

UNHCR GAMBELLA

2014 IN REVIEW

January - Dec 2014 Volume 1, Issue 1



Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Message from the Representative | 3 |
| Map of the Gambella Operations | 4 |
| Basic Facts | 5 |
| Key Achievements and challenges in 2014 | 6 |
| The Refugee Emergency Begins | 7 |
| Flooding: Emergency within an Emergency | 8 |
| Sector Indicator Matrix | 10 |
| Photo Gallery..... | 12 |
| Sectors in Brief..... | 15 |
| Interview with Head of Sub-Office..... | 19 |

Editorial Team

Valentin Tapsoba
Representative

Bornwell Katande
Deputy Representative

Alexander Kishara/Hassan Dabar
Senior Field Coordinators

Angele Djohossou
Head of Sub-Office

Sulaiman Momodu
Public Information/External Relations Officer

Reath Riek
PI/Communication Associate

Photos
UNHCR staff



Message from the Representative



December 2014 marked the first anniversary of the South Sudan conflict as efforts to restore peace and stability in Africa's newest State continue.

One year since thousands of South Sudanese mostly women and children fled to seek refuge in Ethiopia, and in particular in the Gambella Region, the Government of Ethiopia, UNHCR and partners have been responding to the refugee emergency amid challenges.

As we begin 2015, it is time to make an overall assessment of the refugee emergency over the past year and to highlight achievements, challenges and the strategic response of the operation in the New Year.

By December 2014, more than 191,000 South Sudanese had crossed over into the Gambella Region with about 2,600 others also crossing over into Asosa, Benishangul-Gumuz Regional State.

With the new influx of South Sudan refugees, as of mid-December, Ethiopia hosted more than 644,000 refugees whose countries of origin mainly include: South Sudan, Sudan, Somalia and Eritrea. Ethiopia is currently Africa's largest refugee-hosting country overtaking Kenya since July 2014. Following South Sudan's independence from Sudan in July 2011, UNHCR facilitated the voluntary repatriation of South Sudanese refugees most of whom had been living in refuge in Ethiopia for about two decades. By December 2013, Ethiopia was hosting some 50,000 remaining South Sudanese refugees.

Gambella 2014 in Review focuses on the refugee emergency in Gambella Regional State in view of the enormous challenges that we contended with in our efforts to provide urgently needed assistance to the large group of vulnerable people.

While all efforts were being made to assist the huge waves of people who were crossing over into Ethiopia, we were confronted by challenging roads and adverse weather conditions. Two out of the four newly established camps – the Leitchuor and Nip Nip refugee camps - became flooded as a result of an unprecedented downpour and the Baro River bursting its banks creating an emergency within an emergency scenario.

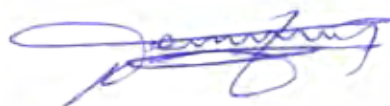
We would like to commend the support of the Government of Ethiopia, the generous contribution of donors, and the outstanding commitment of our staff and partners who worked tirelessly to provide assistance in very difficult circumstances.

Over the next twelve months, we would continue to provide international protection and assistance to refugees while hoping that the people of South Sudan will wage peace with the support of the International community that will ultimately pave the way for voluntary repatriation.

As we collectively continue to render humanitarian services to refugees who are among the most vulnerable people in the world, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Government and people of Ethiopia, and to the people of the Gambella Region for opening up their hearts to receive refugees in their homes and communities and sharing their meagre resources with them.

Clearly, there is a need for more funding of the Gambella operations, and by extension the refugee operations in Ethiopia. I would like to express our deepest appreciation to donors for supporting the cause of UNHCR and to appeal for more support that will enable us provide better protection and humanitarian services to refugees.

I wish the Government and people of Ethiopia, the Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA), donors, our colleagues in the UN family, partners, staff, and all refugees a very peaceful New Year.



Valentin Tapsoba
UNHCR Representative
Ethiopia

Basic Facts

Government Counterpart

The Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) is UNHCR's main Government counterpart in Ethiopia for the protection of refugees and other persons of concern.

