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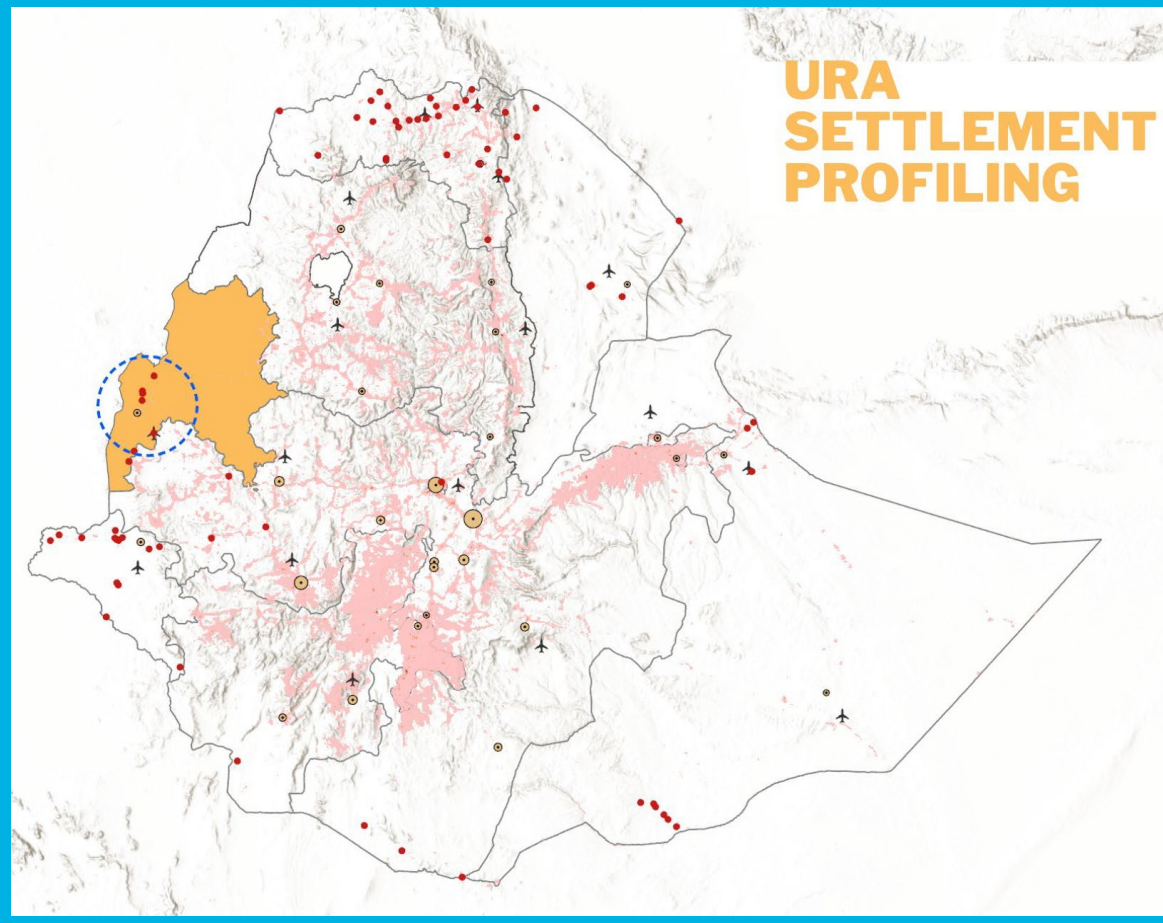
URA Refugee Settlement Profiling

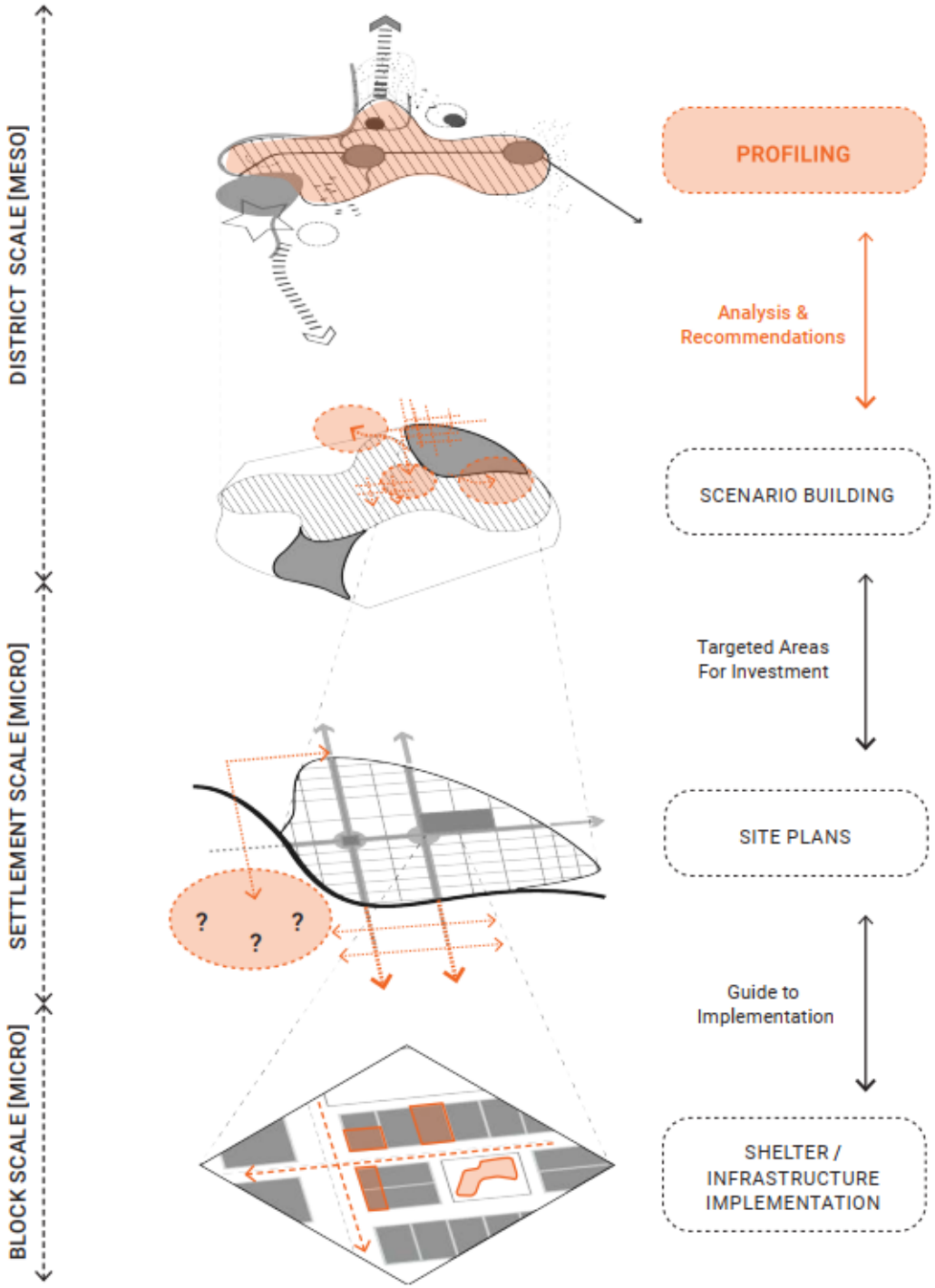


Presented by: Abel Estifanos Eyob

Date: 05 June 2025

What is Settlement Profiling?

- a **systematic assessment of the physical, social, economic, and institutional dimensions** of a DAC area
- **Provides spatial information that can be used to inform planning a development**.
- **One Stop Shop – 360 Degree view**.



