

ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES (CDS) INSTITUTE OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES (IRLDS)

**GENDER AND REFUGEES: A CASE STUDY OF THE
ERITREAN REFUGEES IN THE SHIMELBA REFUGEE
CAMP, TIGRAY NATIONAL STATE, ETHIOPIA.**

By- Masho Teklay

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**Gender and Refugees: A Case Study of the Eritrean
Refugees in the Shimelba Refugee Camp, Tigray
National State, Ethiopia**

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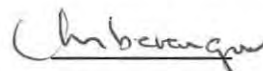
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Acronyms

ARRA- Administration for Refugees and Returnee Affairs

IDP - Internally Displaced Person

NGO- Non Governmental Organization

NRDP-Natural Resource Development Program

OAU -Organization for Africa Unity

UN - United Nations

UNHCR- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

WFP-World Food Program

ZOA- Refugee Care Netherlands

EPLF-Eritrean People Liberating Front

IOM- International Office for Migration

Abstract

In Ethiopia, the Tigray national state, due to its geographical proximity to Eritrea host large number of Eritrean refugees in Shimeliba refugee camp. They cross the Ethiopia border starting just after the end of the Ethio-Eritrea war in 2001. Due to the very nature of vulnerability of women and females in refugee setting area assessing the gender aspects become significant. The study is new in the context of Ethiopia; and the situation could be precipitated by the prevalence of male dominant which ratio nearly 1:3.

In order to achieve the objectives focus group discussion, life story, survey, key informant, and observation were employing as the main methods in data gathering. Qualitative and qualitative information were compiled from relevant agencies and organizations working with refugees. Then described and analyzed the whole information in a coherent manner.

According to the finding of this research a number of factors at institutional and community level contributing to an influx of the Eritrean to Ethiopia. The root causes for fleeing were governmental repression: migration control policy, banning the right of religious liberty, and ethnic disregarding. The situation triggered by the out break of the Ethio-Eritrea war of 1998. In the study area it is unique that the actors for gender-based violence are the refugee men. In addition to food ration and income generating activities remittances contribute significant sources of income to the refugee community. The result suggests that the need to participate the refugee community in the camp lay out in a specified approach. Revising the different discriminatory policy and law of Eritrea and appropriately intervene by different international institutions and countries become significant. Hence, the least durable solution for the refugee in theory becomes the best for the Eritrean that is resettlement to third country.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Forced migration is that results from coercion, violence, compelling political or environmental reasons, or duress, rather than from a voluntary action. Although, the population of forced migrants is small in comparison to labor migrants, it is made up of some of most vulnerable and marginalized group (UNFPA, 2006) The best-known and most measured group within the forced migration category is that of “refugees”: people who flee countries hit by war, violence, and chaos, and who are unable or unwilling to return to their home countries because they lack effective protection. In 2005, there were 12.7 million refugees, 8.4 million under the responsibility of UNHCR and additional 4.3 million under the charge of the United Nations Relief and works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNHCR, 2007; UNFPA, 2006)

According to the UNHCR (2005) stated that unlike labor migrants, who tend to gravitate towards developed regions, estimated 90% of all refugees currently live in developing countries. Most refugees need safe havens in countries bordering their own. Many literatures like Erikson (2001), mentioned that the number of people forced to leave their homes in Africa has risen inexorably over the last twenty years.

Women often experience persecution differently from men. In particular, they must be persecuted through sexual violence or other gender-related persecution. Such violence must be given a broad interpretation and may be defined as any act of gender-related violence that results in, or in likely in, physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary, deprivation or liberty, whether according in public or private life violence against

women is to be understood to encompass (Erickson et al., 2003; Edward et al., 2003)

Case law has recognized a wide range of valid claims, including sexual violence domestic violence, punishment and discrimination for transgression of sexual mores, sexual orientation, female orientation, female genital mutilation, and trafficking (Ibid)

According to UNHCR (2007), reported that in the year 2005 about 336,000 people have applied for asylum in 50 industrialized nations- mostly in North America and Europe- down by nearly 50% since 2001.

The Eritrean refugee first crossed in Ethiopia soon after the end of the Ethio-Eritrean war in May 2000. Averages of 300 and more Eritrean have been fleeing to Ethiopia every month since 2006, and recently the trend become in an increasing. The Shimelba refugee camp reportedly shelters over 20,000 Eritrean refugees and has reached a point where it can no longer admit additional refugees (Ethiopia to open additional refugee camp on line www.walta.inf.center 2008; Hailesillasse, 2007)

Thus, at the study area in addition to the intense competition for natural resource the women and girls need special protection and treatment. As a result, assessing the prevailing problems of women and girls in the camp and understanding their causes of flight from Eritrea become important issues.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In many refugee camp places shows that insufficient food supplies lack of economic opportunities and a climate of sexual exploitation had combined to force many women and girls to resort to prostitution as a means of survival (Edward et al., 2003)

Separation from family and spouses, isolation and loneliness, can encourage people to engage in high risk sexual relations. Mobility itself makes it harder to reach migrants with preventing information, condoms, counseling and testing services or care. Migrant communities are often socially, culturally, economically, and linguistically marginalized within this range of marginalized, women migrants who are smuggled; standard in transit traveling alone; trafficked; unemployed and left with no resource but to engage in survival sex or sex work face heightened risks of exploitation, violence and, by extension, HIV infection (Crenshaw, 1995; Benjamin and Murchison, 2004; and UNFPA, 2007). According to the monthly report of ARRA (2008) reveals that these situations in the study area can be exacerbating that sex ratios in the Shimelba refugee camp is about 1:5 that male out number female.

The overall health problems of refugees are in general and women in particular not significantly qualitatively different from those of other people; health problems specific to refugees arise largely because they are moved into camp. Long term refugees being assisted in Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, and Malawi are among those who have been suffering the consequences of high rates of malnutrition (Nicholas, 1999)

Other studies like Erikson et al. (2003) shows that there has been significant progress in relation to the regulation of gender-related claims to refugee status over the last decades. Gibney, et al. (1996) as cited by Zolberg et al. (2001) found that an increasing number of refugees are

associated with a general rise in violence and human rights violations in the world. These studies relied on general measures of violence that are associated with repressive regimes or government terror, including a wide range of government actions such as arbitrary arrests, random killing and torture. So far, Blain (2002) and Hailessilasse (2007) undertook their Masters' Thesis on the impact of refugees on the environment in Bonga and Shimelba refugee camp respectively.

Blain argues that lack of policy guidelines in a refugee affairs at the regional level, the increasing expansion of agricultural activities by refugees into the surrounding woodland, and the failure of the existing environmental protection schemes to take into consideration the needs of the community found the essential contributing factors to environmental degradation.

Hailessilase also described that there is a serious problem of natural resources such as fuel wood, grazing land and water resources scarcity which resulted due to the competition for these resources and lead to a conflict between refugees and the local population. Hence, this research in the Ethiopian context is new and going to assess the gender dimension in the case of Eritrean refugees in Tigray National State, Shimelba refugee camp.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of the study is to assess the situation and the status of the vulnerable community with emphasis to gender-specific persecution and the underlying cause that makes them to flee their origin. The specific objectives are to:

- Asses the economic status and their survival strategies of women and girls
- Investigate the underlying causes of the refugee that makes them to leave their own country
- Assess the services provided to refugees by the respective institutions and organizations

1.4 Research Questions

To address the intended objectives the following research questions are formulated:

1. What are the major prevailing gender-related problems in the study area?
2. What is the essential cause that makes them to flee Eritrea?
3. How is the economic gap filled by the women and girls?
4. Is the monthly food ration sufficient for the refugees?
5. To what extent is human-right based treatment for refugees practiced?

1.5 Significance of the Study

The analysis and understanding of gender-related issues in the refugee context has advanced substantially in the case of law, in state practice, and in academic writing. Since understanding of the underlying causes for becoming refugee, with emphasis to the half and vulnerable grouped, women and girls, meant to indicate the whole communities. More significantly, since early of 2008 opened additional refugee camps in Afar and Tigray regional state, UNHCR, ARRA, and other institutions have much beneficiary to make certain administrative and institutional arrangements. It is also helpful

to the regional and local government so as to create harmonize environment among the refugee and the local community. Moreover, as the main causes for persecution of the refugee with regard to gender-related assessed, the various gender departments have benefit to make the right intervention programs. Other voluntary institutions and stakeholders that have willingness to participate in the refugee area can also benefit from the study.

1.6 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The study was undertaken in Tigray Regional State, Tahtay Adyabo Woreda, specifically at *Shimeliba* refugee camp. The overall finding represents only for the Eritrea refugees who have lived in the *Shimeliba* refugee camp. Although the issue of gender in the refugee context is concerned about both male and female claimants due to the very nature of vulnerability this study is limited to assess only the female issues. However when it is necessary for making sound analysis males are able to include in the focus group discussion and key informants. In order to ascertained the root causes for flight from their country the data is largely dependent on the responses of the respondents. However, to maintain the validity of the research efforts have made through triangulating questions. To these regard direct responses of those, their socio-economic and political background information were triangulating with the overall Eritrean policy and constitutional issues.

1.7 Organization of the Thesis

After having discussed the introductory parts of the projects chapter two provides a brief review of literature in the area of gender and refugee.

The third chapter of this research provides a background to the refugee situation in the Shimelba refugee camp over the last 8 years. It discusses about the arrival of the Eritrean refugees in the Shimelba refugee camp since 2001, the infrastructural and over all camp layout.

Chapter four of the research focuses attention on the present life the Eritrean women and girl refugees since they had been settled at Shimelba in early 2000. This covers mainly the underlying causes for flight by thoroughly triangulating methods, the economic statuses that earned through different sources, and the prevailing problems of gender-based violence.

Chapter five deals with summery, Conclusion, and recommendations. The first part concludes with some experiences of other studies and theoretical models. Finally recommendation will give based on analysis and theoretical perspectives.

Chapter Two: Review of Literature

This chapter aims to give a brief overview about the refugee situation in the world, and the approaches that are often used to meet refugee problems. The chapter also attempts to provide the views of scholars about the situation of gender in refugee setting area. The vulnerability of women and girls and its contributing factors discussing in detail.

2.1 Conceptual and Theoretical Frameworks

In the following section some of the conceptual and theoretical approaches to refugee that evolved from the earliest time to the recent periods will be highlighted. But before discussing the different perspective, a brief, expiation to some of the important concept is provided.

2.1.1 Conceptual Definitions

Refugee: According to the Geneva Convention of 1951, a refugee is defined as some one who is “forced to leave their homes a result of a well founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion” (UN, 1951). The OAU Convention expands on this definition by stating that “the term refugee shall also apply to every person who, owing to external aggregation, occupation, foreign domination or events seriously disturbing public order in either part or whole of his country of origin or nationality is compelled to leave his place of habitual residence in order to seek refuge in another place outside his country of origin or nationality” (OAU, 1969).

Gender: (Crawley et al., 1998) explained the term gender refers to “the social construction of power relations between women and men, and the implication, for these relations for women’s (and men’s) identity, status, roles and responsibilities (in other words, the social organization of sexual difference). Gender is not static or innate but acquires socially and culturally constructed meaning because it is a primary way of signifying relations of power. Gender relations and gender differences are therefore historically, geographically, and culturally specific so that what it is to be ‘women’ or ‘man’ varies through space and overtime”.

2.1.2 Theoretical frameworks

In order to explain how refugees can be classified, Kunz (1981) divided them into three distinct groups, derived from refugees’ attitudes towards their displacement. Those refugees whose opposition to political and social events at home is shared by their compatriots, both refugees and those who remain in home areas, are called *majority identified refugees*. Refugees who have left their home areas because of active or latent discrimination against the group, to which they belong, frequently retain little interest in what occurs in their former homes once they have left. These refugees, who feel irreconcilably alienated from their fellow citizens, Kunz calls *events related refugees*. A third type of refugee includes people who decided to leave their home country for a variety of individual reasons. These *self-alienated* refugees feel alienated from their society not by any active policy of that society, but rather by some personal philosophy.

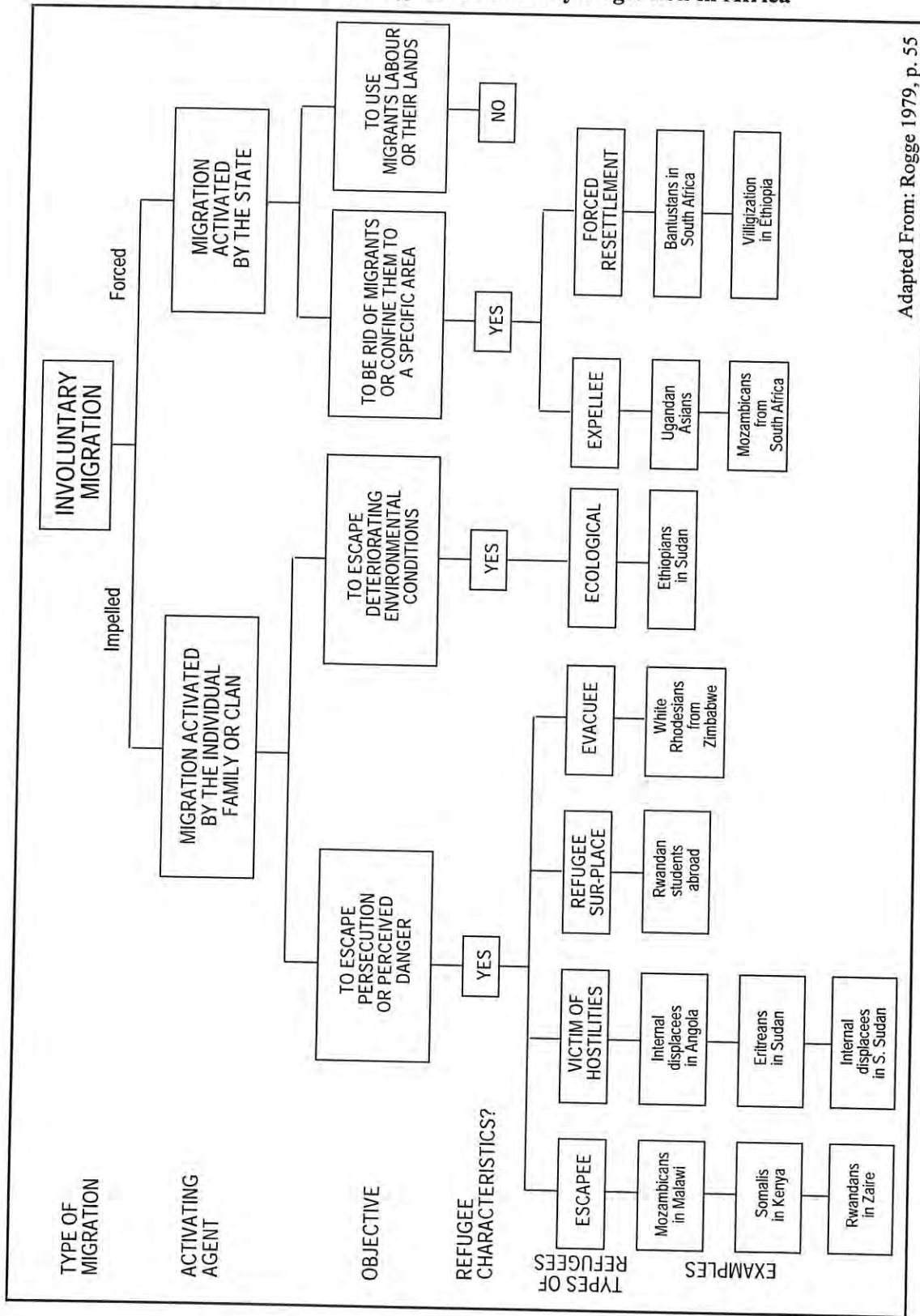
The complex interplay of socio-economic factors which can lead to refugee migrations does not affect each migrant in the same manner. The varieties of different refugee migrations are as complex as the situations which can create them. Because in the African context, the line between

political and economic repression can become blurred, many refugees could (and are) classified as economic migrants. In other cases, ecological change can be the cause of mass migrations. This latter variation of migration is usually ignored by contemporary definitions (Petersen, 1958).

