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Focus Eritrea

Identity and civil status documents

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Questions

The present report addresses the following questions:

- What is known about the most common Eritrean identity and civil status documents
- What procedure is used to issue them in Eritrea and abroad?
- Which verifiable security features do they carry and how common are forgeries?
- Is official registration of births and marriages obligatory?

Main findings

The Department for Immigration and Nationality is responsible for the issuance of travel documents, i.e. ID cards, passports and visa. However, since 2014, ID cards are issued only occasionally. Furthermore, it is difficult for the inhabitants to obtain a passport, as they usually have to bring proof of the completion of national service. Apart from these ID documents, residence cards are used frequently. These are standardized and stamped printouts of the digital population register. The nus-zoba administration is responsible for the issuance of the residence card.

Births, marriages and other vital events are registered by the local administrations and by the civil status offices. The civil status offices are responsible for the issuance of civil status certificates. However, civil status offices in some parts of the country have yet to be established. Therefore, the civil status registers are incomplete. Many Eritreans, particularly in rural areas, do not have any civil status documents. Hence, the authorities generally also accept certificates issued by the religious communities.

The three officially recognized Christian denominations issue baptism, marriage and other certificates to their members of congregation. Muslims register their vital events at Sharia courts, which are part of the public courts. They also issue civil status certificates for Muslims.

In Eritrea, three forms of marriage are recognized: civilian, religious and customary. All forms become legally valid following the ceremony. Official registration of the marriage is mandatory, but not doing so doesn't invalidate the marriage.

Kernaussage

Für die Ausstellung von Reisedokumenten (Identitätskarte, Pass, Visa) ist das Departement für Einwanderung und Staatsangehörigkeit zuständig. Allerdings stellt es seit 2014 nur noch vereinzelt Identitätskarten aus. Für die Einwohner Eritreas ist es zudem schwierig, einen Pass zu erhalten, da sie dazu normalerweise einen Nachweis über den Abschluss des Nationaldienstes erbringen müssen. Neben diesen Identitätsdokumenten sind in Eritrea die Einwohnerkarten verbreitet. Dabei handelt es sich um standardisierte und abgestempelte Ausdrücke aus dem digitalen Personenregister. Für die Ausstellung der Einwohnerkarte ist die Verwaltung der Nus-Zoba zuständig.

Geburten, Heiraten und andere Ereignisse werden einerseits von den Lokalverwaltungen, andererseits von den Zivilstandsämtern registriert. Die Zivilstandsämter sind für die Ausstellung der entsprechenden Urkunden zuständig. Allerdings gibt es noch nicht in allen Landesteilen Zivilstandsämter. Aus diesem Grund sind die Zivilstandsregister unvollständig und viele Eritreer – insbesondere auf dem Land – haben keine Zivilstandsurkunden. Aus diesem Grund akzeptieren die Behörden in der Regel auch Urkunden, welche die religiösen Gemeinschaften ausstellen.

Die drei anerkannten christlichen Konfessionen stellen ihren Gemeindeangehörigen Tauf-, Heirats- und weitere Urkunden aus. Muslime lassen ihre Zivilstandsereignisse auf den Scharia-Gerichten registrieren, die den staatlichen Gerichten angeschlossen sind. Sie stellen auch die Zivilstandsurkunden für Muslime aus.

Der eritreische Staat anerkennt drei Arten von Heiraten: zivil, religiös und nach Brauchtum. Bei allen Arten wird die Heirat direkt nach der Zeremonie rechtsgültig. Die amtliche Registrierung der Heirat ist zwar obligatorisch, ein Unterlassen führt aber nicht zur Ungültigkeit der Ehe.

1. Sources / methodology

Relatively few sources provide information on Eritrean identity documents. They can be divided into three groups:

- **Information from the responsible authorities:** Country Analysis SEM, the COI unit of the Swiss State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) carried out research visits to Eritrea in 2013, 2016 and 2019 and held meetings with the various authorities that issue identity documents. In 2013 and 2016 the Eritrean authorities facilitated extensive research into the identity documents. In 2019 that access was restricted.
- **Information from experts:** This is verbal or written information from people who have contact with the relevant authorities in Eritrea. This information is more detailed or more up to date on some issues than the information which Country Analysis SEM obtained itself on the ground.
- **Published COI Reports:** The Country of Origin Information (COI) units of various countries (in particular Norway, Sweden, the UK, Netherlands and Canada) have published reports containing information about Eritrean identity documents. These reports are based on research by the respective units on the ground and information from experts. They tend to cite one another, which brings with it the risk of “information round-tripping”.

These sources provide a consistent picture on all the general questions. On some questions of detail, however, there are contradictions and gaps in the information. For example, the required paperwork for the issuance of a document or for the registration of an event may vary slightly from one to another.

There are also differences in the procedure for issuing the documents in relation to time and region. Many of the sources are particularly familiar with the procedures in Asmara and document this; only a few of the reports contain anecdotal information about the situation outside the capital. The present report is therefore not able to systematically document procedures for issuing documents that differ from Asmara. Country Analysis SEM indicates in the present report whenever the information used is contradictory or incomplete.

Country Analysis SEM has many years of experience in analysing Eritrean identity and civil status documents. The experience gained through this work feeds into this report in relation to the information about the appearance and content of the documents and the comments about forgeries.

This is an English translation of the report “Focus Eritrea: Identitäts- und Zivilstandsdokumente”, originally published in German. The translation has been arranged by Landinfo, the Norwegian Country of Origin Information research unit. In case of doubt the German version shall be binding.

2. Introduction

2.1. Eritrean names

In Eritrea, there are no surnames or family names in the European sense. Eritrean names usually have three components:

- First name (in Eritrea, the first name is the most important part)
- Father's name
- Name of the paternal grandfather.¹

Even illegitimate children usually use the name of their father and paternal grandfather. If the mother does not want to reveal the identity of the father or is unable to do so, the child is given the name of the mother's father or husband, depending on whom she is living with.² Most Eritrean identity and civil status documents mention the full name of the mother, not just her first name.³

Eritrean identity documents therefore do not distinguish between first names and surnames. Since August 2020, the passport is an exception to this: the grandfather's name is now treated as the surname, while the first name and father's name are taken together as the first name. For people who use only two names, the father's name is treated as the surname.⁴ In Europe, most Eritreans either use their father's name, their grandfather's name or both as their surname.⁵

2.2. Spelling and transcription of names

Eritrean documents are written in Tigrinya, Arabic, English or a combination of these languages. For most names, Tigrinya is the original language, which is written in the Ethiopian Ge'ez script. There is no standard international transcription of that script. Transcription of Tigrinya names often leads to inconsistent results for a number of reasons, including the following:

- The Ge'ez alphabet has seven series of vowels, the Latin alphabet (without special characters) only five vowels. As some of these vowels do not have clear equivalents in the Latin alphabet, there are different transcription spellings. For the name ብርኅነ, for example, the transcriptions 'Berhane', 'Birhane' and 'Brhane' are common.
- Numerous consonants in the Ge'ez alphabet are not present in the Latin alphabet and are therefore reproduced in the transcription with the closest sound.
- Some syllables in Tigrinya are pronounced differently from the way they are spelled, e.g. ወ ('we') as 'wo'. Accordingly, the name ወልደሚካኤል may be transliterated as 'Weldemariam' (as it is written) or 'Woldemariam' (as it is pronounced).

There are therefore several transcription options for many Eritrean names. The version chosen by the official issuing the document is often a matter of chance. Accordingly, it is normal for one person to have several identity documents with different spellings of their names in Latin script.⁶

Latin transcriptions of common Eritrean names are listed in the digital population register of Zoba Maekel (see [Section 3.2](#)). Accordingly, names in documents based on this register are transcribed consistently.⁷ Country Analysis SEM is not aware whether similar conventions are used to issue passports and identity cards or in the registers of persons of other Zobas.

¹ Eritrea. Proclamation 2/1991. Transitional Civil Code. 15.09.1991. Art. 4. Accessible at: <https://www.loc.gov/item/eritrean-proc-2-1991/> (07.12.2020). / Mussie Tesfagiorgis G., Santa Barbara. Eritrea. p.236.

² Academic expert on Eritrea. Information provided by email, 30 April 2015.

³ Based on experience of Country Analysis SEM.

⁴ Department for Immigration and Nationality, Asmara. Circular to the Eritrean diplomatic missions. 17.08.2020.

⁵ Mussie Tesfagiorgis G., Santa Barbara. Eritrea. p. 236.

⁶ Based on experience of Country Analysis SEM.

⁷ Administration of Zoba Maekel, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013.

2.3. Legal sources

There are three different legal sources in the Eritrean civil status system:

- **EPLF Civil Code of 1988:** The Eritrean People's Liberation Front⁸ (EPLF) established its own civil code already in 1988 – i.e. before Eritrea's independence. It is applied in the regions that were under the control of the EPLF. Some articles are still in use today.⁹
- **Transitional Civil Code of 1991:** Following Eritrea's independence, the Eritrean transitional government modified the Ethiopian civil code of 1960 for use in Eritrea. Many of the changes were adopted according to the civil code of the EPLF. The Transitional Civil Code came into force with Proclamation 2/1991.¹⁰ It specifies which articles of the Ethiopian Civil Code apply unchanged, which apply with modification and which are no longer valid; it also introduces its own provisions. The Transitional Civil Code is still today (December 2020) the relevant legal source in the civil status system of Eritrea. The Transitional Civil Code is available only in Tigrinya online and there is no official translation.¹¹
- **Civil Code of 2015:** In 2015 Eritrea published a new civil code, which is also heavily based on the Ethiopian Civil Code of 1960.¹² The new civil code was never promulgated in the official gazette and only came into force in a very limited way, if at all.¹³

The provisions that regulate the registration and certification of marriages are almost identical in the Transitional Civil Code of 1991 and in the Civil Code of 2015. The Dutch expert Amanuel Yohannes Abraha has compiled a list of the articles that are the same.¹⁴

⁸ Predecessor organisation of the People's Front for Democracy and Justice (PDFJ), the current governing party.

⁹ Academic expert. Verbal information, 08.10.2020.

¹⁰ Tronvoll, Kjetil und Mekonnen, Daniel R., Woodbridge (GB). The African Garrison State. p. 29. / UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, Geneva. Report of the detailed findings of the Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in Eritrea. A/HRC/29/CRP.1. 05.06.2015. p. 80-81. http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/ColEritrea/A_HRC_29_CRP-1.pdf (07.12.2020).

¹¹ Eritrea. Proclamation 2/1991. Transitional Civil Code. 15.09.1991. Accessible at: <https://www.loc.gov/item/eritrean-proc-2-1991/> (07.12.2020).

¹² Eritrea. Civil Code of the State of Eritrea. 2015. Accessible at: <http://rodra.co.za/images/countries/eritrea/legislation/Eritrea-CivilCode2015.pdf> (07.12.2020).

¹³ UN Human Rights Council, New York. Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea. 16.05.2019. p. 9. https://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/41/53 (02.12.2020). / Human Rights Watch, New York. World Report 2018: Events of 2017. 18.01.2018. p. 202. https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/world_report_download/201801world_report_web.pdf (02.12.2020). / Library of Congress, Washington. New Eritrean Codes Now Available to Researchers. 07.03.2016. <https://blogs.loc.gov/law/2016/03/new-eritrean-codes-now-available-to-researchers/> (07.12.2020).

¹⁴ Amanuel Yohannes Abraham, Maastricht. Expert Opinion on religious marriage and its modes of proof in Eritrean legal system. 28.11.2016/03.07.2017. p.50. Accessible at <https://migrationlawclinic.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/expert-opinion-bewijsnood-final-version-may-2017.pdf> (07.12.2020).

3. Population registers

3.1. Physical registers

3.1.1. Registers of local administrations (Kebabi and Nus-Zoba level)

There are three regional administrative levels in Eritrea: the highest level (similar to the provinces in other countries) is the Zobas, the Nus-Zobas are on the middle level (comparable to districts) and the lowest administrative level is represented by the Kebabi.¹⁵

The Kebabi administrations (*Memmehdar Kebabi*) keep family registers. These are large books in which all of the important details of a family are recorded by hand. Changes to the civil status of family members (marriages, births, deaths, etc.) have to be entered in them. If it is necessary to pass on the data to other authorities (e.g. for the purpose of registration in the digital database of persons, see [Section 3.2.](#)), the Kebabi administration transfers the information onto a blue transfer form, which the person in question has to take to the relevant office. The Kebabi administrations do not issue any identity documents themselves. In some urban areas, e.g. the capital Asmara, this registers only exist at Nus-Zoba level.¹⁶

Most of the other Nus-Zoba administrations (*Memmehdar Nus-Zoba*) also keep registers of births, marriages and deaths in book form. In some cases, civil status offices (see [Section 3.1.2.](#)) are attached to them, which issue the corresponding documents (see [Sections 8](#) and [9](#)). The civil status office of Zoba Maekel (*“Municipality of Asmara”*) covers the entire Zoba Maekel. Some Nus-Zoba administrations are also responsible for entering the personal data in the digital population register.¹⁷

It is not always essential to appear in person at the Nus-Zoba administration for the registration of personal data. Those who cannot appear in person can send a representative with a power of attorney certified by a notary.¹⁸



Archive of registered personal data of Nus-Zoba Mai Temenei in Asmara (Photo: Country Analysis SEM).

¹⁵ European Asylum Support Office (EASO), Malta. Eritrea Country Focus. May 2015. p.17. https://coi.easo.europa.eu/administration/easo/PLib/EASO-Eritrea-CountryFocus_EN_May2015.pdf (16.12.2020).

¹⁶ Administration of Zoba Maekel, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013. / Administration of Nus-Zoba Mendefera, Mendefera. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013.

¹⁷ Administration of Zoba Maekel, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013. / Administration of Nus-Zoba Mendefera, Mendefera. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013.

¹⁸ Administration of Zoba Maekel, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013.

3.1.2. Registers of the civil status offices

The Transitional Civil Code of 1991 provided for the establishment of civil status offices at local level. So far, however, the Eritrean government has not had the resources to do this.¹⁹ According to a semi-official report, in 2002 there were offices of this sort in only eight towns and cities: Asmara, Keren, Massawa, Dekemhare, Assab, Mendefera, Segeneyti and Akurdet.²⁰ These are places that already had a municipality, half of which were turned into Nus-Zoba administrations in the second half of the 1990s. In some cases, a few other villages were assigned to them. The civil status offices were given responsibility for the Nus-Zobas at that time. However, most rural Nus-Zobas still had no civil status office.²¹

Since 2008, an increasing number of civil status offices have been set up at the Nus-Zoba level. They are now in place in many, but not all, Nus-Zobas.²² In Zoba Gash-Barka, the first civil status office was created only in 2014.²³ In Zoba Maekel, the civil status office in Asmara is responsible for all Nus-Zobas.²⁴ Even in Gash-Barka, Barentu is provisionally responsible for all Nus-Zobas (as of 2016).²⁵ In Nus-Zobas without their own civil status offices, the population uses civil status offices in neighbouring Nus-Zobas or in Asmara. The civil status office of Zoba Maekel also issues civil status documents for residents of other Zobas.²⁶

The civil status offices record and certify births, all types of marriages, deaths, adoptions and other events relating to civil status.²⁷

The registers are not complete. As a result, it is frequently the case that the civil status offices are registering and certifying events that happened in the distant past – usually when applicants require the documents in question. As long as people stay in Eritrea, they often see no reason to have official civil status certificates issued.²⁸ According to two sources, registration of vital events with these offices continues to be voluntary. The assessment of one source in 2017 was that complete recording of all vital events is neither planned nor possible in Eritrea.²⁹

¹⁹ Schröder, Günter, Frankfurt. Marriage, Vital Events Registration & Issuance of Civil Status Documents in Eritrea. May 2017. p.11-12. <https://migrationlawclinic.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/paper-gc3bcnther-schrc3b6der-eritrea-marriage.pdf> (16.10.2020). / Academic expert. Verbal information, 08.10.2020.

²⁰ Eritrea/Unicef. Demographic profile and birth registration status of Eritrea. October 2002. p.4. <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/vitalstatkb/Attachment768.aspx?AttachmentType=1> (04.11.2020).

²¹ Schröder, Günter, Frankfurt. Marriage, Vital Events Registration & Issuance of Civil Status Documents in Eritrea. May 2017. p.15. <https://migrationlawclinic.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/paper-gc3bcnther-schrc3b6der-eritrea-marriage.pdf> (16.10.2020).

²² Schröder, Günter, Frankfurt. Marriage, Vital Events Registration & Issuance of Civil Status Documents in Eritrea. May 2017. p.12, 14, 16. <https://migrationlawclinic.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/paper-gc3bcnther-schrc3b6der-eritrea-marriage.pdf> (16.10.2020).

²³ Civil status office of Zoba Maekel, Asmara. Meeting as part of a fact-finding mission. March 2016. / Governor of Zoba Gash-Barka, Barentu. Meeting as part of a fact-finding mission. March 2016.

²⁴ Schröder, Günter, Frankfurt. Marriage, Vital Events Registration & Issuance of Civil Status Documents in Eritrea. May 2017. p.14-15. <https://migrationlawclinic.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/paper-gc3bcnther-schrc3b6der-eritrea-marriage.pdf> (16.10.2020). / Civil status office of Zoba Maekel, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission. November 2013. / Civil status office of Zoba Maekel, Asmara. Meeting as part of a fact-finding mission. March 2016.

²⁵ Governor of Zoba Gash-Barka, Barentu. Meeting as part of a fact-finding mission. March 2016.

²⁶ Civil status office of Zoba Maekel, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission. November 2013. / Civil status office of Zoba Maekel, Asmara. Meeting as part of a fact-finding mission. March 2016. / Schröder, Günter, Frankfurt. Marriage, Vital Events Registration & Issuance of Civil Status Documents in Eritrea. May 2017. p.14. <https://migrationlawclinic.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/paper-gc3bcnther-schrc3b6der-eritrea-marriage.pdf> (16.10.2020).

²⁷ Schröder, Günter, Frankfurt. Marriage, Vital Events Registration & Issuance of Civil Status Documents in Eritrea. May 2017. p.15. <https://migrationlawclinic.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/paper-gc3bcnther-schrc3b6der-eritrea-marriage.pdf> (16.10.2020).

²⁸ Landinfo, Oslo. Respons Eritrea: Legalisering av ekteskapsattester. 05.04.2017. p.1. <https://landinfo.no/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Respons-Eritrea-Legalisering-av-ekteskapsattester-05042017.pdf> (05.11.2020). / Schröder, Günter, Frankfurt. Marriage, Vital Events Registration & Issuance of Civil Status Documents in Eritrea. May 2017. p.12-13, 15. <https://migrationlawclinic.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/paper-gc3bcnther-schrc3b6der-eritrea-marriage.pdf> (16.10.2020).

²⁹ Schröder, Günter, Frankfurt. Marriage, Vital Events Registration & Issuance of Civil Status Documents in Eritrea. May 2017. p.12-13, 15. <https://migrationlawclinic.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/paper-gc3bcnther-schrc3b6der-eritrea-marriage.pdf> (16.10.2020). / Diplomatic source (2), Asmara. Meeting as part of a fact-finding mission, July 2019.



Archive of registered personal data of the civil status office of Zoba Maekel (“Municipality of Asmara”) (photo: Country Analysis SEM).

3.1.3. Register of the Department of Immigration and Nationality

Little is known about the register of the Department of Immigration and Nationality, which is under the National Security Service. According to one source, the department has a physical and a digital archive covering all documents issued, i.e. identity cards, passports and visas.³⁰

3.1.4. Registers of the churches

The Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant church communities of Eritrea keep their own handwritten registers. Registers exist for all vital life events, such as births, first communions, confirmations, marriages, deaths.³¹ According to information provided by the Catholic Church, its congregations do not match the information with civil identity documents. This is apparently because the priests know the members of their congregations and false information is therefore unlikely to be given.³²

³⁰ Schröder, Günter. Statement to Kassel Administrative Court. File reference 1 K 1090/16.KS.A. 20.07.2017. p.12.

³¹ Eritrean-Orthodox Tewahedo Church, Asmara. Information given to the Honorary Consulate of Switzerland in Asmara, 18.02.2014. / General Secretary of the Catholic Church of Eritrea, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013. / Schröder, Günter, Frankfurt. Marriage, Vital Events Registration & Issuance of Civil Status Documents in Eritrea. May 2017. p.17. <https://migrationlawclinic.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/paper-gc3bcnther-schrc3b6der-eritrea-marriage.pdf> (16.10.2020).

³² General Secretary of the Catholic Church of Eritrea, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013.