16 Operational Partners

World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organization (WHO), Concern Worldwide, Oxfam-GB, Medecins Sans Frontieres - France (MSF-F); Medecins Sans Frontieres - Holland (MSF-H), Goal, International Committee of Red Cross/Crescent (ICRC), Opportunities Industrialization Center - Ethiopia (OIC-E), Ethiopia Red Cross Society (ERCS), Plan International, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Regional Health Bureau (RHB), Gambella Rural Road Authority (GRRA), World Vision International.

18 Implementing Partners

ARRA, Natural Resources Development Environmental Protection (NRDEP), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Action Contre la Faim - France (ACF), HelpAge International, UK (HelpAge), Save the Children International (SCI), VluchtelingenZorg/Refugee Care (ZOA), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Lutheran World Federation - Switzerland (LWF), International Rescue Committee (IRC), International Medical Corps - USA (IMC), Adventist Development Relief Aid (ADRA), Development and Inter Church-Aid Commission (DICAC), Rehabilitation and Development Organization (RADO), African Humanitarian Aid and Development Agency (AHADA), Mother and Child Multi-Sectoral Development Organization (MACMDO), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Inter-Agency

UNHCR is Co-chair of the Inter-agency Task Force meeting which is held at the UNHCR Sub-Office in Gambella. UNHCR is also Co-chair of Refugee Task Force meetings at camp level. ARRA is the other Co-Chair.



Flooding at Akobo entry point



Field Office Pugnido

OFFICES

Sub Office
Gambella

Field offices
Nyine Nyang
Itang
Pugnido

Field Unit
Dimma

Refugee Camps
Leitchuor
Nip Nip
Tierkidi
Kule
Okugo
Pugnido

Way Station/Transit

Matar
Itang
Pamdong

Entry Points

Raad
Pagak
Akobo
Burbiey

Refugee Statistics as of 26 Dec 2014

Gambella Region currently hosts 248, 839 South Sudanese refugees

Breakdown

New caseload: Post 15 Dec 2013
191,686 South Sudanese refugees
Old caseload: Pre 15 Dec 2013
57,153 South Sudanese refugees

Key Achievements in 2014

- ◆ The Government of Ethiopia granting prima facie refugee status to South Sudanese
- ◆ Relocating refugees from border entry points to camps
- ◆ Providing assistance to refugees

Challenges

- The flooding
- Funding
- Search for suitable land for camp establishment

Dates in History - 2014

21 January: Leitchuor Refugee Camp opens

26 February: Matar Way Station opens

26 February: Tierkidi Refugee Camp opens

17 May: Kule Refugee Camp opens

15 July: Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Bint Al Hussien visits Kule Refugee Camp

21- 23 August: Director, Africa Bureau, George Okoth-Obbo, and Deputy Director Ann Encontre visit Gambella

28 August: Leitchuor and Nip Nip camps become flooded

30 September: Princess Anne visits Tierkidi Refugee Camp

22-24 October: A 12-member annual donor mission organized by the Division of Donor Relations and Resource Mobilization (DRRM) in Geneva visits the Gambella humanitarian operations

4 November: President Michael D.Higgins of Ireland visits Tierkidi Refugee Camp

17 November: Representative Tapsoba presents three vehicles to ARRA for the relocation of South Sudanese refugees from border areas

16 - 22 November: UNHCR Representative Valentin Tapsoba witnesses the launching of the relocation exercise from Matar Way Station to Pugnido Refugee Camp through Itang transit centre

22 November: The Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Khung-wha KANG, pays a day visit to Gambella Region in order to get a first-hand impression and assessment of the Gambella refugee emergency.

1 December: Relocation to Pugnido Refugee camp commences of about 3,000 South Sudanese refugees who have been staying for a few months at the Pagak entry point on the border with South Sudan; the refugees in the area had rejected relocation to the Okugo Refugee Camp citing security concerns.

