



ETHIOPIA

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

27 November – 3 December 2014

KEY FIGURES

193,938

UNHCR PoC for the situation

FUNDING

USD 210m

requested for the operation



PRIORITIES

- Emergency response to flooding in Leitchuor, Nipnip and Matar
- Refugee relocation from Matar way station to Pugnido refugee camp
- Search for additional land in view of continued influx

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 193,938 individuals, comprising 191,369 individuals who entered through Gambella and 2,569 who entered through the Assosa region.
- The average arrival rate of South Sudanese refugees to the Gambella region has remained low as the rainy season comes to an end.
- Registration remains suspended at Akobo and Pagak entry points, while in Burbiey, registration was temporarily halted while the relocation exercise from Matar to Pugnido began. Registration is expected to resume soon.
- The relocation exercise from Matar Waystation to Pugnido Camp is ongoing with support from IOM for transport. Thus far, 3,744 refugees have been relocated since the exercise started on 17 November, including 3,595 individuals transported by boat and road while 149 individuals with special needs were transported by helicopter.
- In Pugnido, UNHCR has been focussing on the start of the Level II registration exercise for the relocating refugees and the opening of in-camp roads.
- Preliminary epidemiological data analysis points to alcohol as the likely cause of the incident in Kule refugee camp between 16-17 November, during which 119 patients were admitted at the MSF-H Kule Health Centre with symptoms including disorientation and vomiting. Individuals aged between 15 and 45 years were the most affected, with females comprising over half of the cases. One patient died and the rest were discharged on 19 November. While the diagnosis is not yet confirmed, samples of blood from several patients, water and alcohol samples have been taken for further analysis in Addis Ababa.
- The 16 Days of Activism to End Violence against Women was launched in all refugee camps on 25 November with the theme of “Addressing Child Marriage”. Dramas depicting GBV situations, cultural performances, and community conversations on the topic of early marriage have all been highlights so far.

Population of concern

A total of **193,938** 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 193,000 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. The South Sudanese refugee population is the largest refugee group in Ethiopia (250,528 individuals as at end October 2014), surpassing the Somali refugee population (245,850 individuals as at end October 2014). The rainy season has caused damage in Leitchuor and NipNip Camps and refugees in these camps have moved to higher ground within the camps and the surrounding villages. Emergency response activities are being undertaken in these locations. The relocation exercise of refugees currently in Matar to Pugnido has commenced.

Achievements

Protection

Achievements and Impact

- Following a visit to Pagak by UNHCR, ARRA and IOM, a campaign for refugees to express interest in relocating to Pugnido refugee camp commenced on 28 November. About 130 refugees registered for relocation immediately after the visit and were transported to Pugnido on 1 December via Itang Waystation.
- The nationality screening process for refugees suspected to be nationals in Leitchuor is ongoing, with 89% of the targeted cases screened by a panel comprising Refugee Central Committee (RCC), ARRA and religious leaders.
- In Pugnido refugee camp, the Level II registration of newly relocated refugees commenced on 28 November. Thus far, 378 persons have been registered.
- UNHCR and ARRA are assisting to formalise the refugee self-management structure which was previously formed in Matar Waystation as many of the committee members, including the chairman, have already relocated to Pugnido refugee camp.
- To kick-start family tracing and reunification (FTR) in all refugee camps, the FTR task force facilitated a two-day workshop which was attended by 25 participants.
- 23,720 children, including 6,754 in Kule, 9,214 in Tierkidi and 7,752 in Leitchuor, accessed child friendly spaces activities this week as compared to 29,120 children who attended last week. The decrease in attendance by about 18% signals the need for more facilities at the Child Friendly Spaces.

Education

Achievements and Impact

- Between August and November, the Gambella Regional Education Bureau with UNICEF support trained 304 teachers (including 32 females) in three rounds from Kule, Tierkidi and Leitchuor refugee camps, and 308 teachers (including 26 females) in two rounds from the host community. The training aims to improve access to quality education for both refugee and host community girls and boys.
- In Pugnido, ARRA commenced the registration of relocating refugees from Matar way station who are eligible for lower and upper primary school.
- At the refugee high school in Pugnido, the newly constructed classroom block was completed, while one Economics and two Mathematics teachers recruited recently by DICAC started teaching.
- The education team completed an exchange visit to Tierkidi and Pugnido refugee camps to share good practices.

