UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency | Ethiopia

HOUSING AND SETTLEMENT

Factsheet | January - December 2025

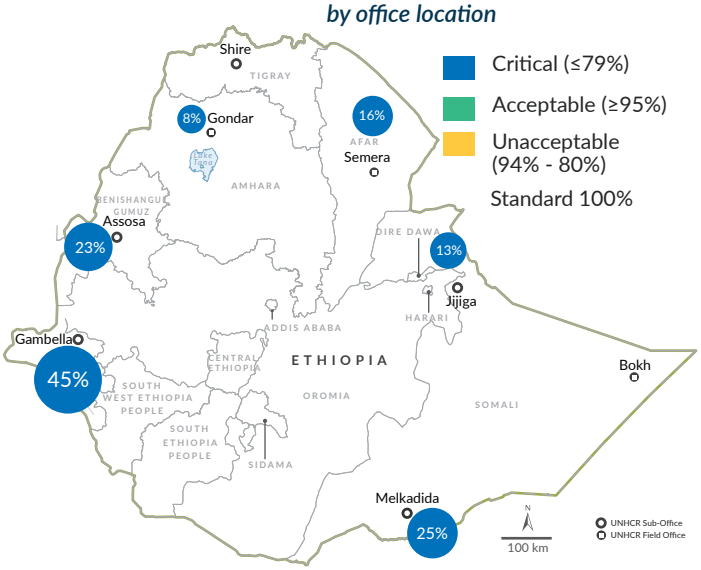
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES

UNHCR, in collaboration with FDRE Refugee Returnee Service (RRS) and partners, is supporting refugees, asylum seekers, and host communities to access safe, dignified, habitable shelter—addressing urgent humanitarian needs while advancing integrated, climate-resilient settlements aligned with the GCR, and Ethiopia's human settlement pledge.

Multi-Year Priorities

- Protection sensitive shelter & housing: Enhance protection outcomes, support self reliance, and integrate GBV risk mitigation.
- Integrated, area-based shelter/housing & settlements: Expand climate resilient planning and basic infrastructure to meet immediate and long term needs.
- Community led approaches: Scale community driven and cash based delivery to reinforce ownership and social cohesion.
- Information management: Strengthen shelter data and analysis to improve planning, targeting, and advocacy.

% of HHs living in adequate dwelling by office location



PROGRESS AND KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Improved Shelter/Housing Solutions

- By end-2025, around 30% of refugees and asylum seekers in camps/sites lived in habitable shelters. In 2025 3,261 families (excluding the South Sudan Emergency response), benefited from emergency, transitional and durable shelter support. Of these, 70% (2,362 HHs) were supported through Cash-Based Interventions (CBI), including mixed in-kind and full-cash assistance.

Empowering Refugees and Community-Based Organizations

- Community-led Cash-Based Interventions in Bokolmayo Refugee Camp enabled households to procure materials, hire labor and rebuild shelters, successfully rehabilitating 100 damaged units while strengthening community ownership.

Kebribeyah Prototype Housing Piloting

- UNHCR, RRS, Funded partner, SEE, the Somali Regional Government and refugee representatives conducted a joint housing design review and piloted a prototype unit through the PROSPECTS funding. The completed prototype—one block of four housing units—will inform the 2026 housing scale-up, three-year Project of Advancing refugee inclusion in the Somali Region.

Technical Cooperation Between UNHCR, RRS, UN-Habitat

- MoU established a strategic partnership to advance integrated and sustainable human settlements aligned with Ethiopia's Global Refugee Forum pledges. Collaboration is supporting the spatial profiling in Aysaita, prototype shelter design and development of an urbanization roadmap to guide planning and advocacy.

SOUTH SUDAN EMERGENCY RESPONSE

- Luakdong identified as the only feasible site in the highly flood-prone Nuer Zone, following extensive joint RRS–UNHCR assessments and rapid flood-risk mapping.
- Implementation challenged by above-average rainfall and river backflow, which limited access and slowed dyke construction, drainage works, and road rehabilitation.
- Despite constraints including security situation partners advanced critical works, including site preparation, flood mitigation interventions, emergency shelter construction, communal facility development, and ongoing road construction.

CONTACT: Susanne Butscher, Snr External Engagement Coordinator, UNHCR Ethiopia, butscher@unhcr.org |

HOUSING AND SETTLEMENT

Factsheet | January - December 2025

KEY FIGURES

921,273 (180,673 HH)
Refugees in camps and settlement (83% of total refugees)

30% (55,488 HH)*
Households are living in habitable dwelling

3,266
Family benefited from shelter and housing support

1,297
Upgradable E-Shelter

1,026
Emergency shelter kit for self-built

167 HA
Serveyed, cleared and prepared

SOUTH SUDAN EMERGENCY RESPONSE

12
Communal shelter

481
Tents

7.65 KM
Dyke construction ongoing

19
Solar streetlight

3.65 KM
Road construction work ongoing

**Data limmitation: Estimate based on available 2025 records and proxy indicators due to the absence of a full shelter status assessment*

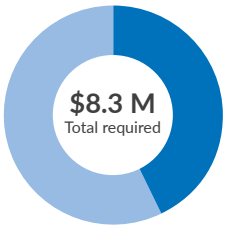
GAPS AND CHALLENGES

- Access to habitable shelter/ housing remains critically low, with many protracted camps relying on transitional shelters that have exceeded their lifespan and newer sites still dependent on emergency structures due to limited resources.
- An estimated 70% of refugee households live in deteriorated shelters, heightening exposure to protection and health risks and hindering progress toward self-reliance.
- Above-average rainfall and recurrent flooding across several refugee-hosting regions are expected to further worsen shelter conditions without investment in durable solutions.
- Settlement infrastructure remains insufficient, with many sites requiring improved access roads, drainage systems, and public facilities to ensure safe living conditions and access to services and livelihood opportunities.
- Deprioritize settlement level works in 2025, including reduced road and drainage rehabilitation, are likely to accelerate deterioration in living conditions in both camps and adjacent host communities.

WAY FORWARD

- Strengthen coordination with RRS, ministries, national authorities, UN agencies, and partners, including development and private sectors to advance the integrated settlement approach and improve housing solutions.
- Scale up CBI for shelter and reinforce community-based approaches to enhance flexibility, ownership, and appropriateness of assistance.
- Prioritize targeted resource mobilization for durable shelter and settlement infrastructure by highlighting gaps and engaging development partners through enhanced coordination.

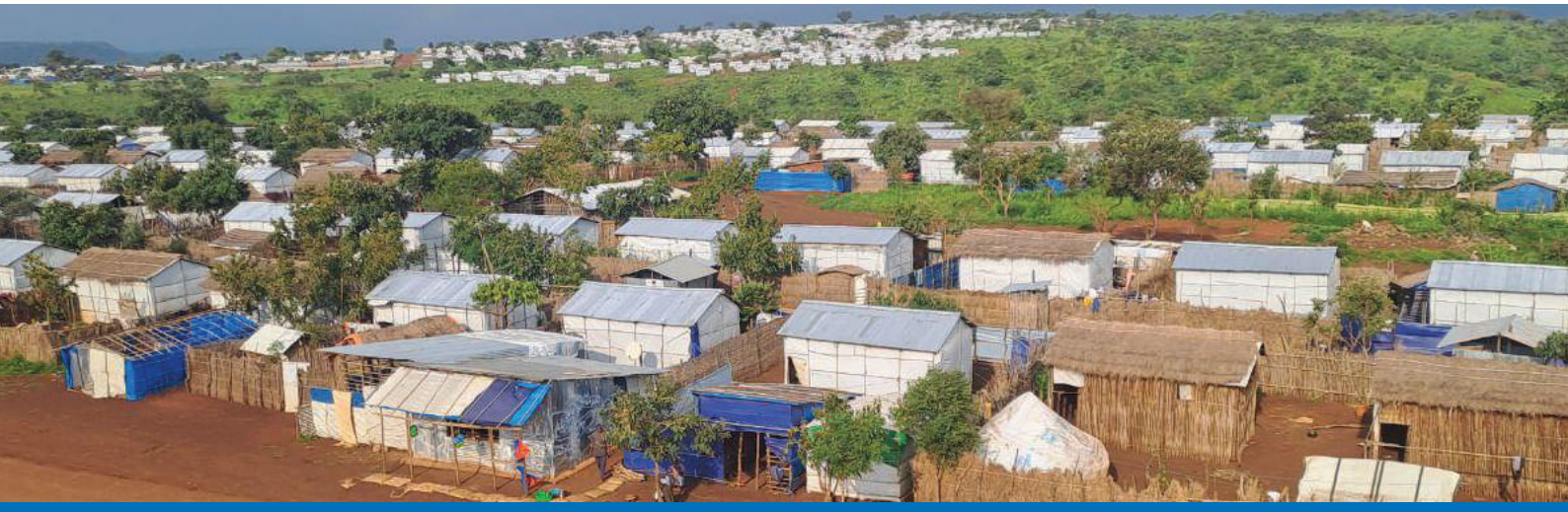
FUNDING DEC 2025



$3.6 M
Received as of Dec 2025 (30%)

$4.7 M
Gap (70%)

PARTNERSHIPS

- FDRE Refugees and Returnees Service (Government of Ethiopia)
- Partners: DEC, NRC, SEE,OSD, UN-Habitat, Plan International Ethiopia

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is grateful for the direct contributions to the UNHCR Ethiopia Operation