

KEY FIGURES

194,847

UNHCR PoC for the situation

FUNDING

USD 210m

requested for the operation



PRIORITIES

- Approval and development of new site, Koben, to accommodate refugees
- Refugee relocation to Pugnido refugee camp

ETHIOPIA

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

16-22 January 2015

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 194,847 individuals, comprising 192,245 individuals who entered through Gambella and 2,602 who entered through the Assosa region.
- The rate of new arrivals to Ethiopia from South Sudan has remained relatively low as the rainy season has drawn to an end, with 870 new arrivals entering since 1 December 2014.
- Following a one-day assessment mission undertaken by UNHCR Protection staff to promote the relocation of refugees from Pagak Entry Point to Pugnido camp, 352 refugees were relocated from Pagak to Pugnido camp on 17 January 2015 with support from IOM for transport. Thus far, IOM has transported 8,766 refugees to Pugnido since the beginning of the exercise on 18 November 2014. A similar exercise will be undertaken in Pamdong shortly.
- A delegation from the US Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM) as well as the US Agency for International Development (USAID) visited Gambella between 12-14 January 2015. The donors visited Leitchuor, Kule and Tierkidi camps. As well as monitoring projects in the refugee camps funded by the US Government, the visitors also discussed the issue of land with both the Gambella Regional President and the Vice-President. The mission noted that Leitchuor and NipNip camps are in flood-prone zones and are not suitable sites for camps. The President suggested that the refugees should remain in their present locations while other measures are sought. UNHCR is continuing to follow up with ARRA on their recent announcement on the allocation of Cholan and Koben sites which are to be developed as camps, and UNHCR's assessment that Koben should be developed first. The official approval of Koben by the Regional President and Cabinet is currently pending.
- Federal police forces have been deployed in Kule Refugee Camp to assist with security. Members of the Refugee Central Committee as well as individual refugees have expressed appreciation for this, saying that they feel the camp is safer and there are less incidents of theft.

Population of concern

A total of **194,847** 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 194,000 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 is the largest refugee group in Ethiopia, surpassing the Somali refugee population. The rainy season caused damage in Leitchuor and NipNip Camps and refugees in these camps moved to higher ground within the camps and the surrounding villages. The relocation exercise of refugees currently in Matar and Pagak to Pugnido is ongoing, while another area of focus is the development of a new site, Koben, where refugees in flood-affected areas will be relocated.

Achievements



Protection

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR and ARRA are coordinating the development of a Protection Strategy for 2015. To facilitate this process, UNHCR has agreed with partners at the weekly Protection Working Group that thematic reports would be shared highlighting challenges and issues which require intervention for consideration during the secondary data review.
- UNHCR's protection team is consulting with partners on a holistic approach to address the issue of alcoholism and alcohol abuse. It has been noted that these issues need intervention in the camps as they lead to negative impacts on the lives of refugees, especially with reference to their general well-being, physical protection, nutrition and livelihoods.
- On 15 January, UNHCR convened a meeting with the Refugee Central Committee (RCC) members for the new site, with the objective of clarifying their RCC roles.
- In Leitchuor camp, sanitary materials were distributed to 2,152 beneficiaries of child-bearing age.
- A group of 30 social workers, including 25 males and five females, were trained on Case Management, Family Tracing and Reunification and Child-Friendly Spaces in Leitchuor Refugee Camp.
- Also in Leitchuor camp, Non-Food Items including blankets, mosquito nets, mats and jugs, were distributed to 130 vulnerable children, including 67 males and 63 girls.
- Community dialogue sessions and home-to-home visits were conducted by community mobilisers in Leitchuor camp. The dialogue sessions focussed on issues related to early and forced marriage and were attended by 303 women and girls, while an additional 200 refugees were visited in their homes.

Education

Achievements and Impact

- In Pugnido, UNHCR's partner, the Development and Inter-Church Aid Department – Orthodox Church Ethiopia is currently arranging for placement exams for 132 eligible high school students who have been identified amongst the newly relocated refugees. ARRA will follow up by coordinating with the Regional Education Bureau to arrange for placement exams to enter Year 9.

