



ETHIOPIA

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

13-26 February 2015

KEY FIGURES

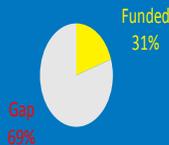
196,144

UNHCR PoC for the situation

FUNDING

USD 210m

requested for the operation



PRIORITIES

- Before the onset of the rainy season, UNHCR is working with the government to identify new land for relocation of refugees from Leitchuor and Nip Nip refugee camps, which will be followed by closure of the two damaged sites.

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 196,144 individuals, including 193,425 individuals who entered through the Gambella Region and 2,719 who entered through the Assosa Region. Over the last week, South Sudanese refugees continued to arrive in the Gambella Region through Pagak, Akobo and Raad entry points.
- Over the last week, 419 refugees were registered and relocated to Pugnido camp from Pagak, Burbiey, and Akobo with support from IOM for transport. 87% of the refugees were from Akobo. 63 vulnerable refugees were airlifted from Akobo, and 15 were airlifted from Burbiey. Thus far in February 2015, IOM has transported 692 refugees from border entry points to the camps. In January, 845 refugees were relocated by IOM.
- Level 2 registration and issuance of proof of registration documents have been completed for the 9,164 refugees who have been relocated to Pugnido from various transit and entry points.
- Registration in Akula village, 17 kilometres from Tierkidi Camp, was completed this week, and a total of 1,549 individuals were registered. The average household size in Akula is 3.4 persons, and women and children constitute 91% of the population. All of the registered refugees are of Oppo ethnicity who speak the Burun language.
- There has been an increase in criminality observed in Gambella town during the past month. UN and NGO partners are monitoring developments through the Area Security Management Team (ASMT) structure, and have recommended that staff take appropriate precautions.
- The United States announced \$273 million in new humanitarian assistance for the regional South Sudan refugee response. The additional funding was announced by Ms Anne Richard, the U.S. Department of State Assistant Secretary for Population, Refugees and Migration at the “High-Level Event on the Humanitarian Crisis in South Sudan and its Impact in the Region.”
- With support from WFP, the February food distribution cycle was completed this week in Kule and Tierkidi camps. First quarter post-food distribution monitoring is currently ongoing in Kule and Tierkidi camps and will begin in Pugnido shortly. Delays in the January food distribution cycle resulted in some anxiety amongst the refugee population. UNHCR consulted with WFP to prevent similar problems from occurring in future months. ARRA, WFP and UNHCR also conducted pre-distribution meetings with refugee leaders prior to the commencement of the distribution cycle.
- UNHCR is preparing for the annual Participatory Assessment and AGDM exercise, which will be conducted in Okugo, Pugnido, Kule and Tierkidi camps. The participatory assessments will involve UNHCR, ARRA, and partner organizations in the camps, and will cover all zones, six age categories and both genders. The purpose of the assessment is to obtain the views of the refugees which will help inform the 2016-17 planning cycle.

Population of concern

A total of **196,144** 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 196,000 individuals, with the number continuing to increase daily. The asylum seekers continue to arrive in Ethiopia into the Gambella Regional State, mainly through Pagak, Raad 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 has now become 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. Over 9,000 refugees in Matar, NipNip and Pagak have been relocated to Pugnido Camp. Another area of focus is the development of a new site, Koben, where refugees in flood-affected areas will be relocated. Official approval of this site is still pending.

Achievements

Protection

Achievements and Impact

- There are approximately 267 refugees who are waiting for Level I registration in Leitchuor refugee camp. Consultations with ARRA are underway to seek their registration and ensure continued border monitoring so that all new arrivals can be registered at the border. There were also approximately 20 new arrivals in Pagak on 22 February, along with approximately 20 refugees remaining in Pamdong, all of whom are reportedly willing to relocate to Pugnido. UNHCR is following up with ARRA and IOM regarding manifesting and relocation of the group.
- Level II registration and issuance of the proof of registration has been completed for the 9,583 refugees who have been relocated to Pugnido from various transit and entry points.
- Data harmonization is on-going to ensure consistency in data related to Unaccompanied and Separated Children between UNHCR and partners. Harmonization has been completed for Leitchuor refugee camp. A Child Protection-Information Management Systems consultant is expected in Gambella early next week to help with the harmonization.
- On 11 February, UNHCR's protection team travelled to Akula village for a Rapid Protection Assessment. The purpose of the visit was to discuss coping methods for the upcoming rainy season, and also to determine whether any of the refugees currently staying in Akula wish to relocate to Pugnido. The population is predominantly from minority ethnic groups that arrived through Wonkay entry point during 2014, and were transferred to Akula village in June 2014. They are residing in this informal settlement 17 km from Tierkidi camp due to ethnic tensions with the Nuer refugees who reside in Tierkidi and Kule camps. During the rapid assessment, the majority of the refugees noted that they wish to remain in Akula, despite challenges during the rainy season. However, they requested support with improved shelters, plastic sheets, and other specific items to help them cope during the rainiest months.
- Regular protection activities have continued as normal in the Gambella refugee camps, including Protection Open Reception where refugees can share concerns, and convening the newly formed Protection Working Groups. Key issues of discussion which require further follow-up include the matter of individuals that are currently unregistered in the camps, distribution of solar lanterns and fuel-efficient stoves, and maintaining the civilian nature of the camps by identifying and screening fighters and former fighters.
- UNHCR Protection staff are providing input to the UNHCR National Comprehensive Protection Strategy (CPS), which will be updated in the coming weeks with inputs from the field offices. At the Gambella level, UNHCR, ARRA, and partners will also be developing a Gambella Protection Strategy. The protection strategy will focus upon the key protection challenges and objectives facing the Gambella operation, including registration, documentation, SGBV, child protection, screening of combatants, nationality issues, access to justice and other matters.

- UNHCR's implementing partner Save the Children International and UNICEF facilitated a 3 day refresher training for social workers and Child-Friendly Space (CFS) facilitators. During the training, a total of 40 social workers and CFS facilitators participated, in addition to representatives from the host community, Red Cross and other delegates. The topics addressed included child protection in emergencies, case management, communicating with children, psychosocial support, principles and activities of the CFS and identification of vulnerable children.
- In Leitchuor camp, 20 shurtas and 9 traditional court administrators received a 2-day training on Gender Based Violence (GBV) basic concepts, Ethiopian law as related to GBV, the UNHCR mandate, and principles of international protection.
- 32 women in Tierkidi camp benefited from a women's empowerment training, intended to help develop women's leadership and communication skills. The training series will form part of the "Women Friendly Space" regular programme. The course will be tailored to suit the needs of adolescent girls, who will also receive empowerment and leadership training. Last week the Focus Group Discussion with women and adolescent girls in Tierkidi Women Friendly Space was on the topic of gender and SGBV matters in the camp, which led to a robust discussion. Additionally, 357 women and girls participated in dialogue sessions and group discussions on this week's community conversation topic: forced marriage and the challenges that women and girls face in relation to that practice.
- Community conversations and awareness raising on SGBV were conducted in Okugo through a coffee ceremony for women representatives. Topics included consequences of rape, referral systems, and services available for survivors. Home-to-home visits were carried out in Okugo by three newly recruited refugee social workers.
- Child Protection activities in Okugu have begun, and the newly recruited child protection staff have received basic child protection training. This will be followed-up with more comprehensive training in March.
- Updated data on child protection has also been reported. Leitchuor camp records 4117 separated children in total (1945 females and 2172 males) and 865 unaccompanied children (430 females and 435 males). In Pugnido camp, 1119 unaccompanied children have so far been registered (498 male and 621 females) and 2413 separated children (1065 females and 1348 males). As further interviews are completed with the children and their families, changes in their status will be reflected and changes effected in the databases (both CPIMS and ProGres). In Kule camp the total number of unaccompanied children is now 664 and 2000 separated children. There are still some issues remaining to be addressed regarding the replacement of social workers who have left their post and recruitment of more to handle the huge caseload. The arrival of the CPIMS consultant will help address these concerns. In Tierkidi, the total number of unaccompanied children is 300 (161 females and 139 males) while the total number of separated children is 1438 (714 females and 724 males).
- In Pugnido, vocational training is proceeding through UNHCR's partner, the Development and Inter-Church Aid Department – Orthodox Church Ethiopia (DICAC). Registration of 134 new candidates, mainly new arrivals to the camp, has been completed in four training areas, comprising tailoring, weaving, leather craft and printing.
- The Gender/GBV Comprehensive Situational Assessment commenced this week in Gambella. Facilitators for focus group discussions and interviewers were trained in Tierkidi and Kule. Key Informant interviews with partners are being conducted in order to obtain views on gender in the camp, along with causes, response and ideas for preventing SGBV.
- Leitchuor Field Office in collaboration with International Medical Corps (IMC) and the Women's Association facilitated the distribution of feminine hygiene kits (sanitary pads, laundry soap and underwear) to 5011 women and girls of reproductive age. Demonstrations of how to use and dispose of the sanitary pads were also conducted.
- In Leitchuor, a two day training on GBV and Ethiopian law was conducted for 25 participants (23 males and 2 females) from ARRA protection team, UNHCR Field Safety unit, Ethiopian police, Nyienyang Nuer zone justice unit and the Women's Affairs unit of the Makuey Woreda.

Education

Achievements and Impact

- SGBV sensitization training has now been provided for teachers in Kule, Tierkidi, and Pugnido camps. A Training of Trainers (TOT) for teachers will commence soon. Training and awareness on Prevention of Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (PSEA) was also provided to the teachers.



Achievements and Impact

- Refugees and other persons of concern continued to receive regular health services from UNHCR's health partners in all locations. On average, over 200 consultations are provided daily in the camp health centres. The UNHCR health unit also visited Pugnido camp to assess basic healthcare services for the newly relocated refugees, with recommendations of the visit provided to health partners working in the camp.
- The second round of the Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) campaign was completed in Kule, Leitchuor, and Tierkidi camps, resulting in more than 95% coverage in these locations.
- The second round of Pentavalent and Pneumococcal Conjugate 10 (PCV10) vaccination campaign began in Tierkidi camp on 9 February, and preparations are underway for the campaign to take place in the other camps shortly.
- UNHCR facilitated the transportation of antiretroviral therapy (ART), tuberculosis (TB) drugs and other medical supplies to Okugo refugee camp and Dimma health centre. Furthermore, to augment the routine expanded programme on immunisation (EPI) in Okugo and Pugnido camps, UNHCR provided two solar refrigerators to ARRA. The annual EPI antigens plan was prepared in collaboration with the Regional Health Bureau, in order to obtain adequate vaccines and other supplies for the program.
- Malaria control activities are on-going in all locations. To ensure complete blanket coverage for mosquito nets distribution in the camps, some 831 and 4,000 mosquito nets were dispatched to Akula village and Pugnido refugee camp respectively.
- A UNHCR medical mission was completed during the reporting week, assessing health and staff welfare, and also visiting health facilities in Gambella town, Nyinyenyang, Tierkidi, Itang and Kule.
- Two health education sessions were conducted in Akula to raise awareness of the refugees on the prevention of hygiene and sanitation related diseases such as Hepatitis E.



Achievements and Impact

- Members of the UNHCR Nutrition and Food Security team participated in the Regional Public Health workshop in Addis Ababa from 9-12 February. The workshop reviewed 2014 health, nutrition and WASH programmes and the linkage between the sectors. Key topics of discussion included cash-based interventions, vulnerability assessments in beneficiary selection for food assistance and the Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) framework.
- Joint monitoring of nutrition activities was conducted by ARRA and UNHCR in Pugnido camp. The Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI), Antenatal clinic (ANC) and Postnatal (PNC) program linkages were noted as best practices.
- The roll-out of survey labelling for the standardized Expanded Nutrition survey (SENS) began in the camps through provision of information on the survey process to partners in the camp including the Refugee Central Committee. This was conducted after orientation of the survey coordinating teams on labelling as the process will adopt the current labelling standards for the camps. Community outreach agents will verify tukuls, tents and plastic sheets and label those that are not yet labelled. Information sessions have been held in Pugnido, Tierkidi and Kule camps and orientation on labelling at camp level will be undertaken next week.
- A mass MUAC screening of all children under five years was undertaken in Pugnido new camp from 19-20 February 2015, during which a total of 2,507 children were screened for malnutrition. Findings reflected 408 individuals (16.3%) with a MUAC of <12.5cm, 102 (4.1%) with a MUAC of <11.5cm and 306 (12.2%) with a MUAC of >11.5. Those with a MUAC of <12.5 cm not already in nutrition programmes were referred to the Village 12 clinic for admission. UNHCR and ARRA are working together to scale up the nutrition service interventions in the camp.
- There were 185 new Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) cases identified during the week. The caseload of children under five years with Severe Acute Malnutrition is now 1,271 (including 173 in Leitchuor, 465 in Kule, 15 in NipNip, 1 in Okugo, 157 in Pugnido and 50 in Matar). Furthermore, 527 new cases were admitted for Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) during the week. The current caseload for Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) for children under five years is 5,388 (including 2,557 in Leitchuor, 1,699 in Kule, 808 in Tierkidi, 77 in NipNip, 21 in Pugnido, 119 in Okugo and 107 in Matar). There were also 531 children under five years and 288 pregnant and lactating women

who were new admissions into the blanket supplementary feeding programme (BSFP). A total of 39,077 children under five years are enrolled in BSFP, including 8,703 in Leitchuor, 13,523 in Kule, 13,046 in Tierkidi, 2,729 in Pugnido, 479 in NipNip and 579 in Matar. Additionally, 11,551 pregnant and lactating women are enrolled in BSFP, including 1,557 in Leitchuor, 3,634 in Kule, 2,975 in Tierkidi, 3,103 in Pugnido, 182 in NipNip and 100 in Matar. Nutrition partners have reported that all TSFP and BSFP programmes are running smoothly with sufficient stocks. Nutrition indicators, including cure, default and death rates are within Sphere standards.

- Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) services continue to be provided in facilities and in the community blocks. A total of 7,380 pregnant and lactating women received IYCF information at the nutrition centres (including 682 in Leitchuor, 2,975 in Tierkidi, 3,634 in Kule and 89 in NipNip). A total of 352 Mother-to-Mother Support Groups (MtMSG) have been formed in the community blocks (including 40 in Leitchuor, 96 in Tierkidi, 203 in Kule and 13 in NipNip), with five new groups formed during the week in Leitchuor camp.
- Significant progress has been made by UNHCR's partner MCMDO in Tierkidi in terms of livelihood interventions. To date, agricultural materials, hoes, axes, and jerry cans have been distributed to 585 beneficiaries. Tomato, green pepper, and okra have been distributed to more than 300 beneficiaries and 625 chickens have been distributed to 208 households. In addition, a two day training has been provided for 18 community incentive workers on poultry production and management.
- Thus far in 2015, a total of 4,931mt, 1,350mt and 418mt of assorted food commodities were delivered to South Sudan by air, river and road respectively through WFP's cross-border operation.



Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

- The amount of water supplied to the camps has improved, maintaining an average of 18 litres per person per day (lpppd) in Tierkidi, 16 lpppd in Kule, 17 lpppd in Leitchuor, 26 lpppd in Okugo, 15 lpppd in Pugnido and 10 lpppd in the Pugnido extension site.
- Crude sanitation coverage has improved in the camps and remains within SPHERE standards, ranging from 38 persons per latrine in Tierkidi, 19 persons per latrine in Kule, 43 persons per latrine in Leitchuor and 6 persons per latrine in Okugo.
- 2,300 showers have been constructed thus far by refugees in the Pugnido extension as a result of community mobilization and engagement.
- Construction of six tap stands in Tierkidi and trenching for the distribution pipeline in Kule are ongoing.



Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Achievements and Impact

- A preliminary site assessment for two new potential sites has been conducted in cooperation with ARRA and the local government.
- An estimation for the second phase of road improvements and new road construction, with maps and designs, has been developed for Kule camp. The Kule camp map has been updated.
- A map depicting WFP distribution points has been developed and sent to WFP for review.
- The UNHCR back loader has been transported to Gambella from Leitchuor. Drainage works will begin next week in Tierkidi camp, along with decommissioning work in Pagak.



Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

- In Tierkidi camp, the speed of implementation of addressing and tent washing has improved significantly following a system change in labour incentive fees, which are now being paid per unit rather than per day. The speed of

implementation appears to be only limited by resource allocation, such as sufficient water being availed by DRC for tent washing, and spray paint being allocated by UNHCR.

- Accomplishments in Tierkidi included cleaning of 450 tents, updating of maps, supervision of tukul construction, clearing and demarcation of part of zone C together with DRC and tukul assessment in zone D. Accomplishments in Kule camp included data collection for the education services map and updated mapping of education services as well as data collection for drainage map and supervision and follow up of tukul construction.

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\$ 111.9 million**, against **US\$ 210.9 million** requested for the situation, as at end December 2014

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.