



ETHIOPIA

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

17 July 2014

HIGHLIGHTS

172,092

UNHCR PoC for the situation

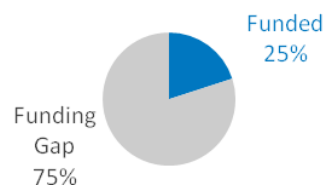
- The total number of South Sudanese refugees who have entered Ethiopia since the outbreak of the conflict in mid-December 2013 is now over 172,000 individuals, with the number continuing to increase daily. The asylum seekers continue to arrive in Ethiopia through the Gambella Regional State, mainly through Burbiey, Pagak and Akobo border-entry points, citing fighting and food insecurity as the main reasons for their flight.
- The majority of new arrivals (over 90%) are women and children who come from Upper Nile State (mainly the areas of Nasir, Mathiang, Maiwut, Akobo and Renk) and while in Pagak, some new arrivals are also from Unity State (Bentiu), Juba and Pangak.
- The average daily new arrival rate is approximately 882 refugees at the entry points of Pagak, Burbiey and Akobo combined.
- UNHCR's government counterpart ARRA informed UNHCR that Kule 2 camp is full. With regard to demarcated land, the remaining available land can only accommodate 1,920 people; however, there are approximately 3,000 new arrivals waiting in the communal hangers to be settled in their own plots. UNHCR is following up with ARRA on the issue of land.
- A new site in the area of Kule 1 and Kule 2 has been approved the Regional Government for development as a camp. The site, named Pamdong, is to be cleared and demarcation and opening of roads will begin as soon as possible, as well as development of a reception centre and other essential facilities.
- There are approximately 5,000 people in Matar and 6,000 in Pagak waiting for relocation to the camps. UNHCR and ARRA are working to accelerate the Level 1 registration. This week, WFP distributed dry rations to the new arrivals for 15 days, in view of the potential delay in relocation which is also due to the approval of the new camp site, which came very recently.
- The Oral Cholera Vaccination (OCV) has been procured and the vaccination programme is scheduled to start on 24 July.
- The measles outbreak that previously threatened the refugee operation has now been contained. Several mass measles vaccination and Vitamin A supplement campaigns have been undertaken by the Regional Health Bureau with support from UNICEF, which mobilised additional vaccination doses to ensure adequate coverage. The campaigns targeted both the host communities and the refugee camps. To ensure timely coverage of new arrivals some of the vaccination teams have been integrated within the registration teams. Since the influx to the Gambella Region began, a total of 101,402 children have been vaccinated against Measles, 84,639 against Polio and 44,789 have received Vitamin A supplementation.

Population of concern (in millions)

A total of **172,092** people of concern

Funding against the operation (as of June 2014)

US\$200 million requested



UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Protection

- The Level 2 registration is ongoing in Kule 1 and Kule 2. In Kule 1, 79% of a total population of 51,476 has attended the exercise while in Kule 2, 12% of a total population of 49,003 people have attended the exercise.
- The Level 2 registration exercise is complete in Leitchuor Camp, which has a population of 47,485 people.
- So far, the Level 2 registration exercise, which captures age and gender, reflects that there are over 55,000 school-age children in the three camps of Kule 1, Kule 2 and Leitchuor, over 47% of the entire registered population. The gross enrollment rate in the three camps in Education in Emergency (EiE) programmes is 15%.
- In Burbiey, the rate of new arrivals and registration decreased to approximately 250 people per day over the last week. Interviews with new arrivals reflect that the decrease in the number of arrivals is linked to ongoing fighting around Nasir, which has made roads towards Burbiey unsafe for travel. The new arrivals indicate that more people are on their way from counties further away from the border, due to food insecurity. UNHCR is working together with IOM and other partners to ensure Burbiey's readiness for a larger influx, in case the fighting ends and people start moving towards the border.
- IOM is undertaking efforts to relocate refugees from Burbiey using both boats and buses, so that refugees who register in Burbiey are moved to Matar either on the same day as their arrival or on the next morning. Relocation was then undertaken from Matar to Kule 2; however, as Kule 2 is now full the relocation will begin to the new site, Pamdong, as soon as it is ready to receive refugees. Thus far in July 2014, IOM has relocated over 16,000 individuals.

