

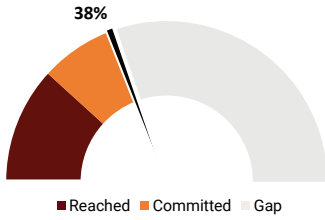
Ethiopia ES/NFI Cluster 2025 Annual Report





Key Response

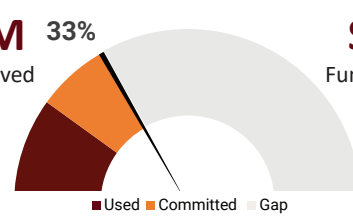
2.1M
People Targeted



790k
People Reached & Committed



\$32.5M
Funding Received



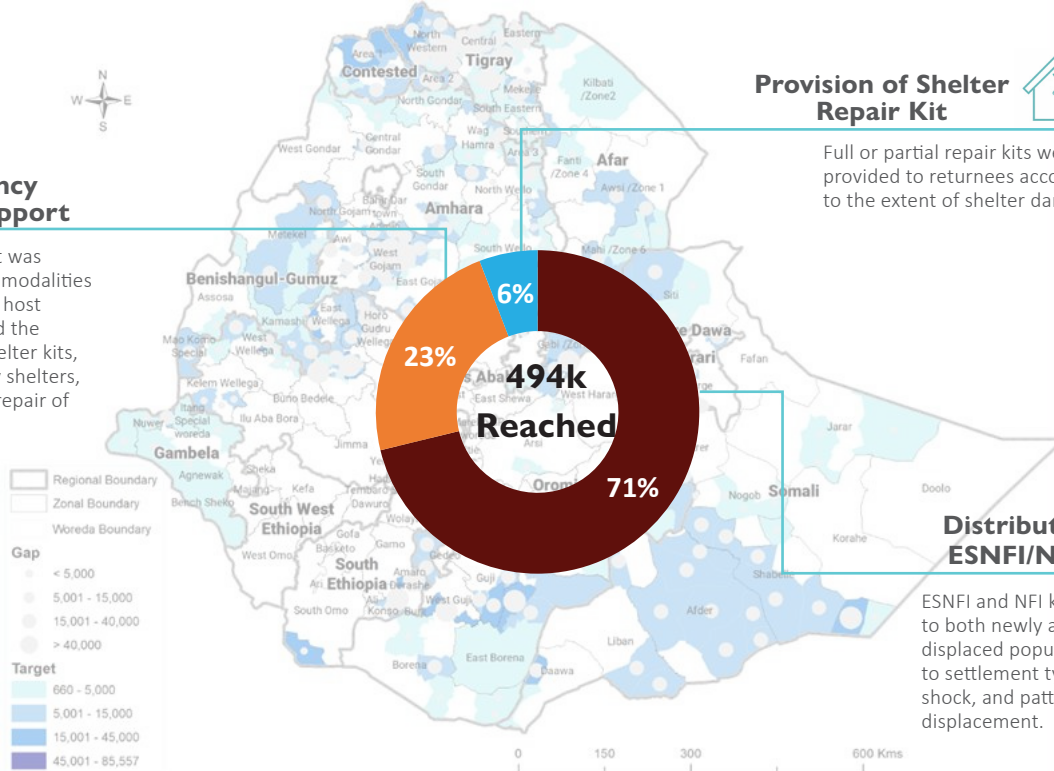
\$99.4M
Funding Required



People Targeted and Reached

Emergency Shelter Support

Emergency shelter support was provided through multiple modalities for IDPs in sites and within host communities. This included the provision of emergency shelter kits, construction of emergency shelters, rental assistance, and the repair of worn-out shelters.



Provision of Shelter Repair Kit

Full or partial repair kits were provided to returnees according to the extent of shelter damage.

Distribution of ESNFI/NFI Kit

ESNFI and NFI kits were distributed to both newly and previously displaced populations, tailored to settlement type, nature of the shock, and patterns of repeated displacement.

Key Achievements



Enhanced Localization and Partner Engagement

Localization and partner engagement remained central, with national NGOs delivering 48% of the ESNFI response. The Cluster strengthened local capacity through coordination platforms, technical guidance, training, and access to shared response mechanisms.



Stronger Evidence-Based Advocacy and Prioritization

The Cluster strengthened evidence-based advocacy and prioritization through assessments and field-level analyses, improving its ability to identify critical shelter and NFI gaps and guide limited resources toward urgent needs. As a result, 43% of prioritized woredas received shelter and NFI responses.