Rogge (1979) derived a typology of refugees based upon an examination of the activating agent for the refugee migration, the objective of the migration, and whether the migrants possess refugee characteristics. Figure 2.1 shows the outline of Rogge's typology, with more contemporary examples replacing the originals.

Rogge's typology initially identifies two classes of involuntary migration: *forced* and *impelled*. It should be noted that the terms *forced* and *impelled* were introduced into the migration literature by Petersen (1958). According to Petersen, the difference between these two classes of migration lies in the amount of free choice an individual has when they are involved in forced migration. *Forced* migrants are expelled from an area by an external force, such as a government, the people involved have absolutely no choice in the matter of their removal. *Impelled* migrants, on the other hand, do retain some degree of choice regarding their possible flight. Before making the decision to migrate, 'impelled' migrants have the opportunity to weigh the factors involved and then make a choice between moving or remaining in the face of an external threat. Most, but not all, African refugees fall into the *impelled* category.

Figure 2.1 Typology of Involuntary Migration in Africa



Adapted From: Rogge 1979, p. 55

2.2 Causes of Refugee Migrations

The statistics demonstrate that the global refugee population has actually been declining in recent years from just under 15 million in 1995 to around 12 million at the beginning of 2006. While refugee numbers may have declined, the total numbers of people displaced by persecutions, violence and armed conflict appears to have increased substantially. Rather than crossing an international border, however, a growing proportion of these uprooted people now remain in their own country, usually because they are unable, or in some cases unwilling to seek asylum in another state (Aristide et al., 2001).

The root causes of refugee movements appears to have changed. When UNHCR was established at the beginning of the 1950s, the European refugees for whom it assumed responsibility were primarily people who had fled from actual or feared persecution from fascist and communist regimes. The political persecution of dissidents and minority groups continues to be an important cause of refugee movements. Nevertheless, in recent years, the largest and most speedy population displacements have taken place in countries affected by armed conflict and communal violence, such as Afghanistan, Burundi, Colombia, Liberia, Sierra Leonean and Somalia (Ibid).

While mass displacement most frequently takes place in the context of conflict, refugee movements are not simply a by-product of war. Indeed, one of the most disturbing developments in recent years has been the extent to which displacement has been used as a weapon of war, instigated by governments and other entities with the objective of expelling their enemies and population groups whose loyalty cannot be guaranteed (Locssher, 2001; Aristide et al., 2001).

2.2.1 Determinant Factors of Refugee Movements

Attempts have been made to ascertain the relative importance of three major determinants of refugee flows. Drawn from the recent literature they include interstate wars, intrastate conflicts, and repressive states (Ferris: 1987; Gibney: 1994; and Loesher 1992). From the weakest to the strongest determinant disuses as follows:

1. Interstate wars- the association if interstate wars with refugees migration is largely based on the experience of World War II. Large scale interstate wars have clearly contributed to some refugee migration in the period covered, including the Arab-Israel wars, the East Pakistan conflict, the Vietnam war, the invasion of Afghanistan by the soviet union, and most recently, the Gulf war. Of course, the distinction between an interstate war and a foreign invasion in a civil war may be thin, as indicated by the soviet invasion of Afghanistan.
2. Intrastate conflicts- Although intrastate conflicts normally involve confrontation between the government and some opponents, recently attention has been drawn to conflicts that are restructured, in the sense that there is no clear government, but a power struggle among several warring parties with diffuse or legalized aims, such as war lords. Opposition may be founded on demands for social change, or resistance to it. The growing number of intrastate conflicts in the 1990s is cause for concern. It has been suggested that contemporary civil wars produce higher death counts than in the past due to the extent to which the civilian population is drawn into the conflict with estimate ranging to over 90% of causality in some cases.
3. Repressive states: - An increasing number of refugees are associated with a general rise in violence and human rights violations in the world yet it is important to define what types of human rights violations increase the likelihood of refugee flows.

This all recited on general measures of violence that are associated with repressive regimes or government terror, including a wide range of government actions such as arbitrary arrests, random killings, and torture. More broadly, Locsher (1993) states that “it is true that the principal source of the current world refugee problem-Angola, Burma, Ethiopia, Iran, Iraq, Somali, and Vietnam are among the world’s most repressive societies”.

Government repression can range from the imposition of governmental sanctions, such as demarcations of state emergency and restrictions on press freedom and civil actions, to physical destruction of political organizations. Strong and weak states engage in different forms of repression. Strong states can often rely on a general aura of terror, while weak states have to act in order to stay in control. For the sake of simplicity, government repression in the former east block countries will be called institutional human rights violations, indicating that the physical safety of the majority of the population is not threatened. In contrast, to the government repression in other parts of the world this often entails a great deal of physical violence (such as random killing, death squads, and torture.) The latter has been most often associated with refugee migration in previous studies (Fein, 1993; Jonasshn 1993).

2.2.2 Economic Factors and Population Pressures

Refugees are defined in international law as the victims of political causes broadly understood. During the 1980’s, however in the “root cause” debate that developed in the public and scholarly discourse on refugee migration, it was argued that refugees usually come from very poor countries, hence economic cause could be considered as a “root” or primary cause of refugee migration. However, while refugees indeed come from poverty-stricken countries, not all poor countries send refugees. This disqualifies poverty as a direct and necessary push factor of refugee migration. Nevertheless, it is intriguing that more and more

scholars maintain that economic (and ecological) problems are associated with refugee migration (INDOEP, 1986; Kibreab, 1987; Wood, 1994).

If we accept that economic factors are not a direct and necessary cause of refugee migration, only two possibilities are left: (1) that poverty causes political violence that in turn pushes refugees out, or (2) that poverty interacts with political violence as a cause of refugee migration. In areas with higher levels of economic development, refugee exodus is less likely during political contact than in areas with lower levels of economic development. Thus, the level of economic development of poverty might be an accelerating factor. Another way of interpreting this idea is to consider poverty as a trigger for refugee migrations. Furring the initial phase of a conflict, people may try to await the end of the struggle; however, famine or deepening poverty robs them of their last option for survival (WCRWC, 2006)

Some governments have used starvation as a political tool, inducing famine by destroying crops or poisoning water in order to break the will of insurgency groups such “scorched earth” tactics as used by Nigeria during the Biafra conflict and Ethiopia during its conflict with Eritrea (Zelberg et al., 2001)

According to Weiner (1996) policy makers have long argued that population growth contributes to refugee migration in the sense that the size of refugee population is partly a function of population growth. In addition, he suggests that increasing population density creates more people at risk.

2.3 Gender and Refugee Migration

For many women and girls at risk, vulnerability has increased as a result of numerous human rights abuses coupled by a series of protection failures during their search for safety during flight, during displacement and during the return and reintegration processes. In camps and urban settings, displaced women and girls may experience specific protection problems as a result of their sex (WCRWC, 2006)

2.3.1 Gender Dimensions of Displacement

The human rights dimensions leading to flight are gendered. Women may experience the same human rights deprivations as men; human rights violations often take different forms for women and men because of their perceived gender roles. After the civil war began in Somalia in 1991 for example, over a quarter of the population fled; 300,000 of these refugees sought safety in Kenya, where hundreds of women were raped in camps in the northeastern provinces. During the 1994 genocide, Rwanda women were also subjected to sexual violence on a massive scale. As many as 5,000 women in Rwanda were impregnated by rape, many of them by the killers of their spouses and family members. In the 1980s, thousands of Mozambican refugee women were raped after they sought shelter in Zimbabwe. Women are far more likely too attempt to leave their country to escape battering in the home that goes unaddressed by their governments or to avoid community practices dangerous to their lives and health, such as female genital mutilation, child brides, forced sterilization and abortion, or other abuse of women in same-sex relationships(WCRWC, 2006).

2.3.2 Gender and Globalization

In addition to responding to the global demand for their services, women make the decision to move abroad because of a host of “push” factors in countries of origin. These include family obligations, unemployment, low wage, poverty, limited social and economic opportunities and the desire to expand their horizons. For educated women unable to overcome employment discrimination in their own country, migration offers as opportunity to find work that is more likely to better utilize their skills. Women can also migrate to flee abusive marriages and patriarchal traditions that limit opportunity and freedom. Discrimination against certain groups of women –single mothers, unmarried women, widows or divorces – also drives many to move elsewhere.

2.3.3 Gender in Refugee Camp Settlements Situation

Protection concerns do not necessarily end when displaced persons reach camps or other ‘safe’ locations. Exploitation has most commonly involved the exchange of food, non-food items and/or money for sex. In some cases, necessary assistance has been withheld until a women or girl has submitted to sex with those who control access to goods and services Local and international NGO staff, UN peacekeepers and local government staff (Zoloberg et al., 2003).

Displaced women and girls, however, experience a particularly high level of risk and vulnerability because of their almost total dependency on aid from others. Widespread illiteracy and lack of education have perpetuated a profound ignorance on the part of the displaced as to their basic rights and entitlements, thus exacerbating dependency and leaving many open to easy exploitation (Benda, 2001; and Zolberg et.al., 2003).

Further more, the rations distributed in camps for the displaced are not adequate (what is supposed to be a thirty day supply rarely lasts for

more than ten days) and most of the displaced are not allowed to grow their own food. Thus in many instances women (and men) are forced to extremes by the necessity of obtaining food for their families. Non-food items are distributed but not replaced when necessary, contributing to the need to find “outside” sources of supplies and /or income (Ibid).

Refugee women and girl remain extremely vulnerable to sexual exploitation and abuse of power due to (1) the high level of poverty among refugees, (2) limited monitoring of camp situation by international relief workers, and (3) cultural attitudes on the part of some relief workers and refugee-led camp management(WCRWC, 2006)

Gender based violence-harm perpetuated against a person because of gender based power inequalities-is aimed primarily at a women and girls. In refugee settings, this violence can take the form of intimidation, physical harm, sexual abuse including rape, and unequal access to humanitarian assistance. Although no systematic data exist about the magnitude of the problem, reports by numerous international organizations over the past two decade demonstrate that sexual abuse of refugee women and girls is pervasive and present in almost all refugee camp settings (ibid).

2.4 Gender and Development

When considered at all by classical development theory and practice, structural gender inequalities are often characterized as static, uncontested social and cultural systems, framed as the ‘local context of development (Crisp, 2003)

Development in refugee protection must be seen with a broader frame work of advancements in international human right law, including, in particular, the convention on the elimination of ‘All forms of

Discrimination Against Women 1979 and its optional protocol, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women' in 1993, the Beijing Platform for Action Adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995 and the follow-up 'Beijing Plus 5' special session of the Central Assembly. These measures have advanced global trends towards gender inclusion and equal treatment between the sexes. Human rights law has had the effect of moving predominantly private harm to an act that infringes international human rights law as a result of state tolerance or *condo nation*. As UNHCR's 'Guidelines on Gender-Related Persecution' state:

International human rights law and international criminal law clearly identify certain acts as violations of these laws, such as sexual violence, and support their characterization as serious abuses, amounting to persecution. In this sense, international law can assist decision-makers to determine the persecutory nature of a particular act.

As Spijkerboer (2000) has pointed out, 'derivative persecution' of female asylum seekers on the basis of their family membership is more readily accepted by decision makers than that of direct persecution where the claimant has to establish that she has suffered or fears persecution on a particular convention ground. The assortment of asylum claims of women in particular rests in gender stereotypes of accepted and 'believed' roles. Thus, in order to ensure that international refugee law is applied in a non-discriminatory way to all individuals, age and gender approaches are vital components of any analysis.

2.4.1 Gender in the International Law

Law is one of many discourses in and through which subjects are constituted. Although, the subject is constituted in and through multiple discourses, law is a particularly authoritative discourse. As Saladin (2006) stated law can pronounce definitely what something is or is not and how a situation or event is to be understood. The concepts, categories and terms that law uses and the reasoning structure by which it expresses itself, organizes its practices and constructs its meanings, has a particularly potent ability to shape popular and authoritative understanding of situations.

In 1985, the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's program first referred to the fact that 'women asylum-seekers who face harsh or inhuman treatment due to their having transgressed the social mores of the society in which they live may be considered as a "particular social group" with in the meaning of Article 1A (2); although it was left states' discretion 'in the exercise of their sovereignty' whether or not to do so.

In 1990, there was the first mention of providing skilled female interviewers in refugee status determination procedures as well as ensuring access by women asylum seekers to such procedures, 'even when accompanied by male family members. UNHCR's 1991 'guidelines on the protection of Refugee women' created the impetus for subsequent resolutions, advising that 'special efforts may be needed to resolve problems faced specifically by refugee women', and urging that refugee status determination officials be given training regarding the claims of women asylum seekers. Consequently, in 1993, there was encouragement to states to develop 'appropriate guidelines on women asylum-seekers, in recognition of the fact that women refugees often experience persecution differently from refugee men'. In October 1995,

and again in 1996, 1997, and 1999, the Executive Committee went further and:

called upon the High Commissioner to support and promote efforts by states towards the development and implementation of criteria and guideline on responses to persecution specifically aimed at women and females In accordance with the principle that women's rights are human rights, these guidelines should recognize as refugees women whose claim to refugee status is based upon well-founded fear of persecution for reasons enumerated in the 1951 convention and 1967 protocol, including persecution through sexual violence or gender-related persecution.(Erika, 2003)

Throughout this period, states began responding to the call for the introduction of safeguards, including the development of guidelines, in order to ensure equitable access to asylum procedures.