24 December: The Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) writes to UNHCR about finding Koben and Cholan, two new settlement sites, that could be developed into camps for the relocation of refugees from Leitchuor and Nip Nip camps. The letter states: "ARRA would like to advise your good office to kick-off preparatory works ahead of establishing the aforementioned sites as refugee camps".



Vehicles presented to ARRA for relocation of refugees

The Emergency Begins

The influx from South Sudan started in mid-December 2013 after President Salva Kiir and Riek Machar, his former vice president, fell out. The fighting broke out on ethnic lines between the Dinka ethnic group of President Salva Kiir and the Nuer ethnic group of his former ally.

After South Sudan gained independence from Sudan in July 2011,

UNHCR facilitated the voluntary repatriation of South Sudanese refugees some of whom had been living in refuge in Ethiopia for over 20 years. By December 2013, Ethiopia was hosting about 50,000 remaining South Sudanese refugees.

Only the Okugo and Pugnido refugee camps hosted South Sudanese refugees when the new refugee emergency started.



South Sudanese women fleeing into Ethiopia



South Sudanese refugees being relocated from border areas

Flooding: Emergency

As thousands of people fled from South Sudan to seek refuge in Ethiopia with humanitarian workers around the clock to assist the needy, a heavy downpour in August and the Baro River overflowing its banks led to the flooding of the newly established Leitchuor and Nip Nip refugee camps.

Refugees who had started to settle down in their new environment were confronted with the challenge of searching for drier ground, including road sides, where makeshift shelters and tents were erected to escape the merciless rains. Some host communities were also affected as locals abandoned their traditional huts for higher ground. Locals say the flooding was unprecedented. As a result of the flooding, roads to the two refugee camps became impassable and some bridges were damaged.

Prior to the floods, Leitchuor camp for instance had 7,250 emergency shelters, 17 transit hangers, 2,900 transitional shelters and 2,080 tents. A lot of work was undertaken to speed up the transitional shelters construction with the aim of ensuring better shelter for every refugee household. Most of these structures were damaged as a result of the floods.

During the floods, refugees in the camp were getting water from the pipe network but those scattered on the outskirts of the camp were collecting water from host community hand pumps and were sometimes required to pay for the water, a cost they could hardly afford. Others had to cross flooded areas to access water points and some had to walk long distances; 22 out of the 33 water points become inaccessible as refugees were forced to move away from their proximity.

About 75% of latrines in the camp collapsed raising the latrine coverage from 50 persons per latrine to 170 persons per latrine. Construction of additional latrines as well as decommissioning became extremely challenging and



The flooding in Leitchuor camp



An aerial view of flood-affected Leitchuor



Flooded tents in Leitchuor

Within an Emergency

delivery of construction materials was impossible by road. As a result, open defecation was rampant. Control of vector was a challenge as the flood water provided favourable ground for insect breeding and solid waste management became difficult.

Hygiene promotion activities including distribution of water, sanitation and hygiene relief items became very difficult to implement due to the unfavourable environmental conditions created by the flood and the scattered nature of the refugee population.

The wide dispersal of refugees, as well as the displacement of most partners affected the delivery of services particularly in the areas of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), Child Protection and Education. SGBV prevention and response activities could no longer be effectively managed. With regard to education, a significant number of pupils dropped out of school, not only as a result of the dispersal and displacement of refugees and partners, but also due to the inaccessible nature of the roads which hindered the delivery of school supplies and other non-food items (NFIs). The vulnerability of children increased due to the reduction in the number of Child-Friendly Spaces from 2 to 1, as well as the ineffective management of children identified with extreme vulnerabilities. Children were also exposed to sexual exploitation, drowning risk, water borne diseases, malaria and other forms of abuse.

In responding to the crisis, UNHCR and partners delivered assistance to refugees by using boats while the UN refugee agency also hired a helicopter to transport personnel, refugees and some logistics.

A mass Cholera vaccination exercise was also undertaken in the flood-affected camps.

In December, the Gambella Regional Government approved ARRA's request for the CHOLAN Site, along the Gambella-Demi Dollo road, to be developed as a camp for the relocation of flood-affected refugees in Leitchuor and Nip Nip.



