



# ETHIOPIA UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

16-23 April 2014

## HIGHLIGHTS

94,832

UNHCR PoC for the situation

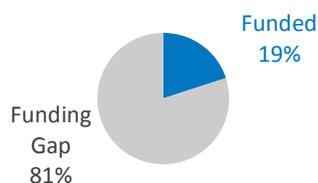
- The total number of South Sudanese refugees who have entered Ethiopia since the outbreak of the conflict in mid-December 2013 is now over 94,832 individuals. The asylum seekers continue to arrive in Ethiopia through the Gambella Regional State, mainly through Pagak, Burbiey and Akobo border-entry points, citing security and lack of food as the main reason for their flight.
- Most of the new arrivals continue to be women and children (95% of the total population). Many of them are coming from Upper Nile and Jonglei States and have walked for 15 to 20 days before reaching Ethiopia. They report that the men are remaining behind to fight.
- At Pagak Entry Point, UNHCR estimates there are approximately 3,500 asylum seekers waiting for registration. The asylum seekers have reported to UNHCR that more people are in South Sudan waiting to cross the border.

### Population of concern (in millions)

A total of **94,832** people of concern

### Funding against the operation

**US\$102 million** requested



## UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

### Achievements



Protection

### Needs Assessment

- South Sudanese refugees continue to have free access to Ethiopian territory to seek asylum. ARRA and UNHCR continue to conduct Level 1 registration at the border entry points of Pagak and Akobo. The average arrival rate remains 800-1,000 new arrivals per day. The vast majority of new arrivals (95%) remain women and children who report that males stayed behind to fight or to protect their property. Some report that armed groups are preventing young and able-bodied males from travelling and instead influencing them to join the fight.

- Registration was temporarily suspended for a few days at Pagak border entry point in order to clarify the status of nationals who were trying to register as refugees. Thus far, 727 Ethiopians have left Pagak and returned to their homes with the assistance of IOM for transport.
- IOM continues to relocate refugees from Akobo and Pagak entry points to the camp, with 20,410 individuals transported to the camps as of 22 April. The movements comprise road movements from Pagak to Kule camp, boat movements from Akobo to Leitchuor camp via Burbiey, and air movements from Akobo to Leitchuor on the helicopter contracted by UNHCR which is used to transport vulnerable refugees who cannot undertake the 8-9 hour boat ride from Akobo to Burbiey.

### Achievements

- Level 2 Registration which entails the use of the *ProGres* database and records biometrics is ongoing in Leitchuor and Kule camps. 55% of a population of 44,603 individuals in Leitchuor have attended the exercise, while in Kule, 17% of a population of 37,519 individuals have attended.
- With renewed fighting reported in Nasir, UNHCR and ARRA are establishing a registration facility in Burbiey as asylum seekers may access this entry point.
- A comprehensive Protection Strategy is being developed and will strengthen the emergency response in protection of refugee children, SGBV and persons with special needs.
- Save the Children, with support from UNHCR and UNICEF is setting up early childhood development and child friendly spaces in Kule and Leitchuor Camps.



## Health

### Needs Assessment

- MSF-F continues to provide 24 hour primary health services at Pagak border entry point, including an ambulance service to facilitate referrals to Itang when required.
- The current average health facility based crude and under-five mortality rates are 0.2/10,000/day and 0.8/10,000/day respectively (within the emergency thresholds of 1/10,000/day and 2/10,000/day respectively). These figures reflect that both the under-five mortality and crude mortality rates have reduced by 4.1% and 0.95% respectively, without any recent maternal death reported. Timely community referrals is being emphasised to avoid late presentation of patients.
- ARRA continues to provide primary health care services to the refugee population in Kule, while MSF-F continues with the provision of inpatient services at Itang Health Centre.

### Achievements

- The Measles outbreak in the Gambella Region has been contained, with a decreasing trend in the number of measles cases reported. Over 440 children have been treated since February 2014. Thus far, over 61,406 children have been vaccinated against measles, out of whom 36,851 received polio vaccination and 29,948 children under 5 years received a vitamin A supplement. The Gambella Regional Health Bureau is working in Pagak to actively identify any children not immunized against measles, polio or did not have vitamin A supplementation.
- UNICEF conducted a Rapid Convenience Survey (RCS) in Kule and Leitchuor camps to assess quickly the level of measles protection. In Kule camp, of 503 children assessed, 100% had received measles vaccination and 99.6% of 505 children assessed had received polio vaccination. In Leitchuor, out of 989 children assessed, 93% had received measles vaccination of 96.5% had been vaccinated against polio.
- A vaccination team was deployed to Burbiey on 14 April to provide measles and polio vaccination and vitamin A supplementation to new arrivals accessing this entry point.
- Capacity building support was provided to partners to ensure harmonized programming in regard to screening at the entry points, management of acute malnutrition and reporting.