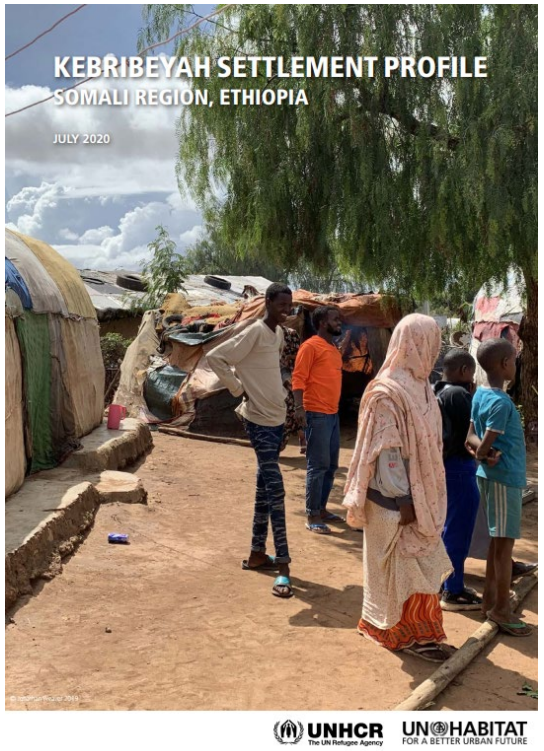
Spatial Profiling Process

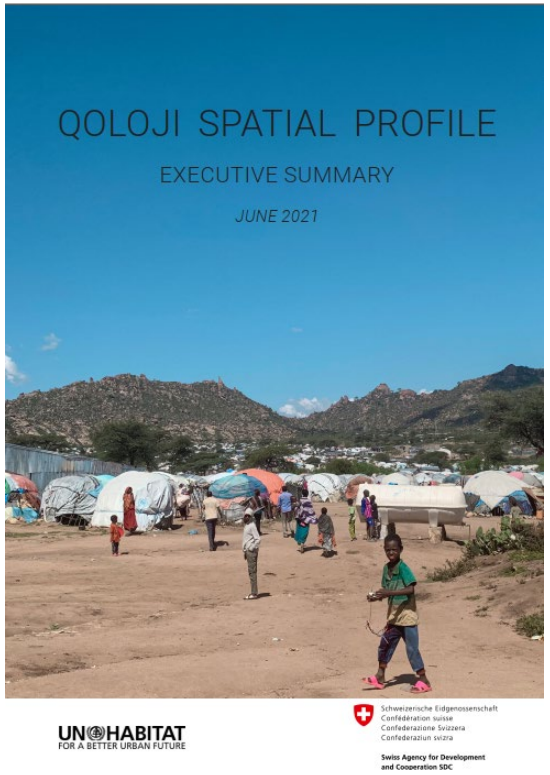
Settlement Profiling Assessment

- Strategic Guides
- Regional Drivers
- District Contexts
- Site specific features

Why Settlement Profiling?

- To provide a ***comprehensive understanding*** of the settlement.
- Transition from ***Humanitarian to Development*** Planning.
- To support ***evidence-based decision-making.***
- Provides ***options not decision***
- To be ***proactive*** instead of the ***reactive (costly)***
- Avoid ***protraction***





- Benefits achieved
  - Brings due attention
  - Actionable information
  - Coordination
  - Avoid duplication of efforts

INTRODUCTION

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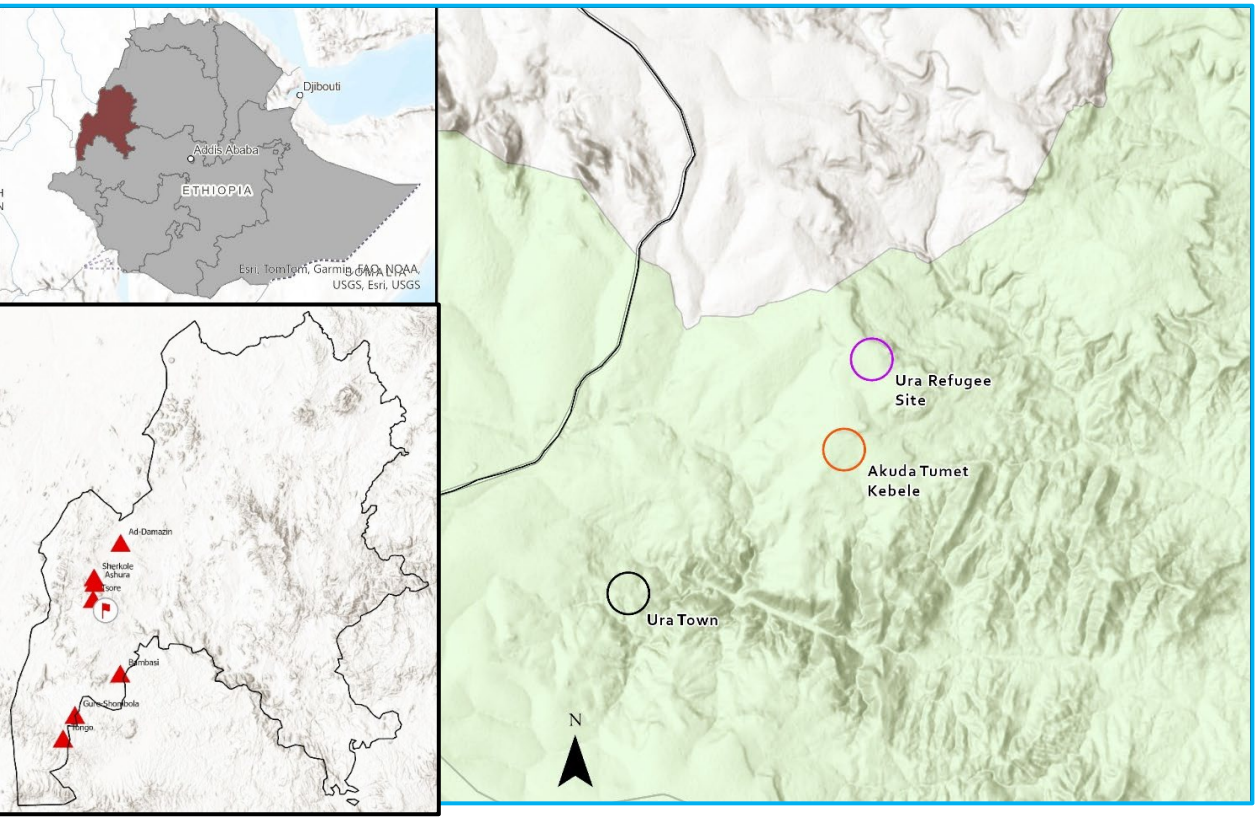
Ura Refugee Settlement

