



ETHIOPIA

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

17 - 24 July 2014

KEY FIGURES

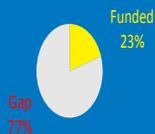
176,313

UNHCR PoC for the situation

FUNDING

USD 210m

requested for the operation



PRIORITIES

- Search for new land for development as camps
- Develop Nip Nip and Pamdong to accommodate refugees
- Joint feasibility assessment mission to Dimma to assess possible relocation
- Implement preparedness related to rainy season by strengthening WASH interventions and encouraging positive behavioural change

HIGHLIGHTS

- The total number of South Sudanese refugees who have entered Ethiopia since the outbreak of the conflict in mid-December 2013 is now over 176,000 individuals, with the number continuing to increase daily. The asylum seekers continue to arrive in Ethiopia into the Gambella Regional State, mainly through Burbiey, Pagak and Akobo border-entry points, citing fighting and food insecurity as the main reasons for their flight.
- There are an estimated 16,500 people at the border entry points of Pagak and Matar waiting to be relocated to a camp.
- Pamdong Refugee Camp was recently granted by the Gambella People's Regional National State President Gatluak Tut Khot on 18 July 2014 after protracted negotiations. On 23 July 2014 at a standing meeting between partners at Pamdong Refugee Camp, a representative of the Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) informed partners that Pamdong will not be developed as a refugee camp, but rather a temporary transit site. This site will be used to help decongest the border entry points; however, additional land for camps is still urgently required.
- The Regional President of Gambella also informed UNHCR that Kule 1 is to be renamed Kule Refugee Camp and Kule 2 is to be known as Tierkidi Refugee Camp.
- On 25 July, UNHCR and IOM plan to move the most vulnerable refugees as well as those who have been waiting the longest away from the entry points and into Pamdong, The construction of 15 hangars, 60 latrines and water points is well underway so as to receive the new arrivals.
- The Government continues to suggest that refugees are relocated to Dimma, a remote area in Gambella that would require a 3-4 day convoy journey along a difficult route. An inter-agency mission is going to Dimma today in order to assess the route and what such a relocation exercise would involve.
- Following heavy fighting in Nasir, in Upper Nile state, 50 injured combatants have arrived in Ethiopia since Sunday, 20 July 2013. Twenty-seven of them are at the MSF mobile site in Matar while another twenty-three more seriously wounded individuals are in MSF's Clinic in Leitchuor refugee camp. Eight are critically injured and in need of urgent medical attention. UNHCR and ARRA agreed with MSF and ICRC to assist the injured arrivals on a humanitarian basis by transferring the five most critical cases to Gambella Hospital. ICRC has since requested that more transfers are authorized; however, ARRA has informed UNHCR, MSF and ICRC that no more transfers have been authorized.
- The Oral Cholera Vaccination campaign is due to start in the camps on 24 July and will run for one month, taking into account the need for two doses of the vaccination to be given over a two week period.

Population of concern

A total of **176,313** people of concern

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

The total number of South Sudanese refugees who have entered Ethiopia since the outbreak of the conflict in mid-December 2013 is now over 176,000 individuals, with the number continuing to increase daily. The asylum seekers continue to arrive in Ethiopia into the Gambella Regional State, mainly through Burbiey, Pagak and Akobo border-entry points, citing fighting and food insecurity as the main reasons for their flight. The Ethiopian borders remain open to asylum seekers.

Achievements



Protection

Achievements and Impact

- There are 51,476 refugees living in Kule Camp, 50,246 in Tierkidi and 47,485 in Leitchuor with smaller groups at Pugnido, Okugo and living in the Akulla host community.
- Level 2 registration continues in Kule Camp, with the exercise expected to be completed by early August.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- More than 9,500 refugees are awaiting registration and relocation at Pagak entry point. New arrivals continue to be predominantly women and children. Most refugees are from Upper Nile State (Nasir, Mathiang, Maiwut, Okobo, Renk). Pagak is currently also receiving refugees from Unity State (Bentiu), Juba and Pangak (Panjak). New arrivals are predominantly Nuer (Gajaak, Gajiok, and Luo Nuer) and few are from Equatoria with nearly 100 Anuak refugees.
- The population at Matar is now over 7,000 and facilities are strained to cater for the basic needs of the refugees who are there.
- On 19 July a case of child rape was reported in Tierkidi. Follow up actions began immediately, and ARRA in collaboration with the Refugee Coordination Committee is following up on the case while the family and the survivor have been referred to IMC for medical support and further case management.
- UNHCR visited Itang jail where a total of 17 refugee inmates were identified. Arrangements have been made to provide meals as well as case follow-up.