Health

Achievements and Impact

- Mortality indicators reflect that both Crude and Under Five Mortality Rates have been kept within the Sphere standards over the last week, within 1/10,000/day and 2/10,000/day respectively.
- The UNHCR health team along with ARRA, the Regional Health Bureau and Save the Children visited Leitchuor and NipNip to look into several reported suspected measles cases. Five samples were collected and are to be sent to the national laboratory by the Gambella Regional Health Bureau, with results expected shortly.
- Anti-TB medications, with doses for both adults and children, were transported by UNHCR from the Gambella Regional Health Bureau to Itang Health Centre to improve access to TB treatment for refugees living in the Kule area.
- In Okugo camp, identification and registration of people living with HIV began over the last week in collaboration with ARRA Health Centre.
- Quality and standardised camp reporting using the Health Information System was discussed with all partners at the health and nutrition coordination meeting on 14 January 2015. ARRA is the designated focal agency in Tierkidi, MSF-H in Kule and MSF-F in Leitchuor.



Food Security and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

- WFP's General Food Distribution for January is completed in several locations and in progress in others. Food delivery to the Leitchuor Axis is continuing following completion of the road maintenance by the Ethiopian Roads Authority. WFP is also supporting the relocation movements through the provision of High-Energy Biscuits to refugees who are being relocated. Upon arrival in Pugnido, refugees receive general food distribution and other nutrition items are provided to children between 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women. WFP's food pipeline and funding situation are healthy up until mid-2015.
- Following the beginning of scooped food distribution, UNHCR, ARRA and WFP conducted general food distribution monitoring in Kule Camp. The beneficiaries expressed that they are happy with the system of scooped distribution which they feel ensures accuracy and fairness.
- In Leitchuor camp, UNHCR's partner ACF is currently undertaking internal transfers of beneficiaries from the Nyinyang nutrition mobile clinic to Leitchuor nutrition site for continuation of management of malnutrition and blanket supplementary feeding programs.
- Currently, there are 5,138 children under five years in treatment for Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM), comprising 2,306 in Leitchuor, 842 in Tierkidi, 1,835 in Kule, 47 in Pagak, 54 in Matar, 50 in NipNip and 4 in Pamdong, with a total of 214 new cases recently admitted to the Targeted Supplementary Feeding Program. Furthermore, there are 1,124 children under five years in treatment for Severe Acute Malnutrition, comprising 448 in Leitchuor, 162 in Tierkidi, 446 in Kule, 8 in Pagak, 40 in Matar, 19 in NipNip and 1 in Pamdong, with 41 new cases recently admitted to the Outpatient Therapeutic Feeding Program. With support from WFP, prepositioning of food for targeted and blanket supplementary feeding is ongoing in Kule, Tierkidi, Leitchuor and NipNip.
- In Okugo, nutrition programs will start through ARRA with support from WFP. The food for this program is currently being transported to Okugo camp and the first distribution will commence when it arrives.
- The BPRM/USAID mission commended WFP, UNHCR and ARRA for the roll-out of scooped distribution, and highlighted key areas of improvement in the timeliness of food distribution, establishment of school feeding programs and income-generating schemes, need for alternative energy sources, warehousing and food safety. The mission also recommended that WFP has a contingency stock to minimize food delivery delays.

Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

- WASH indicators met minimum Sphere standards in all camps over the last week except for Tierkidi, where water supply was at 13 litres per person per day. UNHCR's implementing partner DRC is working towards meeting this standard by constructing three additional water points by 22 January 2015.
- In Itang, UNHCR's partner Oxfam completed the installation of two additional boreholes with submersible pumps, increasing daily water production at Itang water treatment facility to 1.5 million litres.

- In Leitchuor camp, UNHCR's partner LWF distributed hygiene dignity kits to over 2,000 women and girls of reproductive age as well as 867 sanitation digging tools such as rakes, hoes and shovels.
- In Kule camp, UNHCR's partner World Vision started pipeline digging and installation of pipes for the permanent water system. Work is expected to be completed by mid-April 2015.
- In Okugo camp, an awareness campaign was conducted on sanitation and hygiene for 391 individuals.



Logistics

Achievements and Impact

- WFP's air operation from Assosa has re-started as the permit requested to airdrop food has been renewed. The air operation from Gambella is also continuing. Thus far in 2015, WFP has airdropped 2,006 MT of food to South Sudan. One of the aircrafts is currently undergoing maintenance.
- In Pugnido, ARRA distributed non-food items (NFIs) to newly relocating refugees. There was a shortage of soap but this has been rectified with the delivery of adequate soap from Gambella on 15 January.

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.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 111.9 million**, against **US\$ 210.9 million** requested for the situation, as of end-December 2014. The 2015 South Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan has been launched, through which USD 344.9 million has been requested for Ethiopia.

UNHCR is grateful for the vital support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to partners and UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.