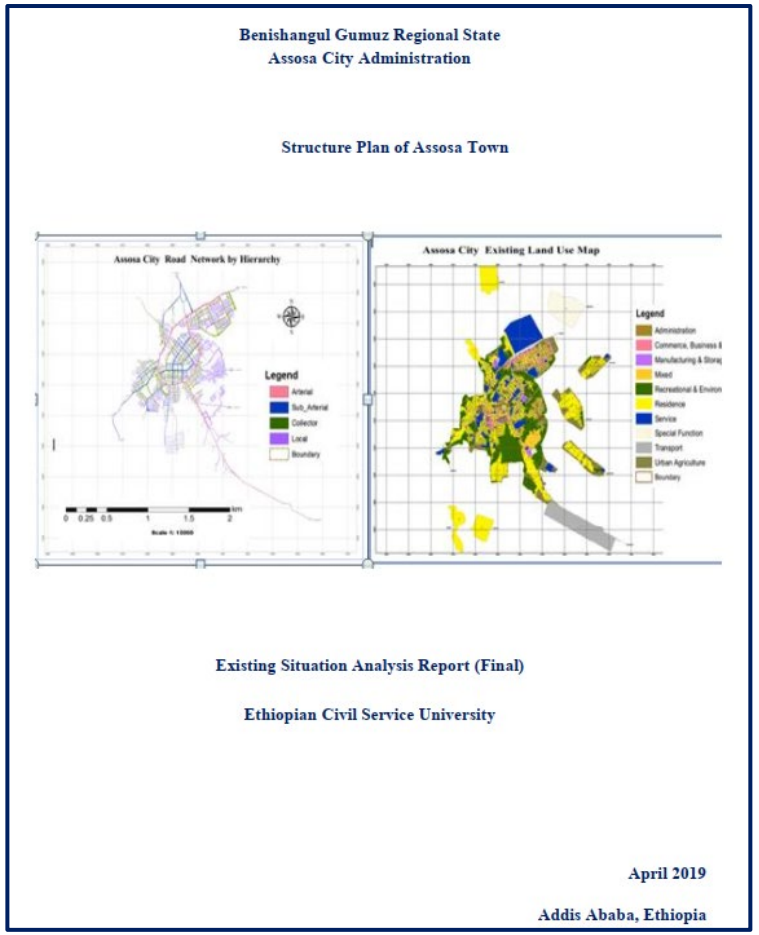


- Located
  - 18Km from Assosa
- Size
  - 350 hec
- Population
  - 34K

METHODOLOGY

Primary Data

Secondary Data



Benishangul Gumuz Regional State
Assosa City Administration

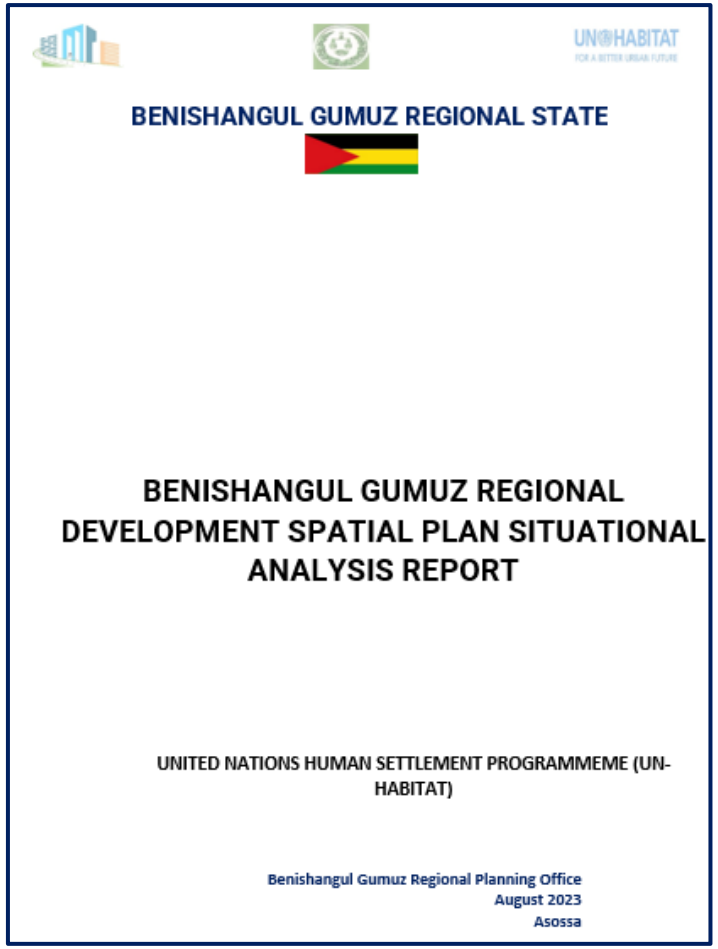
Structure Plan of Assosa Town

Existing Situation Analysis Report (Final)

Ethiopian Civil Service University

April 2019

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



BENISHANGUL GUMUZ REGIONAL STATE

BENISHANGUL GUMUZ REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT SPATIAL PLAN SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS REPORT

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENT PROGRAMMEME (UN-HABITAT)

Benishangul Gumuz Regional Planning Office
August 2023
Asossa

FINDINGS

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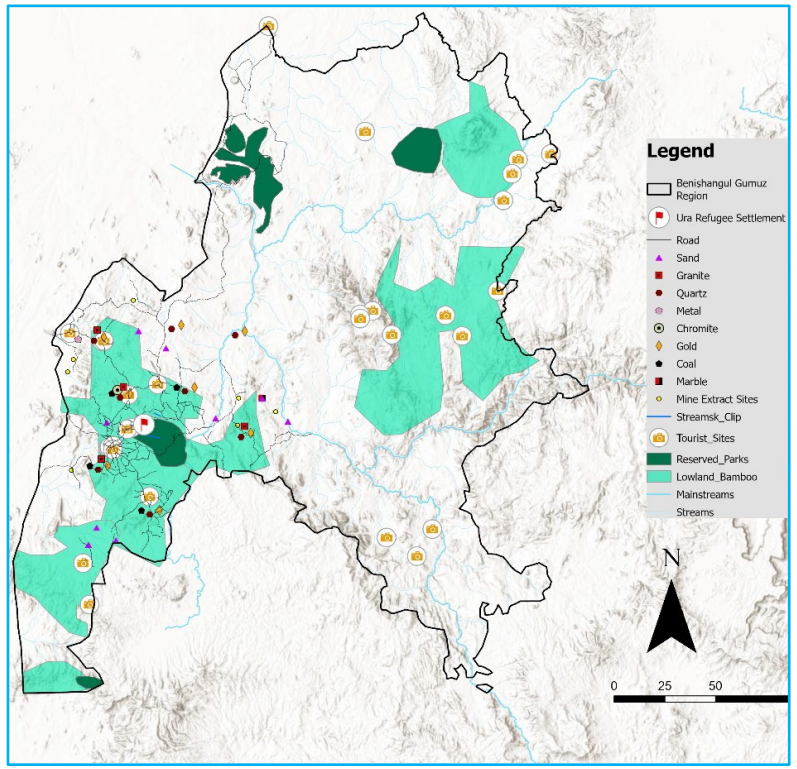
National/Strategic Context

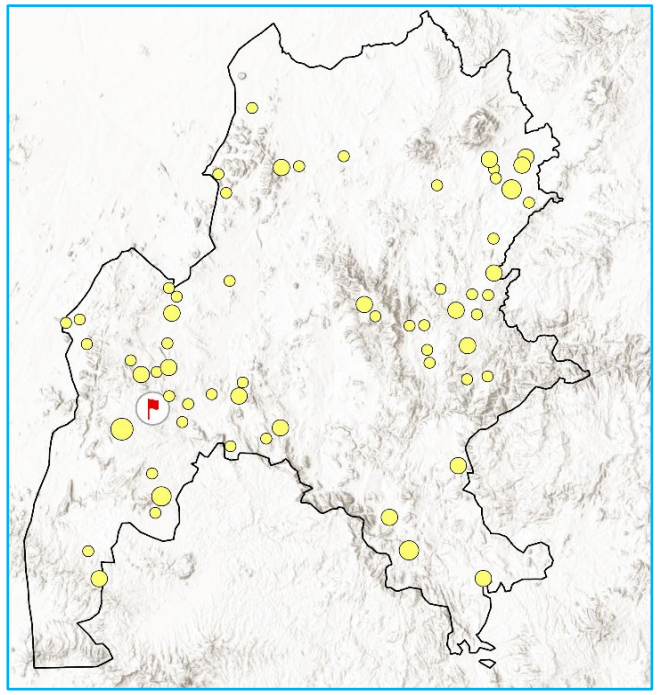
- Since the start of the conflict in Sudan in April 2023***, Ethiopia has kept its borders open*** to incoming refugees and asylum seekers.