Achievements and Impact

- In Tierkidi, MSF-F completed the Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) and Pentavalent vaccination campaign and continues in the other camps. This is expected to reduce the incidence of lower respiratory tract infection and reduce hospitalization rates. Meanwhile, the Regional Health Bureau is currently finalizing Polio Vaccination Campaign for both the host community and refugees.
- In Pugnido refugee camp, ARRA's medical team started providing emergency health services to the newly relocated refugees in the reception centre. The team also provided measles and polio vaccination to 145 children under 5 years during the week.



Food Security and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

- WFP's General Food Distribution cycle for November has been completed in all camps.
- A total of 20 severely and 18 moderately malnourished cases of children under five have been transferred from Matar Waystation to Pugnido refugee camp where they are continuing treatment.
- UNHCR, WFP and ARRA jointly conducted post-distribution monitoring in Kule refugee camp on 25 November and in Tierkidi on 27 November to understand the refugees' perceptions on the overall food distribution process and the utilization of the food ration to recommend necessary changes on the design of rations and the targeting of beneficiaries. The data collected through the monitoring exercise is currently being analysed.
- There were a total of 65 new admissions in the outpatient therapeutic care programme (OTP) and 116 in the targeted supplementary feeding programme in Kule, Tierkidi and Leitchuor camps during the reporting week.
- In Pugnido, WFP started stocking food items for the December general food distribution, with discussions also held on the possible prioritisation of relocated refugees. Although not all the required stock of food to cover the old caseload and new arrivals has reached the warehouses in Pugnido, it is possible to start the distribution to the newly relocated refugees with the available items in stock.
- In Kule refugee camp, three grinding mills constructed and installed by MSF-H were handed over to the Danish Refugee Council. MSF-H will provide fuel for a period of one month for the operation of the mills. This brings the total number of grinding mills in the camp to eight.



Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

- On 29 November in Kule refugee camp, ARRA, UNHCR and OXFAM participated in a meeting with the Refugee Central Committee and youth in relation to the issue of refugee involvement in monitoring water processes following the incident on 16 November wherein refugees suspected water poisoning. 13 refugee representatives have been identified to work on this project.



Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

- In Pugnido refugee camp, site clearance, demarcation of about 850 plots and allocation of plots is on-going as refugees relocate from Matar way station. Over the last week, 463 tents were pitched in the camp and three reception hangers were constructed. Road clearance activities also commenced. ARRA also continues to distribute non-food items to newly relocated refugees arriving from Matar way station.
- Preliminary site surveys were carried out in both the Leitchuor Axis and in the area north of Gambella town on the way to Dembidolo. Leitchuor Axis is considered not suitable for relocation while the site north of Gambella is deemed suitable. The surveys were carried out in collaboration with ARRA and the authorities.

- In Tierkidi refugee camp, 80% (2016) of planned tukuls have been completed while in Kule refugee camp, 24% (769) have been completed.
- At Okugo refugee camp, NRC completed the construction of 450 tukuls, out of which thatching of 123 tukuls was also completed. Wall plastering has been completed for 119 tukuls, while grass thatching has been completed for 123 tukuls and 212 roofs covered with plastic.



Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Achievements and Impact

- In Pugnido, an inter-agency coordination meeting on the relocation exercise from Matar way station was held to discuss progress and challenges, as well as other camp issues.



Logistics

Achievements and Impact

- Close to 34,700 mt of food has been dispatched by WFP in its cross-border operation to South Sudan by air, river and road. Approximately 80% of this amount was dispatched by air.
- UNHCR's Supply colleagues supported an Infrastructure Management Unit mission whose main task was to assess and document infrastructure improvements made by SO Gambella and to visit potential sites for construction of offices within Gambella.
- UNHCR supported World AIDS day activities with one 10-KVA generator and also released 150 tents for erection at the Gambella stadium for voluntary testing for HIV.
- There is continued progress in the road construction work in Kule refugee camp which has improved the delivery of water to several sectors in the camp.

Working in partnership

- UNHCR continues to coordinate the refugee response in Gambella and a number of donors and partners continue to visit the operation. In Addis Ababa, the Refugee Task Force remains an important coordination body while several consultative meetings have been held with partners, donors and UN agencies on the flooding response.
- The Emergency Response Task Forces in Gambella have continued to convene regularly to address challenges and to strategize the response in both Leitchuor and Gambella.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 104.5 million**, of which **48.6 million** were given to **UNHCR and US\$ 55.9 million to partners**, against **US\$ 210.9 million** requested for the situation.

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