



# ASSESSMENT OF REFUGEE LIVELIHOOD CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES: THE CASE OF SHEDDER REFUGEE CAMP, SOMALI REGION, ETHIOPIA.

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## ABSTRACT

The study looks at the livelihood of Ethiopian refugees, namely the shedder refugee camp. The study used qualitative and quantitative research methods, as well as structured survey questioners with shedder refugees camp and semi-structured interviews with key informants from UNHCR, ARRA, EO-DICAC, and NRC. FGDs with the supported shedder refugees camp were also held. The sample size was determined using a simple random sampling procedure. The respondents for both interviews and focus groups were chosen using a simple random selection technique based on the implementing partner's camp livelihood recipient lists. For data analysis, descriptive statistics such as percentage, mean value, and cross tabulation were used. Data collecting was followed by data organization.

The study was conducted with the research questions and objectives in mind. According to the conclusions of this survey, the majority of camp refugees rely on remittances from relatives and friends living overseas. The bulk of the refugees in the shedder refugee camp have received varied occupational skill training but have not put it into practice owing to the nations work visa. Even those refugees who worked in the informal sector encountered prejudice in the workplace, including low pay and arbitrary dismissal. According to the report, Ethiopian Refugee Proclamation 409/2004 prohibits refugees of any category from obtaining a work permit or engaging in income-generating economic activities.

The Shedder Refugees camp, on the other hand, sees the particular treatment they've received as politically driven and only transitory. The long-standing and ongoing links between Ethiopia and Somalia, as well as the 2010 out-of-camp policy, influenced a large number of Somali refugees to settle in rural and urban areas, leaving them vulnerable due to a lack of work permits. It is practically hard to achieve self-sufficiency in such a setting. On the other hand, by considering Ethiopia as a transit nation and relying on Diaspora remittances, Somali refugees lose motivation to participate in livelihood pursuits.

**Key words:** Livelihood, Self-reliant, Refugee.

## 1. Introduction

A refugee is a person who has been forced to escape their homeland due to persecution, war, or violence. A refugee is concerned about being persecuted because of their ethnicity, religion, nationality, political beliefs, or participation in a specific social group. Most likely, they are unable or scared to return home. The major causes of refugees departing their nations are war and ethnic, tribal, and religious strife. (2020, un-refugees) The Geneva Convention of 1951 is the most important international refugee law treaty. The convention defines a refugee and specifies the legal protection, other support, and social rights that he or she shall receive from the countries that have signed it. The convention also establishes a refugee's responsibility to host governments and some types of people who do not qualify for refugee status, such as war criminals.

Based on the international and regional refugee treaties to which Ethiopia is a party, the Ethiopian Refugee Proclamation was established in 2004. (1951 UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, and its 1967 Refugee Protocol and the 1969 OAU Refugee Convention). Refugee protection in the country is provided by international and national refugee laws, and in 1997, the UNHCR issued a policy discouraging urban refugees by restricting protection spaces, based on the belief that urban refugees are the exception rather than the rule. Nonetheless, the institution was met with immediate condemnation from a variety of NGOs and human rights organizations. The UNHCR's 2009 strategy guaranteed refugees' rights by expanding protective space for urban and rural locations (UNHCR Policy, 2009). Like in other African countries, the structure of refugee settlement in Ethiopia is primarily confined to camps in distant rural areas due to the state's perceived or real fiscal load and security concern. The primary international human rights accords that the country has ratified (Betts, 2009; Mogire, 2009). Continued insecurity inside surrounding states has resulted in sustained refugee migrations, either directly as a result of internal conflict and human rights violations or indirectly as a result of struggle over scarce natural resources and food shortages caused by drought.

## 2. Statement of the problem

Over 2.6 million Somalis are currently internally and externally displaced. Drought, flooding, and evictions are among the causes of displacement, in addition to conflict and insecurity. Conflict and violence, delayed and rapid-onset calamities, and food shortages have all played a role in the country's history and present relocation. Conflict-related displacement is mostly tied to Al-Shabaab activities, which is concentrated in the country's south-east, whereas disaster-related displacement is commonly associated to widespread drought riverine and flash flooding (IDMC.2019).

Approximately 178,800 additional displacements were registered in the first half of 2019, with 106,000 due to disaster and 72,000 owing to conflict and violence (IDMC.2019). The majority of them are hosted by countries in the region's surrounding countries. In eleven refugee camps in south-east Ethiopia, Ethiopia alone houses around 245,000 Somali refugees (IDMC.2019). Ethiopia is Africa's second-largest refugee-hosting country. Because of its open-door policy and closeness to refugee-producing nations, the country has been a popular destination for refugees, particularly from Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, and Eritrea. December 2020 - Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, Somali refugees are housed in eleven camps near the southern town of Awbare, which is over the border from Somalia, and wajale in the Jijiga region. The camps are inadequately connected to communications and trade networks, and social services and physical infrastructure are severely lacking. It is expected that 60% of the arrivals in Shedder in 2011-12. The Shedder camps' host population is not all from the same clan. Clan differences limit refugees' options for local or self-settlement. Ethiopia, on the other hand, has recently encouraged livelihood initiatives in refugee-hosting communities. Refugee livelihood activities in communities surrounding the camps are being supported from the IKEA Foundation. These

activities support both refugees and local hosts to increase their self-reliance, (Somali refugee displacements in the near region).

