



# Ura Settlement

## Benishangul-Gumuz | Ethiopia

Development Action Platform for the Sudan Regional Crisis

Archive (April 2025)

The [Development Action Platform for the Sudan Regional Crisis](#) is a multi-stakeholder effort to provide to the data and area-based analysis to inform and mobilize support from humanitarian, development, and peace actors for people displaced by conflict in Sudan, and the affected communities in Sudan and in neighbouring countries of asylum and return. This report archives the pages dedicated to Ura Settlement from April 2025. Visit the current [Ura Settlement](#) page to view the latest information and analysis.

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## Introducing Ura Settlement

In January 2024, the Regional President of Benishangul-Gumuz Region officially authorized the establishment of Ura Refugee Site by providing 350 hectares of land to host a maximum of 34,000 refugees. Akuda kebele, the village adjacent to the refugee site, is home to 3,500 host community members. As of [February 2025](#), some 11,377 individuals (4,162 households) have been relocated to the new site, where they receive integrated services, such as health, education and WASH.

Ura Settlement sits 22 km from the regional capital of Assosa, 4 km from the town of Ura woreda and 1 km from the village of Akuda kebele. The land is owned by the Akuda Kebele Administration. An earth road leads to Akuda kebele, followed by an asphalt road to Assosa-Kurmuk. The Regional Government has indicated its willingness to provide an additional 200 hectares of land around the Ura settlement to promote the economic development of the area and economic inclusion of refugees.

### Key Figures and Information (as of February 2025)

|                                             |                                                                              |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Current population</b>                   | 11,377 individuals (4,162 households)                                        |
| <b>Absorption capacity</b>                  | 34,000 individuals                                                           |
| <b>Occupation level</b>                     | 33%                                                                          |
| <b>Area</b>                                 | 350 hectares                                                                 |
| <b>Region   Zone   Woreda   Kebele</b>      | Benishangul-Gumuz   Asosa   Ura   Akuda-Tumet                                |
| <b>Woreda population</b>                    | 75,000                                                                       |
| <b>Kebele population</b>                    | 3,500                                                                        |
| <b>Distance from the border</b>             | 62km from official point of entry<br>40km from the nearest border with Sudan |
| <b>Distance to nearest urban center</b>     | 22km from Assosa   3.6km from Ura town                                       |
| <b>Internet connectivity</b>                | 3G                                                                           |
| <b>Connection to national electric grid</b> | No                                                                           |



## Education

### What is the vision for refugee inclusion in Ura woreda?

- All refugee children attend government-run primary and secondary schools together with host community children. If the Ura settlement hosts a maximum capacity of 34,000 refugees, **an estimated 10,880 children will require schooling** (approx. 32% of the population will be school-aged children), in addition to the 1,550 host community children.
- **Refugee children follow the national curriculum of Ethiopia and sit for national assessments and exams.** The language of instruction is aligned with national policy.
- **Government education services are extended in the refugee hosting area**, both in Ura settlement at pre-primary level, and in Akuda *kebele* (village), where the Akuda Primary School (grades 1-8) serves host community children and refugees. There is also an Ura Inclusive School (grades 1-12) at Ura *woreda* (district), covering both primary and secondary aged children, which serves only host community children.
- **University students** arriving from Sudan enroll in Ethiopian universities and receive scholarship programmes.
- Refugee youth access the **TVET programs** available in Benishangul-Gumuz region.
- **Teachers** are well trained and able to deliver quality teaching to children enrolled in school.
- The **Regional Education Bureau (REB) and woreda education authorities** oversee and support the schools serving refugee and host community children.

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### What is the policy environment?

In accordance with Education Sector Development Plan VI (ESDP VI), the Refugee Proclamation No. 1110/2019 and the Djibouti Declaration on Quality Education for Refugee, Returnees and Host of 2017, **the Government of Ethiopia facilitates the inclusion of refugee children in the national education system.**

In December 2023, the Government of Ethiopia made a **pledge at the Global Refugee Forum** to facilitate the inclusion of refugees into national systems with focus on secondary education and TVET.

In Benishangul-Gumuz region, the **Regional Education Bureau (REB) and woreda education authorities are committed to facilitating the inclusion of refugee children arriving from Sudan.** To facilitate planning of the extension of the government system, the REB led an **assessment in June 2024** with the Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS), UNHCR and partners to determine priority needs and required investments in Ura settlement, in the neighboring Akuda *kebele* and in the Ura *woreda*.

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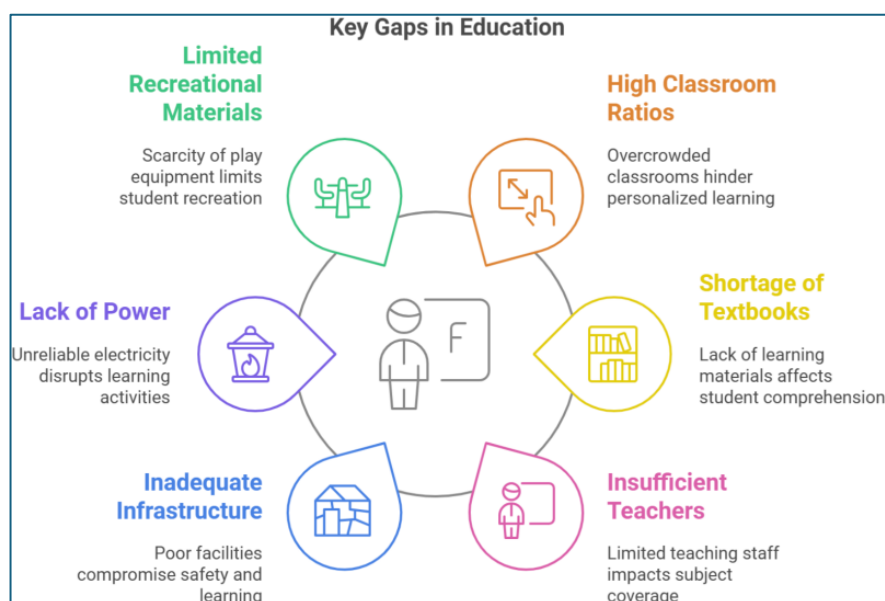
### What do the national standards require?

- With time, **gross enrollment rates** of children are the best measure of progress. However, gross enrollment rates of refugee children cannot yet be calculated as they have not yet undergone individual registration in the Ura settlement (L3).
- The **pupil to teacher ratio** is reduced to improve the quality of education in school. Akuda Primary School pupil to teacher ratio should reduce from 87:1 to 50:1 (because of recruiting 174 new teachers).
- All primary and secondary refugee and host community children receive yearly **scholastic materials and uniforms**. Children have access to school **desks** and other required school supplies to learn, in line with recommended national standards.
- All primary school-going refugees and host community children benefit from **school meals**.
- The **REB's sector plan and budget include refugees to facilitate the obtention of predictable financing** to support refugee inclusion in the government education system.
- The **REB and Woreda Education Office** regularly supervise the schools that provide education to refugees and host communities.

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### What investments are required to deliver on the vision?

