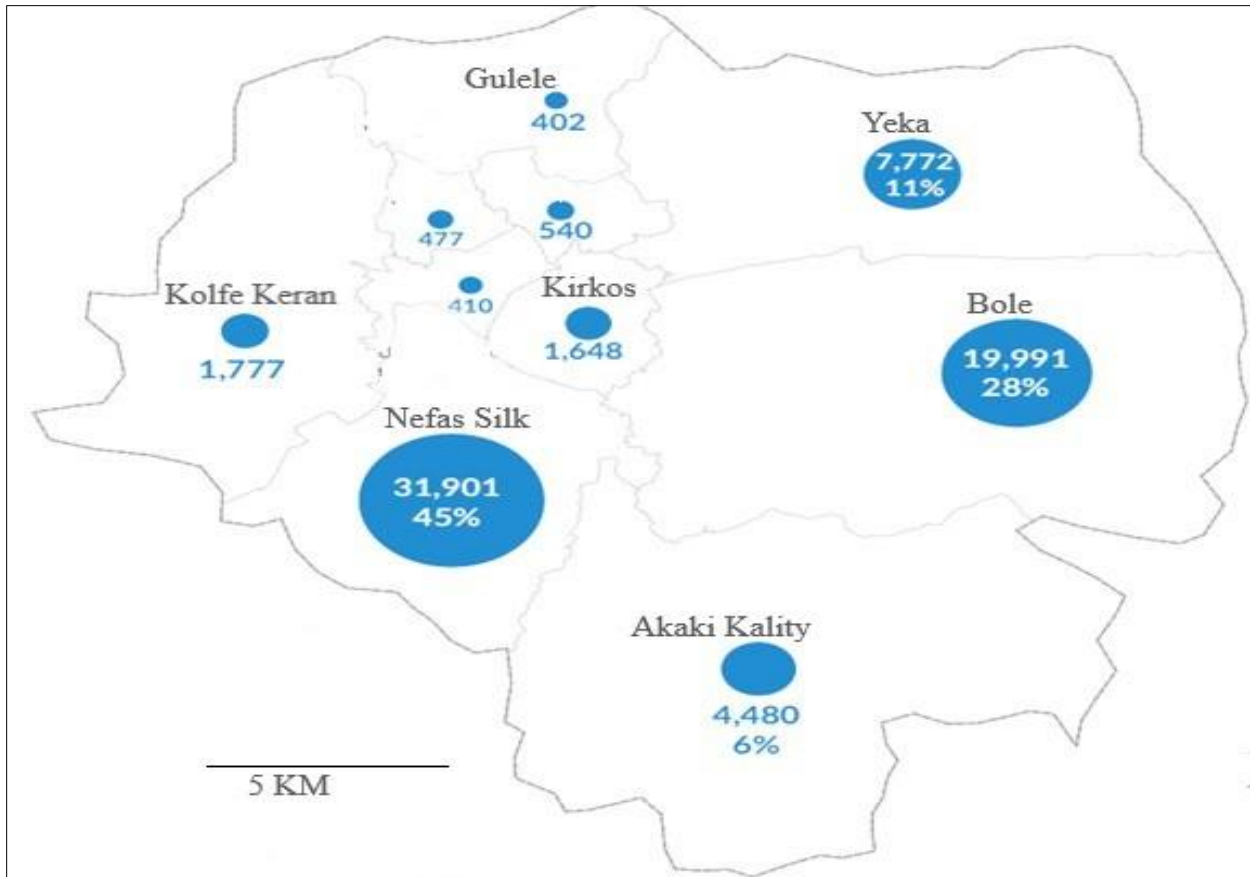
### **3.2. Study Area**

The research was carried out in Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa. The rationale for the selection was based on the fact that Addis Ababa is the only city in Ethiopia where a large number of Eritrean refugees in the out-of-camp scheme cohabit with the host community without being segregated by geography.

Addis Ababa's capital is organized into 11 sub-cities and 116 woredas. Bole Arabsa, Gelan Condominium, Jemo-1 Condominium Site, Summit area, Gofa mebrat Condominium, Yeka Abado Condominium Site, and Betel-Alembank area are localities of Addis Ababa, where a considerable number of Eritrean refugees are residing.

According to the information from elder residents in the localities, refugees started living in the area since the establishment of the condominium houses and residential houses, but the number keeps rising over time. In these areas, there are also unregistered Eritrean citizens, some of whom are seeking asylum in Ethiopia.

In the same localities, the study also included Ethiopian national residents who have various interactions with the refugees. Especially residents who are immediate neighbors of the refugees, acquaintances, who have a pub nearby where Eritreans usually spend time, and shop owners in the condominium compounds.



**Figure 2: Eritrean refugees' residential location in Addis Ababa, June 2022.**

### 3.3. Sampling and Sample Size

The participants of this study were “Eritrean refugees”, “Ethiopian national residents”, and “employees of the government refugee agency”. The rationale for focusing on these groups was first that Eritreans are among the majority (81%) of the refugees (UNHCR, 2022b) under the out-of-camp scheme in Addis Ababa. They also live in almost all parts of the city, interacting with Ethiopian nationals through daily life experiences. They have cultures, religions, physical appearances, and languages similar to Ethiopian nationals. Second, national residents are members of the host community in Addis Ababa who are more closely associated with the Eritrean refugees through being neighbourhood, renting a home, employment, and various

economic ventures. Third, the government refugee agency, the Refugee and Returnee Service (RRS) is responsible for administering the refugees in the country in collaboration with its partners. So, staff from RRS were also part of the study.

The total number of Eritrean refugees in Addis Ababa as of June 2022 was 66,018 (Female = 36,948 and Male = 29,070), out of which 19,909 were children below the age of 18 years (UNHCR, 2022a). Ethiopian national residents who were interviewed were also from localities in Addis Ababa, where many Eritrean refugees reside nearby as their neighbours.

According to the human resource department of the RRS office, it has a total of about 2,875 staff who are working in different refugee operations, including the Addis Ababa headquarters. RRS has a department called the Protection Directorate that is responsible for refugee protection. Under this directorate, particularly at head-quarter, there are a total of 41 employees.

Purposive sampling was used to select participants from the three groups of participants for an interview. During the selection process of refugee participants, there were three criteria: (1) being an Eritrean refugee living in a residential area where a large number of Eritrean refugees dwell, (2) having been in Addis Ababa for at least a year, to obtain better-experienced data and (3) being able to communicate in Amharic, to obtain lived experience with less language barrier. Criteria for the selection of Ethiopian nationals were the interaction they had with the refugees and their presence in that specific location for at least a year. The RRS employees were selected based on their responsibility for activities related to refugee protection and having at least a year of experience in that particular role.

Based on the information obtained from the RRS office, a total of 22 refugees were initially contacted at various residential areas where a considerable number of refugees were dwelling. Of the 22 refugees contacted, 18 lived in Addis Ababa for over a year. Twelve of the 18 refugees agreed to participate in the study after discussing the research purpose and their rights. Six of the 18 possible participants decided not to participate. Two of them stated that they would be flying to Canada and France within the next week and would not be involved in any further issues in this country. The remaining four potential participants said they had taken part in a variety of studies but had never benefited from them. All 12 participants were interviewed even though the researcher had reached data saturation with ten interviews. The basic background information of the participants is presented in Table 1 in the annex-II part of this research.

For the second group of interview participants about 21 Ethiopian nationals were approached initially at the same residential area where refugees were selected. Of the 21 residents contacted 16 had lived in that residential area for more than a year. After discussing the research purpose and their rights, 11 of the 16 residents agreed they would be willing to participate in the study. Five of the 16 potential participants declined to participate, and two said they were uncomfortable talking about refugees or government concerns. The remaining three potential participants said that they did not want to waste their time. They also added that the study may not result in any changes because they were disappointed with the local administration's futile efforts to correct Eritrean wrongdoings in the community. Even if the researcher has reached data saturation with eight participants, all eleven were interviewed. Table 2 of Annex II presents the resident participants' basic background information.

The third group of interview participants were employees from the Refugee and Returnee Service, which is the FDRE government refugee agency. Nine employees who have worked in the protection unit of the office for more than a year were contacted, and all of them agreed to participate in the study after learning about the research purpose and their rights. As a result, all nine employees were interviewed. The basic background information of the employees is presented in Table 3 of Annex II.

Simple random sampling was used to select survey participants from the refugee and host community members to quantify the results of the qualitative data findings. A sample of 200 refugee household focal persons was selected based on Cochran’s (1977) formula. Households were considered while selecting sample size determination for the survey to capture a broader spectrum of experiences and perspectives within the refugee community. Sampling multiple individuals from the same household can introduce bias into the data, as individuals within the same family may share similar experiences and perspectives. This can overrepresent the views of a particular household and limit the generalizability of the findings to the larger refugee population.

According to UNHCR (2022), there are 417 Eritrean refugee households in the Nifas Silk, Bole, Akaki Kaliy, and Yeka sub-cities of Addis Ababa, where 90% of Eritrean refugees reside. Therefore, a sample of 200 refugee household focal persons was selected based on the formula:

$$S = \frac{z^2}{(4 \times e^2) + \frac{z^2}{n}} \quad S = \frac{1.96^2}{(4 \times 0.05^2) + \frac{1.96^2}{417}} = \underline{200}$$

- where:
- S** is the desired sample size
  - n** is total population.
  - z** is the z-score corresponding to the desired confidence level (1.96 for 95%)
  - e** is the desired margin of error (0.05)

A complete list of all members of the target refugee population was created with their unique household numbers, which RRS and UNHCR gave during the registration process of their initial arrival to Ethiopia. A set of random household numbers corresponding to the desired sample size were generated. These random numbers were generated using an Excel random number generator. Then, the generated random numbers were matched to the corresponding list in the sampling frame. The individuals associated with the matched identifiers are selected as samples for the survey.

For the group of Ethiopian nationals, immediate neighbours of the selected refugees were sampled. This is mainly because they may have firsthand observations and experiences interacting with refugees, providing insights into the dynamics of refugee-host interactions. They also share similar social and economic environments, providing a valuable comparison group to assess the unique experiences of refugees. Therefore, a similar sample size of 200 focal persons from neighbouring households was selected for the survey participants among Ethiopian nationals.

### **3.4. Instrument Development Procedure**

In general, two survey questionnaires and three qualitative interview guidelines were developed considering the contexts of the three groups: Eritrean refugees, Ethiopian national residents, and Employees of RRS. The questions in each questionnaire and interview guide were interconnected better to understand the participants' perspectives on common issues. Probing questions were included in the interview guides to get more detailed information from individuals. The questionnaires and guides for all groups of participants were initially written in English and then translated into Amharic by the researcher.

The interview guide prepared for the refugee includes questions about the path refugees took while fleeing to Ethiopia and the conditions encountered along the way. Aside from that, feelings of being safe while living in Addis Ababa, cost of living and means of earning, interactions with Ethiopian nationals, as well as support and treatment by the Ethiopian government were included.

The interview guide developed for Ethiopian nationals includes questions about the conditions of Eritrean refugees in their vicinity and any changes noted after the arrival of Eritrean refugees. Furthermore, questions about their feelings of safety while living in Addis Ababa, their interactions with Eritrean refugees, and how the Ethiopian government treats and supports Eritrean refugees were also included.

The interview guide prepared for the employees of RRS includes questions about the conditions of Eritrean refugees in Addis Ababa in general and any influence observed in the city as a result of Eritrean refugees. Furthermore, the interaction between Eritrean refugees and Ethiopian nationals in Addis Ababa as well as the support and treatment provided by the office of RRS, a government refugee agency in the country, were also included.

The survey questionnaires prepared for both the refugee and host communities are quite similar in general, with only a few questions specific to the refugees. These questions pertain to their desire to move to third countries and remittance. The questionnaires generally cover a wide range of topics such as safety issues, cost of living, treatment of refugees by the government, and community support between Eritrean refugees and Ethiopian nationals. The questions have been designed to gather quantified information about the refugee and host communities' living conditions and interaction experiences.

Before the actual data collection, the instruments for data collection were tested. The pilot test aims to examine if instruments adapted to the contexts of refugees, national residents, and employees of the government refugee agency are practical. It can also help identify unforeseen challenges that may compromise the quality of the study. Two pilot tests were done in each of the three groups. Based on the identified shortcomings and ideas supplied by the participants, two different modifications and corrections were made, one in the refugees' guide and the other in the residents' guide.

Before piloting the instruments, all the participants were informed of the purpose of the pilot testing and the actual study, and their consent was obtained. Participants who participated in the pre-test were not included in the study. The piloting was also made a week before the actual data collection.

