



305,677 As of 31 October 2019

PERSONS OF CONCERN in the Gambella region Level 3 registered, 329,785 country-wide

65,748 As of 31 October 2019

FAMILIES IN 7 CAMPS

3,846

NEW ARRIVALS IN 2019

Operational context

Security – The overall security situation in the Region remains unpredictable and volatile. Armed escorts were discontinued on 31st October. The deployment of static security forces in strategic locations has been requested to strengthen the security environment. A ‘Communication Tower’ will be established at Tierkidi Hill to improve communication coverage. UNHCR has received approval to distribute VHF radios between humanitarian partners to improve information sharing and coordination. A current six-month Contingency Plan for South Sudanese refugees will be updated in December 2019.

Relocations – Gambella has received 3,846 new arrivals since the beginning of the year, in addition to individuals who spontaneously returned to South Sudan and were subject to further cross-border displacement. 235 new arrivals in Pamdong are in the process of being relocated by air to the Benishangul-Gumuz Region. Those seeking asylum who have been unwilling to relocate are left unregistered, and unable to access humanitarian services. There is no reliable data on where unregistered refugees are residing, but it is anticipated that unregistered refugees are dwelling with wider social networks within existing camps.

Sectorial priorities and unmet needs



Protection

General Protection – The management of new arrivals in Gambella remains a pressing issue, with limited financial resources to facilitate relocation by air. Dialogue continues to ensure time-based registration upon arrival and access to refugee entitlements within existing humanitarian infrastructure in the region.

Child Protection – Youth from 15-24 years represent 17 percent of the refugee population. The high number of ‘inactive’ youths contributes to negative behaviours as a result of limited activities targeting adolescents and youth. Inadequate services targeting adolescents and youth; who constitute 65 percent of the refugee population, include psychosocial support and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) activities linked to labour market needs. While refugee children are eligible to receive a birth certificate, at present, the necessity for both parents to be present when registering is currently excluding a considerable proportion of children; including the unaccompanied and those from single parent families. This challenge is observed nation-wide.

SGBV – Rape and domestic violence are among the highest reported SGBV cases. However, there remains under-reporting due to the societal stigma associated with such incidences. In this regard, the establishment of a safe house for high-risk cases is vital to accommodate victims of violence, and abuse. To date, survivors are temporarily accommodated at home of social workers and neighbours while waiting for relocation arrangements to be made, resulting in an unsafe circumstance for both the survivor and the host. Subject to available additional resources, safe houses will be established in Gambella and Pugnido.



Health

Nineteen primary health clinics support an average of 16,200 individuals, against the minimum standard of 10,000. In Jewi Camp, there is only one primary health care centre. In addition, the Gambella Regional Hospital is also being used to support refugee referral cases. Both the hospital and the Gambella Blood Bank have limited capacity to fulfil the needs of both refugees and host communities. Sustained development financing is required to strengthen the capacity of the Hospital. While MSF has been present in Tierkidi and Nguenyyiel camps to provide medical assistance, the organization is set to conclude their activities this year. There are presently no additional available resources or partners to fill the resulting gap in service provision.



Food and Nutrition

Only 86 percent of the food requirements are met per recommended dietary allowances (RDA) – 1,803 kcal/person/day against recommended requirement of 2100 kcal/person/day. The food basket does not meet other food needs of high biological protein and fresh fruits and vegetables. There are critical anaemia levels of 44.2 percent among children 6-59 months and 27.3 percent among women of childbearing age. Acute malnutrition is still high at 10.4% 2019 SENS.

NFI Non-Food Items

The replenishment of core-relief items currently benefits 85% of registered households due to resource limitations. Due to the prevailing security situation, access challenges have also resulted in delays in the scheduled timeline for the delivery of non-food items.



Education

65 percent of school-age children are enrolled in primary education, but less than 15 percent of school-aged children are enrolled in secondary education. Most critically, there is no access to secondary education in Nguenyyiel and Pugnido II camps. The attendance of girls in primary school has improved, but the enrollment rate is low at the secondary level. Three additional building schools, one in Pugnido II, and efforts are being made to integrate refugee education in community education. Additional investments are required in school maintenance and the provision of qualified teaching staff. The school feeding programme remains intermittent, with 1,700 school children without access to school feeding in Nguenyyiel camp and Pugnido II camps, undermining their nutritional status and impacting wider enrolment.



Shelter

Presently only 50% of refugees live in transitional shelters, with a need to conduct ongoing maintenance of existing shelters. Wider investments are also required in road maintenance and construction to manage flooding; particularly in the older, more densely populated camps.



WASH

Water supply in the Nguenyyiel, Tierkidi and Kule refugee camps is often interrupted due to frequent breakdowns of generators and pumps resulting in instances of low water supply of between 10 to 13 l/p/d. While the water system is now operated by the Itang Town Water Utility, investment is required to optimize and expand the current system to ensure it meets the standard of 20 l/p/d. In all camps, household toilets benefit only 37% of families. This necessitates individuals to access wider communal latrines or engaging in open defecation; the latter having a significant negative impact on health status and living conditions. Lastly, security incidents have resulted in the vandalism of water pipes as well as latrines. UNHCR has recently revised the design of the latrine to minimize the use of iron sheets on latrine walls to reduce theft cases.