

ETHIOPIA UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

26 March – 1 April 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

KEY FIGURES

197,433

UNHCR PoC for the situation

FUNDING

USD 153.2m

requested for the UNHCR operation



PRIORITIES

- The sensitization of refugees and host community, and the subsequent relocation of refugees from Nip Nip and Leitchuor camps to Pugnido and Jewi camps respectively; as well as the development of Jewi camp

- The Jewi Accountability Matrix has been signed and shared and site preparation has started. UNHCR will lead in sector discussions to prepare sectoral strategies and allocate partners to specific areas of responsibility. Partners have confirmed available funding up to USD 8.9M for the new site.
- The draft Jewi relocation plan has been completed and shared with partners. However, the registration of refugees for relocation from Nip Nip to Pugnido had to be stopped because of interference of the host communities. The government, together with UNHCR, sought the support of the Regional President. After a long public meeting in Nyine Nyang on 29 March, the host community agreed to support and facilitate the relocation of refugees to Jewi.
- Advocacy efforts continue to secure additional sites for new refugee camps as part of contingency planning for another influx of new arrivals which may occur due to deteriorating food security in Upper Nile, lack of outcome to the peace talks and ongoing fighting.
- An average 68 South Sudanese refugees arrived per day in Gambella Region during the reporting period through Pagak, Akobo, and Raad entry points.
- The cumulative figure of new arrivals from South Sudan into the Gambella Region from 15 December 2013 is 194,616 of which 71% are female and 67% are children. The overall South Sudanese refugee population in the Region is 252,354.
- Some 915 refugees are awaiting registration in Akobo. Registration is expected to commence in the coming days. During the reporting period, 303 South Sudan refugees arrived in Akobo Tiergol.
- The relocation of new arrivals from entry points to Pugnido camp (new site) continued. During the reporting period, 55 individuals were transferred from Pagak entry point. The total number of refugees relocated to Pugnido camp stands at 11,269 since the exercise started on 18 November 2014.
- ARRA started Jewi site demarcation using GPS to avoid cutting trees. The team completed the first two communities which will accommodate 32 family tents. Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) contractor continued working on access road clearance in Jewi camp with a 15 metre width.
- In Assosa, the location for sex segregated latrines and emergency reservoir construction was identified at the new Tsore site. IRC is commencing construction this week. Assosa is home to 8,978 south Sudanese refugees: 2,817 post-December 2013 arrivals and 6,161 pre-December 2013 arrivals. The total number of South Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia stands at 261,332.

Population of concern

A total of **197,433** people of concern

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

- The total number of South Sudanese refugees who have entered Gambella Region since the outbreak of the conflict in mid-December 2013 is now 194, 616 individuals with a small but steady number of 68 new arrivals recorded daily during the reporting period. The focus of the Gambella operation is the sensitization of refugees and members of the host community on relocation of refugees from flood-prone Leitchuor and Nip Nip refugee camps before the next rainy season, and the development of Jewi Refugee Camp.

Achievements

Protection

Achievements and Impact

- A Ten refugees were transferred from Leitchuor camp to Pugnido camp on security grounds.
- Protection Officer from UNHCR HQ in Geneva visited Pugnido on a day mission on 23 March. The purpose of the mission was to assess the rule of law and access to justice. The mission held discussions with protection partners in Pugnido including ARRA. The mission also held focus group discussions with members of the refugee community including judges of traditional courts, shurtas, women's association and Refugee Central Committees.
- Some 238 new born babies were registered in Tierkidi Refugee Camp bringing the camp population to 49,532 refugees while 101 new born babies were registered in Kule Refugee Camp bringing the population to 46,593.

GBV

- Field Office Pugnido in collaboration with the Women Association and Refugee Central Committee facilitated dignity kit (soap, underwear, sanitary napkins and collapsible jerry cans) distribution to some 3,343 women of the reproductive age (13-49) from 23 – 24 March.
- In Leitchuor camp, 33 group discussion sessions were organized by community mobilizers on domestic violence, attended by 284 people (214 female, 70 male). Another 13 coffee discussion sessions were held on the same topic, attended by 891 people (834 female, 13 male).

Child Protection

- In Okugo Refugee Camp, distribution of non-food items (NFIs) was undertaken for separated and unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable groups of children; 500 children (240 male, 260 female) received the NFIs. All children that are under high and medium priority need of NFI received same based on specific needs.

Livelihood

- In Okugo camp, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) conducted training for the Grinding Mill Management Committee (GMMC). The participants were all members of the GMMC and the Refugee Central Committee leaders. There were 20 participants, including 12 men and eight women. The aim of the training was to give knowledge and practical skills on how to handle and monitor the grinding mill which has already started its operation thus preventing refugees from walking long distances to access the service.