### **3.5. Data Collection Procedure**

#### **3.5.1. Interview**

Interviews began when they fully comprehended all the questions they had raised, including their right not to participate. The interviews were carried out approximately between 41 and 67 minutes. All the refugee participants and four of the eleven residents had their interviews voice recorded. However, none of the RRS employees were comfortable having their voices recorded. The researcher took notes for all the off-record interviews, including emotions and body gestures.

Based on the information obtained from the RRS office, the researcher contacted refugee representatives and asked them to take him to the refugee participants' residential locations after briefing them about the study. The representatives took him to their residential area and started

interviewing the participants. Nine of the refugees were interviewed at home, two in nearby restaurants, and one on the side of the road near his house. Following the interviews with the refugees, the researcher interviewed their immediate Ethiopian national neighbours. Eight of the Ethiopian national participants were interviewed at home, one at his retail shop, one in her boutique, and one in a restaurant. On the other hand, all of the RRS employees were interviewed in their offices.

Some of the interview settings, such as restaurants and roadsides, were noisy and unsuitable for the researcher. Furthermore, it was difficult to persuade some of the refugee participants since they regarded the researcher as RRS staff, as he supervises concerns in residential areas on behalf of his office. After a few minutes of discussion and briefing on the study's goal and their right to not be a participant or withdraw at any time, they understood and became cooperative with the study.

### **3.5.2. Survey**

Survey questions were crafted based on the research questions and uploaded to the Google survey tool. Google Survey Tool was selected for its ease of use, cost-effectiveness, security, confidentiality, and real-time data collection benefits. Questions were organized in a logical order, starting with demographics and progressing to more specific ones. Branching logic was used where necessary to skip irrelevant questions based on respondents' answers. The survey questions' length was limited to maintain respondent engagement and minimize drop-off rates.

Recognizing the potential challenges Eritrean refugees face in Ethiopia, particularly in terms of technical literacy, language proficiency, and accessibility, the researcher took proactive measures to enhance participant engagement and data quality. Ten trained data collectors were

strategically assigned to provide comprehensive guidance and support throughout the data collection process and ensure higher completion rates. These dedicated individuals played a pivotal role in bridging the gaps between the researcher and the participants, fostering a more inclusive and accessible research environment.

The data collectors underwent rigorous training to equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to interact effectively with Eritrean refugees from diverse backgrounds and experiences. They were trained to navigate cultural sensitivities, address language barriers, and provide technical assistance whenever needed. Their expertise in both Tigrigna and Amharic, the two primary languages spoken by Eritrean refugees in Ethiopia, facilitated seamless communication and ensured that participants fully understood the research questions and procedures.

### **3.6. Data Analysis**

Qualitative data collected through the interview were transcribed and translated from Amharic to English after completing the entire interview. The transcribing and translating processes were repeated when inaccuracies were found to verify that the errors were corrected properly. After all the transcription and translation were completed, the analysis was done manually by coding and sorting the data by theme. The analysis was done manually to identify emerging themes and patterns as well as detect tiny irregularities in language, tone, and emotion that automated methods might miss.

All the data was coded and highlighted based on the central idea and stories. Then, coded information was grouped into related themes based on the story's similarity. Then, related themes were grouped to form five key themes. The key themes identified were the route and travel

conditions, Addis Ababa as a transit destination, the two safety features, interaction and actions, and government support. During data presentations, direct quotes from the respondents' stories were used to supplement and help readers make their analyses.

The decision to use thematic analysis instead of phenomenology was based on the study's objective of identifying key experiences and perceptions during interaction among Eritrean refugees, Ethiopian nationals, and the government refugee agency. As Nowell et al. (2017) outlined, by identifying patterns and themes within qualitative data, thematic analysis can shed light on how various participant groups experience the phenomenon being studied. The researcher also plays an active role in the thematic analysis process, making deliberate decisions and interpretations, while phenomenological analysis seeks to describe the essence of a phenomenon or how it is experienced by individuals in a structured and deductive approach.

The quantitative data collected through the survey was carefully exported to Excel spreadsheets for detailed analysis once the data collection was completed. The collected data was thoroughly reviewed during this process to ensure its completeness and accuracy. Any duplicates, incomplete responses, outliers, and inconsistencies were identified and addressed with utmost attention to detail. This rigorous approach to data quality control helped ensure that the final analysis was reliable and trustworthy.

The statistical technique of frequency tables was utilized to analyze the quantitative data. Various data visualisations, including bar graphs, pie charts, and tables, were created to better understand the distribution of data, identify patterns, and explore relationships between variables. These visualizations provided a more comprehensive analysis and interpretation of the data, allowing for a deeper understanding of the underlying trends and patterns.

### 3.7. Ethical Considerations

On behalf of Addis Ababa University, an official ethical clearance letter was obtained from the School of Social Work. Having the letter of clearance, the office of RRS was communicated, as it is the responsible government refugee agency in the country before the data collection. Committees of the condominium housing residents also communicated that they are responsible for the management of the residential area.

Before the data collection began, each participant in the three groups was told about the research's goal and data-gathering procedures. The interview was begun once consent had been obtained and signed by each participant. Participants were also notified of their right not to participate, or they could withdraw from the interview at any time, including after it had begun. Only pseudonyms were used in the study document to keep the participants' identities confidential and minimize the risk of harm. The recorded data were also kept confidential.

The focus of most emphasis was preventing circumstances in which participants feel exploited or under duress. The researcher is aware of the power dynamics between the data collector and participants. So, participants' autonomy was respected by giving them the freedom to participate or decline, withdraw from the study at any time, and refuse to answer specific questions. Furthermore, interactions were carried out with empathy and care, avoiding questions that can cause discomfort or re-traumatization, in recognition of the vulnerability of Eritrean refugees who may especially have undergone trauma.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### 4. DATA PRESENTATION

An interview was done with the refugee, Ethiopian national residents, and employees of the government refugee agency. There was a total of twelve participants (eight males and four females) from the refugee group. There was a total of eleven participants (seven males and four females) among the residents. The overall number of participants from the government refugee agency was nine, with six of them male and three females.

Among the interview participants the average age of the refugees, residents, and RRS employees was 32.75, 40.45, and 32.56 years old, respectively. Six of the twelve refugees who took part in the study were married, while the other five had never married. The residents, on the other hand, had eight out of eleven married participants. Six of the nine RRS employees were married, while the remaining three were never married. The detailed background information of the three groups' participants is presented in tables under Annex II.

Following the interview, a survey was conducted among Ethiopian nationals and Eritrean refugees. Of the Eritrean refugees' participants, 43% were between the ages of 25 and 34, 35% were between the ages of 18 and 24, 18% were between the ages of 35 and 50, and the remaining 8% were older than 50. Of the participants who were Ethiopian nationals, the majority (45%) were between the ages of 25 and 34, followed by 25.5% who were between the ages of 35 and 50, 21% who were between the ages of 18 and 24 and the remaining 8.5% who were beyond the age of 50.

Among the survey participants of Eritrean refugees, 54.5% of the respondents were men, 51% had never been married. Around 79.5% of these respondents had completed their education up to grade 12 and 20.5% of them had received a diploma or degree. On the other hand, among the Ethiopian citizen participants, 58.5% were female, 59% were married. Around 66% of these respondents had completed their education up to grade 12 and 34% of them had received a diploma, or degree. The detailed background information of the survey participants is presented in tables under Annex V.

#### **4.1. The Route and Travel Conditions**

For most Eritrean asylum seekers, crossing the border of Ethiopia was not an easy journey until the peace agreement between the two countries was signed. The finding showed that asylum seekers used smugglers to travel to Ethiopia before the peace agreement, which happened in the year 2018. However, the role of smugglers continued after a few months of the peace agreement. These people knew which area was safe to travel in that specific date or moment from the side of Eritrea, which was the most difficult part of the journey to leave Eritrea. Kidane, who crossed the border of Ethiopia through a place called Badme together with three other asylum seekers, reported that:

*When we came to Ethiopia, we were assisted by a person who smuggled because crossing the Ethio-Eritrean border was very difficult as the two country's defence forces were watching the border area very firmly. When we arrived at the border through a forest area with the careful guidance of the smuggler, we surrendered to the Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF).*

According to the refugee interviewees, Kidane and Yorsalem, the smugglers are from different groups. These are Eritreans, who might be either among those previously registered refugees in Ethiopia or soldiers who are safeguarding the border area or a combination of both, and Ethiopians, mostly who are living around the border area. Asylum seekers pay money to smuggle persons in different modalities. These can be paid in two ways: direct cash on hand or payment from abroad. For example, Kidane paid half of the agreement before the beginning of the journey and the other half after the arrival at the border around Badme. Yorsalem paid through her husband, who was living in the US after she arrived at the Humera border. The money is paid to the smuggling person's relative who is living abroad and confirmed to him through telephone.

The refugee participants of this study said that registration and status determination were conducted in a place called Endabaguna. Participants mentioned border crossing areas such as Zalambesa, Badme, Humera, Rama, and Fatsi, which are usually Ethiopia's first destination points. After they arrive at these points, they are assisted in travelling to Endabaguna, where registration and refugee status determination are conducted. They also said that transportation, accommodation, and a hot meal were provided at each point. Then, they relocated to the refugee camps, where they were expected to live for an unlimited period.

Participants from RRS, the government refugee agency, said that refugees were provided with assistance such as rationed food, potable water, shelter, and some core relief items in the refugee camps. Other social services such as education, health, psychosocial support, and skill training are also provided by the RRS in collaboration with its partners, such as international and local NGOs, local government administrations, and private sectors. Ato Hailu, an interviewed employee from RRS, said:

*The government of Ethiopia, represented by RRS, provided various basic and social services such as food, shelter, potable water, core relief items, health, education, psycho-social services, and skill training. On the other hand, RRS did not provide all of this assistance on its own; it works with a variety of partners, including UNHCR and others comprising international and local NGOs, local governments, and the private sector. The extent of assistance was also dependent on the fund availability that UNHCR and other international communities provided.*

Although the problems they faced after crossing the Ethiopian border were minimal, asylum seekers faced various challenges throughout their travel. Starvation and thirst, as well as theft of money, mobile phones, and clothing, were among the challenges experienced by the refugees, particularly during their passageway to Ethiopia's border.

Female asylum seekers have also reported being sexually harassed by male travellers or smuggling persons. This might happen throughout their way, including in the refugee camps. This happened to Fyori, who came with her two friends:

*We met up with another four male travellers at a place called Zalambessa while they waited for transportation to Endabaguna, which RRS will provide. We were told to wait until more people arrived before taking the transportation bus. We stayed at the Zalambesa reception facility for around four days. One of the male refugees contacted one of my friends on the fourth day and attempted to persuade her to spend the night. But she refused to accept. However, he waited until about midnight, called her outside, and threatened her as he was able to attack*

*her in the camp. She started crying, and then, after gaining awareness, I informed the RRS head at the reception about the incident.*

The asylum seekers from Eritrea, no matter what it costs, will never turn back until their dream becomes realized. They have a strong desire that might emanate from peers, relatives, or people they know who have moved abroad and changed their lives. Others also reported that they were caught by the Eritrean border guards while attempting to cross without the assistance of smuggling persons. This happens to Ahmed:

*I crossed the border of Ethiopia through Rama after repeated trials and challenges. My first trial was in 2015 when I wished to go to Canada, where my older brother is living. I was moving mostly at nighttime to reach the border of Ethiopia. After three days of my journey, I was caught by an Eritrean border guard after I passed an Eritrean locality called Sadika. He handed me over to the police and imprisoned me for more than four months. I got released after my family paid what I was penalized for. Then I tried for the second time and succeeded after a few months together with my friends with the support of a smuggler.*

#### **4.2. Addis Ababa as a Transit Destination**

Eritrean refugee participants reported that they came to Addis Ababa to facilitate their process of resettlement or family reunification to European countries or to find options to move onward. Addis Ababa and the whole migration to Ethiopia were mainly to be resettled abroad, mainly to European countries, the USA, Canada, and Australia. They were living in Addis Ababa

temporarily until their process of passage was finalized. Kidane, who was living together with his four friends and has two brothers abroad, reported:

*Here in Jemo-1, we rented a two-bedroom condominium house and are living temporarily until our process of moving abroad is finalized. My friends and I desire to move abroad to learn at European universities and work to support our families in Eritrea. We share the money sent from our families living abroad to withstand the cost of living in Addis Ababa.*

Similarly, Abraham, a participant from the government refugee agency, reported that more than 70% of the refugees who were resettled to European countries, the USA, and Australia were among the Eritrean refugees in the year 2021. Family reunification was the leading basis of Eritrean refugees' resettlement to these countries. Abraham also added that compared to the other refugees residing in Ethiopia, the desire to be resettled in developed countries is too high even though they are allowed to live in the urban areas in Ethiopia.