Estimated about the 40- 50 million people around the world from which approximately 75-80 percent is women and children that uprooted, spilling across state borders. Hence the experience of flight and displacement has different implications for male and female members of a population, largely according to the roles they are expected to play in the society (Edward et al., 2003).

In sum, advocates concerned with gender issues in displacement have a great stake in the shifting sovereignty debate. Because the displaced community is diverse in composition and experience, there is no one single project for addressing sovereignty. In any event, the issue of sovereignty can not be avoided (Ibid).

Goodwin-Gill (1996) stated that the issue of institutionalizing gender-specific is a recent phenomenon that the protection of women refugee did not appear on agenda of the UNHCR Executive Committee until 1985. At

that time the primary question was not so much the physical security or systematic discrimination which women face in flight and in refugee, but whether women might constitute a particular social group, membership of which could give rise in appropriate circumstances to a well-founded fear of persecution.

2.4.2 Gender and Reform

The international community has been mandated to mainstream gender into humanitarian response even since the landmark Beijing conference in 1995. The current humanitarian reform process provides unique opportunities to accelerate this integration (Dakkan et al., 2007).

Considering gender issues in planning and implementing emergency responses is not only a question of protecting the human rights of the persons affected. It is also a means to make emergency aid more effective. It is thus natural that ensuring gender sensitive responses should be at the heart of humanitarian reform (Dakkak et al., 2007; Loescher, 2001).

Gender has been identified as a cross cutting issue to be mainstreamed into the cluster approach. Dakkak et al, (2007) stated that the IASC Task Force on Gender and Humanitarian Assistance has been translated into and IASC sub working group (as of December 2006), expanding its mandate to become more operating. To this regard, the writer identified the five ways to strengthen gender mainstreaming in humanitarian action.

1. developing gender equity standards in a field-friendly hand book
2. ensuring gender expertise in emergencies
3. building capacity of humanitarian actors on gender issues
4. getting the right data-using sex and age disaggregated data for decision making

5. building partnerships for increased and more predictable gender equity programming in crisis.

2.3.3 Developing a Right-Based Legal Framework in Refugee Areas

The marginalization of women in society is closely bound up with wider socio-economic development issues. The burden of caring for the sick and dying tends to fall on females, and orphaned girls or girls with sick parents are often pulled out of school to care for their relatives or younger siblings or because of lack of money (UNAIDS: 1998).

Process of globalization, the deepening of social inequality and poverty and erosion of values and family and community ties increase the exposure of women and young girls to the sex industry, child pornography and trafficking in women and children (UNDAW 1997), thereby increasing their exposure to HIV/AIDS. These are examples of the “feminization” of poverty which are self-perpetuating in themselves and damaging in themselves and damaging to the entire social fabric of sub-Saharan Africa as elsewhere (UNAIDS). African women are the producers of the continent’s food and the reproducers of family, community and society although ‘owned’ by men.

Human Right law has sought to redress the unequal social status of women throughout the world. For all countries that have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the elimination of discrimination against women is a legally binding obligation (UNDAW, 1997). The 1995 Fourth World Conference to women held in Beijing highlighted the reproductive health needs of displaced women and elaborated the right to control their own sexuality and be free from sexual violence and coercion (McGinn 2000; UNAIDS 1996). The law can be used in various ways by providing, for example, positive incentives for measures such as affirmative action programs that

require the participation of women in all stages of decision making and policy development (Humbin & Reid, 1991).

In relation to women refugees, it is significant that the 1951 Convention Relating to the status of Refugees does not recognize the specifics of gender based neither persecution nor the particular issues facing female refugee (Oloka-Onyango, 1996). Despite the enshrinement in Human Rights Law of the protection of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, the rights upheld in the 1951 Convention are solely civil and political nature, confirming protection to those who are persecuted in the male-dominated, public arena, while the economic, social and cultural aspects of persecution are entirely neglected, exonerating more powerful states of socio-economic responsibility towards the citizens of other states, and leaving the private, feminine sphere devaluated and uprooted (Oloka-Onyanga, 1996; Mathews and Ibeanu, 1989)

2.4 Solutions to the Refugee Problems

Traditionally, there have been three solutions to the problem of refugees. Voluntary repatriation of refugees to their country of origin upon restoration of peace and order is one of the most durable and desirable solutions. Most refugees prefer to return to their home country and do so upon restoration of peace and order. In the year 2001, a total of 404,500 refugees returned to their home countries from exile. About 55% of the repatriations during that years happened in Africa such as: the return of sierra Leonean from Guinea and Liberia, Somalia from Ethiopia, Eritrea from Sudan etc. (UNHCR, 2003)

Local integration is another solution to the problem of refugees. Two possibilities emerge under this, one of which is where the refugees settle spontaneously among the host population. This situation was observed in the boarder areas of Zambia, Tanzania, and Malawi and Zimbabwe in the settlement of Mozambican refugees. The self settled refugees were

able to create small hamlets and survived with the assistance of local people. The Mozambicans integrated into the local way of life and were able to acquire land from the local chiefdoms as well as take part in trading activities and wage labor (Lassailly-Jacob: 1995). Such a situation is making easy when the fleeing population has some ethnic ties with the hosting population therefore made the integration smooth. The other option to local integration is the setting up of designated or organized settlements. In the set up of designated by the hosting government where planned and organized settlements have been built up (Eriksson et al, 2001).

This type of local integration may range from a situation where refugees are fully type of situation where refugees are provided with agricultural land and are expected to fully or partially support them economically. One such case is evident in Ukwimi, Zambia where an agricultural settlement was established in 1987 to house Mozambican refugees (Koser, 1999).

The third solution that is possible to solving the refugee problem is resettlement of refugees in secondary country of asylum. This is a situation where refugees find asylum in countries other than their first country of asylum. Even though many nations around the world open their doors to referee emergency situations in neighboring countries, there are only 17 nations that are currently accepting refugees on quota basis for resettlement in their country. The USA, Canada, Australia, and Norway rank high among these countries (UNHCR: 2005). Resettlement in a second country of asylum has been a major solution for Southeast Asian refugees in the 1970s and 1980s but its contribution has not been very significant for solving the African refugee problems. This is because the number of people who have been resettled in second countries of asylum have been quite small compared to the magnitude of the African refugee problem.

Most refugees and displaced people move from one third world country to another and are found in the poorest parts of the world such as: Burundians in Tanzania, Sudanese in Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Chad; Angola in Zambia, Congo; Congolese in Tanzania, Zambia, Congo, etc. However, when it comes to hosting refugees, a tradition of hospitality and generosity still remains in most African communities. A Sundance refugee living in Uganda explained the sources of this spirit of generosity by saying “we are visitors in Uganda. Today you help me, because tomorrow you may be a visitor as well (Ceres, 1995).

Countries that are classified by the UN as least development host about 80% of Africa refugees. Unlike earlier forced movements which were solved by repartition, local integration and at time resettlement, today's refugees come predominantly from poor countries and find only temporary asylum in neighboring states of similar economic condition.

CHAPTER THREE: Research Methodology and

Description of the Study Area

This chapter discusses about the approaches that were used in the data collection and analysis tools. This is followed by a description of the study area.

3.1 Research Methodology

3.1.1 Types and Sources of Data

Quantitative and qualitative data were collected from secondary and primary sources. Primary data with regard to the economic status obtained from the sample respondents through questionnaire and from the food ration card. Information related to challenges faced by women and girls surveyed from the sample population through questionnaire and in-depth interview. IRC, ZOA, UNHCR, ARRA, and local administrative bodies were also important sources of primary data, and participated in the focus group discussion. Moreover, records and other facts were obtained from *Shimeliba* sub-police office.

Secondary data were collected from education and research institutions, Tigray Bureau of Women Association and women affairs, woreda office of women affairs office, Shimelba sub-police office, woreda administration office, ZOA refugee care, IRC, ARRA, UNHCR and other relevant secondary information sources. The following methods were employed in the data collection.

3.1.2 Sampling Procedure

The profile of the refugee population was taken from UNHCR, as of December 2008. 3656 out of the 10897 were females, from which 2026 falls within the target sample respondents. Then using random sampling techniques 150 respondents were drawn.

3.1.3 Data Collection Tools

In order to maintain the validity and reliability of the study the following tools were used.

3.1.3.1 Survey

Due to large amount of the population, with regard to household characteristics, economic status and sources of income, causes for becoming refugee, their background, involvement in different activities is collected using structured questionnaire and interview by identified, selected and conducting relevant questions to the intended respondents.

The interview questionnaire was translated into vernacular language/Tigrigna/ to facilitate and ease communication among enumerator, sample household, and the researcher. In addition, pre-testing was undertaken and necessary modification was done before conducting the formal survey.

Data collecting using the interview schedule was conducting by enumerators. The enumerators were recruited on the basis of their competence to collect data. Accordingly, at least 12 grade completes were invited, who have good command of the vernacular languages, and first priority was given to candidates with experience of data collection. After selection of 10 eligible enumerators (7 Tigrigna and 3 Kunama) they were given theoretical and practical training/orientation as how to conduct the data collection. Moreover, the training/orientation focused of the

data for the study and the responsibility vested on both the enumerators and the research as the output of the study is expected to serve the population directly and indirectly.

3.1.3.2. Life Story

Since most of the information relied on primary data and also it is a case study, examination of life story found important tools. In this regard in order to make connection with the over all status of the refugee before coming to the camp, the way to access Ethiopia/ Shimelba refugee camp/, and the livelihood in and out of the camp 6 refugee females and women were deeply interviewed.

The data were collected by the enumerators based on the checklists. Based on the condition of the respondents highly interested and keen individuals to tell their stories were selected for this purpose. Since the enumerators were experienced in data collection they easily cope up with exploiting their stories inline with the survey questionnaire in a systematically way. They followed a loose, interactive style, allowing women and girls to tell their stories in terms of what they thought were most important. Rather than ask them directly if they had been abused by somebody outside/family members and other related issues. This is because that the women and female refugees were easily approached by female refugee interviewer rather than by the researcher's. However, Attention was given whether the life stories go with the objectives of the study: situations of her/family in their country, the way and challenged during the travel to Ethiopia, the life situation in the camp.

The story was narrated under the survey results in line with related topics and discussions. The information was analyzed by making connection with the broader contextual terms.

3.1.3.3 Observation

This approach is used to directly observe objectives, events, processes, and relationships among the refugee themselves and with the local community in the area and a record will keep mentally and/or in a note. This served mostly as a basis for late discussion with the key informants. In addition, through this techniques information obtained in relation to their interaction and way of life, access to resources, housing and sanitation, infrastructure, etc.

3.1.3.4 Key Informants

To maintain the validity of the research interviews were conducted with representatives of woreda administrator (2), manager and program officer of ARRA (2), manager of IRC (1), IRC GBV officer(1), IRC water and sanitation officer(1), UNHCR-field co-coordinators(2) were involved in the key informant source of information. Moreover, Shimelba sub-police office (2), the Tabia chief administrator (1) and the chief local women's association (1) were target of information. From the refugee community women's association chair person (1), members of central committees (3) and 3 elderly individuals were interviewed. In sum 14 persons were taken under this category of informants.

3.1.3.5 Focus group Discussion

This conducted with key informants of refugees, non-refugees, stakeholders, implementing partners and with a mix of all these groups, who involves in gender-related activities. Totally three focus group discussions were conducted which comprise of a group of 6-9 members each.

3.1.3.6. Triangulation

Since most of the information is depended on primary sources combinations of two or more tools helps to improve the validity and reliability of the findings. All these tools were employing in participatory

way allowing the refugees, stakeholders and implementing partners and other informants to interact freely in the discussion.

3.1.4 Method of Data Analysis

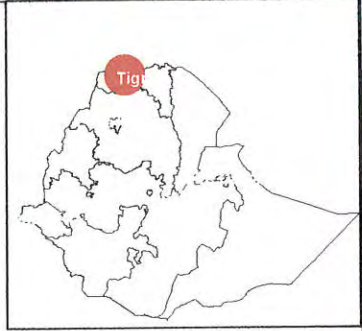
The overall data discussion is analyse and descriptive types. In these case the causes for women refugees is analysis through triangulating questions and the economic status is analysis through measures of central tendencies such as average and percentiles . The women's economic status is doing against the standard of optimal survival amount which would developed by WFP and other institutions.

The type of persecution that faced to women and the degree of intensity is employed using descriptive analyses. Generally, the gender-related issues is describing by comparing with the international and national context.

3.1.5 Sampling Designs

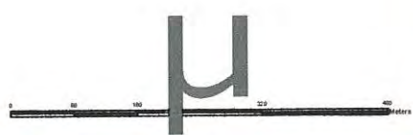
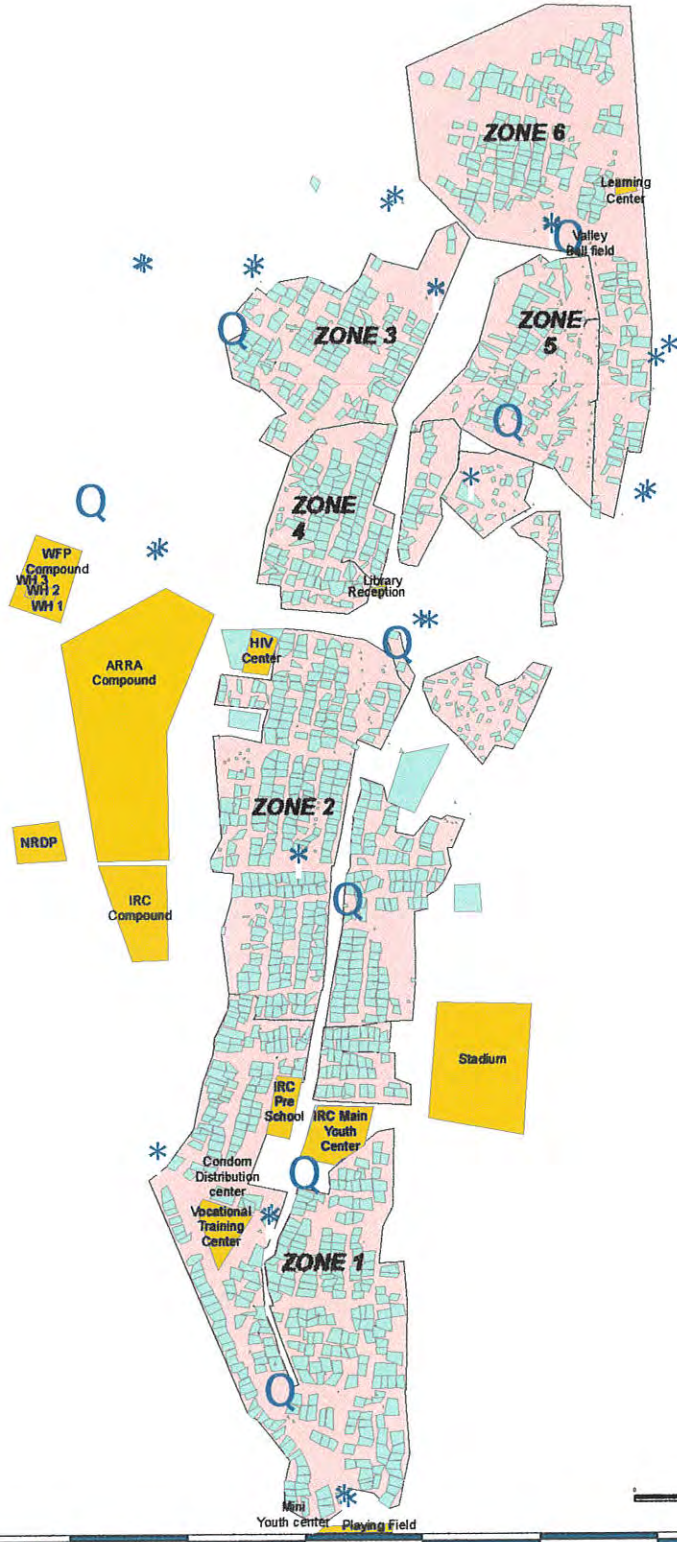
Although the approach is case study due to large amount of the study population, applying appropriate sampling strategy was found important elements. The total number of refugees based on sex, age, marital status, year of registered as refugees and ethnic group is obtained from ARRA. Then after, to those who came after the end of fourth week of June 2008, and age of below 14 and above 60 years were cleared out from the sample population. This is because that in the former case due to short time span in the camp assumed that those may not be taken as representatives of the population. In the latter case commonly below 15 years are assumed to be under mature age in the gender -related analysis and above 60 is considered as old age. Then after, 150 sample respondents were taken using random sampling techniques.