Health

- At the Kule 1 Health Centre, ARRA completes an average of 138 consultations per day, while at the health post in Zone C run by MSF-Holland, an average of 177 consultations are undertaken per day. IMC is running the clinic mental health service in Kule 1, integrated with the ARRA clinic. An average of 293 patients is seen per day at the MSF-Holland Health Centre in Kule 2. In the two MSF-Holland Health Centres in Kule 1 and Kule 2, 28% and 37% of the consultations respectively are for children under five. In Leitchuor, 182 consultations are completed per day at the health centre run by MSF-France of which 32% are consultations for patients under five.
- Malaria had an average of 4.3/1000/week incident rate this week, followed by watery diarrhoea and bloody diarrhoea with average incidence rates of 3.2/1000/week and 2.2/1000/week respectively. Out of the total consultations, diarrhoea accounts for 5.8% of consultations at Leitchuor, 6.9 % at Kule 1 and 8.5 % in Kule 2.
- To prevent mortality and morbidity, an integrated community outreach program is being implemented by all partners in the camps. Community outreach workers are providing prioritized health messages door-to-door with an average ratio of 1 worker for each 50 households. The Community Outreach Workers have been focusing on delivering preventive messages at household level while WASH partners are disseminating hygiene promotion messages.
- Emergency health services are also being supported by MSF-France at Pagak, Matar and Burbiey entry points.
- Cases of acute jaundice continue to be reported in Kule 1 and Leitchuor. In Leitchuor, 139 cases have been reported with five deaths, and in Kule 1 24 cases have been reported with five deaths. 21 blood samples have been taken from patients presenting with fever and yellowish discolouration of the eyes and to the national laboratory for testing and onward submission to international reference laboratories for advanced testing not available in Ethiopia. UNHCR facilitated the samples being sent to the CDC-KEMRI laboratory in Nairobi. The results indicate that 12 of the samples tested positive for Hepatitis E and all tested negative for Yellow Fever. UNHCR and partners continue to prepare to respond to any outbreaks including Hepatitis E, acute watery diarrhoea and malaria, especially as AWD and malaria have a seasonal prevalence during the rainy season. The Oral Cholera Vaccination (OCV) has been procured and a vaccination programme will start on 24 July.

- To strengthen malaria prevention and control activities, larviciding has been completed at Kule 1 camp in collaboration with UNICEF and the Regional Health Bureau. This activity is now ongoing at Kule 2 and Leitchuor camps. Additionally, a total of 23,171 mosquito nets from UNICEF and UNHCR have been distributed in Leitchuor, 8,200 in Kule 1 and 4,249 in Kule 2.

Food Security and Nutrition

- Nutrition services are continuing in the GOAL and ACF nutrition centres at Kule 1, 2 and Leitchuor, including Stabilisation Centres, Outpatient Therapeutic Programmes and targeted Supplementary Feeding and Blanket Supplementary Feeding programmes.
- The preliminary results of a Nutrition Survey just concluded in Leitchuor, Kule 1 and 2 camps reflects that the Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) level ranges between 26-30% in the three locations and Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) between 6-10% as per a weight for height measurement index. The GAM levels have therefore significantly reduced from the high of 38% seen at the initial phase of the emergency, which was recorded using a proxy Mid-Upper Arm Circumference. This indicates that the efforts of UNHCR, WFP and partners are helping to reduce further deterioration of the poor nutritional states refugees continue to arrive in. Nevertheless, these results also reflect a serious situation requiring strengthening and expansion of existing programs to bring the GAM levels to less than the emergency threshold of 15% and SAM to less than 2%.
- Nutritional screening continues to be conducted at three reception centres in Pagak and Burbiey and as relocated refugees arrive at Kule 2. Overall, the results indicate the new arrivals continue to enter Ethiopia in poor nutritional status. At present, there are 14,489 children between 6 and 59 months and 4,174 pregnant and lactating women in the Blanket Supplementary Feeding programmes in the three camps.
- In Burbiey, ACF is conducting screening at the point of registration. Over the last week, 872 children were screened, identifying 13 SAM and 37 MAM cases (proxy acute malnutrition rate 5.7%, SAM rate 1.2%). These rates are within one percent of the previous week's rates.
- In Pagak, MSF-H is conducting screening via two modalities, the first by community outreach workers who identify new asylum seekers as they arrive and the second at the point of registration. The roving community screening aims to quickly identify malnourished children and refer to ACF for admission without delay for the registration process. During the week, the MUAC screening proxy GAM was 20.4% and proxy SAM was 6.5%.
- Kule 2 is currently receiving arrivals from Burbiey and Pagak entry points. Of 1,197 children screened this week, 45 SAM and 105 MAM cases were identified (proxy acute malnutrition rate was 12.5% and SAM rate 3.8%). These rates represent a significant reduction from last week's rates of 25 % GAM and 7.8 % SAM.
- In Kule 1 this week, community outreach workers screened 991 children as a part of their routine household level activities this week, referring 55 SAM cases and 74 MAM cases to the Goal nutrition program.
- In Leitchuor, community level screening reached 6,961 children, identifying a proxy GAM rate of 14.7% and SAM rate of 4.3%. In Kule 1 community outreach workers screened 478 children, reflecting a proxy GAM of 4.2% and 1.3% SAM.
- In Burbiey, a shortage of High Energy Biscuits was a concern as new arrivals and refugees in Matar required distribution; however, a new supply of biscuits arrived on 10 July. On 11 July, WFP distributed a 7 day food ration of sorghum, pulses, oil, sugar, salt and CSB to refugees in Matar. The lack of fuel in Gambella prevented an earlier delivery of these items.