*The total number of registered Eritrean refugees in Addis Ababa currently exceeds 65,000. The majority of these refugees desire to go to developed countries. Among the refugees who resettled in European countries, the US, and Australia in 2021, about 70% are Eritrean refugees. It is mainly because of family reunification. Even though Eritrean refugees are more likely than other refugees in Ethiopia to take advantage of the out-of-camp program, they still have a strong desire to travel to the developed world.*

The refugees were also encouraged to travel abroad because of the extensive support they gained from their relatives who lived abroad. They believed it was simple to obtain work and

earn money once they arrived in a developed country. They believed they could also help their families in the same way that someone helped them. More so, they assumed they could process reunification for their relatives and family members who remained in Eritrea. From the survey data collected, 190 (95%) refugees desire to travel to a third country for better living conditions.

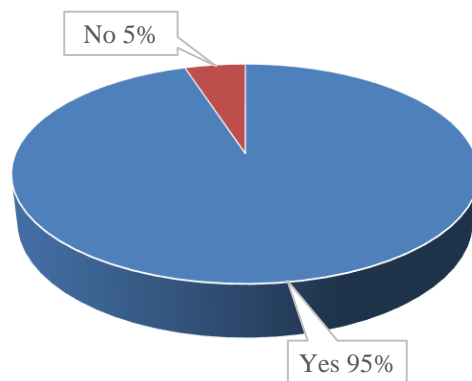


Figure 3: The desire of Eritrean refugees to go abroad.

Many of the refugees also believed that competition between friends from the same village is another reason to be attracted by the movement to developed countries. The money worth of developed-country currencies creates a huge disparity between the living conditions of families who have a member in Europe and those who do not. Even Eritrean refugees in Addis Ababa believed that working does not improve one's quality of living because a hundred dollars can be exchanged for around 8000 ETB in the black market. On the other hand, in Addis Ababa, a person has to work hard for a month to earn this much money if he succeeds. Afewerki indicated:

*Now a day I observe that living cost is more difficult for Ethiopian nationals than for Eritrean refugees. Someone who sent me 100 USD when I came to Bole Arabsa in 2018 is the same amount that he is sending to me now, but my earnings*

*in ETB are about to triple. However, most Ethiopians have to struggle a lot to earn a net monthly income of 100 USD. I have a lot of options to earn hundreds of dollars from different family members, relatives, or friends living abroad. If I tried to be employed by an organization, my salary would not be 8000 ETB, which I exchange with 100 USD, because my educational qualification is inadequate.*

From the survey data collected, 180 (90%) of the refugees received remittance; out of these, 14% received remittance regularly, 73% received sometimes, and 3% received rarely.

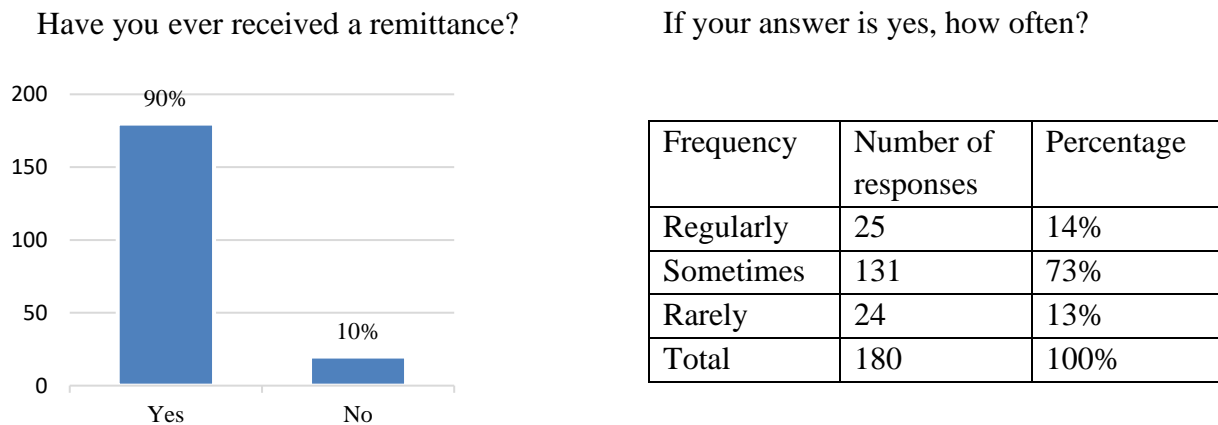


Figure 4: Number of refugees received remittance and frequency.

The refugees also reported that family expectations also influenced the high desire to go to European countries. The oldest child in the family is especially responsible for finding a way to move and arrive in one of the developed countries and then immediately should think of the options he or she has to start reunifying with the next family member. Kidane, an interviewed refugee, indicated that refugees living abroad usually use marriage as a mechanism to be reunified easily. For instance, if someone has a sister in Eritrea, he needs to find an Eritrean man who is living abroad and willing to marry his sister for reunification. In return, Her brother will

pay the man money or marry the man's sister based on their prior agreement. If they agree to exchange their sisters, both should move to Ethiopia to marry these ladies and start the unification process based on the country's legal procedure. He also said:

*The desire of most of the Eritrean refugees, including me, is to move to Western countries. Most of us do not want to work or learn permanently here in Ethiopia because our families expect us to go and pave the way for our brothers and sisters who remained in Eritrea.*

The Eritrean refugees do not choose their destination country at random. The likelihood and ease of family reunification are the most important aspects to consider while choosing a destination. Other aspects, such as job opportunities, citizenship prospects, and educational opportunities, are also considered based on information gathered from previously relocated individuals. Besides other interviewees, Natnael reported:

*I am looking for a way to go to Canada because I want to take my little brothers and sisters in Eritrea. I chose Canada because family reunification is easier than in other European countries. My friends in Canada told me that job opportunity is also better in Canada than in the USA. In Eritrea, most parents expect you to do these even though they don't tell you openly. No one discourages you when you plan to move either legally or in other illegal ways, such as through Libya.*

### **4.3. The Two Safety Features**

Alexander, an Eritrean refugee living in the Addis Ababa, Bole Arabsa area, believed that one's own lifestyle determines one's safety. A person may be attacked when he reacts to other people disrespectfully or when he moves at night through passageways with no light or human

movement. Someone may also feel unsafe when he lives in disagreement with his neighbours. Being a drunk and shouty person, deviating fundamentally from the neighbours' lifestyle, and disturbing the norm of a community can also be a safety threat. Ato Abraham from the government refugee agency also shared a story of one of the refugees:

*At the beginning of this year, an Eritrean refugee came to my office to complain about his neighbours for beating and forcing him to leave the house he had rented and lived in for about six months. I listened to him and then sent out one of my refugee protection colleagues to investigate whether his neighbours abused him. According to the investigation report, the refugee himself causes disturbances not only to the neighbours but also to the surrounding residents. He usually came drunk in the middle of the night and shouted high. He also invites a large number of new people to his home and causes high noise in the neighbourhood at night. Neighbours were concerned not just about the noise but also about their children's sleeplessness and the likelihood of being raised to be drunk and misbehaving. Then, on one of the days, two young men from his neighbourhood waited outside for him, and when he arrived drunk and shouting, they beat and threatened him to leave the house by the next day.*

Tesfom, one of the Eritrean refugees interviewed, believes he is safe because he can protect himself as he had military training and served in several national military services. He also indicated that the feeling of safety depends on your mental setup on matters you face. Most Eritrean refugee men travel in groups, particularly at night, as they usually spend and enjoy themselves together. Ahmed also shares the idea of Tesfom:

*While I am living in Addis Ababa, I always feel safe. When I was in Eritrea, I trained and served in the military, so I never worried about my safety. When you are trained in the military, you must be prepared for every type of encounter, including serving as a soldier in a war. Even when I'm alone at night, I feel free to walk around. I also watch football matches with my buddies in our neighbourhood until midnight and sometimes even later. I've never had somebody try to harm me, whether day or nighttime.*

Of the survey participants, 72% (144) of the Eritrean refugees who responded to the study said they always felt safe walking around their neighbourhoods. Twenty-five per cent (50) of the refugees said they sometimes felt safe in their neighbourhoods, while 3% (6) said they never felt safe.

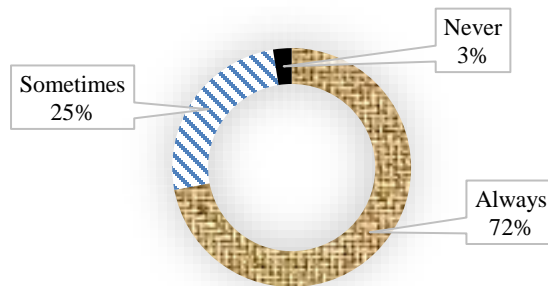


Figure 5: Refugees who felt safe in their neighbourhood.

On the other hand, the interviewed refugees indicated that there are Eritrean refugees who are engaged in robbery, especially in residential areas such as condominium sites. Some of the refugees became robbers while they had enough money at least to cover the cost of living. The possible reasons that interviewed individuals indicated are their idle time and ability to do it, as they are trained military in Eritrea. Noah, who is a refugee interviewed at the Gofa area of Addis Ababa, said:

*Until now, thank God that I am safe. However, I know refugee groups in the Gofa condominium area who have been involved in a robbery. The residents are*

*concerned about the robbers because while robbing, they attack people severely. They target anyone they suspect of having money or other important resources, whether inhabitants or refugees. I know that the refugees have money, but I'm not sure why they are engaging in such horrible behaviour. They were arrested twice but were freed after a week for an undisclosed reason. Residents here are also aware that these Eritreans are committing robberies, as they were the ones who previously reported to the police. They were discouraged because they believed the refugees could bribe the police and legal system and be freed easily.*

Similarly, interviewed Ethiopian residents reported that they feel unsafe where Eritrean refugees are living in large numbers. They steal, especially at night, since they know how to do it because the majority of them are trained military personnel. W/ro Banchi used the term “entanglement” to describe how they steal. It is a strategy in which one of the refugees approaches from behind and pushes the person who is being targeted by acting as if he falls. Then, another complementary Robber appears in the opposite direction, pretending to support the target. They immediately grabbed everything in the person's pocket, including a mobile phone. This happened to Tamenech, who was interviewed at the Jemo-1 condominium site in Addis Ababa:

*Two individuals were standing on the corner of the road to the left of the condominium where I live. The location and the time of night were convenient for them because the lights were dim. As soon as I entered the main compound after visiting my mom, I was approached by one of the guys who was speaking on a cell phone. He passed me slowly. Just as I was passing by, the man behind me pushed me from behind, acting as if he was falling, and then the person in front of me*

*grabbed me and acted as if he was supporting me. I was shocked and did not know how my bag fell off. The person in front of me gave me the bag, and they both exited the compound. When I entered my home, I found my bag open. My phone and the money inside the bag were taken. Then, once I've calmed down, I recall every movement and realize everything was planned. I also remember that I saw these individuals with my Eritrean neighbour two days ago.*

The survey data showed that 99 (49%) interviewed Ethiopian residents of Addis Ababa sometimes feel safe, and 40 (20%) never feel safe while walking around their neighbourhood.

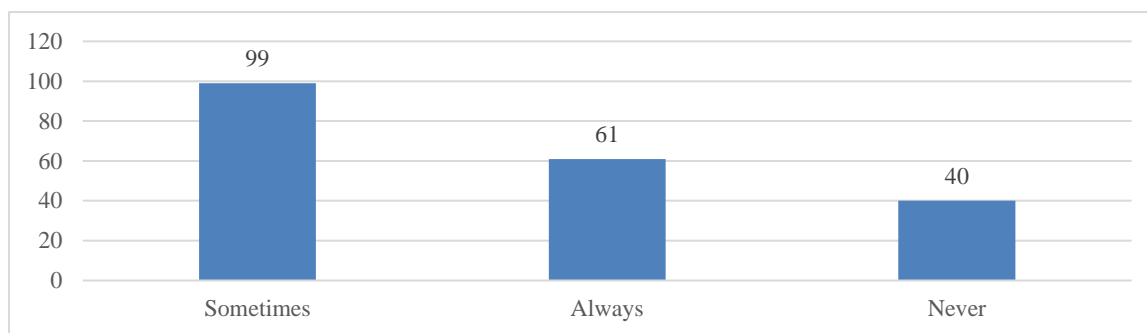


Figure 6: Ethiopian residents who felt safe in their neighbourhood.

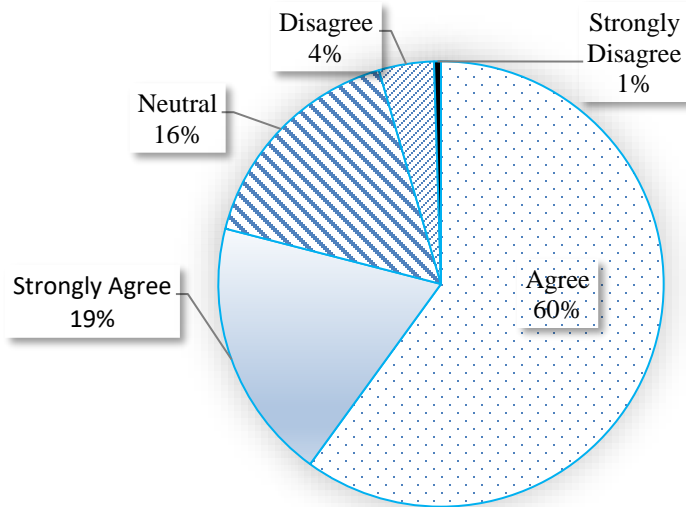
Participants from the government refugee agency, RRS, revealed that many Eritrean refugees are imprisoned because of various criminal acts, including robbery, forgery, human trafficking, and murder. However, they keep committing the same crime throughout the town, especially around areas where they are living passively, such as Gofa Mebrat, Jemo Condominium, Bole Arabsa, and Lebu area are the main ones.

Ethiopian nationals have also criticized the government of Ethiopia for the way Eritrean refugees are governed. The government refugee agency, RRS, does not implement a continuous mechanism to raise refugees' awareness of how to respect the law of the country. The refugees also easily bribe the legal system because of the paying capacity they have. If a refugee can be

released after committing a crime by abusing the legal system, there is no reason that he should not commit another crime because he believes that he will be released in the same manner. Amanuel, who is an interviewed resident from the Betel area in Addis Ababa, reported a story describing it as "their routine work":

*Eritreans are the main perpetrators of thievery in our village. Three Eritrean refugees who rented a house from one of my neighbours assisted robbers. In December 2021, one Eritrean refugee came to the village and attempted to steal parts of a car parked at the owners' house's front gate. It was after midnight, around 2:00 PM, when the thief started to unbolt the side mirror, flashlights, and other parts. The guards looked at him and waited for him in two different directions of the road until he was about to finish. In the meantime, one of the guards phoned me, and I joined them shortly. Then we approached, caught him immediately, and took him to the nearby police station. Finally, he was sentenced to three years and eight months. In the process of investigation, he told the police that he was informed and assisted by the refugees who rented my neighbour's house.*

From the survey data, 60% (120) of Ethiopian national residents agree that safety changes were observed after Eritrean refugees started living in their locality. Another 19% (38) of respondents also strongly believed that safety changes are observed after the arrival of Eritrean refugees to the locality.

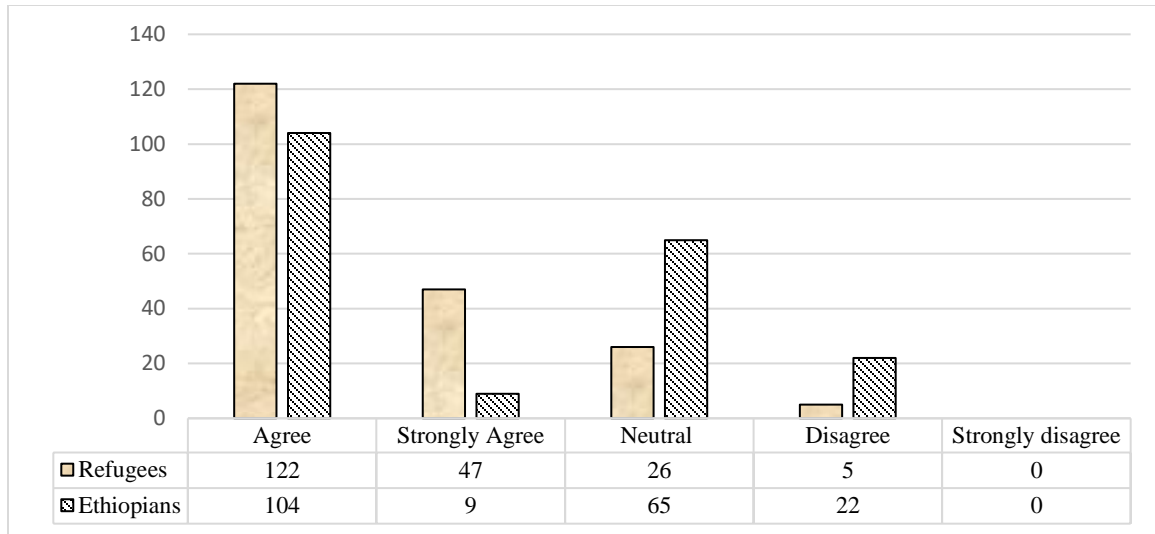


**Figure 7: Safety changes observed after Eritrean refugees started living in the locality.**

#### **4.4. Interaction and Actions**

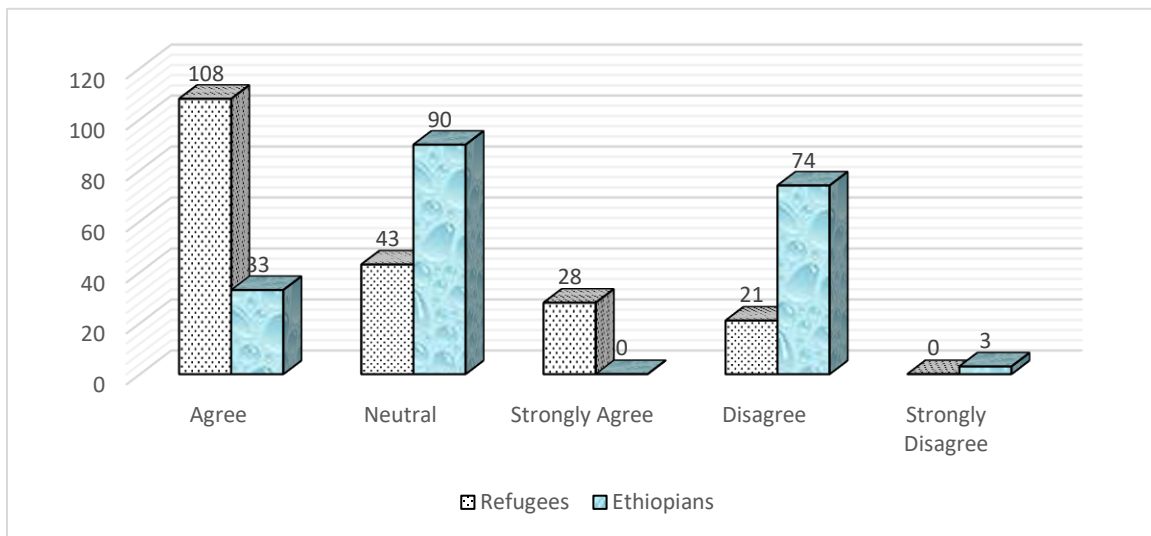
Interviewed Eritrean refugees reported that they have a good relationship with Ethiopian nationals in Addis Ababa. Alexander, an Eritrean refugee, indicated that many Eritreans are attending Ethiopian Orthodox Churches, and as a result, the church provides a funereal land in St. Gabriel Church in the Bole Arabsa area of Addis Ababa. He also said that, in the past, refugees were viewed as foreigners and did not participate in church services, but now they worship and serve together with Ethiopians.

According to the survey, the results indicated that most Eritrean refugees (122 or 61%) and Ethiopian nationals (104 or 52%) agree that they share social customs, including holidays, edir, mourning, and other practices. There is also a strong agreement among 47, or 23.5% of Eritrean refugee participants and 9, or 4.5% of Ethiopian national participants, that they share social customs.



**Figure 8: Shared social practices among Eritrean refugees and Ethiopian nationals.**

According to the survey results, a majority of Eritrean refugees (54%) expressed their agreement with supporting one another during challenging times. On the other hand, a notable percentage of Ethiopian nationals (37%) disagreed with this notion. A significant proportion of Eritrean refugees (21.5%) also chose to remain neutral, as did a substantial number of Ethiopian nationals (45%).



**Figure 9: Support one another among Eritrean refugees and Ethiopian nationals when situations are tough.**

However, Meron, an employee in RRS, indicated that various institutions, including religious institutions, are open and provide various services for refugees in the country. These could help to give refugees a positive image by implying that nationals think well of them. On the other hand, Meron pointed out that many nationals are complaining that Eritrean refugees are contributing to the current inflation, especially in the area of housing. Others also complain about safety around their residential area because Eritrean refugees are engaged in theft, robbery, and deadly attacks while they are robbing. They also make noise late at night in the residential area. Arega, interviewed resident in the Jemo -1 area in Addis Ababa, also described the issue with a feeling of concern:

*Eritrean refugees are bringing mess to us. The government has no understanding of what they are doing or how they live. Let alone the safety issue: I'm worried about my prospects as a government employee. I am a family man who does not own a home in the city. If the rental cost continues to rise at this rate, you will find me on the street with my family. The worst thing I've noticed is that most of the lessors assume that renting a house to Eritrean refugees will make them more money than renting to natives. As a result, even dealers prefer refugees since they pay a bigger incentive than citizens.*

When refugees finalize their resettlement process or when refugees want to change their rental residence, they may not lawfully transfer it over to the owner. They might also be unwilling to pay for the previous month's rent. They simply take their mattress and close the door at night, and they will never return. The owner should break the lock to open the house. Tekle, an interviewed resident from the Bole Arabssa area of Addis Ababa, said:

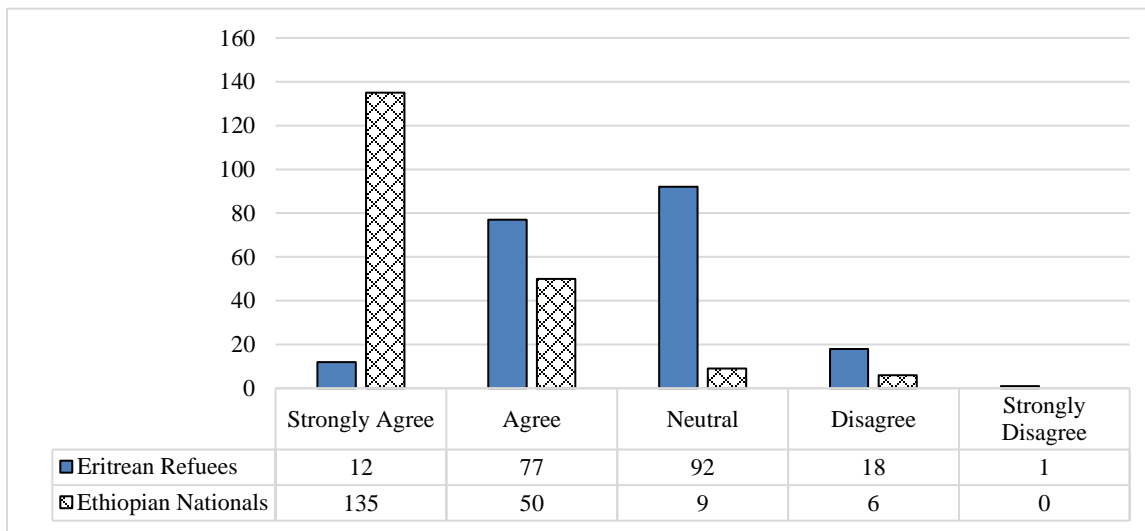
*My next-door neighbour rented his condominium house to Eritrean refugees. They started as two, but after a month, their numbers began to rise, and by the third month, they had grown to around eight. The owner was initially pleased since they paid him a six-month rental fee in advance, with the amount he never received. However, at the end of the seventh month, they turned off their phone and disappeared from the area. He tried calling them because he expected a greater payment in the coming six months. However, their phone was switched off, and they didn't show up for another ten days. Then he called the police at the nearby station, who arrived in three, and we attempted to break the lock to gain entry to the residence. We opened it, but all we found was full of discarded smoke and dozens of beer bottles.*

Interviewed residents were highly worried about the increasing rate of the cost of goods. Ethiopian nationals believed that this is happening since Eritrean refugees started residing in the area in significant numbers, among other factors happening in the country. Nowadays, significant influence is observed not only in rental costs but also in local market prices. Ikram, an Ethiopian resident interviewed in the Jemo-1 condominium area of Addis Ababa, said angrily:

*Eritreans don't even ask about the cost of items separately while they are shopping in shops nearby. They just want to hear and pay the total cost of whatever items and goods they collect. The issue of a rental house is the worst of all. On one of the days, an Eritrean refugee who lived here in Jemo 1 made me mad when I tried to talk about his high high-pricer to the owner of a condominium. The refugee agreed with a local dealer of rental houses to convince the owner to expel the nationals who rented and were living in the house for more*

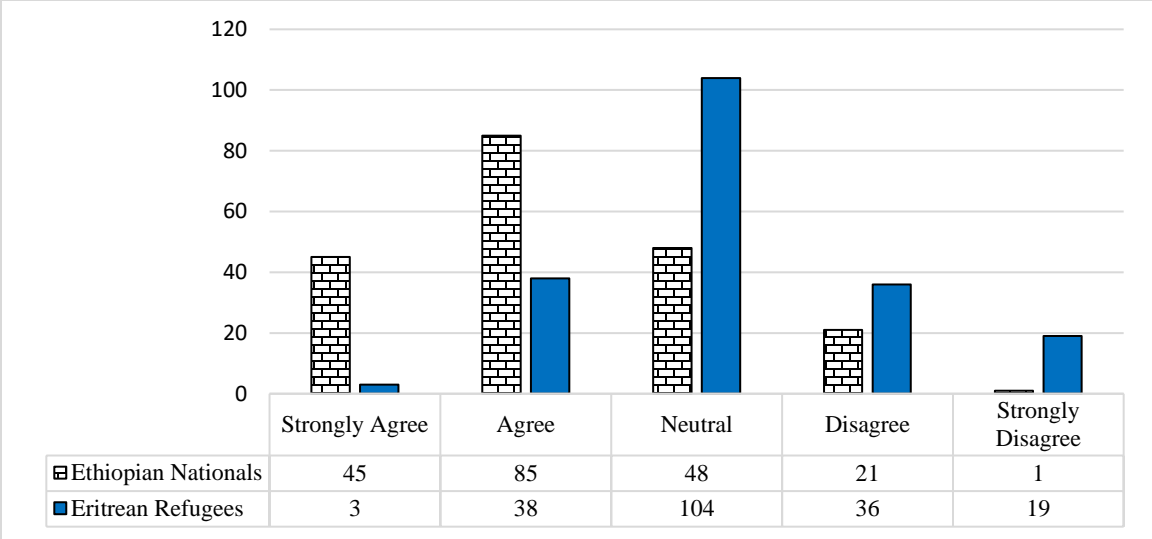
than two years. The dealer convinced the owner with an increment of 4000ETB over the existing rental price of the house. The owner ordered the nationals either to pay an additional 4000ETB or he is going to rent for another person. I insulted three of them because my neighbours were very kind to me.

From the survey data collected, 67.5% (135) of the Ethiopian respondents strongly agree, and 25% (50) of respondents agree that the rental cost of residential houses increased because of Eritrean refugees. On the other hand, 38.5% (77) of Eritrean refugee respondents agree that the rental cost of residential houses increased because of Eritrean refugees. However, 46% (92) of Eritrean refugee respondents fall under the neutral category.



**Figure 10: Ethiopian residents’ response on rental cost of residential houses.**

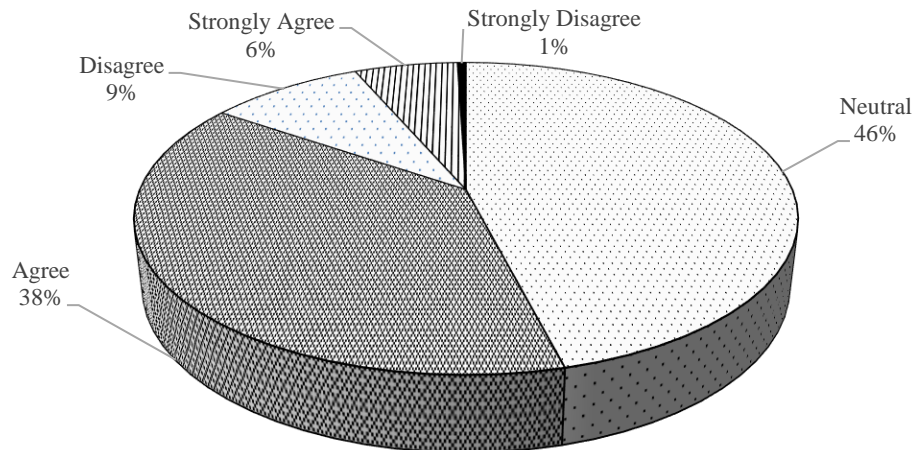
The survey data showed that 42.5% (85) of Ethiopian respondents agree, and 22.5% (45) of Ethiopian respondents strongly agree that the cost of goods around their locality increased because of Eritrean refugees’ presence. Of the Eritrean respondents, 19% (38) also agreed that the cost of goods around their locality increased because of the presence of Eritrean refugees, while the majority of them, 52% (102), fall under the category of neutral.



**Figure 11: Response of Eritrean refugees and Ethiopian nationals on the cost of goods in their locality.**

Teklit, an Eritrean refugee interviewed in the Gelan condominium area in Addis Ababa, indicated that most Eritrean refugees are receiving money from abroad. Most refugees also have various sources of remittance, such as friends and family members living abroad. Eritrean refugees who share a home will not be concerned about rental or other living expenses. This is because if a refugee received a minimum of 100 USD and others who lived together received a comparable amount, they will be able to afford whatever it costs.

The majority (46%) of Eritrean refugee participants remained neutral on the question, “rental cost of residential houses increased because of Eritrean refugees”. However, a considerable number (38.5%) of respondents from Eritrean refugees agree, and another 6% strongly agree that the rental cost of residential houses increased because of Eritrean refugees in Addis Ababa.



**Figure 12: Eritrean refugees’ response on rental cost of residential houses**

Most refugees pay for forged documents to support their resettlement process to European countries. It is usually to change their names, ages, and marital status to make their biodata similar to the details submitted to the sponsor country. They also make forged documents such as marriage and birth certificates and individual identity documents to complement the details submitted to the sponsor country. According to Wondowsen, an Ethiopian national interviewed in the Betel area of Addis Ababa, the interaction that Eritrean refugees have with Ethiopian nationals is not healthy. He said:

*I know an Ethiopian person who was imprisoned in March 2022 and who is a forged document maker. He had three agents from the refugees who brought persons who wanted such documents, especially Eritrean refugees. The agents were intimate with the person who made a forgery and spent most of their time together. It looked like they were close friends, but their friendship was not healthy.*

Interviewed refugees and residents indicated that the refugees' interaction with other refugees is better than their interaction with Ethiopian nationals. Fyori, a refugee interviewed in the Kebena area of Addis Ababa, shared from her experience that people interact more when they speak a similar language. The locations in Addis Ababa where Eritreans live are well-known by the refugees because they seek out one another to collaborate on various matters.

Besides, Eritrean refugees from similar birthplaces interacted even more than speaking a similar language. They also had various associations based on their birthplace. These associations helped refugees who did not have access to remittances. When an Eritrean refugee comes to Addis Ababa either from refugee camps or directly from Eritrea, the place to rent a house is mainly determined by the presence of other refugees with similar birthplaces.

#### **4.5. Governments' Support**

Based on the out-of-camp scheme, the government allowed refugees to live in urban areas. According to Tamrat, an interviewed RRS worker, the scheme is primarily established for Eritrean refugees because they were moved from the refugee camps to the urban areas of Ethiopia illegally. However, now it is open to all refugees in the country even though others are not interested, unlike Eritrean refugees. One primary objective of establishing an out-of-camp scheme was to allow refugees to be self-reliant. NGOs and other partners who were working on refugee operations were expected to assist the refugees through training and other ways. Derartu, an interviewed employee from RRS, also said:

*RRS made various agreements with NGOs to provide training to the refugees who are interested in working. UNHCR is also one of the main partners that provide*

*financial support to NGOs. Several refugees, mainly from Eritrea, trained this year in various skills even though they were not yet engaged in jobs.*

Interviewed refugees believed that NGOs supporting refugees did not bring change in their lives. For instance, Tesfom reported that he took short-term training on woodwork in Addis Ababa two years before. However, he did not have a job created or linked by the NGO that trained him, even though the NGO promised him startup capital and work opportunities. Similarly, Noah, an interviewed refugee, also said:

*Last year and this year, I received two different skill training. However, no one assisted me in obtaining employment in the field I had trained in. It costs a lot of money for the NGOs to train me and others. However, if we do not work and practice what we trained, all the resources invested in the training will be wasted.*

The Refugee Proclamation 1110/2019 gives refugees the right to work. As a result, refugees have the right to work in various fields, including agriculture, industry, businesses, handicrafts, and commerce based on the most advantageous treatment provided to foreign nationals under the country's laws. However, the implementation directive developed to determine the procedures for the refugees' right to work limited the scope to joint projects that are designed with the support of the international community and the agreement of the Ethiopian government to benefit both refugees and host communities. Efrem, who is an interviewed employee from the RRS, said:

*RRS, as a government refugee agency, developed the right-to-work directive that is based on the Refugee Proclamation 1110/2019. So, refugees can engage in various work areas of joint projects in urban or rural areas without a work*

*permit. However, RRS is providing a work permit for refugees who are engaged in joint projects.*

Interviewed refugees criticized the government that they are not allowed formally to engage in various work areas even though some refugees work informally without a work permit. Coffee shops, beverage stores, cosmetics shops, boutiques, and taxi transportation were all listed by interviewed refugees as work areas where they worked informally. Besides, in the private sector, graduated refugees were not allowed to be employed in formal institutions without work permits. Lidya, who is an interviewed refugee in the Bole Bulbula area of Addis Ababa, said:

*In Eritrea, I earned a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering. When I first planned to come to Ethiopia, I assumed that I could find work in my field of study. However, I became despondent when I arrived in Addis Ababa and saw the employment opportunities available to me without a work permit. Now I see how tough it is to get work, not just for refugees but also for Ethiopians. I'm seeking a job that will allow me to earn money and not stay at home. Thankfully, my sister lives in another country and supports me financially.*

The refugees praised the Ethiopian government for allowing them to attend school. Refugees have access to primary, secondary, and tertiary education the same way citizens do. Moreover, when the government gives help such as exercise books, pens, and bags to primary schools, refugee children are included. Refugees are handled in both public and private schools in the same way that citizens are.

Refugees also believed that they were treated well in some aspects, such as being allowed to live in Addis Ababa as freely as citizens. The public administration treats them as citizens in many aspects. For instance, interviewed refugees mentioned that they are provided with coupons to access sugar and food oil from the consumer association shops. Government services such as health services, Ethio-telecom services, banking, legal services, and others are also all available to refugees in the same way as citizens. Merhawit, who is a refugee interviewed in the Gofa area of Addis Ababa, reported:

*I came to Ethiopia with my two children. Now, they are attending one of the government primary schools around Gofa. I am not paying anything for their education compared with my neighbours, who are Eritrean refugees and whose children are attending private schools. I am also living like a citizen in every aspect. For instance, I have a coupon and can buy sugar, food oil, and others from the consumer association shops around. Most refugees do not want to use this coupon, but it is allowed for everyone. I also use government clinics and hospitals when needed, as citizens do.*

On the other hand, interviewed refugees believed that the government refugee agency mistreated them. Some of the interviewed refugees carry an expired ID because RRS is not renewing IDs. They also mentioned that refugees were seeking alternatives such as forged documents because of inaccessibility and the longer bureaucracy of the offices. Teklit, a refugee interviewed in the Gelan area in Addis Ababa, said:

*The government generally accepted and allowed us to live, but there are problems with the implementers, such as RRS, and the staff in this organization. For*

*instance, this organization took about three months for a simple activity. Having a refugee ID, birth certificate, and marriage certificate is very challenging, and it normally takes a few minutes to print. Because of this, I know a lady who suffered a lot as she was preparing to marry her boyfriend, who was living in Germany. About ten months before, he came to Ethiopia and applied for a marriage certificate from RRS. However, they were unable to finalize it within the time they planned because of the RRS's long bureaucracy. So, they tried to process it using a forged document, but the Embassy found out it. So, the reunification process failed, and the lady started to move to Germany through Libya, but we have never heard about her arrival since then.*

## Summary of Key Findings

Eritrean refugees view Addis Ababa as a temporary stopover location on their way to their destination. This finding underlies most of the issues identified in the study. The survey result showed that 95% of the refugees have a desire to move to a third country, mainly to European countries. This sense of temporariness has significantly impacted the socioeconomic structure of the host society. As a result, there have been some safety-related challenges and increased rental housing expenses. Among the Ethiopian participants of the survey, 92.5% of them believed that the rental cost of residential houses increased because of Eritrean refugees.

The individual characteristics of refugees, a profusion of remittances, and the administrative shortcomings of the Ethiopian government all contribute to their detrimental effects on the hosting community. Remittances from friends and family who reside in European nations are a major contributor to the high cost of renting a home, especially in areas around condominium houses. Interviewed Ethiopian citizens in Addis Ababa believed that Eritrean refugees committed most thefts and robberies that happened at night. The survey data also showed that 99 (49%) interviewed Ethiopian residents of Addis Ababa, who only sometimes feel safe, and 42 (21%) never feel safe while walking around their neighbourhood. On the other hand, refugees in the city feel comfortable roaming around at night and in groups. Among the survey participants of Eritrean refugees, 72 % of them always feel safe while walking around their neighbourhood.

Therefore, the interaction between national residents and refugees is deteriorating in locations where refugees are concentrated. The government is held responsible by the hosting community for the effects and impact of Eritrean refugees. However, interviewed refugees believed that the government had mistreated them and provided inadequate support for their resettlement to a third country and identity documentation.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### 5. DISCUSSION

The findings of this study challenge the general assumption that refugees are vulnerable and the practice of international and domestic refugee law settings by the government of Ethiopia. Generally, it is assumed that refugees are in vulnerable situations due to the circumstances they have fled, not to any inherent vulnerability within themselves. According to the definition of the 1951 Refugee Convention, refugees are often forced to flee their homes due to violence, persecution, or war. They may have lost everything they own and may be separated from their family members and loved ones. Once they arrive in a country of asylum, they may face challenges such as language barriers, cultural differences, basic and social affairs rejection, and discrimination.

Despite these assumptions, the study showed that remittance makes Eritrean refugees incredibly resilient and resourceful. Their flight from their home country is well planned, and they are often driven by a desire to build a new life for themselves and their families mostly in European countries. Once they arrive at their ideal destination, they start paving ways to bring more family members and friends from their home country. These desire for family unification and economic motives geared up the flight of Eritreans to Addis Ababa and then to European countries. Besides, family expectations, competitiveness with peers, and the desire to have a stable income as a result of work opportunities in industrialized countries all play a fundamental role in the decision to flee. This contradicts the refugee definition given in the 1951 convention relating to the status of refugees and the 2019 Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia refugee proclamation (UN General Assembly, 1951; National Legislative Bodies, 2019).

Flight to Addis Ababa is not an end to addressing all these concerns of the refugee participants. The movement to the developed nations will continue after finding a way through various mechanisms, including illegal travel. Belloni (2016a) indicated that Eritrean refugees in Italy who arrived in various ways take the risk of being arrested or deported to their home country while trying to reach other targeted European nations.

According to participants from the government refugee agency, most legal movements to Europe are to reunite families. Similarly, Kofman (2018) stated that the peak entrance of refugees to Europe in 2015 was because of the right to family reunification given to the refugees. To gain the opportunity for family reunification, Eritrean refugees do not refrain from engaging in illegal activities such as making forged documents, having fake marriages, and changing biodata.

However, there is a covert desire for family unification, which is the aspiration to fulfil economic-related motives. Rimoldi and Barbiano (2020) indicated that most people from developing nations move to European countries mainly because of economic requirements. Similarly, Eritrean refugees interviewed said their destination is not chosen at random at the start of the journey but is carefully considered in light of their future steps, such as remittance and reunification with remaining family members.

In the view of Eritrean refugees, being a registered refugee in Addis Ababa is worth as much as holding a visa to a European nation. This is because most European countries only allow reunification if the person is a registered refugee in the country of asylum. As a result, proof of registration, which the UNHCR and RRS provide to the registered refugees, is one of the most faked documents.

Eritrean refugees see Addis Ababa as a stopover point on their way to their destination. Refugees in Addis share a home with as many as ten or more individuals to share the cost of living and because they believe they are on their way to their destination. They view all the circumstances in Addis Ababa as a chance to relax and plan for their future journey. This is the primary reason why the majority of Eritrean refugees live in deviation from the community.

The remittances they receive from family members in developed countries have a variety of consequences. They aspire to be like those who send them money, encouraging people to keep fleeing their country. Their ability to pay also made them care less about the community with whom they are living. According to Brown et al. (2018), when refugees do not engage in work, they will be dependent on assistance and become idle. The money they receive without exertion and the open time they have leads them to get drunk and create an unpleasant residential environment.

The cost of renting a house, particularly around condominium sites, is sky-high. For Eritrean refugees, it is simple to pay the highest amount because the cost is shared among numerous individuals. It's also fueled by remittances from friends and relatives who live in European countries. According to Betts et al. (2019), 69.1% of Eritrean refugees in Addis Ababa receive remittances from relatives abroad.

As a result, the relationship between residents of Addis Ababa and Eritrean refugees is deteriorating, particularly in areas where they are in significant numbers. It is mainly because of the influence they bring to the community. Because of their paying capacity, they make nationals be expelled from the house where they rented and lived for many years. National families might have children who are attending the nearby school. So, if they are not able to pay like refugees,

their children might face the problem of dropping out of school because of the family's movement in search of rental houses.

In contrast to the residents interviewed, refugees in Addis Ababa felt safe. Interviewed Eritrean refugees move during the nighttime, including in the middle of the night. For the refugees, watching football in DS TV halls and restaurants in their neighbourhood and returning home in the middle of the night is regular and simple. According to the interviewed residents in the areas of condominiums where refugees are living in significant numbers, it is less likely for Ethiopians to move in the middle of the night freely as Eritreans do.

The Ethiopian national residents believe that the coincidence of most theft and robbery that are committed at nighttime and the confidence of most Eritrean refugees to move freely at night are not random. Usually, they prefer to move at night and in groups. More so, the thefts that are caught and evidenced as being perpetrated by Eritrean refugees show that Eritrean refugees are responsible for thefts and robberies in the area. During the daytime, the refugees either sleep at home or go to government refugee agency offices to follow their resettlement or family reunification process.

Most refugees don't want to work in a formal job because their aim while living in Addis Ababa is not to make money. The study conducted by Betts et al. (2019) indicated that 79% of Eritrean refugees in Addis Ababa are unemployed and are dependent on external assistance. On the other hand, some refugees work in various businesses such as cosmetics, liquor and beverage shops, barber shops, and others merely to keep busy and demonstrate their dedication to their relatives who live abroad.

The refugees' action of fueling the artificial inflation is not only from the side of the housing. The price of goods is also increasing because the refugees pay simply what the seller rates. Ethiopian nationals have a culture of having arguable conversations with the sellers because sellers in Addis Ababa tell you a higher price than the real price of the good. Sometimes they may tell you more than three-folds of the real price. If there are people who pay the price that the seller rated without having an arguable conversation, then the seller does not have a reason to sell at the normal price.

When residents were asked questions about the government's refugee policies and treatment, they became irritated. Residents blame the government for the consequences and influence as a result of the Eritrean refugees in Addis Ababa. In the view of interviewed host community members, the government's treatment of refugees is relatively wide open, allowing them to live more freely than citizens. For instance, when they disturb the whole community in the residential area, no one is taking action even though police stations are around. On the other hand, residents do not intend to restrict their rights but rather expect the government to intervene in their wrongdoing.

The government of Ethiopia also ignores the economic impacts of refugees on the host community. The study conducted by Taylor et al. (2016) pointed out that the regulations governing refugee-host community interactions, the economic structure of the host country, and the characteristics of refugees all influence the economic impact of refugees on the host community. The economic impact can also be intensified by the refugee's strong involvement in the black market swapping as well as the uncontrolled influx of Eritrean refugees to the city of Addis Ababa.

The country's loose asylum system also exacerbates the multifaceted impacts of refugees in Addis Ababa. The reasons for the flight revealed by the interviewed Eritrean refugees do not fall under the requirements outlined in the FDRE's 1110/2019 refugee proclamation. The legal ground to determine the refugee status of most Eritreans fleeing to Ethiopia is misused by the existing loose asylum system implemented in the country.

Despite the difficulties brought about by the Eritrean refugees in Addis Ababa, they contribute to the diverse cultural fabric of Addis Ababa, enriching the local community with their traditions, language, and customs. The refugees' participation in Ethiopia's urban areas as workers, employers, consumers, and providers of various products and skills, as well as their connections to local and global markets and remittance sources, all positively impact the city (Brown et al., 2018).

Eritrean refugees also contribute to local economies by starting businesses, creating job opportunities for themselves and locals, and contributing to the tax base. In a 2021 study, Fasika Tenaw (2021) found that Eritrean refugees in Addis Ababa are making significant contributions to the city's economy and society. Tenaw found that Eritrean refugees are starting businesses at a higher rate than Ethiopian citizens and that their businesses are creating jobs for both Eritrean refugees and Ethiopian citizens. Tenaw also found that Eritrean refugees are establishing schools, churches, and other community organizations that serve both Eritrean refugees and Ethiopian citizens.

## CHAPTER SIX

### 6. CONCLUSION AND SOCIAL WORK IMPLICATIONS

#### 6.1. Conclusion

Eritrean refugees who are living in Addis Ababa are influencing the host community's socioeconomic order negatively. This contrasts with the refugee regulations of Ethiopia and the general notion that refugees are vulnerable. The loose asylum system of the country and the unregulated refugee-host community interaction exacerbate the complex consequences of refugees in Addis Ababa.

The major influences of refugees include the feeling of insecurity and unsafe situation among Ethiopian residents of Addis Ababa and the high rising cost of renting a house, particularly in areas around condominium sites and neighbourhoods where Eritrean refugees are residing in large numbers. The characteristics of the refugees, the remittances they receive from relatives, and the gap in the administration of refugees all contribute to the consequences of the refugees. Their strong desire to go to developed countries and their wider idle time also drive them to characterize against the host community.

The refugees regarded Addis Ababa as a stopover place on their journey to their desired destination. The majority of refugees are not interested in working in formal employment because their intention in Addis Ababa is not to make money. According to several studies, such as Betts et al. (2019) and Admasu (2021), roughly three-quarters of the refugees in Addis Ababa are unemployed and rely on remittances from relatives abroad.

On the other hand, the traditions, language, and practices of Eritrean refugees in Addis Ababa enhance the local community and add to the city's cultural fabric. Although it is to some

extent, they also participate in Ethiopian urban areas as customers, labourers, employers, and suppliers of goods and services, which supports the local economy. As a result of remittance, their contribution to the country's hard currency needs is another positive side of their presence in the country.

## **6.2. Social Work Implications**

UNHCR has implemented collaborative initiatives in various Ethiopian regions where refugees are encamped to support both the hosting communities and the refugees themselves, in cooperation with its local and international partners as well as the Ethiopian government. Among the initiatives that UNHCR carried out in refugee camps were shared irrigation systems, the creation of centres for vocational skill training, and mutually beneficial educational and healthcare facilities.

However, joint initiatives that can benefit both refugees and the host community should be scaled up to urban areas where there is a significant number of refugees. UNHCR, as a United Nations refugee agency, should design and implement urban-friendly joint projects. UNHCR should also collaborate with the government to alleviate the host community's burden in areas such as housing, security, skill training, and job opportunities. UNHCR should assist the government by providing country-of-origin information to strengthen the existing asylum system in Ethiopia.

IOM should work with the governments of Ethiopia and Eritrea to minimize illegal human trafficking across the border areas of the two countries. IOM should also collaborate with RRS and UNHCR to establish and implement eligibility criteria for family reunification.

The study indicated that there is no inter-agency follow-up system at the national level to manage the safety issues that might arise because of refugee-host community interaction. Therefore, RRS, as the government refugee agency, should develop a follow-up system in collaboration with the Addis Ababa police and other security agencies to ensure the safety of both the host and refugee communities. The existing asylum system should be revised, and the refugee status determination mechanism should be guided by the existing refugee proclamation and international refugee laws that the government of Ethiopia adopts. RRS should also revise the working procedures and digitize the processes related to documentation to minimize forged document production.

The refugee community structures ought to cooperate with RRS's efforts to increase public understanding of the country's refugee rules and regulations. Refugees at an individual level should also adhere to the country's laws and conduct to promote peaceful coexistence. Refugees should also refrain from engaging in deviant behaviours that could lead citizens to xenophobia.

Residents of Addis Ababa should work with RRS, the city administration, and security forces on actions that reduce safety and security concerns. House lessors should also provide information about people who have rented their houses to local security forces. When there is a safety issue in the locality, including theft and robbery, residents should report and follow cases until the legal authority decides.

