

# South Sudanese refugees 2020/2021 Country Operations Planning

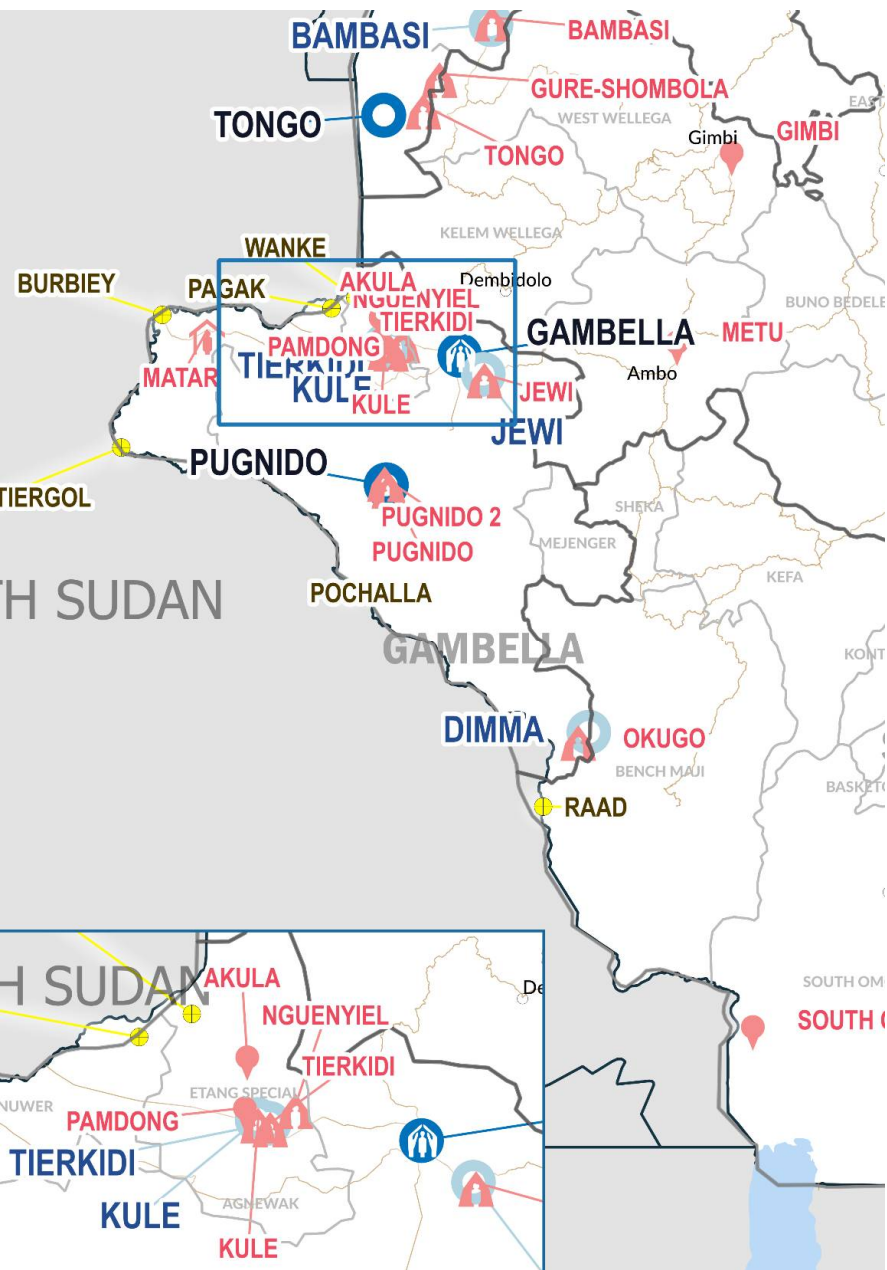
Refugee Coordination Group Meeting - 25 March 2019



# Operational Context

- 400,000 South Sudanese refugees residing in Gambella (7 camps: 385,000 refugees), Assosa (2 camps: 15,000 refugees), and Benishangul Gumuz regions of Ethiopia.
- Refugee numbers are likely to decrease by up to 25% upon completion of L3 registration (April 2019).
- Although South Sudanese refugees continue to be granted prima facie status, new arrivals are no longer registered or authorized to join Gambella camps, as per the instructions of the regional authority.
- To date, camp populations in the Gambella region outnumber those in the surrounding host communities by 60:40.