3.2. Digital registers of persons

Since 2001 there has been a digital population register in each of the six Zobas of Eritrea.³³ In Zoba Maekel, the administrations of the Nus-Zobas are responsible for maintaining the database.³⁴ As far as the remaining Zobas are concerned, it is known that the Zoba administration is responsible for updating the data in Gash-Barka and Northern Red Sea.³⁵

The registers include data about residents, apartments/houses, rents, etc. The register of Zoba Maekel is most advanced and various authorities have access to it. Local administrations at Kebabi level and the Department of Immigration and Nationality do not have access to the digital registers.³⁶

Each entry in the database has an identification number, which the authorities refer to in Tigri-nya as ቁጽሪ መዝገብ ነባሪ (*qutsri mezgeb nebari*, register of residents) and in English as the *social security number*; in this report it is referred to as the resident number. The first two letters of the number indicate the Zoba, the third letter whether it is an individual entry (C) or a family dossier (F) (see [Section 7](#)). All individual entries are allocated to a family dossier.³⁷

The register of Zoba Maekel records the following details for the persons registered:

- Registration number of the family, head of the family
- Names of the other family members
- Place of residence (Zoba, Nus-Zoba, Kebabi, Adi ³⁸, ZIP³⁹, street; building number),
- Resident number (see [Section 7](#))
- ID number
- Nationality
- Name and name of father, paternal grandfather, mother and maternal grandfather
- Place and date of birth
- Origin
- Gender
- Ethnicity
- Religion
- Education
- Profession and employment status, monthly income
- Health status
- Civil status
- National service status
- Family relationship with head of family⁴⁰

The offices can print out the personal and family data in various, standardised forms. These documents – the residence card (*Nay Nebarinnet*) and the family identity card – are explained in [Section 7](#).

It is also possible to print out extracts with data about specific events (births, marriages, deaths) or with details of the entire family. All entries in the database can be printed out in English or

³³ Schröder, Günter, Frankfurt. Marriage, Vital Events Registration & Issuance of Civil Status Documents in Eritrea. May 2017. p.14. <https://migrationlawclinic.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/paper-gc3bcnther-schrc3b6der-eritrea-marriage.pdf> (16.10.2020).

³⁴ Administration of Zoba Maekel, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013. / Schröder, Günter, Frankfurt. Marriage, Vital Events Registration & Issuance of Civil Status Documents in Eritrea. May 2017. p.14. <https://migrationlawclinic.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/paper-gc3bcnther-schrc3b6der-eritrea-marriage.pdf> (16.10.2020).

³⁵ Governor of Zoba Gash-Barka, Barentu. Meeting as part of a fact-finding mission. March 2016. / Migrationsverket, Norrköping. Eritrea – Folkbokföring, medborgarskap och identitetshandlingar. 18.07.2018. p.14-15. <https://lifos.migrationsverket.se/dokument?documentSummaryId=40578> (26.11.2020).

³⁶ Administration of Zoba Maekel, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013.

³⁷ Administration of Zoba Maekel, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013. / Schröder, Günter, Frankfurt. Marriage, Vital Events Registration & Issuance of Civil Status Documents in Eritrea. May 2017. p.14. <https://migrationlawclinic.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/paper-gc3bcnther-schrc3b6der-eritrea-marriage.pdf> (16.10.2020).

³⁸ “Adi” means village; in rural areas, Kebabi are divided into several Adi.

³⁹ ZIP is the English term used; the precise function of this number is not known to Country Analysis SEM.

⁴⁰ Administration of Zoba Maekel, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013.

Tigrinya. The issuing authority keeps duplicates of all printed documents in the archive.⁴¹

In the case of relocation to another Zoba, a document with all the information is printed out. The family must then re-register at the new place of residence. If the move takes place within a Zoba, the entry in the register remains, only the data are changed or the new address is entered.⁴²

When a death is registered, the entry for the deceased person is automatically deleted from the active register. A death notice with all the relevant details is printed out. This notice is then required for inheritance, court procedures and the issuance of a death certificate.⁴³

⁴¹ Administration of Zoba Maekel, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013.

⁴² Administration of Zoba Maekel, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013. / Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken), The Hague. Country of Origin Information Report on Eritrea. 06.02.2017. p.24. <https://www.government.nl/documents/reports/2017/02/06/country-of-origin-report-on-eritrea-february-2017> (24.11.2020).

⁴³ Administration of Zoba Maekel, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013.

3.3. Registration of births

Registration obligation: According to Eritrean law (Art. 57, 58, 72, 73 of the Transitional Civil Code, in conjunction with Art. 5 and 6 of the EPLF Civil Code), parents must register births with the civil authorities within 90 days.⁴⁴ However, especially in rural areas, registration of births is rather rare. By contrast, almost all children that are born in hospital are registered.⁴⁵ According to undated information from UNICEF, fewer than 40% of births are registered.⁴⁶ There are still no complete civil status office registers.⁴⁷ At least in the cities, most children are now entered in the official registers and are given birth certificates.⁴⁸ In view of the incomplete registers, the Eritrean authorities often accept not only civil but also church certificates of civil status – e.g. certificates of baptism for registration in kindergartens⁴⁹ or in court.⁵⁰ According to one source, registration is not a prerequisite for school attendance in rural areas, whereas urban schools require it in some places.⁵¹ The Eritrean authorities tolerate non-registration of births because the creation of civil status offices in the local authorities as envisaged in the Transitional Civil Code has still not been implemented in full.⁵²

Registration procedure: The registration process is complex and frequently lengthy⁵³; the sources provide inconsistent, at times contradictory, information about it. This is because of the regional differences and changes to the procedures over time. The information in this section is therefore only a guide and there may be differences from it in practice. Country Analysis SEM prioritises the information that it has obtained directly from the relevant authorities

For the registration of a birth, the parents must first have it entered in the family register of the Kebabi administration (*Memmehdar Kebabi*).⁵⁴ Evidence of the birth is required for this (e.g. a church baptism certificate, a hospital birth document or three witnesses), in combination with the vaccination certificate of the new-born baby. On the basis of the entry in the family register, the local administration issues a transfer document for the higher administrative levels (Nus-Zoba and/or Zoba).⁵⁵

⁴⁴ Landinfo, Oslo. Temanotat Eritrea: Forvaltningsstruktur og dokumenter. 29.04.2013. p.13. <https://landinfo.no/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Eritrea-temanotat-Forvaltningsstruktur-og-dokumenter-oppdatert-29042013.pdf> (16.10.2020). / Migrationsverket, Norrköping. Eritrea – Folkbokföring, medborgarskap och identitetshandlingar. 18.07.2018. p.41. <https://lifos.migrationsverket.se/dokument?documentSummaryId=40578> (26.11.2020). / Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken), The Hague. Country of Origin Information Report on Eritrea. 06.02.2017. p.24. <https://www.government.nl/documents/reports/2017/02/06/country-of-origin-report-on-eritrea-february-2017> (24.11.2020). / Academic expert. Verbal information, 08.10.2020.

⁴⁵ U.S. Department of State, Washington. Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2017 – Eritrea. 20.04.2018. p.19. <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Eritrea.pdf> (02.11.2020). / Migrationsverket, Norrköping. Eritrea – Folkbokföring, medborgarskap och identitetshandlingar. 18.07.2018. p.41. <https://lifos.migrationsverket.se/dokument?documentSummaryId=40578> (26.11.2020). / Academic expert. Verbal information, 08.10.2020.

⁴⁶ UNICEF, New York. Eritrea. Birth registration. Undated. https://www.unicef.org/eritrea/protection_16763.html (25.11.2020).

⁴⁷ Schröder, Günter, Frankfurt. Marriage, Vital Events Registration & Issuance of Civil Status Documents in Eritrea. May 2017. p.13. <https://migrationlawclinic.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/paper-gc3bcnther-schrc3b6der-eritrea-marriage.pdf> (16.10.2020). / Academic expert. Verbal information, 08.10.2020. / Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, Nuremberg. Information provided by email. January 2017.

⁴⁸ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken), The Hague. Algemeen Ambtsbericht Eritrea. 21.06.2018. p.22-23. <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/ambtsberichten/2018/06/21/algemeen-ambtsbericht-eritrea-juni-2018> (23.11.2020). / Schröder, Günter, Frankfurt. Marriage, Vital Events Registration & Issuance of Civil Status Documents in Eritrea. May 2017. p.13. <https://migrationlawclinic.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/paper-gc3bcnther-schrc3b6der-eritrea-marriage.pdf> (16.10.2020).

⁴⁹ Academic expert. Verbal information, 08.10.2020.

⁵⁰ Diplomatic source (2), Asmara. Meeting as part of a fact-finding mission, July 2019.

⁵¹ Migrationsverket, Norrköping. Eritrea – Folkbokföring, medborgarskap och identitetshandlingar. 18.07.2018. p.20-21. <https://lifos.migrationsverket.se/dokument?documentSummaryId=40578> (26.11.2020). / Academic expert. Verbal information, 08.10.2020.

⁵² Academic expert. Verbal information, 08.10.2020.

⁵³ Cf. Migrationsverket, Norrköping. Eritrea – Folkbokföring, medborgarskap och identitetshandlingar. 18.07.2018. p.19. <https://lifos.migrationsverket.se/dokument?documentSummaryId=40578> (26.11.2020).

⁵⁴ Migrationsverket, Norrköping. Eritrea – Folkbokföring, medborgarskap och identitetshandlingar. 18.07.2018. p.18. <https://lifos.migrationsverket.se/dokument?documentSummaryId=40578> (26.11.2020).

⁵⁵ Shabait (Eritrean Ministry of Information), Asmara. Public Registration Office and the Public: Mutual Cooperation for Efficient Services. 05.11.2010. <https://shabait.com/2010/11/05/public-registration-office-and-the-public-mutual-cooperation-for-efficient-services/> (25.11.2020). / Immigration and Refugee Board (Canada), Ottawa.

Parents usually have to submit the following documents to the Nus-Zoba administration:

- Transfer document from the Kebabi administration
- Evidence of birth (e.g. church baptism certificate, birth document from the hospital, three witnesses)
- Vaccination certificate
- Copies of the identity cards and residence cards of both parents (*Nay Nebarinnet*).⁵⁶

The administration of the Nus-Zoba archives these documents physically and enters the information into the digital population register of the Zoba (see [Section 3.2](#)).⁵⁷ The new-born child is then given a resident number.⁵⁸ In some regions, the Zoba administration registers the birth in the digital population register. In this case, the Nus-Zoba administration verifies the transfer document from the Kebabi as an intermediate step.⁵⁹ Apart from the entry on the family identity card (see [Section 7.1](#)), no certificate is issued in this process.⁶⁰

Certification: Finally, the birth is registered with the civil status office. If the person being registered is under the age of 18, both parents must be present at the civil status office and submit the same documents as to the Nus-Zoba, together with a letter of application and a filled out application form with the spelling of the name in Tigrinya and in Latin script.⁶¹ If they are over the age of 18, they must also submit a letter of recommendation from the local administration. To obtain this, they must appear before the local administration with three witnesses who can confirm their identity, and submit their residence card and family identity document.⁶² The civil status office registers the birth, archives the documents submitted (or copies of them) and issues a birth certificate.⁶³ In Zoba Maekel, the birth certificate can also be applied for directly from the civil status office within 90 days of the birth.⁶⁴ Several sources (but not the

Eritrea: Birth certificates issued by the Public Registration Office of Zoba Maekel [Maakel] (Central Zone); including whether the certificate has a standard format and appearance (2013-November 2014). 02.12.2014. <https://irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/country-information/rir/Pages/index.aspx?doc=455626&pls=1> (25.11.2020). / Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken), The Hague. Country of Origin Information Report on Eritrea. 06.02.2017. p.24.

⁵⁶ Landinfo, Oslo. Temanotat Eritrea: Forvaltningsstruktur og dokumenter. 29.04.2013. p.10. <https://landinfo.no/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Eritrea-temanotat-Forvaltningsstruktur-og-dokumenter-oppdater-29042013.pdf> (16.10.2020). / Shabait (Eritrean Ministry of Information), Asmara. Public Registration Office and the Public: Mutual Cooperation for Efficient Services. 05.11.2010. <https://shabait.com/2010/11/05/public-registration-office-and-the-public-mutual-cooperation-for-efficient-services/> (25.11.2020). / Immigration and Refugee Board (Canada), Ottawa. Eritrea: Birth certificates issued by the Public Registration Office of Zoba Maekel [Maakel] (Central Zone); including whether the certificate has a standard format and appearance (2013-November 2014). 02.12.2014. <https://irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/country-information/rir/Pages/index.aspx?doc=455626&pls=1> (25.11.2020). / Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken), The Hague. Country of Origin Information Report on Eritrea. 06.02.2017. p.24. <https://www.government.nl/documents/reports/2017/02/06/country-of-origin-report-on-eritrea-february-2017> (24.11.2020).

⁵⁷ Administration of Nus-Zoba Mai Temenei, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013.

⁵⁸ Landinfo, Oslo. Temanotat Eritrea: Forvaltningsstruktur og dokumenter. 29.04.2013. p.10. <https://landinfo.no/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Eritrea-temanotat-Forvaltningsstruktur-og-dokumenter-oppdater-29042013.pdf> (16.10.2020).

⁵⁹ Migrationsverket, Norrköping. Eritrea – Folkbokföring, medborgarskap och identitetshandlingar. 18.07.2018. p.18. <https://lifos.migrationsverket.se/dokument?documentSummaryId=40578> (26.11.2020).

⁶⁰ Academic expert. Verbal information, 08.10.2020.

⁶¹ Academic expert. Verbal information, 08.10.2020. / Civil status office of Zoba Maekel, Asmara. Meeting as part of a fact finding mission March 2016. / Civil status office of Zoba Maekel, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission. November 2013.

⁶² Academic expert. Verbal information, 08.10.2020.

⁶³ Academic expert. Verbal information, 08.10.2020. / Civil status office of Zoba Maekel, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission. November 2013. / Immigration and Refugee Board (Canada), Ottawa. Eritrea: Birth certificates issued by the Public Registration Office of Zoba Maekel [Maakel] (Central Zone); including whether the certificate has a standard format and appearance (2013-November 2014). 02.12.2014. <https://irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/country-information/rir/Pages/index.aspx?doc=455626&pls=1> (25.11.2020).

⁶⁴ Shabait (Eritrean Ministry of Information), Asmara. Public Registration Office and the Public: Mutual Cooperation for Efficient Services. 05.11.2010. <https://shabait.com/2010/11/05/public-registration-office-and-the-public-mutual-cooperation-for-efficient-services/> (25.11.2020).

issuing authority itself) mention that, on expiry of this period, a court confirmation of parenthood is required, for which witness statements must be obtained.⁶⁵

In order to register a birth at a diplomatic mission abroad, the parents must demonstrate that they have paid the diaspora tax (2% tax), present their identity cards and – if they have not completed their national service – the standardised letter of repentance (*nay taesa wereqet*, form B4/4.2). In the Gulf States, some missions furthermore expect a confirmation of release or exemption from national service.⁶⁶

Regarding the recognition of religious baptism certificates, see [Section 10.4](#).

3.4. Registration and recognition of marriages

Eritrean law recognises three types of marriages:

- Civil marriage
- Religious marriage (Orthodox, Catholic, Protestant, Islamic)
- Marriage according to custom.⁶⁷

Muslims hardly ever marry according to custom but almost always in accordance with Islamic law (Sharia). Orthodox Christians, on the other hand, often follow customary law. In this context, there are about a dozen different legal sources, all of which differ slightly from one another. Most also get married in church. In the towns and cities, civil marriage is becoming increasingly popular. It is also becoming more common for couples married in church to register also with the civil status office.⁶⁸ Eritrean law prohibits the marriage of minors, but it does happen nevertheless.⁶⁹ The provisions of the Transitional Civil Code do not apply to Muslims; instead, they follow Islamic family law. The most important differences are that there is no minimum age for marriage⁷⁰ and that men are permitted to marry up to four women.⁷¹

⁶⁵ UNICEF, New York. Every child's birth right. Dezember 2013. p.12. https://www.un.org/ruleoflaw/files/Embar-goed_11_Dec_Birth_Registration_report_low_res.pdf (25.11.2020). / Immigration and Refugee Board (Canada), Ottawa. Eritrea: Requirements and procedures to obtain the national identity card, including within the country and from abroad; appearance, security features and information contained on the card; prevalence of fraud (2016-Sept. 2018). 26.09.2018. <https://irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/country-information/rir/Pages/index.aspx?doc=457602&pls=1> (25.11.2020). / U.S. Department of State, Washington. Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2016 – Eritrea. 03.03.2017. p.19-20. <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Eritrea-1.pdf> (02.11.2020).

⁶⁶ Academic expert. Verbal information, 08.10.2020.

⁶⁷ Pursuant to Art. 577 of the Transitional Civil Code of 1991; the Civil Code of 2015, which only came into force to a very limited extent, if at all, also includes provisions of this sort in Art. 518-521. Cf. Landinfo, Oslo. Temanotat Eritrea: Forvaltningsstruktur og dokumenter. 29.04.2013. p.13. <https://landinfo.no/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Eritrea-temanotat-Forvaltningsstruktur-og-dokumenter-oppdaterert-29042013.pdf> (16.10.2020). / Landinfo, Oslo. Respons Eritrea: Legalisering av ekteskapsattester. 05.04.2017. p.1. <https://landinfo.no/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Respons-Eritrea-Legalisering-av-ekteskapsattester-05042017.pdf> (05.11.2020). / Migrationsverket, Norrköping. Eritrea – Folkbokföring, medborgarskap och identitetshandlingar. 18.07.2018. p.41. <https://lifos.migrationsverket.se/dokument?documentSummaryId=40578> (26.11.2020).

⁶⁸ Schröder, Günter, Frankfurt. Marriage, Vital Events Registration & Issuance of Civil Status Documents in Eritrea. May 2017. p.9-10, 13. <https://migrationlawclinic.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/paper-gc3bcnther-schrc3b6der-eritrea-marriage.pdf> (16.10.2020). / Amanuel Yohannes Abraham, Maastricht. Expert Opinion on religious marriage and its modes of proof in Eritrean legal system. 28.11.2016. p.46. Accessible at <https://migrationlawclinic.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/expert-opinion-bewijsnood-final-version-may-2017.pdf> (07.12.2020).

⁶⁹ Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken), The Hague. Algemeen Ambtsbericht Eritrea. 21.06.2018. p.23. <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/ambtsberichten/2018/06/21/algemeen-ambtsbericht-eritrea-juni-2018> (23.11.2020).

⁷⁰ Blanc, François-Paul. Le droit musulman. 1995. p.42, 47.

⁷¹ Joseph Schacht, Oxford. An Introduction to Islamic Law. 1964. p.162. / Blanc, François-Paul. Le droit musulman. 1995. p.38, 58.

Registration obligation: Religious and customary marriages must be registered with the civil authorities within a month.⁷² Failure to register is a criminal offence according to the Transitional Civil Code of 1991 (Art. 142).⁷³ The law does not mention specifically whether the marriage has to be registered with civil status offices or the local administrations (or both); as explained in [Section 3.1.](#), these are different institutions. Especially in rural areas it is still unusual to register a marriage. In the towns and cities, the registers are more complete.⁷⁴

Religious and customary marriages are legally valid, even if they are not registered. The marriage is legally valid as soon as the ceremony has been completed and the official or cleric has declared the pair to be married – irrespective of registration.⁷⁵ Official acceptance of marriages that are not registered with the authorities is also the result of the fact that the creation of civil status offices in the local administrations envisaged in the Transitional Civil Code has still yet to be implemented in full.⁷⁶ Civil registration of a marriage is often retrospective.⁷⁷ Many couples only arrange for a civil marriage certificate to be issued when they need one, e.g. for a visa application or if they are abroad.⁷⁸

Registration procedure: As with births, the registration process for marriages is complex and lengthy, and in part the information is contradictory. Couples who have married by custom or religion must first register with the local administration – in other words, with the *Kebabi (Memmehdar Kebabi)* or the *Nus-Zoba (Memmehdar Nus-Zoba)*, depending on where they live. In the city of Asmara, for example, this registration takes place with the Nus-Zoba administrations, in rural areas of Zoba Maekel with the Kebabi administrations. To register, the married couple must submit the certificates for the church or customary marriage. The local administration enters the marriage in its family register and issues a transfer document, which must be signed by all the witnesses to the marriage.⁷⁹ For customary marriages, the administrations of the Nus-Zoba issue the marriage certificates themselves, which must be signed by the married couple and three witnesses to the marriage.⁸⁰

Depending on the place of residence, entry in the digital population register (see [Section 3.2.](#)) is carried out by the Nus-Zoba or Zoba administration. For this registration, the couple must submit the following documents:

- In Asmara (and probably other urban areas): Church marriage certificate
- Rural areas: Transfer document from the local administration
- Identity cards, residence cards and birth certificates of the married couple

⁷² Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken), The Hague. Algemeen Ambtsbericht Eritrea. 21.06.2018. p.23. <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/ambtsberichten/2018/06/21/algemeen-ambtsbericht-eritrea-juni-2018> (23.11.2020).

⁷³ Amanuel Yohannes Abraham, Maastricht. Expert Opinion on religious marriage and its modes of proof in Eritrean legal system. 28.11.2016. p.47. Accessible at <https://migrationlawclinic.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/expert-opinion-bewijsnood-final-version-may-2017.pdf> (07.12.2020).

⁷⁴ Diplomatic source (2), Asmara. Meeting as part of a fact-finding mission, July 2019. / Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, Nuremberg. Information provided by email. January 2017.