Shimelba Refugee Camp



Legend

- Services_facilities
- Plots
- zones



International Police Committee,
Ethiopia OIS Unit
December 10, 2017

Source: IRC OIS Database
Created in ArcGIS 9.2 using ArcMap

3.2 Description of the Study Area

3.2.1 Location of the Study Area

The camp is situated at an altitude of 1,140 m.a.s.l in a semi-arid zone, 14° 10'28.76" N and 37° 43'23"E.

According to Tahtay Adyabo WARDO, the mean annual rainfall of the camp ranges between 581.2 and 1,102.5 mm. In addition, the mean maximum temperature and minimum temperature is 42°C and 22.2°C respectively.

3.2.2 Demographic Characteristics

The Eritrean refugees at Shimelaba were relocated to the study area from a temporary site at Wa'ala Nihibi in May and June 2004, with the move completed on 12th June. The registered population of Shimelba at the time of the data collection was 10,897, made up of mainly ethnic Tigrigna and Kun*ama people with a small minority of Soho, Billen and others (table 3.1)

Table 3.1 Total Population size in Shimelba refugee camp

Ethnic group	No.of pop. in August 2004	%	No. in February 2007	%	No. in April 2009	%
Tigringa*	3851	46.1	8,993	65.4	6,703	61.5
Kunama	4,272	51.2	4,405	32.1	3,890	35.7
Saho	123	1.5	268	2	273	2.5
Others	99	1.2	66	0.5	31	0.3
Total	8,345	100	13,732	100	10,897	100

Source: Shimerba refugee cap Report, (2009)

Generally, the population profile of the refugee indicated that the Tigringa come mainly from Asmara and other urban centers of Eritrea and are typically better educated, more urbanized. The kunamas are predominantly Agro-pastoralists from the lowlands of south-western

* The Eritrean constitution of 1997 has used "Tigrigna" for the ethnic group as well as the language. Because, there is an ethnic named Tigre in the country and also aimed to differ from the Ethiopian Tigray.

Eritrea and generally crossed into Ethiopia in family groups. Other represents minorities in the camp and even in Eritrea like Saho, Tigre, Afar, Billen and the like.

As can be seen from the above table the reason for decline in the number of refugee in 2009 is that due to the opening of new refugee site in May-aini, in Tigray regional state, since 2008 substantial number of refugees were transferred. Meanwhile around 2,500 Eritrean refugees left the camp to US and other European countries during the period 2003-2008. Around 6000 refugees have in process for resettlement and the move is already in progress.

The refugees' background geographical location reveals that most of them were come from the boarder of Ethiopian (Table 3.2)

Table 3.2 Refugee population by place of origin

Rank	Place of origin	N	%
1 st	Gashe barka	4364	40.05
2 st	Debub	4235	38.86
3 rd	Meakel	1762	16.18
4 th	North red sea	128	1.17
5 th	Aniseba	106	0.97
6 th	South red sea	48	0.44
7 th	Tigray	2	0.02
8 th	Other	252	2.31
Total	All	10.897	100

Source: Shimelba refugee camp monthly report, (2009)

Average family size in the camp is 1.5 persons according to the ration card statistics. The camp is notable for its highly skewed sex ratio, with 67% of the refugees being male. This reflects the large proportion of

single men among the Tigrigna community, mainly individuals who crossed in to Ethiopia.

Table 3.3 refugee population by sex and age

Age	Sex		Total	
	Male	Female	N	%
0-4	684	684	1368	12.55
5-17	1195	986	2181	20.01
18-59	5174	1812	6986	64.12
60+	190	172	362	3.32
Total	7243	3656	10,897	100

Source: Shimelba ARRA monthly report, (2009)

3.2.3 Infrastructure in the Camp

The camp is connected with nearly 35 kms long weathered road from Sheraro town. There is also a newly opened road through Dedebit to Shire town, zonal town of the region.

There is a satellite telephone communication with three direct lines, a television service and eight hours electric service. There are two schools one for the locals and one for the refugees. With respect to health service, there is one health center. Concerning water facilities, 3 deep wells were dug as the main water resources for the camp. IRC has also built 6 hand dug well for the local and 7 hand dug well for refugees to supplement the water consumption demand of locals and refugees respectively. Currently, according to the survey results refugees are getting 18 liters per person per days. This resource is also available to the host community.

3.1.4 Organizations Working in the Camp

The following discussion was undertaken based on the institutional mandate analysis and the interview with respective staff members.

There are six organizations involved in the delivery of services to the refugees. The Administration for Refugees and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) is a governmental organization that is the charge of refugee and returnee affairs all over the country. It works as the UNHCR'S main implementing and monitoring partner on behalf of the Ethiopian government. ARRA also acts a link between the Ethiopian government and other non-governmental organizations working with refugees (interview with ARRA, 13/04/2009).

Health services are provided by the Administration for Refugees and Returnees Affairs, which is the counterpart of UNHCR on behalf of the Ethiopian government. The camp health center provides services such as Expanded Program of Immunization (EPI), Maternal and Child Health (MCH), Nutrition rehabilitation center, Environmental health activities and an out-patient Department (OPD). In addition to this, the health center also carries out awareness raising activities in the area of environmental health, sexual transmitted diseases, and the use of contraceptives. The heal center provides services free of charge both to the refugee and the local populations (focus group discussion with the (ibid).

The health center is staffed with one medical doctor along with many other nurses and health assistants. Refugee and local people are hired to work in the health center both as health personnel such as Community health workers, Traditional Birth Assistants as well as support staffs. All in all cases financial and other technical support is entirely granted from

UNHCR for implementing its task (interview with UNHCR, and ARRA, 14/04/2009)

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) works along side ARRA in implementing and monitoring refugee programs in the camps. Its role is mainly limited to financing projects and monitoring their implementation. In sum, the UNHCR and ARRA are the main monitoring organizations in the camp (ibid).

International Rescue Committee (IRC) is non-governmental organization and its head quarter is found in the United States of America. Its mission is mainly involved in water and sanitation programs, educational trainings, community awareness services, and sexual and gender based violence's. Most of gender based violence cases is reported to this institution. However, very limited information is transferred to other institutions even for the financial donors with the pretext of confidentiality. Thus, for understanding the magnitude of the problem most of the agencies working with refugee questioned IRC's report. Depending on the type of projects UNHCR granted some amount of budget for this institution mainly for water and sanitation activities. All in all cases nearly 90 percent of the budget is run from its own sources (interview with IRC, 15/04/2009).

Natural Resource Development Project (NRDP) is a sub agency that mainly involved in rehabilitation of the natural environment and distribution of modern stoves to the refugee. This sub-agency is highly integrated with the woreda Agriculture and Rural development office in implementing and monitoring activates. For implementing its activities Budget is fully granted from UNHCR on annually based (interview with NRDP, 17/04/2009).

Refugee Care Netherlands (ZOA) is also another non-governmental organization that involved in peace building programs among the refugee and with local community. This institution is originated from royal families of Poland and their financial source is mainly from its own sources. Additional budget mainly for implementing peace building project UNHCR gives some amount of budget (interview with ZOA, 19/2009).

Training in different area of vocational skills is provided to refugees by ZOA Refugee care in the fields of tailoring, weaving, crafts, metal works, bee keeping, soap making, embroidery, spinning etc. Refugees who have been trained in these fields are then encouraged to set up their own business at the camp. They are provided with loan by ZOA and also assisted in finding market for their goods at the camp level, in Sheraro and the nearby towns through the set up shops. ZOA Refugee Care also runs revolving fund schemes where refugees can borrow money to carry out petty trading activities in the camp (ibid).

Although income generating activities in different areas are promoted among the refugee community in the camp, the program has come across many obstacles in its progress. One of the major problems has been limited market opportunity. Most of the products that are produced by those trained by ZOA find almost no market in the camp. There for the required product could not be selling with the appropriate market price. Because of this and other many other factors, starting up and keeping income generating activities in the camp has been very challenging (ibid).

3.1.5 Administrative Structures of the Refugee

To begin with the refugee structural hierarchy there is refugee central committee, which is made up of 6 people. The members of the refugee committee represent different parts of the society.

The old system of administration by a chief was found in the camp. Each block in the camp is administered by a chief and a committee of 4 to 5 people that assists him/her. There are 6 chiefs in the camp and they represent Central committee of the refugee population. In addition, they represents from Tigrigna, Saho, Kunama, Tigre, and Billen ethnic groups. Each block Chief along with his/her members committee is responsible to overlook the distribution of rations and other relief items to the members of his block and to report to ARRA any problems that arise in the process. The committee is also responsible for making important decisions that influence the members of the block as well as maintain peace an order.

The other important committee is women's association that was established since early 2006. Initially it was lead by men and it has started to lead by females since 2008 with the effort of certain refugee women's. Chief of the women's association is also members of central committee.

There is a refugee community police that comprised of about 18 peoples. It is organized with one commander and has separate office at the center of refugee community. They have close relationship with the governmental police office and ARRA. ARRA, Shimelba police office, and the refugee police community have formal meeting once every two months that deals about the prevailing security situation in the camp (interview with Refugee Central committee and ARRA, 20/2009).

CHAPTER FOUR: Results and Discussions

This chapter aims to first look in to the economic sources of the refugees with estimated contemporary adjusted prices. The occupational background of the refugees, level of economic status before flight Eritrea, and their over all status is discussed. Then, the factors contributing to flight their country and their situation in the camp with emphasis to gender-based violence is presented combined with life story explanations.

4.1 Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Sample respondents

Understanding the over all socio-economic background information of the sample population is important to know their characteristics. As stated earlier, the size of sample respondents for the questionnaire survey is 150. In addition, all of them are registered from Eritrean origin.

4.1.1 Age and Family Size

The age of sample respondents were range from 14-58 years old. Out of the total respondents one hundred thirty eight (92%) were fall between the ages of 17-35. On the other words, the figure shows that the average age is 23.2 years. Therefore, these are potential work force for development activities as well as vulnerable for sexual and gender based violence's.

Table 4.1 Family size of the respondents

Family size	Ethnic group				Total	
	Tigrigna	Kunama	Saho	Blain	N	%
1	24	1	1	-	26	17.3
2	19	11	5	2	37	24.7
3	26	17	2	-	45	30
4	13	13	-	-	26	17.3
5	1	14	-	-	15	10
6	-	1	-	-	1	0.7
	90	50	8	2	150	100

Source: survey data

The above figures show that the majority forty-five (30%) of the total respondents have three family members followed by thirty- seven (24.7%) two family size. In addition, the Data revealed that slight difference can be observed between the Tigrigna and kunama ethnic group in family sizes. Accordingly, the average family size of the sample respondents revealed that 2.2 for Tigrigna and 2.8 for Kunama ethnic group.

4.1.2 Religion and Ethnic Composition

As can be seen from the Table below (4.1) the majority sixty three (42%) of total respondents are orthodox believers followed by fifty-seven (38%) catholic. All of the former followers are from Tigrigna ethnic group. Where as, out of 50 Kunama ethnic group, forty two (82% are catholic believers. Protestant believers are found from Tigrigna Kunama and Saho Ethnic group in the proportion of 4.7%, 4.7%, and 0.6% respectively. These shares a sum of 10% Of the total religion types. There is also other religion found that 1.3% are Jehovah, 0.7% Adventist and 0.7 Bahay believers

Table 4.2 Religion and ethnic composition of sample respondents

Religious type	Ethnic group					Total	
	Tigrigna	Kunama	Saho	Billen	N	%	
Orthodox	63	-	-	-	63	42	
Catholic	15	41	-	1	57	38	
Muslim	1	2	7	1	11	7.3	
Protestant	7	7	1	-	15	10	
Jehovah	2	-	-	-	2	1.3	
Bahay	1	-	-	-	1	0.7	
Adventist	1	-	-	-	1	0.7	
Total	90	50	8	2	150	100	

Source: survey data

After having seen the diversified religiosity of sample respondents four ethnic group are include in the interview, namely Tigrigna, Kunama, Saho, and Billen in the proportion of ninety (60%), fifty (33.3%), eight (5.3%) and two (1.4%) respectively.

4.1.3 Education Status of the Respondents

As can be seen from Table 4.3 twenty five (16.7%) were illiterate and the remaining one hundred twenty five (83.3%) literate. With regard to the illiterate category twelve (13.3%) twelve (24%), and one (12.5%) are proportional belonged to Tigrigna, Kunama, and Saho ethnic group respectively. On the other hand, out of the 125 literate category the majority seventy- eight (52%) found primary education cycle followed by forty five (30%) secondary.