- The security situation in the region remains unpredictable; with **recent security incidents** affecting refugees, host communities and humanitarian workers, which have included fatalities.
- Insecurity within the regions, caused by ethnic and political conflicts, has **directly impacted refugees**.
- Appointment of **new government in 2018** has led to a new regional president, cabinet, woreda and kebele level authorities, which requires a renewed engagement by humanitarian and development actors.
- CRRF has been **negatively received** by the host community and local authorities in Gambella.



# Protection and solutions

- The promotion of [community security](#), [the rule of law](#), [social cohesion](#) and [peaceful coexistence](#) is essential.
- Advocacy to ensure [continued access to asylum](#) and assistance in the Gambella region.
- Monitoring of spontaneous departures, possible preparation of facilitated [voluntary repatriation](#). Ensuring the engagement of refugees to partake in the outcomes of the peace process in South Sudan.
- [Improved refugee data management](#) with the completion of the L3 registration and establishment of the One-Stop-Shop Registration Model.
- Increase engagement with local authorities on [CRRF](#); capacity development of regional Woreda and Kebele authorities.
- Strengthening refugee protection through the expansion of improved [community-based](#) and [multi-sectorial](#) child protection and SGBV programmes.





# Planning assumptions

- **Reduced numbers of new arrivals**, assuming the gradual stabilisation of the political and humanitarian situation in South Sudan.
- The **security situation** within the hosting areas **remains stable**, with no significant security incidents in and around the camps.
- Continued **essential service delivery** in the camps.
- **Access** to asylum and protection maintained.
- The new **Refugee Proclamation** and the CRRF/9 pledges advanced access to documentation, labour rights, and opportunities for agriculture production

# Operational Priorities

- **New arrivals:** The management of reception centres, timely registration and the transportation of refugees to locations (collectively identified as favourable protection environments) is a priority.
- **Protection:**
  - 35,000 unaccompanied and separated children: child protection remains a high priority in the delivery of essential services.
  - Enhanced community based protection with a focus on persons with specific needs and SGBV.
  - Maintain accurate refugee data.
- **Peaceful co-existence:** The promotion of community security, the rule of law, social cohesion and peaceful coexistence is essential.
- **Live-saving activities:** Ensure adequate services for refugees is provided in a timely manner (Health/Food/shelter/nutrition/WASH).
- **Household energy:** The provision of alternative fuels, fuel efficient stoves, street lights, solar home systems, and grid connected electricity.
- **CRRF:**
  - Gradual integration of refugees into national service provision (secondary education, WASH).
  - Engagement of development and private sector partners in the establishment of job creation programmes promoting economic self-reliance.
  - Effective coordination of humanitarian, development and governmental actors.

# Challenges

## Operational environment:

- Perceptions of regional government and host community:
  - Uncertainty concerning CRRF implementation, perceived as possible pathway to local integration and naturalization.
  - Difficulties in demonstrating CRRF outcomes without visible, tangible development engagements and investments.
  - Challenges with communication on CRRF without further reinforcing negative perceptions.
- Lack of engagement from private sector and development actors in hosting regions because of political insecurity.
- Unwillingness of regional authorities to further accommodate refugees in the Gambella region.
- Limited opportunities for economic inclusion; with continued advocacy required with private sector and development actors.
- Limited opportunities for gradual inclusion of refugees in national services because of a lack of capacity.

## Financial Challenges:

- Response to new influx would require significant investments in camp infrastructure; out-of-camp response not yet considered in the Gambella region.



# Opportunities, Regional initiatives

- **Peace process:** ensure that Nuer refugees benefit from opportunities created by the ongoing peace process.
- **Inclusion in national services (health, water, education):**
  - IGAD focusing on inclusion of refugees in education and national health services, and livelihood opportunities.
  - GIZ supporting national TVET (Vocational skills training) to allow participation of refugees.
  - UNICEF investments in education and WASH.
  - WB IDA 18 and IDA 19; supporting inclusion of refugees in education with a focus on secondary education.
- **Economic inclusion:** Engagement with private sector, opportunities in the agricultural and livestock sectors.
- **Development plans:** Donor interest but mainly humanitarian actors, possibility to attract development actors over time. Potential inclusion of refugees in regional development plans.



Thank you