⁷⁵ Amanuel Yohannes Abraham, Maastricht. Expert Opinion on religious marriage and its modes of proof in Eritrean legal system. 28.11.2016. p.47-49. Accessible at <https://migrationlawclinic.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/expert-opinion-bewijsnood-final-version-may-2017.pdf> (07.12.2020). / Schröder, Günter, Frankfurt. Marriage, Vital Events Registration & Issuance of Civil Status Documents in Eritrea. May 2017. p.9-10, 13. <https://migrationlawclinic.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/paper-gc3bcnther-schrc3b6der-eritrea-marriage.pdf> (16.10.2020). / Academic expert. Verbal information, 08.10.2020.

⁷⁶ Academic expert. Verbal information, 08.10.2020.

⁷⁷ Landinfo, Oslo. Respons Eritrea: Legalisering av ekteskapsattester. 05.04.2017. p.2. <https://landinfo.no/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Respons-Eritrea-Legalisering-av-ekteskapsattester-05042017.pdf> (05.11.2020).

⁷⁸ Landinfo, Oslo. Respons Eritrea: Legalisering av ekteskapsattester. 05.04.2017. p.3. <https://landinfo.no/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Respons-Eritrea-Legalisering-av-ekteskapsattester-05042017.pdf> (05.11.2020).

⁷⁹ Civil status office of Zoba Maekel, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission. November 2013. / Administration of Nus-Zoba Mai Temenei, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013. / Administration of Nus-Zoba Mendefera, Mendefera. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013. / Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken), Den Haag. Algemeen Ambtsbericht Eritrea. 21.06.2018. p.25. <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/ambtsberichten/2018/06/21/algemeen-ambtsbericht-eritrea-juni-2018> (23.11.2020). / Academic expert. Verbal information, 08.10.2020.

⁸⁰ Administration of Nus-Zoba Mai Temenei, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013.

- Registration application from the married couple (sometimes handwritten).⁸¹

The relevant administration enters the details into the digital population register (see [Section 3.2.](#)) and archives the documents physically.⁸² The married couple is given an extract from the digital population register (i.e. a residence card or family identity card).⁸³ According to one source, entry in the digital population register is obligatory under an unpublished directive of the Office of the President. This applies to all types of marriage. Most married couples meet this requirement, as they need a printout from the register and the family identity card (see [Section 7.1.](#)) for access to subsidised food and to exempt the wife from national service, among other things. However, this card is not a substitute for a marriage certificate and is not a condition for recognition of the marriage.⁸⁴

Certification: In order to obtain an official marriage certificate, couples married by custom or religion must also register with the [civil status office](#). To do so, the couple must submit the certificate for the marriage and copies of their identity cards and residence cards. This also applies to retrospective registration and certification. If the couple is abroad, they must also provide evidence of payment of the diaspora tax (2% tax).⁸⁵ The civil status office archives the documents submitted (or copies of them) and issues the marriage certificate.⁸⁶

For a [civil marriage](#), the couple must submit a completed application form and copies of their identity cards and residence cards directly to the civil status office.⁸⁷ Three witnesses who attended the ceremony must confirm the marriage. The civil status office then registers the marriage directly.⁸⁸ Civil marriage is possible only in places in which one of the spouses or their parents have resided in the previous six months.⁸⁹ For a civil wedding, both spouses must have an official document confirming that they are unmarried.⁹⁰

Regarding the recognition of religious marriage certificates, see [Section 10.4](#).

⁸¹ Administration of Nus-Zoba Mai Temenei, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013. / Shabait (Eritrean Ministry of Information), Asmara. Public Registration Office and the Public: Mutual Cooperation for Efficient Services. 05.11.2010. <https://shabait.com/2010/11/05/public-registration-office-and-the-public-mutual-cooperation-for-efficient-services/> (25.11.2020). / Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken), Den Haag. Algemeen Ambtsbericht Eritrea. 21.06.2018. p.25. <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/ambtsberichten/2018/06/21/algemeen-ambtsbericht-eritrea-juni-2018> (23.11.2020).

⁸² Administration of Nus-Zoba Mai Temenei, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013.

⁸³ Civil status office of Zoba Maekel, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission. November 2013.

⁸⁴ Schröder, Günter, Frankfurt. Marriage, Vital Events Registration & Issuance of Civil Status Documents in Eritrea. May 2017. p.16. <https://migrationlawclinic.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/paper-gc3bcnther-schrc3b6der-eritrea-marriage.pdf> (16.10.2020).

⁸⁵ Schröder, Günter, Frankfurt. Marriage, Vital Events Registration & Issuance of Civil Status Documents in Eritrea. May 2017. p.16. <https://migrationlawclinic.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/paper-gc3bcnther-schrc3b6der-eritrea-marriage.pdf> (16.10.2020).

⁸⁶ Civil status office of Zoba Maekel, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission. November 2013. / Schröder, Günter, Frankfurt. Marriage, Vital Events Registration & Issuance of Civil Status Documents in Eritrea. May 2017. p.16. <https://migrationlawclinic.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/paper-gc3bcnther-schrc3b6der-eritrea-marriage.pdf> (16.10.2020).

⁸⁷ Civil status office of Zoba Maekel, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission. November 2013. / Schröder, Günter, Frankfurt. Marriage, Vital Events Registration & Issuance of Civil Status Documents in Eritrea. May 2017. p.16. <https://migrationlawclinic.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/paper-gc3bcnther-schrc3b6der-eritrea-marriage.pdf> (16.10.2020).

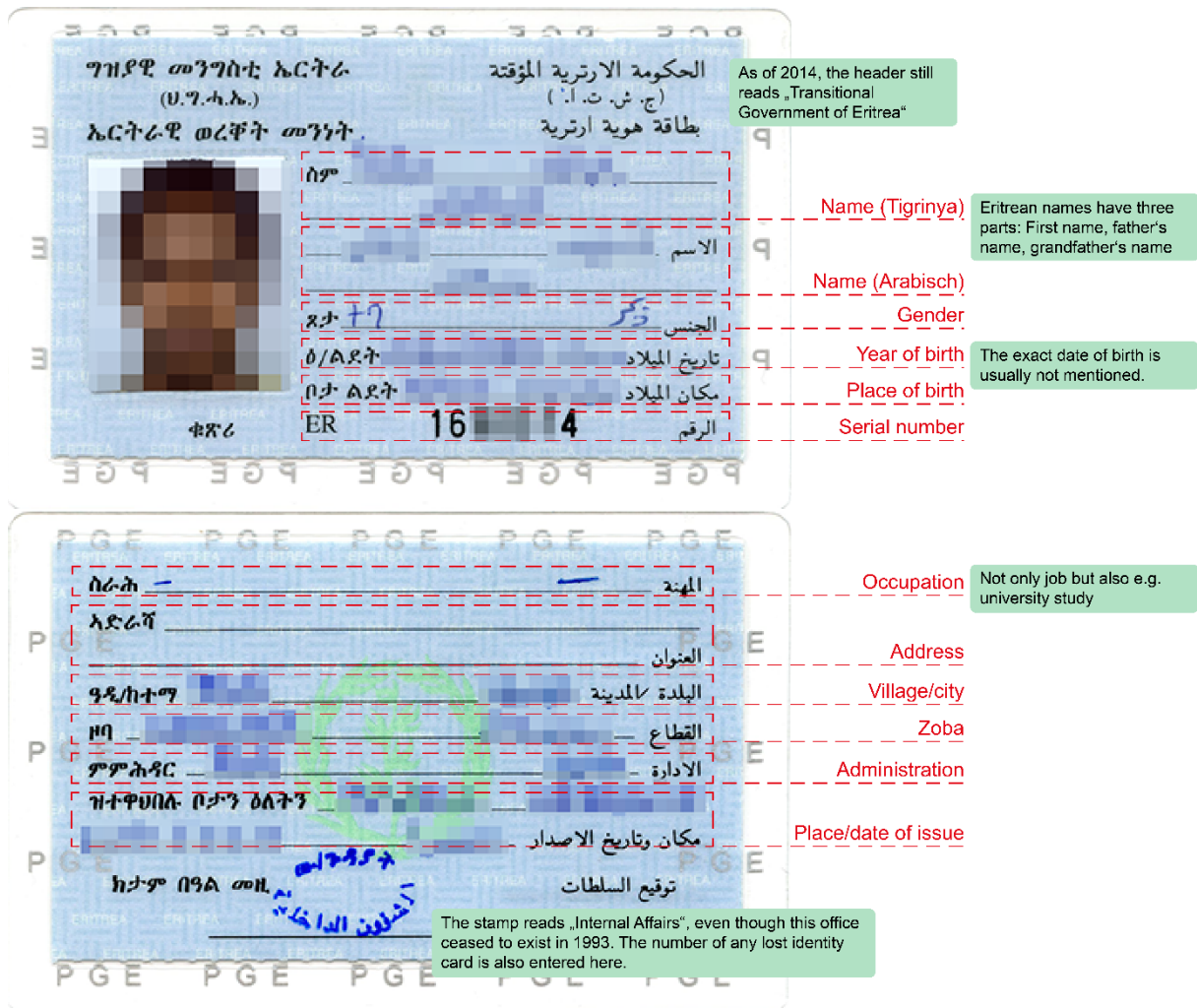
⁸⁸ Civil status office of Zoba Maekel, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission. November 2013.

⁸⁹ Landinfo, Oslo. Temanotat Eritrea: Forvaltningsstruktur og dokumenter. 29.04.2013. p.13. <https://landinfo.no/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Eritrea-temanotat-Forvaltningsstruktur-og-dokumenter-oppdateret-29042013.pdf> (16.10.2020).

⁹⁰ Embassy of the United States, Asmara. Procedures for work and residence permits in Eritrea. 08.09.2008. p.3. No longer accessible online.

4. Identity card

4.1. Blue identity card



Designation	ወረቆት መንነት [wereqet menennet] Identity card Referred to informally as መንነት [menennet] or ታሴራ [tasera]. ⁹¹
Issuing authority/institution	ክፍለ ኢሚግሬሽንን ዜግነትን [kifli imigreshenin zeginnetin] Department for Immigration and Nationality 1992-1993: Registration centres in the offices of the local administrations (“Secretariat for Internal Affairs”), abroad: diplomatic missions of the EPLF. 1993-1996: Department of Immigration and Nationality as part of the Ministry for Internal Affairs. 1996-2001: Department of Immigration and Nationality as part of the Ministry for Local Administration. since 2001: Department of Immigration and Nationality as an autonomous authority under the National Security Service. ⁹²

⁹¹ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken), The Hague. Country of Origin Information Report on Eritrea. 06.02.2017. p.20. <https://www.government.nl/documents/reports/2017/02/06/country-of-origin-report-on-eritrea-february-2017> (24.11.2020). / Migrationsverket, Norrköping. Eritrea – Folkbokföring, medborgarskap och identitetshandlingar. 18.07.2018. p.28. <https://lifos.migrationsverket.se/dokument?documentSummaryId=40578> (26.11.2020).

⁹² Schröder, Günter. Statement to Kassel Administrative Court. File reference 1 K 1090/16.KS.A. 20.07.2017. p.2.

Issued from/to	From summer 1992 (as voting ID for the independence referendum in April 1993, i.e. before Eritrea's independence) ⁹³ to February 2014, subsequently only occasionally in exceptional cases. ⁹⁴
Calendar	Gregorian; usually only the year of birth is given on the ID, not the date of birth.
Legal basis	Proclamation No 21/1991 (Eritrean Nationality Proclamation) ⁹⁵ and an unpublished directive of the Eritrean Transitional Government of 1992. ⁹⁶
Validity	No expiry date or until the introduction of a new identity card ⁹⁷ ; according to one source, still valid despite the introduction of a new identity card in 2015. ⁹⁸
Application to	Local branch of the Department of Immigration and Nationality. The branch offices are located in Mendefera, Dekemhare, Adi Keyih, Barentu, Akurdet, Tessene, Keren, Massawa, Nakfa, Afa-bet and Assab. ⁹⁹ The Eritrean diplomatic missions are responsible for the issuance abroad. According to one source, it was also possible in a few areas to apply for an identity card from the local administration, which forwarded the documents to the department or a branch office. ¹⁰⁰
Documents to be submitted	The information in this regard is inconsistent. According to information from the head office of the department in Asmara: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter of support from the local administration (<i>Memmehdar Kebabi</i>). • Birth certificate (in towns and cities: issued by the central administration; in villages: issued by the church or Sharia court). For those no longer living in their place of birth, the administration of the place of birth may be asked to issue a letter of support so that the administration at the place of residence can issue a birth certificate. • Evidence of Eritrean nationality by means of parents' identity cards. If the applicant is unable to provide this, three witnesses¹⁰¹ who are over the age of 40 and Eritrean by birth, preferably relatives, must confirm the applicant's identity. • Completed application form (4 to 5 pages) with information about place and date of birth, identities of parents and grandparents, profession, extract from criminal records, etc.¹⁰²

⁹³ Schröder, Günter. Statement to Kassel Administrative Court. File reference 1 K 1090/16.KS.A. 20.07.2017. p.2.

⁹⁴ Department of Immigration and Nationality, Asmara. Meeting as part of a fact-finding mission, February 2016. / Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken), The Hague. Country of Origin Information Report on Eritrea. 06.02.2017. p.20. <https://www.government.nl/documents/reports/2017/02/06/country-of-origin-report-on-eritrea-february-2017> (24.11.2020).

⁹⁵ Provisional Government of Eritrea. Proclamation No. 21/1992 (Eritrean Nationality Proclamation). 06.04.1992. <https://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b4e026.html> (21.10.2020).

⁹⁶ Schröder, Günter. Statement to Kassel Administrative Court. File reference 1 K 1090/16.KS.A. 20.07.2017. p.2.

⁹⁷ Landinfo, Oslo. Temanotat Eritrea: Forvaltningsstruktur og dokumenter. 29.04.2013. p.11. <https://landinfo.no/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Eritrea-temanotat-Forvaltningsstruktur-og-dokumenter-oppdateret-29042013.pdf> (21.10.2020).

⁹⁸ Immigration and Refugee Board (Canada), Ottawa. Eritrea: Requirements and procedures to obtain the national identity card, including within the country and from abroad; appearance, security features and information contained on the card; prevalence of fraud (2016-Sept. 2018). 26.09.2018. <https://irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/country-information/ir/Pages/index.aspx?doc=457602&pls=1> (25.11.2020).

⁹⁹ Department of Immigration and Nationality, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013.

¹⁰⁰ Schröder, Günter. Statement to Kassel Administrative Court. File reference 1 K 1090/16.KS.A. 20.07.2017. p.6.

¹⁰¹ Provisional Government of Eritrea. Regulation No. 4/1992 on Travel Documents and Immigration. 15.07.1992. Art. 4, Abs. 2. <https://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b4e02a.html> (05.02.2014).

¹⁰² Department of Immigration and Nationality, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013.

	<p>According to information provided by the branch office in Mendefera:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed application form (4 to 5 pages) • Residence card (see Section 7)¹⁰³
Costs	<p>In Eritrea: ERN 50¹⁰⁴ Abroad: depends on the diplomatic mission. In the USA, USD 25; replacement if lost USD 50 to 100.¹⁰⁵</p>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Even though the <i>Provisional Government of Eritrea</i> only existed until May 1993, this designation on the identity card has never been changed.¹⁰⁶ • Identity cards of people who have applied for a machine-readable identity card (see Section 4.2.) are perforated once. When they receive the new identity card, the old identity card is perforated again or collected by the authorities. As the new identity card has rarely been issued to date, many old identity cards with one perforation are in circulation.¹⁰⁷ • From 1994 to 1998, completion of national service was a condition for obtaining an identity card. According to one source, since 1998 those in national service can obtain it when they have completed 18 months of service¹⁰⁸; this option is mainly available to those in civil national service and to students.¹⁰⁹ According to information from the responsible department, persons required to complete national service can apply for the identity card and do not have to surrender it during their period of service.¹¹⁰ • According to one source, it is sufficient for Eritrean nationals to have a valid identity card for entry into Eritrea; a passport or visa is not required.¹¹¹

Description

Possession of an identity card is obligatory for all Eritreans over the age of 18; in theory, it has to be carried at all times. This obligation is irrespective of the national service status of a person

¹⁰³ Branch office of the Department of Immigration and Nationality, Mendefera. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013.

¹⁰⁴ Department of Immigration and Nationality, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013.

¹⁰⁵ Immigration and Refugee Board (Canada), Ottawa. Eritrea: Requirements and procedures to obtain the national identity card, including within the country and from abroad; appearance, security features and information contained on the card; prevalence of fraud (2016-Sept. 2018). 26.09.2018. <https://irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/country-information/rir/Pages/index.aspx?doc=457602&pls=1> (25.11.2020).

¹⁰⁶ Schröder, Günter, Frankfurt. Marriage, Vital Events Registration & Issuance of Civil Status Documents in Eritrea. May 2017. p.3. <https://migrationlawclinic.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/paper-gc3bcnther-schrc3b6der-eritrea-marriage.pdf> (16.10.2020).

¹⁰⁷ Representative of the Ethiopian refugee authority ARRA, Rama (Tigray). Meeting as part of a fact-finding mission, May 2019. / Diplomatic source (2), Asmara. Meeting as part of a fact-finding mission, July 2019. / U.S. Department of State, Washington. Eritrea. Reciprocity Schedule. Undated. <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/Visa-Reciprocity-and-Civil-Documents-by-Country/Eritrea.html> (22.10.2020). / Migrationsverket, Norrköping. Eritrea – Folkbokföring, medborgarskap och identitetshandlingar. 18.07.2018. p.25. <https://lifos.migrationsverket.se/dokument?documentSummaryId=40578> (26.11.2020).

¹⁰⁸ Schröder, Günter. Statement to Kassel Administrative Court. File reference 1 K 1090/16.KS.A. 20.07.2017. p.11.

¹⁰⁹ Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken), Den Haag. Algemeen Ambtsbericht Eritrea. 21.06.2018. p.23-24. <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/ambtsberichten/2018/06/21/algemeen-ambtsbericht-eritrea-juni-2018> (23.11.2020). / Schröder, Günter. Statement to Kassel Administrative Court. File reference 1 K 1090/16.KS.A. 20.07.2017. p.11.

¹¹⁰ Department of Immigration and Nationality, Asmara. Meeting as part of a fact-finding mission, February 2016.

¹¹¹ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken), The Hague. Country of Origin Information Report on Eritrea. 06.02.2017. p.23. <https://www.government.nl/documents/reports/2017/02/06/country-of-origin-report-on-eritrea-february-2017> (24.11.2020).

– although not all Eritreans are able to apply for an identity card.¹¹² Anyone who is not carrying an identity card can be arrested. Minors are cannot apply for an identity card. They prove their identities either with their school ID or their parents' identity cards.¹¹³

Eritrea does not record personal data centrally.¹¹⁴ Applicants must therefore prove their Eritrean nationality. All persons who were living in Eritrea in 1933 and their descendants are regarded as Eritrean nationals.¹¹⁵ Persons who moved to Eritrea between 1934 and 1951 and – with stricter requirements (linguistic ability, residence in Eritrea for more than ten years before 1974) – after 1952 can also obtain Eritrean nationality.¹¹⁶ Evidence of nationality is usually provided by presenting a birth certificate (or other documents); if this is not possible, three witnesses over the age of 40 are required. The three witnesses must prove their identity with an Eritrean identity card or passport and sign a declaration.¹¹⁷ It is possible to choose witnesses who are abroad. In this case, the witness must answer questions about their relationship to the applicant at an Eritrean diplomatic mission.¹¹⁸

Issuing procedure

This paragraph describes the issuing procedure for the blue identity card up to 2014. Currently (as of the end of 2020) Eritrea is not issuing any identity cards (see [Section 4.2.](#)), so the process is obsolete at the moment. The information about the issuing procedure up to 2014 is contradictory in part.

Application in Eritrea: Applicants for an identity card first had to register with their local administration (*Memmehdar Kebabi*) and prove their Eritrean nationality there.¹¹⁹ The local administration then issued a supporting letter on the basis of the entries in their register. The applicant then took this to the Department of Immigration and Nationality or their regional branch office and submitted the documents specified above. The branch office forwarded the application to the head office of the department in Asmara, which checked it thoroughly, compared it to other registers and then approved or rejected it. Following this check, the head office in Asmara wrote a letter to the relevant regional branch office, which then issued the ID. From 2011, all application documents (or copies of them) were stored centrally in Asmara. It took three weeks to a month to get an identity card issued.¹²⁰

Loss of an identity card: Anyone who lost their identity card had to report the loss to a police station and was then able to apply for a replacement. The applicant had to submit documents from the police station and the local administration (*Memmehdar Kebabi*) to the Department of Immigration and Nationality or one of its branch offices.¹²¹ The replacement included exactly the same information as the original. This also applied to details that had changed in the meantime, e.g. date of issue, place of residence, profession.¹²² Up to around 2010, it was also common practice to cover over the new serial number with correction fluid and overwrite it with the

¹¹² Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken), The Hague. Country of Origin Information Report on Eritrea. 06.02.2017. p.20. <https://www.government.nl/documents/reports/2017/02/06/country-of-origin-report-on-eritrea-february-2017> (24.11.2020).

¹¹³ Department of Immigration and Nationality, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013.

