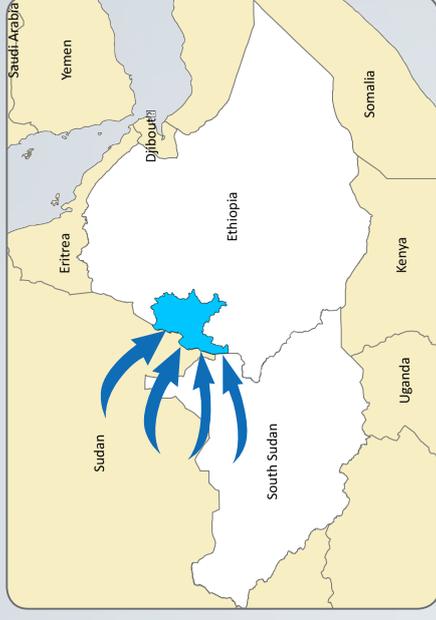


INFO-GRAPHICS BENISHANGUL-GUMUZ REGION:

IOM's South Sudan Refugee Relocation 21 October, 2014



TOTAL ARRIVALS/ REGISTERED/ RELOCATED



BACKGROUND

IOM has facilitated refugee movement in the Regional State of Benishangul-Gumuz. Requested by Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA), IOM has, since January 2014, facilitated transportation for 2,574 refugees from South Sudan. Since the beginning of the South Sudan crisis, there has been an influx of refugees through nine entry points, namely: Kurmuk, Gesan, Gamed, Asheshiko, Tongo, Abrahamu, Sostegna camp and Bamaza. IOM is also providing pre-departure medical screening to identify refugees who may need medical attention and/or referral on arrival at the camp.



Disaster Risk management and Food Security Sector
 Administrative Map of Benishangul Gumuz
 The Government of South Sudan
 National Office for the Administration of the Benishangul Gumuz State
 © IOM 2014

Month	Transported from Abrahamu Entry Point to camps within Benishangul	Transported from Tongo Entry Point to the camps within Benishangul	Transported from Assosa Entry Point to camps within Benishangul	Transported from Kush-megani Entry Point to camps within Benishangul	Transported from Amomra (3rd camp) Entry Point to camps within Benishangul	Transported from Kurmuk (Dilashe) Entry Point to camps within Benishangul	Total Number of Individuals Moved
January	7	0	17	0	0	64	88
February	32	89	0	51	0	0	172
March	65	52	54	112	0	0	283
April	11	15	0	11	177	0	214
May	252	49	0	0	0	0	301
June	152	29	72	0	0	0	253
July	388	28	0	0	0	0	416
Aug	229	5	0	0	0	0	234
Sep	572	0	0	0	0	0	572
Oct	41	0	0	0	0	0	41
TOTAL	1749	267	143	174	177	64	2574



IOM staff boarding refugees at Burbiey. ©IOM 2014
(Photo: Okech Sam)

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Since the conflict broke out in December 2013, the total number of South Sudanese refugees crossing to neighbouring countries, has surpassed 465,815 individuals. Ethiopia has received the highest number of refugees with a total of 190,510 individuals crossing its border. The Ethiopian borders remain open to asylum seekers. The South Sudanese refugee population has become the largest refugee group in Ethiopia, surpassing the Somali refugee population according to UNHCR.

IOM has assisted 173,238 refugees in Gambella and 2,574 in Benishangul-Gumuz since the conflict broke out. Since the last update, IOM has evacuated a total of 542 refugees in Gambella Region. The number of arrival has increased with refugees showing up at entry points. 326 refugees were moved from Burbiey to Matar on 15 October and another 204 refugees were moved from Burbiey to Matar on 18 October alone. This is a consistent drop since the beginning of September due to inaccessible roads because of the heavy rain and flooding including rising water level of the Baro River in various locations in the Region. Over all, the number of South Sudanese refugees IOM has evacuated in October has declined due to the persistent rain, camp flooding, stalled relocations to Okugu camp in Dima and an ongoing search for alternative camp sites.

