

Annual Results Report

2025

Ethiopia

Acknowledgements

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Note:

The baseline values presented in this document reflect previous year's progress when available. If such data is not available, strategy baseline values are used instead.

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Table of Contents

Section 1: Context and Overview

- 1.1 - Changes to the Operational Context
- 1.2 - Progress Against the Desired Impact
- 1.3 - Challenges to Achieving Impacts
- 1.4 - Collaboration and Partnerships

Section 2: Results

- 2.1 - Outcomes and Achievements
- 2.2 - Age, Gender and Diversity

Section 3: Resources

- 3.1 - Financial Data
- 3.2 - Resources Overview

Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

- 4.1 - Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

Section 1: Context and Overview

1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

In 2025, the Forcibly Displaced People demographic profile shifted notably due to continued conflict-induced displacement and climate shocks, resulting in increased arrivals from neighbouring countries and new internal movements concentrated in border and climate-affected regions. The population showed a higher proportion of women, children and youth, alongside growing numbers of vulnerable urban refugees, driving increased needs in protection, basic services, education, and livelihoods, particularly for female-headed households and adolescents.

A Level 2 emergency was declared in May 2025 as escalating violence in South Sudan triggered a mass influx into Gambella Region, with over 50,000 new arrivals overwhelming local systems and requiring rapid multisectoral assistance. Emergency response plans highlighted worsening conditions in Matar, Muon and Wanthoa, where refugees lacked shelter, water and basic services, while flooding displaced 35,410 people in Nuer Zone, further stretching limited response capacity. Refugee Community Councils and Refugee Community Protection Committees supported the emergency response by conducting community outreach to newly arrived households, disseminating information on registration and available assistance, and supporting protection monitoring at settlement and community level, including the identification and referral of persons with specific needs. UNHCR Ethiopia supported these refugee-led structures through direct operational funding embedded within partner projects, technical guidance, and inclusion in coordination and protection monitoring mechanisms, which enabled faster identification of protection risks and improved coverage in areas affected by access constraints.

Security deteriorated across key regions. In Amhara, armed conflict escalated characterized by kidnappings, attacks on aid workers, and severe access restrictions, especially along Gondar–Metema and South Gondar corridors. In Tigray, tensions persisted, with kidnappings and forced displacement causing new population movements despite the cessation of hostilities agreement. Gambella also experienced disruptions from flood-related displacement and access challenges for humanitarians due to insecurity. In these contexts, refugee-led organizations, including Refugee Community Protection Committees and refugee-led women’s and youth groups operating within camps and urban settings, played an important role in sustaining community-based protection activities. These included safety mapping, community dialogue, support to child protection case identification, and peer-based GBV prevention and referral activities. UNHCR Ethiopia’s support—through flexible funding, capacity strengthening and mentoring, and linkages to implementing partners—helped maintain community engagement and protection monitoring where direct humanitarian presence was limited, contributing to continuity of services and improved protection analysis. Refugee-led organizations supported UNHCR Ethiopia’s response by complementing assistance delivery through small-scale cash support to extremely vulnerable households, participation in livelihoods and self-reliance initiatives, and outreach to vulnerable urban refugees. UNHCR Ethiopia supported these efforts through targeted funding windows, including innovation-focused grants and community-based programming modalities, which strengthened local ownership, improved cost-effectiveness, and expanded reach to underserved groups. Ethiopia’s overlapping crises in 2025 underscored the urgent need for sustained, flexible international support to stabilize conditions across conflict-affected and refugee-hosting regions, while reinforcing refugee-led organizations as essential partners in protection delivery and solutions.

Despite progress in refugee inclusion, including digital national Fayda ID rollout, severe funding gaps and insecurity continued to constrain operations. Ethiopia’s crises in 2025 underscored the urgent need for sustained, flexible international support to stabilize conditions across conflict-affected and refugee-hosting regions.

1.2. Progress Against the Desired Impact

1. Impact Area: Attaining Favorable Protection Environments

All forcibly displaced and stateless persons in Ethiopia can live dignified and safe lives protected from harm in all aspects of their lives

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2025)
1.1 Proportion of people seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	40.74%	44.90%
1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.00%	0.00%

Ethiopia advanced a more refugee-favourable protection environment through sustained legal, policy, and operational progress, driven by government commitment and close partnership with UNHCR. These efforts contributed to measurable improvements in key protection indicators, notably increased access to asylum procedures, strengthened procedural safeguards, expanded legal identity coverage, and improved prevention and response to protection risks, including refoulement and arbitrary detention.

Collective interventions focused on risk mitigation and system-wide accountability, including the promotion of protection-centred strategies, convening multi-stakeholder policy dialogues with Government and other actors, and systematic elevation of protection concerns within the UN Humanitarian Country Team, where protection was maintained as a standing agenda item. These actions supported more consistent identification of persons in need of international protection and improved referral and response pathways, contributing to enhanced access to asylum procedures.

The asylum system was further strengthened through the adoption of the new Refugee Status Determination (RSD) Directive, which established harmonized procedures and standards, improving the quality, predictability, and fairness of RSD decisions. The relaunch of the independent Appeal Hearing Council restored access to appeal mechanisms for negative decisions, reinforcing due process guarantees and contributing to improved procedural safeguards within the asylum framework. While freedom of movement remained restricted, refugees continued to move freely within host regions, maintaining partial enjoyment of this right.

A major milestone was achieved with the full handover of refugee registration and documentation to the Government's Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) on 1 July. Nationwide verification expanded to 22 sites, verifying over 259,000 individuals and integrating many into the national Fayda digital ID system. This significantly increased the proportion of refugees with legal identity documentation, enabling access to banking, education, health services, work permits, and livelihood opportunities, and directly contributing to improved self-reliance and inclusion indicators.

Birth registration for refugee children also improved following sustained advocacy and the adoption of the inclusive Civil and Family Registration Proclamation in May. The removal of structural and legal barriers strengthened birth registration coverage among refugee children, aligning national systems with statelessness prevention commitments and reducing long-term protection risks.

Joint detention monitoring conducted by RRS, the Ethiopian Human Rights Council, OHCHR, and UNHCR resulted in releases, contributing to reduced instances of prolonged or arbitrary detention. These outcomes were reinforced through targeted capacity-building and consultative workshops with high-level officials on refugee rights, access to asylum procedures, detention standards, non-refoulement, trafficking response, and freedom of movement. While challenges persisted and some individuals in need of international protection did not have full access to asylum procedures and were removed in certain instances, these interventions strengthened preventive mechanisms and response capacity, contributing to risk reduction related to refoulement and protection violations.

Economic inclusion indicators also showed progress with the expansion of the right to work under the revised RRS Directive. The removal of barriers to permits and licensing, including direct issuance by RRS in coordination with the Ministry of Labor and Skills, increased access to lawful employment opportunities,

supporting refugee self-reliance and reducing dependency on humanitarian assistance.

2. Impact Area: Realizing Rights in Safe Environments

All displaced and stateless persons and the host communities benefit from sustainable natural environment and improved basic services provided through national systems wherever possible

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2025)
2.2 Proportion of people residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities		
IDPs	20.24%	24.11%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	38.12%	38.12%
2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	76.08%	98.95%

In 2025, Ethiopia's refugee response progressed under significant operational and funding pressures. UNHCR and the Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) completed over 300 shelters, alongside access roads and water systems, supporting Sudanese refugees in Benishangul Gumuz and Amhara regions. The Aftit settlement—expanded following the closure of Awlala and Kumer—continued to develop essential services, coordination structures, and community-based mechanisms.

Health services for refugees remained operational through government and NGO partnerships; however, medical referrals and preventive health programmes were disrupted by critical funding shortfalls. Primary health care delivery continued across camps despite system-wide strain and persistent resource gaps. At the national level, the Emergency Shelter and Core Relief Items Cluster reached approximately 494,000 people—only 24 per cent of its target—while a 67 per cent funding gap constrained coverage in conflict- and climate-affected regions. These limitations reduced the scale, speed, and geographic reach of assistance to both refugees and internally displaced populations.

While several socioeconomic indicators showed stabilization or improvement, the refugee poverty indicator worsened slightly in 2025, reflecting reduced assistance coverage, rising living costs, and constrained livelihood opportunities. Interpretation of this trend must also consider a key methodological change introduced in June 2025, when the World Bank revised the international poverty line from US\$2.15 to US\$3.00 per person per day, measured in 2021 Purchasing Power Parity (PPP). This shift affects comparability with previous estimates and requires updated analytical framing in socioeconomic reporting.

3. Impact Area: Empowering Communities and Achieving Gender Equality

Majority of forcibly displaced persons have increased access to education, livelihoods and economic inclusion opportunities leading to self-reliance

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2025)
3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%
3.2a Proportion of children and young people enrolled in primary education		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	46.22%	46.96%
3.2b Proportion of children and young people enrolled in secondary education		

Refugees and Asylum-seekers	14.18%	19.29%
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The Refugees Proclamation No. 1110/2019 and the 2024 RRS Directive No. 1019/2024 (to implement recognized refugees' and asylum-seekers' right to work) guarantee refugees in Ethiopia the right to decent work. This includes access to wage-earning employment, self-employment, and liberal professions, on terms comparable to those for foreign nationals in many cases.

In 2025, implementation showed steady progress: 4,593 refugees obtained residence permits, 4,162 received work permits, and 40 were issued business licenses under Directive No. 1019/2024. These figures reflect a gradual opening of the labour market and expanded opportunities for refugee participation in economic activities. However, these gains have not yet translated into broader improvements across all self-reliance and protection indicators, and continued dependence on humanitarian assistance remains evident for a large proportion of the refugee population.

In parallel, with World Bank support through Additional Financing to the General Education Quality Improvement Programme for Equity (GEQIP-E), operational since 2023, Ethiopia advanced refugee education integration at the systems level. In 2025, five refugee secondary schools were successfully integrated into the national system—four in the Somali Region and one in Benishangul-Gumuz—completing the planned integration of eleven secondary schools across Gambella (5), Somali (4), and Benishangul-Gumuz (2). Discussions are ongoing under the Educational Transformation Operation for Learning (ETOL) regarding the integration of 57 refugee primary schools.

Notwithstanding these structural advances, actual education outcomes deteriorated, with declines recorded in both primary and secondary enrolment rates, underscoring persistent access, retention, and socioeconomic barriers affecting refugee learners. Similarly, no measurable progress was observed in perceptions of safety after dark, indicating continued protection concerns—particularly for women, children, and other at-risk groups—which may further constrain participation in education, livelihoods, and community life.

4. Impact Area: Securing Solutions

All forcibly displaced and stateless persons benefit from durable and alternative pathways to solutions tailored to their needs and desires

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2025)
4.1 Number of refugees who voluntarily return in safety and dignity to their country of origin		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	621	0
4.2a Number of people who departed on resettlement		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	5,823	2,378
4.2b Number of people who departed through complementary pathways		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	3,257	3,962
4.3b Number of refugees for whom residency status is granted or confirmed		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	893,146	1,124,246

In 2025, progress continued toward durable solutions through voluntary repatriation, resettlement, and complementary pathways. UNHCR and partners explored safe, dignified returns where conditions allowed. For Kenyan Borana refugees expressing interest in return, engagement with Ethiopian and Kenyan authorities led to a joint visit by the Kenyan Ambassador and the Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) to the settlements, strengthening coordination for possible organized repatriation. However, no organized returns were completed in 2025 albeit the efforts to explore such solution options by UNHCR and partners. A total of 2,378 refugees departed for resettlement, a 38.9% decrease from 2024. Complementary

pathways enabled 3,962 refugees to access regulated entry to third countries through labour mobility, education pathways, humanitarian corridors, private sponsorship, and family reunification. Departures included Canada's EMPP with TalentLift (39), education pathways via Kepler, UNICORE, and Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program/WUSC (17), and the Italian Humanitarian Corridor run by Sant'Egidio (44). Thirteen countries admitted refugees from Ethiopia, led by Canada (4,543), USA (786), and France (555). Outreach and counselling reached 24,582 refugees, supporting informed decisions, promoting safe pathways, and reducing onward movement. Preparations also advanced labour mobility opportunities to Italy with Talent Beyond Boundaries and UNHCR Italy.

UNHCR additionally supported IDPs in Ethiopia, focusing on durable solutions and civil documentation. Under the national Fayda digital ID programme, capacity-building enabled IDPs to access services and freedom of movement. In Tigray, over 94% of registered IDPs in targeted areas received physical ID cards, with similar efforts underway in other regions.

1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

UNHCR Ethiopia's progress toward impact continues to face several systemic and operational barriers. Severe funding shortages across key sectors—particularly health, shelter, and Emergency Shelter and Core Relief Items—significantly constrain the scale and consistency of assistance, while the broader strain on national services limits the absorption capacity needed for sustainable refugee inclusion. Despite advancements in legal frameworks and the rollout of the RSD Directive, gaps remain in asylum access, with some individuals still facing challenges at entry points and experiencing limited freedom of movement. Humanitarian access is sometimes also impeded in regions affected by internal conflict.

Implementation of progressive refugee laws varies across regions due to capacity limitations, affecting timely issuance of work permits, business licenses, and documentation. Economic integration also remains slow, as national unemployment and market constraints restrict livelihood opportunities despite growing legal pathways. Reduced global resettlement quotas further limit prospects for durable solutions, while conditions in several countries of origin continue to hinder safe voluntary returns. Parallel humanitarian needs, particularly among internally displaced people (IDPs), stretch resources and operational bandwidth.

Nonetheless, prospects for overcoming these barriers are promising. The full handover of refugee registration and documentation to the Government's Refugees and Returnees Service, expansion of the Fayda digital ID, strengthened appeal mechanisms, and continued nationwide verification signal stronger institutional capacity and sustained government commitment. Education integration milestones and the expansion of complementary pathways—such as labour mobility and scholarship programmes—offer growing opportunities for self-reliance and durable solutions. Enhanced coordination with government, development partners, and the private sector is expected to gradually improve protection, service delivery, and economic inclusion, positioning Ethiopia to advance toward more impactful and sustainable refugee responses in the coming years.

1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

Partnerships remained central to advancing refugee protection and inclusion in Ethiopia in 2025, in line with UNHCR's Strategic Directions and the Global Compact on Refugees. Working with the Federal Government through the Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS), UNHCR supported the advancement of the Makatet roadmap, which reaffirmed Ethiopia's commitment to including refugees into national systems. Donor engagement continued to underpin these efforts, with key partners including the United States, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, Japan, the European Union, Canada, France, Austria, Luxembourg, and Finland,

providing essential financial contributions. By August 2025, these contributions totaled about \$115 million, helping sustain protection, shelter, WASH, and documentation services despite severe funding constraints. Additional support later in the year from donors such as the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, España con ACNUR, CERF, and private donors brought total funding to about \$115 million by December 2025. UNHCR also strengthened partnerships with the private sector, benefiting from flexible contributions from private donors across Canada, China, Denmark, Italy, Korea, and the United States. These resources supported core protection activities, infrastructure improvements, and emergency response where needs were greatest. Collaboration with UN agencies expanded through a renewed Letter of Understanding with UNICEF, enhancing joint work in child protection, education, health, WASH, and social protection for refugee and host community children.

In 2025, refugee-led organizations (RLOs) were explicitly recognized and engaged as key partners in the refugee response, contributing directly to protection delivery, community outreach, and inclusion outcomes across several operations. Working alongside national and international NGOs, refugee-led organizations played a critical role in community-based protection and accountability, leveraging their proximity to and trust within refugee communities.

Refugee-led organizations supported outreach and information dissemination, including awareness-raising on access to asylum procedures, documentation, available assistance, and referral pathways for protection services. They were actively involved in protection monitoring and community feedback mechanisms, helping to identify emerging risks, verify needs, and channel community concerns to UNHCR and partners. In several locations, RLOs contributed to Gender Based Violence (GBV) prevention and response activities, such as community sensitization, survivor referral support, and engagement of women and youth groups, as well as to child protection initiatives, including identification and referral of children at risk. Some refugee-led groups also supported cash-based interventions, assisting with beneficiary outreach and post-distribution monitoring, and engaged in livelihoods-related activities, including peer support, skills-based initiatives, and community mobilization.

UNHCR supported refugee-led organizations through direct and indirect funding, inclusion in partner agreements, capacity-building, and technical accompaniment. This included support for organizational development, reporting, protection principles, and compliance with accountability standards. By resourcing refugee-led organizations and integrating them into coordination structures, UNHCR strengthened local ownership, responsiveness, and sustainability of the response. Their engagement improved access to hard-to-reach groups, enhanced the quality of protection analysis, and reinforced community trust in services, contributing to more timely and context-appropriate interventions despite significant funding constraints.

Throughout 2025, UNHCR and RRS coordinated the national refugee response under the Country Refugee Response Plan (CRRP), engaging 49 partners to strengthen asylum systems, deliver multisectoral assistance, promote socio-economic inclusion, and expand pathways to durable solutions. Despite global funding cuts and growing needs, these partnerships helped maintain essential services and reinforced Ethiopia's progress toward sustainable and inclusive refugee management.

In line with the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and commitments made through the Global Refugee Forum (GRF), UNHCR Ethiopia continued in 2025 to strengthen partnerships that advance responsibility-sharing, inclusion, and localization. Progress was made in translating GRF-related pledges into practice through closer collaboration with government counterparts, development actors, UN agencies, civil society, and the private sector, particularly in areas of inclusion in national systems, protection, and access to services. At the same time, UNHCR expanded its engagement with local and refugee-led organizations as part of its localization agenda, recognizing their role in delivering community-based protection, strengthening accountability to affected populations, and promoting refugee leadership. These partnerships contributed to more context-responsive programming, enhanced community trust, and sustained protection outcomes despite significant funding and operational constraints, with further detail on specific pledges and initiatives reflected in relevant sections of this report.

Section 2: Results

2.1. Outcomes and Achievements

1. Outcome Area: Access to Territory, Reg. and Documentation

The access of forcibly displaced and stateless persons to registration and documentation procedures in Ethiopia, national or alternative (humanitarian), is improved and increasingly transitioned into national systems

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
1.1 Proportion of refugees and asylum seekers registered on an individual basis			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	39.47%
1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	26.00%	25.00%	16.00%
1.3 Proportion of people with legally recognized identity documents or credentials			
IDPs	0.89%	20.00%	1.08%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	83.63%	85.00%	39.47%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
01.1.1 Number of people registered on an individual basis	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	32,432
01.2.1 Number of people supported to obtain civil status, identity or legal status documentation	
IDPs	19,851
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	32,432

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, Ethiopia achieved a major milestone by fully transitioning refugee registration and documentation to government leadership. On 1 July, UNHCR handed over these responsibilities to the government's Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS), advancing nationally owned identity management while upholding protection standards and data integrity. The nationwide verification exercise and inclusion in the National Digital ID (Fayda) program expanded to 22 active sites. A total of 259,467 individuals were verified, resulting in 100,866 refugees receiving Fayda numbers, 70,896 individuals aged 14 and older issued Refugee ID cards, and 81,200 individuals aged 5 and older receiving Proof of Registration.

Access to Fayda enables refugees to open bank accounts, access education and health services, and pursue livelihoods, significantly boosting self-reliance. In the Nuer Zone of Gambella, RRS conducted a

rapid registration of 50,000 new

South Sudanese arrivals within 45 days, ensuring protection. Verification was also completed in Tsore camp, the Kenyan Borena settlement, and the Alemwach site. In the latter half of the year, UNHCR shifted focus to system strengthening, improving proGres-Fayda interoperability to reduce duplication and enhance data reliability. Technical support included One-Stop-Shop renovations, high-speed internet, and the provision of 125 laptops.

A new Power BI-based Integrity Monitoring Tool now flags high-risk data changes, while collaboration with the Data Protection office ensures that 16 registered data-sharing risks are monitored via OneTrust. Additionally, 149 RRS staff received training in anti-fraud practices. Under the EU-funded IM3 project, 19,851 IDPs in Afar, Benishangul-Gumuz, and Amhara received Fayda IDs, bringing the total number of IDPs supported to 50,000. These efforts have advanced Ethiopia's unified identity system, delivering greater legal recognition and financial inclusion for both refugees and IDPs.

2. Outcome Area: Status Determination

People with international protection needs have access to fair and efficient asylum procedures according to national, regional and international standards

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
2.1 Average processing time (in days) from registration to first instance asylum decision			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	50.78	365.00	161.00
2.2 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to legal representation			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
2.3 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to an effective appeal mechanism after first instance rejection of their claim			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Data not available	50.00%	0.00%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
02.1.1 UNHCR has provided capacity development support to strengthen the national status determination system(s), in accordance with international standards	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Yes

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, Ethiopia advanced its national asylum system with the issuance of a new Refugee Status Determination (RSD) Directive. Formally registered by the Ministry of Justice and effective from August 2025, the directive establishes minimum procedural standards, core principles, and harmonized practices to support full government ownership under the national refugee proclamation.

The independent Appeal Hearing Council was successfully relaunched and operationalized, with formalized internal rules of procedure to allow asylum seekers to appeal negative first-instance decisions. A total of 576 individuals underwent RSD processing, covering first-instance, cancellation, and cessation cases.

While the AHC was relaunched, effective access to appeal remained at 0% in 2025, with case handling expected to begin in 2026.

UNHCR supported capacity development by training 115 government officials from regional administrations, law enforcement, justice, immigration, and refugee services in Gambella, Assosa, and Jijjiga. Additionally, 605 refugee representatives from camps in these areas participated in awareness sessions on the Ethiopian asylum system, legal frameworks, refugee rights and obligations, and the importance of preserving the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum.

In Gambella, nationality and combatant screening was conducted for new South Sudanese arrivals prior to Level 1 registration. This process covered 49,749 individuals from 7,280 households and identified several combatants, who renounced their military affiliation and were subsequently registered. These efforts reflect the Government's commitment to strengthening procedural safeguards, building institutional capacity, and ensuring fair, consistent asylum processing.

3. Outcome Area: Protection Policy and Law

The national legal, policy and regulatory framework for refugees, IDPs and stateless persons is strengthened in line with international standards

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
3.1 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol			
None	Progressing toward alignment	Broadly aligned	Progressing toward alignment

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
03.1.1 UNHCR has engaged in legislative and judicial processes to strengthen laws and policies for the protection of refugees, IDPs, returnees and stateless people and/or the reduction and prevention of statelessness	
IDPs	Yes
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Yes

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, Ethiopia strengthened its legal and policy framework for refugees, asylum seekers, and internally displaced people (IDPs) by operationalizing key reforms which contributed towards achieving the target during the reporting period UNHCR provided technical guidance to align these practices with international standards, focusing on expanding rights and institutional capacity. A major milestone was the entry into force of the Refugee Status Determination (RSD) Directive in August, which established consistent procedures for individual and group status determination. This was supported by the May inauguration of the independent RSD Appeal Hearing Council, ensuring due process through a formal appeals mechanism.

Territorial access was bolstered by a Directive from Immigration and Citizenship Services exempting asylum seekers from penalties for irregular entry, though practical implementation remains a focus. Economic inclusion also advanced as a revised RRS Directive removed barriers to work permits and business licensing, allowing for direct permit issuance and better coordination with the Ministry of Labor and

Skills. These steps directly support Global Compact on Refugees commitments by fostering refugee self-reliance.

Legal identity and documentation efforts progressed through expanded Fayda enrollment and birth registration for children to prevent statelessness. The transition of registration responsibilities to the RRS continued successfully in sites like Jijjiga and Melkadida, supported by UNHCR through training and materials. Additionally, the draft IDP Proclamation underwent final revisions with continued UNHCR technical support toward its adoption

4. Outcome Area: Gender-based Violence

GBV is prevented, risk mitigation measures across sectors are implemented and GBV survivors and those at risk have access to timely, safe, and quality services.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	89.68%	51.00%	49.00%
4.2 Proportion of people who do not accept violence against women			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	86.12%	91.00%	0.52%
4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with GBV case management services			
IDPs	83.54%	98.00%	96.65%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	95.13%	95.00%	79.48%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
04.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from specialized GBV programmes	
IDPs	10,618
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	37,202

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, UNHCR and partners advanced gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, risk mitigation, and response across refugee and IDP settings despite significant funding and access constraints. Progress was driven by expanded coverage of Women and Girls' Safe Spaces (WGSS), strengthened national GBV systems, and improved survivor-centered services. WGSS programming had notable reach: 2,734 women and girls in Gambella, 1,778 in Jijjiga, and thousands more through school-based clubs where knowledge increased from 47.3% to 84.4%. Community dialogues and EMAP sessions in Afar and Amhara further promoted positive gender norms.

Access to specialized case management improved across multiple regions. In Gambella, for instance, 221 survivors received tailored support from newly trained case workers, while 152 survivors in Afar accessed comprehensive services including emergency cash and transport support. Material assistance expanded significantly, with the provision of 2,500 dignity kits and 3,835 MHM kits in Tigray, and large-scale distributions in Somali region, Aftit, and Afar. Integration of the Mental Health and Psycho-social Support

(MHPSS) Minimum Service Package marked a major shift, equipping staff with psychological first aid and resilience-building skills. This reached 473 survivors directly and 525 women through group sessions, reducing distress and strengthening trust in services.

Evidence-driven protection monitoring (524 missions) and safety audits in Debre Birhan and Jarra identified risks such as insufficient lighting at water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) points, overcrowding, and unsafe access routes. In Southern Ethiopia, 358 survivors received livelihood support, reducing reliance on negative coping mechanisms. Across all operations, adolescent girls, persons with disabilities, and women with specific needs were meaningfully included.

Although data gaps persisted for some population groups due to access and funding constraints, UNHCR's leadership significantly contributed to system-wide improvements. To advance Ethiopia's GRF pledge on refugee inclusion, UNHCR worked with government and partners to strengthen 16 One-Stop Centers (OSCs) with medical equipment, furniture, and survivor-centered materials. Over 150 service providers were trained on case management, survivor-centered care, standard operating procedures (SOPs), mental health, and coordination, while alternative referral pathways were established where OSCs are absent. UNHCR also supported the drafting of the National GBV Case Management and Service Delivery Guideline and revision of the National GBV SOPs, ensuring alignment with refugee protection needs and global standards.

UNHCR coordinated nationwide GBV advocacy, including International Women's Day and 16 Days of Activism reaching over 32,000 people and disseminating more than 1,000 information materials on prevention. Technical missions to Afar and Amhara and online learning sessions strengthened partner capacity, benefiting 88 frontline staff. Through the GBV-CP Working Group, UNHCR and RRS ensured harmonized tools, updated referral pathways, and stronger inter-agency coordination.

5. Outcome Area: Child Protection

By 2029, protection of children will be enhanced and all children at heightened risk of violence, exploitation and abuse, through meaningful participation, will have timely access to child friendly procedures and will be able to develop positively in a nurturing environment.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
5.1 Proportion of children at heightened risk who are supported by a Best Interests Procedure			
IDPs	59.04%	63.00%	82.12%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	53.82%	62.00%	32.59%
5.2 Proportion of children who participate in community-based child protection programmes			
IDPs	0.62%	4.00%	1.59%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	37.83%	47.00%	15.23%
5.3 Proportion of unaccompanied and separated children who are in an alternative care arrangement			
IDPs	54%	63.00%	43.70%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	55.65%	64.00%	39.75%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
05.1.1 Number of children and caregivers who received child protection services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	46,353

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR, in partnership with the government’s Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS), other government counterparts, and UNICEF, significantly strengthened protection for refugee and internally displaced children in Ethiopia by expanding specialized services and reinforcing national systems. Despite scale-up in services and policy gains, coverage ratios declined (BIP 33%, community CP 15%, UASC alt. care 40%) due to influxes, staffing gaps, and funding constraints; scale and intensity of need outpaced capacity.

A major milestone in reducing statelessness was the adoption of the Ethiopian Civil and Family Registration Proclamation in May 2025. This legal shift removed significant barriers by extending registration timelines and eliminating the requirement for both parents to be present. These advocacy efforts resulted in 19,500 birth registrations, with phased efforts achieving 62% registration for children under five despite logistical challenges. To sustain this progress, USD 3.5 million was secured from the Netherlands for digitalization and full coverage through 2027.

Regionally, Gambella assigned guardians to over 600 children and verified 914 unaccompanied or separated children among new arrivals, while Jijiiga’s Safe Healing and Learning Spaces supported over 3,000 children. In Addis Ababa, a Refugee Community Care Coalition was formed to bolster urban protection. The integration of MHPSS into case management further transformed the response, training staff in innovative psychosocial tools that benefited 5,179 children and 3,579 caregivers. These initiatives remain critical in a context where children comprise up to 70% of certain refugee populations, ensuring they are protected by sustainable, nationally owned systems.

6. Outcome Area: Safety and Access to Justice

Forcibly displaced and stateless persons and their hosts have improved and unhindered access to justice and effective claim for their rights

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
06.1.1 Number of people who received legal assistance	
IDPs	11,070
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	2,574

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR recognizes the right of access to justice as an enabling and empowering right that contributes to the protection and advancement of the fundamental human rights of refugees, asylum seekers, and internally displaced people (IDPs). In collaboration with government counterparts and partners, UNHCR works to ensure that this right is realized in line with international law and standards.

In 2025, UNHCR enabled access to justice for nearly 14,000 forcibly displaced people through strong partnerships and coordination with legal service providers, law enforcement agencies, and judicial bodies. In terms of persons detained in relation to immigration control of legal status, the figures have shown improvement compared to the baseline from 2024 albeit falling short of meeting the target.

Through partnerships with public universities, the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, and humanitarian

actors in refugee and IDP hosting areas, UNHCR played a key role in helping thousands of refugees and IDPs obtain direct legal assistance. Support included securing housing, land and property rights; preparing statements of claim and defense in civil and criminal cases; legal representation before courts; and facilitating the safe release of individuals from arbitrary detention. Awareness raising campaigns on practical legal issues helped communities understand their rights, available justice mechanisms, and where to access free legal aid services.

UNHCR also organized several capacity building trainings for hundreds of law enforcement officials and judicial officers, focusing on the rights to liberty and security, protection from trafficking and smuggling risks, and collaboration with national coordination mechanisms to ensure refugees are included in national migration management initiatives. A roundtable with senior government officials strengthened coordination among service providers and helped bridge awareness gaps within law enforcement and judicial structures, ensuring that the protection needs of forcibly displaced people are appropriately considered throughout legal processes.

Despite these efforts, 2025 continued to see incidents of arbitrary arrest and detention of refugees and asylum seekers in their designated areas of residence and along irregular onward movement routes, with UNHCR documenting 444 such cases. In response, UNHCR enhanced detention monitoring in collaboration with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, and the Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS).

These joint efforts, including active visits and verification efforts by RRS, resulted in the release of hundreds of refugees and asylum seekers.

Given the increasing trend of irregular onward movement along the southern route partly driven by the absence of asylum registration, UNHCR and government partners conducted border and route monitoring that contributed to the release of asylum seekers detained during onward movement.

7. Outcome Area: Community Engagement and Women's Empowerment

All women, men, girls and boys of forcibly displaced and stateless populations and individuals with specific needs will be able to meaningfully participate in decisions impacting their lives, their communication options are enhanced, and they are able to access relevant services.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
7.2 Proportion of people who have access to safe feedback and response mechanisms			
IDPs	Data not available	37%	37.00%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	58.32%	85.00%	65.00%
7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	43.84%	50.00%	47.96%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
07.1.1 Number of people consulted through Participatory Assessments	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	195
07.2.1 Number of people who used UNHCR- supported feedback & response mechanisms to voice their needs/ concerns/feedback	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	28,550
07.3.1 Number of people who received protection services	
IDPs	252,589

Refugees and Asylum-seekers

483,869

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, localization in Ethiopia aligned with the Global Compact on Refugees, prioritizing refugee-led solutions. A mapping exercise by UNHCR and the government's Refugees and Returnees Service (-RRS) conducted in May 2025 identified 241 organizations led by forcibly displaced and stateless persons (FDSP-led), creating a nationwide database for standardized legal frameworks and capacity building.

In Gambella, 12 Refugee-led organizations (RLOs), including women-led groups, were identified for partnership. Three RLOs secured direct funding: a youth group through the Refugee Innovation Fund and two women-led organizations in Kule and Nguenyiel via Safe from the Start. Women's empowerment remained central, with networks in Gambella engaging over 400 members in service delivery dialogues. In Addis Ababa, RLO "Tomorrow is Better" conducted legal workshops, while the Shama Institute, Ethiopia's first refugee-owned PLC, won a national entrepreneurship award.

Regional progress continued as Jijjiga provided small grants to new RLOs in Kebribeyah, Shedder, and Aw-Barre. Assosa and Melkadida focused on structural profiling, advocacy training, and assisting RLOs with formal registration and banking. In Amhara, new community structures improved local protection responses. Coexistence was fostered through joint peace committees and sports, while Assosa's self-help groups launched bakery initiatives benefiting both refugees and hosts.

Despite advances in localization and reach (65,440), Feedback and Response Mechanism (FRM) access remained at 65% (target 85%) and women's leadership reached 48% (target 50%); data for other groups are limited due to access/funding.

The integration of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) into community activities reached 65,440 refugees through awareness and training. By equipping RLOs to lead these interventions, UNHCR established structured support mechanisms that enhanced local oversight and sustainability. These collective efforts have successfully shifted the response toward a community-owned model, ensuring that refugee leadership, particularly by women and youth, remains at the forefront of protection despite ongoing resource constraints.

8. Outcome Area: Well-Being and Basic Needs

A robust hybrid humanitarian-development system addressing food security and effective emergency responses has been established, guaranteeing all forcibly displaced persons adequate nutrition and fulfillment of their basic needs

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items			
IDPs	44.73%	59.00%	23.27%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	40.38%	60.00%	56.69%
Returnees	9.79%	29.00%	16.58%
8.2 Proportion of people with primary reliance on clean (cooking) fuels and technology			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	5.12%	20.00%	1.19%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
08.1.1 Number of people who received cash assistance	
IDPs	43,239
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	4,948
Returnees	3,547
08.2.1 Number of people who received non-food items	
IDPs	115,688
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	632,254
08.3.1 Number of people supported with improved cooking options	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	11,948

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

While NFI/cash coverage for refugees surpassed target (57%), clean cooking access remains at 1% against a 20% target; infrastructure investments are foundational but not yet reflected in household-level uptake. At the beginning of the funding reductions, the provision of energy-efficient cooking stoves was deprioritized due to limited resources. However, UNHCR supported the controlled harvesting and distribution of eucalyptus poles for firewood. Through this intervention, 886,473 kilograms of firewood was harvested and distributed to 28,120 households. Through the coordination and support from Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and Qatar charity, 11,948 individuals are benefitting from improved energy saving stove in Ura refugee settlement in Benishangul Gumuz region.

Thanks to the support from Spanish Cooperation and other actors, a solar grid with solar energy generating capacity of 2 megawatts was implemented in Melkadida with the long-term vision of meeting the household-level energy needs of refugees and host community in Bokolmayo District in the Somali region. The Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for household connection and service provision are currently under review to ensure vulnerable households are fully included in the system.

UNHCR contributed with the installation of three-phase electric grid line in the Benishangul-Gumuz region whereby adequate electrical capacity has been reserved through the installation of three new power transformers in Bambassi to support the future establishment of communal kitchens.

In line with the multi-year strategy, UNHCR continues its advocacy and fund-raising efforts with donors and private sector partners to continue the construction of communal kitchens, installation of electrical appliances in the camps and extension of the three-phase power line from solar grid energy production center to Bokolmayo refugee camp.

Furthermore, UNHCR and partners strengthened well-being and overall stability for newly displaced and extremely vulnerable refugees - including South Sudanese - through the delivery of Core Relief Items (CRIs) including dignity kits, soap, clothing, mosquito nets, kitchen sets, blankets, Solar lights and jerrycans. This assistance improved hygiene, dignity, health prevention, and short-term shelter stability, including for new arrivals. Across UNHCR's refugee response, nearly 632,000 refugees were supported with CRIs. In Gambella (LuakDong/Tormorok) alone, 8,306 households (48,096 individuals), including relocated and newly registered refugees, received CRIs helping to reduce immediate protection and public health risks. In 2025, progress was made toward improving the well-being, stability and self-reliance of refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees through the expansion of cash-based interventions across Ethiopia. A total of 11,492 households (51,734 individuals) received multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA), enabling them to address essential basic needs. Cash support contributed to improved coping capacities and reduced exposure to protection risks, particularly among households recently displaced by conflict or returning from Sudan. Post-distribution monitoring (PDM) indicated that over 95 per cent of surveyed households were able to access required goods and services, demonstrating adequate market

functionality and confirming the continued relevance of MPCA across Somali, Oromia, Addis Ababa and Tigray.

UNHCR contributed to this progress by expanding MPCA coverage across high-need regions, including Tigray, Oromia, Somali, Afar, Amhara and Addis Ababa, and by supporting the safe, efficient and accountable delivery of cash transfers. Targeting and verification were strengthened through the use of proGres, the Biometric Identity Management System (BIMS) and the Vulnerability Household Assessment Tool (VHAT), helping to ensure that assistance reached the most vulnerable households. The nationwide roll-out of CashAssist, fully integrated with proGres and KoBo, enhanced transaction security, timeliness and traceability. UNHCR maintained regular market monitoring and PDM, adjusting transfer values as required and helping to ensure that cash assistance remained appropriate and effective. Through these measures, households were better able to meet their most urgent needs with dignity and flexibility

9. Outcome Area: Sustainable Housing and Settlements

All displaced persons have access to adequate, safe, affordable housing while promoting inclusive/integrated and sustainable human settlement and climate action

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
9.1 Proportion of people living in habitable and affordable housing			
IDPs	20.24%	52.00%	13.86%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	38.12%	38.00%	30.22%
9.2 Proportion of people that have energy to ensure lighting			
IDPs	31.00%	50.00%	32.41%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	41.90%	50.00%	44.30%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
09.1.1 Number of people who received shelter and housing assistance	
IDPs	20,737
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	31,215

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Progress toward the Housing and Settlement Outcome in 2025 showed gains in sustainable settlement planning but continued challenges in maintaining habitable shelter conditions. Habitable shelter, a dynamic indicator affected by displacement phases, shelter deterioration, and resource constraints, declined from 38% in 2024 to 30% in 2025 due to limited shelter support and a 5% increase in camp- and site-based refugee populations.

The main reason for not implementing access-to-energy activities to ensure lighting is the current funding constraints. In Bokolomayo, for example, a 2-megawatt solar grid system has already been installed; however, its extension to the Bokolomayo refugee camp remains pending, as RRS approval to proceed is still awaited.

Similarly, due to limited funding, the reserved power intended for the communal kitchens in Bambassi camp has not yet been utilized. Construction and rehabilitation of the communal kitchens are still pending due to

budget shortfall, preventing the use of the available energy capacity.

Of the 6,243 families assisted during the year through upgradable emergency shelter construction, shelter kit distribution, communal accommodation upgrading, emergency shelter transitional shelter construction, and durable housing, 2,857 accessed environmentally sustainable shelter solutions, reflecting progress in linking humanitarian and development approaches through phased and incremental delivery. However, rising displacement—especially among South Sudanese new arrivals—and constrained resources led to only a minimal (about 1%) increase in habitable shelter coverage, resulting in a higher proportion of refugees living in non-habitable conditions and highlighting the need for increased investment.

UNHCR supported improvements through the expansion of Cash-Based Interventions, which accounted for roughly 70% of shelter and housing assistance (excluding the South Sudan emergency). UNHCR also advanced the Sustainable Human Settlement Approach with RRS and UN-Habitat under a joint MoU, contributing to the Aysaita urbanization roadmap, spatial profiling, and prototype housing pilots, with financial support from PROSPECTS.

Further progress under this Outcome was seen in the Somali Region. In Kebribeyah, around 875 families are expected to benefit from a multi-year, multi-sectoral initiative promoting refugee inclusion. PROSPECTS-funded prototype housing units completed in 2025 informed plans to integrate Kebribeyah—one of Ethiopia's oldest refugee settlements—into the town's urban structure. The Government of Ethiopia's commitment strengthened coordination among MoUI, RRS, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, the World Bank, and regional authorities. GIZ also supported urbanization efforts in Aysaita through technical staffing and collaboration with regional institutions in Semera under the RISE project, demonstrating improved cooperation with development partners.

The Emergency Shelter and NFI Cluster targeted 2.1 million IDPs, returnees, and non-displaced people in 2025, prioritizing 1.3 million for shelter assistance. Through 44 partners, the Ethiopian Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster (ESNFI) reached roughly 494,000 individuals. With close to 291,000 individuals supported through the cluster partners, where UNHCR directly supported more than 20,700 IDPs, returnees and non-displaced affected people in Tigray, Benshangul Gumuz and Afar regions with family tents, cash for rent, and plastic sheeting, ensuring continued access to emergency shelter despite reduced funding

10. Outcome Area: Healthy Lives

Comprehensive public health services are accessible to increased number of forcibly displaced persons and progressively included into government systems at all levels

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
10.1 Proportion of children aged 9 months to five years who have received measles vaccination			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	89.75%	95.00%	91.66%
10.2. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	81.81%	100.00%	92.03%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
10.1.1 Number of individual consultations in UNHCR supported health care services	
Host Community	97,605
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	926,240
10.2.1 Number of consultations in UNHCR supported mental health and psychosocial support services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	15,955

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, a total of 1,023,845 outpatient consultations were delivered through UNHCR supported health facilities, ensuring sustained and equitable access to essential services for forcibly displaced populations. Service utilization remained within the expected planning range of one to four visits per person per year, reflecting appropriate access and continued demand for primary health care. Of these, 97,605 consultations, representing 9.5%, were provided to host communities, demonstrating progress toward inclusive service delivery and integration within government systems. Mental health and psychosocial support services remained integrated into primary health care, with 15,955 consultations provided. Through clinical mentoring, awareness activities, and psychosocial support groups, 97,345 refugees were reached. Capacity building for 113 health providers in evidence-based interventions, including Problem Management Plus, Self Help Plus, and interpersonal therapy, strengthened both access and quality of care.

Preventive services showed mixed performance. Measles vaccination coverage among children aged 9 months to five years reached 95.23%, slightly above baseline but below the 100% target. Collaboration with Regional Health Bureaus, including vaccine supply from the Ethiopian Pharmaceutical Supply Service and technical support from EPI officers, contributed to progress. Skilled birth attendance declined to 88% from a 90.33 percent baseline, reflecting gaps in community level maternal services due to resource constraints and reduced outreach.

Mortality indicators remained within UNHCR standards, with a crude mortality rate of 0.04 and an under five mortality rates of 0.11 per 1,000 population per month. Referrals increased by 42.4% compared to 2024, partly due to emergency influxes and higher demand for advanced care.

Communicable diseases remained leading causes of morbidity. Antenatal care of HIV testing coverage reached 95%, indicating strong integration within maternal health services. Nutrition services were delivered through 43 centers. Cure rates reached 88% in outpatient therapeutic programmes and 76.8% in supplementary feeding programmes. However, the Standardized Expanded Nutrition Survey reported a global acute malnutrition rate of 15.1%, with critical levels above 25% in Afar and Melkadida. Integration with national systems advanced through coordination with Regional Health Bureaus in tuberculosis, HIV, malaria, and surveillance services. In Aftit, Alemwach, and South Omo at Nyangatom Health Center, refugees and host communities access shared government facilities supported by UNHCR through renovations and medical equipment. At Gonder Metema Hospital, additional investments, including an X-ray machine, strengthened operational capacity.

11. Outcome Area: Education

Forcibly displaced persons access to education increased and government capacity on inclusion into the national education system enhanced

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
11.1 Proportion of young people enrolled in tertiary and higher education			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1.83%	5.00%	2.50%
11.2 Proportion of children and young people enrolled in the national education system			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	7.69%	4.00%	6.03%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
11.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from education programming	
Host Community	12,142
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	165,804

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

A total of 193,885 refugee learners (85,398 girls) were enrolled across pre-primary, primary, secondary, and higher education during the reporting period. This includes 52,858 pre-primary learners (25,455 girls), 118,870 primary learners (52,669 girls), 22,157 secondary learners (7,274 girls), and 3,757 tertiary learners (1,742 girls), with girls representing 44% of overall enrolment.

Through the World Bank supported project, five refugee secondary schools, four in Somali Region and one in Benishangul-Gumuz, were integrated into the national system in 2025, completing the planned integration of eleven schools across Gambella, Somali, and Benishangul-Gumuz regions. Under the Solutions from the Start approach, refugee learners continued their education alongside host communities in Bokh (Somali), Aftit (Amhara), and Ura (Benishangul-Gumuz). Overall, 34,942 learners (13,672 girls) benefited from inclusion through both World Bank supported integration of secondary schools and emergency driven inclusion efforts.

At tertiary level, 3,757 refugee youth (46% female) accessed higher education. This includes 2,279 students enrolled in 61 public universities (15% female) and 1,478 enrolled in public Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions (65% female). Among TVET learners, 44% transitioned into wage or self-employment. Additionally, 448 children and youth received mental health and psychosocial support through Plan International, alongside 80 caregivers supported to strengthen children's wellbeing.

Despite progress, the operation faced significant funding shortfalls, requiring prioritization of core educational activities such as teacher salaries and essential learning materials. For pre-primary, partners mobilized bilateral funding, while UNHCR allocated limited resources to support selected sites in Afar and Addis Ababa. Tertiary education support continued through the DAFI scholarship programme, and refugee youth benefited from vocational and skills training through Prospects, Qualifications a Employment Perspectives for Refugees and Host Communities in Ethiopia phase II (QEP II) and NGO implemented initiatives (GIZ, NRC, FRC).

For primary education, UNHCR partnered with Ethiopian Orthodox Church Development and Inter Church Aid Commission (DICAC), Plan International Ethiopia, and OWS-Development Fund, while Association of Ethiopians Educated in Germany (AEEG) led tertiary programme implementation. The Ministry of Education contributed through General Education Quality Improvement Program for Equity (GEQIP-E). additional financing, and Regional Education Bureaus in Gambella, Somali, and Benishangul-Gumuz regions sustained the inclusion of previously integrated schools and oversaw the integration of five additional secondary schools in 2025.

12. Outcome Area: Clean Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

WASH services in woredas and areas hosting forcibly displaced and stateless populations are improved and included in facilities managed by regional/ local Bureaus

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
12.1 Proportion of people using at least basic drinking water services			
Host Community	30%	40.00%	46.93%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	81.09%	81.00%	90.60%
12.2 Proportion of people with access to a safe household toilet			
Host Community	Data not available	0.00%	9.44%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	33.00%	51.00%	26.83%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
12.1.1 Number of people supported with access to water and/or sanitation services	
Host Community	414,941
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	915,525

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

The interventions implemented in 2025 contribute directly to enhancing service reliability, reducing operational costs, and creating an enabling environment for long-term government ownership. UNHCR and partners installed 15 solar-powered water pumping stations and 5 national-grid hybrid connections in districts hosting forcibly displaced populations in 2025. These installations significantly enhanced water system reliability by reducing dependence on diesel fuel and ensuring uninterrupted operation. The hybrid systems maximize solar energy and grid use while utilizing diesel power as backup, enabling continuous water supply even during low-sun periods. This improvement in functionality directly supports the outcome by ensuring that government-managed facilities can operate dependably and cost-effectively.

As a result, some water schemes are now more affordable for local authorities to run. This contributes to the outcome by making water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services more viable for inclusion within district and regional Water Bureau management structures, while at the same time ensuring service reliability during seasonal fluctuations.

In 2025 WASH operations are only limited to refugee catchment areas where host communities living in the environs are benefited from. But when it comes to IDP response, we don't have data. It is only UNICEF and other INGOs are operating under the IDP cluster response centrally coordinated by the regional government disaster risk management commission, EDRMC. On the other hand, safe liquid waste management system in Ethiopia's refugee camps remains significantly underdeveloped. Across the entire sanitation chain, from households to final disposal sites, systems are not adequately established. This has resulted in widespread vulnerability, particularly in camps (Melkadida and Loukdong) where heavy rainfall frequently leads to flooding, overflow, and structural collapse of sanitation facilities impacting negatively on the overall access coverage; currently standing only at 27 %.

UNHCR has been convening and coordinating multi-stakeholder efforts which have contributed towards positive development. As a result of water system improvement, local authorities are increasingly empowered to assume responsibilities for refugee water supply, for example the Awubarre and Kebribeya water utilities. Furthermore, Bohk district water development office is managing the operation and maintenance of four solarized boreholes in the Mirqaan refugee settlement with the close support from the Somali regional state water bureau WASH sector working groups have been jointly planning energy, water and sanitation interventions to avoid duplication and ensure equitable resource distribution, sharing technical expertise and harmonizing standards to ensure consistent service levels in refugee hosting areas. UNICEF and development partners have also been co-financing infrastructures in Gambella, Jijiga, Afar, and Benishangul Gumuz regions while INGOs are undertaking technical implementation and resource mobilization to complement the gaps.

13. Outcome Area: Self Reliance, Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods

Enhanced collaboration between government, development and humanitarian actors increases availability of sustainable livelihood and economic opportunities for forcibly displaced and stateless persons.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
13.1. Proportion of people with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider			
IDPs	33%	35.00%	34.00%
Others of Concern	Data not available	0.00%	5.93%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	14.49%	29.00%	28.00%
Returnees	Data not available	0.00%	10.33%
13.2. Proportion of people who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	3.26%	13.00%	12.00%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
13.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions	
Host Community	8,835
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	9,410

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

During the reporting period, coordination among government line ministries, development partners, humanitarian actors, and the private sector was strengthened at national and sub-national levels, expanding access to livelihoods and economic inclusion for refugees and host communities. Joint planning platforms were operationalized in key locations, aligning humanitarian support with national development priorities and private sector engagement.

As a result, access to livelihood opportunities increased. More forcibly displaced and stateless persons enrolled in skills training and entrepreneurship programmes compared to the previous year, with higher participation of women and youth. Household data indicates improved income diversification and reduced reliance on negative coping mechanisms. Partnerships with microfinance institutions and savings groups expanded access to financial services, contributing to greater economic self-reliance.

UNHCR played a catalytic role by convening coordination platforms that brought together government counterparts, development actors, financial institutions, NGOs, and private sector partners. Through technical support, policy advocacy, and evidence-based programming, UNHCR promoted inclusion of displaced and stateless persons in national systems, including through the Makatet national inclusion roadmap. Market-driven skills development, start-up grants, business coaching, and improved access to financial services enhanced sustainability. Investments in socio-economic assessments and profiling strengthened targeting and informed joint programming.

Government institutions advanced policy commitments to include displaced populations in national livelihood strategies and employment services. Development partners integrated displacement into multi-year resilience and economic recovery programmes.

Donor and Partner contributions were significant. Through INKOMOKO, 8,738 individuals received livelihood support, including productive assets, training, and business assistance in Benishangul-Gumuz. Under PRM implementation in Ura Settlement and Sherkole Refugee Camp, 430 beneficiaries participated in cluster farming activities, including 214 refugees (38% women) and 216 host community members (49%

women).

In Addis Ababa, implemented by JRS, 1,274 individuals were reached (109% of target). A total of 199 Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) graduates received business plan development support, fully achieving the target. Start-up capital was provided to 100 youth and adults (80% of target), while 24 business owners received in-kind support (96% of target). Women's financial inclusion was strengthened as 14 refugee women joined recognized savings and credit associations (140% of target), and 20 women scaled up savings groups into Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) (100% of target). Overall, strengthened partnerships contributed to measurable progress in income generation, skills development, and economic inclusion for displaced and host communities.

14. Outcome Area: Voluntary Return and Sustainable Reintegration

Voluntary return of displaced persons and sustainable reintegration of returnees is promoted and comprehensively supported

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
14.1 Proportion of returnees with legally recognized identity documents or credentials			
Returnees	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
14.1.1 Number of people who received counselling and/or information on voluntary repatriation	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	2,354

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, a total of 1,414 individuals returned to Ethiopia from Sudan, primarily from refugee camps in the eastern part of the country, while one Ethiopian refugee returned from Cameroon. Compared to 2024, the return trend has significantly declined due to improvements in the security situation in eastern Sudan. UNHCR recorded an average monthly arrival rate of 235 individuals, with more than 99 per cent of returnees originating from the Tigray region. Most returnees are currently hosted in IDP settings, unable to return to their areas of origin due to ongoing insecurity.

Based on profiling and vulnerability assessments, UNHCR provided multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) to the most vulnerable returnee households in the Tigray and Benishangul-Gumuz regions to help meet their immediate needs. A total of 1,168 vulnerable households (2,210 individuals) in Tigray and 45 households in Benishangul-Gumuz (144 individuals) received three rounds of MPCA, while an additional 148 households in Benishangul-Gumuz received one round of support to complement the two rounds paid in 2024. In-kind assistance was also provided to 4,289 returnee households in Tigray.

Despite these interventions, the lack of access to their homes of origin in contested areas and limited sustainable reintegration support remains a critical challenge for returnees. UNHCR continues to engage with government authorities and partners to address these gaps and strengthen support mechanisms.

15. Outcome Area: Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

Opportunities provided by third countries and public and private entities for refugees and stateless persons to find alternative or durable solutions through complementary pathways and resettlement are strengthened

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
15.1 Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	5,953	6,000	1,738
15.3 Number of people admitted through complementary pathways from the host country			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	9,699	0	0

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
15.1.1 Country issues machine-readable travel documents	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	No

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, the Ethiopia operation continued to register gains in expanding access to third-country solutions for refugees, reaffirming its role as a critical global resettlement processing hub. The operation accounted for 26.2% of regional submissions and received 23.6% of the regional resettlement quota. During the reporting period, Ethiopia exceeded its allocated quota by 142%, submitting 1,738 refugees for resettlement consideration. These submissions played a vital role in providing life-changing protection and solutions for individuals facing heightened risks. A significant proportion of cases—42%—were submitted under the category of Survivors of Violence and Torture, followed by Women and Girls at Risk (31%) and those with Legal and Physical Protection Needs (27%). Two percent of cases fell under other submission categories. Most submissions (89%) were processed under normal priority, with 11% classified as urgent and fewer than 1% under emergency priority. Gender representation among individuals submitted for resettlement remained balanced, with 53% female and 47% male.

Safe and legal pathways facilitated by UNHCR and partners further expanded access to protection, enabling 3,962 refugees to depart on complementary pathways. Altogether, 6,340 refugees departed Ethiopia for third countries during the year. The introduction of blanket exit visa modalities accelerated departure processing and contributed to a marked reduction in resettlement processing times—from 2,053 to 1,119 days—bringing the operation closer to the 480-day target. This improvement not only supported faster restoration of national protection for refugees but also reflected the strong commitment of resettlement countries to expedite departures. A total of 13 destination countries admitted refugees from Ethiopia in 2025, with Canada, the United States, France, Australia, Ireland, Denmark, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom among the leading recipients.

The operation also strengthened data integrity throughout the year, resolving 82% of historical errors and anomalies within resettlement data systems. Progress was likewise recorded toward fulfilling Ethiopia's pledge to commence issuance of Machine Readable Convention Travel Documents (MRCTD). The completion of an e-MRCTD prototype and the initiation of a regulatory framework review signaled meaningful movement toward implementation, though additional resources remain essential to fully operationalize the system.

Other Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Actual (2025)
16.1.1. Government Social protection system is inclusive of forcibly displaced and stateless people	
IDPs	Fully
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Limited
Returnees	Fully

2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

In 2025, UNHCR Ethiopia prioritized Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD) inclusive programming, ensuring that protection activities were informed by disaggregated data, participatory assessments, and continuous community consultations. Particular emphasis was placed on engaging refugee-led organizations (RLOs), including women-led and youth-led groups, as key partners in advancing inclusive protection outcomes and community participation. These RLOs played a critical role in articulating the specific risks, priorities and coping capacities of women, girls, youth, older persons and persons with disabilities, thereby strengthening the relevance and responsiveness of protection interventions.

Field teams applied AGD-specific tools to address distinct protection risks, while structured engagement with community-based and refugee-led structures ensured that affected groups directly contributed to coordination, feedback and accountability mechanisms. Representatives from women's committees, youth groups and other community-based organizations participated in consultations and referral pathways, enhancing access to services and reinforcing community ownership. UNHCR further strengthened these actors through targeted capacity-building and small grants to refugee-led and youth-led organizations, enabling them to contribute meaningfully to outreach, awareness-raising and peer support, particularly for marginalized groups.

Commitments to women and girls remained a central pillar of UNHCR's AGD approach. In Gambella, 2,734 women and girls accessed psychosocial support through safe spaces, many of which relied on community-based facilitators and women's groups to promote safe access and participation. A total of 221 survivors received comprehensive case management, supported by strengthened referral systems following capacity-building of 50 case workers. In Afar, outreach activities reached 5,165 individuals, including women, girls and persons at heightened risk, with 152 survivors receiving essential services such as cash assistance for medical transport and emergency needs. Distribution of 800 dignity kits and 1,600 menstrual hygiene kits further supported vulnerable IDPs and host community members.

In Amhara, 1,758 women and girls participated in safe space activities, complemented by male engagement sessions and community dialogues that promoted shared responsibility for prevention and response. Across all operations, UNHCR strengthened 16 One-Stop Centers and trained over 150 service providers on standardized operating procedures that integrate refugee-specific AGD considerations. National advocacy and awareness campaigns reached more than 32,000 people, reinforcing inclusive norms and access to services.

To sustain AGD-responsive and participatory approaches, UNHCR secured multi-year investments, including a USD 10.9 million KOICA project supporting GBV prevention and youth livelihoods, and a USD 7 million joint initiative with UNICEF focused on child protection. These partnerships support the continued engagement of refugee-led and community-based actors, ensuring that survivor-centred services, participation of diverse groups, and inclusive protection frameworks remain operational despite broader funding constraints.

Section 3: Resources

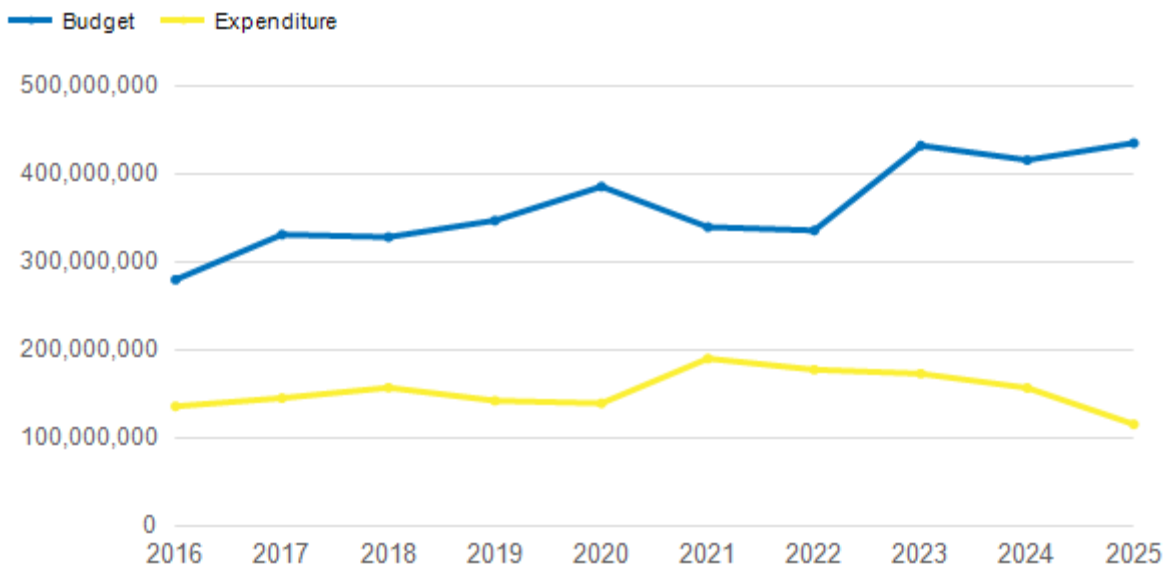
3.1 Financial Data

(Financial figures in USD)

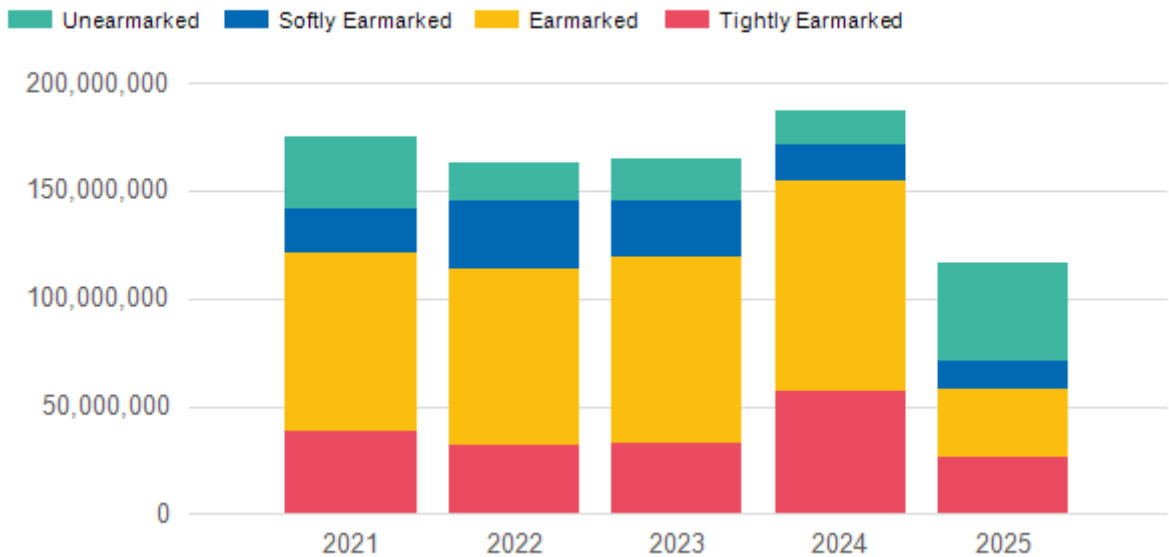
Impact Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
IA1: Protect	96,900,822	24,957,878	25.76%	24,913,967	99.82%
IA2: Respond	263,738,999	67,975,276	25.77%	67,079,167	98.68%
IA3: Empower	63,602,445	19,660,139	30.91%	19,504,254	99.21%
IA4: Solve	10,277,735	3,751,790	36.50%	3,687,060	98.27%
All Impact Areas		90,000			
Total	434,520,001	116,435,084	26.80%	115,184,449	98.93%

Outcome Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
OA1: Access/Doc	20,804,454	11,191,452	53.79%	11,191,452	100.00%
OA2: Status	3,879,391	824,481	21.25%	787,962	95.57%
OA3: Policy/Law	6,420,303	1,046,228	16.30%	1,046,228	100.00%
OA4: GBV	20,443,078	3,637,194	17.79%	3,637,194	100.00%
OA5: Children	17,633,806	2,937,046	16.66%	2,937,046	100.00%
OA6: Justice	5,651,349	2,163,529	38.28%	2,156,138	99.66%
OA7: Community	22,068,442	3,157,948	14.31%	3,157,948	100.00%
OA8: Wellbeing	69,914,461	26,961,352	38.56%	26,961,352	100.00%
OA9: Housing	93,733,564	11,592,006	12.37%	10,757,359	92.80%
OA10: Health	51,629,423	13,887,842	26.90%	13,856,381	99.77%
OA11: Education	39,729,346	12,789,095	32.19%	12,789,095	100.00%
OA12: WASH	48,461,550	15,534,075	32.05%	15,504,075	99.81%
OA13: Livelihood	23,873,099	6,871,044	28.78%	6,715,159	97.73%
OA14: Return	7,153,639	2,135,294	29.85%	2,135,294	100.00%
OA15: Resettle	3,124,096	1,616,496	51.74%	1,551,766	96.00%
All Outcome Areas		90,000			
Total	434,520,001	116,435,084	26.80%	115,184,449	98.93%

Budget and Expenditure Trend



Contributions Trend by Type



3.2. Resources Overview

UNHCR’s operational presence underwent significant restructuring over the past year as a result of substantial reductions in available resources. The budget for staffing decreased from USD 45.7 million at the end of 2024 to USD 33.42 million by the end of 2025—a 27% reduction—while the administrative budget declined from USD 12 million to USD 10 million, representing a 17% decrease. To address urgent and unanticipated needs linked to the South Sudan emergency, an additional USD 2 million was allocated in August 2025, enabling reinforcement of emergency response capacity in Nyinyang, Gambella region, and mitigating the impact of overall funding constraints on critical protection activities.

Within this constrained financial environment, the operation undertook a consolidation of its footprint to preserve the delivery of priority protection and assistance while relying on Government and local authorities as well as the capacities of the implementing partners present in these locations. As part of this rationalization, the number of offices was reduced from 18 to 10, reflecting a 44% decrease in physical presence. This restructuring focused on streamlining administrative costs while maintaining coverage in locations with the highest protection risks and operational demands.

Despite the reduced footprint, UNHCR ensured continued readiness to respond to emerging needs. A new field unit was established in Nyingnyang, Gambella region, in July 2025 to support the South Sudan emergency response, reinforcing coordination with partners and sustaining presence in a high-risk border area. Overall, the workforce was reduced by 24%, while core operational functions were preserved through targeted prioritization and strengthened reliance on partner capacities.

Resources have been prioritized based on the 2025–2029 multi-year strategy for Ethiopia, areas of impact on persons of concern (PoC) as per UNHCR global strategic vision, emergency response needs, identified operational risks, security norms, audit recommendations, and UN/UNHCR efficiency driver.

Indirect opportunities centered on UN/UNHCR efficiency measures and on leveraging opportunities to generate savings or income from existing assets. Key initiatives included the establishment of carpooling arrangements across all offices, the sharing of workspace and staff accommodations with other UN agencies and NGOs in locations such as Assosa, Melkedida, and Gambella, and the substantial savings achieved through a reduction of the vehicle fleet from 483 to 350 units—representing a 27% decrease.

By end of the year 2025, UNHCR Financial Requirement of \$434.5m was 27% funded with total funds available \$115.3m. During the reporting period, the operation diversified its funding sources by strengthening partnerships with traditional donors, engaging emerging public and private partners, and leveraging development and climate financing. Furthermore, the operation enhanced interagency coordination and collaboration with the UN agencies, government bodies, and pooled funding mechanisms to ensure coherent and complementary interventions. This joined-up approach supported sustainable, inclusive, and multi-year responses for forcibly displaced and host communities. In line with Ethiopia resource mobilization strategy, the operation pursued to 1. strengthen and maintain partnerships with traditional donors; 2. broaden and diversify the donor base; 3. increase engagement with development actors; 4. scale up private sector fundraising; 5. advance strategic priority themes; 6. enhance emergency fundraising capacity; 7. reinforce high-level leadership engagement; 8. improve donor analysis, intelligence and reporting; 9. invest in staff training and capacity building.

Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

4.1 Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

In 2025, Ethiopia remains one of Africa's largest refugees, hosting countries, with over 1.1 million refugees and asylum seekers from 27 countries, mainly South Sudan, Somalia, and Eritrea. Funding cuts in 2025 have significantly affected humanitarian operations, disrupted food assistance and essential services and underscored the need for stronger engagement with development partners and private actors. UNHCR's January 2025 update highlights critical service gaps, including water supply at 14 liters/person/day and sanitation at 33%, far below targets, reinforcing the urgency of diversifying partnerships and cofinancing models.

Sustainability remains central to UNHCR's strategy. The 2025 Global Appeal prioritized self-reliance, economic inclusion, sustainable housing, and climate sensitive programming, positioning these as key outcome areas for operations in Ethiopia. The rollout of the Makatet Roadmap, Ethiopia's national inclusion policy launched in 2025—provides a government-led framework to integrate refugees into national education, health, employment, and land systems, strengthening longterm resilience for both refugees and host communities.

The Makatet Roadmap, praised for distributing responsibility across government bodies and development actors, supports a transition from humanitarian to nationally integrated systems but requires sustained investment and resource mobilization to function effectively. Aligning all projects with Makatet's pillars from 2025 onward will help ensure coherence, identify scalable good practices, and address geographic and sectoral gaps.

Experience in 2025 demonstrated that early, structured engagement with Refugee-Led Organizations (RLOs) significantly improves outreach, trust, and community accountability, particularly in hard-to-reach and under-served locations. RLOs proved effective in identifying protection and service gaps, facilitating two-way communication with communities, and sustaining activities during periods of funding shortfalls. However, their contribution was constrained by limited access to direct funding, regulatory barriers to formal registration, uneven capacity support, and weak integration into planning and coordination mechanisms, which reduced their ability to operate at scale and ensure accountability. These constraints were compounded by the broader funding cuts affecting humanitarian operations in Ethiopia in 2025 and the shift toward nationally led systems under the Makatet Roadmap, which requires stronger, more capable local actors to succeed.

Going forward, UNHCR Ethiopia must deepen partnerships, accelerate sustainability efforts, and fully align programming with the Makatet Roadmap to deliver coordinated, inclusive, and resilient protection and solutions.

Building on these lessons, UNHCR Ethiopia will systematically strengthen RLO partnerships by (i) embedding RLOs earlier in needs assessments, planning, and monitoring processes; (ii) expanding tailored capacity support focused on governance, financial management, safeguarding, and Accountability to Affected People (AAP); and (iii) increasing access to small-scale, flexible, and pooled funding windows to enable RLOs to deliver community-based services and complement larger partner interventions. In parallel, UNHCR will continue to work with the Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) to advance simplified accreditation and registration pathways, enabling RLOs to operate transparently and align with national systems. RLO engagement will be explicitly linked to Makatet Roadmap pillars, particularly in self-reliance, social cohesion, and service integration, ensuring that localization contributes directly to sustainability, cofinancing models, and the transition from humanitarian assistance to nationally integrated solutions.



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