- Pre-primary, primary, and secondary school infrastructure is expanded. It is important to note that there is no secondary school in Ura *woreda*; consequently, the regional education authorities are using a **double shift approach** at Ura Inclusive School to provide both primary and secondary schooling to host community children. **A secondary school needs to be established to provide access to secondary schooling for both refugees and host community children.**
- Provision of adequate **water and sanitation facilities** on school grounds.
- **Connection of the schools with the national grid and solar panels** to ensure a reliable and climate-smart power source.
- **Fast-tracking of teacher recruitments through the REB and Woreda Education Office**, and support for capacity building of teachers. Deployment through the government ensures a harmonization in the salaries of teachers across the woreda.
- Provision of **classroom equipment and learning materials** for the secondary school, establishment of an ICT and science laboratories will enhance access to modern learning tools.
- Provision of **safe recreational outdoor opportunities** for students through building a perimeter fence around school grounds and providing outdoor playgrounds.
- Provision of **financial support to refugee students that join Ethiopian Universities scholarship programme.**
- Support for refugee enrollment in **TVET** programs.



## Investments, Requirements, and Gaps in Infrastructure as of December 2024

| Ura Settlement Pre-primary Facilities (Kindergartens) |                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Facilities as of December 2024</b>                 | 0                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Constructions in the pipeline</b>                  | 0                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Construction requirements*</b>                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>68 classrooms/17 blocks kindergartens need to be built</li> <li>40 students per classroom</li> <li>4 classrooms per block</li> </ul> |
| <b>Gaps</b>                                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>68 classrooms/17 blocks kindergartens need to be built</li> </ul>                                                                    |

\* to accommodate all refugee and host community children (for a max 12,430 children)

| Akuda Primary School (Grades 1-8)     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Facilities as of December 2024</b> | 3 classroom blocks, of which only one is permanent, and the rest are mud-plastered                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Constructions in the pipeline</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>21 new classrooms</li> <li>0 school blocks renovated</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Construction requirements</b>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>144 classrooms/36 blocks</li> <li>50 students per classroom and 4 blocks per block</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Gaps</b>                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>144 classrooms/36 blocks</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Sources of financing support</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction of 1 permanent school block (5 classrooms) is in progress through funding from the World Bank's Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project (DRDIP)</li> <li>Construction of 2 permanent classrooms (each with 4 classrooms) by UNHCR through its education partner Plan International Ethiopia (PIE) with funding from EU-INTPA.</li> <li>Construction of 2 semi-permanent classrooms (each with 4 classrooms) by UNHCR through its education partner PIE with funding from Education Cannot Wait (ECW).</li> </ul> |

- UNHCR through its education partner PIE has constructed 1 temporary learning space, which will be used until the permanent and semi-permanent constructions are completed and start giving service.

*\* to accommodate all refugee and host community children (for a max 12,430 children)*

#### Ura Inclusive School (Grades 1-12)

|                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Facilities as of December 2024</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 16 classrooms, consisting of 4 permanent and 2 mud-plastered blocks</li> <li>• The school operates under a double-shift system to accommodate both levels of education</li> </ul> |
| <b>Constructions in the pipeline</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0 new classrooms</li> <li>• 0 school blocks renovated</li> </ul>                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Construction requirements</b>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 44 classrooms/11 blocks 4 blocks per block</li> </ul>                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Gaps</b>                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 44 classrooms/11 blocks</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                |

*\* to accommodate all refugee and host community children (for a max 12,430 children)*



1. Permanent and semi-permanent school blocks.
2. Temporary Learning Space at Akuda Primary School.

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#### Key Resources

- [Education 2030: A Strategy for Refugee Education](#)
- [The Global Cost of Inclusive Refugee Education](#)
- [Multi-stakeholder Pledge: Securing Sustainable Futures - Towards a Shared Responsibility to Uphold the Right to Education and Include Refugee Children in National Education Systems](#)
- [2023 Global Refugee Forum - Government of Ethiopia Pledges](#)





## Health & Nutrition

### What is the vision for refugee inclusion in the government health system of Ura woreda?

- All refugees can access comprehensive primary health care available in health facilities under Ura *woreda* health office. Refugees can access secondary and tertiary referral health services provided by the Government through referral mechanisms. This inclusion is important to ensure noncommunicable and communicable disease prevention and treatment.
- Refugees can access both facility and community-based nutrition services available within Ura *woreda* and at Assosa hospital through referral service for complicated severe acute malnutrition.
- All refugees in Ura settlement are included in health campaigns and community health initiatives organized by the Regional Health Bureau to improve health outcomes and prevent disease outbreaks.
- All refugees are included in routine immunization services provided by the Regional Health Bureau.
- Health facilities serving refugees and host communities receive regular essential drugs, medical supplies, and medical equipment from the Regional Health Bureau.
- A GBV one-stop-shop is embedded in the Akuda health center to provide services, including medical treatment and counseling services for rape survivors.
- Humanitarian and development partners provide technical and financial support to the Regional Health Bureau and *woreda* and *kebele* health authorities to improve the delivery of quality health service to refugees and host community.
- Refugees need to be provided with national ID cards to access the Government-run community-based health insurance scheme, provided it is expanded by the Ministry of Health to include refugees. This inclusion will enhance the ability of refugees to pay for health services on par with nationals.

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### What is the policy environment?

The **Government of Ethiopia Health Sector Development and Investment Plan (HSDIP)** for the period 2023/24 to June 2025/26 has the overall goal to improve the health status of the population through accelerating progress towards universal health coverage, protecting people from health emergencies, transforming *woredas* and improving health system responsiveness that further contributes to the sustainable economic development.

The Government enacted the **Refugee Proclamation No 1110/2019** on 27 February 2019, which supports the inclusion of refugees in health to national health system.

**In December 2023, the Government of Ethiopia made a pledge at the Global Refugee Forum to enhancing the quality and availability of public services including health to refugees and host communities.**

The Regional Government of Benishangul-Gumuz region is committed to facilitating the inclusion of refugees in the national health system. Ura *woreda* currently has 4 health centers health facility and 36 health post which provide health services to host community members. **Refugees are currently accessing health and nutrition services to at Akuda health post and Ura health center. Refugees can also access secondary and tertiary services at the Assosa general hospital and in Addis Ababa for tertiary health care through referral services.**

UNHCR's Global Strategy for Public Health 2021-2025 seeks to facilitate the inclusion of refugees in the national health system to create a resilient and self-sustaining healthcare environment.

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### What do the national standards require?

- One health center provides health services to 25,000 population in rural areas. A health center is equipped with necessary medical equipment, supplies, and furniture.
- One health post provides health services to 5,000 catchment population.
- If Ura settlement is expected to host 34,000 refugees, one additional health post should be built to complement the existing Akuda Health Center, ensuring adequate health and nutrition services for the population.
- 100% mothers are getting antenatal care follow up, skilled delivery service, and post-natal care follow up.
- Nutrition services including facility and community-based services are integrated into primary health care.

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### How can progress be measured on refugee inclusion in Ura?

Numerous health indicators can measure the provision of health services. Key indicators include:

- # of primary healthcare facilities supported/rehabilitated
- # of individual consultations
- skilled birth attendance coverage
- measles vaccination coverage
- global acute malnutrition rate
- # of HIV positive patient on ART

The Regional Health Bureau's sector plan and budget include refugees to facilitate the obtention of predictable financing to support refugee inclusion in the government health system. This inclusion requires further consultation and approval by the Ministry of Health.