Environmental Impact of Shelter Response Assessed and Published

The Cluster published a study on the [environmental impact of humanitarian shelter responses in Ethiopia](#), including practical recommendations to reduce the environmental footprint. The findings informed technical guidance and kit design, supporting environmentally responsible and climate-sensitive shelter programming.



More Harmonized and Predictable Shelter Response

In 2025, the ESNFI Cluster advanced a more harmonized and predictable shelter and NFI response by defining cost-effective, context-specific kits tailored to climatic conditions, displacement settings, and shock types. Standardized options, including ISEN kits, Mobility-Adapted ESNFI kits, Afar Emergency Shelter kits, and Northern Ethiopia Repair Kits, reduced variations in kit composition and quality, enabling more consistent and appropriate assistance.



Common Shelter Pipeline Operationalized as a Service Delivery Mechanism

The common shelter pipeline enabled partners to access standardized, quality-assured shelter items in a timely and predictable manner. It supported rapid responses to displacement and seasonal shocks, reinforced harmonization and cost efficiency, and strengthened localization by enabling national partners to access quality materials without complex procurement processes.



Humanitarian Situation Overview

In 2025, displacement in Ethiopia remained largely unresolved, with many existing internally displaced persons continuing to lack sustainable housing solutions, while additional displacement occurred in specific locations due to localized insecurity and recurring natural hazards, including flooding and earthquakes. These dynamics sustained shelter and NFI needs across several regions and shaped the humanitarian response operating environment.

In Tigray, throughout 2025, most IDP households remained in their current locations, with only a small proportion, approximately 8% of the recorded caseload, able to return. In some locations, schools continued to be used as temporary accommodation, reflecting constraints in identifying alternative shelter options. At several sites, classrooms were used for learning during the day and as accommodation for families at night, illustrating temporary coping arrangements in the absence of adequate shelter alternatives.

In Amhara, displacement during 2025 was reported primarily in West Gondar and West Gojam, with no large-scale population movements reported elsewhere in the region. Access constraints linked to localized insecurity continued to affect response operations in these areas. At the same time, strong winds and heavy rainfall damaged shelters in locations such as the Jara IDP site, where more than 8,000 IDPs have settled, resulting in increased shelter repair and support needs.

Along the Oromia–Somali border, displacement continued due to intercommunal tensions and climatic pressures, resulting in large population movements and increased demand for emergency shelters and essential household items. In Afar, a combination of security-related incidents and natural hazards contributed to recurring displacement and shelter damage in already vulnerable communities.

Across regions, the ESNFI response in 2025 was delivered in a context where new displacement and existing caseload overlapped, particularly during the kiremt rainy season when flooding affected both newly displaced households and those already living in temporary or sub-standard shelter conditions. This required the Cluster to balance support to emerging needs with assistance to existing displaced populations, within available resources and operational access.





Response Analysis

38%
People Reached
& Committed



62%
Response Gap

In 2025, the ESNFI Cluster reached approximately 494,000 people through the collective efforts of 44* partners, addressing shelter and NFI needs across new displacement, existing IDPs, and returnee populations in diverse operational contexts.

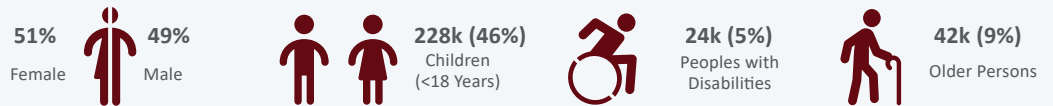
Response coverage varied when assessed against two benchmarks. Against regional targets, Afar recorded the highest coverage, reaching nearly half of its planned target, while Somali Region recorded the lowest coverage, reflecting the scale of needs relative to available resources. When assessed against the overall ESNFI response target, Oromia accounted for the largest share of people reached nationally, while Somali Region represented the smallest share, highlighting differences in operational scale and prioritization in a constrained funding environment.

To support quality and principled delivery, the Cluster provided capacity-strengthening support to 90 partners from 35 organizations operating in Addis Ababa, Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Western Oromia, and the Northwestern and Central zones of Tigray. Training focused on HLP considerations, protection mainstreaming, conflict sensitivity, AAP, Natur-based Solution, PSEA, and GBV risk mitigation. The Cluster also conducted activity monitoring and lessons-learned workshops to strengthen targeting, improve response quality, and ensure consistent integration of protection across interventions.