Education

Achievements and Impact

- In Okugo Refugee Camp, registration of students is ongoing. So far, 498 students have been registered out of which, 273 (54.8%) of them are girls and 225 (46.2%) are boys.

Achievements and Impact

- Some 144 children aged below 15 years old were vaccinated against Polio and 110 children between 6 months and 14 years received Measles vaccines at all entry points. In addition, a total of 60 children aged between 6 months and 59 months received Vitamin A supplement.
- The third round of polio supplementary immunizations campaign started on 27 March in all refugee camps in Gambella targeting a total of 36,729 children aged between 0 -5 years.
- Two UNICEF-donated solar-powered refrigerators to strengthen routine Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) programme in Okugo and Pugnido refugee camps were received at the ARRA store in Gambella. Discussions are on-going with ARRA and the Regional Health Bureau (RHB) to transport and install them.



Food Security and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

- Community outreach activities through Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) were conducted in Leitchuor, Kule and Tierkidi camps. A total of 18,820 children under five years were screened. UNHCR is prioritizing support to partners to strengthen community active case finding and facility based passive finding of cases of malnutrition.
- April General Food Distribution is ongoing in all camps but the delivery was affected by a shortage of trucks. Nutrition partners' GOAL, Concern Worldwide and ACF TSFP and BSFP programmes are progressing well with sufficient stocks available. All nutrition indicators (cure, default, and death rates) were above the Sphere standard. The cure rates were 98 percent, 97 percent and 95.6 percent in Tierkidi, Kule and Leitchuor camps respectively.
- During relocation of refugees from border points to Pugnido, HEBs and hot meals were provided to refugees by WFP/ARRA and IOM respectively. Refugees also received GFD and nutrition foods (6-59 months of children and PLW) upon arrival.
- A Nutrition and Food Security team from Gambella conducted a supportive supervisory visit to the three health centres in Pugnido (Agnua, Nuer and Village 12) following the handover of the nutrition service from ARRA to Concern Worldwide (CWW).

Challenges

- There were 140 new Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) cases admitted into the Outpatient Therapeutic Feeding program (OTP) during the reporting period in all refugee camps. The current caseload of children under five years with Severe Acute Malnutrition is 1,200 (534 Leitchuor, 287 Kule, 151 Tierkidi, 191 Pugnido camps; 37 Matar).
- 338 new cases were admitted for Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) in the therapeutic supplementary feeding programs (TSFP) during the week. The current caseload for Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) for children under five years is 5,390 (2,825 Leitchuor, 1,521 Kule; 796 Tierkidi; 72 Matar and 176 Pugnido).



Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

- Water supply coverage for Kule camp during the week was 15 litres per person per day; Leitchuor 17 litres per person per day; Pugnido camp 16 litres per person per day while in Tierkidi camp 17.5 litres per person per day. An additional 226 latrines were constructed in refugee camps during the week (Kule-50, Tiekidi 126, Leitchour 50).



Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Achievements and Impact

- ARRA started Jewi site demarcation using GPS in order to avoid cutting trees. The team completed the first two communities which will accommodate 32 family tents. Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) contractor continued working on access road clearance in Jewi camp with 15 metre width.

Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

- In Pugnido, NRC provided soil to complete remaining mud walling for the 200 tukuls constructed in 2014. NRC also completed 132 tukuls superstructure out of the newly started 300 tukuls. In Tierkidi camp, Danish Refugee Council (DRC) completed the 500 tukuls construction remaining mud plastering. ZOA distributed 17,236 rocket stoves in Kule and Tierkidi camps; distribution is ongoing.

Logistics

Achievements and Impact

- As of 27 March, a total of 10,207.28mt, 2,111mt and 619.653mt of assorted food commodities have been dispatched to South Sudan through air, road and river respectively by WFP. In 2015 to date, the total quantity of food airdropped from Gambella is 4,476mt through a total of 154 rotations; a total of 3,177mt was airdropped from Jimma through 114 rotations; while a total of 2,554mt was air lifted from Assosa through 159 rotations. In addition, 2,111mt was dispatched by river and 619.653mt was delivered through road.

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 Pugnido, the monthly inter-agency camp coordination meeting was held on 3 March and was attended by all partners and refugee representatives during which issues to do with operational achievements and challenges over the past five months were discussed. The meeting is hosted on rotational basis between ARRA and UNHCR.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the UNHCR operation amount to some **US\$ 22 million**, against **US\$ 153.2 million** requested for the situation, as at 1 April. 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.

UNHCR is grateful for the direct contributions to the UNHCR Ethiopia Operation from:
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Major donors of unrestricted and regional contributions to UNHCR in 2015 (USD): Sweden (80 M) | Netherlands (45 M) | Norway (44 M) | Denmark (28 M) | Australia (24 M) | Switzerland (16 M) | France (14 M) | Japan (10 M)