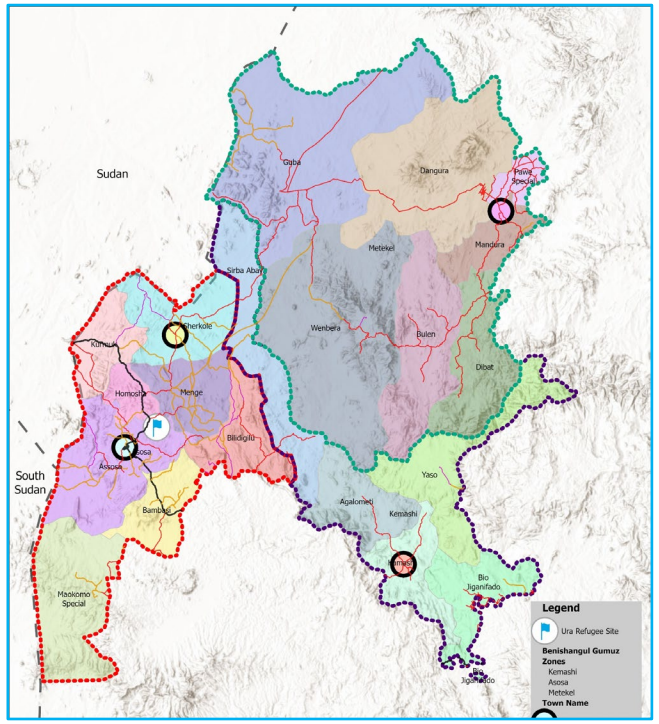
- In line with the Ethiopian Government's ***pledge*** made at the ***2023*** Global Refugee Forum on ***integrated human settlements***,
    - ***access to land and private sector engagement***, national and sub-national authorities employed an integrated approach for settlements hosting refugees who recently arrived from Sudan.