¹¹⁴ Home Office, London. Report of Fact-Finding Mission to Eritrea (4 to 18 November 2002). 29.04.2003. p.48. <https://www.refworld.org/docid/3f4f24f20.html> (22.10.2020).

¹¹⁵ Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Ottawa. Eritrea: Procedure for applying for a national identity card (...). 08.07.2008. <https://www.refworld.org/docid/49b92b4ac.html> (22.10.2020).

¹¹⁶ U.S. Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services, Washington. Eritrea & Ethiopia: Large-scale expulsions of population groups and other human rights violations in connection with the Ethiopian-Eritrean conflict, 1998–2000. 20.09.2000. p.9. <https://www.refworld.org/docid/3de25c7f4.html> (21.10.2020).

¹¹⁷ Honorary Consulate of Switzerland, Asmara. Email, 05.03.2013. / Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Ottawa. Eritrea: Procedure for applying for a national identity card (...). 08.07.2008. <https://www.refworld.org/docid/49b92b4ac.html> (22.10.2020). / Home Office, London. Report of Fact-Finding Mission to Eritrea (4 to 18 November 2002). 29.04.2003. p.48. <https://www.refworld.org/docid/3f4f24f20.html> (22.10.2020).

¹¹⁸ Home Office, London. Report of Fact-Finding Mission to Eritrea (4 to 18 November 2002). 29.04.2003. p.49+. <https://www.refworld.org/docid/3f4f24f20.html> (22.10.2020).

¹¹⁹ Honorary Consulate of Switzerland, Asmara. Email, 05.03.2013.

¹²⁰ Department of Immigration and Nationality, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013.

¹²¹ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken), The Hague. Country of Origin Information Report on Eritrea. 06.02.2017. p.20. <https://www.government.nl/documents/reports/2017/02/06/country-of-origin-report-on-eritrea-february-2017> (24.11.2020).

¹²² Landinfo, Oslo. Temanotat Eritrea: Forvaltningsstruktur og dokumenter. 29.04.2013. p.12. <https://landinfo.no/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Eritrea-temanotat-Forvaltningsstruktur-og-dokumenter-oppdateret->

old serial number on a typewriter. From 2010 onwards, the serial number of the lost identity card was entered on the back.¹²³

Application abroad: The applicant had to go to the responsible Eritrean diplomatic mission and prove their nationality there – e.g. with documents (birth certificate), reference to entries in the population register in Eritrea or three witnesses. The diplomatic mission checked the information and forwarded it to the Department of Immigration and Nationality in Asmara. The latter checked the request again, issued the identity card as appropriate and sent it back to the diplomatic mission.¹²⁴ As a condition for consular services, Eritrean diplomatic missions frequently demanded the payment of the diaspora tax (2% tax) by the applicant and – if national service had not been completed – the signing of an “Form of Repentance” (form B4/4.2).¹²⁵ With the introduction of the identity card in 1992, registration for the independence referendum (and thus issuance of the identity card) was also carried out in representative offices of the provisional government abroad.¹²⁶ The provisional Eritrean EPLF government opened various country offices in larger cities for this purpose and people were appointed to go into various diaspora communities to distribute and collect the application and registration forms.¹²⁷ Of the 1,110,745 people registered for the referendum, 60,192 were living in Ethiopia (outside Eritrean territory), 164,842 in Sudan and 84,370 in other countries.¹²⁸

[29042013.pdf](#) (21.10.2020). / Schröder, Günter. Statement to Kassel Administrative Court. File reference 1 K 1090/16.KS.A. 20.07.2017. p.10.

¹²³ Based on experience of Country Analysis SEM.

¹²⁴ Landinfo, Oslo. Temanotat Eritrea: Forvaltningsstruktur og dokumenter. 29.04.2013. p.11. <https://landinfo.no/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Eritrea-temanotat-Forvaltningsstruktur-og-dokumenter-oppdater-29042013.pdf> (21.10.2020). / Immigration and Refugee Board (Canada), Ottawa. Eritrea: Identification documents, including national identity cards and birth certificates; requirements and procedures for obtaining and renewing identity documents, both within the country and abroad (2009-August 2013). 16.09.2013. <https://irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/country-information/rir/Pages/index.aspx?doc=454790&pls=1> (25.11.2020).

¹²⁵ European Asylum Support Office (EASO), Malta. Eritrea. National service, exit and return. September 2019. p.60. https://coi.easo.europa.eu/administration/easo/PLib/2019_EASO_COI_Eritrea_National_service_exit_and_return.pdf (21.10.2020). / Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken), The Hague. Country of Origin Information Report on Eritrea. 06.02.2017. p.22. <https://www.government.nl/documents/reports/2017/02/06/country-of-origin-report-on-eritrea-february-2017> (24.11.2020).

¹²⁶ U.S. Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services, Washington. Eritrea & Ethiopia: Large-scale expulsions of population groups and other human rights violations in connection with the Ethiopian-Eritrean conflict, 1998–2000. 20.09.2000. p.9. <https://www.refworld.org/docid/3de25c7f4.html> (21.10.2020).

¹²⁷ U.S. Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services, Washington. Eritrea & Ethiopia: Large-scale expulsions of population groups and other human rights violations in connection with the Ethiopian-Eritrean conflict, 1998–2000. 20.09.2000. <https://www.refworld.org/docid/3de25c7f4.html> (21.10.2020).

¹²⁸ Human Rights Watch: The Horn of Africa War. 29.01.2003. p.13. <https://www.hrw.org/reports/2003/ethioerit0103/ethioerit0103.pdf> (21.10.2020).

4.2. Machine-readable identity card



Designation	 ወረቆት መንነት [weraqet menennet]  Identity card Referred to informally as መንነት [menennet] or ታሴራ [tasera].
Issuing authority/institution	 ክፍለ ኢሚግሬሽንን ዜግነትን [kifli imigreshenin zeginnetin]  Department for Immigration and Nationality
Issued from/to	First examples issued in 2015, introduction in 2016 ¹²⁹ , but only in individual cases (see “Notes”)
Calendar	Gregorian
Legal basis	Proclamation No 21/1991 (Eritrean Nationality Proclamation) ¹³⁰
Validity	15 years
Application to	Local branch of the Department of Immigration and Nationality. The branches are located in Mendefera, Dekemhare, Adi Keyih, Barentu, Akurdet, Tesseney, Keren, Massawa, Nakfa, Afabet and Assab. ¹³¹ The Eritrean diplomatic missions are responsible for the issuance abroad.
Documents to be submitted	If an old (blue) identity card is already present: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • application form,

¹²⁹ Department of Immigration and Nationality, Asmara. Meeting as part of a fact-finding mission, February 2016. / Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken), The Hague. Country of Origin Information Report on Eritrea. 06.02.2017. p.21. <https://www.government.nl/documents/reports/2017/02/06/country-of-origin-report-on-eritrea-february-2017> (24.11.2020). / U.S. Department of State, Washington. Eritrea. Reciprocity Schedule. Undated. <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/Visa-Reciprocity-and-Civil-Documents-by-Country/Eritrea.html> (22.10.2020).

¹³⁰ Provisional Government of Eritrea. Proclamation No. 21/1992 (Eritrean Nationality Proclamation). 06.04.1992. <https://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b4e026.html> (21.10.2020).

¹³¹ Department of Immigration and Nationality, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> old identity card.¹³²
Costs	<p>In Eritrea: 100 ERN¹³³</p> <p>Abroad: depends on the diplomatic mission. In Stockholm SEK 220 to 2730.¹³⁴ In the USA up to the age of 21, USD 25; for each additional year, an extra charge of USD 15 applies.¹³⁵</p>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> So far the Eritrean authorities have issued only a few identity cards of this sort¹³⁶ – according to unverified information from the Dutch Foreign Ministry, the number is 70,000¹³⁷, according to anecdotal information from Eritrea it is “almost none”. Most Eritreans who reached the age of majority after 2014 therefore do not have an identity card. As a substitute, those in question use either the residence card (see Section 7)¹³⁸ or – since around 2018 – the provisional identity card (see Section 4.3.)¹³⁹. From 1994 to 1998, completion of national service was a condition for obtaining an identity card. According to one source, since 1998 those in national service can obtain one when they have completed 18 months of service¹⁴⁰; this option is mainly available to those in civil national service and to students.¹⁴¹ According to information from the responsible department, persons required to complete national service can apply for the identity card and do not have to surrender it during their period of service.¹⁴² According to one source, it is sufficient for Eritrean nationals to have a valid identity card to gain entry into Eritrea; a passport or visa is not required.¹⁴³

Issuing procedure

Those who want to exchange their old (blue) identity card for the machine-readable identity card have to fill in an application form and to turn in the old card. Those who do not have an

¹³² Department of Immigration and Nationality, Asmara. Meeting as part of a fact-finding mission, February 2016.

¹³³ Department of Immigration and Nationality, Asmara. Meeting as part of a fact-finding mission, February 2016. / Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken), The Hague. Country of Origin Information Report on Eritrea. 06.02.2017. p.21. <https://www.government.nl/documents/reports/2017/02/06/country-of-origin-report-on-eritrea-february-2017> (24.11.2020). / Academic expert. Verbal information, 08.10.2020.

¹³⁴ Eritrean Embassy, Stockholm. ID Card. Undated. <http://www.eritrean-embassy.se/en-us/services/id> (26.11.2020).

¹³⁵ Embassy of the State of Eritrea, Washington. Consular. National ID. Undated. <https://us.embassy-eritrea.org/national-id/> (26.11.2020).

¹³⁶ U.S. Department of State, Washington. Eritrea. Reciprocity Schedule. Undated. <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/Visa-Reciprocity-and-Civil-Documents-by-Country/Eritrea.html> (22.10.2020). / Diplomatic source (2), Asmara. Meeting as part of a fact-finding mission, July 2019.

¹³⁷ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken), The Hague. Country of Origin Information Report on Eritrea. 06.02.2017. p.21. <https://www.government.nl/documents/reports/2017/02/06/country-of-origin-report-on-eritrea-february-2017> (24.11.2020)

¹³⁸ Eritrean refugees, Mai Aini (Tigray). Meeting as part of a fact-finding trip, May 2019. / Academic expert. Verbal information, 13.-14.03.2019. / Academic expert. Verbal information, 08.10.2020.

¹³⁹ Swiss embassy in Sudan, Khartoum. Email, September 2019. / Diplomatic source (2), Asmara. Email, September 2019.

¹⁴⁰ Schröder, Günter. Statement to Kassel Administrative Court. File reference 1 K 1090/16.KS.A. 20.07.2017. p.11.

¹⁴¹ Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken), Den Haag. Algemeen Ambtsbericht Eritrea. 21.06.2018. p.23-24. <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/ambtsberichten/2018/06/21/algemeen-ambtsbericht-eritrea-juni-2018> (23.11.2020). / Schröder, Günter. Statement to Kassel Administrative Court. File reference 1 K 1090/16.KS.A. 20.07.2017. p.11.

¹⁴² Department of Immigration and Nationality, Asmara. Meeting as part of a fact-finding mission, February 2016.

¹⁴³ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken), The Hague. Country of Origin Information Report on Eritrea. 06.02.2017. p.23. <https://www.government.nl/documents/reports/2017/02/06/country-of-origin-report-on-eritrea-february-2017> (24.11.2020).

old identity card must demonstrate their Eritrean nationality by means of documents or witnesses in the same way as in the issuing procedure for the old identity card (see [Section 4.1.](#)). As with the old identity card, it is possible to apply for the identity card at a branch office of the Department of Immigration and Nationality or at an Eritrean diplomatic mission. The identity card is produced centrally in Asmara and then sent to the branch office or diplomatic mission in which the applicant made the application.¹⁴⁴

Several Eritrean diplomatic missions have published lists of the documents that applicants must submit in order to apply for the machine-readable identity card.¹⁴⁵ The requirements are similar everywhere. The Eritrean mission in Geneva specifies the following:¹⁴⁶

- *“Four (4) pictures, size must be 35 x 45 mm (See Photo specifications below)*
- *Copy of parents Eritrean ID card*
- *Family certificate*
- *Copy of applicant's Passport.”*

In addition to the standard identity card, some diplomatic missions (including the one in Geneva) also issue temporary IDs for 18 to 25-year-olds and IDs for minors.¹⁴⁷ The Eritrean embassies in Addis Ababa and Khartoum do not issue documents of this sort.¹⁴⁸

¹⁴⁴ Department of Immigration and Nationality, Asmara. Meeting as part of a fact-finding mission, February 2016. / Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken), The Hague. Country of Origin Information Report on Eritrea. 06.02.2017. p.21. <https://www.government.nl/documents/reports/2017/02/06/country-of-origin-report-on-eritrea-february-2017> (24.11.2020)

¹⁴⁵ Embassy of the State of Eritrea, Washington. Consular. National ID. Undated. <https://us.embassyeritrea.org/national-id/> (26.11.2020). / Eritrean Embassy, Stockholm. ID Card. Undated. <http://www.eritrean-embassy.se/en-us/services/id> (26.11.2020). / Consulate Of The State of Eritrea, Melbourne. New ID for Adults. Undated. <http://ericon.org.au/services/national-id/> (26.11.2020). / Eritrean Embassy, Geneva. Eritrea ID. Undated. <https://eritreambassy.ch/eritrea-id/> (26.11.2020).





¹⁴⁶ Eritrean Embassy, Geneva. Eritrea ID. Undated. <https://eritreambassy.ch/eritrea-id/> (26.11.2020).

¹⁴⁷ Eritrean Embassy, Geneva. Eritrea ID. Undated. <https://eritreambassy.ch/eritrea-id/> (26.11.2020). / Migrationsverket, Norrköping. Eritrea – Folkbokföring, medborgarskap och identitetshandlingar. 18.07.2018. p.25. <https://lifos.migrationsverket.se/dokument?documentSummaryId=40578> (26.11.2020). / Embassy of the State of Eritrea, Washington. Consular. National ID. Undated. <https://us.embassyeritrea.org/national-id/> (26.11.2020). / Eritrean Embassy, Stockholm. ID Card. Undated. <http://www.eritrean-embassy.se/en-us/services/id> (26.11.2020). / Consulate Of The State of Eritrea, Melbourne. New ID for Adults. Undated. <http://ericon.org.au/services/national-id/> (26.11.2020).

¹⁴⁸ Immigration Liaison Officer, Swiss Embassy, Khartoum. Email of 25.09.2018. / Swiss embassy, Addis Ababa. Email of 29.01.2019.

4.3. Provisional identity card



Designation	 ግዜያዊ ወረቆት መንነት [gizeyawi wereqet menennet]  (Provisional) Identity card Referred to informally as መንነት [menennet] or ታሴራ [tasera].
Issuing authority/institution	 ክፍለ ኢሚግሬሽንን ዜግነትን [kifli imigreshenin zeginnetin]  Department for Immigration and Nationality
Issued from/to	Probably from 2018, first reports of more frequent occurrence in September 2019. ¹⁴⁹
Calendar	Gregorianis
Legal basis	Not known
Validity	5 years
Application to	Not known
Documents to be submitted	Not known
Costs	Not known
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In English and Arabic, the provisional identity card is referred to simply as an “identity card”; only in Tigrinya the word “provisional” (ግዜያዊ) appears. In addition to the provisional identity card, there are also temporary identity cards which are issued by some diplomatic missions (see Section 4.2.).

¹⁴⁹ Schweizerische Botschaft im Sudan, Khartum. E-Mail, September 2019. / Diplomatische Quelle (2), Asmara. E-Mail, September 2019.

Issuing procedure

The issuing procedure for the provisional identity card is not known to Country Analysis SEM. It is assumed that it is similar to that for the identity cards described in [Section 4.1.](#) and [4.2.](#)

5. Passport

5.1. Old passport (up to 2010)

03 1 Serial number
 Full Name All entries are handwritten, with the exception of the serial number.
 Mother's Name
 Date and Place of Birth **ASMARA**
 Sex **M** Height
 I.D. Card No. ID number
 Address **ASMARA, ERITREA**
 Date of Issue **2008** Expiry Date **2013**
 Issuing Authority **MIN. OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS**
No ID number is entered for minors
The issuing authority for all passports is the Ministry of Internal Affairs, even if it was applied for at a diplomatic mission abroad.

Designation	ገሰገሮ [pasport] Passport
Issuing authority/institution	ክፍለ ኢሚግሬሽንን ዜግነትን [kifli imigreshenin zeginnetin] Department for Immigration and Nationality The Eritrean Ministry of Internal Affairs was dissolved in 1996 and the Department of Immigration and Nationality has since been responsible for issuing passports. Nevertheless, the Ministry of Internal Affairs still appears as the issuing authority. ¹⁵⁰
Issued from/to	ca Approx. 1993 to 30 April 2010 ¹⁵¹
Calendar	Gregorian
Legal basis	Proclamation 24/1992 ¹⁵² and Legal Notice 4/1992. ¹⁵³
Validity	5 years ¹⁵⁴ . In 2015 all non-machine-readable passports became invalid. ¹⁵⁵
Application to	Local branch of the Department of Immigration and Nationality. The branches are located in Mendefera, Dekemhare, Adi Keyih, Barentu, Akurdet, Tesseny, Keren, Massawa, Nakfa, Afabet and Assab. ¹⁵⁶ The Eritrean diplomatic missions are responsible abroad.

¹⁵⁰ Schröder, Günter, Frankfurt. Marriage, Vital Events Registration & Issuance of Civil Status Documents in Eritrea. May 2017. p.3. <https://migrationlawclinic.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/paper-gc3bcnther-schrc3b6der-eritrea-marriage.pdf> (16.10.2020).

¹⁵¹ Landinfo, Oslo. Temanotat Eritrea: Forvaltningsstruktur og dokumenter. 29.04.2013. p.8. <https://landinfo.no/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Eritrea-temanotat-Forvaltningsstruktur-og-dokumenter-oppdaterert-29042013.pdf> (21.10.2020).

¹⁵² Provisional Government of Eritrea, Asmara. Proclamation No. 24/1992 to regulate the issuing of travel documents. 01.04.1992. <https://www.refworld.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/rwmain/opendocpdf.pdf?reldoc=y&docid=54c0d9d44> (22.10.2020).

¹⁵³ Provisional Government of Eritrea, Asmara. Regulation No. 4/1992 on Travel Documents and Immigration. 15.07.1992. <https://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b4e02a.html> (22.10.2020).

¹⁵⁴ Landinfo, Oslo. Temanotat Eritrea: Forvaltningsstruktur og dokumenter. 29.04.2013. p.8. <https://landinfo.no/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Eritrea-temanotat-Forvaltningsstruktur-og-dokumenter-oppdaterert-29042013.pdf> (21.10.2020).

¹⁵⁵ Department of Immigration and Nationality, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013.

¹⁵⁶ Department of Immigration and Nationality, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013.

Documents to be submitted	See Section 5.2.
Costs	Not known
Notes	Siehe Section 5.2.

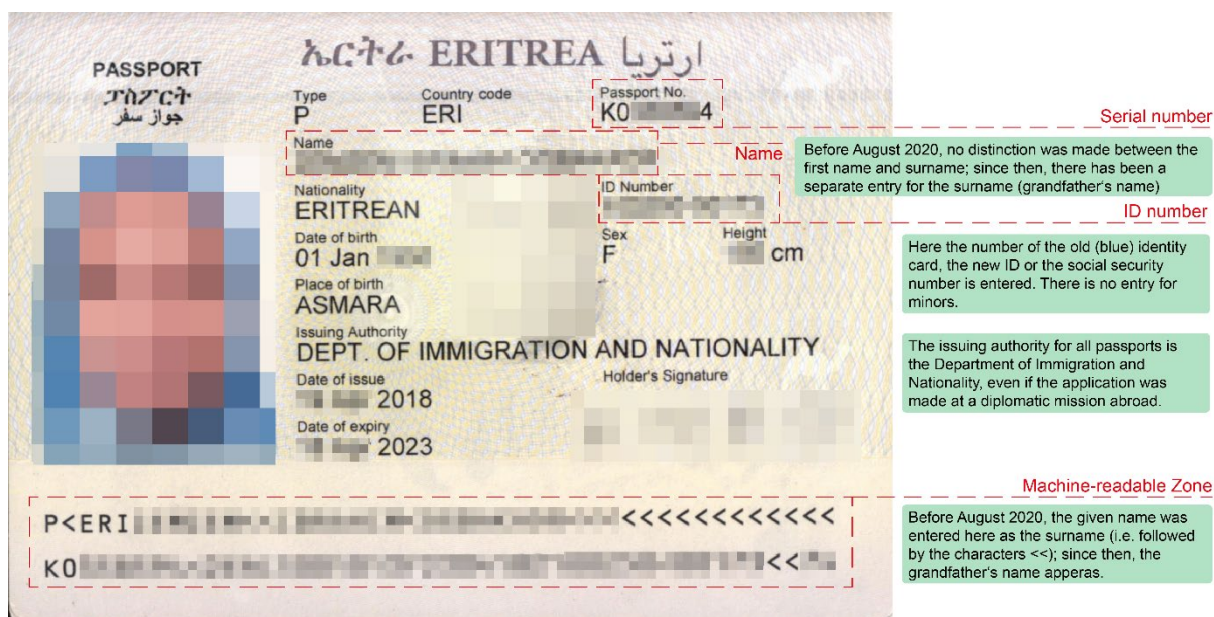
 **Description**





See [Section 5.2.](#)

 **Issuing procedure**

See [Section 5.2.](#)

5.2. New passport (since 2010)



Designation	 ጋሰፖርት [pasport]  Passport
Issuing authority/institution	 ክፍሊ ኢሚግሬሽንን ዜግነትን [kifli imigreshenin zeginnetin]  Department for Immigration and Nationality
Issued from/to	Since 1 May 2010 ¹⁵⁷
Calendar	Gregorian
Legal basis	Proclamation 24/1992 ¹⁵⁸ and Legal Notice 4/1992. ¹⁵⁹
Validity	Initially two years, now usually five years (see “Description”) ¹⁶⁰
Application to	Local branch of the Department of Immigration and Nationality. The branch offices are located in Mendefera, Dekemhare, Adi Keyih, Barentu, Akurdet, Tesseney, Keren, Massawa, Nakfa, Afabet and Assab. ¹⁶¹ The Eritrean diplomatic missions are responsible abroad. ¹⁶²
Documents to be submitted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letters of support or consent from the Kebabi administration (<i>Memmehdar Kebabi</i>)¹⁶³, for employees in public service, letter of support of the ministry instead.¹⁶⁴ Applicant’s own identity card and identity cards or other documents of parents.