Health

Achievements and Impact

- In Kule Camp, UNHCR met MSF and other health partners to agree on the implementation of a comprehensive malaria awareness raising campaign, which will include demonstrations of proper usage of mosquito nets and sensitize on malaria symptom recognition. MSF's malaria post is now operational in Zone B, while construction of the rest of the health facility will start in the first week of August.
- In Tierkidi Camp, the second MSF-H health post in the camp is functional and serving the refugee community. This has greatly facilitated the outreach and delivery of health services to more people in the camp.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The results of the recent Nutrition Survey indicate that crude and under-five mortality rates were found to be above the emergency threshold rates (1.0 and 2.0 deaths/10,000/day respectively) in Kule and Leitchour camps. However, these results are preliminary and more in-depth analysis is needed, especially for the death rates in Tierkidi as

refugees residing in Tierkidi had arrived just prior to the time of the survey. UNHCR and partners are following up on the results while also noting that secondary data review from weekly HIS reports submitted by health partners show improvements in the current mortality rates being below emergency threshold in all camps.

- The survey also reflects that anaemia levels in children in all camps are above 40% (which is the WHO Public Health Crisis classification). Kule has the highest prevalence (51.9%), followed by Tierkidi (46.2%) and Leitchuor (42.7%). The prevalence of anaemia in women is lower, with 25.9% in Kule, 19.8% in Tierkidi and 19.0% in Leitchuor.
- The vaccination coverage is lower than expected considering the blanket approach to immunisations at the point of registration. In Leitchuor, only 68% reported measles vaccination via card or recall. This figure reaches above 80% in Kule and Tierkidi camps, however remains well below the target of 95%. Also of concern is the very low attendance to ante-natal care facilities, with only 21.4% of women in Kule reporting that they are enrolled in ANC, 40.7% in Tierkidi and 52.4% in Leitchuor.
- Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) results are positive, showing very high rates of continued breastfeeding at one year (above 90%).



Food Security and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR and its partners ACF and MSF continue to identify severely and moderately malnourished children as they enter Pagak entry point. The children and their families are being prioritised for relocation to Pamdong Camp. In the meantime, over 200 malnourished children and their families are staying in communal shelters at Pagak registration site.
- In Tierkidi Camp GOAL opened two additional nutritional centres in the camp which will address the issue of women and children not having to move long distances in order to access nutritional facilities. UNHCR supported GOAL with a tent that is currently used as a nutritional facility in Zone E.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- On 19 July, refugees in Tierkidi Camp refused to receive food, mainly cooking oil and sorghum, as they believed the lids of the containers had been tampered with. WFP, UNHCR and ARRA facilitated a meeting in which WFP explained to the refugee representatives what was included in the food basket as well as the reason for the variation in the oil packaging.
- The results of the recent nutrition survey reflect that the prevalence of acute malnutrition is averaged at 28% across the three camps, almost twofold the emergency threshold of 15 %. The highest Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) prevalence is observed in Kule Camp (30.3%) compared to Tierkidi (28.0%) and Leitchuor (25.8 %). This may be attributable to the time that Kule was established, with the arrivals from South Sudan arriving in an extremely poor health condition. Kule also has the highest SAM prevalence at 10%, compared to Tierkidi (7.8%) and Leitchuor (5.7%).
- The Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) results are generally consistent with the data reported each week by partners who are screening children 6-59 months at the reception centres and within the camp community by Community Outreach Agents (COAs). As expected, there is a significant difference between the MUAC malnutrition prevalence and the GAM prevalence based on weight for height (WHZ), with around twice as many children identified as malnourished via the weight for height measurement as to the MUAC measurement. In line with current international and national guidelines, WHZ remains the preferred method to measure true malnutrition prevalence and MUAC remains a proxy indicator for malnutrition and is used to estimate case load numbers. Refugees in Matar have been provided with General Food rations with support from WFP, while High Energy Biscuits are provided to new arrivals in Burbiey and Pagak.



Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

- IRC has successfully drilled shallow boreholes in close proximity to the Baro River in Itang village. The first successful borehole yield provides an estimated 5 to 8 litres of water per second. More boreholes will be drilled in close proximity to the current borehole.