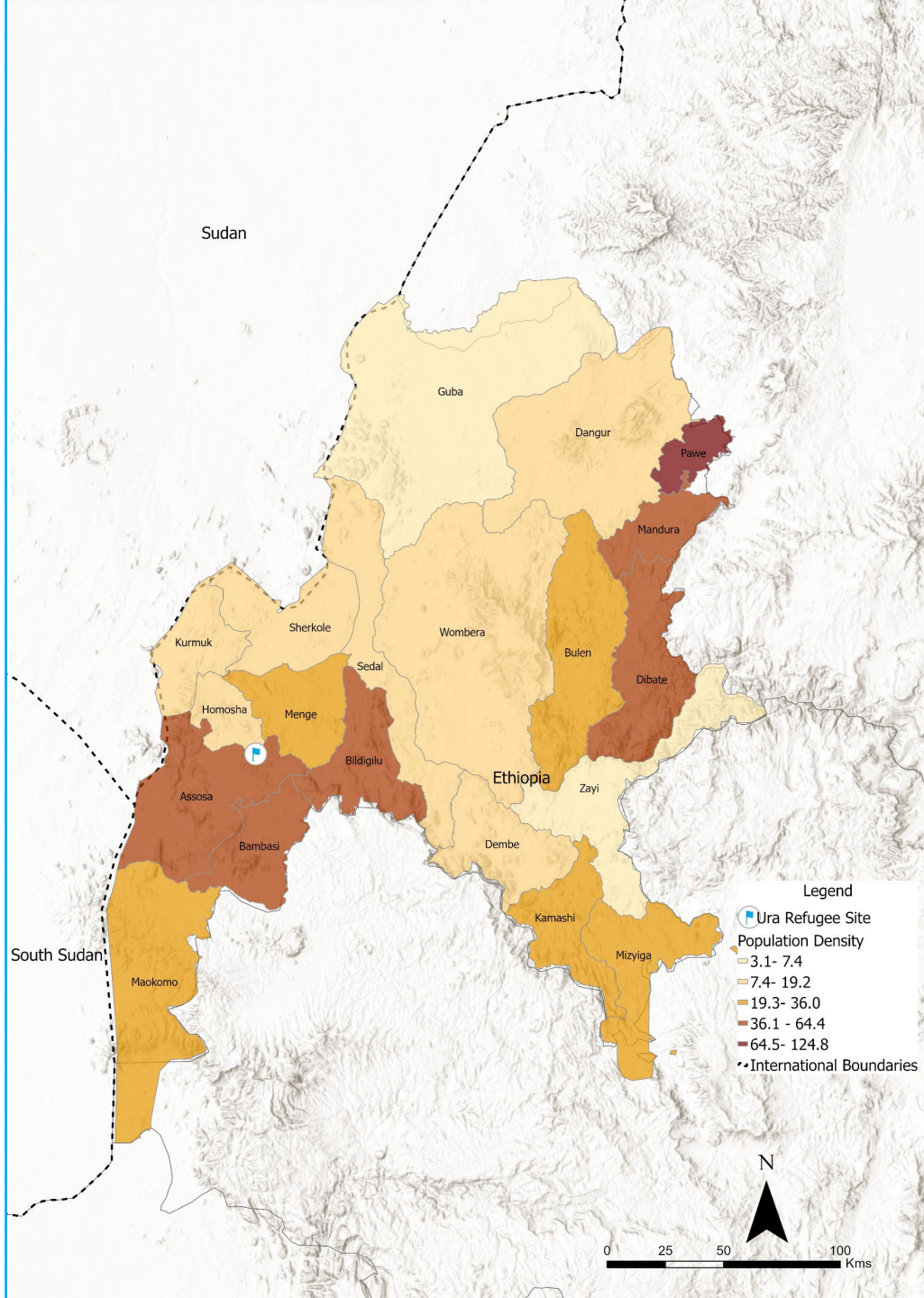
- "Makatet" or Inclusion road map

Regional Context

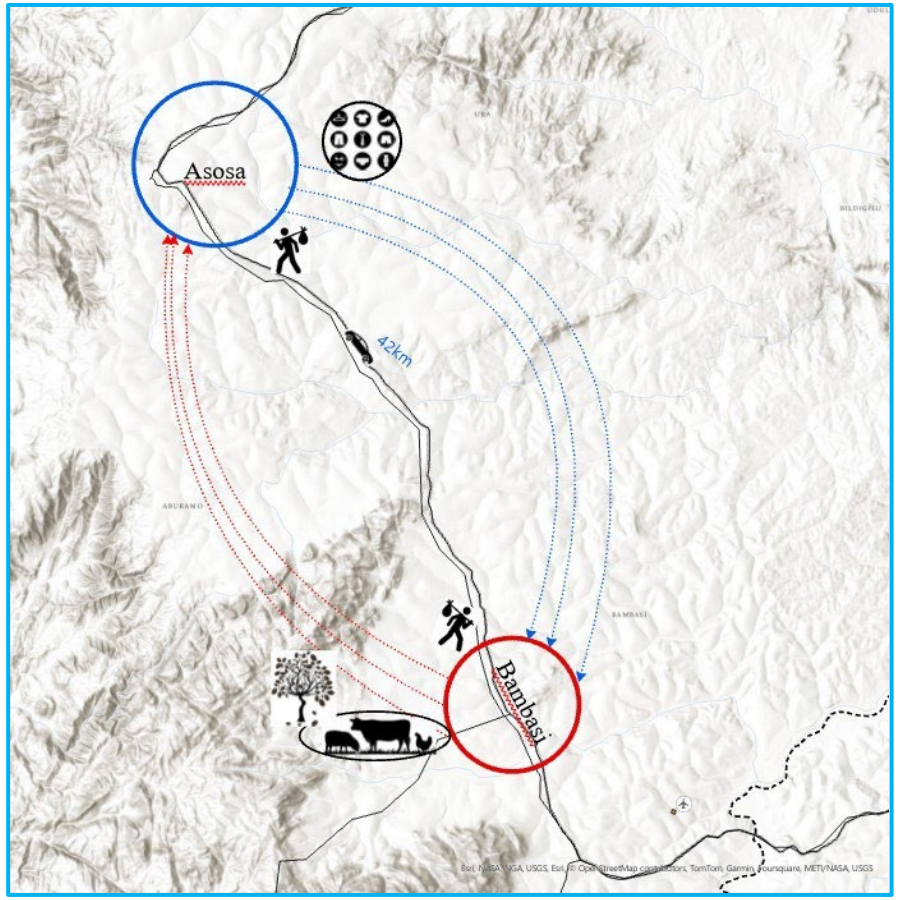


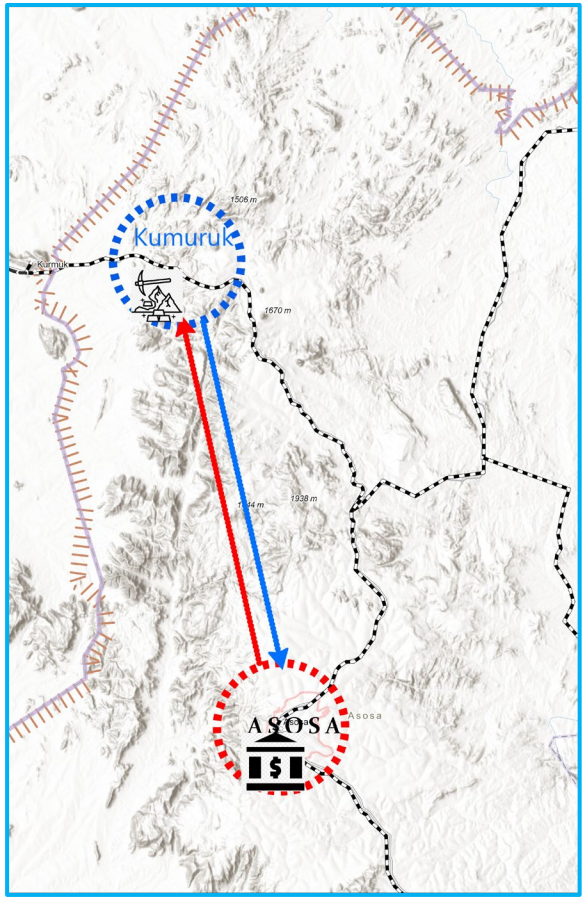


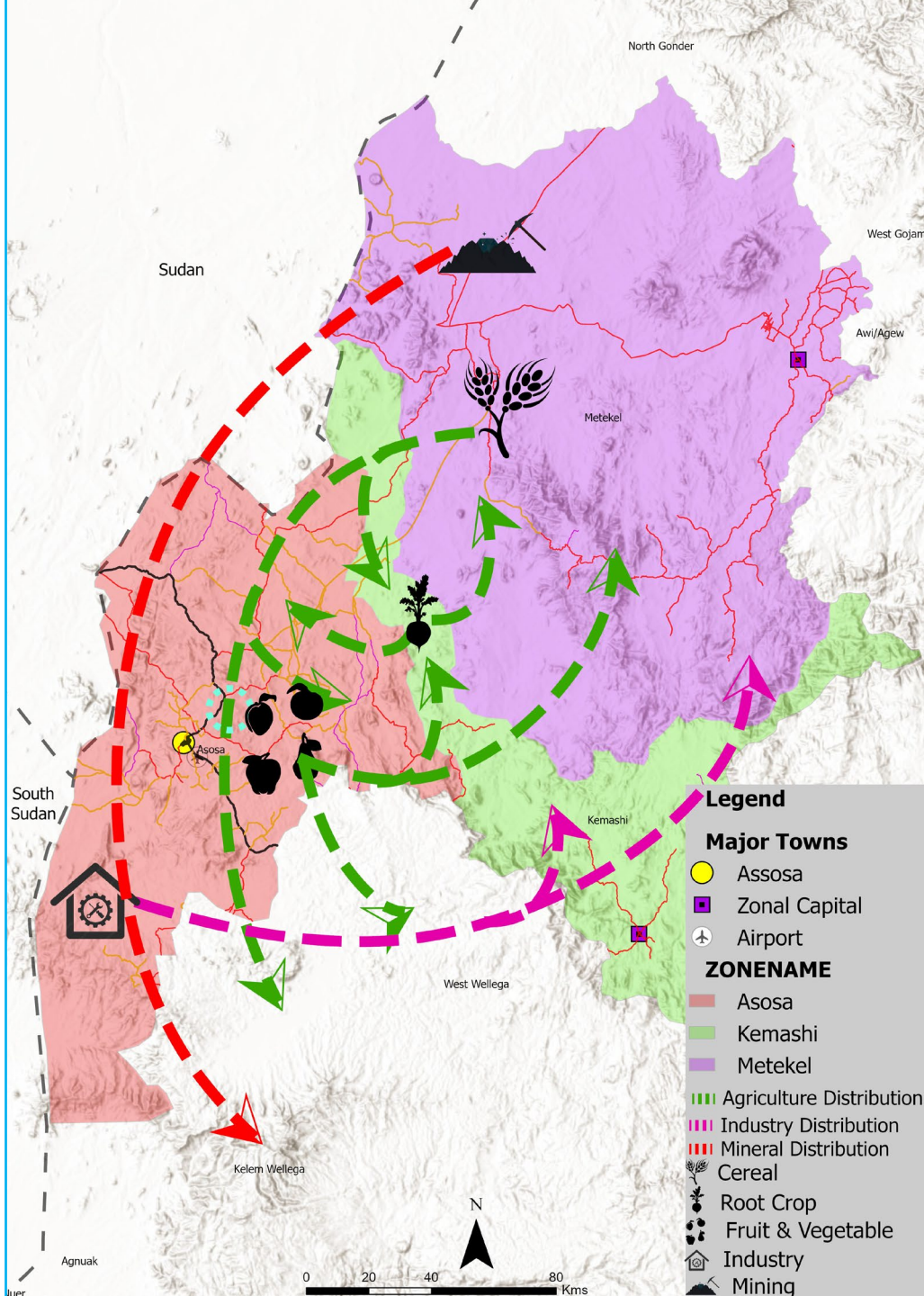




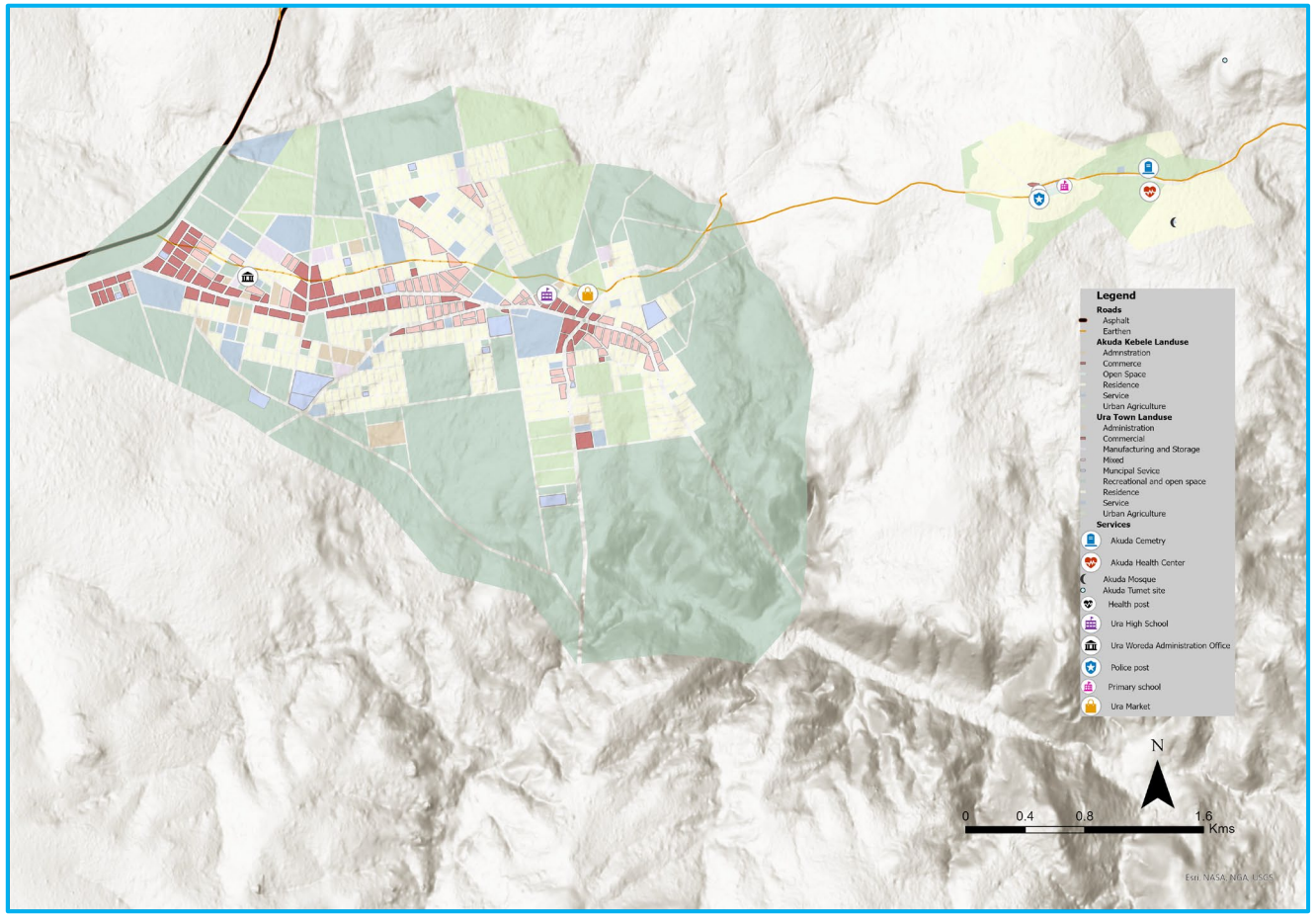
Economic Linkage – Regional & Hotspots

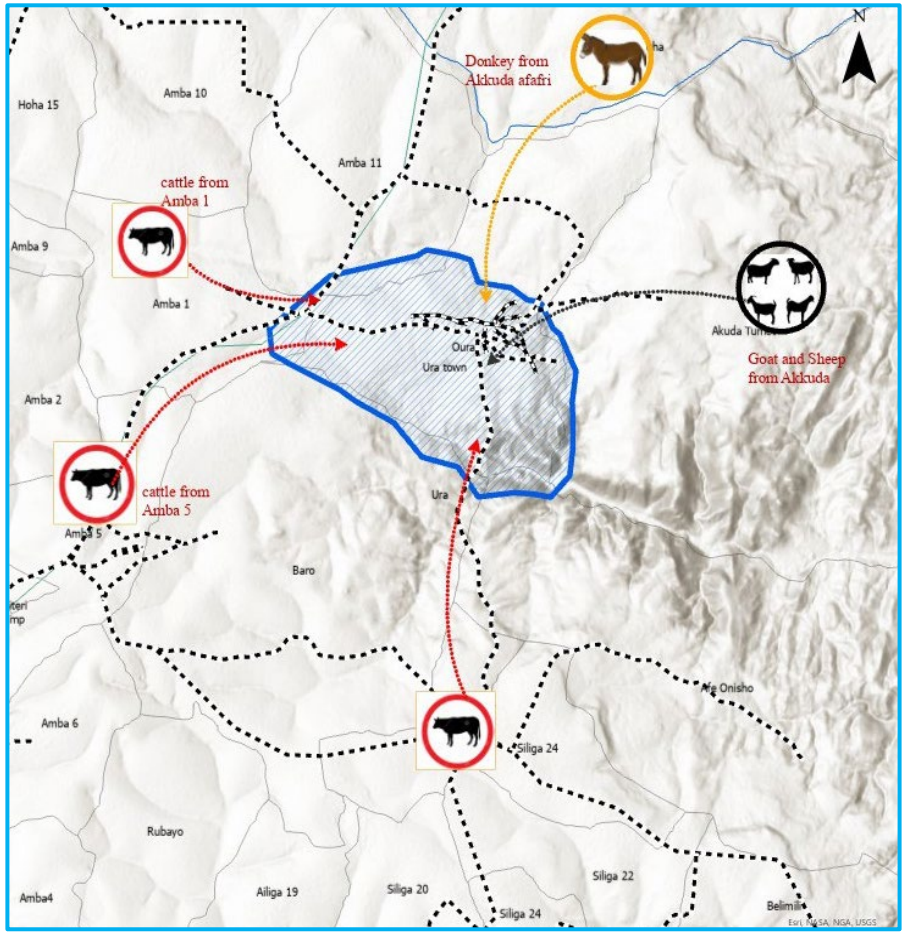






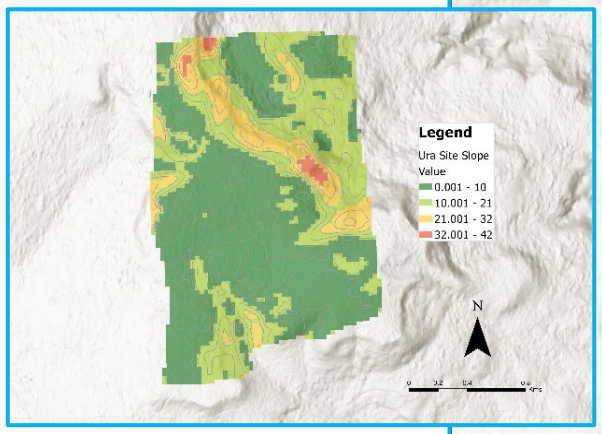
District/Influence Area Context