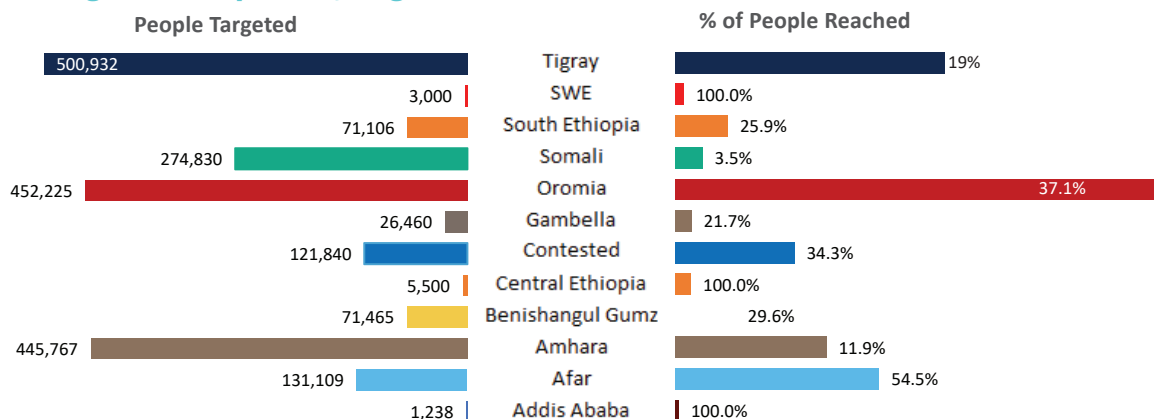
In addition the common shelter pipeline complemented partner-led responses by enabling access to standardized, quality-assured shelter items. Through the pipeline, approximately 35,000 people were supported by nine partners, contributing to more predictable, harmonized, and timely assistance, particularly in rapid-response contexts.

Despite these efforts, response coverage remained constrained by limited funding and operational challenges, underscoring the need for continued prioritization and system-level efficiencies to maximize impact.

Reached by Sex and Age



Target and Response by Region



* These partners completed their activities in 2025





Funding Overview



\$99.4 M
Funding Requirement



\$32.5 M
Used & Committed



\$66.9 M
Gap

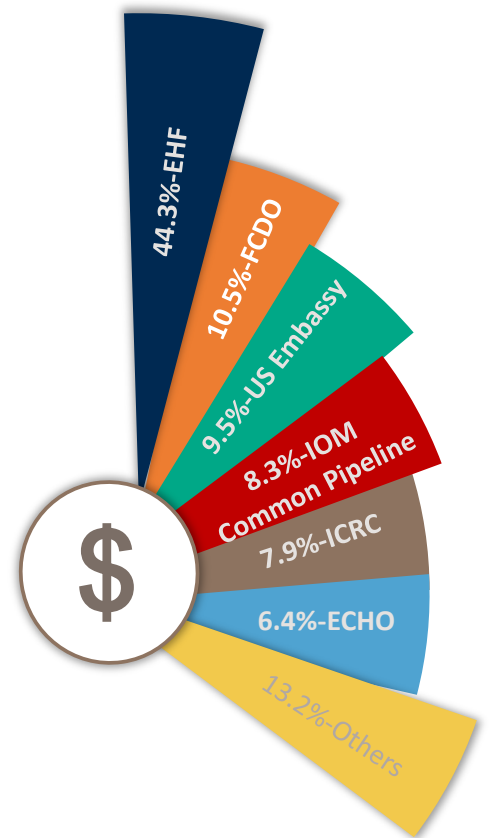
In 2025, the ESNFI Cluster planned to reach 2.1 million displacement-affected people, requiring USD 99.4 million to deliver shelter and NFI assistance. During the year, the Cluster mobilized USD 32.5 million, representing approximately 33% of the total requirement. Of this amount, USD 20.33 million was available for implementation in 2025, while USD 12.14 million (around 12.2% of the overall requirement) was secured as planned funding and is expected to be implemented in the first quarter of 2026.

Funding available in 2025 was primarily allocated to ESNFI kit assistance, accounting for 51% of the total envelope, and was largely directed toward responses to new displacement alongside planned activities. Emergency shelter interventions, including rental support, construction and rehabilitation of emergency shelters, and emergency shelter kits, accounted for approximately 33% of the resources received by the Cluster. The remaining allocation supported NFI distributions (around 7%) and shelter repair kits (approximately 8%).