The Regional Health Bureau and Woreda Health Office regularly conduct supervision of the health facilities that provide health care services to both refugees and host communities.

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### What investments are required deliver on this vision?

Since the start of the Sudan emergency, a number of partners have already provided support to the health authorities to support the **expansion of the Government health system in Ura woreda**. EU INTPA provided dedicated funding for infrastructure development to build a new health center in Akuda kebele. The Bank of Ireland provided support to **GOAL** to build a nutrition unit within the Akuda health center compound.

**To further strengthen access to basic health services, the following investments should be prioritized:**

1. Construction of infrastructure to expand the government health facilities in the Ura *woreda*.
2. Equipping of the Akuda health center with medical supplies, essential drugs and necessary furniture and prioritized.
  - Procurement of one ambulance to serve refugees and host communities in Ura *woreda*.
3. Establishment of WASH system within the Akuda health center and the Akuda health post.
4. Connection of the Akuda health center to the national grid.
  - Strengthening of a community-based health and nutrition surveillance system to support early detection and response to diseases and strengthen early identification and management of acute malnutrition.
5. Provision of capacity building of medical staff, focusing on training and skill development to enhance their ability to provide comprehensive care.

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### Key Resources

- [Government of Ethiopia Health Sector Development and Investment Plan \(HSDIP\)](#)
- [Ethiopia Refugee Proclamation No 1110/2019](#)
- [2023 Global Refugee Forum - Government of Ethiopia Pledges](#)
- [UNHCR Global Strategy for Public Health 2021-2025](#)



## Water & Sanitation

### What is the vision for the provision of water, sanitation and hygiene services in Ura woreda?

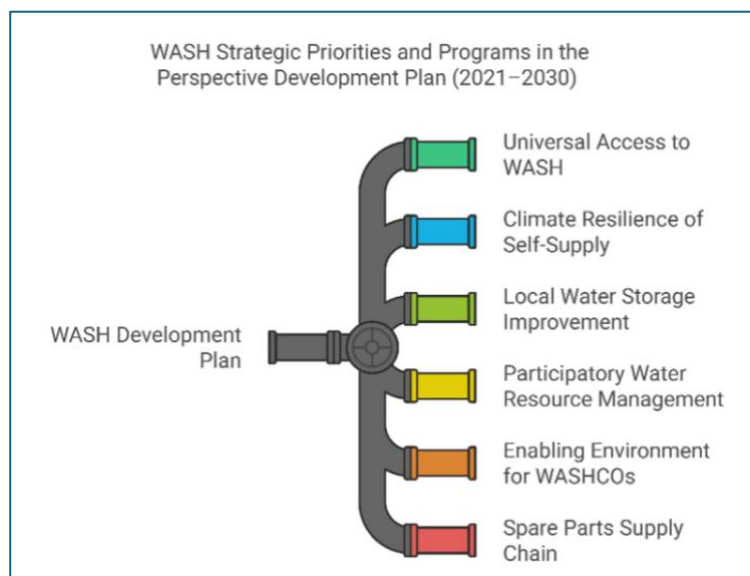
- **Integrated water service provision:** The development of inclusive water systems will be top priority to bring a development approach and a more sustainable ‘whole of society’ approach the Ura settlement and neighbouring Akuda *kebele* and, in turn, support and encourage peaceful co-existence between host communities and refugees.
- **Climate change adaptation:** Undertake groundwater monitoring at all newly drilled boreholes to monitor underground water abstraction performance levels and share information with the relevant local administration.
- **Solarization:** Aim to reduce operational costs and negative impacts on the environment by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing energy efficiency, and reducing climate change impacts.
- **Family latrines:** Each refugee household in Ura settlement has a family latrine. With a projected number of 34,000 refugees in Ura, an estimated 6,800 family latrines need to be built for refugees.
- **Institutional WASH support:** Improved and expanded access to quality water, sanitation and hygiene services at schools and health facilities.
- Efforts to expand water supply provision will be undertaken with the Regional Water Bureau, to ensure that the response is anchored within the broader planning done by regional and local authorities.
- The Ura settlement is regularly cleaned and well maintained by its community, and recycling options are promoted.

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### What is the policy environment?

The Government of Ethiopia has identified **water and sanitation as a priority in its Ten-Year Perspective Development Plan (2021–2030)** to achieve sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction and targeted health and social outcomes. The plan sets out goals for reaching 100% access to safe drinking water in both rural and urban areas, with increasing water quantity available and increasing access to piped water. It also sets goals of 100 cities having sewerage systems, all rural residents having toilets, and all education and health institutions having water and sanitation services.

The **Ethiopian Water Resources Management Proclamation No. 197 of 2000** provides some grounds for the development of new models, such as a water utility, for water systems serving more than 15,000 people.



## What are national standards guiding WASH provision?

### Water provision standards:

- **For rural setup:** Provide rural water supply access with revised GTP-2 minimum service level of 25 Lit/c/day; where accessibility is within 250m from the water delivery point.
- **For urban dwellers:** Provide urban water access with GTP-2 minimum service level of 80 lit/person/day (l/p/d) depending on the category of the cities, accessibility within 250m distance.

### Sanitation guidelines:

- Improve access to and use of sanitation & hygiene facilities at community levels; through the initiative of CLTS (community led total sanitation) and SM (sanitation marketing).
- Expand community empowerment actions for improved sanitation and hygiene through:
- Increased model households
- Increased awareness and safer behavior

Increased full participation (particularly women) in policy formulation, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, regulation; and resource mobilization.

## How will progress be measured?

- A water supply scheme is capable of providing at least **20l/p/d for all refugees and host community individuals**, spanning Ura settlement and the Akuda *woreda*.
- Every refugee household in Ura settlement has access to a safe and dignified family latrine.
- A good **water supply governance** is established through the empowerment of community led WASHCO committees and involvement of local authorities. This requires a progressive transition of authorities, from the WASHCO committees to become water user associations towards eventually

the establishment of a water utility. The community and local authorities will take full ownership and develop a mindset to take care of the system.

- A **functioning central maintenance workshop at Assosa level** to repair water systems, equipped with tools for basic and major maintenance.
- The **Regional Water Bureau includes the Ura settlement in its sector plan and budget** to ensure the sustainability of the water system.

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### What are the recommendations and priority investments?

**One water system has been established for Ura settlement, using generators to pump from the river nearby the settlement.** This system has been established with **EU INTPA** funds. Plans are underway to drill three boreholes and solarize and further connect them to the national grid, to reduce the dependency on fuel. Four back-up surface pumps are being procured. An extension is underway to connect the water system to the Akuda kebele - to the health center and primary school to meet the water needs of the host community. The Ura water system is also going to be solarized. **Sixty communal latrines have been constructed with SIDA funding in Ura settlement.**

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### What additional investments are required to deliver on this vision?

