

ETHIOPIA UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

9 – 15 April 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

KEY FIGURES

199,649

UNHCR PoC for the situation

FUNDING

USD 153.2m

requested for the UNHCR operation



PRIORITIES

- The sensitization of refugees and host community, and the subsequent relocation of refugees from Nip Nip and Leitchuor camps to Pugnido and Jewi camps respectively; as well as the development of Jewi camp
- The development of Tsore camp, Assosa

- The total new arrivals from South Sudan from 15 December 2013 to date is 199,649 of which 57% are female and 68% are children. The number of new arrivals in Gambella is 196,832, bringing the total South Sudanese refugee population in Gambella Region to 254,378. In Assosa, there are 2,817 new arrivals, 6,161 pre December 2013 refugees, making a total of 8,978. The total number of South Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia stands at 263,356.
- There is an increase in South Sudanese arrivals into Gambella region; 1,545 refugees were registered at Pagak and Akobo entry points; 1,324 refugees who, were registered at Akobo, arrived in the last two weeks in April.
- The new South Sudanese refugee arrivals are mainly from Uror and Nyirol counties in Jonglei State. They said they fled to Ethiopia because of generalised violence and alleged reports of forced recruitment of young men. All refugees registered in Akobo were relocated to Pugnido Refugee Camp thorough Burbiey. Relocation of 18 vulnerable individuals and their families was undertaken by a special boat, with escort, as the helicopter remains out of operation.
- So far, 12,840 refugees have been relocated to Pugnido camp from various entry and transit locations following the commencement of the exercise in mid-November 2014.
- proGres training was provided to Protection and Field staff to encourage the use of the database to easily respond to queries such as family reunification in the field. Unit specific trainings will be arranged soon.
- The Registration/Protection action plan for relocation of refugees from Leitchuor to Jewi was completed following consultations with ARRA and IOM. Training of registration staff who will be undertaking the exercise has been completed.
- The main focus of the Gambella operation during the reporting week was working with partners to get infrastructure and facilities ready in Jewi camp to receive refugees from flood-prone Leitchuor camp.
- The UNHCR Executive Committee (ExCom) mission led by Ambassador Pedro Comissário, the ExCom chair visited Gambella from 14-16 April. He visited Pagak border entry point and Kule and Tierkidi camps and was briefed on the preparations underway at Jewi camp. He met with refugees and observed life in the camps.
- Relocation of refugees from Leitchuor to Jewi camp is scheduled to commence in the coming days. Infrastructure, WASH and health facilities and shelter are in place and water and food have been pre-positioned. Demarcation for 1,200 plots and main access road clearing is complete. Site demarcation, detailed survey and allocation of space for partners is ongoing while 50 family tents have been pitched.

Population of concern

A total of **199,649** people of concern

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

- The total number of South Sudanese refugees who have entered Gambella Region since the outbreak of the conflict in mid-December 2013 is now 196,832 individuals with an increase in the number of new arrivals observed over the past two weeks. The total South Sudanese refugee population in Gambella Region to 254,378. In Assosa, there are 2,817 new arrivals, 6,161 pre December 2013 refugees, making a total of 8,978. The total number of South Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia stands at 263,356. The focus of the Gambella operation is the relocation of refugees from flood-prone Leitchuor and Nip Nip refugee camps before the rainy season begins in earnest, and the development of Jewi Refugee Camp, which was officially inaugurated on 15 March.

Achievements

Protection

Achievements and Impact

- ARRA and UNHCR briefed the Refugee Central Committee (RCC) members on imminent relocation of refugees from Leitchuor camp to Jewi camp. Some RCC members expressed opposition to relocation of refugees outside the Nuer zone citing security concerns. However, they promised not to stop any refugee willing to relocate to Jewi camp. It was agreed that RCC members should be taken to Jewi for “Go and see, come and tell”. Each of the four main clans in the camp will be represented during the proposed visit.
- proGres training was provided to Protection and Field staff to encourage the use of the database to easily respond to queries in the field. The training is a continuation of previous sessions to enhance protection delivery.

Education

Achievements and Impact

- NSTR

Health

Achievements and Impact

- Ten cartons of post exposure prophylaxis (PEP) kits received from UNICEF were distributed to all health partners working for refugees during the reporting period. The purpose is to minimize HIV infection among those potentially exposed within 72 hours.
- To improve maternal health care, a community-based assessment of fistula cases was conducted in Kule camp where UNHCR and health partners in that camp discussed the issues related to case management.
- Monitoring trends of Hepatitis E cases in Pugnido is ongoing where the total number of cases reached 19 during the reporting period. UNHCR has supported mapping of pregnant women and location of cases across the camp. The distribution of 800 pieces of soap was undertaken by targeting this vulnerable group and a health information campaign at household level was also conducted in the camp during the week.
- Arrival vaccination was provided for all children under 15 years of age at Pagak, Akobo and Burbiey entry points to prevent the outbreak of vaccine preventable diseases. Accordingly, 96 and 115 children under 15 received measles vaccine and Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) respectively. Similarly, 41 children 6-59 months of age were reached for Vitamin A supplementation during the reporting period.

Food Security and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR, WFP, ARRA decided to provide High Energy biscuits (HEBS) to registered beneficiaries arriving through Akobo entry point. This will enable timely food response to new refugee arrivals.
- UNHCR had technical discussions with ACF on the exit plan in Leitchuor camp and the start of nutrition programs in Jewi camp as well as a Leitchuor specific host community nutrition support plan and Jewi roll out plan.
- The April cycle of food distribution timeline improved in Pugnido camp where distribution took five days, but there is a growing number of minors collecting rations, where the heads of the families are absent. Food distribution is planned to take place in Leitchuor, Kule, Tierkidi and Okugo camps next week.
- UNHCR and ARRA agreed that WFP take the lead in coordination of the food security meeting to enhance more accountability and support improvement of distribution systems.
- All nutrition partners (GOAL and ACF) reported that all programmes (TSFP and BSFP) were progressing well since sufficient nutrition food was prepositioned in the respective camps. During the relocation, HEB and hot meals was provided for refugees by WFP/ARRA and IOM respectively. Refugees also received GFD and nutrition foods (6-59 months of children and PLW) upon their arrival at the camps.

Challenges

- There were 148 new severe acute malnutrition (SAM) cases admitted into the outpatient therapeutic program during the week. The caseload of children under five years with Severe Acute Malnutrition is now 1,312 (564 Leitchuor, 285 Kule, 160 Tierkidi, 265 Pugnido; 38 Matar).



Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

- In Okugo Refugee Camp, the usual supply of 1,120m3 (22 lpd) of water to refugee was maintained. However, the turbidity of raw water increased increasing the time taken to filtrate and treat. This is due to the start of the rainy season.



Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Achievements and Impact

- In Jewi camp the main access road clearing is complete. Site demarcation, detailed survey and allocation of space for partners is ongoing. Activities continue.



Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

- In Jewi camp, demarcation for 1,200 plots is complete and 50 family tents have been pitched.



Logistics

Achievements and Impact

- As of 11 April 2015, a total of 10,595mt, 2,500mt and 619.653mt of assorted food commodities were dispatched to South Sudan through air, road and river respectively. In 2015, the total quantity of food so far airdropped from Gambella was 4,668mt through a total of 160 rotations. A total of 3,326mt and 2,601mt of food was airdropped and air lifted from Jimma and Assosa through 120 and 162 rotations respectively. Coupled with this, a total of 2,500mt and 619.65mt of food was dispatched and delivered through river and road.

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 Gambella Inter-Agency Refugee Emergency Task Force met with the development of Jewi camp to receive refugees the main agenda. Partners assured that they will be ready to provide services to refugees on 15 April and were ready by that date.
- In Pugnido, the monthly Inter-Agency Coordination meeting was held on 9 March. During the meeting, which was attended by all stakeholders, including Refugee Central Coordination Committee representatives, the past month accomplishments and challenges were discussed, as well as planned activities for the coming month.



Tapstand installation in Jewi

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the UNHCR operation amount to some **US\$ 22 million**, against **US\$ 153.2 million** requested for the situation, which is **14% funded** as at 7 April. 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.

UNHCR is grateful for the direct contributions to the UNHCR Ethiopia Operation from:
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