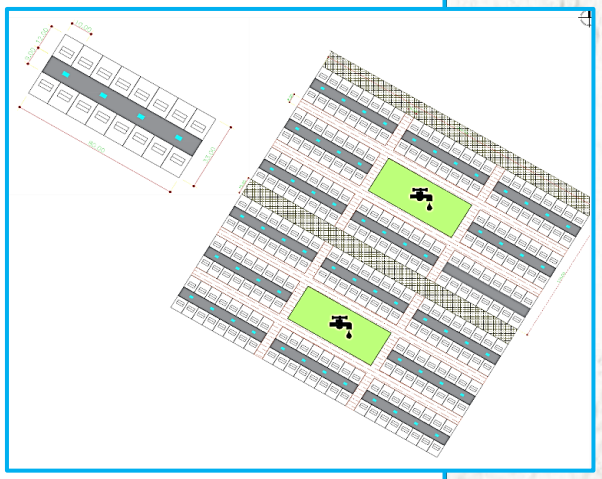


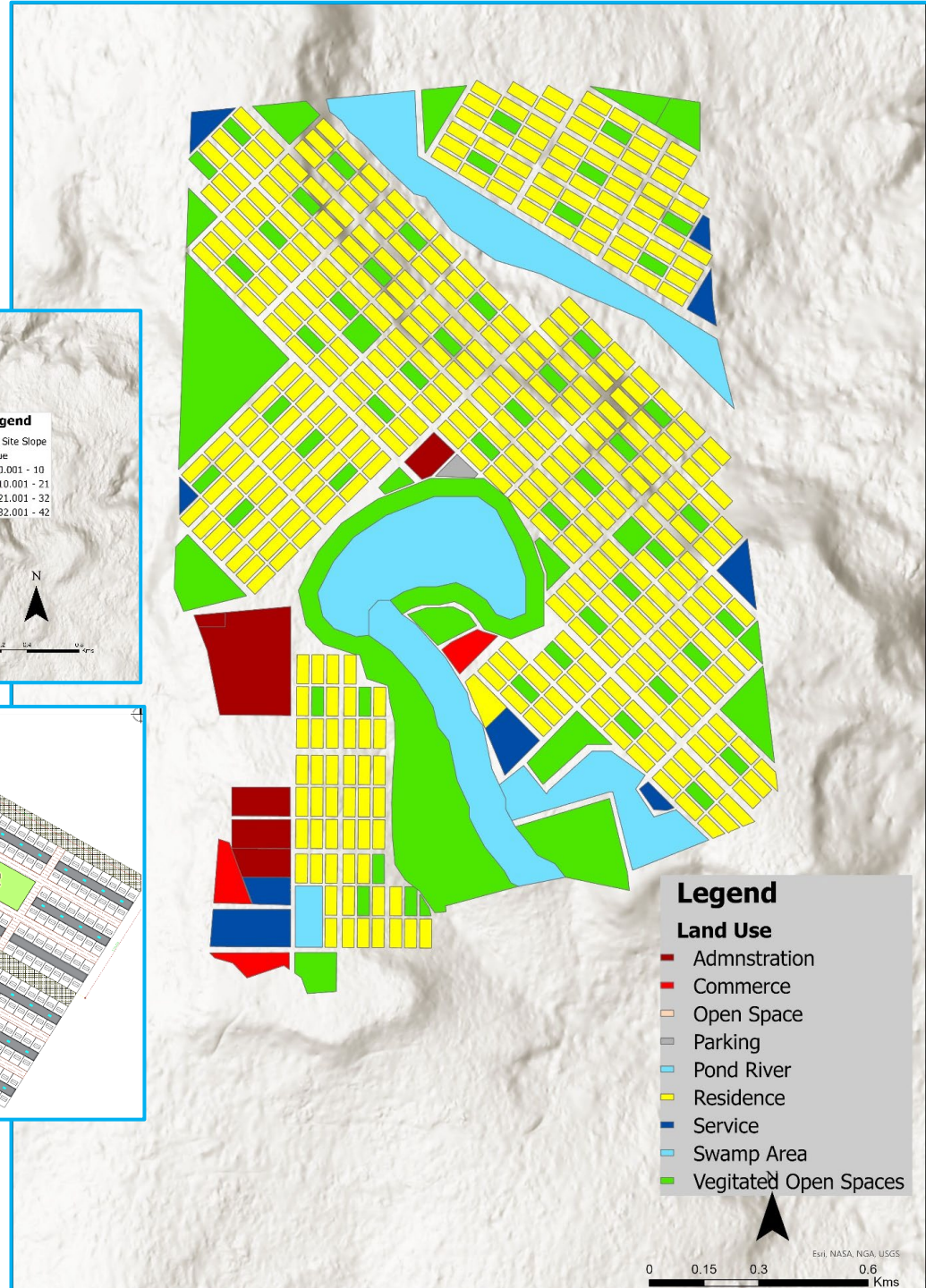


Site Context- URA Refugee Settlement

- Density
  - 11.3 K people/Km2
  - *Assosa Urban - 3.8K ppl/Km2*
- Topography
  - 0- 42%: Nearly 90% <20%
- LULC
  - Agriculture, Forest and Rangeland
- Strategic Location
  - *Spacious*
  - *Suitable Topography & Soil*







10 Year * Projection

SCENARIO 1: NATRURAL GROWTH