A flooded road in Leitchuor camp



A flooded host community

Locals say the flooding was unprecedented

As a result of the flooding, roads to the two refugee camps became impassable

Sectors Indicators Matrix: Gambella Emergency Response (as of 01-December-2014)

| Sectors | Registration | Child Protection | Shelter | Public Health | Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|---|---|
| Indicators | Level 1 registration at entry points | Number of Unaccompanied Minors (UAMs) | Number of Social Workers | # of children attending child friendly spaces | emergency shelter (roof and doors) as of 1st December 2014 |
| Timeframe | 15th December 2013 until 01-Dec-2014 | persons | persons | persons | persons |
| STANDARD | persons | persons | persons | persons | persons |
| CAMPS INDICATORS | | | | | |
| TIERKIDI | NA | 48,783 | 100% Finished | 1,465 | 3,258 |
| KULE | NA | 46,038 | 100% Finished | 773 | 3,408 |
| LEITCHUOR | NA | 47,806 | 100% Finished | 1,365 | 4,231 |
| OKUGO | NA | 6,114 | 100% Finished | 52 | 192 |
| PUGNIDO | NA | 48,136 | 94% Finished | 796 | 2,314 |
| NIPNIP | NA | 2,888 | not yet started | - | - |
| ENTRY POINTS / TRANSIT CENTERS INDICATORS | | | | | |
| PAGAK | 5,989 | NA | NA | - | - |
| BURBIEY | 6,654 | NA | NA | - | - |
| AKOBO | 3,298 | NA | NA | - | - |
| PAMDONG | 2,467 | NA | NA | - | - |
| TOTAL/AVERAGE (Gambella region) | 18,408 | 199,765 | NA | 4,451 | 13,403 |
| Sources | UNHCR, ARBA | UNHCR, Save The Children, Plan International, IMC | UNHCR, NRC, DRC, IDI | UNHCR, MSF-F, ARBA, MSF-H, SO | UNHCR, DRC, NCA, ACE, NRC, UNF, IRC, ADRA, OXFAM, WVE, ZOA, BRCS, NTF-H |

| Sector | Pre-Primary Education Enrollment (3-6 years) | Primary Education Enrollment (7-14 years) | Secondary Education Enrollment (15-18 years) | TOTAL Enrollment of School Age Children (3-18 years) |
|---------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Indicators | School Age Population (3-6 years) | School Age Population (7-14 years) | School Age Population (15-18 years) | School Age Boys (3-18 years) |
| Units | persons | persons | persons | persons |
| STANDARD | persons | persons | persons | persons |
| CAMPS INDICATORS | | | | |
| TIERKIDI | 10,222 | 25 | 14,562 | 3,317 |
| KULE | 9,135 | 7 | 11,427 | 3,206 |
| LEITCHUOR | 10,197 | 30 | 15,277 | 2,777 |
| PUGNIDO | 8,769 | 75 | 12,747 | 3,747 |
| TOTAL/AVERAGE (Gambella region) | 38,323 | 34 | 54,013 | 13,047 |
| Sources | UNHCR | UNHCR, Save The Children, Plan International, ARBA | DICAC | UNHCR, Save The Children, Plan International, ARBA |

| Other Health Indicators - as of 01-Dec-2014 | Overall Gambella coverage (in %) | Indicators (Standardized) | Standard Met | Standard Not Met |
|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Measles (6 months - 15 yrs) | 96 | 82 | 91 | 77 |
| OPV (0-15 yrs) | 80 | 53 | 91 | 94 |
| Vit A (6 months-5yrs) | 100 | 100 | 97 | 100 |
| Sources | UNHCR, ARBA, NRC, MSF-F, MSF-H, SO | | | |