Table 4.3 **Educational status of sample respondents**

Educational Cycle	Ethnic group					Total
	Tigrign a	Kunam a	Saho	Billen	N	%
Illiterate	12	12	1	-	25	16.7
1-4	17	19	4	1	41	27.3
5-8	24	9	3	1	37	24.7
9-10	32	8	-	-	40	26.7
11-12	3	2	-	-	5	3.3
Diploma	2	-	-	-	2	1.3
Total	90	50	8	2	150	100

Source: survey data

4.1.4. Marital Status

To make some connectivity with the over all refugees background the marital status of sample respondents found thoroughly analysis in different category (Table 4.4)

Table 4.4 **Marital status of the respondents**

Category	Ethnic group					Total
	Tigrigna	Kunama	Saho	Billen	N	%
Single	36	17	1	-	54	36
Married	28	24	7	2	61	40.7
Widowed	9	1	-	-	10	6.7
Divorced	17	8	-	-	25	16.6
Total	90	50	8	2	150	100

Source: Summery data

As Table 4.4 indicates the majority sixty one (40-7%) of the respondents found married, fifty-four (36%) single, twenty-five (16.6%) divorced, and ten (6.7%) were widowed.

Those who responded that they are married asked whether it did in Eritrea or in the camp. Thirty two (52.5%) replied that they did in the camp while twenty nine (47.5%) before leaving Eritrea.

Those who reported married in the camp were further asked why they did. Nineteen (59.4%) said that they have married due to the motive of physiological needs, nine (28.2%) personal security, and four (12.5%) economic problems.

The respondents under married category were also asked whether they have interest to live with their husbands. Fifty- two (85.2%) answered that they have interest while nine (14.8%) have not.

The respondents who replied that they have not interest with their couple were asked why so did separated. One (11.1%) is due to the bottle necked of economic factors, five (55.5%) personal security, and three (33.4%) having delay effects for resettlement programs. All of these are from Tigrigna ethnic group.

It was found in the key informant discussion confirmed that after a husband and wife registered by UNHCR and if starting resettlement programmed could not liable for separating. Unless and other wise they will be resulted for more delayed from going abroad. Hence, for the sake of both advantage they have forced to stay together with out any truth love. In addition, the same source revealed that most of the refugees who get married in the camp have frequently made report about their marital problem and the coming fate.

Those who responded that they are divorced asked whether it did in their own country or in the camp. Out of 25 fourteen (56%) are in the camp while eleven (44%) before came to the camp.

Those respondents who replied that that divorced in the camp were asked why were the major reasons. Majority eight (57.1%) were due to economic problems and four (28.6%) accelerating for resettlement and two (14.3%) change in attitude and interest differences.

4.2. **Economic Status of the Women and Girls Refugees**

WCRWC (2006) stated that gender based violence triggered in refugee camps that due to the prevalence of inappropriate assistance, particularly the quantity and quality of food assistance; increase the vulnerability of women and girls refugees. Hence, not only the food rations the over all sources of income for the sample respondents thoroughly discussed and analyzed.

4.2.1. **Food Ration**

It is commonly understood that food ration is considered as the primary source of income for all refugees. Every registered refugee in the camp (regarded less of the age level) is entitled to get 16 kgs of grain /sorghum, 0.75 little oil, 0.4 kgs sugar and 0.15 kgs of salt on monthly bases (WFP, 2009). On other words, in sum, the total amount of ration given for the refugee estimated in local market ranged 70-95 birr for individual per month. ARRA (2009) added that in addition to food rations distribution of non food items such as soup, blankets and stoves take place occasionally based on the availability.

Rations are often distributed at the beginning of each month. However, delays in delivery of rations had taken place from time to time over the last eight years. Over the last eight years, the size of the food rations that is provided to each person had fluctuated from time to time; at times being decreased. This has been based on some arrangements that are carried out by the UNHCR/WFP and ARRA. These joint food assessments are carried out on a regular basis to determine the nutritional status of the refugees and decisions are made on whether to keep the same amount of rations increase it or decrease it based on the findings of the arrestment (CEDEP, 2005).

The refugee often complained about the insufficiency of the food rations. On the base of current amount of the ration respondents' answer summarized in the following table (4.5).

Table 4.5 The given ration lasts for a person per month.

The given ration lasts per month	Ethnic group		Total	
	Tigrigna	Kuanama	N	%
< 20 days	13	8	21	14
21-25 days	23	16	39	26
26-30 days	35	21	56	37.3
>30 days	19	15	34	22.7
Total	90	60	150	100

Source: Survey results

As can be seen from the above figure majority fifty-six (37.3%) of the total respondents replied that the given ration lasts 25-30 days, thirty nine (26%) 20-25 days, twelve (14%) less than 20 days. On the other hands thirty four (22.76) of the total respondents answered the sufficient amount of the given ration (>30 days). In sum, by considering the limited nature of resource availability of current economy, ninety (60%) of the total respondents replied the given ration feeds for more than 25 days.

The respondents strongly claimed for the provision of non food items and some additional food items. However, the World Food Program (WFP) which is the official UN agency responsible for the provision of the food items insists that the amount of the food ratio is sufficient to last a person for a whole month, if properly managed. The WFP along with the UNHCR stated that their responsibility towards the refugee is the provision of food and does not extend to the provision of what they call

'extra items' such as sugar, tea leaves, coffee, shoes and at times even clothes.

Having these quantitative descriptions further question were asked to give their tests and views on the quality of the ration (table 4.6).

Table 4.6 **Respondents view on the quality of the ration**

Rating	Ethnic group		Total	
	Tigrigna	Kunama	N	%
Very goods	0	11	11	7.3
Good	13	21	34	22.7
Satisfactory	11	3	14	9.3
Poor	66	25	91	60.7
Total	90	60	150	100

Source: survey data

As it can be seen from Table 4.6, out of the total respondents forty-eight (32%) replied that the given ration rated as moderate. 7.3% of the total respondents, and all of them from Kunama ethnic group, replied that the given ration rated as high quality. On the other hand, 60% of the total respondents answered as it is poor quality, which is 73.3% of Tigrigna and 41.76% of Kunama Ethiop group.

The information taken from key informants found that the quality of the ration was in decreasing trends. The same source added that the current supplied grain, sorghum, is not get accepted by the refugee, and it is low quality and economic value by comparing with wheat. However, UNHCR/WFP responded that the prevailing problem is due to the over all insufficient source from donors.

4.2.2. Income Generating Activities (IGA)

In order to survive the refugee are involved in different economic activities. The focus group discussion found that all of the governmental and non-governmental organizations working in refugee area have strongly supporting them is different capacity building programs.

Table4.7. **Distribution of sample respondents by economic activities**

Activities	Ethnic group				Total	
	Tigrringa		Kunama		N	%
	N	%	N	%		
Trading	28	31.1	9	15	37	24.7
Employed	16	17.8	6	10	22	14.6
Daily laborer	-	-	7	11.7	7	4.7
Livestock raring	-	-	3	5	3	2
No activities	46	41.1	35	58.3	81	54
Total	90	100	60	100	150	100

Source: survey data

As indicated in table 4.7 the majority respondents are involved in trading activities 37 (24.7%), employed in the camp 22(14.6%), daily laborer 7(4.7) and livestock raring 3(2%).

4.2.2.1 Trading Activities

The main occupation in the study area is trading. This occupation consists of all types of trade forms from petty trade to shop keeping and restaurants. It is reported that twenty eight (31.1%) of Tigrrigna and nine (15%) of Kunama are engaged in this economic activities, where a huge variation among the two groups is observed. Access to other income sources, former experience in trading and ample time creates good opportunity for urban based Tigrrigna ethnic group. Major activities which

can be included here are restaurants and bar, locally produced beer café, different kinds of shops such as boutiques, mine-super market, and music shops. Whereas, the minority group involved in low income generating activities such as selling of wind blowing which named in Amharic “*maragebia*”.

4.2.2.2 Employment

As it is indicates in Table 4.7 twenty two (14.6%) of the respondents are replied employed in governmental and non- governmental organizations, which are working in the camp. Such employment held mostly on contractual basis such as, ration distribution, nursery site development, data collections for different purposes, language translators etc. Above all they are also hired as formal employee in occupations like teaching, clinical nurses, assistance office clerks etc. Since the Tigrigna ethnic groups are better educated than the Kunama most of such occupation recruited from the former in the proposition of sixteen (17.8%) and six (10%) respectively.

4.2.2.3 Daily Laborers

Out of the total respondents daily labor shares seven (4.7 %) and all of them are from kunama ethnic group. The type of activities under this category is collection of firewood and selling to refugee and local markets, etc.

4.2.2.4 Livestock Raring

Although, livestock production is one of the main economic activities of kumana ethnic group only three (2 %) are found from the total respondents. According to the study conducted by Hailessilase (2007) that the mean number of livestock owned by refugee (by implication to the kunama) are 10.5 TLU.

Based on their different economic activities the total amount of income earned per month stated in the following table

Table 4.8 Average income earning from their economic activities

average income earned per month (birr)	Ethnic Group				Total	
	Tigrigna		Kunama		N	%
	N	%	N	%		
< 100 birr	19	21.1	21	35	40	26.7
100-200 birr	4	4.4	3	5	7	4.7
200-500 birr	14	15.6	1	1.7	15	10
500-1000 birr	6	6.7	-	-	6	4
>1000 birr	1	1.1	-	-	1	0.6
none	46	41.1	35	58.3	81	54
Total	90	100	60	100	150	100

Source: survey data

As can be seen from Table 4.8 the majority forty (26.7 %) of the total respondents are replied earned less than 100 birr per month. It is reported that nineteen (21.1%) of Tigrigna and twenty- five (35%) of Kunama are getting this amount of income, where significant variation among the two groups observed. As it is mentioned earlier the comprehensive opportunity creates for Tigrigna able to owned better incomes. To this regard, twenty one (23.4 %) of the Tigrigna getting a sum of greater than 200 birr per month where as twenty three (40%) of Kunama are limited to earn less than 200 birr per month.

4.2.3 Remittances

In addition to the food ration and other economic activities remittance found significant source of income for the refugees. The estimated amounts of this income stated in the following Table (9)

Table 4.9 Average source of income through remittances

Average income earned per month (birr)	Ethnic Group				Total	
	Tigrigna		Kunama			
	N	%	N	%	N	%
< 100 birr	1	1.1	2	3.3	3	2
101-200 birr	6	6.7	2	3.3	8	5.3
201-500 birr	7	7.8	-	-	7	4.7
501-1000 birr	10	11.1	-	-	10	6.7
>1001 birr	3	3.3	-	-	3	2
None	63	70	56	93.4	11.9	79.3
Total	90	100	60	100	150	100

Source: survey data

As it is indicated in the above Table (4.9) thirty one (20.7%) of the total respondents were replied that they have got remittances; in the proportion of twenty seven (30%) and four (6.7%) of Tigrigna and Kunama ethnic group respectively. In addition, the Kunama ethnic group is confined to get less than 200 birr per month. The information getting through key informant revealed that the remittance for the Kunama's are from those who were early resettled to third countries.

The amount of income getting 500-1000 birr per month dominated followed by 1000-2000 birr per month in the proportion of ten (6.7%) and six (5.3%) respectively. How ever, the former amount is getting only by the Tigrigna ethnic group.

4.3. Factors Contributing for Leaving their Own Country

Sarah (2003) described that although global refugee population has actually been in decline the total number of people displaced by persecution, violence and armed conflict appears to have increased substantially.

Having such global trends this paper explained the underlying causes for the exodus of Eritrean's women and females found in Shimelba refuge camp. Hence, the occupational back ground, economic status when they were in Eritrea, respondents answer to the reasons for migration combined with other related sources thoroughly discussed.

4.3.1. Occupational Background

Assessing the refugees' occupational back grounds found important so as to give some implications for the root causes (Table 4.13).

Table 4.10 Occupational background of the sample respondents

Occupation	Ethnic group				Total	
	Tigrigna		Kunama		N	%
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Farmer	8	8.9	13	21.6	21	14
Merchant	3	3.3	1	1.7	4	2.7
House wife only	22	24.4	17	28.3	39	26
Military	1	1.1	-	-	2	0.6
Under age	7	7.8	15	25	22	14.3
Student/up to secondary/	23	25.5	5	8.3	28	18.7
University student	1	1.1	-	-	1	0.6
Civil servant	4	4.4	1	1.7	5	3.4
No occupation	21	23.3	8	5.3	29	19.3
Total	90	100	60	100	150	100

Source: Survey data

As indicated in Table 4.10, out of 150 respondents the majority thirty nine (26%) replied that they were house wife only in the proportion on of twenty two (24.4%) and seventeen (28.3%) of Tigrigna and kunama ethnic group respectively. The fact that somebody is house wife only implies that an indication of economical dependent and under development.

Twenty nine (19.3%) of the respondent replied that they were no occupation at all. To this regard the Tigrigna dominated than the Kunama in the proportion of twenty one (23.3%) and eight (13.3%) respectively.

Twenty eight (18.7%) of the respondents answered that they were primary and secondary school students. As it was mentioned earlier, most of the Tigrigna come from the urban areas, makes them dominant than the Kunama ethnic groups in the proportion of twenty three (25.5%) and five (8.3%) respectively.

The other category revealed that twenty two (14.7%) of total respondents reported that they were underage at the time of fight from their own country. It was also found in the focus group discussion for the question of how the separate child could be reached to the camp. They replied that most of the Kunama and ad small part of rural Tigrigna came when they were in cattle keeping and other activities along the boarders of Ethiopia. Other is also able to come through the channel of brokers and with other relatives other than family. As the result, the figure shows that the kunama dominated than the Tigrigna in the proportion of fifteen (25%) ad seven (7.8%) respectively.

In sum one can see that, all of the above including the student, housewife children and no occupation are marginalized from the socioeconomic and political influences which represents a sum of one hundred eighteen (75.7%) of the total respondents.

On the other hand, twenty one (14%) of the respondents replied that they were farmers. In this regard, the Kunama are over dominated that the Tigrigna ethnic groups in the ratio of thirteen (21.6%) and eight (8.9%) respectively. This is because of the former type were pastoralist and rural bases.

The other form of occupation revealed that four (3.4%) were civil servant, three (2.7%) merchant, one (0.6%) college /university student, and also one (0.66) military. These took a sum of nine (6%) of the total respondents in the proportion of seven (7.8%) and two (3.3) of Tigrigna and kunama ethic groups respectively.

It is also noted that the profile of the refugees implied that the women population is denominated by no occupation house wife, and students in the ratio of 37.1% 25.1% and 22.8% respectively. These all represents a sum of 85%of the women and females populations (ARRA, March 2009).

4.3.2. Background Income Status of the Refugees

The nature and occupational status of the refugees were discussed in the preceding sections. Hence, the following analysis focuses on the income level of the respondents when they were in Eritrea.

Table 4.11 **Average income of the sample respondents**

Category	Ethnic group					
	Tigrigna		Kunama		Total	
	N	%	N	%	n	%
< 100 Nakfa	14	16.3	6	14.3	20	15.9
101 -200 Nekfa	31	32.6	21	50	52	40.6
201-400 Nakfa	23	26.7	13	30.9	36	28.1
401-600 Nekfa	9	14	2	4.8	11	8.6
601-1000 Nekfa	8	9.3	-	-	8	6.2
1001-2000 Nekfa	2	2.3	-	-	2	1.6
Total	86	100	42	100	128	100

Source: survey data

As it can be observed from the above table (4.11), out of 150 sample respondents 128 (85.3%) were able to estimated their income in the proportion of eighty-six (91.1%) and forty two (70%) of Tigringa and kunama ethnic groups respectively.