### **3. Objectives of the Research**

#### **3.1. General objective:**

The study's overall goal was to analyze the obstacles and opportunities of refugee livelihood in the camp: a case study of the Shedder refugee camp in Somalia's eastern Ethiopian region.

#### **3.2.The specific objectives are:**

Thus, the specific objectives of the study are:

1. Determine the livelihood programs available at the Shedder Refugee Camp.
2. To look into the livelihood options available in the Shedder Refugee Camp.
3. To investigate the livelihood issues faced by the residents of the Shedder Refugee Camp.

#### **3.3 Research Questions**

This research attempted to address the following questions:

1. What are the livelihood programs for shedder refugee camp?
2. What are the livelihood opportunities of shedder refugee camp?
3. What are the livelihood challenges of shedder refugee camp?

### **4. Need of the Study**

This research adds to our knowledge and understanding of refugee programming and its effects on the social and economic status of the Shedder refugee camp. The study cannot add to the current knowledge on the impact of refugee camp programs because the issue of CRRF is under-researched and there are few literatures on the subject. The study had policy implications for both state and non-state actors to improve the contribution of foreign aid in the social status and livelihood situation of refugee camps, in addition to academic significance. Furthermore, this paper has the potential to provide insights and to motivate further research in the field. As a result, the work can be used as a literature and reference source.

## **5. REVIEW LITRATURE**

A refugee, according to the UN Convention, is someone who is "outside his country of nationality and is unable to, or unwilling to, avail himself of the protection of that country" because of a "well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion" (UN, 1951).

The United Nations enacted a Protocol in 1967 that expanded the term of "refugee" to encompass any those who have fled their homeland because of a credible fear of persecution. The 1951 UN Convention on Refugees was integrated into the OAU (now AU) Protocol, however the definition of who is a refugee was enlarged. In addition to the UN definition of a refugee, the OAU definition includes anyone who is forced to leave his usual place of residence to seek refuge outside this country "due to aggression, occupation, foreign domination, or events gravely disturbing public order in part, or in whole of his country of origin, or the country of which he has nationality" (OAU, 1969).

The definition of a refugee in the Ethiopian refugee proclamation of 2004 encompasses both the UN and AU Refugee treaties. A refugee, as opposed to an asylum seeker, is defined by Ethiopia's refugee proclamation as someone who is unable or unwilling to seek protection in that country because of a well-founded fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.

Individuals who leave their nations due to other causes of displacement, such as "external aggression, occupation, foreign domination, or events gravely disrupting public order," which are widespread in the African context, are included in the definition of a refugee. UNHCR considers refugees, asylum-seekers; stateless people, internally displaced people, as well as refugees and IDPs who are returning home as "persons of concern."

## 6. Research methodology

The research design was descriptive survey research design in which data was collected from respondents using self-completion questionnaires; the study also used mixed research method which incorporates elements of both qualitative and quantitative approaches; and the study used a combination of both primary and secondary data to present a complete and more synergistic picture of refugee livelihood in Ethiopia: the case of shedder refugee camp. Direct observation, focus group discussions, and in-depth interviews were used to gather primary data.

The study's overall goal was to find 600 Shedder refugees who benefited from the livelihood program. To pick individuals from these regions for this investigation, the researcher employed a basic random selection procedure. The researcher employed probability sampling using a basic random sampling approach to sample the population; the study used both primary and secondary data sources. Questioners, in-depth interviews, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), and key informant interviews were used to gather primary data. Structured and semi-structured interviews are used in qualitative interviews.

## 7. RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

This chapter covers the presentation of the data gathered as well as the discussion of the findings. The findings are evaluated in light of the study's objectives. The objectives were created to provide answers to the research questions.

### 7.1 FINDINGS

#### **Analysis of demographic profile of the respondent.**

The majority of respondents (57.9%) were female and 42.1 percent were male. Females make up the bulk of Shedder refugees. According to the findings of this study, male populations are the breadwinners of their families, and they primarily migrate outside of the camp to support their families. One of the participants in the focus group discussion said of migration, "Like many other Somali emigrants, I departed the country illegally to avoid national service." I'm afraid that if I go back, I'll end up in jail or worse. They attacked us and stole our money on the way, and three ladies were raped right in front of our eyes. Thus, this shows that the illegal migration is believed to be harsh for female and males are the ones who are forced for this reality.

#### **The livelihood program of shedder camp**

A question was posed to the refugee about the type of livelihood program they had received. And, based on this, the majority of respondents (41 percent) said they run a small business. Food preparation (9.6%), carpentry (19.6%), hairdressing salons (24.2%), and tailoring (5%) make up the rest. As a result, the findings revealed that the most promising opportunities in the camp were small business opportunities that benefited the campers (41 percent). Furthermore, according to Selamwit (2008), who conducted a study on livelihood options in Addis Ababa's urban refugee population, vocational skills are quite beneficial. This study's findings differed from Selamwit's (2008) Research finding in which it has shown that small business for the camp refugee is benefiting for the business but in urban area are more benefitting to vocation skills.