**Upgrade the Ura woreda water system** (e.g., rehabilitate the existing borehole, replace old pipes and improve the storage capacity) and **construct additional water distribution points.**

- Introduce new modern technologies of irrigation to allow for year-long agriculture practices around the Ura settlement.
- Build capacity of the Regional Water Bureaus and Woreda Water Development Offices for the management of water systems, including the establishment of one central workshop at Assosa level for operational water maintenance.
- Build capacity of community volunteers (area mechanics) to equip them with the necessary knowledge and tools for operation and maintenance of water systems, including basic plumbing and replacement of basic water system components at water collection points.
- Looking ahead as the water system is upgraded and maintained, and refugee inclusion progresses, a pro-tariff system can be introduced to recover capital investments and to have operational funds for the operation and maintenance of the systems.
- Construct safe and dignified sanitation facilities with cash-based intervention.
- Build gender segregated sanitation facilities in schools and health facilities and other public centers.



Water point in Ura Settlement.

©UNHCR/Tamir  
Tsegaye Mihretu



## Economic Inclusion

### What is the vision for refugee economic inclusion in Benishangul-Gumuz region?

1. Most working-age refugees engage in **self and wage employment opportunities through agricultural works and off farming services**.
2. **Microfinance institutions** provide financial services for refugees and host communities to support entrepreneurship and the development of marketplaces.
3. All refugee farmers and host community farmers have access to **agricultural land for crop cultivation and animal husbandry**. Year-long agriculture production is made possible through the establishment of an irrigation system that enables the cultivation of high-value, drought-resistant crops.
4. Agricultural productivity of the land is improved through the introduction of **modern farming techniques and technologies**. Such results can be achieved through training programs on efficient water management, crop rotation, organic farming, and climate-smart agriculture, providing access to improved seeds, fertilizers, and farming equipment.
5. Refugees join **farming cooperatives and access shared agricultural resources**, improving access to inputs, technology, and markets. By forming cooperatives, farmers can pool resources, share knowledge, and collectively invest in infrastructure such as storage facilities and processing units. This approach can enhance productivity, reduce costs, and increase bargaining power in the market.
6. Refugees are included in the **extension service package provided by the Woreda Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Center**. This package include access to improved seeds, training and enrollment in the Farmers Training Centers.
7. **Development and humanitarian partners support private sector actors and the Regional Bureaus** (Agriculture, Job and Skills, Land and Cooperatives/Enterprises) to create a sustainable, inclusive environment where refugees and host communities can thrive together through shared resources and economic opportunities.

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### What is the policy environment?

Ethiopia has recently enhanced the employment rights of refugees and asylum seekers through the enactment of Directive No. 1019/2024, titled [Directive to Implement Recognized Refugees' and Asylum](#)

**Seekers' Right to Work.** This directive, issued on August 14, 2024, operationalizes the provisions of the Refugees Proclamation No. 1110/2019, which granted refugees the right to engage in gainful employment under conditions similar to those afforded to foreign nationals.

In December 2023, the Government of Ethiopia made a pledge at the Global Refugee Forum to facilitate refugee **access to irrigable land of refugees through lease arrangements and promotion of climate-smart agriculture and livestock value chain.**

The Regional Government of Benishangul-Gumuz is committed to expanding opportunities for Sudanese refugees to pursue in productive agricultural livelihoods to improve access to food and enhance economic inclusion, as well as engage in off farming services. It has indicated its **willingness to allocate an additional 200 hectares of irrigable land around Ura settlement.**

**Key agricultural policy frameworks:** Ethiopia's agricultural policy is designed to support the country's predominantly agrarian economy, which employs about 70-80% of the population and contributes significantly to GDP. The policy framework has evolved over time, with a focus on improving productivity, ensuring food security, promoting sustainable practices, and supporting rural development ([Homegrown Economic Reform Plan 2019](#), [Climate-Resilient Green Economy Strategy](#), Support for Smallholder Farmers).

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### How does the availability of arable land in the Ura settlement impact agricultural productivity for both refugees and the host community?

**The Ura settlement and surrounding areas have around 1,500 hectares of arable land**, which enhances agricultural productivity for both refugees and the host community by providing ample space for crop cultivation and livestock rearing. Each household in the host community is allocated about 2 hectares of land, which supports mixed agriculture and livestock keeping. Refugee households are currently allocated 120 square meters primarily for shelter, with ongoing discussions to allocate about 200 hectares for agricultural use by both communities. The availability of arable land provides a significant opportunity for agricultural activities, but productivity is limited due to traditional farming methods and limited use of productivity-enhancing technologies.

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### What is the demand for marketplaces?

**Given that Ura Town is located just 2.5 km away from Ura settlement**, there is **no immediate requirement to establish a large market within the new settlement** or between it and the host community. However, to adequately serve the local population, it is essential to **provide a Gulit (local produce market) and an open market.**

The Gulits will require a space of approximately 0.25 hectares, serving a catchment area of 0.5 to 1 km, and is expected to cater to a population of around 5,000 people. This means there is the **potential to have five to six Gulits within the settlement**, which can be strategically distributed throughout the settlement, thereby minimizing the distance residents need to travel for basic goods and services. Additionally, at least one larger Gulit should be positioned along the border with the host community to facilitate interaction and trade. The proximity of markets will foster social cohesion between refugees and host community members, as shared marketplaces encourage interaction and mutual support. Additional considerations include locating the markets in areas with appropriate slopes (between 1-5%) and away from noise-sensitive land, and adequate provisions for parking animals and animal-drawn carts to enhance the markets' accessibility.

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## How can progress be measured on refugee inclusion in Ura?

- Provision of agricultural land by the Regional Government to refugees and host community to support joint farming ventures.
  - Number of refugees engaged in productive sectors such as agricultural works and small businesses.
  - Number of market centers/Gulits strengthened
  - Number of refugees who join agricultural cooperatives in Akuda kebele
  - Number of refugees have access to financial services, including the opening of a bank account.
- 

## What investments need to happen to deliver on this vision?

Investments are needed to **expand agricultural land and resources**, develop **vocational training** programs, enhance **water management systems**, improve infrastructure such as **roads and market facilities**, and support **small-scale industries and cooperatives**. These additional investments are crucial for fostering sustainable development and improving the livelihoods of both refugees and host communities.

**Agricultural value chain investments** are key both in software and hardware components. Agricultural farmland development through land clearance and tractor-powered tillage operations. Agricultural mechanization supports are required such as tractors, harvesters and implements.

**The Woreda Bureau of Agriculture needs capacity building to deliver a complete extension support package.**

**Farmstead structures such as a warehouse facility and cooperative offices are essentials services.** The cooperative can further be supported with agricultural trailers to transport goods. Dry season intervention through irrigation is crucial for vegetable productions. Irrigation schemes need to be developed along with solarized water pumping systems.

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## Q&A on Agriculture in Ura woreda

### What are the agricultural value chains in the Ura settlement and surrounding areas?

The main agricultural activities include rainfed crop production and livestock keeping. Major crops grown are maize, sorghum, soybeans, teff, groundnuts, sesame, fruits (mango, papaya, banana, oranges), vegetables (cabbage, tomato, onions), and tuber crops (sweet potato, groundnuts). Livestock includes cattle, goats, chickens and beekeeping, which are well-adapted to the mixed agriculture system practiced in the region.

### What are the key challenges faced by refugees and the host community in engaging in agricultural activities?

The Ura settlement faces significant challenges in agricultural activities due to traditional farming methods, pests, diseases, soil erosion, and inadequate water management. Erratic rainfall and climate change further complicate farming, while shortages of agricultural inputs and poor infrastructure hinder productivity and market access. Frequent power interruptions and reliance on fuelwood affect produce storage, and both communities lack financial services and agricultural credit. Addressing these issues requires improved infrastructure, modern farming inputs, better water management, and financial and technical support.

**How does the Ura town market support local trade and economic activities? What are the key economic linkages between Ura and neighboring regions?**

Ura Town is a central trading hub with a vibrant Sunday market that attracts vendors and shoppers from surrounding areas, offering agricultural produce, minerals, and goods. Throughout the week, residents trade in nearby kebeles and refugee camps, emphasizing the need to upgrade market infrastructure in Ura and develop marketplaces in nearby areas. Ura also has a significant urban connection with Assosa city, facilitating the exchange of local products for manufactured goods. Cross-border trade with Kurmuk and Gizen is strong, involving the exchange of goods such as perfume, clothing, soap, and food products from Sudan, and Ethiopian goods like maize, sorghum, fruits, vegetables, coffee, and manufactured items. Supported by a 2002 cross-border trading agreement, this trade faces regulatory and infrastructure challenges but offers opportunities for economic growth, resource exchange, and cultural ties between communities.

How can access to agricultural inputs, such as seeds and fertilizers, be improved for refugees and the host community?

Access to agricultural inputs can be improved by establishing supply chains that ensure the availability of quality seeds and fertilizers. Government and non-governmental organizations can provide subsidies or financial support to make these inputs more affordable. Additionally, forming cooperatives will help farmers collectively purchase inputs at lower costs.

**What opportunities exist for value-added agricultural products and agro-processing in the Ura settlement?**

Opportunities for value-added agricultural products and agro-processing include processing dairy products (milk, yoghurt), soyabean processing, niger seed oil extraction and silage productions.

How can agricultural training and capacity-building programs be implemented to support sustainable livelihoods for refugees and the host community?

Agricultural training and capacity-building programs can be implemented through partnerships with government agencies, NGOs, and educational institutions. These programs should focus on modern farming techniques, efficient water management, sustainable practices, and market linkages. Providing hands-on training, demonstration plots, and access to extension services can empower farmers to adopt new practices and improve their livelihoods.

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**Key Resources**

- [Ethiopia: Directive No. 1019/2024 to Implement Recognized Refugees' and Asylum Seekers' Right to Work](#)
- [Ethiopia Homegrown Economic Reform Plan 2019](#)
- [Ethiopia Climate-Resilient Green Economy Strategy.](#)
- [2023 Global Refugee Forum - Government of Ethiopia Pledges](#)



## Housing & Roads

### What is the vision for spatial planning in Ura Settlement?

- The Government of Ethiopia is pursuing solutions from the start for the Sudan emergency response. It has **allocated land for Ura settlement and built road infrastructure to facilitate area-based local development**. The local community and refugees embrace this vision of creating an integrated settlement in Ura *woreda*.
- **Investments in housing that are environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient**, rather than temporary emergency shelters, which typically have a lifespan of less than a year. If the Ura settlement hosts a maximum capacity of 34,000 refugees, an estimated 7,300 environmentally sustainable and climate resilient housing solutions benefitting refugees and host community are required.
- The Regional Government of Benishangul-Gumuz is committed to **integrating Ura settlement into the structural and development masterplan of the Ura *woreda***. This will ensure that the Ura settlement plan is integrated within the local development planning of the Government. The Ura Settlement spatial plan is harmonized with regional plans.
- **The Regional Urban Bureau is committed to including the Ura settlement in its sector plan and budget**.
- The **Regional Road and Transport Bureau** is committed to working with partners to connect Ura settlement to the adjacent *kebeles*, Ura *woreda*, Assosa city and other major economic hubs by all-weather access roads. Internal roads within the settlement are upgraded to all-weather access roads.
- **Green areas** developed in the Ura settlement are in line with the Green Legacy of Ethiopia and environmental protection initiatives.

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### What investments are required to realize the vision?

- An estimated **7,300 climate-resilient, environmentally sustainable housing units** that integrate refugee and host community populations need to be built.
- **Investments in Ura town – Assosa-Kurmuk main road (3.5km), Ura Settlement/Akuda Kebele – Ura town road (3 km), and Ura Settlement and Amba 11 Kebele road (6km)** are critical to ensure that

the settlement is linked to the major economic hubs of the region fostering opportunities for economic growth of the settlement and the Akuda kebele. Roads that are properly designed and equipped with lighting not only foster better security, especially for vulnerable groups, but also support access to critical services such as healthcare, education, and markets.

- **Enhancing 26 km of internal road infrastructure** in the settlement by improving surfacing by paving and compacting the road with selected gravel materials, and street lighting can significantly boost safety, accessibility, and the overall quality of life. Improved connectivity and ease of movement within the settlement will contribute to social cohesion, making the internal features of the settlement more supportive of community building and daily life.
- **Enhancing open green areas in each block** through landscaping, safety improvements, and recreational features. By investing in these spaces and involving the community, they can be transformed into vibrant social hubs that promote interaction, cultural exchange, and shared ownership, ultimately strengthening the settlement's resilience by promoting integrated social cohesion.

### What are the enabling policies and strategies that guide investments?

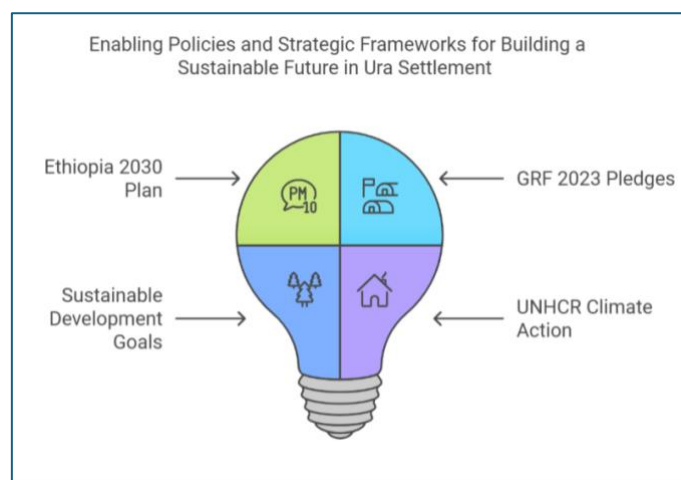
The **Government of Ethiopia's 10-Year Development Plan** identifies urban development as one of the key enabling sectors. The plan emphasizes several focus areas, including urban land registration and cadaster systems, modern property valuation, greenery and public spaces, waste disposal and management, and integrated infrastructure and services provision.

Ethiopia's efforts to create inclusive and sustainable human settlements is in line with the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, particularly **SDG 9** (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) and **SDG 11** (Sustainable Cities and Communities). Specifically, **SDG 11.1** focusing on ensuring access for all to adequate, safe, and affordable housing and basic services, as well as upgrading slums.