To begin with, the majority fifty-two (40.6%) of the total respondents answered that they earned 100-200 Nakfa for a person per month followed by thirty-five (27.3%) 200-400 Nakfa. Under the first category (100-200 Nakfa) the data shows that exactly half of the Kunama (21) owned this amount; where as- thirty one (32.6%) of the Tigrigna. On the other hands, twenty three (26.7%) and thirteen (30.9%) of the Tigrigna and kunama respectively gained 200-400 Nakfa for a person per month.

In the lower extreme cases, twenty (15.6%) of the total respondents replied that they earned less than 100 Nakfa for a person per month.

More or less, this amount of income were owned proportionally fourteen (16.3%) and six (14.3%) of the Tigrigna and Kunama ethnics respectively.

In the intermediate categories, eleven (8.6%) of the respondents earned 400-600 Nakfa in the ratio of nine (14%) and two (48%) of the Tigrigna and kunama respectively. In addition eight (6.2%) owned 600-1000 Nakfa per month and two (1.6%) of the respondents replied that they earned 1000-2000 Nakfa per month. The latter two categories are owned only by Tigrigna ethnic group.

In sum, we can observe that the Tigrigna ethnic group incomes hierarchy is wider than the Kunama, where the latter confined to earn less than six hundred Nakfa, where as the former extended up to 2000 Nakfa per month.

4.3.3. **Underlying Causes for Leaving their Country**

After having seen the occupational background and income status of the refugee the researcher has also tried to see the direct responses of the respondents to the questions of what made them to flee from their nation. The causes categorized under governmental repression, the prevalence of drought and famine, the out break Ethio-Eritrea war, social exclusion, and for better job opportunity (Table 4.12).

Table 4-12 **Respondents causes for leaving**

Category	Ethnic group					
	Tigrigna		Kunama		Total	
	N	%	N	%	n	%
Government repression	47	51	51	85	98	65.3
Armed conflict	-	-	6	10	6	4
Social-exclusion	14	15. 6	3	5	17	11.3
Prevalence of drought and famine	9	10	-	-	9	6
For better job opportunity and getting abroad	19	21. 1	-	-	19	12.7
Gender-based violence	1	11	-	-	1	0.7
Total	90	100	60	100	150	100

Source: Survey data

4.4.3.1. Government Repression

Persecution based on race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group and /or political opinion is an integral part of the definition of “refugee” in the 1951 UN convention. Moreover states are typically viewed as the main perpetrator of these persecutions; and also include where the state is unwilling or unable to provide protection for the national people (Aristide R, 2001)

The above Table (4.12) shows that the majority ninety-eight (65.3%) of the total respondents replied that they were persecuted for the reason of government repression. Under this category, thirty nine (39.8%) of the respondents answered that due to the problems happened on their families. In this regard, the forms of repression described due to their

husbands left from Eritrea, imprisonment of husbands and fathers, and the family feared the prevalent situation on others in the proportion of ten (25.6%) twenty four (61.6%) and five (12.8%) respectively.

The other form of repression revealed that ten (10.2%) Of this category replied that forced to left by afraid from going to militarism.

The focus group discussion found confirmed the above information that every citizen particularly those who completed secondary school forced to attend *Sawa* before joining territory education and/or other activities (Interviewed with refugees' central committee: 07, 04, and 2009).

Other category of persecution eight (8.2%) of this category is due to the prevalence of direct repression on the respondents. To this regard when their husband and other family members left to out side their country the government imprisoned and suffered their relatives particularly, their wives and family members. Half of this respondents four (4.1%) of the respondents fled due to the inability of paying certain amount of money releasing for their imprisoned husbands, amounted about 50,000 Nakfa. The above figure agree with the findings of studies conducted by Styne, (2008, quoted in <http://www.ethiochannel.com.et>, 2009) stated that the Eritrean economy slightly better than the Zimbabwe, which are extremely economically depressed, due to the remittances. Moreover, the government frequently imprisoned without any tangible criminal evidences for the sake of receiving certain amount of money from their relatives mostly found in abroad.

More seriously than the preceding forms, twenty six (26.5%) respondents replied that they were imprisoned by the governments. Further question were raised and discussed with key informants about the circumstances of such phenomena. They replied that, in most cases when the government suspected to the peoples in any anti-political stands they are

subject to oppressed by the government. Therefore imprisonment uses not only as a source of money but also a strong mechanism of suppressing against anti-political opinions. This situation highly observed among the peoples who are lived along the boarder of Ethiopia. An extension of the governmental repression discrimination in ethnicity is entirely raised by the Kunama and Saho. The figure shows that out of this category thirteen (13.3%) replied that they were left due to ethnicity discrimination. The focus group discussion confirmed that the tension were exacerbating due to the geographical location of minority classes, hosting boarder of Ethiopia. An elder Kunama informant expressed his view on the overall situation of the government and their ethnic groups that:

Derg was nice and humanitarian government that gave us different aids in various forms. Paradoxically, Shaebia government did nothing for us, other than oppressed, hostility and making crack with the lovely Ethiopia (interview with Kunama informant, 14/04/2009)

It is also noted that in the World Bank report (2004) confirmed that after EPLF took the first sovereignty that proclaimed in 1933, a new 1996 constitution allowed for a multi party system but for bade the ethnic or religious attention of political parties. This implies that the issue of religious and ethnicity is not recognized by the government and can lead to the prevalence of ethnic discrimination..

4.4.3.2. **Armed Conflict**

War and civil unrest are increasingly wreaking havoc on the lives of women and girls, causing them to flee violence, abuse, intimidation and insecurity and resulting in their internal or external displacement (WCFRWC, 2006). In this case one possible cause for flight from their own country can be taken as the results of the out break of Ethio-Eritrea war.

As it can be seen from Table 4.12 six (4%) of the total respondents answered that their basic causes for crossing out the national boarder is due to the out break of May 1998 Ethio-Eritrea war. Since all of them are from Kunama ethnic group their sphere of influence with Ethiopia can be confirmed their responses.

The profile of the population revealed that 99% of the Kunma were registered at the time of opening the Wa'ala Nihibi temporary refugee camp, in 2002. The key informants' information confirmed that most of them were staying by wandering along the vicinity of the refugee site for nearly two-three years before the official celebrated of the refugee camps. More over, they were come with their family and some movable asset such as livestock.

The intense of the problem can be exacerbating by the prevalence of several guerilla fighting before the official launched of the war by the two governments. Therefore, we can conclude that the Kunama ethnic group was suffering not only due to their geographical locations but also due to their ethnic discrimination.

4.4.3.3 Social Exclusion and Family Issue

Under this category the basic causes for exodus is described in relation with the citizen's opportunity, protection in law or in practice and their families' choices.

In general, women and girls have fewer opportunities, lower status and less power and influence than men and boys-all of which may compounded by conflict and displacement. Women and girls are often expected to be socially and culturally subservient to men and boys. They may not have access to the same rights and legal protections in low or in practices (WCFRWC, 2006)

Accordingly, the survey result on Table 4.12 shows that seventeen (11.3%) of the total respondents replied that the underlying reason for flight from their country were due to socio-cultural and family cases. Under this category six (33.5%) due to their families left to Ethiopia (Shimelba) latter the respondents came to their families, three (17.6%) came with their husbands.

The other possible causes replied by the Saho ethnic group two (11.1%) were due to the cultural problems; where the inability to married the Muslim with Orthodox followers. On the other hand six (33.3%) of this category respondents replied that they came to the camp without any justified reasons, rather with their intimate friends.

A respondent (5.8%) of this category forced to left as the result of snatched her agricultural lands-. In the same ratio (5.8%) came to the camp after having faced pregnancy: as such informal pregnancy were strongly claimed in that localities/ community.

Life story: Jemila Ashaeilo (April 23, 2009)

This story shows that how the societies tradition disrupted by inappropriate national law within the village excluded some from religious freedom. It is understood that freedom of believing in any religious is one of an individual rights. However, Jemila and other religious followers that were not recognized by the national law suffer a lot not only from the community but also from the government law and regulations. Besides, she was also suffering in the camp and she narrated her story as follows:

She was having a partner since 16 years old in her locality a place called Ankeren. She and her family ancestors were Muslims and Saho ethnic group. But, her partner Amanuel was Tigrigna and Orthodox believers. After spending for nearly two years in an

irregular union, the information was heard by her family. Hence, they were strongly blamed not only by her family but also by the whole community including him. Since he had information about Shimelba refugee camp, they chose to leave Eritrea. Consequently, they came to Ethiopia in May 2004.

She gave her first birth a year after her arrival to Shimelba camp and divorced when the son was about 9 months. Subsequently, she was suffering a lot not only due to economic and security reasons but also social exclusion by the majority. When she had collecting firewood in the field, she was beaten by the Ethiopian inhabitants three times and abused sexually by a refugee that she could not know his face. In addition, after divorcing she was undermined by the majority (Tigrigna) while fetching water and at the time of ration taking. On the other hand, she observed that the protestant followers in the camp have strong network and sleeping class in churches for risky women and girls. As the result, she was forced to change her belief to protestant and able to attain better security with her son.

4.4.3.4. Economic Factors

Given large and widening economic differences between nations, the surprise may be how little, not much, international migration for better opportunity occurs (Peter: 2001) Hence, with in this wider concept of migration, refugees can be created not only due to the forces for political repression, armed conflict and socio-cultural problems but also as the result of economic factors. In this regard, the discussion took in relation with the push /pull and networking factors.

As it can be seen from Table 4.12 twenty six (18.7%) of the total sample responds replied that they faced due to the economic reasons. In addition, all of them are from Tigrigna ethnic group (31.1%).

Under this category, nine (37.5%) of the respondents were answered due to the prevalence of drought and famine in their locality/country. This implies that their inability to adequately provide for self and family's push women and girls.

Fourteen (53.8%) of this category replied that their flight from Eritrea were for the sake of accessing better job opportunities. This can be characterized by substance-level of income, and attracted by the existence of employment (by implication better payment) other than their won country, and needs to access through Shimelba refuge camp with the help of UNHCR.

Thirdly, five (19.2%) of this category replied that their prime reason were for getting abroad. Such respondents are character by having relatives in abroad that can help them in financial and other facilities. These groups of respondents are also characterized by the inability to get passport in their own country for going abroad.

Further question were asked about the circumstances of migration policy in Eritrea. The key informants replied that regardless of the policy, in practice, not alone international but also the people can not move wherever with in the national boarder. Hence, when somebody wants to go some where she/he obliged to give a justifiable reason and permission is given from the government on a certain time bounded.

A life history examination of a respondent's also confirmed that she was able to come with a permission obtained from Asmara to ask her grand mothers family; who's found in along to the boarder of Ethiopia.

On the other hand, out of the 150 respondents, the majority one hundred twenty-eight (85.3%) were coming from boarder of Ethiopia. Therefore, we can infer that despite having some of the respondents' origins were registered as from distant, a considerable number of refugees came through the channel of their kinship along the vicinity of Ethiopia. A key informant from refugee said that those who lived in the center of Eritrea and having blood relationship with bordering Ethiopia are "lucky", due to the ability of access to Shimelba refugee camp.

The researcher has also tried to see the causality from the other side of the coin. Accordingly, the respondents were also asked whether they had ever lived in Ethiopia or not. Seventeen (11.3%) of the total respondents replied that they were in Ethiopia and the rest (88.7%) were not. The respondents who knew Ethiopia are only from Tigrigna ethnics.

Those who responded that they had lived in Ethiopia were asked when they left it. Seven (41.2%) replied that they left before the out break of the war and the rest 10 ten (58.8%) were after the war. Therefore, due to their past influence with Ethiopia can be exacerbating the migration.

All of the respondents were asked where they want to live for the next time. The majority one hundred thirty three (88.7%) of the total respondents replied that they want to resettled in developed nations, nine (6%) back to Eritrea and two (1.3%) in Ethiopia. The other six (4%) of respondents answered that they can alive wherever, but should have been peace and job opportunity.

The survey result shows that those who preferred backing to Eritrea put a precondition after the abolishment of the current government; a Tigrigna (1.1%) and eight (13.3%) of Kunama respondents.

Another question was asked that by whom the respondents go to abroad. One hundred thirty eight (98.5%) replied that they moved with the help of UNHCR. only two (1.5%) replied if it is possible with their own expenses.

Life story: Nigesti Guelay (April 14, 2009)

Nigesti is around 29 years old and born in Asmera, capital city of Eritrea. Until she left her country, she was a student of grade 9. Her grand mother's family kinship was from *Seniafe* and she frequently spent her spare time with them. The time to *Seniafe* was primarily used for the sake of paving the road to leave Eritrea. By taking limited permission from her local administration, she made a lot of journeys for three years to her grand families. For six years and even more times of the trips, Nigesti with her aunt's traveled to Ethiopia. When they started the journey, his intention was to indicate the route and then back to his locality from the territory of Ethiopia. However, just after arrived to that point, she asked him to continue with her by afraid of going alone to Ethiopia. Subsequently, they agreed with traveling to Ethiopia and arrived in the Eastern zone of Tigray which is the way to *Adigrat* town at the specific locality of *Europ*. The concerned bodies such as Ethiopian government and UNHCR examined their identity and assured their refugee status at *Endabaguna*. Then after, they have lived in Shimelba refugee camp since December 2003. Following this, Nigisty got married in the camp just after arrived in Shimelba with in a month. In connection with this she stated that there are many females who been forced to make marriage for the sake of either personal safety or economic security.

To sum up, when she primarily perceived the migration to Ethiopia, she had no bright futurity. Because, she had miss informed that the Ethiopian government made them suffered and even killed the Eritrean refugees. In addition, a large number of refugees that registered from

central and distant part of Eritrea have flight through their kinship along Ethiopia.

Life story: Genet Tesfazgi (April 25, 2009)

She is the last daughter among the three children and 25 years old in her family. Genet was enthusiastic to talk about her life. She stopped her education five years before and left Eritrea at grade 7. The family economic base of her family was tailoring done by her father. In addition, the family used remittance from the eldest son in Dubai. The other son was military who became so having completed his secondary school a few months before. After Genet was stopping her education, she was spending all the time helping her father in the shop.

The crisis for the family was coming after the government takeover the shop house without any compensation in 2006. Then, the family discussed about her futurity and decided that Genet should fly to developed countries by the expense of her eldest brother. Hence, the route was decided through Ethiopia and in March 2007 she left Eritrea. Genet said that the travel to Ethiopia was generally in to two directions. The first option was directly to Ethiopia through the Ethio-Eritrea border. This cost of traveling was cheaper and estimated to pay 20,000 Nakfa for the brokers. In addition, the distance was by far shorter than the second option. However, this way was very risky if the Eritrean government/security forces arrested them mostly they will be sentenced to life imprisonment and death.