Water and Sanitation

- The sanitation situation in Burbiey deteriorated last week as a larger group of refugees arrived and at the same time, IOM was not able to move people from Burbiey to Matar and onwards to Kule 2. This situation has now been rectified. Relocation is ongoing, trash has been cleared and puddles of water filled.
- In Leitchuor and Kule 1, refugees are receiving an average of 10.8 and 9.3 litres per person per day respectively while in Kule 2, refugees are receiving an average of 14.8 litres of water per person per day.
- Mapping of WASH infrastructure is ongoing Kule 1, Kule 2 and Leitchuor Camps with the objective of apportioning responsibilities to Community Outreach Workers for effective monitoring of services.

- A household survey was conducted in both Kule 1 and Leitchuor which indicated that water access is above 19 litres per person per day in Leitchuor and 16 litres per person per day in Kule 1, just under the UNHCR standard of 20 litres per person per day. 86% of households indicated their satisfaction with water supply.
- Possession of soap at household level was reflected to be 68% in Kule 1 and 67% in Leitchuor. UNHCR is following up to ensure 100% of households have soap.
- The ratio of people per latrine continues to improve in Leitchuor and Kule 1 but increased in Kule 2 due to the large numbers of people who have been relocated to the camp over the last few weeks. The ratio of latrines to people is 1:47 in Leitchuor 1, 1:73 in Kule 1 and 1:60 in Kule 2.
- Integrated Community Outreach Worker teams comprised of health, nutrition and WASH have intensified house to house delivery of hygiene messages. They are working alongside Hygiene Community Outreach Workers who are focusing mainly on environmental hygiene and latrine cleanliness in all camps.

Shelter and NFIs

- Flood water caused by rising river levels in Burbiey is now within 200 metres of the registration area in Burbiey. With the onset of the rainy season, the river is now rising above the banks and flowing towards the site. UNHCR and partners have decided that many of the facilities will be moved to Matar, with ARRA maintaining a smaller registration site at Burbiey itself for screening and fixing of wristbands. NRC has already started constructing a new storage facility in Matar which will be shared by ARRA, WFP and ACF. Further discussions are ongoing with ARRA and partners on how to ensure that basic and emergency services are available at both Matar and Burbiey.
- UNHCR and partners are using a shelter strategy in all camps involving both emergency shelters (tents) and transitional shelters (tukuls). As tukuls are built, the emergency tent is recycled and used for new arrivals. This allows a greater number of refugees to be accommodated. UNHCR is currently liaising with the Refugee Committees on the lists of people and numbers of tents that can be recycled.
- In the absence of dry grasses due to the rainy season, which would normally be used to roof the tukuls, UNHCR's shelter partner NRC is using UNHCR plastic sheeting as roofs. The first phase of 800 tukuls is planned to be completed by 10 August.
- In Kule 1, tents previously pitched in flood-prone areas were relocated to higher ground, while in Kule 2, three kilometres of access road was cleared with one kilometre remaining. Land clearing and road construction will continue to enable movement of water trucks and other services in the camp when it rains.

Logistics

- Relocation of vulnerable persons with the helicopter continues, although on 10 July a mechanical problem caused the helicopter to remain in Matar for a few days. The refugees on board were prioritised for transportation in IOM's escort vehicle while the helicopter crew remained at UNHCR in Nyinyang while waiting for spare parts and a technician to arrive from Entebbe. The helicopter has since been repaired and is now fully operational.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some [US\\$49.4 million](#), of [US\\$200 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 activities around the world with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.