The Government of Ethiopia made a pledge at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum to transform selected refugee camps into sustainable urban settlements by 2027. This transformation focuses on enhancing the quality and availability of shelters, infrastructure, and public services such as roads, electricity, water, sanitation, health, and education, aligning them with the masterplans of adjacent towns. The decision of government authorities to create an integrated settlement in Ura is in line with its pledge.

**UNHCR's Strategic Framework for Climate Action** outlines priority areas, including the provision of **environmentally friendly and sustainable shelter and housing**.

The Ministry of Urban and Infrastructure 2016 Policy, the Planning and Development Commission and the Ministry of Urban and Development's 10 years strategic plan provide further technical guidance.



## What are the national standards for housing and settlement planning?

### Housing guidelines for emergency response:

- Minimum 3.5m<sup>2</sup> of covered living space per person in tropical or warm climates, excluding cooking facilities or kitchen. Minimum height of 2m at the lowest point, with greater height being preferable to aid air circulation and ventilation.
- Shelter designs that can offer dignity and safety in addition to protection from the elements.
- Shelter designs which encourage sustainable material usage with minimal environmental disruption.

### Settlement Planning Guidelines:

- Minimum 45m<sup>2</sup> per person of settlement total area.
- Maintain the existing ground cover (grass, shrubs, trees) of the proposed site, and prioritize sites that have sufficient ground cover as vegetation provides shade, protects from wind and reduces erosion and dust.
- Integrate 'green buffer zones' in settlement design to reduce problems of soil erosion and help to recharge aquifers. Ideally, buffer zones should be next to rivers and water channels.
- Support safe and equitable access to basic services.
- Providing an enabling environment for livelihoods and economic inclusion.

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## Site Planning: Design Drivers for Ura Settlement

In response to the Sudan emergency, **a committee comprising of sectoral representatives from the Regional Government of Benishangul-Gumuz and RRS carried out an initial site suitability assessment** to determine and rank potential settlement sites. Following the assessment UNHCRs and RRS carried out a multi-sectoral suitability assessment, in consultation with refugee and host representatives. The proposed settlement lands underwent thorough suitability evaluations and resulting in a site plan. The site plan can be accessed with this [link](#).

UNHCR, RRS, implementing partners, and local authorities from Ura Woreda and Akuda Tumet Kebele carried out in March 2024 a **protection risk assessment** prior to initiating the relocation of Sudanese refugees from Kurmuk Transit Center. This assessment informed the housing solutions provided and identified the required government services to support refugees' access to education and health facilities.

**A multi-sectoral site planning approach** has been implemented for the Ura settlement, ensuring that housing, land, and property issues are duly considered. The demarcation of plots has been completed and shelters are being established in a phased manner.

**Planning efforts have been initiated with regional authorities to expand basic services**, with the ultimate objective of aligning avoiding the establishment of parallel systems of services for refugees and host community in the area.

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## Geospatial Nature of the Settlement

### Topography

The Ura settlement site features slopes ranging from 0 to 42.6%, with 86.7% falling below the recommended 20% gradient for construction. This favorable topography allows for minimal-cost development, while the remaining 13.3% of steeper areas should be preserved for environmental conservation, protecting natural ecosystems and preventing erosion-related challenges.

### Land Use

Before its designation as a refugee settlement, the 350-hectare Ura site consisted of rangeland (83%), agricultural land (11.2%), and forest (5.8%). The settlement planning for Ura has carefully incorporated strategies to preserve the site's diverse landscape, emphasizing the multifunctionality of the area.

### Block and Community Layout

The Ura settlement consists of gridiron layout, which has been carefully divided into four zones (A-D); this provides opportunities for increasing land use, service accessibility, and emergency response. A block consists of eight communities, which are organized around a common open area and 16 family plots arranged in a 3x3 arrangement. This structured design allows for 128 family plots per block and supports community activities as the topography of the site limits the carrying capacity of settlement at 34,000 individuals.

### Housing Solutions

The initial site assessment and protection assessments conducted had informed the decision to determine the preferred shelter typology for family shelters in Ura. The preferred design selection is on the existing host community shelter styles and the urban background of most Sudanese refugees. The shelter design has also been presented to the refugee community for endorsement before construction have been started on the site. The shelters are rectangular structures measuring 6m x 3.5m, framed with eucalyptus poles and temporarily covered with plastic sheets until they are upgraded. A partition in the middle of each unit offers occupants a safe and dignified living space, aligning with cultural and practical needs. The design incorporates the potential for upgrades into more environmentally sustainable transitional shelters, allowing walls to be converted to mud-plastered surfaces and roofing to be replaced with grass thatch, ensuring both resilience and environmental compatibility.

### Roads

Roads within the settlement extend primarily to Zone A and parts of Zones B and C, with plans to expand access across the entire site. The existing roads are unpaved, becoming nearly impassable during the rainy season due to mud, which poses significant challenges for mobility. By December 2024, UNHCR will pave a 5 km segment of the internal road network. The road network features major arterial roads spanning 15 meters between blocks and local roads of 8 meters between communities.

Current roads lack basic amenities such as street lighting, which creates safety concerns, particularly at night. The absence of lighting undermines the sense of security among resident, especially for women and children, and remain a critical factor in establishing a stable and comfortable living environment.



## Climate Action

### What is the vision for climate action in the Ura Settlement?

- **Refugees and host communities are knowledgeable and sensitive to climate action**, including renewable energy technologies, environmental conservation and sustainable practices. **Women and youth** are actively involved in energy and environmental decision-making processes.
- **Alternative energy sources** are available to both refugee and host community households to reduce the reliance of households on fuelwood and charcoal. If the Ura settlement hosts a maximum capacity of 34,000 refugees, **an estimated 6,800 households require access to energy-efficient appliances**. Alternative energy sources can also be found from biomass, including but not limited to bio-fuel from animal waste and briquettes.
- **The Ura settlement is connected to the national electricity grid** and/or solar mini grids to ensure both refugee and host communities have access to a stable and reliable supply of electricity. Households, schools, health centers, and communal facilities all transition to green sourced electricity.
- Refugees and their hosting communities have **access to modern household and street lighting sourced from solar power and grid electricity**.
- **Forest resources around the Ura settlement are sustainably managed** to prevent deforestation and land degradation. A Forest Landscape Management Plan (FLMP), developed with local authorities and communities, will estimate the demand for wood products from both the refugee settlement and the host community, assess the forest's current state, and define sustainable wood harvesting levels, while implementing activities like reforestation.
- The **Assosa Town Water Supply and Sewage Enterprise and Ura woreda authorities manage a waste management system for Ura settlement** that includes waste segregation, composting, and the establishment of a sanitary landfill to ensure safe and sustainable waste disposal.
- Refugees settled in Ura site are successfully included in the **National and Regional Adaptation Plans and Early Warning Systems** to increase climate resilience and adaptability.

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### What is the policy environment?

**The Government of Ethiopia is committed to creating climate-resilient and sustainable settlements hosting refugees and host communities**, in line with its **GRF pledge** on settlements and its climate action pledge to address the environmental impact resulting from hosting large number of refugees.

UNHCR and the Government of Ethiopia are developing a **Makatet “inclusion” strategy** with environmental sustainability and climate resilience as one of the priority areas.

**The Government is calling for the use of diversified energy options to minimize power generation uncertainty.** Both grid and off-grid energy access is part of the diversification. The Government is working to increase its power generation installed capacity from 4.5GW to 19GW in 2030 through diversifying the renewable energy mix, with wind, solar, geothermal and building of hydropower dams.

The Government of Ethiopia launched in **2023 the Rural Electrification Fund (REF)** to provide loans and technical assistance for rural electrification; micro hydro schemes; off grid system. The Ura settlement could benefit from future REF programs.

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### What are the priority investments?

1. **Provide of 7,400 improved cookstoves to refugee and host community households** (1 cookstove per household of up to 8 people) to increase efficiency, as well as explore alternative fuels such as bamboo or agricultural residues available in the vicinity. In the longer term, provide clean cooking options such as liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) or electric cooking powered by renewable energy sources.
  2. **Establish a nursery site at Ura settlement to allow for fast-growing tree plantations for a renewable wood supply**, in line with the Forest Landscape Management Plan. Cooperatives for managing energy systems and conservation programs are established and include both refugee and host communities.
  3. **Connect Ura settlement to the national grid while enhancing the existing electrical infrastructure** to minimize outages and ensure a more reliable supply. Once the grid connection is available through the different zones and blocks, a communal kitchen hall should be established for households to make use of the center for their daily power needs.
  4. Establish **mini grids powered by renewable energy sources**, such as solar, to provide a stable energy supply. These mini grids can be interconnected with the national grid, strengthening the overall system and providing backup during grid interruptions.
  5. **Connect all schools and health centres to quality solar systems.**
  6. Establish **solar streetlights** within the Ura settlement, which improve security and reduce GBV cases.
  7. Install **Solar Home Systems (SHS)** to all refugee households.
  8. Establish a **waste management system** that includes a landfill.
  9. Create a **reafforestation program** to cover the exposed land use in the Ura watershed catchment, in line with the Forest Landscape Management Plan.
  10. Establish **disaster preparedness groups** involving refugee and host communities and practice required anticipatory actions.
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### How will progress be measured?

- # of alternative energy sources developed
- # of households using improved cookstoves and/or alternative energy sources

- # of women using the communal kitchens
- # of households having access to a stable supply of electricity from the national grid or mini grids,
- # of schools, health centers, and communal facilities have access to stable supply of electricity
- % of camp settlement areas illuminated by solar street lighting
- Proportion of refugee households that have clean cooking solutions and technologies
- # of refugee households that have access to modern household lighting
- # refugees included in the National Adaptation Plan (NAP)
- # of multipurpose tree seedlings planted
- # of hectares of land rehabilitated
- # of hectares of woodlot developed for household energy and shelter construction
- Availability of a functioning landfill
- Regional Water and Energy Bureau and the Bureau of Agriculture and Environment include Ura settlement in its plans and budgets.

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### What are the current investments in the environment and energy sectors in the Ura woreda?

**EU-INTPA has provided funding to connect the Ura settlement's water pumping stations to the national grid. Efforts are underway with the Ethiopian Electricity Utility to install two transformers** to connect the host community and settlement water systems to ensure an easy pumping of water. EU-INTPA has also provided funding to **replace the diesel generator** that the water provision system in the Ura settlement relies on with a more sustainable solar PV pumping system. This transition aims to reduce operational costs and the settlement's carbon footprint.

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### Frequently Asked Questions

#### What are the main environmental challenges faced by the Ura settlement?

Challenges include deforestation, soil erosion, water resource management, and waste management. The settlement's reliance on fuelwood contributes to deforestation, while soil erosion is prevalent near the settlement. Water resources are under pressure from overexploitation and contamination, and there is a lack of formal waste management systems.

#### What are the energy needs and primary sources of energy currently used in the Ura settlement and the local community?

The primary sources of energy for cooking for host community and refugees are fuelwood and charcoal. The reliance on fuelwood contributes to deforestation, environmental degradation, and increased carbon emissions. It places a significant burden on women and children, who are responsible for collecting wood, exposing them to safety risks and reducing their time for other activities. Over time, the increased demand for fuelwood by refugees can lead to competition with the host community for limited forest resources, thereby straining relations and possibly leading to conflict.

Deforestation, driven by the need for fuelwood, removes trees and vegetation that protect the soil from erosion. Without this natural cover, the soil becomes more vulnerable to erosion by wind and water. This soil erosion, driven by seasonal floods and winds, poses a significant challenge, affecting soil fertility for agricultural productivity and destabilizing the soil structure. This cycle of deforestation and soil degradation can lead to further environmental and economic challenges. Strategies to combat soil erosion include

improved soil management practices, such as reforestation, erosion control measures, and integrating sustainable land management practices into settlement planning.

Introducing renewable energy solutions will provide a consistent and sustainable energy supply, reduce environmental degradation, and improve the quality of life for residents. It will enhance energy security, reduce the risk of gender-based violence, and support the integration of refugees with the host community by promoting eco-friendly development.

### **How can the electricity needs of the Ura settlement be sustainably managed to support both refugee and host communities?**

Ura town is connected to the national grid. However, due to frequent power interruptions, the residents heavily rely on small diesel generators for home and commercial purposes. Ura settlement is not yet connected to the national grid, yet plans are underway to facilitate such connection in 2025.

Electricity needs at the household level in the Ura settlement and host community include lighting, heating, water pumping, and productive uses such as powering small businesses, workshops, and agricultural processing equipment. Community infrastructure such as schools, health centers, water provision etc., needs also to be accounted for.

Improved access to reliable electricity in the Ura settlement and host community can create various economic opportunities, including the establishment of small-scale enterprises, and agricultural processing units. Reliable electricity can power businesses such as cafes, mobile shops, and butchers, enabling refugees and host community members to generate income and support their families. Additionally, electricity can facilitate the use of modern agricultural equipment, enhancing productivity and efficiency in farming activities. These economic opportunities not only provide livelihoods for refugees and the host community but also contribute to the local economy, fostering social cohesion and mutual benefit. By supporting economic development, reliable electricity helps build a more resilient and self-reliant community.

### **What role does land use planning play in the sustainable development of the Ura settlement?**

Land use planning by the Regional Urban Bureau is crucial for balancing the immediate needs of refugees with the long-term goals of the host community. It involves the strategic allocation of land for residential, agricultural, and conservation purposes, ensuring that development is sustainable and minimizes environmental impact. Proper planning helps in managing resources efficiently and promoting harmonious coexistence between refugees and the host community. FAO and UNHCR will work with local government authorities and communities to develop a Forest Landscape Management Plan (FLMP) to address potential issues of deforestation and land degradation, laying the groundwork for long-term environmental solutions.

### **How are waste management practices implemented in the Ura settlement to protect the environment?**

Waste management practices due to the emergency in the Ura settlement include the excavation of solid waste pits for household waste, which are incinerated when filled. However, there is a need for a comprehensive waste management plan, including waste segregation, transportation, composting, and the establishment of a sanitary landfill to ensure safe and sustainable waste disposal. In the future, when a *woreda* development plan is prepared and approved, a distant land from the settlement will be available for landfill construction for proper liquid and solid waste management. The service can be integrated with the water supply and sewerage enterprise; an institution established by the regional law to render the services for the region.