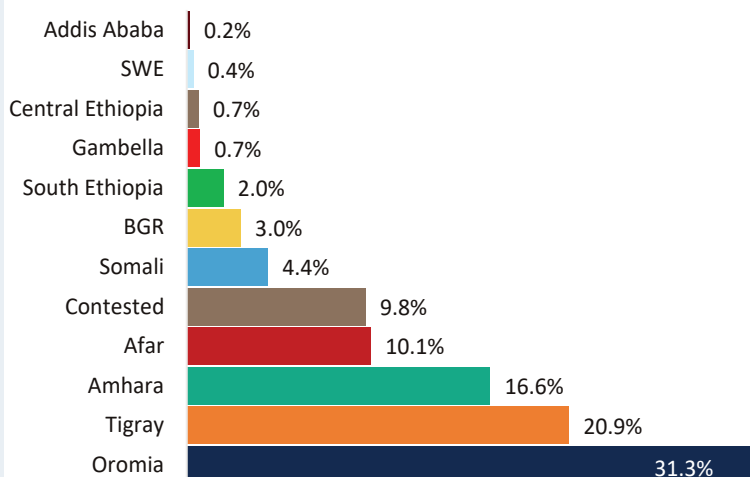
In terms of geographic allocation, Oromia received the largest share of resources (31.3%), followed by Tigray (20.9%) and Amhara (16.6%). In contrast, the Somali Region remained the most underfunded relative to identified needs. Tigray also continued to face significant funding gaps when assessed against the scale of displacement and shelter requirements.

The response benefited from contributions from a diverse donor base, including OCHA-EHF, FCDO, the US Embassy, IOM Common Pipeline, ICRC, ECHO, ShelterBox, CERF, and private donors. Despite this support, available funding remained insufficient relative to identified needs, underlining the importance of continued donor engagement to scale up coverage and address persistent gaps in shelter and NFI assistance.

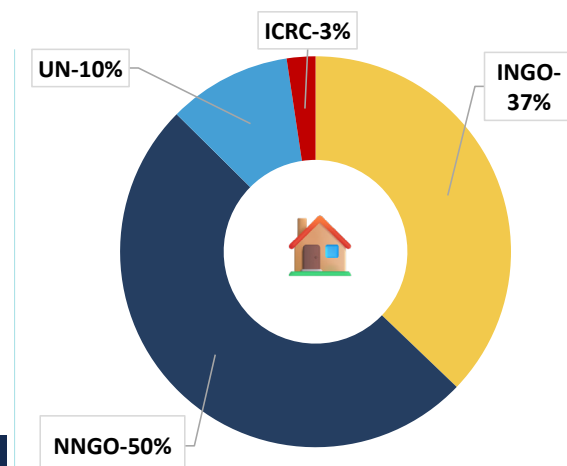
Funding distribution by Donors



Funding Distribution by Region



Funding Allocation by Partner Type





Stories from the Field

@IOM

Building Resilience through Environmentally Friendly Shelter Solution



Letemichael, a woman-headed household from Adi Tsetser in Tahtay Adyabo, was displaced by conflict in 2020 and again in 2022. After moving between several temporary locations, she eventually settled at Adi Abay IDP site in Sheraro, where her family has lived for the past three years.

During displacement, her family relied on a fragile plastic shelter that offered little protection. Repeated exposure to strong winds and heavy rainfall left the shelter increasingly unsafe until a severe storm in June 2025 completely destroyed it.

“The rain and wind blew away my shelter and left my family without a place to stay,” Letemichael recalled. “Moving from one temporary shelter to another was exhausting, and I felt hopeless.”

@NRC

With funding from SIDA, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) constructed environmentally friendly mudbrick (adobe) shelters in Adi Abay using locally sourced, sustainable materials. The shelters provide durable protection while naturally regulating temperature, remaining cooler during hot periods and warmer in drier seasons.

For Letemichael, the new shelter marked a turning point.

“The new shelter has given me peace of mind, dignity, and stability,” she said. “I finally feel safe and at home again.”

This initiative demonstrates how climate-responsive, environmentally sustainable shelter solutions can provide displaced families with durable, dignified housing while strengthening resilience against future shocks.

“ With CERF support, IOM helped Aboy Tsegay repair his conflict-damaged shelter—restoring safety, privacy, and dignity for his family. ”
Aboy Tsegay

From Damaged Shelter to Dignity: Aboy Tsegay’s Story

Aboy Tsegay is an elderly and highly vulnerable man living in a conflict-affected and contested area of Zone Two. Prolonged insecurity left his family struggling with unsafe living conditions, including a damaged shelter that offered limited protection from the weather and increased protection risks.