The second option was traveling through the route of Sudan to Ethiopia. The payment to this way was costly and required over 30,000 Nakfa. Hence, she chose the second option and came from Asmera through Keren to Sudan and then to Ethiopia (Humera) with

in about 15 days tedious journey. Unfortunately, during the journey she was not fallen on the hands of Eritrean government/ security forces. At Humera get-in key points by checking ARRA and UNHCR she got refugee status and transported to Shimelba.

It was understood that after she left Eritrea, her family was punished by the Eritrean government. Three months later, her father was imprisoned by the government and forced to pay 50,000 Nakfa for releasing from prison

Genet left Eritrea at the total cost of 80,000 Nakfa. Not only the financial expenses but also the ravel to Ethiopia is very risky. She said that before and after her flight many Eritreans were arrested, life imprisoned, and abused by different people even then sentenced to death while making the journey. The immediate cause of her flight was due to the economic problems in the family which resulted from taking over their shop.

However, the basic cause of the flight was due to the fact that she was unemployment and she was obtaining financial and moral supports in favor of the flight from her brother. The grass root cause of the case that the national migration policy of Eritrea banned to have any flee from the country and thus provoked many citizens to go through such risky route. This is mainly concerned for those who have networking and able to afford the way through passports.

The misery life comes just after arrived at Shimelba refugee camp. In the camp she started living with two other ladies whom she did not knew before. A day after she was raped by unknown person at night in the field. After two weeks, constructing her house and bringing the necessary house materials, she began to live there alone. Subsequently, her house was frequently knocked by unknown persons at night. Knowing none of them, she did not report the case to any respective institutions. After spending 3 months of obscure life, she was forced to have a partner in an irregular union for the

sake of personal safety and physiological needs. In addition, she gave him some amount of money that was being received from her brother 30 \$ dollar per month in average. She also said that any girl could not live in the camp peacefully without any male partner. This confirmed that the prevalence and types of gender-based violence in refugee setting area became risky than normal cases.

Life story: Simret Frezgi (April 16, 2009)

Before Eritrea took its Liberation much of her family's time spent as refugee in Sudan. Her parents went to Sudan with 8 and 12 years old daughter and son respectively in 1974 and returned to Eritrea (*Teseniti* town) in July 1992 around ten years later than their son. Having come back to Eritrea, the son directly joined the EPLF and passed away in the civil war. The daughter however did not come back to Eritrea instead traveled to Italy and started living there. Coming to Simret, she was born in 1987 in Sudan at Kesela refugee camp and returned with her parents by the time mentioned above during her childhood. The father was politically active and that was one of the reasons for their return to the country following the change of regimes. After they returned from Sudan, their source of income was remittance from Italy and plantation in a plot of agricultural lands. On the average, the whole families were estimated to earn 400 Nakfa per month for the household.

Simret left Eritrea and took refugee status in January 2007 at Shimelba camp without informing her families regarding the travel. However, she was frequently sharing ideas with her brother who was in Italy so as to take out from Eritrea beforehand. The family was thinking about Simret's futurity. Because, before she left Eritrea only two year was remaining to complete her secondary school. Thereby, she was afraid of attending the "Forced National Services" that must be passed through by every high school completed citizens. Through

time, coming to be her hope towards her families became intangible and time consuming, she decided to leave Eritrea at any expenses. Moreover, she heard an idea that promotes about the good opportunities to go to third countries from Shimelba. The information or good news about going abroad was spread over her and across many others ear confirming that some were already resettled to developed nations and will be continuing the resettlement programs. Finally, having this in mind, the preparations of traveling to Ethiopia was completed and since her intimate girl friend was ready to migrate with her brother, Simret adjusted the move with them and round by 10:00 am on 2 January 2007, she with them left their locality to Ethiopia.

Simret and more recent migrants could be triggered by the prevalence of good image about Shimelba refugee camp. Her moral was also frustrated by the manifestation of “Forced National Service” that most of them perceived as they are potential militarist. This provided further evidence that the Eritrean government violated the right of humans and led many people to flee their country and spend their productive times as refugees and some could die on their journey.

Two months later, she informed to her brother and subsequently received about 40 \$ dollar per month. Simret observed that the situation of fleeing from Shimelba through UNHCR became time taking and decided to choose other options. After around 8 months spending in the camp, she with two women and four men tried to get out to Italy through the way of Sudan to Egypt on foot and train with the help of brokers. They also owned local identity cards as they had Ethiopian citizenship from local dwellers with the expense of 4000 birr for each.

However, the traveling became reversed that after they arrived in Egypt, the government arrested and gave them chances to choose backing to Eritrea or Ethiopia. Since the Ethiopian government was

permitted to accept them, all were using air transport with the expenses of their own enabled to come to Ethiopia. Then after, she was staying in Shimelba until the condition will permit by UNHCR.

Simret stated that any one who could not have financial supporter not only tried to move from Shimelba but also flight from Eritrea. This supported that considerable refugees have flight from Eritrea only due to the networking factors.

4.5. The Nature and Extent of Gender-based Violence in the Camp

Although the whole thesis was studying about gender this part emphasize only with the issue of Physical, psychological, sexual and harmful traditions. In addition, actors of the violence and the responses given by the respective institutions clearly discussed

Basically, due to incidents of sexual and gender-based violence are under-reported, the true scale of the problem is unknown. No matter how, by making a thoroughly and critical assessment, the extent and forms of violence that happened in *shimelba* refugee camp were describe and analyzed.

4.5.1 Extent and Forms of Violence

Out of the total interviewed fifty nine (39.3%) of the respondents answered that they faced sexual and gender –based violence in the proportion of thirty seven (41.1%) and twenty-three (38.3%) of Tigrigna and kunama ethnic respectively.

Table 4.13 Violence that happened to the respondents

Category	Ethnic group					
	Tigre		Kunama		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Beating	9	24.3	3	12.5	12	19.7
Rape	13	35.1	2	8.3	15	24.6
Verbal abused	0	0	3	12.5	3	4.9
Torture	5	13.5	2	8.3	7	11.5
Unwanted sex	8	21.6	0	0	8	13.1
forced marriage	0	0	6	25	6	9.8
Burning houses	2	5.4	0	0	2	3.3
Genital mutilation	0	0	8	33.3	8	13.1
Total	37	100	24	100	61	100

Source survey data

As it can be seen from the Table (4.13) the majority fifteen (24.6%) of the respondents replied that they faced raped in the proportion of thirteen (24.5%) and two (8.3%) of Tigrigna and Kunama respectively.

Further question were asked to the key informants about the prevalence of such situations on the refugees. They replied that raping happened on the Tigrigna when they are in their homes mostly at night: where as the kunama when they were collecting fire woods.

Unwanted sex was reported by eight (13.1%) of the respondents and all of them were from Tigrigna (21.6%) Further question were also raised to the key informants about the reasons for making unwanted sex. They replied that mostly happened based on the interest of women for the sake of exchanging economic and personal security cases. They added that even those who have formal marriage arrangements frequently

engaged in such abused activities. It is surprised enough, the husband knows about the involvement of his wives and the men also know each other but nothing is done to abort the phenomenon. This implies that if the husband unable to adequately provide the needs of his family /wife she is forced to make unwanted sex with many partners. Hence, the key informant confirmed that the phenomena as an emergence of “common wife”; that implies a women owned many husbands /partners. More over, divorcing in the camp is due to the prevalence of such phenomena (interviewed with refugee central committee 04, 04, 2009)

Paradoxically, as though the researcher have made effort to ascertain the prevalence of commercial sex. However, there are no any women involved in such activities. The focus group discussion found that commercial sex is strongly claimed by the Eritrean refugee. In addition, an elder of local men said that confirmed the information, even in that period when Ethiopia and Eritrea were together, there was rarely found Eritrean prostitute.

Beating, next to rapping, stands the second most prevailing form of violence in the proportion of nine (24.3%0 and three (12.5%) of Tigriigna and kunama ethnics respectively. To this regard, two of this case was reported as domestic /family cares: where as the rest ten were not. Those who were victims of domestic cases reported that they bitten at least twice in a month by their husbands. The rest were bitten for different reasons such as sex, money and other motivated needs.

It is found also in the focus group discussion for the question of the prevalence of such phenomena. They replied that since the refugee lived out of their decedents and families many of social norms have become phased out. Therefore, one possible cause for having high figure of divorcing in the camp may result from such circumstances.

The other form of violence is verbally abused, which reported by three (4.6%) of the total respondents, and all of them are from Kunama ethnic groups. This implies that the minority classes are undermined/under estimated by the majority of Tigrigna ethnic group.

Seven (11.5%) of the respondents reported that they faced an attempted to be done something forcefully. This implies that the driving force may be for making sex, material and other purposes. But, the men want to do so only through their power. To this regard five (13.5%) and two (8.3%) of the Tigrigna and kunama respectively became victims of such violence.

A little different from the preceding discursions, tow (33.7%) of the respond both are from Tigrigna ethnics reported burned of their houses. Such violence were happened at night when the respondents incapable of doing something for the men's.

The rest of violence's are related with the prevalence of bad cultures and traditional practices. It is known that such practice is not resulted from their refugee statute's rather backing to their origin ancestors and community practices. However, the issue become center of discussion, due to the extensive efforts have made by different agencies working in the refugee area. As it is mentioned earlier IRC has undertaken a campaign to abolish such traditional practices under the department of Gender based violence.

Having such efforts, eight (13.1%) of the respondents were answered that they faced genital mutilated. The problem become deepening all of them were belongs to kunama ethnics (33.3%). In addition, it is found that at the time of data collection, the researcher observed that when the kunama ladies were celebrating the mutilation ceremony in the open

field, whose age is ranged from 14-18 years old. More over, when the researcher asked about the reasons for the inability to abolish such practices an elderly kunama responded that “This is a beautiful culture and have not yet changed and continue for ever”. This implies that the overall activities in relation to aborting such bad practice did not yet progress.

The second category of cultural induced problem was forced married. To this regard six (9.8%) of the respondents answered that they have married with the force of their families. This is also practice only by the kunama ethnics (25%). In addition, they were undertaken between the age of 11 and 14 years old.

Life story: Wr/o Aimu Hame (April 22, 2009)

The following story depicted that the situations between the Eritrean government and its inhabitants along Ethiopian territory. It gives a general views for the causes of exodus of Kunama ethnics and persistent traditions related with gender-based violence. Wr/o Aimu narrated the story as follows:

Aimu married when she was 15 and now she is around 39 years old. The first and the middle children are sons and the rest three are females. Their ages are 19, 17, 16, 14 and 5 that the last was born in the camp. Except the first and last children the rest are attending at grade 7, 6 and 5 in their order of ages. The family was left Eritrea in November 2002. When they thought to flee Eritrea their part of livestock was sold to Ethiopian to get money that helped in Ethiopia. They are kunama and their economic base was agriculture. They were from Gash-Barka zone in a place called Tekombia.

The father was actively participating in the local community associations with the acceptance of the local administration and society. He had also positive attitude for the Ethiopian regardless of

his political stand. Before the outbreak of the Ethio-Eritrea war, he was frequently asked to join the guerrilla attack by the government. However, he was suspected by the Government to his political loyalty. Subsequently, he was imprisoned more than four times and when the tension between the two countries was increasing many others as him was extensively suffered. Just after the outbreak of the war, the family flight from their locality to Ethiopia. She said that the travel was for saving the family with the tent of Ethiopia and they didn't expect living in Camp. The over all situations in their locality described that most of them had positive perception for the Derg regime for there was supply of food aid and did not benefit from Shaebia government.

The family mainly used food ration and different activities as the means of living. One of her daughter was employed as laborer in the Nursery site that undertaken by the NRDP. The amount of payment was 230 birr per month in contractual bases that renewable every 3 month. Wr/o Aimu and the other daughter assigned to fire wood collection and charcoals for market and family consumption. They collect three times in a week. Water was fetching by the mother and her daughters. Regarding the volume of the water, it is sufficient for the family that they utilized about 30 liters per day. When they were collecting fire wood, the local community developed conflicts with them. Till the site of fire wood was demarcated, they had been quarreling with each other three times with in a year. Since they did not know the specific persons of the case, they did not make any report to the police or other responsible institutions. On the other hands, her sons had nothing specified activities. The husband in the Kunama Ethnic group is well respected and most of the activities assigned to mother and females.

Aimu with her family's main causality for flight was the imprisonment of her husband. The hostility with the Kunama Ethnic and the Eritrean government were triggered by their geographical sphere of influence with Ethiopia. Exodus of large number of Kunama refugee with their family and some also including livestock just after the end of the war confirmed that there is problems on an ethnic or/and regional bases. The story depicted that the extent of violence against women is tremendous. To begin with the mother is overloaded work of the family. In this case she is concerned not only for caring the children and other routine activities but also engaging in economic generating activities.

4.5.2. Actors of the Violence

In order to develop a sound intervention approach identify the major perpetrators of the violence were substantial. Hence, the respondents were asked whether the actors for the violence were local men, police, camp administration or refugees. Out of 61 two (3.3%) of the respondents answered that the perpetrators were locale men. In this case, the women's were bitten while in fire wood collecting. This implies that the cases are due to the resource competition.

The rest fifty nine (96.7%) of the total respondents answered that the problem were undertook by the refugees. under this category four (6.6%) of the respondents replied that the violence faced from their husbands. In addition, fourteen (22.6%) were genital mutilation and unwanted marriage.

The majority forty-one (67.2%) of the respondents answered that the problem were undertook by out side of their family members. To this regard, the types of the violence were ranged from extreme hazard in all aspects such as rapping, unwanted sex, and burning their homes up to fearing and demoralized of the women and female refugees.

Life story: Senait Venchenso (April 26, 2009)

She was from Kunama ethnic group and lived with her families in Sheshebit which is vicinity to Bademe area. She left Eritrea with her family at the age of 8 years in 2002. The family's economic base was rearing of livestock and farming activities. By its geographical suitability their cattle were frequently grazing along/ in the Ethiopian territory. In the meantime, her father became one of the local traditional community leaders. A few years before, until the out break of the Ethio-Eritrea war of 1998, guerilla fighting was frequently undertaken from both sides. Consequently, many Kunama's particularly the influential persons were highly suspected by the Eritrean government and suffered a lot. Thereafter, the family with their cattle escaped their locality in February 2001 and wandering along the territory until the Wa'ala Nihibi temporary refugee site was opened around a half year latter. In addition, they were fleeing with about 8 other neighboring family.

