



ETHIOPIA

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

10 - 16 October 2014

KEY FIGURES

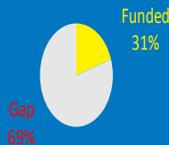
190,083

UNHCR PoC for the situation

FUNDING

USD 210m

requested for the operation



PRIORITIES

- Emergency response to flooding in Leitchuor, Nipnip and Matar
- Search for additional land in view of continued influx
- Implement mitigation measures related to rainy season by strengthening WASH and nutrition interventions and encouraging positive behavioural change

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 190,083 individuals. The average arrival rate of South Sudanese refugees to the Gambella region has dropped with commencement of rains in various locations in region.
- A total of 644 South Sudanese refugees arrived in Ethiopia over the last week, through the three main entry points of Akobo, Burbiey and Pagak. New arrivals from Akobo and Burbiey were relocated to Matar with assistance from IOM for transport. Currently, 11,850 refugees remain in Matar waiting for relocation to a camp.
- Emergency response activities continued to be carried out in the Leitchuor Axis.
- Over the last week, ethnic tensions erupted in violence in the Gambella Region, with seven people reportedly killed in Akobo and Gambella town. Government security forces patrolled the streets of Gambella on 14 October and most shops and markets were closed, while all road movements to the field were also temporarily suspended. While Gambella town is now calm; however, UNHCR and partners are closely monitoring the situation.
- A joint UNHCR-WFP mission was conducted in Gambella from 9 -11 October. The focus of the mission was to discuss the joint Road Map for the implementation of the use of Biometrics for Food Distribution Monitoring and to see the preliminary budget requirements for the project. The mission members visited Kule, Tierkidi and Pugnido camps where they observed the ongoing food distribution.
- UNHCR and ARRA started a joint exercise of “Recording Expression of Interest” of refugees for voluntary relocation to Okugo refugee camp. In Pagak, the exercise started on 10 October with 12 refugees expressing their interest to relocate. Preparations are underway to relocate them to Okugo refugee camp. The exercise will continue at Pamdong transit center shortly.

Population of concern

A total of **190,083** 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 190,000 individuals, with the number continuing to increase daily. The asylum seekers continue to arrive in Ethiopia into the Gambella Regional State, mainly through Burbiey, Pagak 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 has caused damage in Leitchuor and NipNip Camps and refugees in these camps have moved to higher ground within the camps and the surrounding villages.

Achievements

Protection

Achievements and Impact

- During the last week, registration of new arrivals resumed at the Burbiey Entry Point after a break in activities for a period of approximately 10 days. A total of 404 new arrivals were registered, out of which 285 were relocated to the Matar Way Station where they will be provided with basic services while awaiting relocation to a designated camp. The remaining 119 refugees will be sent to the Matar Way Station in the coming week with support from IOM for transport.
- Harmonisation of unaccompanied minors and separated children (UAM/SC) data captured by implementing partners Save the Children and PLAN International commenced in Kule, Tierkidi and Leitchuor camps in coordination with UNHCR.
- In Leitchuor and NipNip, routine monitoring activities were carried out, particularly for children who were displaced during the floods. 30 of 76 children visited were found to be in need of family tents, while another 13 children were observed to be sick and were referred to MSF-F for treatment. NFIs including blankets, soap, buckets and plastic water containers were provided to 72 children.
- An inter-agency Protection Mission was conducted in Okugo refugee camp from 7 - 9 October 2014. The main purpose of the mission was to assess existing protection gaps and opportunities for the current refugee population and assess protection-related gaps and opportunities for services in case of any new influx or relocation of refugees.
- A capacity building workshop was held in Kule camp from 9 to 11 October facilitated by UNHCR, UNICEF and PLAN International. The main objective of the workshop was to train child protection social workers in prevention and response to child protection concerns and in order to enable them to train other people working with children of concern in camps.
- In Pugnido, 121 refugees with different specific protection needs approached UNHCR. The main issues reported were ration card splitting, merging and family reunification. Based on the protection interview carried out by UNHCR, all the cases have been addressed.

Education

Achievements and Impact

- The education indicators for Gambella show significant progress from September to October for the three camps of Kule, Tierkidi and Leitchuor, with the overall enrolment rate for the age group 3-18 years increasing from 31% to 41%.
- Primary enrolment increased from 45% to 63%. This remarkable progress, which is due to an intensive Back-to-School campaign conducted by Implementing Partners, as well as newly started Upper Primary classes. Pre-primary enrolment also increased slightly, from 21% to 23%.

- The indicators reflect that 49% of all boys between the age of 3-18 years are now enrolled as compared to 35% at the start of September, reflecting a significant improvement. For girls, the percentage has increased from 27% to 32%; however, the gap compared to boys has widened from 8% to 17%.
- UNHCR Sub Office Gambella hosted a joint UNHCR-NRC mission, which - as part of a global partnership - is visiting the field and looking into the challenges and opportunities of Accelerated Learning Programmes (ALP).
On 13 October, World Vision International conducted an awareness raising campaign in Kule, to encourage refugees to send their children to school, with a particular emphasis on refugee girls.



