

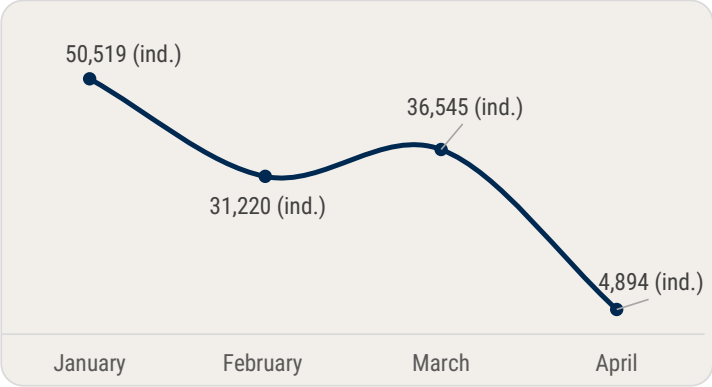
URGENT CALL TO ACTION

SHELTER AND NFI RESPONSE AT BREAKING POINT

Situation Overview

Ethiopia's Shelter and Non Food Item (NFI) response is facing a critical crisis, with newly displaced families left unassisted, existing shelter conditions rapidly deteriorating, and the Cluster's ability to respond is severely compromised.

- The rainy season is expected to begin within a month, heightening risks for displaced populations living in damaged, overcrowded, or makeshift shelters.
- Over the past four months, 154,807 people have been newly displaced, yet very few have received emergency shelter or NFI support, leaving families exposed and unprotected.
- The Cluster currently has no available stock or functional pipeline, leaving it unable to respond to either existing needs or new displacements.
- In Shire (Tigray), six schools currently accommodate an average of 6,997 IDPs each, far beyond safe capacity. Conditions are severely overcrowded, and 70% of IDPs in collective centers are living in emergency or temporary shelters that provide inadequate protection from weather and hazards.
- In Amhara, particularly South Wello, North Wello, and North Shewa, IDPs are living in overcrowded, structurally damaged, and aged shelters that were never intended for prolonged use. Many are sheltered in congested communal spaces or substandard structures, with no privacy or safety, and persons with disabilities lack appropriate support or accessible facilities.
- Across displacement sites, while humanitarian access remains relatively fluid, displaced households continue to lack access to essential NFIs, including bedding, cooking sets, and basic household materials, due to limited resources and coverage.
- In April 2025, the Emergency Shelter and NFI (ES/NFI) Cluster reached only 0.3% of its 2.2 million target population, reflecting a near-total gap in life-saving assistance.
- This marks an 87% decline from March, as the response continues to be constrained by a broken pipeline, lack of stock, and reduced operational capacity.



Humanitarian Impact

Severe gaps in Shelter and NFI response capacity are directly impacting the health, safety, and dignity of displaced families, particularly those living in collective centers, informal sites, and dispersed settlements.

- Thousands of families remain exposed to the elements as they face the upcoming rainy season in shelters that are overcrowded, damaged, or improvised, increasing the risk of illness, flooding, and structural collapse.
- With no stock, no pipeline, and limited operational capacity, the Cluster is currently unable to respond to existing needs or prepare for the projected impacts of the rainy season, placing over 2 million people at continued risk.
- Living conditions are likely to lead to serious health concerns, such as respiratory infections, waterborne illnesses, and vector-borne diseases, due to prolonged exposure, lack of insulation, and the absence of essential household items like bedding, cooking sets, and mosquito nets
- Overcrowded collective centers and emergency shelters lacking adequate protection may heighten protection risks, especially for women, children, and persons with disabilities. The lack of privacy, secure spaces, and lighting further increases exposure to exploitation and violence.
- The absence of emergency support has left many newly displaced households unassisted, increasing the likelihood of secondary displacement and further undermining safety and dignity.

Only **0.3%** of the target population was reached in April 2025

No stock. No pipeline. Needs rising.

Urgent Call to Action

With the response capacity critically limited, immediate action from donors and partners is essential to prevent further deterioration in shelter conditions and to protect displaced families across Ethiopia.

The ES/NFI Cluster urges all humanitarian partners and donors to:

- Accelerate the implementation of planned ES/NFI activities, particularly in displacement-affected areas at high risk further shelter deterioration.
- Align ongoing and upcoming responses with the Cluster's Priority Response Plan and recommended methodologies.
 - Mobilize resources to re-establish a functional pipeline and contingency stock, ensuring the Cluster can respond to both existing needs and anticipated displacements.
 - Adopt protection-sensitive and inclusive shelter approaches, giving priority to the needs of women, children, and persons with disabilities living in unsafe or overcrowded conditions.
 - Highlight Shelter and NFI gaps in engagement with donors and at inter-agency forums, to ensure greater visibility and fair consideration in funding and response planning.

Delays in action will further expose vulnerable families to health risks, protection concerns, and repeated displacement as the rainy season begins. Urgent support is needed now.