The preceding case gives a picture of as my survey also supported that the immediate causes for flight the Kunama Ethnic group were the out break of the war. However, the problem is deep rooted into disregarding the ethnics issue in the national assembly.

Harmful traditional practice is common among the Kunama ethnic group. In this case violence against women is not emanated from their refugee status rather back to their culture. Senite was coming to Shimelba refugee camp at early age. Hence, the following her case story depicted the circumstances of violence that happened with in the family

Senait was starting her education in the camp and now at grade 6. She without her interest mutilated with 4 other friends in the camp at around 13 year. This was common in their locality even when they were in Eritrea. A year after mutilation she married by the force of her family. Since a week before the marriage for about 2 months she had been kept by her husband and/or family. Therefore, she couldn't

interesting to live with him rather for the sake of maintaining her family's dignity.

4.5.3 Institutional Reactions to the Violence

In order to protect victims and survivors, how ever, the legal response must be timely and focused on the immediate safety and security of the victim while following due process for all alleged perpetrator. Hence, the respondents were asked whether they reported the incidents to the police (by implication ARAR, IRC etc.) Thirty one (50.8%) respondents were replied that they did while fourteen (49.2%) responded that they did not. Those who reported the incident to the police were further asked how the police responded. Thirteen (41.9%) said that the police refuse to intervene, claiming that it was a family matter, eleven (33.5%) answered that the perpetrators were released on bond by the investigation police officer. On the other hand, four (12.9%) said that the police tried to reconcile them with their relatives, four (9.7%) replied that the police did not take any measure because they needed evidence.

Those who responded that the violators were released on bond were again asked whether or not their cases had been taken on court. Three respondents answered that their cases had not been taken to court. One woman replied that her case had been taken to court but decision was pending.

This figure shows that most of the cases are not taken seriously, because in (41.9%) of these cases, the police gave inappropriate responses. The fact that in 25% of these cases the police refuse to intervene, claiming they were a family affair, shows that reflect the society's belief that domestic violence is just a trivial matter that could happen in any family and, therefore it should be tolerated. The same attitude can be reflected in the fact, that in 12.9% of these cases, the police tried to reconcile.

The respondents who replied that they did not report the incidents to the police were asked the reason why they did not. Six (20%) replied that, since they were economically dependent on the perpetrators, they did not want to get them into trouble, four (13.3%) responded that because she loved him she did not want him to go jail, nine (30%) said that they chose to tolerate the abuse because it happened to every women. Seven (23.3%) responded that their neighbors and their friends reconciled them. On the other hand, four (13.3%) replied that they wanted to maintain the family, for the sake of resettlement program.

CHAPTER FIVE

5. Summary, Conclusion and Recommendation

5.1 Summary

The objectives of the study relied on the situation of Eritrean women and girl refugees found in Shimelba refugee camp. More specifically, the economic status, causes for flight from their country and challenges faced at the camp thoroughly discussed and analysed. The methods employed in this study were survey, focus group discussion, key informants, life story and observations. Hence, a sum of 150 sample respondents were selected for the survey questionnaire using random sampling techniques after categorized by their age, time of arrival at the camp and sex levels.

The common source of income for the refugees is food rations. All of the refugees, regardless of their age levels entitled to get 16 kgs of sorghum /wheat and other limited variety of food items with an estimated amount of 85-100 birr for a person per month. The majority Ninety (60%) of the total respondents replied that the given ration lasts for more than 25 days which is supposed to feed for a month. The quality of the ration is strongly claimed by the refugees. The majority Ninety one (61%) of the total respondents replied that the ration categorized as poor quality. Moreover, there are no any institutions that concerned for the provision of extra food items like cloths, and other related necessity needs. Therefore the young women and girls suffer and exposed for sexual and gender-based violence for fulfilling such basic goods and services.

Different economic activities are undertaken in the camp. Sixty-nine (46%) of the total respondents replied that they were engaged in different income generating activities. The dominant activities were trading and

employed in the camp in the proportion of thirty-seven (53.6%) and twenty two (40%) of the total activities. In sum, through different income generating activities the majority forty (58%) earned less than one hundred birr per month followed by fifteen (21.7%) getting ranged between 200-500 birr per month.

Remittances found substantial sources of income. To this regard out of the total respondents thirty one (20.76%) respondents replied that they were getting some amount of money from abroad. With regard to the amount of money the majority ten (32.3%) earned ranged from 500-1000 birr per month followed by 100-200 birr and 200-500 birr per month in the proportion of eight (25.8%) and seven (22.6%) of the remittance beneficiaries. One can considered that the amount and the number of voluntary respondents that they get remittances by large could be underestimated. All in all cases the per capita income for the total respondents estimated about 215 birr per month.

The paper also tries to investigate the underlying causes for flight the refugees from their own nations. To this regard the respondents' occupational background with an estimated income and direct responses for the reasons of leaving were triangulating. The majority occupational background of the respondents revealed that they were in low economic activities; Where thirty-nine (26%) of the total respondents were house wife only followed by no occupation at all and students in the proportion of twenty-nine (19.3%) and twenty-eight (18.7%). On the other hands the estimated per capita income of the respondents revealed that the majority seventy-two (56.5%) were earned less than 100 Nakfa per month. Therefore we can conclude that most of the refugees were marginalized from the over all socio-economic and political influences of the country. On the other hands the majority eight (65.3%) of the respondents replied that the basic causes for flight from their country

were governmental repression followed by for job opportunity and getting access for abroad and social exclusion in the proportion of nineteen (12.7%) and seventeen (11.3%) of the total respondents.

It is common that the incidents of sexual and gender based violence are under reported. Having such circumstances, fifty-nine (39.3%) of the total sample respondents reported that they were faced sexual and gender based violences. The form of violences dominated by raping, biting, unwanted sex and genital mutilation in the proportion of fifteen (24.6%), twelve (19.7%), eight (13.1%) and eight (13.1%) of the total incidents respectively.

The majority fifty-nine (96.7%) of the total respondents answered that the actors for the violences were the refugee themselves: where forty-one (67.2%) cases were non-domestic cases. This is unique phenomenon when compared with other studies conducted in many parts of West Africa refugee sites (WCFRWC, 2006) that the actors were local community and peace makers. Generally, the over all incidents and frequencies of reporting to the responsible institutions became decreasing when the situation of resettlement program changed from special cases to group- resettlement programs.

5.2 Conclusions

- ❖ The source of income for the refugee were mainly food ration IGA and remittances. To begin with the amount of ration given for the refugee is sufficient when considered with the overall current economic crisis. How ever based on the respondents and administrator point of view the quality of the food ration is poor quality. When considered the overall household per capita income of the population it is not a chronic issue.

- ❖ Since there are no any institutions that concerned for the provision of extra food items like cloths, and other related necessity needs the young women and girls suffer and exposed for sexual and gender-based violence for fulfilling such basic goods and services. This situation is provoked by the prevalence of the Ethiopia government banned to enter any selvage products from outside to the country.
- ❖ The analyses of causes for flight from Eritrea point out that the majority occupational background of the respondents, their income status and employment positions, and educational level revealed that they were marginalized from the socio, economic and political influence of the country. There fore most of them are flee due to economic reasons.
- ❖ On the other side of the coin, when considered the number of remittance beneficiary and the driving forces of expelling from the country most of the Eritrean refugees are not ‘forced migrants’, rather ‘impelled migrants’. This situation could be triggered by the Eritrean closed migration policy.
- ❖ At constitutional level some amount of the refugee were fleeing due to the existing law and order of the country. In this regard in 2002, the Eritrea minister of information issued a decree that “all religions except for the Eritrean Orthodox Church, Islam, the Roman Catholic Church, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church must fill out registration applications and cease religious activities and services until the applications were approved”(International Religious Freedom Report, 2006).

5.3 Recommendations

Recommendation is common in research works. Almost all writers recommended what they think is good to be bringing solution to the problem they study. In this research project also has been tried to propose the following important point.

- ❖ Community involvement in risk identification, prevention and intervention are the most successfully means of reducing the protection risks faced by refugee women and girls. They must be involved in their own protection, including the men must be equally engaged. Participate the refugee in planning particularly assess the needs of the vulnerable group, women and girls, could be by far improving the violence against them. On the other hand it shall be improving economic status of the refugee and the girls through various income generating activities.
- ❖ The Ethiopia government prohibited to enter any salvage products from outside to the country. There fore, within the National policy frame work of banned to enter any salvage there is a need to compromising UNHCR with ARRA to address the refugees' basic needs by developing a specific approach.
- ❖ The actors for the violence against women and girls are found the refugee themselves. Therefore, there should be give due attention to solve the problem through awareness creation for the refugee community, improving the refugee law, and strengthening the knowledge and understanding of the refugee care institutions and individuals.
- ❖ Even though, in theory, the least solutions to refugee problem is resettlement to third country this could be the best solution for the Eritrean.

- ❖ The causes for the flight of mass of Eritrean are tied with the prevalence of government repressions: migration control policy, prohibiting the national law the right of religious freedom, and ethnic disregarding. Unless and otherwise the migration policy of Eritrea is improving to address the right of a person to have freely migrate to every where through visa it becomes difficult to decreasing the trends of migration. In addition, the situation could be precipitating as the tension between Eritrean and the rest of the influential countries in the world tended to increases. Hence, rightly intervention from developed countries and international institutions shall improve the exodus of refugees and wellness of the country.

- b) it has opportunity for getting abroad
- c) we didn't agree in idea
- d) other (specify)_____

12. Previous occupation of the person (in Eritrea)

- a) Farmer
- b) Trader
- c) House hold wife
- d) Civil servant
- e) Military
- f) political leader

13. What was the underlying causes to flee from your country?

- a) Governmental repression (described)

- b) Due to famine and drought
- c) For better job opportunity
- d) For going to abroad
- e) Due to the out break of the war
- f) Other (specify)_____

14. Current occupation of the respondent

- a) Farmer
- b) Trader
- c) Household wife
- d) Camp administrator's daily laborers
- e) other (specify)

15. Have you ever lived in Ethiopia?

- a) Yes
- b) no

16) If your reply for Q. 15 is 'yes' when you leaved?

- a) Before the outbreak of the Ethio-Eritra war of 1998
- b) After seized-up the Ethio-Eritra war of 1998

17. Where are you wants to resettle?

- a) back to Eritrea
- b) to developed countries
- c) integrated to local settlement(in Ethiopia)
- d) other_____

17.1 If your reply to question to No. 17 is back to "Eritrea" mentioned the reason in order of importance ?

17.2 If your reply to question to No. 17 is back to "in Ethiopia" mentioned the reason in order of importance?

18. By who wants to go abroad?

- a) Through international institutions (UNHCR)
- b) Through your own expenses
- c) Others _____

19. Do you have a ration card for your self?

- a) Yes (Go to No.21)
- b) No (Go to No.20)

20. Why?

- a) I have a share on my relatives ration card
- b) I have with my previous spouses
- c) I was not here during the last registration
- d) If others, specify

21. If you have a ration card, all the people living in your house included on the ration card ?

- a) Yes
- b) no (Go to No. 12)

22. If no why?

- a) They have not here during the last registration
- b) They have herein *Shimelba* for short time as visitors

- c) They have cards with other relatives
- d) If other, specify

23. Do you have your own home?

- a) Yes (Go to No. 14)
- b) No (Go to No. 18)

24. How many days waited for receiving home?

- a) Up to one week
- b) one to tow weeks
- c) tow to three weeks
- d) three weeks to a month
- e) more than a month (specify)

25. Do you live alone in the given home?

- a) Yes ()
- b) No (Go to No.)

26. How many members have lived together in a home

- a) two
- b) three
- c) four
- d) five
- e) more than six (specify)

27. What is the size of the house?

- a) between __ m² and __ m²
- b) between __ m² and __ m²
- c) between __ m² and __ m²
- d) more than __ m² (specify)

28) If you have no your own home how can you live?

- a) I get my relatives that I know in Eritrean
- b) The camp administrator temporarily assigned with somebody that I do not know before
- c) Simply by asking the refugees that give me temporary resting place around their home
- d) Other, (specify)

29. Describe problems that faced as a result of access to home?

30. Do you have access to potable water?
 a) Yes (Go to No. 22) b) No (Go to No. 23)
31. How many meters travel to fetch water?
 a) Up to two hundred meters b) two hundred to half Kms
 c) Half Kms to one Kms d) more than one Kms (specify)
32. How do you categorize quality of the water?
 a) Very good b) good
 c) Satisfactory d) poor
33. How many liters of water utilized person per day?
 a) up to 5 liters b) 5 to 10 liters c) 10 to 15 liters
 d) 15 to 20 liters e) more than 20 liters (specify) _____
34. Have you ever faced any gender-based violence in the camp?
 a) yes b) no
35. if for question No.34 is “yes” stated the form of violence with its actors (police, Ethiopian dwellers, camp administrators, refugees)

type of violence	frequency	actors
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____

36. Did you report to the responsible police / other responsible institutions?
 a) yes b) no
37. If you replied “yes” to question NO. 36 what was the feed back?
 a) They released through bid b) presented to court
 c) The police didn’t want to arrested to him
 d) The police have interest to summon with him

e) We solve the problem through our friends

f) Other _____

38. if you have any idea and facts related with gender related issues that did not yet mentioned or required further explanation please describe it?

Annex 2

Questionnaire for in-depth Interview (for regional/ local administrators)

1. What is the involvement of regional/local government with regard to refugee affairs?
2. what is the existing coordinating mechanism between the regional/local government and refugees working with refugees (such as UNHCR, ARRA, IRC, ZOA etc)
3. What seems the overall refugee situation and is there a refugee policy guide line in the regional context?
4. What is the regional/local government's involvement in the selection of sites for a refugee settlement? What is the main criterion set? At which level of government was this decision made and on what bases was the decision made?
5. Please describe the refugee situation, in particular gender-specific, in the camp in broader context?

Annex 3

Questionnaire guideline for ARRA, IRC, NRDP, ZOA

Police and UNHCR

1. What is the status of the Shimelba refugee camp?
2. What is ARRA's (by implication others) responsibility to refugee especially with regard to gender issues?
3. What is ARRA's approach in the camp regarding the overall management issues?
4. What is AARA's (by implication others) relation with regards to the local population? Is any assistance of some sort given to the local population to prevent a sense of bitterness from growing between the two communities? If yes, how? If no, how does the local population benefit from the existence of refugees in the area?
5. What was the reason behind the selection of Shimelba as the site for refugee settlement?
6. What is the situation of the refugee particularly in relation to gender dimension?
7. What are the factors contributing to gender-based violence among the refugees?
8. What are the responsibility and institutional reactions provided to the problem of GBV?

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Declaration

I declare that this thesis is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any university. All the sources of material used for the thesis are duly acknowledged.

Name Masho Tekray

Signature 

Date _____

Place _____

This thesis has been submitted for examination with my approval as a university advisor.

Name _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Place _____