- In Tierkidi, latrine cleaning materials comprising of gloves, brooms, rakes and soap were provided to the latrine attendants along with 220 garbage bins which were delivered to the camp for waste disposal.
- Also in Tierkidi, MSF-Holland presented a sample of shower rooms to be constructed. The sample was approved and MSF-Holland will now continue with the construction of a further 199 rooms. Separate shower rooms are to be constructed for men and women comprising of 4 and 5 rooms respectively.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There are 14 water bladders and 2 water tanks in place in Tierkidi as reported by UNHCR's water delivery partner, Oxfam. The average water supply per person per day is 9.9 litres, with the drop in water access attributed to the rainy weather which makes it difficult to access some of the locations in the camp to deliver the water and because some refugees do not collect water when it rains.
- In Kule, water supply is at 8.4 litres per person per day and in Leitchuor, 11.1 litres per person per day.
- Digging of latrines is an ongoing activity in all locations so as to bring the ratio of persons to latrine to the UNHCR standard of 1:20. Currently the ratios are 1:76 in Kule, 1:59 in Tierkidi and 1:41 in Leitchuor. In Tierkidi, Oxfam has started working on the 110 blocks of pit latrines it is constructing in the camp extension area in addition to a further 40 blocks being constructed by ADRA.



Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR's shelter partner NRC is completing the construction of a new reception centre complete with hangars and WASH facilities at Pagak entry point.
- Over 7,500 tents have been pitched in Tierkidi with support from NRC and allocated to refugees. NRC's trucks could not access and deliver tents to some of the newly demarcated areas because the locations were inaccessible due to the bad roads which have been slippery and muddy in the rain. NRC engaged the refugee community to carry the tents.
- The installation of the third grinding mill (Grindmax, 500kg per day capacity) in Zone C of Kule Camp was completed by DRC in Zone C and the fourth was installed in Zone C. Shading and a waiting area around the grinding mill shelters is required.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- On the 16 July, NRC met with ARRA and UNHCR to plan the way forward in relation to handover of tukuls at Tierkidi Camp once construction is complete. A shelter working group comprised of NRC, IOM, Refugee Coordination Committee, Block leaders, ARRA and UNHCR will be formed to coordinate awareness raising on handing over of the tukuls once completed, verification of the list of beneficiaries based on date of arrival, provision of soil for wall mudding and final handover of tukuls and retrieving of tents. The handover exercise and retrieving of the tents is expected to begin the week starting on 21 July 2014.
- In the absence of dry grass due to the rainy season, which would normally be used to roof the tukuls, UNHCR's shelter partner NRC is using UNHCR plastic sheeting as roofs. The first phase of 800 tukuls is planned to be completed by 10 August. NRC is removing grass thatching on some of the transitional shelters to place plastic tarpaulin sheeting underneath to protect against leaks during rainy season and is replacing the grass thatching over the sheeting. Some tukuls will receive additional grass thatching to strengthen the roofs.



Access to Energy

Achievements and Impact

- NRDEP visited Tierkidi and will have a presence in the camp in collaboration with the Regional Agricultural Bureau. NRDEP will be involved in awareness raising on environmental protection, while tree seedlings will also be brought

and planted. Furthermore, there is also a plan to distribute to the refugee community tree seedlings based on household size.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- NRDEP is seeking land for tree planting that will serve as firewood for the refugees.



Logistics

Achievements and Impact

- At the Burbiey reception site, floodwater from the Baro River reached the registration hangar forcing UNHCR and ARRA to move registration activities to a hangar 100m further inland. IOM relocated all refugees in Burbiey via boat to Matar where the food ration was provided to refugees with support from WFP.
- On 18 July, UNHCR and ARRA together with the refugee community participated in the painting of trees to ensure the trees are protected and not cut down by the refugees. Awareness-raising to the refugees on the same was also conducted concurrently.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The ARRA and UNHCR team working on demarcation in Tierkidi have identified two additional blocks which are expected to accommodate 1,280 individuals. The camp is now at its maximum capacity.
- In Tierkidi, the importance of upgrading existing roads and clearing new roads is a priority. As the rains increase, delivery of water to 8 water bladders has been very challenging due to muddy and slippery roads.

Working in partnership

- UNHCR continues to coordinate the refugee response in Gambella and a number of donors have visited the operation. The missions of the BPRM Assistant Secretary of State Anne Richard, Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Bint al Hussein and the Ambassador of Japan to Gambella were successful. UNHCR also participated in a mission of OCHA Director of Operations Mr John Ging. Mr Ging was very complimentary of UNHCR's leadership and coordination efforts regarding the refugee response in Gambella while noting also that the resources are insufficient to keep up with the speed and intensity of the influx. His sentiments were repeated at a reception with donors, Government, UN Agencies and NGOs in Addis Ababa before his departure.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 49.4 million**, including **US\$ 210 million** for the situation.

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.