HIGHLIGHTS

- During this reporting period, IOM has evacuated a total of 542 refugees from South Sudan entering Ethiopia through various entry points in Gambella Region
- Akobo remains an active entry point receiving between 50 and 60 new arrivals every day
- The total number of refugees evacuated by IOM is 173,238 in Gambella and 2,574 in Benishangul-Gumuz.



Bad roads due to heavy rain, such as the one shown above on the way to Macha have continued to pose a challenge on the evacuation exercise . ©IOM 2014 (Photo: Deribie Abera)

IOM and partners have been advised by Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) to maintain a strong presence in Dima, Leitchour, Matar and Nip Nip for continuous emergency service delivery. However, permanent investment in Leitchour is still discouraged.

According to a UNHCR and ARRA's joint assessment mission, it was observed that Akobo remains an active entry point receiving between 50 and 60 new arrivals every day. UNHCR and ARRA are following up on the resumption of previously suspended registration activities in Akobo .

Since the end of September 2014; the WHO has opened up an Ebola centre at the entry points in Gambella region.

The road to Leichour is still impassable, IOM is facing challenges to continue its normal operations in Matar. Though, water levels has resided over the past week, much of the affected area remains wet and refugees continue to stay where they settled in the different parts of Nyinyang and along the Nip Nip and Jikaw corridor and Gambella - Matar highway.

All partners are still depending on the lone helicopter for all movements to and from Matar and Leichour. Movement of supplies such as fuel and other essential commodities are not possible on the helicopter; this has forced IOM to use rental vehicles as an alternative to transport refugees from Burbiey to Matar since the road is not accessible by buses. However, only 54 kms is currently accessible by road from Gambella to Leitchour with the remaining part of the road completely flooded including the surrounding grassland.

There are more than 62,800 refugees in need of relocation from various camps and transit centres within Gambella region. ARRA and UNHCR have requested that all new arrivals from the three entry points of Burbiey, Akobo and Pagak be moved to Okugu camp.

IOM has devised an action plan to start the relocation of refugees from flooded camps to Okugu camp and has also constructed a transit station at Geder around Macha. IOM is on standby as it awaits the relocation to Okugu. Currently; there are a number of challenges for the relocation to Okugu to happen such as: 40km of muddy road from Gambella to Macha. Unwillingness of

the refugees to move to Okugu due to security concerns; and the capacity of Okugu to accommodate the refugee caseload to be relocated have continued to pose a challenge. Okugu can only accommodate 29,000 refugees in addition to the 6,000 already on ground. Therefore, the search for a new site with higher ground in the Gambella Region is still on top of the agenda. The only ongoing relocation is between Akobo to Matar as all other movements are restricted.

IOM has started constructing shelters to assist 39,000 refugees (7,800 households) in Kule refugee camp in Gambella to enhance protection of refugees from harsh weather conditions and environment. However, due to heavy rain in the region, access to the camp has been blocked. This has posed a major challenge to move construction materials.

IOM is also facilitating refugee movements in Assosa in the Regional State of Benishangul-Gumuz. As of 21st October, 2,574 refugees have been relocated from various entry points in the Region. During this reporting period, however, there has not been a refugee relocation from this region.

On request by UNHCR, IOM is also facilitating camp-to-camp transportation for refugees who may want to relocate to a different camps for one reason or another.

Partnerships and Coordination

IOM closely collaborates with the Government of Ethiopia's ARRA, UNHCR and humanitarian partners on the ground to respond to this emergency. IOM is also coordinating health referrals and care with the Ministry of Health, WHO, UNHCR, UNFPA, IFRC, UNICEF, WFP, IMC, ARRA, ACF, MSF-F as well as regional hospitals.

Challenges

- Limited reception capacity resulting in limited movement.
- Heavy rains flooding rivers made the stay at camps and Burbiey, Pagak and Matar challenging. The rain has also made roads inaccessible.
- Security threats have made some camps in Benishangul-Gumuz inaccessible.
- Refugees' concerns about relocation to Okugu.

IOM appreciates the invaluable support from the following donors and partners whose support has enabled us reach out to those most in need:

