

## KEY FIGURES

**194,546**

UNHCR PoC for the situation

## FUNDING

**USD 210m**

requested for the operation



## PRIORITIES

- Approval and development of new site, Koben, to accommodate refugees
- Refugee relocation to Pugnido refugee camp

## ETHIOPIA

# UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE ON THE EMERGENCY SITUATION FOR SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEES

8 -15 January 2015

## 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 194,546 individuals, comprising 191,944 individuals who entered through Gambella and 2,602 who entered through the Assosa region. This brings the total number of South Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia to 251,545 individuals.
- Following notification from ARRA that two sites, Koben and Cholan, had been identified and approved for development as refugee camps, UNHCR and ARRA undertook site assessments to determine which site was more appropriate in terms of capacity and suitability. These assessments reflected that Cholan has capacity for 20,000 refugees and Koben has capacity for up to 50,000 refugees. The focus of UNHCR, ARRA and partners is now to begin preliminary development of the Koben site, when official endorsement of the site is granted by the Gambella Regional Government.
- The relocation exercise from Matar, Pagak and Pamdong to Pugnido Refugee camp has continued with support from IOM for transport. Thus far, IOM has relocated 8,689 refugees to Pugnido since the beginning of the exercise in November 2014. Relocation movements have now slowed as all refugees who have expressed interest in relocation have been moved already. UNHCR, ARRA and partners are continuing to discuss relocation with refugees as there is still space in Pugnido for an additional 6,000 - 7,000 refugees.
- In the regular Inter-Agency Refugee Task Force in Addis Ababa, ARRA's Deputy Director informed participants that both Leitchuor and NipNip camps will be closed and that refugees should relocate either to Pugnido, and when Pugnido becomes full, to the new site of Koben. As the rainy season has come to an end, many refugees have returned to Leitchuor camp, although some remain where they self-settled in different locations in Nyinyang and along the NipNip-Jikawo Corridor. Partners were asked to plan to remain in Leitchuor and NipNip until end-April, to give sufficient time for relocation and development of the new site to take place, funding permitting.
- A group of 20 refugees from Pugnido, Kule and Tierkidi camps arrived in Gambella to participate in the Great Ethiopian Run which took place in Gambella on 11 January.

### Population of concern

A total of **194,546** people of concern

## UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

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### 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 194,000 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, surpassing the Somali refugee population. The rainy season caused damage in Leitchuor and NipNip camps and refugees in these camps moved to higher ground within the camps and the surrounding villages. The relocation exercise of refugees currently in Matar and Pagak to Pugnido is ongoing, while another area of focus is the development of a new site, Koben, where refugees in flood-affected areas will be relocated.

### Achievements



#### Protection

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##### Achievements and Impact

- Level 2 Registration of relocated refugees is ongoing in Pugnido. Thus far, 7,992 refugees have been registered and issued with Proof of Registration documents. 47% of the registered refugees are male and 52% are children. The registration exercise brings the population of Pugnido camp to 53,455 individuals.
- UNHCR and ARRA visited Akulla Village, a settlement hosting approximately 1,400 South Sudanese refugees of Oppo ethnicity. A Focus Group Discussion with the refugees reflected issues with the provision of services in the nutrition, health, education and livelihoods sectors. The refugees also reported that approximately 500 refugees from South Sudan have recently arrived and joined the community but they have not yet been registered.
- In Leitchuor, a group of 900 elderly people (710 female and 190 male) have been identified as vulnerable and arrangements undertaken to provide them with non-food items.
- UNHCR's partner, Save the Children-International has established five temporary child-friendly spaces (CFS) in Leitchuor Refugee camp, in addition to one permanent CFS which is in Zone A of the camp. Each CFS has been assigned facilitators and managers. Over the week, Save the Children-International also verified 44 unaccompanied minors and 372 separated children in Leitchuor camp. A group of 100 unaccompanied minors and separated children received a blanket, mosquito net, mat and jug each.
- With the aim of reducing stigma and discrimination, a 2-day workshop was conducted in Pugnido on disabilities and facilitating daily activities of children with disabilities. The workshop targeted 205 mothers who have children with severe disabilities.
- 68 social workers, including 45 males and 23 females, were trained on standards of Child Protection Case Management, Family Tracing and Reunification and Child Friendly Spaces in Leitchuor and Kule Refugee camps.
- The first permanent Women Friendly Space opened in Tierkidi last week. A community consultation process is underway to develop a structured programme of activities which target empowerment of women and girls. Regular activities, including psychosocial support, a leadership skills training course for women and girls and a girls' club are all part of the planned activities.
- Key partners participated in a safety audit in Leitchuor with regard to SGBV prevention and response activities. It was noted that latrines are not all gender-segregated and women reported bathing at night to avoid being seen. Recommendations have been shared with the WASH Working Group for their urgent follow-up.
- In Pugnido, a 2-day mass sensitisation workshop on SGBV prevention and response was provided at the Agnuak, Nuer and Village 12 sites for 260 people.
- Since October 2014, training of trainers for Child Protection in Emergencies has been rolled out in the targeted woredas of Itang, Makuay, Lare and Gog by the government office of Bureau of Labour and Social Affairs in close collaboration with UNICEF. To date, trainings were provided for 160 government officials working with children,