## Community & Social Services

### Community Profile

In Ura settlement, there are both **Sudanese refugees** and **South Sudanese asylum seekers** who have entered Ethiopia from Sudan through the Kurmuk Transit Center at the border. The Ura population is evenly divided between females and males. **Nearly 50% of the population are minors.** The population is a mix of rural and urban people, with varying degrees of educational backgrounds and skills training. As of February 2025, the top five areas of origin among the Ura population are **Khartoum, Blue Nile, Aj Jazirah, Sennar and West Darfur**, and all residents cohabitate in zones that are divided among geographical as opposed to ethnic or tribal affiliations. **As of November 2024, the ratio of refugees to host community members was 2.5 : 1.** However, as the settlement population grows towards the site's absorption capacity of 34,000 individuals, the **ratio is expected to shift to 10 : 1**, with 91% of the total population being refugees and 9% comprising the native host community.

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### What is the policy environment?

At the 2023 Global Refugee Forum, the Government of Ethiopia pledged to:

- Include refugees into national systems, including the national **Central Statistics Service (CSS)**, the national **Gender-Based Violence (GBV)** prevention and response programs, the **National ID Program (NIDP)**, and **national secondary education schools and TVET systems**.
- Include refugees in the **national digital infrastructure** (including vital events registration such as birth, death, marriage and divorce).

Currently, all Sudanese refugees are granted ***prima facie* recognition** by the Government of Ethiopia. Non-Sudanese nationals who cross into Ethiopia through Sudan are considered asylum seekers. RRS has approved the relocation of both refugees and asylum seekers from Sudan to reside in Ura Refugee Site. In Assosa, RRS and UNHCR have prepared the groundwork to commence the **biometric registration and issuance of ID cards with FAYDA numbers** under the National ID Programme, following which all refugees and asylum seekers age 5 and above will be issued a FAYDA number, while all those above the age of 14 will receive ID cards.

## What are the priority investments?

1. **Provide of 7,400 improved cookstoves to refugee and host community households** (1 cookstove per household of up to 8 people) to increase efficiency, as well as explore alternative fuels such as bamboo or agricultural residues available in the vicinity. In the longer term, provide clean cooking options such as liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) or electric cooking powered by renewable energy sources.
2. **Establish a nursery site at Ura settlement to allow for fast-growing tree plantations for a renewable wood supply**, in line with the Forest Landscape Management Plan. Cooperatives for managing energy systems and conservation programs are established and include both refugee and host communities.
3. **Connect Ura settlement to the national grid while enhancing the existing electrical infrastructure** to minimize outages and ensure a more reliable supply. Once the grid connection is available through the different zones and blocks, a communal kitchen hall should be established for households to make use of the center for their daily power needs.
4. Establish **mini grids powered by renewable energy sources**, such as solar, to provide a stable energy supply. These mini grids can be interconnected with the national grid, strengthening the overall system and providing backup during grid interruptions.
5. **Connect all schools and health centres to quality solar systems.**
6. Establish **solar streetlights** within the Ura settlement, which improve security and reduce GBV cases.
7. Install **Solar Home Systems (SHS)** to all refugee households.
8. Establish a **waste management system** that includes a landfill.
9. Create a **reafforestation program** to cover the exposed land use in the Ura watershed catchment, in line with the Forest Landscape Management Plan.
10. Establish **disaster preparedness groups** involving refugee and host communities and practice required anticipatory actions.

## How will progress be measured?

**Vision Statement:** *Refugees and members of the host community benefit from social services including case management and non-specialized mental health services through the Bureau of Women and Social Affairs (BoWSA) and specialized MHPSS through the Health Bureau for vulnerable persons, including GBV survivors/persons at risk, unaccompanied and separated children and other vulnerable children, and persons with specific needs. In addition, refugees and host communities live in safety, enjoying peaceful relations through joint community structures and recreational/civic spaces.*

**Access to documentation** such as national ID cards, and vital events registration documents, for all refugees and asylum seekers, which will promote safety/security of refugees as well as access to services (e.g. telecom, financial services)

**A fully equipped police station** ensures the safety and stability of both the host community and the refugee settlement. The host community currently lacks a full police station, relying only on a small substation, which is insufficient given the large influx of people into the area. The limited presence of law enforcement is inadequate to meet the growing security needs, especially with the increasing population putting additional pressure on existing resources.

**Promoting access to mobile courts** helps to bring justice closer to both refugee and host communities for all people in need. This helps in promoting a more efficient judicial system.

Through systems strengthening, **capacitate the BoWSA to deliver fully government-run GBV prevention and response services** (vehicles, personnel and technical capacity building), **child protection services** (including child-care placements and best interest procedures) and **services for persons with specific needs**.

A **Peace Committees/Neighbourhood Relations Committee** to promote dialogue and conflict resolution between refugees and host communities. Public recreational, religious and community spaces play a crucial role in fostering social cohesion and supporting the integration process between refugees and host communities. The strategic enhancement of these areas would not only improve the quality of life for residents but also provide opportunities for community engagement, cultural exchange, and shared ownership. With proper planning, investment, and community involvement, these spaces can become key assets for both social integration and urban development, strengthening the overall resilience and inclusivity of the settlement.

**Social networks and community participation play a vital role in the settlement**, with various organizations and groups actively contributing to the community's social fabric. **Women's groups, youth organizations, and the Refugee Central Committee (RCC)** provide platforms for collective action, advocacy, and support within the community. These groups not only empower their members but also strengthen overall social cohesion by fostering trust and collaboration. The good relations between different groups and the wider community reflect a strong sense of unity and mutual support, which are essential for maintaining a harmonious and resilient settlement.

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### How will progress be measured on refugee inclusion in community and social services?

- Number of refugees/asylum seekers issued National ID Cards and VERA documents
- For GBV and CP response, community impact would be measured through client satisfaction surveys, monitoring of numbers of users of Safe House and One Stop Centre, individuals provided with case management and non-specialized MHPSS. For GBV prevention, projects like Zero Tolerance Villages for both the refugee and host community can be instrumental in making and demonstrating impact
- Number of joint recreational activities and Peace Committee meetings between refugee and host communities; assessment of community relations through annual participatory assessments

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### What investments required to deliver on the vision?

- BoWSA in Ura Woreda to be capacitated in terms of infrastructure and systems, including data management, technical expertise and a hotline
- A fully integrated center for women and children (including survivors/at risk persons) in Akuda/Ura
- A fully operational emergency Safe House for GBV survivors and children at risk in Akuda/Ura (currently, the only Safe House is in Homosha and has limited capacity)
- Expansion of the Health Center to serve as One-Stop Centre for GBV response services
- At least one Youth Centre in Akuda/Ura with indoor and outdoor facilities, including for sports and an ICT lab/library accessible to both refugee and host community youth. This centre can also offer a meeting space for other community-led initiatives, such as Peace Committees
- Capacity building of law enforcement facilities and mobile courts