In addition, respondents were asked what type of training is available at the camp. The respondent stated that 19.6 percent of them engage in skills, with the remaining percentages being (65%) education and (15.4%) capacity to work. As a result, the findings revealed that (65%) of the respondents profited from the livelihood training program in terms of gaining knowledge.

The refugees were asked what form of agricultural activity provided them with a source of income. According to this, the majority of respondents (55%) are in the poultry industry, with the balance (37.9%) in the cattle industry and (6.7%) in crop production or farm/small scale farm. As a result of the findings, it was discovered that the highest potential in the camp was the Poultry opportunity, which benefited the campers (55 percent).

### **Contents of livelihood Opportunity.**

The refugee was asked what type of livelihood have they received. Based on this Majority of the respondent (35.8) Education, the second are Food (25.0%), the third are Homes (24.6%) the fourth are Health, (7.5%) and the last are Nutrition, (7.1%). Thus, the finding showed that the highest opportunity in the camp were Educational opportunity which were benefiting (35.8%). In addition, according to Solomon, (2008) in which he conducted research on livelihood opportunities in Urban refugee in Addis Ababa he found that Education is highly benefiting in that refugee. The finding of this research goes along with the findings of Solomon (2008) research in which it has shown that the Education are highly benefiting. Furthermore, (34.2%) were took the carpentry, and the remaining (20%) hair dressing, (12,1%) basic computer skill, (7.9%) tailoring and (25.8%) food preparation. Thus, the finding showed that the highest skill opportunity in the camp were vocational skill training (carpentry) benefiting (34%).

In addition, the refugee was questioned how the livelihood program has impacted their lives in terms of financial assistance. The majority of respondents (47.1%) are neither improved nor worsened, (24.6%) are Highly improved, (11.1%) are Averagely improved, (10.8%) are Worsen improved, and the lowest (5.8%) are Highly worsened. As a result, the findings revealed that the camp's livelihood opportunities did not improve their lives in terms of financial support, as the majority of respondents (47.1%) did not improve.

In terms of the training they gave, the FGD discussant stated that the vocational skill training took one year to complete, but the other training would take three to six months. Unfortunately, the trainee who learned the vocational expertise will have a difficult time finding work. Those that completed the short-term training, on the other hand, are given opportunities in the informal economy.

In addition, the refugees were questioned about any additional activities or skill training they provided. Business skill training (26.7 percent), life skill training (33.8 percent), entrepreneur ship training (23.3 percent), and awareness raising (16.2 percent) were the responses. As a result, the majority of respondents took business skill training to better their self-sufficiency and livelihoods.

## **8. CONCLUSIONS**

It can be concluded that all most all Shedder refugees camp are categorized as under permitted categories, which are refugees who need special medical service, whose security is at stake, those who get higher education opportunity. Almost all partner organizations engaged in a same training content besides there is limited assistance and income generating opportunities to improve their livelihoods, refugee who live in Shedder are left to their own self in order to meet basic needs of food, daily expenses and shelter. With the lack of work permit, Shedder refugee camp is left in an extremely vulnerable situation. In such scenario, securing self-reliance is nearly impossible especially for those who rely on the humanitarian assistance to sustain themselves. This study argues that there is a pre-condition for all partners to select the legible

candidates for the livelihood program but the partner and UNHCR don't have a clear design of effective programs to better meet the immediate and longer-term needs of refugee in general. The researcher examines that with no labor protections for refugees, they face workplace discrimination that includes low wages. However, ARRA in collaboration with UNHCR, donors, line ministries, other partners and NGOs, are working to materialize the pledges into significant outcomes.

## 9. SUGESTIONS

- The Refugees livelihood program partner should focus on working with national and local institutions across a range of activities including: expanding refugee access the formal employment opportunities through access to work permits; advocating with employers.
- The government counterpart ARRA should work with unions and labor ministries to secure work permit and other access – starting, if necessary, with a targeted group of refugees whose skills correspond to known gaps in the labour market; reinforcing access to legal advice on employment and business registration.
- The activities put in place to effectively support refugee livelihoods should not be limited to strengthening people's livelihood assets or capabilities (skills enhancement, access to cash, apprenticeships, or enterprise support).
- Livelihood program partners have been able to improve their data collection system and level of data collection expertise and capacity through partnership with the other Joint Data Centre, and there may be additional opportunities for joint monitoring.
- UNHCR and ARRA should create awareness rising of targeted private or public sector employers; information campaigns for refugees on work permit registration processes, and market opportunities.
- Livelihood program partners should work on conducting market surveys or seeking employment market information in Shedder.
- The scope of all livelihood program partners' engagement should also be reassessed on a yearly basis. Beyond the provision of time-bound support with clearly defined exit strategies aiming to secure livelihood assets in particular for vulnerable households and individuals (such as temporary cash assistance or non-formal skills training projects)

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