The city of Addis Ababa administration should standardize the rental cost of houses in Addis Ababa. Standardizing rental costs in Addis Ababa would require a concerted effort from the city administration by working in collaboration with community structures and stakeholders

and addressing the underlying factors contributing to high housing rental costs. Efforts such as researching rental costs and incremental practices, establishing rent control measures, establishing a grievance resolution process, and monitoring and evaluating rent standardization efforts should be implemented by the Addis Ababa city administration. In collaboration with RRS, the city administration should also raise the awareness of refugees regarding peaceful coexistence. The city administration, in cooperation with the city police, should also ensure the safety of residents, especially focusing on nighttime theft and robbery.

The existing refugee proclamation, developed in 2019, lacks clarity in the section of article 26 about the right to work, which is stated “as the most favourable treatment accorded to foreign nationals pursuant to relevant laws.” The Directive developed to determine conditions for the movement and residence of refugees outside of camps provides the obligations of refugees when living out of camps; however, it lacks accountability. Therefore, RRS, in collaboration with UNHCR, residents, and refugees should revise these parts of the documents.

This thesis can be taken as a springboard for researchers to conduct studies in the area of refugees, particularly those related to the practice of out-of-camp schemes, asylum systems, refugee status determination, and refugee management in urban areas. The influence of refugees identified in this study, such as safety, security, economy, and interaction, can also be studied quantitatively to measure the magnitudes of the influence. In addition, this thesis can be used to teach courses related to migration and cities as well as international migration. It can also be used as a supportive document while teaching or developing refugee law, particularly in the context of Eritrean refugees.

## REFERENCES:

- Adesina, M., Adeel, M., Omigbile, O., Abiodun, A., Adegunluwa, E., Oladele, R., Olufadewa, I., Abudu, F., Onathoja, O., & Adeyelu, N. (2021). Trends and Drivers of Refugees in Africa. *European Journal of Environment and Public Health*, 6(1), em0093. <https://doi.org/10.21601/ejeph/11379>.
- Yeshwas Admasu. (2021). Forced Displacement, Gender, and Livelihoods: Refugees in Ethiopia. In *World Bank policy research working paper*. <https://doi.org/10.1596/1813-9450-9862>.
- Adugna, F., Rudolf, M., & Getachew, M. (2022). A matter of time and contacts: trans-local networks and long-term mobility of Eritrean refugees. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 1–19. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183x.2022.2090155>.
- Alix-Garcia, J., & Saah, D. (2009). The Effect of Refugee Inflows on Host Communities: Evidence from Tanzania. *The World Bank Economic Review*, 24(1), 148–170. <https://doi.org/10.1093/wber/lhp014>.
- Alloush, M., Taylor, J. E., Gupta, A., Rojas Valdes, R. I., & Gonzalez-Estrada, E. (2017). Economic Life in Refugee Camps. *World Development*, 95, 334–347. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2017.02.030>.
- Aregai, M., & Bedemariam, M. (2020). Socio-environmental conflicts between the refugee populations and their host communities: The case of Eritrean Refugees in North Western Tigray, Ethiopia. *Environmental & Socio-Economic Studies*, 8(2), 54–62. <https://doi.org/10.2478/environ-2020-0012>.
- Ayalew Mengiste, T. (2018). Refugee Protections from Below: Smuggling in the Eritrea-Ethiopia Context. *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 676(1), 57–76. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0002716217743944>.

- Bai, W., Cai, H., Sha, S., Ng, C. H., Javed, A., Mari, J., Su, Z., Shinfuku, N., & Xiang, Y.-T. (2022). A joint international collaboration to address the inevitable mental health crisis in Ukraine. *Nature Medicine*. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-022-01828-w>.
- Bariagaber. (2013). Globalization, Imitation Behavior, and Refugees from Eritrea. *Africa Today*, 60(2), 3. <https://doi.org/10.2979/africatoday.60.2.3>.
- Barry-Murphy, E., & Stephenson, M. (2018). Democratizing the Refugee Regime Complex. *Voluntas: International Journal of Voluntary and Nonprofit Organizations*, 29(4), 790–800. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/45105559>.
- Belloni, M. (2016a). Refugees as Gamblers: Eritreans Seeking to Migrate Through Italy. *Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies*, 14(1), 104–119. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15562948.2015.1060375>.
- Belloni, M. (2016b). “My Uncle Cannot Say ‘NO’ if i Reach Libya”: Unpacking the Social Dynamics of Border-Crossing among Eritreans Heading to Europe. *Human Geography*, 9(2), 47–56. <https://doi.org/10.1177/194277861600900205>.
- Bereketeab, R. (2017). The role of the international community in the Eritrean refugee crisis. *Geopolitics, History, and International Relations*, 9(1), 68–82. <https://doi.org/10.22381/GHIR9120173>.
- Berhane, A., & Tyyskä, V. (2017). Coercive Transnational Governance and Its Impact on the Settlement Process of Eritrean Refugees in Canada. *Refuge*, 33(2), 78–87. <https://doi.org/10.7202/1043065ar>.
- Betts, A., Fryszler, L., & Sterck, N. O. and O. (2019). Refugee Economies in Addis Ababa: Towards Sustainable Opportunities for Urban Communities. *Www.rsc.ox.ac.uk*. <https://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/publications/refugee-economies-in-addis-ababa-towards-sustainable-opportunities-for-urban-communities>.

- Betts, A., Stierna, M. F., Omata, N., & Sterck, O. (2022). Social Cohesion and Refugee-Host Interactions: Evidence from East Africa. *Policy Research Working Papers*. <https://doi.org/10.1596/1813-9450-9917>.
- Brekke, J.-P. ., & Brochmann, G. (2014). Stuck in Transit: Secondary Migration of Asylum Seekers in Europe, National Differences, and the Dublin Regulation. *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 28(2), 145–162. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jrs/feu028>.
- Brown, A., Mackie, P., Dickenson, K., & Gebre-Egziabher, T. (2018). Urban refugee economies: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. *Front Matter*. JSTOR. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep16507.1>.
- Chhangani, R. C., & Chhangani, P. K. (2011). Refugee Definition and the Law in Nigeria. *Journal of the Indian Law Institute*, 53(1), 32–71. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/45148546>.
- Ciabbari, L. (2014). Dynamics and Representations of Migration Corridors: The Rise and Fall of the LibyaLampedusa Route and Forms of Mobility from the Horn of Africa (2000-2009). *ACME: An International Journal for Critical Geographies*, 13(2), 246–262. <https://www.acme-journal.org/index.php/acme/article/view/1006/860>.
- Cochran, W.G. (1977) Sampling Techniques. 3rd Edition, John Wiley & Sons, New York. -  
References - *Scientific Research Publishing*. (n.d.). Wwww.scirp.org. <https://www.scirp.org/reference/ReferencesPapers?ReferenceID=1390266>.
- Connell, D. (2016). Refugees, Migration, and Gated Nations: The Eritrean Experience. *African Studies Review*, 59(3), 217–225. <https://doi.org/10.1017/asr.2016.90>.
- Conte, A., & Migali, S. (2019). The role of conflict and organized violence in international forced migration. *Demographic Research*, 41, 393–424. <https://doi.org/10.4054/demres.2019.41.14>.

- Dogachan Dagi. (2017). Refugee Crisis in Europe (2015-2016): The Clash of Intergovernmental and Supranational Perspectives. *International Journal of Social Sciences*, Vol. VI(1), pp. 1-8. <https://doi.org/10.52950/SS2017.6.1.001>
- Esses, V. M., Hamilton, L. K., & Gaucher, D. (2017). The Global Refugee Crisis: Empirical Evidence and Policy Implications for Improving Public Attitudes and Facilitating Refugee Resettlement. *Social Issues and Policy Review*, 11(1), 78–123. <https://doi.org/10.1111/sipr.12028>.
- Fábos, A., & Kibreab, G. (2007). Urban Refugees: Introduction. *Refuge: Canada's Journal on Refugees*, 24(1), 3–10. <https://doi.org/10.25071/1920-7336.21363>.
- Fajth, V., Bilgili, Ö., Loschmann, C., & Siegel, M. (2019). How do refugees affect social life in host communities? The case of Congolese refugees in Rwanda. *Comparative Migration Studies*, 7(1). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40878-019-0139-1>.
- Gebrehiwet, K., Gebreyesus, H., & Teweldemedhin, M. (2020). The social health impact of Eritrean refugees on the host communities: the case of May-ayni refugee camp, Northern Ethiopia. *BMC Research Notes*, 13(1). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13104-020-05036-y>.
- Gleick, P. H. (2014). Water, Drought, Climate Change, and Conflict in Syria. *Weather, Climate, and Society*, 6(3), 331–340. <https://doi.org/10.1175/wcas-d-13-00059.1>.
- Hatton, T. J. (2020). Asylum Migration to the Developed World: Persecution, Incentives, and Policy. *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 34(1), 75–93. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/26873530>.
- Hirt, N. (2014). The Eritrean diaspora and its impact on regime stability: Responses to UN sanctions. *African Affairs*, 114(454), 115–135. <https://doi.org/10.1093/afraf/adu061>.

- Hoseini, M., & Mahsa Jahan Dideh. (2022). How do Shared Experiences of Economic Shocks Impact Refugees and Host Communities? Evidence from Afghan Refugees in Iran. In *World Bank policy research working paper*. <https://doi.org/10.1596/1813-9450-9915>.
- Kebede, Hundanol Atnafu, & Özden, Ç. (2022). The Effects of Refugee Camps on Children of Host Communities: Evidence from Ethiopia. *SSRN Electronic Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4017453>.
- Kibreab, G. (2000). Resistance, Displacement, and Identity: The Case of Eritrean Refugees in Sudan. *Canadian Journal of African Studies*, 34(2), 249. <https://doi.org/10.2307/486416>.
- Kofman, E. (2018). Gendered mobilities and vulnerabilities: refugee journeys to and in Europe. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 1–15. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183x.2018.1468330>.
- Kumssa, A., Williams, J. H., Jones, J. F., & Des Marais, E. A. (2014). Conflict and Migration: The Case of Somali Refugees in Northeastern Kenya. *Global Social Welfare*, 1(4), 145–156. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40609-014-0006-9>.
- Lischer, S. K. (2017). The Global Refugee Crisis: Regional Destabilization & Humanitarian Protection. *Daedalus*, 146(4), 85–97. [https://doi.org/10.1162/daed\\_a\\_00461](https://doi.org/10.1162/daed_a_00461).
- McCormack, C. B. (2018). America’s Next Refugee Crisis: Environmentally Displaced Persons. *Natural Resources & Environment*, 32(4), 8–12. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/26418845>.
- Msabah, B. A. (2018). “And the Greatest of These Is Hope”: Reframing the Global Refugee Crisis. *Transformation: An International Journal of Holistic Mission Studies*, 35(2), 117–123. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0265378818783590>.

- Müller, T. R. (2015). Universal Rights versus Exclusionary Politics: Aspirations and Despair among Eritrean Refugees in Tel Aviv. *Africa Spectrum*, 50(3), 3–27. <https://doi.org/10.1177/000203971505000301>.
- Nassaji, H. (2015). Qualitative and descriptive research: Data type versus data analysis. *Language Teaching Research*, 19(2), 129–132. ResearchGate. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1362168815572747>.
- National Legislative Bodies. (2019). *Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia: Proclamation No. 1110/2019*. Refworld. <https://www.refworld.org/docid/44e04ed14.html>.
- Niemann, A., & Speyer, J. (2017). A Neofunctionalist Perspective on the “European Refugee Crisis”: The Case of the European Border and Coast Guard. *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies*, 56(1), 23–43. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jcms.12653>.
- Nowell, L. S., Norris, J. M., White, D. E., & Moules, N. J. (2017). Thematic Analysis: Striving to Meet the Trustworthiness Criteria. *International Journal of Qualitative Methods*, 16(1), 8-12. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1609406917733847>.
- Opas, M. E., & McMurray, D. A. (2015). Under the Gaze of the State: ICT Use and State Surveillance of Eritrean Refugees in Italy. *Refugee Survey Quarterly*, 34(4), 105–125. <https://doi.org/10.1093/rsq/hdv013>.
- Poole, A., & Riggan, J. (2020). Time with/out Telos: Eritrean Refugees’ Precarious Choice of Im/possible Futures in Ethiopia and Beyond. *Anthropological Quarterly*, 93(3), 401–428. <https://doi.org/10.1353/anq.2020.0052>.
- Rimoldi, S. M. L., Arcagni, A., Fattore, M., & Barbiano di Belgiojoso, E. (2020). Targeting Policies for Multidimensional Poverty and Social Fragility Relief Among Migrants in Italy, Using F-FOD Analysis. *Social Indicators Research*, 157(1), 57–75. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11205-020-02485-7>.