- $P_t = P_{t-1} + Births - Deaths + Arrivals - Departures$

SCENARIO 2: ESCALATION

- average migration rate of 13%

SCENARIO 2: DE-ESCALATION

- 10% of refugees to be returned every year*

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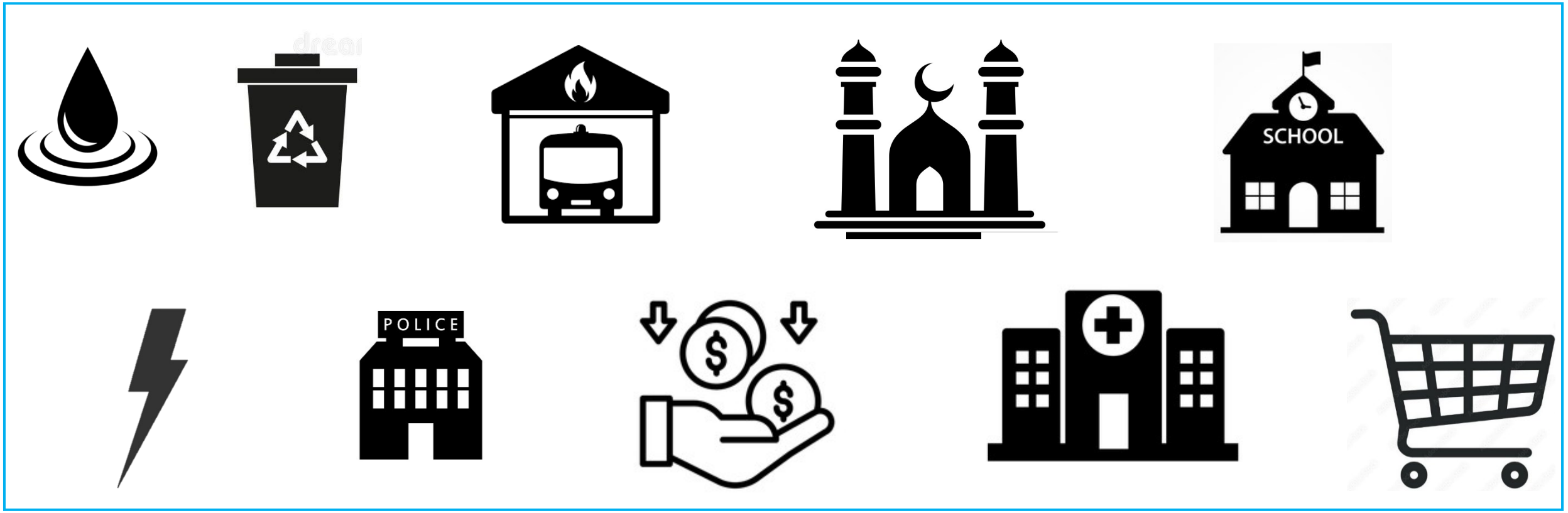
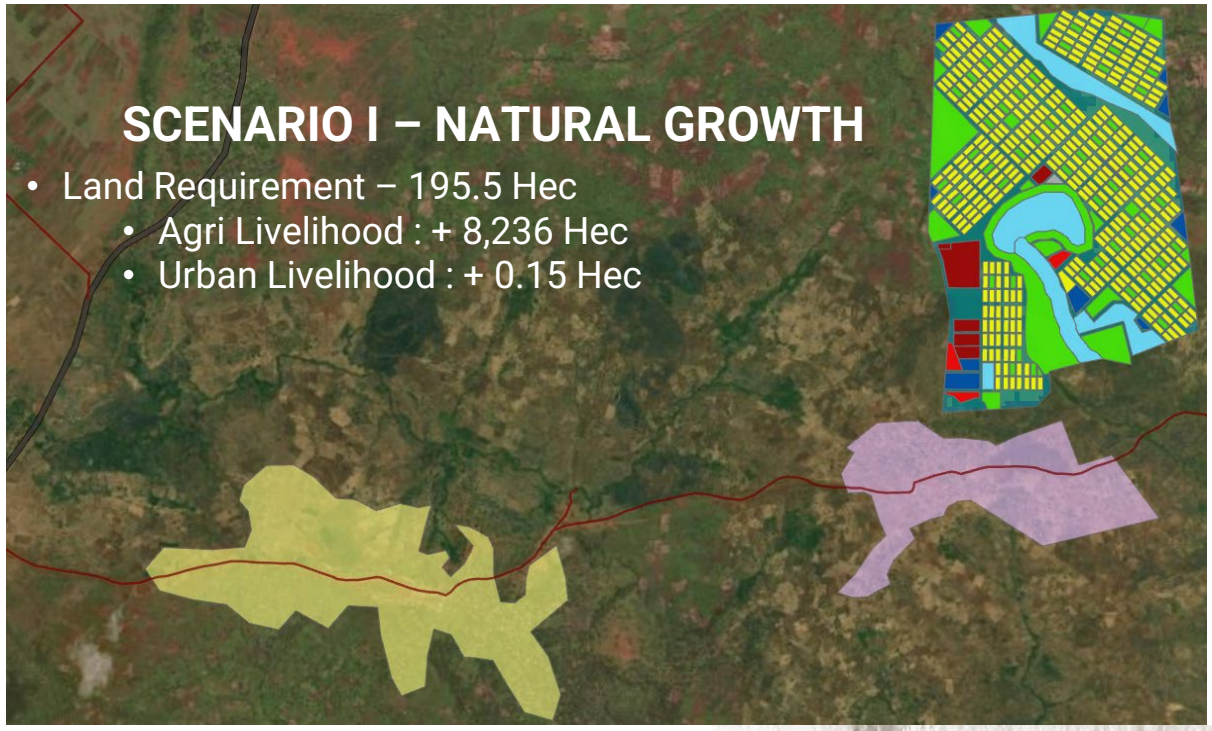
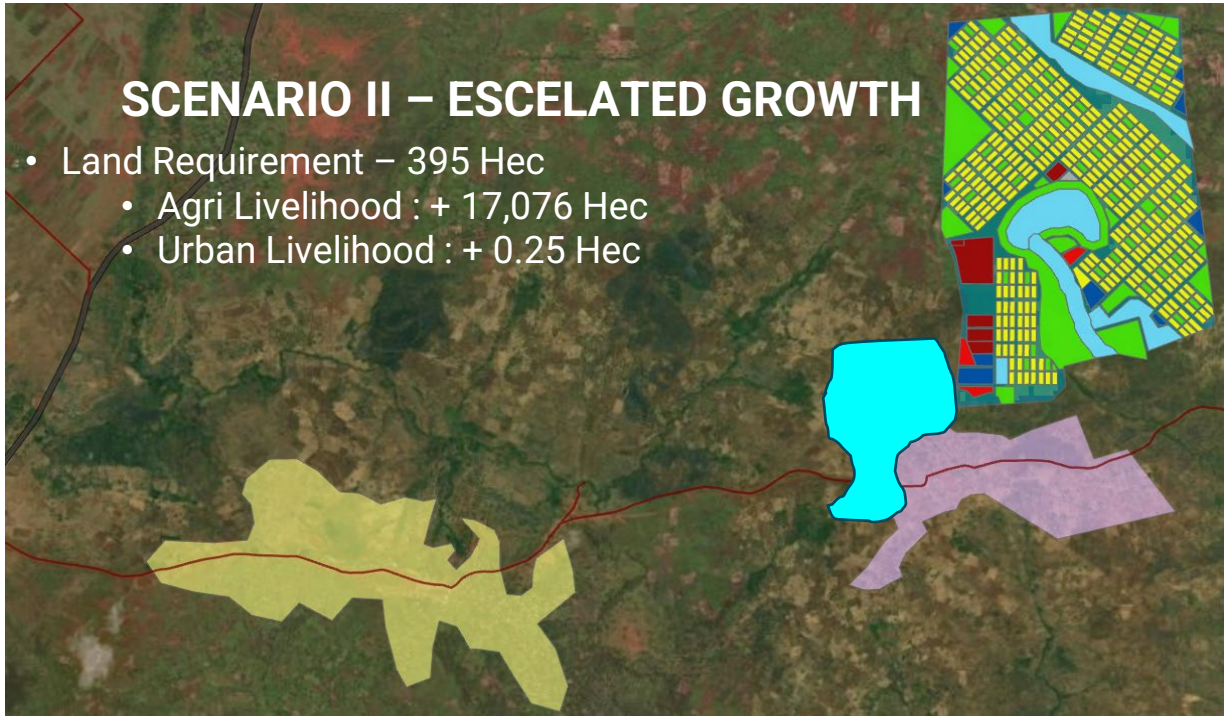
Scenario: Service & Infrastructure Implications