Care Coalition Committees, Kebele managers, Save the Children, Plan International and Ethiopian Red Cross child protection actors.

## Education

### Achievements and Impact

- In Pugnido, the four primary schools in the camp coordinated by ARRA are operational. The schools were closed for two days over Orthodox Christmas, 7-8 January 2015.
- UNHCR's partner DICAC is continuing to identify secondary school students from the newly relocating refugees, with 112 students identified thus far. ARRA will submit the list of secondary school students to the Regional Education Office so that the group can sit placement examinations and then admitted into the most suitable grades.

## Health

### Achievements and Impact

- After a case of Guinea Worm (dracunculiasis) was recently confirmed in Gog Woreda, health workers in all locations have been oriented to strengthen surveillance activities in the camps.
- A team of health and nutrition experts visited Nyinyang to complete the Leitchuor and NipNip Flood Impact Assessment which was finalised during the week.
- In Kule camp, UNHCR's partner RaDO finalised its baseline assessment in which 942 refugees living with disabilities were identified for possible support.



## Food Security and Nutrition

### Achievements and Impact

- Food distribution for the January cycle is ongoing. In Kule and Tierkidi camp, WFP and ARRA have moved from group-based distribution to individual scooping for the food items. Temporary scooping sheds have been constructed in both Tierkidi and Kule camps while the construction of permanent distribution chutes is ongoing. Over the last three months, food distribution has been challenged by delays caused by poor road access to Leitchuor and NipNip camps. With the end of the rainy season and spot repairs of the road undertaken, it is anticipated that this situation will now improve.
- WFP is continuing to support blanket and supplementary feeding programmes to children under five years old and pregnant and lactating women together with UNHCR's partners ACF in Leitchuor, GOAL in Kule and Tierkidi and Concern Worldwide in NipNip.
- Analysis of the Flood Impact Assessments reflects that the Operational Continuity Plan provided for a well-coordinated and guided response, especially in the Nutrition Sector, where scaling-up of nutrition services were extended to host communities, and where the performance indicators remained within the Sphere standards with a cure rate of >75%, defaulter rates of <15% and a death rate of <5%.
- The Enhanced Outreach Strategies (EOS) campaign for Vitamin A, Deworming and Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) screening for children between 6-59 months was completed in all camps. Preliminary results indicate good coverage: children between 24-59 months received deworming treatment with a coverage of 99% in Kule and 98% in Tierkidi, with positive indicators also received from Leitchuor and NipNip camps.
- UNHCR and ARRA facilitated a working group meeting in Tierkidi of Community Outreach Agents. Together with MSF-H, NRC, IMC and GOAL, the outreach strategy and streamlining of working and reporting of Community Outreach Agents' activities were discussed and agreed upon.
- With a recent donation from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, WFP expects that its funding situation will be good until mid-2015 for the refugee operation in Ethiopia. Currently no significant pipeline breaks are foreseen.



## Logistics

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### Achievements and Impact

- WFP's air operation from Assosa is currently on stand-by as a permit renewal to airdrop food to the IDPs in South Sudan is pending. The air operation from Gambella is continuing.

### 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

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Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 107.9 million**, against **US\$ 210.9 million** requested for the situation, as of end-November 2014.

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.