¹⁵⁷ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken), The Hague. Country of Origin Information Report on Eritrea. 06.02.2017. p.22. <https://www.government.nl/documents/reports/2017/02/06/country-of-origin-report-on-eritrea-february-2017> (24.11.2020).

¹⁵⁸ Provisional Government of Eritrea, Asmara. Proclamation No. 24/1992 to regulate the issuing of travel documents. 01.04.1992. <https://www.refworld.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/rwmain/opendocpdf.pdf?reldoc=y&docid=54c0d9d44> (22.10.2020).

¹⁵⁹ Provisional Government of Eritrea, Asmara. Regulation No. 4/1992 on Travel Documents and Immigration. 15.07.1992. <https://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b4e02a.html> (22.10.2020).

¹⁶⁰ Landinfo, Oslo. Temanotat Eritrea: Forvaltningsstruktur og dokumenter. 29.04.2013. p.8. <https://landinfo.no/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Eritrea-temanotat-Forvaltningsstruktur-og-dokumenter-oppdatert-29042013.pdf> (21.10.2020).

¹⁶¹ Department of Immigration and Nationality, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013.

¹⁶² Migrationsverket, Norrköping. Eritrea – Folkbokföring, medborgarskap och identitetshandlingar. 18.07.2018. p.25. <https://ifos.migrationsverket.se/dokument?documentSummaryId=40578> (26.11.2020).

¹⁶³ Department of Immigration and Nationality, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013.

¹⁶⁴ Home Office, London. Report of Fact-Finding Mission to Eritrea (4 to 18 November 2002). 29.04.2003. p.129. <https://www.refworld.org/docid/3f4f24f20.html> (22.10.2020).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proof that national service has been completed (passports are not usually issued to people during their national service)¹⁶⁵ or medical documents that prove exemption on medical grounds.¹⁶⁶ • Completed application form.¹⁶⁷ • If the spouse of an applicant is living abroad, the applicant must provide evidence that they have paid the diaspora tax (2% tax).¹⁶⁸ • Also according to one source: birth certificate.¹⁶⁹
Costs	<p>In Eritrea: ERN 4000, replacement if lost: ERN 5000¹⁷⁰; one source states a price of ERN 4900.¹⁷¹</p> <p>Abroad: Depending on the diplomatic mission and time.¹⁷² According to Landinfo, approx. USD 200¹⁷³, in Germany EUR 160¹⁷⁴</p>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under “ID number”, the number of the blue ID was entered up to summer 2012, then up to around 2015 the number of the residence card (see Section 7). For people with a machine-readable ID, the number of the new ID is now entered.¹⁷⁵ • For minors, the heading “ID number” is omitted.¹⁷⁶ • It is not possible to distinguish a passport that has been applied for in Eritrea from a passport that has been applied at a diplomatic mission abroad, as all passports are issued in Asmara. The “Dept. of Immigration and Nationality” is entered as the issuing authority.¹⁷⁷ • Conclusions about the place of application can be drawn from the entries in the passport, however. If the passport was obtained in Eritrea, the first entry is usually an Eritrean exit visa. If the passport was applied for through the embassy in Sudan, the

¹⁶⁵ Department of Immigration and Nationality, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013. / Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken), The Hague. Country of Origin Information Report on Eritrea. 06.02.2017. p.22. <https://www.government.nl/documents/reports/2017/02/06/country-of-origin-report-on-eritrea-february-2017> (24.11.2020).

¹⁶⁶ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken), The Hague. Country of Origin Information Report on Eritrea. 06.02.2017. p.22. <https://www.government.nl/documents/reports/2017/02/06/country-of-origin-report-on-eritrea-february-2017> (24.11.2020).

¹⁶⁷ Department of Immigration and Nationality, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013.

¹⁶⁸ Academic expert. Verbal information, 08.10.2020.

¹⁶⁹ Home Office, London. Eritrea. Country of Origin Information Report. 18.09.2013. p.128-129. <https://www.refworld.org/docid/523acfc4.html> (26.11.2020).

¹⁷⁰ Landinfo, Oslo. Temanotat Eritrea: Forvaltningsstruktur og dokumenter. 29.04.2013. p.7. <https://landinfo.no/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Eritrea-temanotat-Forvaltningsstruktur-og-dokumenter-oppdater-29042013.pdf> (21.10.2020). / U.S. Department of State, Washington. Eritrea. Reciprocity Schedule. Undated. <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/Visa-Reciprocity-and-Civil-Documents-by-Country/Eritrea.html> (22.10.2020).

¹⁷¹ Eritrean refugee, Addis Ababa. Meeting as part of a fact-finding mission, May 2019.

¹⁷² Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken), The Hague. Country of Origin Information Report on Eritrea. 06.02.2017. p.22. <https://www.government.nl/documents/reports/2017/02/06/country-of-origin-report-on-eritrea-february-2017> (24.11.2020).

¹⁷³ Landinfo, Oslo. Temanotat Eritrea: Forvaltningsstruktur og dokumenter. 29.04.2013. p.7. <https://landinfo.no/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Eritrea-temanotat-Forvaltningsstruktur-og-dokumenter-oppdater-29042013.pdf> (21.10.2020).

¹⁷⁴ Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, Nuremberg. Information provided by email. January 2017.

¹⁷⁵ Based on experience of Country Analysis SEM, Cf. Migrationsverket, Norrköping. Eritrea – Folkbokföring, medborgarskap och identitetshandlingar. 18.07.2018. p.16, 27. <https://lifos.migrationsverket.se/dokument?documentSummaryId=40578> (26.11.2020). / Immigration and Refugee Board (Canada), Ottawa. The identity number that appears on the Eritrean passport, including the meaning of its digits; prevalence of passports fraudulently obtained by non-Eritreans (2017-December 2018). 12.12.2018. <https://irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/country-information/ir/Pages/index.aspx?doc=457677&pls=1> (25.11.2020).

¹⁷⁶ Immigration and Refugee Board (Canada), Ottawa. The identity number that appears on the Eritrean passport, including the meaning of its digits; prevalence of passports fraudulently obtained by non-Eritreans (2017-December 2018). 12.12.2018. <https://irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/country-information/ir/Pages/index.aspx?doc=457677&pls=1> (25.11.2020).

¹⁷⁷ Based on experience of Country Analysis SEM.

first entry is usually a Sudanese exit visa with the note “for departure only”.¹⁷⁸

- According to one source, it is sufficient for Eritrean nationals to have a valid identity card to be allowed entry into Eritrea; a passport or visa is not required.¹⁷⁹

Description

The following types of passport exist (usual period of validity in brackets):

- Passport (two to five years)
- Diplomatic passport (two years, can be extended by one year)
- Service passport (two years, can be extended by one year)
- Passport for foreigners (one year, can be extended once)
- Laissez-Passer (six months).¹⁸⁰

Before 2020 the Eritrean passport made no distinction between first name and surname, as surnames are not common in Eritrea and Eritreans have the name of their father and grandfather as their second and third names. In contrast to the international standard, up to 2020 the country abbreviation ERI on the machine-readable line was followed by the first name, the father’s and the grandfather’s names.¹⁸¹ Since 17 August 2020, the grandfather’s name has been used as the surname, while the first name is made up of the actual first name and the father’s name. For people who use only two names, the father’s name is the surname.¹⁸²

Children can have their own passport or can be included in the passport of one of their parents up to the age of 16.¹⁸³

Issuing procedure

The information about the issuing procedure is not consistent in all sources and is contradictory in part.

In Eritrea: Applicants must submit the above documents to their local branch of the Department of Immigration and Nationality or to its head office in Asmara. The rest of the issuing procedure is the same as that for the blue identity card (see [Section 4.1.](#)); the approval of the head office in Asmara is always required for a passport to be issued.¹⁸⁴ One source told Country Analysis SEM that they were given a form when making the application on which all the banks and infrastructure operators of their Nus-Zoba were required to confirm that they had no debts.¹⁸⁵ Women are able to obtain a passport from about the age of 25 if they have release papers from national service. It is generally more difficult for men to obtain a passport.¹⁸⁶ According to the US State Department, the issuing procedure for passports is neither consistent nor transparent.¹⁸⁷

¹⁷⁸ Based on experience of Country Analysis SEM.

¹⁷⁹ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken), The Hague. Country of Origin Information Report on Eritrea. 06.02.2017. p.23. <https://www.government.nl/documents/reports/2017/02/06/country-of-origin-report-on-eritrea-february-2017> (24.11.2020).

¹⁸⁰ Landinfo, Oslo. Temanotat Eritrea: Forvaltningsstruktur og dokumenter. 29.04.2013. p.8. <https://landinfo.no/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Eritrea-temanotat-Forvaltningsstruktur-og-dokumenter-oppdateret-29042013.pdf> (21.10.2020).

¹⁸¹ Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, Nuremberg. Information provided by email, January 2017.

¹⁸² Department for Immigration and Nationality, Asmara. Circular to the Eritrean diplomatic missions. 17.08.2020.

¹⁸³ Migrationsverket, Norrköping. Eritrea – Folkbokföring, medborgarskap och identitetshandlingar. 18.07.2018. p.27 <https://lifos.migrationsverket.se/dokument?documentSummaryId=40578> (26.11.2020). / U.S. Department of State, Washington. Eritrea. Reciprocity Schedule. Undated. <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/Visa-Reciprocity-and-Civil-Documents-by-Country/Eritrea.html> (22.10.2020).

¹⁸⁴ Department of Immigration and Nationality, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013.

¹⁸⁵ Eritrean refugee, Addis Ababa. Meeting as part of a fact-finding mission, May 2019.

¹⁸⁶ Eritrean refugee, Addis Ababa. Meeting as part of a fact-finding mission, May 2019.

¹⁸⁷ U.S. Department of State, Washington. Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2019 – Eritrea. 11.03.2020. p.12. <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/ERITREA-2019-HUMAN-RIGHTS-REPORT.pdf> (29.10.2020).

Those carrying out military or civil national service are not permitted to travel abroad and therefore cannot apply for a passport.¹⁸⁸ Passports are also rarely issued to minors in Eritrea.¹⁸⁹

Abroad: Applicants must submit the above documents to an Eritrean diplomatic mission. The diplomatic missions also check whether the applicants have completed national service. However, most diplomatic missions also issue passports to deserters and draft evaders; it is therefore easier to get a passport from them than in Eritrea itself.¹⁹⁰ If an applicant does not have an identity card, he can sometimes prove his identity and nationality with the parents' identity cards.¹⁹¹ As a condition for consular services, Eritrean diplomatic missions frequently demanded the payment of the diaspora tax (2% tax) by the applicant and – if national service has not been completed – the signing of an “Form of Repentance” (form D3).¹⁹² According to one source, the Eritrean embassy in Sudan also accepts a church certificate of baptism as evidence of nationality.¹⁹³ It is possible to extend a passport once by five years at diplomatic missions.¹⁹⁴ At many diplomatic missions, it is necessary to appear in person in order to apply for or extend a passport, at others an authorised representative can do so.¹⁹⁵

Several Eritrean diplomatic missions have published lists of the documents that applicants must submit to apply for a passport.¹⁹⁶ The requirements are similar everywhere. The Eritrean mission in Geneva specifies the following requirements:¹⁹⁷

- *«Complete all necessary forms and documents*
- *Must satisfy all national obligations, including 2% payment from 1992 - present*
- *Eritrean ID card*

¹⁸⁸ Department of Immigration and Nationality, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013. / Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken), The Hague. Country of Origin Information Report on Eritrea. 06.02.2017. p.22. <https://www.government.nl/documents/reports/2017/02/06/country-of-origin-report-on-eritrea-february-2017> (24.11.2020). / Cf. Eritrea. Proclamation No. 82/1995 on National Service. 23.10.1995. Art. 17. <https://www.refworld.org/docid/3dd8d3af4.html> (22.10.2020).

¹⁸⁹ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken), The Hague. Country of Origin Information Report on Eritrea. 06.02.2017. p.22. <https://www.government.nl/documents/reports/2017/02/06/country-of-origin-report-on-eritrea-february-2017> (24.11.2020).

¹⁹⁰ Landinfo, Oslo. Temanotat Eritrea: Forvaltningsstruktur og dokumenter. 29.04.2013. p.9. <https://landinfo.no/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Eritrea-temanotat-Forvaltningsstruktur-og-dokumenter-oppdateret-29042013.pdf> (21.10.2020). / Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken), The Hague. Country of Origin Information Report on Eritrea. 06.02.2017. p.22. <https://www.government.nl/documents/reports/2017/02/06/country-of-origin-report-on-eritrea-february-2017> (24.11.2020). / Immigration and Refugee Board (Canada), Ottawa. Eritrea: Identification documents, including national identity cards and birth certificates; requirements and procedures for obtaining and renewing identity documents, both within the country and abroad (2009-August 2013). 16.09.2013. <https://irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/country-information/rir/Pages/index.aspx?doc=454790&pls=1> (25.11.2020).

¹⁹¹ Migrationsverket, Norrköping. Eritrea – Folkbokföring, medborgarskap och identitetshandlingar. 18.07.2018. p.25. <https://lifos.migrationsverket.se/dokument?documentSummaryId=40578> (26.11.2020).

¹⁹² European Asylum Support Office (EASO), Malta. Eritrea. National service, exit and return. September 2019. p.60. https://coi.easo.europa.eu/administration/easo/PLib/2019_EASO_COI_Eritrea_National_service_exit_and_return.pdf (21.10.2020). / Diplomatic source (2), Asmara. Meeting as part of a fact-finding mission, July 2019. / Immigration and Refugee Board (Canada), Ottawa. Eritrea: Identification documents, including national identity cards and birth certificates; requirements and procedures for obtaining and renewing identity documents, both within the country and abroad (2009-August 2013). 16.09.2013. <https://irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/country-information/rir/Pages/index.aspx?doc=454790&pls=1> (25.11.2020).

¹⁹³ Migrationsverket, Norrköping. Eritrea – Folkbokföring, medborgarskap och identitetshandlingar. 18.07.2018. p.25. <https://lifos.migrationsverket.se/dokument?documentSummaryId=40578> (26.11.2020).

¹⁹⁴ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken), The Hague. Country of Origin Information Report on Eritrea. 06.02.2017. p.23. <https://www.government.nl/documents/reports/2017/02/06/country-of-origin-report-on-eritrea-february-2017> (24.11.2020). / Migrationsverket, Norrköping. Eritrea – Folkbokföring, medborgarskap och identitetshandlingar. 18.07.2018. p.26-27. <https://lifos.migrationsverket.se/dokument?documentSummaryId=40578> (26.11.2020).

¹⁹⁵ Migrationsverket, Norrköping. Eritrea – Folkbokföring, medborgarskap och identitetshandlingar. 18.07.2018. p.26. <https://lifos.migrationsverket.se/dokument?documentSummaryId=40578> (26.11.2020).

¹⁹⁶ Eritrean Embassy, Geneva. Passport. Undated. <https://eritreaembassy.ch/passport/> (26.11.2020). / Embassy of the State of Eritrea, Washington. Consular. Passport. Undated. <https://us.embassyeritrea.org/passport/> (26.11.2020). / Eritrean Embassy, Stockholm. Passport. Undated. <http://www.eritrean-embassy.se/en-us/services/passport> (26.11.2020). / Consulate Of The State of Eritrea, Melbourne. Issue of New Passport. Undated. <http://ericon.org.au/services/passport/> (26.11.2020).

¹⁹⁷ Eritrean Embassy, Geneva. Passport. Undated. <https://eritreaembassy.ch/passport/> (26.11.2020).

- *For those to be added on to a parent's passport (Only 3 children can be added) must include copy of birth certificates*
- *4 passport size photographs*
- *Mother's Eritrean ID»*

6. Exit visa



Designation	Visa
Issuing authority/ institution	ክፍሊ ኢሚግሬሽንን ዜግነትን [kifli imigreshenin zeginnetin] Department for Immigration and Nationality
Issued from/to	Since 1993 (various versions)
Calendar	Gregorian
Legal basis	Art. 17 of Legal Notice No. 4/1992 on Travel Documents and Immigration ¹⁹⁸ and Proclamation No. 24/1992. ¹⁹⁹
Validity	The period during which the holder is permitted to leave Eritrea is recorded on the visa. Validity can be extended three times by one month in each case. Return is possible at any time. ²⁰⁰
Application to	Local branch of the Department of Immigration and Nationality. The branches are located in Mendefera, Dekemhare, Adi Keyih, Barentu, Akurdet, Tesseneay, Keren, Massawa, Nakfa, Afabet and Assab. ²⁰¹
Documents to be submitted	In order to obtain an exit visa, applicants must usually submit the following documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed application form • Explanation of the purpose of the trip • Valid passport (or identity card for trips to Sudan) • Valid entry visa for the destination country, if required • Evidence of release or exemption from national service • Other identity documents, e.g. identity cards, birth certificates, health certificates, etc.

¹⁹⁸ Provisional Government of Eritrea, Asmara. Regulation No. 4/1992 on Travel Documents and Immigration. 15.07.1992. <https://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b4e02a.html> (22.10.2020).

¹⁹⁹ Provisional Government of Eritrea, Asmara. Proclamation No. 24/1992 to regulate the issuing of travel documents. 01.04.1992. <https://www.refworld.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/rwmain/opendocpdf.pdf?reldoc=y&docid=54c0d9d44> (22.10.2020).

²⁰⁰ Department of Immigration and Nationality, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013. / European Asylum Support Office (EASO), Malta. Eritrea Country Focus. May 2015. p.53. https://coi.easo.europa.eu/administration/easo/PLib/EASO-Eritrea-CountryFocus_EN_May2015.pdf (29.10.2020). / Eritreische Flüchtlinge, Addis Abeba, Einzelgespräche, 21. Mai 2019 / Provisional Government of Eritrea, Asmara. Regulation No. 4/1992 on Travel Documents and Immigration. 15.07.1992. Art. 17(7). <https://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b4e02a.html> (22.10.2020).

²⁰¹ Department of Immigration and Nationality, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter of support from the local administration or employer.²⁰² <p>Moreover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For medical treatment abroad, confirmation from a medical board that the treatment abroad is necessary is also required, together with other medical documents.²⁰³ • According to some sources, Eritreans with spouses abroad must provide evidence that the latter have paid the 2% tax.²⁰⁴ • One source mentioned to Country Analysis SEM that they had had to submit copies of their parents' identity cards to get a passport issued and evidence that they were not in debt to any banks or service providers.²⁰⁵
Costs	Not consistent. ²⁰⁶ 201 In 2013 an exit visa usually cost ERN 200 ²⁰⁷ ; according to one source, it cost ERN 600 to 700 in 2018. ²⁰⁸ According to older reports, Eritreans travelling abroad had to deposit a guarantee sum (e.g. ERN 150,000). ²⁰⁹
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An exit visa is required for travel to Sudan, but not a passport. In this case, the visa is issued on a separate piece of paper (usually with the title "Exit Permit").²¹⁰ • A valid identity card is sufficient for entry into Eritrea; a passport or visa is not required.²¹¹ • Between September and December 2018, an exit visa was de facto not required to cross the land border between Eritrea and Ethiopia.²¹²

²⁰² Landinfo, Oslo. Eritrea: Utreise. 02.04.2019. p.3. <https://landinfo.no/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Eritrea-respons-Utreise-02042019-Oppdatert-versjon-4.pdf> (22.10.2020). / Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Canberra. DFAT country information report Eritrea. 08.02.2017. p.28. https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/1419299/4792_1512557560_country-information-report-eritrea.pdf (22.10.2020). / Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken), The Hague. Algemeen Ambtsbericht Eritrea. 21.06.2018. p.36. <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/ambtsberichten/2018/06/21/algemeen-ambtsbericht-eritrea-juni-2018> (22.10.2020). / Human Rights Concern Eritrea, A Submission on the Initial Report of the Government of Eritrea (1999-2016), 2018, <http://eritrefugees.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/HRCE-Report-to-African-Commission-on-Human-Rights-April-2018.pdf>, p.46; Cf. Provisional Government of Eritrea, Asmara. Regulation No. 4/1992 on Travel Documents and Immigration. 15.07.1992. Art. 17(11d)- <https://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b4e02a.html> (22.10.2020).