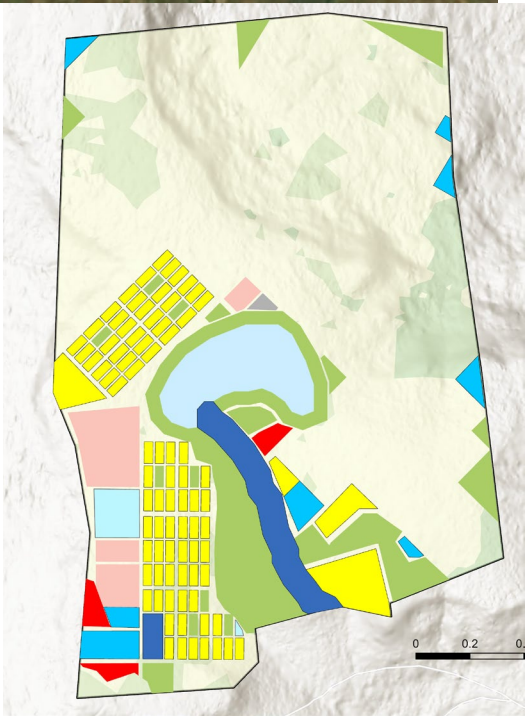
Scenario: Spatial Implications





SCENARIO III – DE-ESCELATION

- Land Requirement – 45 Hec
- Agri Livelihood – +1.436Hec
- Urban Livelihood - + 0.05 Hec



Community Insights

Skill training and Capacity Exchange

Language Barrier: ***Hospitals***

Welcoming Host Community

Work in Gold mining, Trade & Agriculture

Study Curriculum

Cold weather illness: ***Energy and Temporary shelter***

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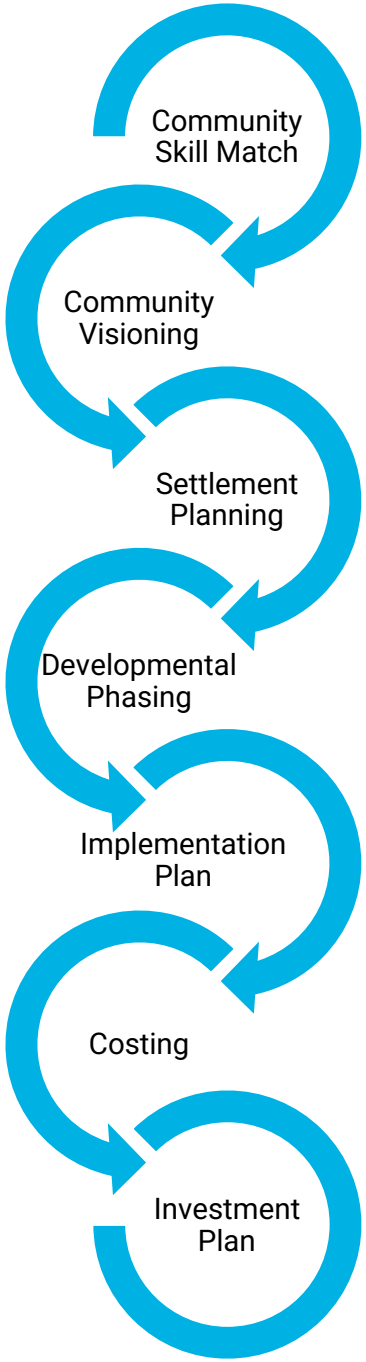
Next Steps - URA



Economic Inclusion

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Spatial Profiling Driving Economic Inclusion

- Economic inclusion isn't about starting from scratch
  - Map **existing skill sets**
  - Identify **livelihood practices from places of origin**
  - Express **aspirations**
  - Capture **constraints** like legal status, language barriers, or lack of tools and capital
  - Opportunities for co-investment

- Distance to opportunity is a barrier
  - markets, roads, water sources, farms, and job centers **Proximity**
  - **Competition Vs complementarity** of Communities
  - **segregation or integration**

- Vague assumptions lead to one-size-fits-all interventions.
  - Profiling turns **general need into actionable insight.**
  - programs **matched to market demands** - Vocational training
  - public works schemes where infrastructure gaps exist - Cash-for-work
  - programs based **on land access, rainfall, or local demand** - Agribusiness

- Economic inclusion embedded in a wider local economy, not treated as a siloed refugee issue.
  - Shared infrastructure and services
  - Points of friction or cooperation
  - Opportunities for co-investment

Spatial Profiling as a Tool for Economic Inclusion

Why Settlement Profiling Is a Game-Changer:

- Moves planning from ***needs-based* to *opportunity-driven***
- Grounds interventions in **evidence**, not assumptions
- Builds bridges between **humanitarian** and **development** actors
- Enables **inclusive growth** that benefits both refugees and hosts
- Helps shift the conversation from vulnerability to **agency and contribution**

Thank you!

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IMPLEMENTING THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES