

Minutes

Refugee Coordination Group meeting - Wednesday, 12 September 2018

9:30 – 11:30 am

Agenda

1. Regional Refugee Response Plan South Sudan
2. Update IDP situations/returns
3. Update CRRF process (NCO/UNHCR)
4. AOB

Regional Refugee Response Plan South Sudan

Sector co-chairs present their respective chapters for the below sectors:

Child Protection

Regional Child Protection Framework developed for South Sudan situation, with UNHCR and NGO CP partners, to identify regional priorities and pathways to address gaps and challenges
The main needs/gaps which needs to be addressed:

- Psychosocial distress – due to experienced violence, traumatic events
- Erosion of community and family networks – leading to increased risk of violence
- Lack of educational opportunities
- Adolescents/Youth engagement – to address youth delinquency, risky behavior / negative coping mechanisms, exploitative labour, SGBV (incl. early marriage)
- Addressing family separation – high numbers of UASC (alternative care, FTR/RFL)
- Enhance quality of case management
- Early identification of children at risk
- Mainstreaming of child protection across sectors

The planned response contains three priorities:

1. Support the psychosocial wellbeing and resilience of adolescents youth
2. Ensure that at-risk children have access to care and protection service
3. Address family separation and promote family based care

Discussion:

Questions were raised on baselines and targets established

Lack of sufficient shelter for UASC in the Shire camps causing overcrowding etc was highlighted as an issue

SGBV

The main needs/gaps which needs to be addressed:

- Under-reporting of SGBV incidents
- Harmful traditional practices, including early marriages
- Lack of access to safe energy putting women and girls at risk of SGBV when collecting firewood
- Limited access to physical (safe houses) and legal protection
- Limited programmes for men and boy survivors of SGBV
- Enhanced CBP and including men and boys in prevention and response to SGBV
- Establishment and strengthen of CBCM for PSEA
- Improved coordination with non-SGBV partners particularly in the area of feedback and follow-up between referring and referred agencies
- Capacity building for protection and health workers

The planned response contains three priorities:

1. Survivor-centered support to all SGBV survivors including men and boys
2. Strengthen community based prevention and response to SGBV, including men & boys
3. Strengthen community security and access to justice

Health and Nutrition

The planned response contains three objectives:

1. Health status of the population Improved
2. Nutritional wellbeing improved
3. Optimal access to reproductive health and HIV services

Food Security

The planned response contains five objectives:

1. Provide all refugees living in camps monthly in kind food assistance (2,100 Kcal / person/ day) and further exploration of cash to replace part of in kind
2. Provide blanket supplementary feeding for children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women
3. Expand fresh food voucher programmes to increase dietary diversity
4. Expand small scale livelihoods initiatives inc. backyard gardening
5. Linkages with nutrition programme identifying most vulnerable

WASH

The planned response contains two objectives:

1. Ensure population has access to clean and safe water
2. Ensure population lives in satisfactory hygiene and sanitation conditions

Discussion

Interim targets need to be established, since 2 year plan, but indicators can be set for each year

2100 kcal/day wasn't achieved over the past years, so is while this target is not realistic, its still what the standard is and what we fundraise for

Interventions that impact malnutrition need to be addressed, including fuel, wash etc

CRRF approach being adopted across sectors in the planning, such as the Gambella hospital, Itang hospital, Itang water scheme

Introduction of cash in Gambella being discussed with ARRA, to see how we can gradually introduce cash for assistance to refugee

Back-yard gardening challenged by plot sizes versus large family sizes;

Mental health is part of the priorities and included into primary health services

Energy and Environment

The main needs/gaps which needs to be addressed:

- 75% of refugee households have access to lighting
- 0 % are provided with alternative domestic fuel
- 20% of the HHs are provided with street lighting
- Wood-fuel remains the primary cooking energy in all refugee camps in; negatively impacting the environment.

The planned response contains two objectives:

1. To ensure refugees' access to energy and fuel needs (piloting of ethanol, briquetting, woodlot development, solar)
2. To ensure that the shared natural resources are better protected and managed; (forest rehabilitation)

Discussion

Potential of solar solutions

Land for forest rehabilitation integrated with regional plans

SAFE strategy – in the last year of implementation, there is a plan to evaluate the strategy and update

Integration with livelihoods for tree planting and energy production recommendation by ARRA, to increase value chain

Study is in completion stage, will help to analyse success of strategy; draft report by mid September

Question remains how to address and secure sufficient funding

Livelihoods

- Response will align with CRRF objectives to
 - o Create an enabling environment
 - o Facilitate refugee inclusion in development processes
- Strong link with national development priorities
- Strategic partnerships to contribute to resilience and self-reliance of refugees and host communities

- Potential sectors will primarily include irrigated agriculture for crop production, agro-processing and value addition, livestock sector development, job creation through self and wage employment pathways, financial services as well as micro-enterprise development.

