



PRESS RELEASE

EU AND UNHCR LAUNCH €14 MILLION PROJECT TO ADVANCE REFUGEE INCLUSION AND RESILIENCE IN KEBRIBEYAH, SOMALI REGION

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia – 25 November 2025 – The European Union, in partnership with UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and the Government of Ethiopia, has launched a major new initiative to strengthen refugee inclusion and support sustainable solutions in the Somali Regional State of Ethiopia.

With a total budget of €14.26 million – including €12 million from the European Union and €2.26 million from UNHCR – the project will benefit more than 20,000 refugees and over 52,000 host community members and internally displaced persons in Kebribeyah.

This initiative aims to expand access to basic services for refugees and host communities in Kebribeyah, Somali Region. Implemented by UNHCR in close partnership with the Government of Ethiopia and the Somali Regional State, the project supports the delivery of key pledges under the Makatet Roadmap, which promotes inclusion and equitable access to basic services. By facilitating integration into national systems, the “Advancing Refugee Inclusion in the Somali Region, Ethiopia” (ARISR) project contributes to building stronger, more cohesive communities.

The project is also aligned with the Somali Regional State Multi-Year Resilience Investment Plan (2023–2028), reinforcing the region’s vision of resilient communities capable of achieving peace, stability, and sustainable development.

The project will expand access to housing, education, health, and waste management while also strengthening governance institutional capacity to ensure inclusive and sustainable service delivery.

- **Housing:** Construction of approximately 875 affordable housing units and 436 shared sanitation facilities, along with improvements to Kebribeyah’s spatial planning and infrastructure.
- **Education:** Construction of new classrooms and a library, solarization of targeted schools, and full integration into the regional education system.
- **Health:** Expansion of health facilities through new buildings, equipment, ambulances, and medicines to enhance healthcare delivery.
- **Waste Management:** Strengthening of solid waste management systems through local capacity building and provision of tools and equipment.
- **Governance and coordination:** Enhanced coordination platforms and strengthened institutional capacity for inclusive and accountable service delivery.



Co-funded by
the European Union



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Refugees and Returnees Service



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency



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This joint action reflects a shared commitment to inclusive development, ensuring that refugees and host communities have the tools and opportunities needed to build a better future.

The launch of ARISR project marks a significant step toward achieving the goals of the Makatet Roadmap and the Somali Regional State Resilience Plan, fostering an environment where everyone – regardless of status – can access essential services and contribute to sustainable development.

Implementation begins immediately, with activities designed to deliver tangible benefits for both refugees and host communities across Kebribeyah and surrounding areas.

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