- Ruaudel, H., & Morrison-Métois, S. (2017). Responding to Refugee Crises: Lessons from evaluations in Ethiopia and Uganda as countries of destination. *Www.oecd-Ilibrary.org*. <https://doi.org/10.1787/8346fc6f-en>.
- Rüegger, S., & Bohnet, H. (2018). The Ethnicity of Refugees (ER): A new dataset for understanding flight patterns. *Conflict Management and Peace Science*, 35(1), 65–88. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0738894215611865>.
- Shultz, C., Barrios, A., Krasnikov, A. V., Becker, I., Bennett, A. M., Emile, R., Hokkinen, M., Pennington, J. R., Santos, M., & Sierra, J. (2020). The Global Refugee Crisis: Pathway for a More Humanitarian Solution. *Journal of Macromarketing*, 40(1), 128–143. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0276146719896390>.
- Taylor, J. E., Filipski, M. J., Alloush, M., Gupta, A., Rojas Valdes, R. I., & Gonzalez-Estrada, E. (2016). Economic impact of refugees. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 113(27), 7449–7453. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1604566113>.
- Teferra, Z. (2017). Delimiting the Normative Terrain of Refugee Law: A Critical Appraisal of the Ethiopian Refugee Proclamation No. 409/2004. *SSRN Electronic Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3243764>.
- Tenaw, F. (2021). Acculturation experiences of Eritrean immigrants living in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. *Addis Ababa University Institutional Repository*. <http://etd.aau.edu.et/handle/123456789/29807>
- Tuzi, I. (2019). From Insecurity to Secondary Migration: “Bounded Mobilities” of Syrian and Eritrean Refugees in Europe. *Migration Letters*, 16(4), 551–561. <https://doi.org/10.33182/ml.v16i4.560>.

- UN General Assembly. (1951). Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 189, p. 137. <https://www.refworld.org/docid/3be01b964.html>
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2021a). Comprehensive Registration Data (Protection Profile in Digital Partner Statistical Tool). Retrieved August 9, 2022, from <https://statistics.unhcr-eth.org/admin/protection>
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2021b). *UNHCR - Refugee Statistics*. Retrieved August 9, 2022, from <https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/>
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2022a). Urban Refugee Population in Addis Ababa as of March 30, 2022. <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/92444>
- United Nations Higher Commission for Refugees. (2022b). Monthly UNHCR Ethiopia fact sheet. <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/91687>
- Vogiazides, L. and Mondani, H. (2020) Geographical trajectories of refugees in Sweden: Uncovering patterns and drivers of inter-regional (im)mobility. *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 34(3), pp. 3065–3090. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jrs/feaa074>
- Solomon Zena Walelign, Wang, E., & Ganesh Seshan. (2022). Livelihood Impacts of Refugees on Host Communities: Evidence from Ethiopia. In *World Bank policy research working paper*. <https://doi.org/10.1596/1813-9450-10044>.
- Wood, T. (2019). Who Is a Refugee in Africa? A Principled Framework for Interpreting and Applying Africa’s Expanded Refugee Definition. *International Journal of Refugee Law*, 31(2-3), pp.290-320. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ijrl/eez026>.
- Zambakari, C. (2015). Sudan and South Sudan: identity, citizenship, and democracy in plural societies. *Citizenship Studies*, 19(1), 69–82. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13621025.2015.988481>.



8. Tell me about how safe you feel in Addis Ababa.

Prob:

- Nighttime movement
- Tell me about theft and robbery incidents.

9. Tell me the interaction you have with Ethiopian nationals.

Prob:

- How they treat you
- Cultural differences
- Interaction with house lessor (the way you rent a house, cost fluctuation, challenges)

10. Tell me about the support you get from the Ethiopian government.

Prob:

- Work opportunities (areas of work, reasons of preference)
- Education opportunities

11. Tell me your experience of how the government treats you.

Prob:

- Out-of-camp scheme
- Freedom of movement (ID, Proof of registration, and Pass permit)
- In terms of assistance

12. Tell me the interaction you have with other Eritrean refugees.

Prob:

- House sharing,
- Support during difficult times
- Supportive associations





- How the government reaches out to them (service provision in offices)

6. Tell me if there is any influence in Addis Ababa because of Eritrean refugees.

Prob:

- House rental cost
- Local market costing
- Criminal acts
- Detention experience and major reasons

7. Tell me about their interaction with Ethiopian nationals.

Prob:

- Living conditions in residential areas
- Social relationship
- If there are complaints by nationals
- Activities of peaceful coexistence

8. Tell me your opinion of how RRS treats Eritrean refugees in Addis Ababa.

Prob:

- Do you think they are treated differently?
- Supports provided.
- Education opportunities
- Work opportunities (driving license, implementation of the refugee proclamation 1110/2019)
- Documentations provided (ID, Proof of registration, Civil registration documents)

**Thank you!**

## Annex-II

### Interview Participants' Demographic and Background Information

**Table 1: Demographic and background information of interview participants among refugees**

SN	Participants	Age in years	Sex	Highest level of education	Marital status	Date of arrival to AA (MM/YY)
1	Alexander	50	Male	Diploma	Married	July 2018
2	Afewerki	34	Male	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Married	August 2018
3	Lidya	25	Female	Degree	Never Married	January 2019
4	Teklit	32	Male	10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Married	January 2021
5	Kidane	32	Male	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Never Married	March 2017
6	Yorsalem	40	Female	10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Married	February 2017
7	Fyori	24	Female	10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Married	February 2017
8	Ahmed	35	Male	Diploma	Never Married	January 2021
9	Natnael	23	Male	Degree	Never Married	February 2019
10	Tesfom	28	Male	Degree	Never Married	April 2018
11	Merhawit	28	Female	Diploma	Married	June 2017
12	Noah	42	Male	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Divorced	May 2016

**Table 2: Demographic and background information of interview participants among Ethiopian nationals**

SN	Participants	Age in years	Sex	Highest level of education	Marital status
1	Amanuel	42	Male	Degree	Married
2	Tekalgn	35	Male	Diploma	Married
3	Tekle	40	Male	Degree	Married
4	Arega	55	Male	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Married
5	Tamenech	36	Female	Degree	Married
6	Ayele	30	Male	Degree	Never Married
7	Ikram	32	Female	10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Married
8	Banchi	60	Female	Never Attend	Married
9	Mohammed	40	Male	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Married
10	Wondosen	35	Male	Master	Married
11	Beza	40	Female	8 <sup>th</sup> grade	Divorced

**Table 3: Demographic and background information of interview participants among RRS staff members**

SN	Participants	Age in years	Sex	Highest level of education	Marital status
1	Hailu	39	Male	Master	Married
2	Tsigereda	28	Female	Degree	Married
3	Abraham	41	Male	Master	Married
4	Tesfaye	26	Male	Degree	Single
5	Tamrat	32	Male	Master	Single
6	Meron	30	Female	Master	Married
7	Derartu	26	Female	Degree	Single
8	Mebratu	35	Male	Master	Married
9	Efrem	36	Male	Degree	Married

## Annex-III

### Survey questionnaire to residents

#### Part I

1. Age (in years)

18-24

25-34

35-50

50+

2. Sex

Male

Female

3. Highest level of education

Never attend

Secondary (grade 9-12)

Primary (Grade 1-8)

TVET and Diploma

Degree and above

4. Marital status

Married

Divorced

Separated.

Widowed

Never married.

#### Part II

SN	Question	Frequency		
		Never (0)	Sometimes (1)	Always (3)
5.	I feel safe walking around my neighborhood.			
6.	I feel safe outside of my house.			
7.	I feel safe on my way home at nighttime.			
8.	I feel safe on my way home in the daytime.			
9.	I feel safe when taking a taxi to home.			
10.	I feel safe being neighbors with an Eritrean refugee.			
11.	I feel safe being neighbors with Ethiopians.			

## Part II

12. The rental cost of residential houses increased because of Eritrean refugees.

Strongly agree       Agree       Neutral   
Disagree       Strongly disagree

13. The cost of goods around your locality increased because of Eritrean refugees.

Strongly agree       Agree       Neutral   
Disagree       Strongly disagree

14. The Ethiopian government treats refugees from Eritrea differently.

Strongly agree       Agree       Neutral   
Disagree       Strongly disagree

15. Safety changes are observed after Eritrean refugees start living in your locality.

Strongly agree       Agree       Neutral   
Disagree       Strongly disagree

16. Security changes were observed after Eritrean refugees started living in your locality.

Strongly agree       Agree       Neutral   
Disagree       Strongly disagree

17. Eritrean refugees and Ethiopian nationals support one another when situations are tough.

Strongly agree       Agree       Neutral   
Disagree       Strongly disagree

18. Eritrean refugees and Ethiopian nationals share social customs such as holidays, edir, mourning, etc.

Strongly agree       Agree       Neutral       Disagree       Strongly disagree

## Annex IV

### Survey questionnaire to refugees

#### Part I

1. Age (in years)

18-24

25-34

35-50

50+

2. Sex

Male

Female

3. Highest level of education

Never attend

Secondary (grade 9-12)

Primary (Grade 1-8)

TVET and Diploma

Degree and above

4. Marital status

Married

Divorced

Separated.

Widowed

Never married.

#### Part II

SN	Question			
		Never (0)	Sometimes (1)	Always (3)
5.	I feel safe walking around my neighborhood			
6.	I feel safe outside of my house			
7.	I feel safe on my way home at nighttime			
8.	I feel safe on my way home in the daytime			
9.	I feel safe when taking a taxi to home			
10.	I feel safe being neighbors with an Eritrean refugee			
11.	I feel safe being neighbors with Ethiopians			

## Part II

12. Do you have the desire to go abroad? Yes  No

13. If you answer question number 1 yes, did you start the process to move abroad?

Yes  No

14. Have you ever received a remittance? Yes  No

15. If you answer question number 3 yes, how often?

Rarely  Sometimes  Regularly

16. Do you have a job while living in Addis Ababa? Yes  No

17. The rental cost of residential houses increased because of Eritrean refugees.

Strongly agree  Agree  Neutral

Disagree  Strongly disagree

18. The cost of goods around your locality increased because of Eritrean refugees.

Strongly agree  Agree  Neutral

Disagree  Strongly disagree

19. Eritrean refugees and Ethiopian nationals support one another when situations are tough.

Strongly agree  Agree  Neutral

Disagree  Strongly disagree

20. Eritrean refugees and Ethiopian nationals share social customs such as holidays, edir, mourning, etc.

Strongly agree  Agree  Neutral

Disagree  Strongly disagree

## Annex-V

### Survey Participants' Demographic and Background Information

**Table 4: Demographic and background information of survey participants among refugees**

Demography	Intervals and frequencies					Total
Age	18-24	25-34	35-50	50+		
N <sub>o</sub> of respondents	70	86	36	8		200
Sex	Male	Female				
N <sub>o</sub> of respondents	109	91				200
Highest level of Education	Never attend	Primary (Grade 1-8)	Secondary (grade 9-12)	TVET and Diploma	Degree and above	
N <sub>o</sub> of respondents	9	47	103	12	29	200
Marital Status	Married	Divorced	Separated	Widowed	Never married	
N <sub>o</sub> of respondents	76	16	0	6	102	200

**Table 5: Demographic and background information of survey participants among refugees**

Demography	Intervals and frequencies					Total
Age	18-24	25-34	35-50	50+		
N <sub>o</sub> of respondents	42	90	51	17		200
Sex	Male	Female				
N <sub>o</sub> of respondents	83	117				200
Highest level of Education	Never attend	Primary (Grade 1-8)	Secondary (grade 9-12)	TVET and Diploma	Degree and above	
N <sub>o</sub> of respondents	4	56	72	16	52	200
Marital Status	Married	Divorced	Separated	Widowed	Never married	
N <sub>o</sub> of respondents	118	6	0	4	72	200

## Annex VI

### Participants Consent Form

The purpose of this consent form is to request participants' willingness to and allow the researcher to use the information collected for a study entitled "The Situation of Eritrean Refugees while Interacting with Ethiopians". The research will be carried out by Teshome Kassa, a Master of Social Work student at Addis Ababa University. The purpose of the research is to understand the situation of interactions between Eritrean refugees and Ethiopians in Addis Ababa.

You have the right not to sign this form if you do not agree to be interviewed. You also have the right not to answer questions that you do not want to answer even if you sign this form and agree to participate in the interview. More so, if you get uncomfortable during the interview, you can withdraw at any time.

Your responses will be used solely for this research, and your personal information will be kept confidential. Any information related to your identity will not be included in the study document and replaced with a pseudonym if it is required. So, kindly sign below if you are willing and agree to participate in this study.

**Participant:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Interviewer**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_