Land access remains an issue, discussions with stakeholders, including WB and IFC, GIZ (for TVETS and link to marked opportunities), FAO and WFP – to create platform for interventions
Work permits for issue to tackle once proclamation

Capacity building regional authorities, increase opportunities for local populations for wage employment, to benefit refugees at a later stage;

National coordination meeting planned towards the end of September

Discussion

WFP assessment to be shared with partners

WFP plans 70/30 refugee host support, plans under finalisation, request to share with partners

Coordination is indeed key

To fully address food insecurity irrigated agriculture needed, larger scale

Land access remains a concern

Support to host community vital, also to ensure enabling environment for refugees in Gambella

Commercialisation of energy production

Shelter

- Current status emergency and transitional shelter
- Targets for 2019-2020 to increase coverage to 61%
- Current piloting/testing of mud-brick shelter in 3 camps in Gambella, once completed then environmental impact will be analysed for bigger scale (particularly the ponds that result from excavation of soil for mud bricks)

Discussion

Implementation of national shelter strategy, system in place to identify vacant shelter or dilapidated shelter that needs repair; inventories for shelter – ARRA zonal heads to take the lead in this

- Concerns of malaria related to pits, even back-filling might not be sufficient – recommendation to have specific area for excavation but not small ones all over the camps; or excavation from hill sides – challenge for such a large population, but will depend on outcome of assessment
- What are the next steps, and the unit prices compared to current shelter type, as well as capability of refugees to construct – price to be determined through the pilot and the related assessment
- Can the ponds also be put to other use that benefit the refugees
- Pilot to be completed in 2-3 weeks, then assessment can be done



Other South Sudan related topics:

Update on Pamdong

- Currently 754 refugees registered, but not all present in Pamdong
- Relocation to Assosa continues
- Preparations for relocation to Nguenyiel under way

Previously L1 registration there, then relocation, however, now challenges with land in Gambella, since May/June: relocation to Assosa by air commenced, supported by IOM, but majority not keen to move to Assosa hence backlog in Pamdong; not all provided with food assistance

Preparations for relocation to Nguenyiel underway; some people in Pamdong might not be refugees

Protection Update

- Update South Sudan peace talks in Khartoum

4-5 September 2018 peace talks in Khartoum, Ethiopia did not manage to get travel permits for refugee representatives from Ethiopia

Many refugees express concerns the crisis will resurface

Low funding levels for RRP South Sudan (8-15% funding only)

Contingency plans needed, new arrival figures expected to reduce

Updates: IDP (Charlotte Ridung)

Gedeo-West Gujji situation:

- The issue of numbers of IDPs is a major challenge. Significant discrepancies on the numbers provided between national and regional authorities and DTM. Seemingly, numbers are inflated. Number of IDP returns unclear
- Clear advocacy undertaken by the EHCT to donors and Government
- Protection monitoring in areas of return and likely return to be scaled up
- Humanitarian actors will continue to support both IDPs in displacement areas and return area (“accompany IDP/returnees, but not the Government” approach)

Somali region:

1. Background:

The riots and outbreak of violence on 4 August 2018 followed the stepping down of the President of Somali region. The former President was subsequently taken to Addis Ababa, arrested by the police and his immunity from prosecution was revoked.

During the outbreak of violence in Jijjiga town and other towns in Somali Region, there were thousands of people attacked and killed. Shops were looted, churches and vehicles attacked. Across the region several priests were killed. There are allegations of rape on a large scale. A large part of the population is traumatised.

2. Displacement following the violence:

Multi-sectoral assessments conducted on 8 and 14 August, Oxfam and DRC also conducted telephone assessments.

While on 8 August 52,000 people were displaced, on 14 August the number of IDPs decreased to approximately 10,000. A part of the reason is that IDPs who took refuge in collective centres (mainly churches) were mainly the so-called “highlanders” and returned to their places of origin when the public transportation started functioning.

3. Protection response:

- large number of rapes; cases were referred to BoWCA
- large number of separated families; cases referred to BoWCA and the Red Cross society for family tracing and reunification
- large number of traumatised people across the region, the overall atmosphere is heavy, people are in dire needs of psychological first aid and potentially also psycho-social assistance; members of the Protection Cluster providing this assistance in other regions were requested to extend assistance also to the Somali region (request made during the Protection Cluster meeting on 4 September).

Discussion

- No reliable numbers of IDPs overall, might be less than what we initially assumed, including returns to West Guji
- The Protection Cluster developed guidance on returns (to be shared)
- Protection monitoring is a priority, both in hosting areas and areas of return, there assistance provision as well ongoing
- Access is a major challenge in displacement and return areas
- Some places of return are not the original areas, hence shelter and other assistance there needed
- Assessment in places of displacement of needs of those that remained, at least minimum life saving support
- Return in less than optimal conditions, situations of returns to be monitored, services not always in place and further assistance needed
- Security services needs to be in place
- UNHCHR has mandate now to operate in those areas, including human rights monitoring

Updates: CRRF

Update on progress and developments (Ato Fisseha and Jon Andrews)

The CRRF presentation gave a brief overview of the history of the CRRF globally, Ethiopia’s engagement, and the recent developments in Ethiopia, including the drafting of Ethiopia’s National Comprehensive Refugee Response Strategy (NCRRS). Implications for the support of UNHCR and partners to ensure its successful implementation over the years to come will be

presented too.

Discussion

Ato Fisseha Meseret new NCO Head

Longer term approach envisaged

Strategy to be finalised based on consultations, final version to be shared