## Food Security and Nutrition

### Needs Assessment

- UNHCR has shared the schedule for proposed Nutrition Surveys in Kule and Leitchuor camps with health, nutrition and WASH partners, with data collection tentatively scheduled for late May 2014.
- The GAM rate (based on MUAC <12.5cm) remains above 15% at all the reception sites which is indicative of the continuing poor nutrition status in which the refugees are arriving.
- ARRA, UNHCR and WFP are discussing the food strategy response and entry point preparedness in anticipation of the upcoming rainy season. A combination of High Energy Biscuits for three days, followed by a 1-week food ration has been decided upon as the most appropriate option, with the modality of distribution dependent upon the length of stay at the entry points before relocation. UNHCR is also providing the refugees with jerry cans, buckets, soap and kitchen sets as part of their welcome package.

### Achievements

- UNHCR is providing the refugees with jerry cans, buckets, soap and kitchen sets as part of their welcome package.
- Over 5,013 malnourished children have been relocated from entry points to Kule and Leitchuor camps and enrolled in nutrition programs. A surveillance system has been established at both Pagak and Akobo entry points to fast-track all identified severely/moderately malnourished children and their families. A total of 3,990 pregnant and lactating mothers are enrolled into the Blanket Supplementary Feeding Program in all the camps including Pagak entry point.



## Water and Sanitation

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### Needs Assessment

- In Kule and Leitchuor, 320,000 and 450,000 litres of water are trucked each day respectively with support from DRC. In Pagak, MSF-H is continuing with water trucking increasing the water supply to over 20 litres per person per day. Construction of latrine blocks in the new reception site in Pagak is also underway.
- Also in Kule, 43 blocks of latrines comprising 209 stances are under construction, while NRC has also conducted a mass cleaning campaign. 136 stances are completed in Leitchuor 2 and 244 in Leitchuor.

### Achievements

- Trenching of the temporary water supply pipeline commenced on 17 April in Leitchuor-2.
- Community Outreach Workers are being trained to disseminate clear hygiene messages.



## Shelter and NFIs

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### Needs Assessment

- To overcome the challenge of meeting the shelter needs of the refugees, 4,000 tents are being airlifted. A total of 1,000 tents out of the planned 4,000 pieces have been airlifted thus far from Mwanza, Tanzania. 700 of the delivered tents have been transported to Leitchuor and 300 to Kule. The remaining 3,000 tents are expected to be airlifted into Gambella in the next few days. The Government of Ethiopia has given the necessary authorization for the landing of the aircraft in Gambella.
- In Leitchuor, all 700 tents have been erected and allocated to 700 refugee households, reflecting that 3,500 individuals have been transferred from the low lying areas in Leitchuor-1 to the higher ground of Leitchuor-2. An additional 600 additional tents have also arrived in Leitchuor Camp of which 95% have been pitched and allocated to refugees.
- Site planning for Kule and Leitchuor continues to be updated. New areas for the possible expansion of Kule 1 are being identified and assessed.

### Achievements

- In both Kule and Leitchuor, UNHCR Ethiopia is employing a shelter strategy similar to that used successfully in Bambasi Camp in Benishangul Gumuz Region. Refugees will be provided with a tent for emergency shelter together with grass and other materials to construct their own tukul, thereby promoting refugee participation

with support from UNHCR's implementing partners NRC and IOM. This will allow for the ongoing recycling of the tents by new arrivals as the transitional shelters are built.

- Tukuls (transitional shelters) are also being constructed, with plots already demarcated and materials on the ground, with support from NRC. In Kule, NRC has constructed over 300 tukul superstructures.



## Logistics

### Needs Assessment

- The use of Leitchuor 2 requires that UNHCR rehabilitate approximately 6 kilometres of access road. The work on this road has unfortunately been delayed due to the unavailability of the contractor. UNHCR and ARRA are following up on this with support from the Regional Authorities. In Leitchuor, work on the drift across a seasonal stream has begun.
- Akobo Tergol border entry point continues to present significant logistical challenges. There is no access road and the location is accessed only by air or by the river. While IOM continues to relocate just over 400 refugees from Akobo by boat every second day, this presents significant challenges including navigating through water hyacinth, fishing nets and presence of crocodiles as well as the decreasing water level which will soon make these movements almost impossible. UNHCR and IOM have agreed to increase the number of boats used from the current three boats to six which will increase the numbers of refugees relocated.

### Achievements

- 3 rub halls have been installed in the newly hired warehouse compound in Gambella. Also, an Interagency supply and logistics coordination group chaired by UNHCR has been established in Gambella.

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 20 million**, of **US\$ 102 million** requested for the situation.

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 activities around the world with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.