²⁰³ Eritrean asylum seekers, Rama (Ethiopia). Group meeting as part of a fact-finding mission, May 2019. / Diplomatic source (2), Asmara. Meeting as part of a fact-finding mission, July 2019. / Landinfo, Oslo. Eritrea: Utreise. 02.04.2019. p.3. <https://landinfo.no/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Eritrea-respons-Utreise-02042019-Oppdatert-versjon-4.pdf> (22.10.2020). / Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Canberra. DFAT country information report Eritrea. 08.02.2017. p.28. https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/1419299/4792_1512557560_country-information-report-eritrea.pdf (22.10.2020). / Human Rights Concern Eritrea, A Submission on the Initial Report of the Government of Eritrea (1999-2016), 2018, <http://eritrefugees.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/HRCE-Report-to-African-Commission-on-Human-Rights-April-2018.pdf>, p.46

²⁰⁴ Landinfo, Oslo. Eritrea: Utreise. 02.04.2019. p.3. <https://landinfo.no/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Eritrea-respons-Utreise-02042019-Oppdatert-versjon-4.pdf> (22.10.2020). / Human Rights Concern Eritrea, s.l. A Submission on the Initial Report of the Government of Eritrea (1999-2016). 2018. p.96. <http://eritrefugees.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/HRCE-Report-to-African-Commission-on-Human-Rights-April-2018.pdf> (22.10.2020).

²⁰⁵ Eritrean refugee, Addis Ababa. Meeting as part of a fact-finding mission, May 2019.

²⁰⁶ Diplomatic source, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical business trip, November 2013.

²⁰⁷ Branch office of the Department of Immigration and Nationality, Mendefera. Meeting as part of a technical business trip, November 2013.

²⁰⁸ Eritrean refugee, Addis Ababa. Meeting as part of a fact-finding mission, May 2019.

²⁰⁹ U.S. Department of State, Washington. Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2010 – Eritrea. 08.04.2020. p.21. <https://2009-2017.state.gov/documents/organization/160120.pdf> (16.12.2020).

²¹⁰ European Asylum Support Office (EASO), Malta. Eritrea. National service, exit and return. September 2019. p.49-53. https://coi.easo.europa.eu/administration/easo/PLib/2019_EASO_COI_Eritrea_National_service_exit_and_return.pdf (21.10.2020).

²¹¹ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken), The Hague. Country of Origin Information Report on Eritrea. 06.02.2017. p.23. <https://www.government.nl/documents/reports/2017/02/06/country-of-origin-report-on-eritrea-february-2017> (24.11.2020).

²¹² Cf. European Asylum Support Office (EASO), Malta. Eritrea. National service, exit and return. September 2019. p.53. https://coi.easo.europa.eu/administration/easo/PLib/2019_EASO_COI_Eritrea_National_service_exit_and_return.pdf (21.10.2020).

Description

Exit visas are attached to a passport either as a sticker (previously a stamp) or – if travelling on an identity card – on a separate piece of paper.²¹³ The same blank document used for the exit visa is also used as for the entry visa for foreigners.²¹⁴

Members of the military or civilian national service are not permitted to travel abroad and are therefore not issued exit visas.²¹⁵

As of 2019, the exit visa is substantially issued on the basis of the following criteria:

- A precondition for issuance of exit visas is that the applicant has been released from national service and has a corresponding document (Tigrinya: *mefanewi*) or has been exempted from it and can provide evidence of that.²¹⁶ In exceptional cases, those currently completing national service can obtain an exit visa with the written consent of their commanding officer or employer.²¹⁷
- The sources also mention a minimum age. According to two sources, men must be at least 40 years of age to obtain an exit visa. Women can obtain an exit visa from the age of about 30, unless they have children.²¹⁸ Other sources identify a higher minimum age of 50²¹⁹ or no minimum age at all.²²⁰
- Children above a certain age are not given exit visas, as they are approaching the age at which they have to complete national service. Most sources currently mention 5 as the maximum age at which an exit visa can be obtained.²²¹
- People serving in the national army are not normally forbidden from travelling abroad. However, they require the written consent of their commanding officer, which is difficult to obtain in some cases.²²²

²¹³ Landinfo, Oslo. Eritrea: Utreise. 02.04.2019. p.3. <https://landinfo.no/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Eritrea-respons-Utreise-02042019-Oppdatert-versjon-4.pdf> (22.10.2020).

²¹⁴ Based on experience of Country Analysis SEM.

²¹⁵ Department of Immigration and Nationality, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013. / Cf. Eritrea. Proclamation No. 82/1995 on National Service. 23.10.1995. Art. 17. <https://www.refworld.org/docid/3dd8d3af4.html> (22.10.2020).

²¹⁶ Eritrea. Proclamation No. 82/1995 on National Service. 23.10.1995. Art. 17. <https://www.refworld.org/docid/3dd8d3af4.html> (22.10.2020). / Eritrea-Experte, Telefongespräch, 12. Juli 2019. / Eritrean asylum seekers, Rama (Ethiopia). Group meeting as part of a fact-finding mission, May 2019. / U.S. Department of State, Washington. Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2019 – Eritrea. 11.03.2020. p.12-13. <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/ERITREA-2019-HUMAN-RIGHTS-REPORT.pdf> (29.10.2020). / Landinfo, Oslo. Eritrea: Utreise. 02.04.2019. p.3. <https://landinfo.no/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Eritrea-respons-Utreise-02042019-Oppdatert-versjon-4.pdf> (22.10.2020). / Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Canberra. DFAT country information report Eritrea. 08.02.2017. p.28. https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/1419299/4792_1512557560_country-information-report-eritrea.pdf (22.10.2020). / Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken), The Hague. Algemeen Ambtsbericht Eritrea. 21.06.2018. p.36. <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/ambtsberichten/2018/06/21/algemeen-ambtsbericht-eritrea-juni-2018> (22.10.2020). / Human Rights Concern Eritrea, s.l. A Submission on the Initial Report of the Government of Eritrea (1999-2016). 2018. p.46. <http://eritreanrefugees.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/HRCE-Report-to-African-Commission-on-Human-Rights-April-2018.pdf> (22.10.2020).

²¹⁷ Eritrea expert. Telephone interview, 12 July 2019.

²¹⁸ Eritrean asylum seekers, Rama (Ethiopia). Group meeting as part of a fact-finding mission, May 2019. / U.S. Department of State, Washington. Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2019 – Eritrea. 11.03.2020. p.12-13. <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/ERITREA-2019-HUMAN-RIGHTS-REPORT.pdf> (29.10.2020).

²¹⁹ Eritrea expert. Telephone interview, 12 July 2019. / Amnesty International, Amnesty International Report 2017/18. 22.02.2018. p.160. <https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/POL1067002018ENGLISH.PDF> (29.10.2020).

²²⁰ Landinfo, Oslo. Eritrea: Utreise. 02.04.2019. p.3. <https://landinfo.no/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Eritrea-respons-Utreise-02042019-Oppdatert-versjon-4.pdf> (22.10.2020).

²²¹ Internationale Organisation 3, Asmara. Gespräch, Juli 2019. / UN Human Rights Council, New York. Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea. 25.06.2018. Absatz 96. https://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/38/50 (29.10.2020). / U.S. Department of State, Washington. Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2019 – Eritrea. 11.03.2020. p.12-13. <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/ERITREA-2019-HUMAN-RIGHTS-REPORT.pdf> (29.10.2020). / Human Rights Concern Eritrea, s.l. A Submission on the Initial Report of the Government of Eritrea (1999-2016). 2018. p.46. <http://eritreanrefugees.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/HRCE-Report-to-African-Commission-on-Human-Rights-April-2018.pdf> (22.10.2020).

²²² Eritrea expert. Telephone interview, 12 July 2019. / Legal expert, Bern. Meeting, 18 May 2019. / U.S. Department of State, Washington. Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2019 – Eritrea. 11.03.2020. p.12-

- People suffering from health conditions which cannot be treated in Eritrea are permitted to leave.²²³ In addition to the documents mentioned above, they must submit their medical documentation to apply for a visa, together with a letter of support from a medical board which assesses whether the person can be treated in Eritrea.²²⁴
- People who travel abroad to study or attend a conference and, in some cases, business people and sportspeople (but there is no legal right).²²⁵
- Former freedom fighters (Tigrinya: *tegadelti*) and their family members.²²⁶
- Civil servants in leading positions and their family members.²²⁷
- *De facto*: People who bribe the officials in charge of issuing visas, or with personal connections to them.²²⁸

In practice, issuing of visas is inconsistent. Even people who meet the above criteria are sometimes not given a visa.²²⁹ According to older information, it is possible that the following groups of people will be refused visas: critics of the government, relatives of people who have left the country illegally, relatives of people who have not paid the 2% tax in the diaspora and members of religious groups that are not recognised.²³⁰

All children require a separate exit visa, even if they are entered on a parent passport.²³¹

Eritrean nationals do not require a visa to enter Eritrea. Eritreans must be able to prove their identity, however, and other conditions may have to be met.²³² Information about the entry conditions can be found in the report “National service, exit and return” (Section 4.1.1.).²³³

Two earlier versions of the visa are known to Country Analysis SEM. One is a stamp, the other an earlier version of the visa sticker. In contrast to the current visa, both of these versions of the visa were filled out exclusively by hand.

13. <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/ERITREA-2019-HUMAN-RIGHTS-REPORT.pdf> (29.10.2020). / Røsborg, Andreas Holm, und Tronvoll, Kjetil, Oslo. Migrants or Refugees? 14.02.2017, p.55, https://www.udi.no/globalassets/global/forskning-fou_i/asylmottak/migrants-or-refugees-internal-and-external-drivers-of-migration-from-eritrea.pdf (29.10.2020).

²²³ Eritrean asylum seekers, Rama (Ethiopia). Group meeting as part of a fact-finding mission, May 2019.

²²⁴ Department of Immigration and Nationality, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013.

²²⁵ Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken), The Hague. Algemeen Ambtsbericht Eritrea. 21.06.2018. p.36. <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/ambtsberichten/2018/06/21/algemeen-ambtsbericht-eritrea-juni-2018> (22.10.2020). / European Asylum Support Office (EASO), Malta. Eritrea. National service, exit and return. September 2019. p.53. https://coi.easo.europa.eu/administration/easo/PLib/2019_EASO_COI_Eritrea_National_service_exit_and_return.pdf.

²²⁶ European Asylum Support Office (EASO), Malta. Eritrea Country Focus. May 2015. p.53. https://coi.easo.europa.eu/administration/easo/PLib/EASO-Eritrea-CountryFocus_EN_May2015.pdf (29.10.2020).

²²⁷ European Asylum Support Office (EASO), Malta. Eritrea Country Focus. May 2015. p.53. https://coi.easo.europa.eu/administration/easo/PLib/EASO-Eritrea-CountryFocus_EN_May2015.pdf (29.10.2020).

²²⁸ U.S. Department of State, Washington. Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2019 – Eritrea. 11.03.2020. p.15. <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/ERITREA-2019-HUMAN-RIGHTS-REPORT.pdf> (29.10.2020). / Landinfo, Oslo. Eritrea: Utreise. 02.04.2019. p.3. <https://landinfo.no/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Eritrea-respons-Utreise-02042019-Oppdatert-versjon-4.pdf> (22.10.2020). / Human Rights Concern Eritrea, s.l. A Submission on the Initial Report of the Government of Eritrea (1999-2016). 2018. p.96. <http://eritrefugees.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/HRCE-Report-to-African-Commission-on-Human-Rights-April-2018.pdf> (22.10.2020).

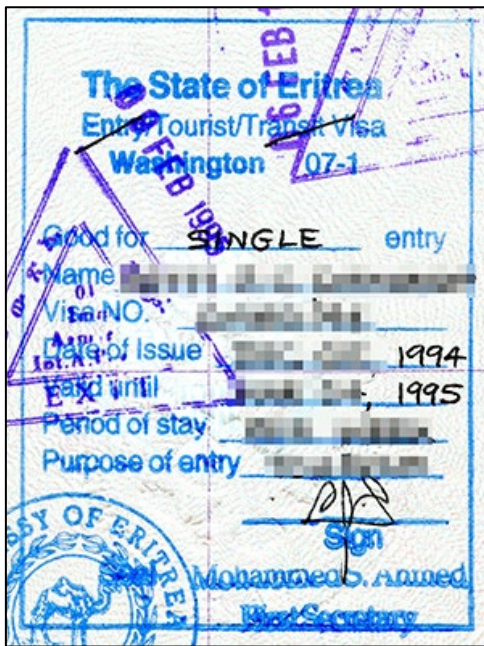
²²⁹ Human Rights Concern Eritrea, s.l. A Submission on the Initial Report of the Government of Eritrea (1999-2016). 2018. p.46. <http://eritrefugees.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/HRCE-Report-to-African-Commission-on-Human-Rights-April-2018.pdf> (22.10.2020). / U.S. Department of State, Washington. Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2019 – Eritrea. 11.03.2020. p.12-13. <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/ERITREA-2019-HUMAN-RIGHTS-REPORT.pdf> (29.10.2020).

²³⁰ European Asylum Support Office (EASO), Malta. Eritrea Country Focus. May 2015. p.53. https://coi.easo.europa.eu/administration/easo/PLib/EASO-Eritrea-CountryFocus_EN_May2015.pdf (29.10.2020).

²³¹ U.S. Department of State, Washington. Eritrea. Reciprocity Schedule. Undated. <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/Visa-Reciprocity-and-Civil-Documents-by-Country/Eritrea.html> (22.10.2020).

²³² Department of Immigration and Nationality, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013.

²³³ European Asylum Support Office (EASO), Malta. Eritrea. National service, exit and return. September 2019. p.60. https://coi.easo.europa.eu/administration/easo/PLib/2019_EASO_COI_Eritrea_National_service_exit_and_return.pdf (21.10.2020).



Issuing procedure

The local branch office of the Department of Immigration and Nationality checks the application and the documents submitted and issues the visa directly, without consulting the head office in Asmara. The visa is stuck into the passport.²³⁴

²³⁴ Department of Immigration and Nationality, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013.

7. Residence card (*Nay Nebarinnet*)

The title of this card is „Resident of the Zoba Gash-Barka“

Name (Tigrinya) _____

Resident number መ/ነባሪ: _____ ቁ/መንነት: _____ **ID number**

Date of birth ዕ/ልደት: 1/1/ _____ **Gender** ጾታ: _____

Place of birth ቦታ ልደት: _____

Nationality ዜግነት: ኤርትራዊ/ት

Resident number መ/ነባሪ GBC00 _____ መ/ሰድራ: GBF00 _____ **Family number**

Mother's name አደ: _____

Nus-Zoba ን/ዞባ: _____

Address አድራሻ: _____

Administrator አመራሪ/ት: _____

Date of issue ዕ/ሕትመት: _____ /2010-18

Resident and family numbers refer to the entry in the digital register of persons of the Zoba.

Designation	ነባርነት ካርድ [<i>nebarinnet kard</i>] Residence Card The title of the card is ነባሪ ዞባ ... [<i>nebari zoba ...</i>] (resident of the Zoba) and the name of the Zoba; informally it is usually referred to as ናይ ነባርነት [<i>Nay Nebarinnet</i>]. ²³⁵
Issuing authority/institution	ምምሕዳር ንኡስ-ዞባ [<i>memmehdar nus-zoba</i>] Sub-Zone Administration In der Zoba Gash-Barka ist (Stand In Zoba Gash-Barka (as of 2016), the Zoba administration is responsible, as the Nus-Zobas do not have access to the digital population register. ²³⁶ This may be the case in other Zobas, too.
Issued from/to	The oldest cards known to Country Analysis SEM with the current layout date from 2009. There are older versions from the beginning of the 2000s.
Calendar	Gregorian
Legal basis	Not known
Validity	The residence card is issued annually. ²³⁷ However, many Eritreans do not renew it annually. This has no consequences, unless they move or want to make use of any government services. ²³⁸
Application to Documents to be submitted	Administration of the Nus-Zoba Not known

²³⁵ Diplomatic source (2), Asmara. Meeting as part of a fact-finding mission, July 2019.

²³⁶ Governor of Zoba Gash-Barka, Barentu. Meeting as part of a fact-finding mission. March 2016. / Migrationsverket, Norrköping. Eritrea – Folkbokföring, medborgarskap och identitetshandlingar. 18.07.2018. p.3643 <https://ifos.migrationsverket.se/dokument?documentSummaryId=40578> (26.11.2020).

²³⁷ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken), The Hague. Country of Origin Information Report on Eritrea. 06.02.2017. p.23. <https://www.government.nl/documents/reports/2017/02/06/country-of-origin-report-on-eritrea-february-2017> (24.11.2020).

²³⁸ Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken), Den Haag. Algemeen Ambtsbericht Eritrea. 21.06.2018. p.23. <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/ambtsberichten/2018/06/21/algemeen-ambtsbericht-eritrea-juni-2018> (23.11.2020).

Costs	Not known
Notes	As identity cards have been issued rarely only rarely since February 2014, the residence card is regarded as a substitute, in particular for Eritreans who have reached the age of majority since then.

Description

The resident number is a registration number in the digital population register of the Zoba (see [Section 3.2.](#)); the Eritrean authorities refer to it in Tigrinya as ቁጽረ መዝገብ ነባሪ (*qutsri mezegeb nebari*, resident's registration number) and in English as *social security number*. Eritrean residents must always carry their residence card on them. In the case of a change of residence within a Zoba, the resident number remains the same; in the case of a move to a different Zoba, a new one is issued.²³⁹ The first three letters of the number indicate the Zoba and the type of entry in the register:²⁴⁰

First two letters	Third letter
AS Zoba Maekel	C Individual
DK Zoba Southern Red Sea	F Family
GB Zoba Gash-Barka	
KE Zoba Anseba	
SK Zoba Northern Red Sea	
ZD Zoba Debub	

The colour of the paper on which the residence card is printed may vary. The examples available to Country Analysis SEM are green in Gash-Barka, blue in Debub and white in Maekel, Anseba and Northern Red Sea; Country Analysis SEM does not have any residence cards from Zoba Southern Red Sea.²⁴¹

According to information from the governor of Gash-Barka, some residents still had not received a residence card in 2016.²⁴²

In addition to its function as proof of identity, the residence card allows access to subsidised food, leasing of agricultural land and allocation of trading licences. People who move home must apply for a new residence card at their new place of residence.²⁴³ According to information from the US State Department, however, many Eritreans do not bother to register their changes of address.²⁴⁴

Issuing procedure

The residence card is an extract from the digital population register of the Zoba (see [Section 3.2.](#)). A PDF file of the personal details held in the register is generated to issue the card. This file is printed out, then the document is cut out, stamped, folded and usually laminated with clear film.²⁴⁵

²³⁹ Migrationsverket, Norrköping. Eritrea – Folkbokföring, medborgarskap och identitetshandlingar. 18.07.2018. p.16. <https://lifos.migrationsverket.se/dokument?documentSummaryId=40578> (26.11.2020).

²⁴⁰ European Asylum Support Office (EASO), Malta. Eritrea Country Focus. May 2015. p.55. https://coi.easo.europa.eu/administration/easo/PLib/EASO-Eritrea-CountryFocus_EN_May2015.pdf (16.12.2020). / Schröder, Günter, Frankfurt. Marriage, Vital Events Registration & Issuance of Civil Status Documents in Eritrea. May 2017. p.14. <https://migrationlawclinic.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/paper-gc3bcnther-schrc3b6der-eritrea-marriage.pdf> (16.10.2020).

²⁴¹ Based on experience of Country Analysis SEM. / Migrationsverket, Norrköping. Eritrea – Folkbokföring, medborgarskap och identitetshandlingar. 18.07.2018. p.44. <https://lifos.migrationsverket.se/dokument?documentSummaryId=40578> (26.11.2020).

²⁴² Governor of Zoba Gash-Barka, Barentu. Meeting as part of a fact-finding mission. March 2016.

²⁴³ Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken), Den Haag. Algemeen Ambtsbericht Eritrea. 21.06.2018. p.23. <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/ambtsberichten/2018/06/21/algemeen-ambtsbericht-eritrea-juni-2018> (23.11.2020).

²⁴⁴ U.S. Department of State, Washington. Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2019 – Eritrea. 11.03.2020. p.12. <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/ERITREA-2019-HUMAN-RIGHTS-REPORT.pdf> (29.10.2020).

²⁴⁵ Administration of Zoba Maekel, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013. / Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken), The Hague. Country of Origin Information Report on Eritrea. 06.02.2017. p.23. <https://www.government.nl/documents/reports/2017/02/06/country-of-origin-report-on-eritrea-february-2017> (24.11.2020).

The residence card is only issued to adult Eritreans (according to one source, those over the age of 15n²⁴⁶). Minors are recorded on the family identity card.²⁴⁷ According to one source, those in military national service are not given a residence card, although those in civil national service are.²⁴⁸

²⁴⁶ Migrationsverket, Norrköping. Eritrea – Folkbokföring, medborgarskap och identitetshandlingar. 18.07.2018. p.43. <https://ifos.migrationsverket.se/dokument?documentSummaryId=40578> (26.11.2020).

²⁴⁷ Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken), Den Haag. Algemeen Ambtsbericht Eritrea. 21.06.2018. p.23-24. <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/ambtsberichten/2018/06/21/algemeen-ambtsbericht-eritrea-juni-2018> (23.11.2020).

²⁴⁸ Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken), Den Haag. Algemeen Ambtsbericht Eritrea. 21.06.2018. p.23-24. <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/ambtsberichten/2018/06/21/algemeen-ambtsbericht-eritrea-juni-2018> (23.11.2020).

8. Civil status certificates of Zoba Maekel (Municipality of Asmara)

The certificates carry the logo of the "Municipality of Asmara" in the header, even though it no longer exists. In the Tigrinya version, Zoba Maekel appears as the issuing body..

Registration number in the physical archive

Registration number in the digital register of the Zoba

This record of birth is registered in Public Registration Office of Zoba Maekel (Municipality of Asmara)

Public Reg. No. 2
Registration No. ASC00

Given Name
Father Name
Born At Asmera
Birth Date
Birth Time 0:00:00
Sex Male
Nationality Eritrean
Mother's Name
Address

The public Registration Office of the Zoba Maekel, Asmara Eritrea, made the registration of Birth on 2012, based on document /2012

This birth certificate is issued for the purpose of any legal effect.

Asmara: /2013
Head of Public Registration Office
Tosfamehel Tesfaldet
Division Head of Public Registrations & Cemetery
ተስፋሜክሌል ተስፋሌድ
ከ/ወ/ወ/የግብርና ምክርቤት

For marriage certificates, there is a reference to the relevant articles of law here, i.e. Art. 63/2 or 577 of the Transitional Civil Code

Certificate No.:2 Registration No.:ASC00

Designation	ምስክርነት ልደት [meskernet lidet] Certificate of Birth	ምስክር መርዓ [mesker mer'a] Certificate of Marriage
Issuing authority/institution	ምምሕዳር ዞን ማእከል [memmehdar zoba maekel] Municipality of Asmara Although the Municipality of Asmara has not existed since 1996, the civil status office of Zoba Maekel continues to use its logo and, in English documents, its name. ²⁵² In the 1990s the authorities used the name <i>Census & Civil Status Section</i> , since the start of the 2000s <i>Public Registration Office</i> . ²⁵³	

²⁵² Schröder, Günter, Frankfurt. Marriage, Vital Events Registration & Issuance of Civil Status Documents in Eritrea. May 2017. p.15, 17. <https://migrationlawclinic.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/paper-gc3bcnther-schrc3b6der-eritrea-marriage.pdf> (16.10.2020).

²⁵³ Based on experience of Country Analysis SEM. / Cf. Schröder, Günter, Frankfurt. Marriage, Vital Events Registration & Issuance of Civil Status Documents in Eritrea. May 2017. p.15. <https://migrationlawclinic.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/paper-gc3bcnther-schrc3b6der-eritrea-marriage.pdf> (16.10.2020). / Landinfo, Oslo. Respons Eritrea: Legalisering av ekteskapsattester. 05.04.2017. p.3. <https://landinfo.no/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Respons-Eritrea-Legalisering-av-ekteskapsattester-05042017.pdf> (05.11.2020).

Issued from/to	Since 1939 ²⁵⁴
Calendar	Gregorian
Legal basis	Art. 57, 58, 72, 73 Transitional Civil Code ²⁵⁵ in conjunction with Art. 5 and 6 of the Civil Code of the EPLF. ²⁵⁶ <p>⚠ Eritrea published a new civil code in 2015. This civil code has only come into force in a very limited way, if at all.²⁵⁷ Art. 54 to 64 of this civil code govern registration and certification of vital events.²⁵⁸</p>
Validity	Indefinite
Application to	Civil status office of Zoba Maekel (“Municipality of Asmara”)
Documents to be submitted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter of application • Application form with name spelled in Tigrinya and English • Copy of the identity card • Residence card (<i>Nay Nebarinnet</i>)²⁵⁹ • Extracts from the digital population register of the Zoba • Identity card.²⁶⁰ <p>According to one source, couples who do not marry at their place of residence must submit confirmation of their unmarried status from their Nus-Zoba administration in order to rule out multiple (polygamous) marriages.²⁶¹</p>
Costs	Various information depending on source: ERN 25 (according to IRB Canada 2014) ²⁶² , ERN 76 (according to the US State Department). ²⁶³
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The civil status offices frequently issue certificates for events that date back a long time. They are based on relevant documents (e.g. religious civil status certificates) or witness testimony.²⁶⁴ • Religious civil status certificates are still more common than state civil status documents.²⁶⁵

²⁵⁴ Shabait (Eritrean Ministry of Information), Asmara. Public Registration Office and the Public: Mutual Cooperation for Efficient Services. 05.11.2010. <https://shabait.com/2010/11/05/public-registration-office-and-the-public-mutual-cooperation-for-efficient-services/> (25.11.2020).

²⁵⁵ Eritrea. Transitional Civil Code of Eritrea (TCCE). Proclamation No. 2/1991.

²⁵⁶ Eritrean People’s Liberation Front (EPLF). Civil Code of the EPLF. 1988.

²⁵⁷ UN Human Rights Council, New York. Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea. 16.05.2019. p.9. https://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/41/53 (02.12.2020). / Human Rights Watch, New York. World Report 2018: Events of 2017. 18.01.2018. p.202. https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/world_report_download/201801world_report_web.pdf (02.12.2020).

²⁵⁸ Eritrea. Civil Code of the State of Eritrea. 2015.

²⁵⁹ Civil status office of Zoba Maekel, Asmara. Meeting as part of a fact finding mission March 2016.

²⁶⁰ Civil status office of Zoba Maekel, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission. November 2013.

²⁶¹ Diplomatic source (2), Asmara. Meeting as part of a fact-finding mission, July 2019.

²⁶² Immigration and Refugee Board (Canada), Ottawa. Eritrea: Birth certificates issued by the Public Registration Office of Zoba Maekel [Maakel] (Central Zone); including whether the certificate has a standard format and appearance (2013-November 2014). 02.12.2014. <https://irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/country-information/rir/Pages/index.aspx?doc=455626&pls=1> (25.11.2020).

²⁶³ U.S. Department of State, Washington. Eritrea. Reciprocity Schedule. Undated. <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/Visa-Reciprocity-and-Civil-Documents-by-Country/Eritrea.html> (22.10.2020).

²⁶⁴ Shabait (Eritrean Ministry of Information), Asmara. Public Registration Office and the Public: Mutual Cooperation for Efficient Services. 05.11.2010. <https://shabait.com/2010/11/05/public-registration-office-and-the-public-mutual-cooperation-for-efficient-services/> (25.11.2020). / Schröder, Günter, Frankfurt. Marriage, Vital Events Registration & Issuance of Civil Status Documents in Eritrea. May 2017. p.12-13. <https://migrationlaw-clinic.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/paper-gc3bcnther-schrc3b6der-eritrea-marriage.pdf> (16.10.2020). / Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken), The Hague. Country of Origin Information Report on Eritrea. 06.02.2017. p.24. <https://www.government.nl/documents/reports/2017/02/06/country-of-origin-report-on-eritrea-february-2017> (24.11.2020).

²⁶⁵ Academic expert. Verbal information, 08.10.2020.

Description

The civil status office of Zoba Maekel (“Municipality of Asmara”) issues the following civil status documents either in English or Tigrinya:

- Birth certificate
- Certificate of unmarried status
- Marriage certificate
- Family certificate
- Divorce certificate
- Confirmation of place of residence
- Death certificate²⁶⁶

All documents have two numbers at the top right:

- *Public Reg. No.*: Registration number in the physical archive of the Asmara civil status office, in which all documents submitted for certificates to be issued are stored (see [Section 3.1.2.](#)).
- *Registration No.*: Registration number in the digital population register of the Zoba (see [Section 3.2.](#)).²⁶⁷

Issuing procedure for birth certificate

See [Section 3.3.](#)

Issuing procedure for marriage certificate

See [Section 3.4.](#)

Issuing procedure for divorce certificate

Information about divorce and divorce certificates is available from only a few sources. It is rather vague and sometimes contradictory.

Before divorce, counselling and establishment of a family council, consisting of at least four family members of both spouses, are obligatory. If these efforts fail, the spouses, their family and the counsellor sign an agreement on temporary separation. They then have to settle certain conditions, such as custody of the children, maintenance, moving out of the family home and division of joint property.²⁶⁸ They then submit the information about the divorce to a family court, where three witnesses must testify the divorce. The court issues a confirmation of divorce. With this confirmation, the divorcees are able to obtain a divorce certificate from the civil status office of Zoba Maekel (“Municipality of Asmara”).²⁶⁹ One source states that the court simply issues a document for the attention of the local administration and the latter issues a letter of recommendation for the civil status office.²⁷⁰

²⁶⁶ Civil status office of Zoba Maekel, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission. November 2013. / Shabait (Eritrean Ministry of Information), Asmara. Public Registration Office and the Public: Mutual Cooperation for Efficient Services. 05.11.2010. <https://shabait.com/2010/11/05/public-registration-office-and-the-public-mutual-cooperation-for-efficient-services/> (25.11.2020).

²⁶⁷ Civil status office of Zoba Maekel, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission. November 2013. / Schröder, Günter, Frankfurt. Marriage, Vital Events Registration & Issuance of Civil Status Documents in Eritrea. May 2017. p.15. <https://migrationlawclinic.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/paper-gc3bcnther-schrc3b6der-eritrea-marriage.pdf> (16.10.2020).

²⁶⁸ Embassy of the United States, Asmara. Procedures for work and residence permits in Eritrea. 08.09.2008. p.4-5. Online nicht mehr verfügbar. / U.S. Department of State, Washington. Eritrea. Reciprocity Schedule. Undated. <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/Visa-Reciprocity-and-Civil-Documents-by-Country/Eritrea.html> (22.10.2020).

²⁶⁹ Administration of Nus-Zoba Mai Temenei, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013. / Shabait (Eritrean Ministry of Information), Asmara. Public Registration Office and the Public: Mutual Cooperation for Efficient Services. 05.11.2010. <https://shabait.com/2010/11/05/public-registration-office-and-the-public-mutual-cooperation-for-efficient-services/> (25.11.2020). / U.S. Department of State, Washington. Eritrea. Reciprocity Schedule. Undated. <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/Visa-Reciprocity-and-Civil-Documents-by-Country/Eritrea.html> (22.10.2020). / Academic expert. Verbal information, 08.10.2020.

²⁷⁰ Academic expert. Verbal information, 08.10.2020.

If one of the persons involved is abroad at the time of the divorce, they can appoint a representative in Eritrea to carry out the divorce. To do so it is necessary to instruct a solicitor through the relevant Eritrean diplomatic mission. The divorce act can then be completed by phone, for example. The court finally confirms the divorce.²⁷¹

Issuing procedure for death certificate

In accordance with Art. 62b of the Transitional Civil Code, deaths must be registered within 30 days.²⁷² Registration with the local administration (*Memmehdar Kebabi*) is usually completed quickly, as it is the prerequisite for a burial permit.²⁷³

The procedure for registering a death is not clearly regulated and is inconsistent.²⁷⁴ In principle, the relatives must provide the personal details of the deceased, provide evidence of the death (by means of documents or three witnesses) and submit the identity card of the deceased. The local administration then enters the death in its register. The administration of the Nus-Zoba automatically deletes the deceased from the active list of the population register by entering the death. It prints out a death notice with all the relevant details. This notice is required for issuance of the death certificate at the civil status office of Zoba Maekel (“Municipality of Asmara”) and also to sort out inheritance and for any court proceedings.²⁷⁵

Obtaining civil status documents from abroad

Most Eritrean diplomatic missions do not issue civil status certificates. However, there is the option through an Eritrean diplomatic mission to give authority to a person in Eritrea to obtain the certificate required.²⁷⁶ To do so, the applicant must provide evidence of Eritrean nationality at the diplomatic mission. Fundamentally, the civil status office of Zoba Maekel is responsible for issuing civil status documents for Eritreans living abroad. The authorised person must submit the documents listed in the summary at the beginning of this section to that office, together with:

- confirmation that the applicant has paid the diaspora tax (2% tax) (exception: the diplomatic mission confirms that the applicant is unemployed)
- a curriculum vitae with details of the applicant’s places of residence
- a power of authority issued by the diplomatic mission.²⁷⁷

²⁷¹ Administration of Nus-Zoba Mai Temenei, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013. / Academic expert. Verbal information, 08.10.2020. / Information from Luul Sium, Authentication Unit, Eritrean Foreign Ministry, to the ILO of the Swiss Embassy in Khartoum. February 2020.

²⁷² Eritrea. Transitional Civil Code of Eritrea (TCCE). Proclamation No. 2/1991.

²⁷³ Academic expert. Verbal information, 08.10.2020.

²⁷⁴ Landinfo, Oslo. Temanotat Eritrea: Forvaltningsstruktur og dokumenter. 29.04.2013. p.13. <https://landinfo.no/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Eritrea-temanotat-Forvaltningsstruktur-og-dokumenter-oppdatert-29042013.pdf> (16.10.2020).

²⁷⁵ Administration of Zoba Maekel, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013. / Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken), The Hague. Country of Origin Information Report on Eritrea. 06.02.2017. p.23. <https://www.government.nl/documents/reports/2017/02/06/country-of-origin-report-on-eritrea-february-2017> (24.11.2020). / Shabait (Eritrean Ministry of Information), Asmara. Public Registration Office and the Public: Mutual Cooperation for Efficient Services. 05.11.2010. <https://shabait.com/2010/11/05/public-registration-office-and-the-public-mutual-cooperation-for-efficient-services/> (25.11.2020). / U.S. Department of State, Washington. Eritrea. Reciprocity Schedule. Undated. <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/Visa-Reciprocity-and-Civil-Documents-by-Country/Eritrea.html> (22.10.2020). / Academic expert. Verbal information, 08.10.2020.

²⁷⁶ Honorary Consulate of Switzerland, Asmara. E-Mail, 12.02.2014. / Migrationsverket, Norrköping. Eritrea – Folkbokföring, medborgarskap och identitetshandlingar. 18.07.2018. p.36. <https://lifos.migrationsverket.se/dokument?documentSummaryId=40578> (26.11.2020).

²⁷⁷ Civil status office of Zoba Maekel, Asmara. Meeting as part of a fact-finding mission. March 2016. / Cf. Shabait (Eritrean Ministry of Information), Asmara. Public Registration Office and the Public: Mutual Cooperation for Efficient Services. 05.11.2010. <https://shabait.com/2010/11/05/public-registration-office-and-the-public-mutual-cooperation-for-efficient-services/> (25.11.2020). / Immigration and Refugee Board (Canada), Ottawa. Eritrea: Birth certificates issued by the Public Registration Office of Zoba Maekel [Maakel] (Central Zone); including whether the certificate has a standard format and appearance (2013-November 2014). 02.12.2014. <https://irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/country-information/rir/Pages/index.aspx?doc=455626&pls=1> (25.11.2020).

There is no alternative way of obtaining the documents for diaspora Eritreans who do not have contacts in Eritrea. People living in Eritrea are not able to authorise others, unless they are seriously ill or in prison.²⁷⁸

A representative of the Eritrean embassy in the Saudi Arabian capital of Riyadh told the Canadian authorities in 2017 that the embassy did issue Eritrean birth certificates. These documents were “the same as in Eritrea”.²⁷⁹ The Eritrean consulate in Melbourne also indicates on its website which documents are required to obtain a birth certificate.²⁸⁰

²⁷⁸ Civil status office of Zoba Maekel, Asmara. Meeting as part of a fact-finding mission. March 2016.





²⁷⁹ Immigration and Refugee Board (Canada), Ottawa. Saudi Arabia and Eritrea: Requirements and procedures to obtain an Eritrean birth certificate from the Eritrean embassy in Riyadh for persons born in Eritrea, including appearance, security features, information included on the document; whether the date of issue provided on the certificate would change when the embassy re-issues the certificate at a later date (2015-2017). 17.07.2017. <https://irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/country-information/rir/Pages/index.aspx?doc=457139&pls=1> (25.11.2020).

²⁸⁰ Consulate of the State of Eritrea, Melbourne. Other Services. Undated. <http://ericon.org.au/services/other-services/> (25.11.2020).

9. Civil status certificates of the other Zobas



Civil status certificates from the dioceses of Asmara (left) and Keren (right).

Designation	 ምስክርነት ልደት [meskernet lidet]  Certificate of Birth	 ምስክር መርዓ [mesker mer'a]  Certificate of Marriage
Issuing authority/ institution	Da das Layout je nach Zoba unterschiedlich ist, kann es bei diesen Bezeichnungen Variationen geben.	
Issued from/to	Civil status office of the Nus-Zoba. In English these offices usually use names such as <i>Civil Registration Office</i> , <i>Civil Status Office</i> or <i>Public Registration Office</i> . ²⁸¹ Informally the Amharic term <i>mezzegaja bet</i> (town hall) is frequently used. ²⁸² As there is not a civil status office in every Nus-Zoba, some civil status offices are also responsible for surrounding Nus-Zobas or even for an entire Zoba (in the case of Gash-Barka). ²⁸³	
Calendar	Depends on the Nus-Zoba (see Section 3.1.2.)	
Legal basis	Gregorian	
Validity	Art. 57, 58, 72, 73 Transitional Civil Code ²⁸⁴ in conjunction with Art. 5 and 6 of the Civil Code of the EPLF. ²⁸⁵ ⚠ Eritrea published a new civil code in 2015. This civil code has only come into force in a very limited way, if at all (see Section	

²⁸¹ Schröder, Günter, Frankfurt. Marriage, Vital Events Registration & Issuance of Civil Status Documents in Eritrea. May 2017. p.14-15. <https://migrationlawclinic.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/paper-gc3bcnther-schrc3b6der-eritrea-marriage.pdf> (16.10.2020).
²⁸² Diplomatic source (2), Asmara. Meeting as part of a fact-finding mission, July 2019.
²⁸³ Schröder, Günter, Frankfurt. Marriage, Vital Events Registration & Issuance of Civil Status Documents in Eritrea. May 2017. p.12-13. <https://migrationlawclinic.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/paper-gc3bcnther-schrc3b6der-eritrea-marriage.pdf> (16.10.2020). /
²⁸⁴ Eritrea. Transitional Civil Code of Eritrea (TCCE). Proclamation No. 2/1991.
²⁸⁵ Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF). Civil Code of the EPLF. 1988.

	2.3.). ²⁸⁶ In this civil code, Art. 54 to 64 govern registration and certification of vital events. ²⁸⁷
Application to	Indefinite
Documents to be submitted	Civil status office of the Nus-Zoba
Costs	Depending on the Nus-Zoba and the event to be documented, e.g. ERN 240 for a marriage certificate in Nus-Zoba Massawa. ²⁸⁸ Einer According to one source, couples who do not marry at their place of residence must submit confirmation of their unmarried status from their Nus-Zoba administration in order to rule out multiple (polygamous) marriages. ²⁸⁹
Notes	Depends on the Nus-Zoba <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to birth and marriage certificates, the civil status offices issue other documents that confirm e.g. non-married status, divorce and death.²⁹⁰ • The civil status offices frequently issue certificates for events that date back a long time. They are based on relevant documents (e.g. religious civil status certificates) or witness testimony.²⁹¹ • Diplomatic missions and authorities in other countries cannot assess the authenticity of these civil status documents, as they have hardly any security features and look different from one place to another. Holders of such documents can therefore have them certified by the Foreign Ministry with an apostil²⁹² (see Section 11) or a certificate from the civil status office of Zoba Maekel (see Section 8).²⁹³ • Religious civil status certificates are still more common than state civil status documents in Eritrea.²⁹⁴

Description

The certificates usually carry the same numbers as those of Zoba Maekel, i.e. an internal registration number of the civil status office and the reference to the digital register of the Zoba. However, that is not always the case; instead of the latter, they also sometimes bear the number of the identity card. There is no consistent layout. Depending on the civil status office, the numbers can be in the document header or in the section with the personal details.²⁹⁵

²⁸⁶ UN Human Rights Council, New York. Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea. 16.05.2019. p.9. https://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/41/53 (02.12.2020). / Human Rights Watch, New York. World Report 2018: Events of 2017. 18.01.2018. p.202. https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/world_report_download/201801world_report_web.pdf (02.12.2020).

²⁸⁷ Eritrea. Civil Code of the State of Eritrea. 2015.

²⁸⁸ Migrationsverket, Norrköping. Eritrea – Folkbokföring, medborgarskap och identitetshandlingar. 18.07.2018. p.40. <https://lifos.migrationsverket.se/dokument?documentSummaryId=40578> (26.11.2020).

²⁸⁹ Diplomatic source (2), Asmara. Meeting as part of a fact-finding mission, July 2019.

²⁹⁰ Diplomatic source (2), Asmara. Meeting as part of a fact-finding mission, July 2019.

²⁹¹ Schröder, Günter, Frankfurt. Marriage, Vital Events Registration & Issuance of Civil Status Documents in Eritrea. May 2017. p.12-13. <https://migrationlawclinic.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/paper-gc3bcnther-schrc3b6der-eritrea-marriage.pdf> (16.10.2020). / Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken), The Hague. Country of Origin Information Report on Eritrea. 06.02.2017. p.24. <https://www.government.nl/documents/reports/2017/02/06/country-of-origin-report-on-eritrea-february-2017> (24.11.2020).

²⁹² Diplomatic source (2), Asmara. Meeting as part of a fact-finding mission, July 2019.

²⁹³ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken), The Hague. Country of Origin Information Report on Eritrea. 06.02.2017. p.23. <https://www.government.nl/documents/reports/2017/02/06/country-of-origin-report-on-eritrea-february-2017> (24.11.2020).

²⁹⁴ Academic expert. Verbal information, 08.10.2020.

²⁹⁵ Schröder, Günter, Frankfurt. Marriage, Vital Events Registration & Issuance of Civil Status Documents in Eritrea. May 2017. p.15. <https://migrationlawclinic.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/paper-gc3bcnther-schrc3b6der-eritrea-marriage.pdf> (16.10.2020). / Migrationsverket, Norrköping. Eritrea – Folkbokföring, medborgarskap och

The certificates can be issued in Tigrinya, English, Arabic or a combination of those languages.²⁹⁶ The civil status offices of the Zoba Debub issue the civil status documents either in English or Tigrinya.²⁹⁷

Issuing procedure

The issuing procedure is not consistent across the country and as a result, there is only anecdotal information about the procedure. In general, civil status offices require transfer documents from the Nus-Zoba administrations.²⁹⁸

General information about the way birth certificates are issued at civil status offices can be found in [Section 3.3](#). The Swedish Migration Agency describes issuing of the birth certificate in Nus-Zoba Tesseney, Zoba Gash-Barka, as follows (as of 2015): the applicant obtains a transfer document from the local administration (*Memmehdar Kebabi*) and submits this to the administration of the Nus-Zoba. The latter, in turn, sends a form to the Zoba administration, which issues the birth certificate and sends it back to the Nus-Zoba.²⁹⁹ In Gash-Barka (as in Maekel), there is only one civil status office, which is responsible for the entire Zoba.³⁰⁰ The information in the Swedish report therefore presumably relates to that civil status office. The Swedish Migration Agency furthermore reports that the administration (or the civil status office) of Nus-Zoba Massawa always requires three witnesses to issue a birth certificate.³⁰¹

General information about the way marriage certificates are issued at civil status offices can be found in [Section 3.4](#). In Zoba Debub, marriage certificates are issued as follows (as of 2013): to obtain a marriage certificate, the couple must first arrange for registration of the marriage with the local administration (*Memmehdar Kebabi*) – assuming that it is not a civil but a religious or customary marriage. The local administration then issues a transfer document with all the relevant details, which the couple must take to the Nus-Zoba administration.³⁰² This or the civil status office of the Nus-Zoba then registers the marriage in the digital population register of the Zoba (see [Section 3.2](#)), provided that it has access to it. Otherwise the Zoba administration takes care of this. The couple must submit the following documents for entry in the register and issuance of the certificate:

- Transfer document from the local administration
- Identity cards and birth certificates of the married couple
- Registration application from the married couple (sometimes handwritten).³⁰³

The civil status office of the Nus-Zoba or Zoba archives these documents physically. In addition to the digital register, the civil status offices of the Nus-Zoba also keep physical registers of births and marriages.³⁰⁴ By contrast, the Swedish Migration Agency reports that, in Nus-Zoba Tesseney, the Nus-Zoba administration issues the marriage certificate – not the civil status office of Gash-Barka, as is the case with birth certificates. For this, the couple must submit evidence of the marriage (e.g. a religious marriage certificate) and identity documents, and three witnesses must confirm the marriage.³⁰⁵

identitetshandlingar. 18.07.2018. p.36-37. <https://ifos.migrationsverket.se/dokument?documentSummaryId=40578> (26.11.2020).

²⁹⁶ Schröder, Günter, Frankfurt. Marriage, Vital Events Registration & Issuance of Civil Status Documents in Eritrea. May 2017. p.16. <https://migrationlawclinic.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/paper-gc3bcnther-schrc3b6der-eritrea-marriage.pdf> (16.10.2020).

²⁹⁷ Administration of Nus-Zoba Mendefera, Mendefera. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013.

²⁹⁸ Diplomatic source (2), Asmara. Meeting as part of a fact-finding mission, July 2019.

²⁹⁹ Migrationsverket, Norrköping. Eritrea – Folkbokföring, medborgarskap och identitetshandlingar. 18.07.2018. p.35. <https://ifos.migrationsverket.se/dokument?documentSummaryId=40578> (26.11.2020).

³⁰⁰ Governor of Zoba Gash-Barka, Barentu. Meeting as part of a fact-finding mission. March 2016. / Civil status office of Zoba Maekel, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission. November 2013.

³⁰¹ Migrationsverket, Norrköping. Eritrea – Folkbokföring, medborgarskap och identitetshandlingar. 18.07.2018. p.36. <https://ifos.migrationsverket.se/dokument?documentSummaryId=40578> (26.11.2020).

³⁰² Civil status office of Zoba Maekel, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission. November 2013. / Administration of Nus-Zoba Mendefera, Mendefera. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013.

³⁰³ Administration of Nus-Zoba Mai Temenei, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013.





³⁰⁴ Administration of Nus-Zoba Mai Temenei, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013.

³⁰⁵ Migrationsverket, Norrköping. Eritrea – Folkbokföring, medborgarskap och identitetshandlingar. 18.07.2018. p.39. <https://ifos.migrationsverket.se/dokument?documentSummaryId=40578> (26.11.2020).

10. Civil status certificates of the religious communities

10.1. Certificates of the Eritrean Orthodox Tewahedo Church



Designation	 ናይ ጥምቀት ምስክር ወረቐት <i>[nay timqet mesker wereqet]</i>  Baptism Certificate	 ናይ ቃል ኪዳን ምስክር ወረቐት <i>[nay qal kidan mesker wereqet]</i>  Marriage Certificate
Issuing authority/institution	Certificates of the Eritrean Orthodox Tewahedo Church. According to one source, the “church committee” of the congregation, composed of seven members, is responsible for issuing the certificates. ³⁰⁶	
Issued from/to	Since Eritrean independence (previously by the Ethiopian Orthodox Church)	
Calendar	Either the Gregorian or Ethiopian calendar may be used – the Ethiopian calendar tends to be used in the Tigrinya part, Gregorian in the English part. In fact, it is frequently the case that only the Ethiopian or Gregorian calendar is used, sometimes without a clear indication of which. ³⁰⁷	
Legal basis	No official document; basis for civil birth certificates: Art. 57, 58, 72, 73 Transitional Civil Code ³⁰⁸ in conjunction with Art. 5 and 6 of the Civil Code of the EPLF. ³⁰⁹ ⚠ Eritrea published a new civil code in 2015. This civil code has only come into force in a very limited way, if at all (see Section	

³⁰⁶ Eritrean-Orthodox Tewahedo Church, Asmara. Information given to the Honorary Consulate of Switzerland in Asmara, 18.02.2014.

³⁰⁷ Administration of Zoba Maekel, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013. / Schröder, Günter, Frankfurt. Marriage, Vital Events Registration & Issuance of Civil Status Documents in Eritrea. May 2017. p.17. <https://migrationlawclinic.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/paper-gc3bcnther-schrc3b6der-eritrea-marriage.pdf> (16.10.2020).

³⁰⁸ Eritrea. Transitional Civil Code of Eritrea (TCCE). Proclamation No. 2/1991.

³⁰⁹ Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF). Civil Code of the EPLF. 1988.

	2.3.). ³¹⁰ In this civil code, Art. 54 to 64 govern registration and certification of civil status events. ³¹¹
Validity	No expiry date
Application to	Church community in which the baptism or marriage took place. ³¹²
Documents to be submitted	None, the information comes from the registers of the Orthodox church. According to one source, those who do not marry at their place of residence must submit confirmation of their unmarried status from their Nus-Zoba administration in order to prevent multiple (polygamous) marriages. ³¹³
Costs	Baptism certificate: ERN 50 for issue on the day of the baptism, ERN 150 if issued at a later date, ERN 350 for a replacement of a lost certificate. ³¹⁴
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The “Baptismal Name” that appears on the baptism certificate is used exclusively for the baptism, is irrelevant in everyday life. It does not appear in any other documents.³¹⁵ • Previously the certificates were mainly issued on request, i.e. several years after the event. Now many churches issue the certificates immediately after the event.³¹⁶

Description

The certificate shown above is currently (2020) used in almost all Orthodox church communities in Eritrea. Previous, however, other blank certificates were in use. There is no clear information about when the use of one blank certificate ended or a new one was introduced – presumably because the church communities only order blanks when they run out of stock.³¹⁷ The following three layouts are relatively common:



³¹⁰ UN Human Rights Council, New York. Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea. 16.05.2019. p.9. https://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/41/53 (02.12.2020). / Human Rights Watch, New York. World Report 2018: Events of 2017. 18.01.2018. p.202. https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/world_report_download/201801world_report_web.pdf (02.12.2020).

³¹¹ Eritrea. Civil Code of the State of Eritrea. 2015.

³¹² Cf. Schröder, Günter, Frankfurt. Marriage, Vital Events Registration & Issuance of Civil Status Documents in Eritrea. May 2017. p.17. <https://migrationlawclinic.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/paper-gc3bcnther-schrc3b6der-eritrea-marriage.pdf> (16.10.2020).

³¹³ Diplomatic source (2), Asmara. Meeting as part of a fact-finding mission, July 2019.

³¹⁴ Academic expert. Verbal information, 08.10.2020.

³¹⁵ Academic expert. Verbal information, 08.10.2020.

³¹⁶ Schröder, Günter, Frankfurt. Marriage, Vital Events Registration & Issuance of Civil Status Documents in Eritrea. May 2017. p.17. <https://migrationlawclinic.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/paper-gc3bcnther-schrc3b6der-eritrea-marriage.pdf> (16.10.2020).

³¹⁷ Based on experience of Country Analysis SEM.

Issuing procedure

The church committee of seven members is responsible for issuing the certificates; the Church Administrator signs them. Marriage certificates must also be signed by two witnesses. They are frequently issued following the ceremony. The “Administrator” enters the details by hand and then stamps it with the stamp of the church community. In the past, the certificates were often only issued on demand, in some cases years after the ceremony. Today, they are usually issued immediately after the ceremony.³¹⁸ If a replacement is required because the original has been lost, a form must be completed.³¹⁹

Recognition by Eritrean state institutions

See [Section 10.4](#).

Church marriage certificate issued in Sudan

In the Sudanese capital of Khartoum, there is an Eritrean Orthodox Tewahedo church, which often marries Eritreans and issues marriage certificates. These are often marriages between a person who lives in Sudan and a partner who joins them from Europe. The couple must identify themselves with identity documents from Eritrea or from their country of residence. The church does not verify this information. Nor does it check that those wanting to marry are unmarried. Instead, they present their photos on a notice board two months before the marriage

³¹⁸ Schröder, Günter, Frankfurt. Marriage, Vital Events Registration & Issuance of Civil Status Documents in Eritrea. May 2017. p.17. <https://migrationlawclinic.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/paper-gc3bcnther-schrc3b6der-eritrea-marriage.pdf> (16.10.2020).

³¹⁹ Academic expert. Verbal information, 08.10.2020.





so that worshippers can report if anyone is already married. The Sudanese authorities certify these marriage certificates without verifying the details.³²⁰

³²⁰ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken), The Hague. Country of Origin Information Report on Eritrea. 06.02.2017. p.23. <https://www.government.nl/documents/reports/2017/02/06/country-of-origin-report-on-eritrea-february-2017> (24.11.2020).

10.2. Certificates of the Catholic Church



Zivilstandsurkunden der Diözesen Asmara (links) und Keren (rechts).

Designation	 ምስክር ጥምቀት <i>[mesker timqet]</i>  Baptism Certificate	 ምስክር ቃልኪዳን <i>[mesker qalkidan]</i>  Marriage Certificate
Issuing authority/institution	The four eparchies of the Catholic Church of Eritrea: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catholic Eparchy of Asmara • Catholic Eparchy of Barentu • Catholic Eparchy of Keren • Catholic Eparchy of Segeneyti The 107 church communities are responsible for issuing the documents.	
Issued from/to	Not known	
Calendar	Gregorian	
Legal basis	No official document; basis for civil birth certificates: Art. 57, 58, 72, 73 Transitional Civil Code ³²¹ in conjunction with Art. 5 and 6 of the Civil Code of the EPLF. ³²² ⚠ Eritrea published a new civil code in 2015. This civil code has only come into force in a very limited way, if at all (see Section 2.3.) ³²³ In this civil code, Art. 54 to 64 govern registration and certification of civil status events. ³²⁴	
Validity	No expiry date	
Application to	Church community in which the baptism or marriage took place. ³²⁵	

³²¹ Eritrea. Transitional Civil Code of Eritrea (TCCE). Proclamation No. 2/1991.

³²² Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF). Civil Code of the EPLF. 1988.

³²³ UN Human Rights Council, New York. Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea. 16.05.2019. p.9. https://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/41/53 (02.12.2020). / Human Rights Watch, New York. World Report 2018: Events of 2017. 18.01.2018. p.202. https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/world_report_download/201801world_report_web.pdf (02.12.2020).

³²⁴ Eritrea. Civil Code of the State of Eritrea. 2015.

³²⁵ Cf. Schröder, Günter, Frankfurt. Marriage, Vital Events Registration & Issuance of Civil Status Documents in Eritrea. May 2017. p.17. <https://migrationlawclinic.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/paper-gc3bcnther-schrc3b6der-eritrea-marriage.pdf> (16.10.2020).

Documents to be submitted	<p>For marriage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baptism certificates of husband and wife • Results of an HIV test (to show one another)³²⁶ <p>According to one source, those who do not marry at their place of residence must submit confirmation of their unmarried status from their Nus-Zoba administration in order to rule out multiple (polygamous) marriages.³²⁷</p>
Costs	Not known



Issuing procedure

The priest issues the certificate following the ceremony. He enters the details by hand and then stamps it. In the past, the certificates were often only issued on demand, in some cases years after the ceremony. Today it is more common to issue them immediately after the ceremony.³²⁸



Recognition by Eritrean state institutions

See [Section 10.4](#).

³²⁶ General Secretary of the Catholic Church of Eritrea, Asmara. Meeting in November 2013. / Academic expert. Verbal information, 08.10.2020.

³²⁷ Diplomatic source (2), Asmara. Meeting as part of a fact-finding mission, July 2019.

³²⁸ Schröder, Günter, Frankfurt. Marriage, Vital Events Registration & Issuance of Civil Status Documents in Eritrea. May 2017. p.17. <https://migrationlawclinic.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/paper-gc3bcnther-schrc3b6der-eritrea-marriage.pdf> (16.10.2020).



10.3. Certificates of the Sharia courts

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
دولة إرتريا
وزارة العدل
محكمة الشريعة

الموضوع :- عقد زواج رقم
تاريخ العقد يوم شهر سنة هـ الموافق
يوم م
اسم الزوجة
المولودة في و المقيمة في
اسم الزوج
المولود و المقيم في
اسمه
شهود العرس
أنا القاضي قاضي المحكمة الشرعية للإقليم الأوسط
لقد ثبت لدى العقد المبين أعلاه بين الزوجين المذكورين أعلاه على النحو المفصل
أعلاه على المهر المتفق عليه المذكور في سجل الزواج تحت الرقم المذكور أعلاه
وبالتاريخ المذكور أعلاه ، و بناء على ذلك حررت هذه الوثيقة لزوجين المذكورين
للاعتقاد عليها و العمل بمقتضاها .
حررت في يوم شهر سنة هـ الموافق يوم
شهر سنة م
قاضي محكمة الشريعة
توقيع

Court at which the marriage was registered
Number of the marriage contract
Date of the marriage in the Islamic Hijra calendar
Date of the marriage in the Gregorian calendar
Name of the bride
Place of birth and residence of the bride
Name of the groom
Place of birth and residence of the groom
Name of his mother
Signatures of three witnesses
Name of the judge who registered the marriage
Date in the Islamic Hijra calendar
Date in the Gregorian calendar
Signature of the judge

Age
Name of her mother
Age
In some versions, the year of birth is entered instead of the age

Designation	 عقد زواج [ʿaqd zawajj]  Marriage Contract
Issuing authority/ institution	Sharia courts at Zoba or Nus-Zoba level. The Sharia courts are each departments of the state Zoba courts and primarily deal with family matters in the Muslim population. ³²⁹
Issued from/to	Since establishment of the Sharia courts
Calendar	Islamic (Hijra) and Gregorian
Legal basis	Islamic family law
Validity	Indefinite
Application to	Sharia court
Documents to be submitted	For a marriage certificate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate of the Sheikh (checked by the Sharia court) • Completed application form • Identity cards of the couple.³³⁰
Costs	Not known
Notes	Unlike the certificates of the Christian confessions, the certificates of the Muslim community are issued by a state body: the Sharia courts of the Zobas.

³²⁹ Sharia court of Zoba Maekel, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013.

³³⁰ Sharia court of Zoba Maekel, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013.

Description

Sharia courts issue the following documents, among others:

- Birth certificate
- Marriage certificate
- Divorce certificate
- Custody certificate
- Death certificate
- Inheritance certificate
- Muslim certificate³³¹

The entries are based on the details provided by the applicants on the application forms, on witness statements and in part on civil documents.³³²

Issuing procedure for the marriage certificate

Muslim wedding ceremonies take place in mosques or at home. The Sheikh issues a certificate; mosques also keep a register of marriages. Muslim marriages must be registered with the Sharia court within one month. To do so, the couple must submit the Sheikh's certificate, together with a completed application form and their identity cards. The Sharia courts often check the identity cards with the civil authorities. If the couple loses the certificate, they can obtain a replacement, on which – in contrast to the original – witnesses must confirm the marriage. If the documents are complete, the court registers the marriage and issues the marriage certificate, then archives a copy with the documents submitted. Both the couple and their mosque also receive a copy.³³³

Recognition by Eritrean state institutions

See [Chapter 10.4](#).

³³¹ Sharia court of Zoba Maekel, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013.

³³² Sharia court of Zoba Maekel, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013.

³³³ Sharia court of Zoba Maekel, Asmara. Meeting as part of a technical mission, November 2013.

10.4. Recognition of religious civil status certificates

The Eritrean Transitional Civil Code of 1991 provided for the establishment of civil status offices at local level. However, these are still not in place everywhere (see [Section 3.1.2.](#)).³³⁴ The Eritrean authorities therefore still accept religious civil status certificates in most cases.³³⁵ The religious civil status certificates are used e.g. for registration with a kindergarten or school³³⁶ or in court.³³⁷

Moreover, many Eritreans register births and marriages with their local administration (*Memmehdar Kebabi*) in accordance with the regulations, without receiving written confirmation.³³⁸ In case of doubt, the Eritrean authorities or courts consult the registers of the church communities.³³⁹ According to one source, the authorities accepted certificates from all religious communities until May 2002, and since then only those of the Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant churches.³⁴⁰

³³⁴ Schröder, Günter, Frankfurt. Marriage, Vital Events Registration & Issuance of Civil Status Documents in Eritrea. May 2017. p.11-12. <https://migrationlawclinic.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/paper-gc3bcnther-schrc3b6der-eritrea-marriage.pdf> (16.10.2020). / Academic expert. Verbal information, 08.10.2020.

³³⁵ Academic expert. Verbal information, 08.10.2020.

³³⁶ Academic expert. Verbal information, 08.10.2020.



³³⁷ Diplomatic source (2), Asmara. Meeting as part of a fact-finding mission, July 2019.

³³⁸ Academic expert. Verbal information, 08.10.2020. / Diplomatic source (2), Asmara. Meeting as part of a fact-finding mission, July 2019.

³³⁹ Diplomatic source (2), Asmara. Meeting as part of a fact-finding mission, July 2019.

³⁴⁰ Schröder, Günter, Frankfurt. Marriage, Vital Events Registration & Issuance of Civil Status Documents in Eritrea. May 2017. p.17. <https://migrationlawclinic.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/paper-gc3bcnther-schrc3b6der-eritrea-marriage.pdf> (16.10.2020).

11. Apostille

Designation	 Apostil (authentication)
Issuing authority /institution	 Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Authentication Unit
Issued from/to	Since Eritrean independence
Calendar	Gregorian
Legal basis	Not known
Validity	Indefinite
Application to	Consular service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Asmara
Documents to be submitted	Not known
Costs	Noted on the apostil stamp – usually ERN 75 plus stamping fee as appropriate. ³⁴¹

Description

The apostil consists of three stamps which the Consular department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs affixes to civil status documents.³⁴²

- Round stamp of the Foreign Ministry
- Rectangular stamp with spaces for the entry of the certification details
- Name stamp of the official responsible.

Issuing procedure

Not known

³⁴¹ Based on experience of Country Analysis SEM.

³⁴² Diplomatic source (2), Asmara. Meeting as part of a fact-finding mission, July 2019.