| Morbidity Indicators | Indicators | Kule | Tierkidi | Leitchuor | Nip Nip | Pagak Entry Point | Comments |
|---|------------------------------------|------|----------|-----------|---------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Watershy diarrhoea (prevalence per 1000/week) | 9.7 | 5.9 | 2.4 | 6.9 | 2.8 | 2.8 | Diarrhoea is active |
| Bloody Diarrhoea (prevalence rate/1000/week) | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.4 | 1.7 | 0.3 | 0.3 | Peak of the outbreak |
| Malaria (prevalence rate/1000/week) | 15.3 | 11.3 | 3.8 | 9.7 | 21.0 | 21.0 | Incidence rate is |
| Sources | UNHCR, ARBA, SO, IMC, MSF-F, MSF-H | | | | | | |

| NUTRITION | GAM | SAM |
|-----------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Camps | Gambella (Gambella) | South Sudan (South Sudan) |
| Names | TIERKIDI | KULE |
| | 30.3 | 28 |
| | 10 | 7.8 |
| | 25.8 | 5.7 |
| Sources | UNHCR, ARBA, SO, IMC, MSF-F, MSF-H | |

EXPLANATORY NOTES:

SUMMARY:

This matrix is prepared and published monthly, representing what happened in various sectors in the particular reference month. This indicators matrix is a step towards showing a comprehensive picture of the current situation in Gambella region and establishing a basis for initial trend and gap analysis. In order to better understand the matrix, following are the explanatory notes on few of the sector indicators:



NUTRITION:

- GAM and SAM have been obtained from the nutrition and mortality survey conducted in Kule, Tierkidi and Leitchuor in June/July 2014, and quantified using the weight-for-height (WFH) indicator.
- The survey results showed GAM and SAM levels well above the emergency threshold by both UNHCR (GAM>15%, SAM>2%) which is consistent with malnutrition levels observed.
- The survey was conducted soon after arrival and relocation of refugees into the camps.



SHELTER:

- 'Transitional shelters' refers to those that have been completed with mud plastering. However, more transitional shelters are still under construction and will be updated in the matrix once they are completed.
- Due to flooding in Leitchuor and Nip Nip camps, only a minimum of the transitional shelters constructed are habitable. Most households have been provided with family tents or emergency shelters however most of the households have self-settled outside the camps on higher grounds within the host community.
- Entry points and transit centers are all with communal hangers and therefore not included in the matrix. The indicators are based on the total number of registered households.
- Okugo and Pugnido shelter data shown in the matrix is for the new caseload displaced post 15 December 2013. Relocation to Pugnido from Mattar and Pagak is ongoing.



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH):

The WASH indicators have been generally maintained and slightly improved in the period from primo November to primo December:

- Significant improvement was observed in Leitchuor refugee camp on sanitation coverage and decreasing in Kule and Tierkidi camps due to high filling rate of latrines
- Water coverage was slightly dropped down in Kule and Tierkidi camps due to the health incident which occurred on 17th November in Kule camp and stopped water supply for consecutive four days.

Other important points:

- The indicators for the camps are broadly administrative indicators i.e. the indicators are currently relying on total camp population (entire protected refugee population) as the denominator however indicators for entry points/transit centers are calculated on the population actually residing in the camp and accessing WASH services being offered.
- At entry points and transit centers, we normally have varying refugee numbers characterized by spikes and valleys, which requires a delicate balance on maintaining an optimal level of infrastructural investment to ensure that resources are not misappropriated. Ideally, refugees are not expected to have a prolonged stay, and when this happens it affects the level of WASH assistance accessible.



EDUCATION:

The education indicators for Gambella continue to show progress in the period from primo November to primo December.

- The overall enrolment rate for the age group 3-18 has jumped from 50% to 56%.
 - Enrolment for Early Childhood Education (3-6 years-old) remains weak for the three camps of Kule, Tierkidi and Leitchuor and is now at 21% which has slightly gone up by 2% as compared to previous month. However, taking into consideration Pugnido camp enrolment, the overall pre-primary enrolment stands at 34%.
 - Primary enrolment has again increased remarkably from 75% to 84% (especially in view of the target set by UNHCR & UNICEF in July was 40% enrolment for primary schooling by December 2014). However, it must be noted that the enrolled in many cases are above the target age of 7-14, which is statistically somewhat misleading.
 - Boys' and girls' enrolment have jumped significantly with 7% and 5% respectively.
 - 62% of all boys between the age of 3-18 years are now enrolled compared to 55% previous month.
 - For girls, the number has increased slightly from 45% to 50%. With this, the gap compared to boys has increased from earlier 10% to now 12% but it is still a positive development as the number of girls enrolled continues to rise.
 - Secondary Education enrolment in Pugnido camp remains same at 20% as previous month.
 - Please note that the reporting is covering enrolled students and not attendance (the actual number of children attending classes). The sector is experiencing a discrepancy between the two, which is being strategically addressed by the Gambella Education Working Group.



HEALTH:

Crude and Under 5 mortality rates have been within the SPHERE standards for several weeks despite being at the peak of malaria season. Good case management by partners of diseases such as severe malaria, dehydration secondary to diarrhoea and complications of severe malnutrition, coupled with strengthened surveillance and prevention efforts have plausibly contributed to the low mortality.

Morbidity indicators:

Diarrhoea: Low incidence of diarrhoea might be explained by the ongoing sensitization of the refugees by the Community Outreach Agents (COAs) on hygiene and sanitation. WASH activities are also ongoing in all locations. **Malaria:** Incidence rate is high in Pagak entry point compared to other locations and can partly be explained by the delayed distribution of Long Lasting Insecticide nets (LLIN) at this location and as a result transmission rate is still high. At least 18% of the community must use bed nets in order to have a "minimum community level impact" on transmission, we therefore have planned to conduct focus group discussions (FGDs) in Pagak to have a better understanding of LLIN utilization.

Vaccination:

The coverage is more than 100% at the entry points of Pagak, Akobo, Burbiey and overall Gambella coverage for Vit A because the denominator was based only on registered asylum seekers while the numerator included unregistered too. The coverage is lower in the camps because most children had been vaccinated at the entry points and thus not reflected in the camp data. At all entry points, non-selective arrival vaccination service is ongoing for all eligible asylum seekers regardless of registration status. At Matar transit center, we have been conducting selective arrival vaccination service for those children who didn't get vaccination at burbiey and Akobo entry points and babies who were born at matar transit center.

Photo



Representative Valentin Tapsoba addressing refugees in Pugnido



Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Bint Al Hussien interacting with refugees in Kule camp



A child-friendly space at Tierkidi Refugee Camp



Deputy Representative Bornwell Katande talking to the media in Tierkidi camp about the refugee emergency



A South Sudan refugee receives UNHCR relief items



Visiting UNHCR Information officials from Nairobi and Geneva listening to refugees in Leitchuor camp

Gallery



UNHCR officials with visiting President Michael D. Higgins of Ireland



President Gatluak Tut Khot of Gambella (L) , UNHCR's Oscar Mundia and US Assistant Secretary of State Anna Richard (R) visiting Pagak border during the refugee emergency



UNHCR's Stanley Miseleni discussing with ECHO officials in Kule Refugee Camp



Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein visiting a Nutrition Centre in Kule Refugee Camp



A Christmas Concert in Tierkidi Refugee Camp



UNHCR annual Donor mission visits Leitchuor Refugee Camp



Refugees being transported on a UNHCR hired helicopter



UNHCR's George Okoth-Obbo and Anne Encontre visiting Gambella refugees in Kule camp



The launching ceremony of the 16 Days of Activism Against SGBV in Kule Refugee Camp



Gambella President, US Assistant Secretary of State, ARRA Deputy Director and UNHCR Deputy Rep opening a health centre at Tierkidi Refugee Camp



UNHCR hired helicopter transporting aid workers



A Donor Mission at a debriefing session with UNHCR staff at Gambella Sub-Office

Responding to the Emergency: Sectors in Brief

Assistance to refugees include:

- Protection
- Monthly food distribution
- Nutrition
- Health
- Provision of relief items
- Shelter
- Education
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene



Some Refugee women and children

Protection

The Government of Ethiopia generally provides protection to refugees. The Gambella Region mainly hosts South Sudanese refugees who are granted refugee status on a prima facie basis.

The Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) is UNHCR's main Government counterpart in Ethiopia for the protection of refugees and other persons of concern.

As of December 2014, Ethiopia hosted more than 191,000 new South Sudanese refugee arrivals in the

Gambella Region most of whom are living in six refugee camps.

In November, the relocation of refugees from the Matar way station, Pagak entry point and Pamdong transit site commenced. The refugees had been staying at the sites mainly as a result of the flooding of Leitchuor and Nip Nip camps. By end of December, more than 8,000 individuals had been relocated some of them by air.

Most of the refugees are women and children. As of December, 2,422 unaccompanied children and 5,683 Separated children had been registered.

**Most South
Sudanese refugees
are women and
children**

Food and Nutrition

Food is provided by the World Food Programme (WFP). Nutrition interventions are implemented by ARRA, Goal, ACF, Concern, MSF-France and MSF-Holland with overall coordination by UNHCR in collaboration with ARRA.

A nutrition survey conducted in June and July of 2014 showed critical levels of acute malnutrition in refugee camps with global acute malnutrition (GAM) ranging from 25 to 30%. Since their arrivals, refugees receive a monthly food ration which meets the required 2,100 kilocalories per person per day.

Nutrition interventions mainly target children, pregnant women and lactating mothers. In December, children, pregnant and lactating women being supported in each programme included: 1, 403 in Outpatient Therapeutic Programme (OTP), 5,683 in Targeted Supplementary Feeding and 44,919 in Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSFP).



Food for refugees



Food distribution at Kule camp

Providing shelter

Refugee shelter is being implemented by two partners: the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC); with a third partner Danish Refugee Council (DRC) set to commence shelter construction early 2015. Shelter for refugees comes in two forms:

- 1) Emergency shelter - also two types: tents and the 'Bajaj' type (plastic sheets on wooden frame)
- 2) Transitional shelters which is the traditional s Each registered household receives an emergency shelter on arrival in the camp, and these are gradually replaced by the transitional shelter type, which is a more sustainable option. This process of constructing and replacing the emergency shelter type has been going on well in Kule and Tierkidi refugee camps with about 20% and 10% of their total registered population having completed transitional shelters, respectively. The rest of the camp population is still in their emergency shelter units. The implementing partner undertake the sourcing and construction of the superstructure, including roof construction, and the refugees complement the process by mud daubing of the walls of their individual *tukuls*.



Shelter materials in Kule camp

Flooding in Leitchuor and Nip Nip refugee camps during the rainy season from August – October created a setback for shelter assistance to refugees; 2,900 s were in varying stages of construction, with 590 handed over to refugees prior to the flooding, which led to displacement of refugees. Distribution of emergency shelters and tents to most vulnerable families and to those without shelter had been done. Refugees had relocated to higher ground, sharing resources with host communities.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) are among main activities undertaken in the Gambella Operations. Main source of water supply in Kule and Tierkidi camps is from a water treatment plant from Baro River trucked on daily basis by 22 water tankers and in Leitchuor by a pipe line system with an average crude water access of 11 litres /per person /day in Kule and Tierkidi, and 16 l /p /d in Leitchuor.

Crude latrine access in Tierkidi, Kule and Lietchour stands at 1:43, 1:30 and 1:75 respectively and below 1:60 at entry points in Pagak and Akobo.



Refugee children participating in a hand washing campaign

Education

UNHCR coordinates and monitors education intervention in close collaboration with implementing partners and ARRA. With the new caseload, the emphasis has been on setting up primary education and 65% have now been enrolled, which is 25% over the target set for December 2014.

In addition, approximately 25% are enrolled in early childhood education; 269 primary teachers and 74 pre-primary facilitators have been recruited and trained, and approximately 100 temporary and semi-permanent classrooms have been constructed; 63% of all refugee children are now enrolled in primary education, including 65% of the new refugee population caseload.



South Sudanese refugee children in school

The Supply Chain @ Work

UNHCR organized 19 airlifts from Addis Ababa and the East Africa region and delivered 15,000 tents, 25,000 Kitchen Sets, 4 prefabricated warehouses, 20,000 buckets, 30,000 plastics sheets, 20,000 mosquito nets, 500 tons of soap among others as part of the emergency response to the Gambella Region.

UNHCR through donors funded rehabilitation of 41 km of paved roads and the construction of two major bridges linking refugee communities in Nyine Nyang and also in Kule Refugee Camp.

The construction of two bridges has been completed while 50% of paved roads rehabilitation is completed and the project is ongoing.

Following recent floods which greatly affected the road infrastructure in Gambella Region, UNHCR contracted one helicopter (Mi-8MTV-1) to provide humanitarian air services while ensuring that lifesaving services continue to reach refugees in a timely fashion in flood-affected Nyine Nyang, Akobo Tiergol, and Matar. The helicopter has also been utilized to provide services to Pugnido and Dimma, and in the relocation of vulnerable persons of concern from Matar to Pugnido.



Relief items being offloaded from a cargo plane

Health

Back home, South Sudanese have some of the worst health indicators in the world with a maternal mortality of 730 per 100,000 live births and under 5 mortality rate of 104 per 1,000 live births.

Forced from their homes, among other challenges, refugees faced the risk of disease outbreaks.

During the emergency in 2014, UNHCR, ARRA and implementing partners provided comprehensive health care in camps, transit centres and entry points, including responding and managing the control of Measles and Hepatitis E outbreaks, as well as preventing diseases such as Cholera by doing a mass oral Cholera vaccination campaign. Also, in an effort to reduce the incidence of lower respiratory infections, a Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccination (OCV) campaign was undertaken. Furthermore, medical assistance to refugees include providing care for common diseases such as Malaria, TB, as well as HIV, in addition to comprehensive reproductive health care with emphasis on improving health facility based deliveries which had been a challenge due to cultural norms and beliefs.

In 2015, UNHCR and partners will continue to increase access to health care, strengthen preparedness and response to epidemics, and strengthen chronic care services.



Vaccination against Cholera

Interview: Head of Sub-Office Angele Djohossou

“Our strategic focus in 2015...”



Q: With more than 191,000 South Sudanese registered as refugees in 2014, what is the strategic focus of the Gambella operations in 2015?

A: Let me begin by saying UNHCR is very thankful for the hospitality of the Government and people of Ethiopia for hosting refugees. Our strategic focus in 2015 is to transition from emergency to stabilization, and to relocate refugees from transit centres and flood-prone camps.

Q: Is the emergency therefore over?

A: Over the past few months the number of South Sudanese crossing over to seek refuge in the Gambella region had considerably reduced from thousands to about 100 persons per day but the emergency we continue to face is to urgently relocate refugees from especially Leitchuor and Nip Nip camps, which were flooded, before the next raining season.

Q: Has the Government identified land for this relocation?

A: The Government of Ethiopia and the Gambella Regional State support the work of UNHCR and has identified a piece land for relocation purposes. We are very thankful to the Administration for Refugees and Returnees Affairs (ARRA) for supporting this effort.

Q: Do you have adequate funding for activities UNHCR would be undertaking in 2015?

A: UNHCR is very grateful for the generous contributions of donors, but we still have a funding gap of more than 40 percent of what we need, so we continue to appeal to donors for their kind support in providing needed resources that will enable us provide assistance to refugees.

Q: Are refugees willing to relocate?

A: Relocation will be voluntary but so far most refugees have indicated their willingness to be relocated.

Q: What is your hope for the New Year?

A: Our sincere hope is that peace and stability would be soon restored in South Sudan so we can commence voluntary repatriation of refugees.

"Our sincere hope is that peace and stability would be soon restored in South Sudan"

"1 family torn apart by war is too many"