With support from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), IOM, through its ESNFI and CCCM teams, provided conditional assistance to support urgent shelter maintenance for conflict-affected households. Through this support, Aboy was able to

repair his shelter, restoring safety, privacy, and dignity for his family.

“The assistance gave me hope,” Aboy shared. “Now my family has a safe place to sleep.”

Follow-up visits confirmed that the shelter repairs were completed as intended and that the improved shelter continues to provide safe and dignified living conditions. This intervention highlights the value of flexible, timely shelter support in enabling vulnerable households to address urgent needs and begin recovery in hard-to-reach and conflict-affected areas.



@IOM



Coordination and Partnership

Geographical Coverage



Operational partners



151 Registered partners

54 Active partners

67% National NGOs

28% International NGOs

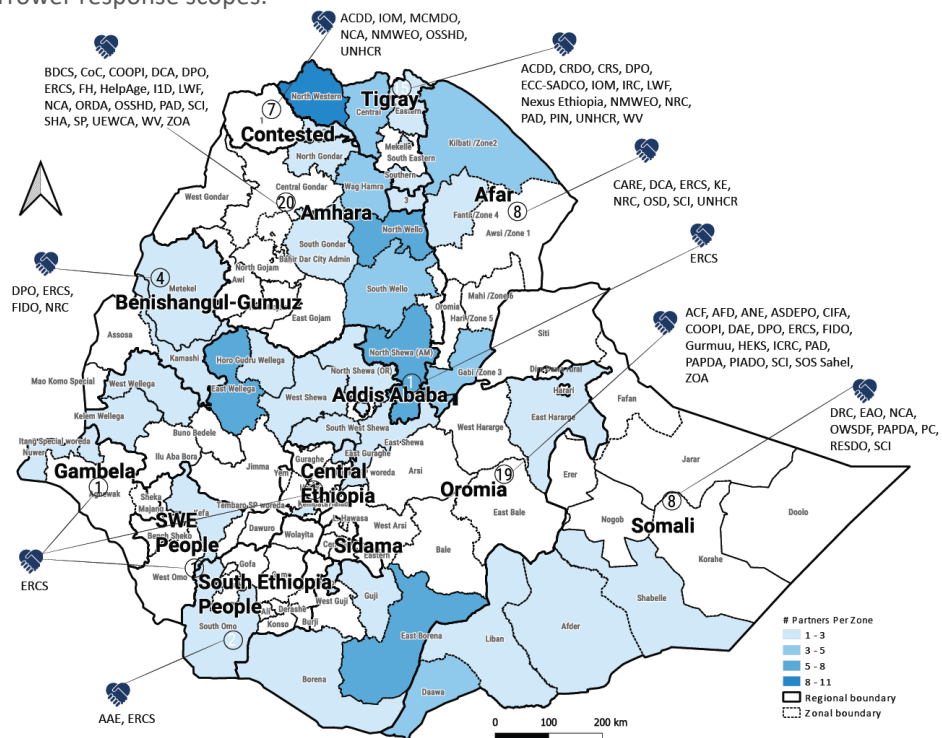
2% UN agencies

3% Other

Cluster Operational Partners

In 2025, the ESNFI Cluster provided a coordinated platform for strategic planning, information sharing, and joint problem-solving, supporting shelter and NFI responses across diverse operational contexts under Government leadership. Coordination mechanisms at national and sub-national levels enabled alignment with agreed priorities, facilitated operational troubleshooting, and supported principled and accountable response delivery.

Partner presence varied significantly across zones, reflecting differences in displacement scale, access, and operational feasibility. Zones with the highest concentration of implementing partners included North Western Zone (10 partners), North Wello (7 partners), East Borena (8 partners), Central Zone (5 partners), East Wellega (6 partners), and Gabi / Zone 3 (5 partners). These areas experienced either sustained displacement, repeated shocks, or complex operational environments that required the engagement of multiple actors and modalities. In contrast, several zones recorded only one or two implementing partners, highlighting more limited operational footprints or narrower response scopes.



A total of 54 partners were implementing ESNFI activities during the year, while a wider group of national and international organizations engaged through coordination meetings, assessments, technical working groups, and preparedness discussions. This broader participation supported information flow, joint analysis, and collective prioritization, even in locations where direct implementation was limited.

Throughout the year, the Cluster promoted harmonized standards, reduced duplication, and strengthened coherence through coordination meetings, information products, and partner consultations.