Health

Achievements and Impact

- Refugees and other persons of concern continued to receive regular health services from UNHCR's health partners in Leitchuor, NipNip, Kule, Tierkidi, Pamdong, Pagak, Itang, Akobo and Matar.
- Save the Children – International continued to provide limited health services to refugees in NipNip camp with support from Concern Worldwide. The flooding of the road from Leitchuor to Gambella remains a serious challenge with regard to the referral of emergency medical cases from the Leitchuor Axis. For the time being, patients requiring treatment are transported either by helicopter or boat.



Food Security and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

- Routine health and nutrition services are being provided in Kule, Tierkidi and Leitchuor, and at entry points including Pagak, Matar and Pamdong transit site. WFP and its nutrition partners, including GOAL, ACF and Concern Worldwide, continue to provide blanket supplementary feeding (BSF) and targeted supplementary feeding (TSF) programmes in Tierkidi, Kule, Leitchuor and NipNip camps respectively.
- In the month September a total of 7,247 children aged 6 to 59 months and pregnant and lactating women received TSF assistance, including 1,108 individuals who received assistance in Tierkidi, 1,545 in Kule, 4,366 in Leitchuor and 228 in NipNip (228). In the same month a total of 35,436 people received BSF, including 12,294 individuals in Tierkidi, 15,838 in Kule, 6,304 in Leitchuor and 1,030 in NipNip.
- WFP has reported a change in the food pipeline for November from sorghum to the provision of milled maize meal. WFP, UNHCR and ARRA are working on joint information campaign plan to sensitize refugees on the change. In Pamdong, WFP, UNHCR and ARRA have been conducting sensitization with the refugees to accept the available food basket, as the refugees did not wish to receive the maize meal provided as a cereal for the October cycle of food distribution.
- Food distribution for October commenced in the first week of October in most Gambella camps (Tierkidi, Kule, Leitchuor) and Transit Centers. Distribution is now on-going in Pugnido, Kule and Tierkidi camps and has been completed in Okugo, Pagak and Dimma. Food distribution also commenced in Nip Nip camp on 14 October after food was moved through a newly identified alternative road.
- 14 additional heavy capacity engines for grinding mills have been received for installation in the camps. This intervention will assist in effectively managing the milling of the cereals provided in the food basket.
- Nutrition and health partners took part in a Health Information System (HIS) training from 7 - 10 October 2014 which was facilitated by UNHCR. The training was well attended and will go a long way in improving standard reporting for nutrition and health interventions.



Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

- Over the last week, UNHCR and WASH partners have continued to focus on the flood response in Leitchuor, NipNip and Matar, along with Hepatitis E prevention activities and monitoring in Tierkidi, Kule, Matar and Pagak.
- In Leitchuor and NipNip, 76 additional latrines were commissioned during the week.

- One additional water point was established along the Leitchuor-Jikaw corridor which is helping to reduce the walking distance for refugees who have settled in the area.

Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

- In Leitchuor and NipNip, refugees and host community members continue to salvage tukuls in the camp.
- In Tierkidi, NRC has completed a total of 2,000 shelter units with roofing and bamboo walls. Of this number 1,060 are fully completed and functional. The construction of another quota of 500 shelter units has just commenced.
- In Kule, 1,426 shelter units are under various stages of construction, of which are completed and functional.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Achievements and Impact

- In Leitchuor and NipNip camp, mapping of spontaneous relocation of refugees is in progress. This process will facilitate aid service delivery to the population affected by flooding.
- In Dimma, site clearing, demarcation and plotting in Okugo refugee camp is in progress with a total of 10 blocks completed within the new third zone.
- Preliminary basic maintenance of roads is in progress in Kule refugee camp; this is a measure to keep the road passable prior to full scale road construction works due to commence in two weeks. Maintenance of critical areas in Tierkidi is also in progress. A total of 6.8 kilometres of road repairs are scheduled to be undertaken by NRC, comprising 5 kilometres in Kule and 1.8 kilometres in Tierkidi.

Logistics

Achievements and Impact

- With Leitchuor camp now cut off due to the flooding on the road from Gambella, WFP is loading all commodities on river boats to Matar and then transporting them by truck to NipNip and Leitchuor camps.
- As of 14 October, a total of 27,360 mt of food has been dispatched through the cross-border operation to South Sudan through air, river and road, with 77% dispatched by air.

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. In both Addis Ababa and Gambella, discussions are underway with the Task Forces for preparations for updating the Regional Response Plan for 2015.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 65.7 million**, against **US\$ 210 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 programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.