In the final quarter of 2025, coordination arrangements evolved in line with ongoing humanitarian reform, including a shift toward area-based and sub-national coordination models. During this transition, a temporary reduction in inter-cluster meetings and partner participation was observed, reflecting structural adjustments rather than reduced engagement. The Cluster continued to adapt its coordination approach to ensure continuity of information sharing and operational alignment during this period of change.



@ES/NFI Cluster

Restoring Safety at Jara IDP Camp

Families living in Jara IDP Camp were displaced in early 2023 from multiple locations in West, East, and Horo Guduru Wollega zones of Oromia, as well as from Kamash zone in Benishangul-Gumuz. Fleeing violence and insecurity, they arrived in North Wollo with few belongings, already carrying the trauma of forced displacement and loss.

By mid-2025, living conditions in the camp remained fragile. When severe windstorms struck, the impact was devastating approximately 350 initially installed 6 household communal shelters were completely damaged, leaving thousands of people without safe places to sleep. For families who had already endured repeated displacement, the destruction of their shelters deepened fear, insecurity, and uncertainty.

From August to October 2025, Samaritan's Purse International Relief, with support from IOM common pipeline and the ESNFI Cluster, responded to the most urgent needs. The intervention supported 1,620 people (270 households) through the reconstruction of 45 communal shelters and the distribution of comprehensive NFI kits, restoring access to safe emergency shelter and essential household items.

Community participation was central to the response. Skilled carpenters from within the displaced population were engaged in shelter reconstruction, creating short-term livelihood opportunities and strengthening ownership. Despite procurement challenges, quality standards were maintained to ensure durable shelters.

“After the strong wind destroyed our shelter, my family had no safe place to sleep. Now we feel safe again. Our children sleep well and go to school. We feel hopeful. Alemitu Seid”

From Displacement to Dignity: Mihret's Path Home



@PAD

Mihret Tesfay Kini, a 42-year-old mother of three from Medabe Village, Lemlem Kebele, recalls a stable life before conflict disrupted her community in 2020. Together with her husband, she sustained her family through farming, producing sesame, and ensuring their children attended school regularly.

The conflict forced Mihret and her family to flee to Sheraro, where they lived across several IDP sites. During displacement, Mihret lost her husband to the violence, leaving her solely responsible for her children. *“Everything collapsed,” she explained. “My children lost their hope after their father was killed.”*

After years of displacement, Mihret returned to her village following

notification from local authorities, only to find her home and much of the community destroyed by fire. With no alternative, she constructed a makeshift shelter and resumed farming as a means of survival.

A turning point came when Positive Action for Development (PAD), with support from ShelterBox, provided Mihret with a shelter repair kit, including construction materials and a solar light. With community support and her own determination, Mihret rehabilitated her home and moved out of temporary shelter.

“My hope was fully restored,” she said. “My shelter is now rehabilitated, and my children and I are living in safer, more dignified conditions.”

Looking Ahead to 2026



As Ethiopia enters 2026, displacement dynamics are expected to remain highly fluid, with prolonged displacement, new shocks, and returns continuing to occur simultaneously. To ensure that shelter and NFI responses remain inclusive, efficient, and responsive to these overlapping needs, the ES/NFI Cluster will continue to apply a three-fold response approach tailored to different population groups and displacement contexts.

For internally displaced persons in existing displacement, the focus will remain on households living in camps, camp-like settings, and host communities, particularly in high-density locations, areas where collective centers are saturated, or where no viable alternative sites are available. For new displacement, the priority will be preparedness and rapid response to conflict- and climate-induced shocks, ensuring timely access to essential emergency shelter and NFIs through coordinated mechanisms, including rapid response modalities and partners operational in shock-affected areas, supported by the ES/NFI Cluster pipeline. For returnees, the Cluster will prioritize first-line shelter support to ensure that shelters are habitable and to reduce the risk of secondary displacement.

To ensure responses are appropriate to settlement types and displacement dynamics, the Cluster will continue to promote context-specific response options

These include rental support for IDPs in host communities to stabilize households and reduce onward movement to collective centers; partitions and NFI support in collective centers to improve living conditions; and, where feasible, decongestion initiatives, including school-vacating efforts. Only as a last resort, and where no alternatives exist, the

Cluster will support the development of planned IDP sites, alongside essential shelter and NFI assistance.

The common shelter pipeline will remain central to the 2026 response. In the context of prolonged displacement and constrained funding, the pipeline enables faster, more cost-efficient, and better coordinated shelter responses, ensuring harmonized standards, quality assurance, and equitable assistance across partners and locations.

Donors



Implementing Partners

