



ETHIOPIA

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

26 September – 1 October 2014

KEY FIGURES

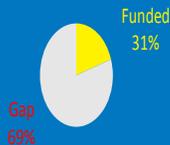
189,539

UNHCR PoC for the situation

FUNDING

USD 210m

requested for the operation



PRIORITIES

- Emergency response to flooding in Leitchuor, Nipnip and Matar
- Search for additional land in view of continued influx
- Implement mitigation measures related to rainy season by strengthening WASH and nutrition interventions and encouraging positive behavioural change

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 189,539 individuals, with the number continuing to increase daily.
- A total of 1,411 South Sudanese refugees arrived in Ethiopia during the month of September, through the three entry points of Akobo, Burbiey and Pagak. Some asylum seekers are also crossing the border at Raad and entering Okugo Camp, citing insecurity, human rights abuses and lack of basic services as their reasons for flight. New arrivals from Akobo and Burbiey were relocated to Matar with assistance from IOM for transport. The average arrival rate of South Sudanese refugees to the Gambella region has dropped with commencement of rains in various locations in region.
- UNHCR and ARRA continued to discuss with the refugees their possible relocation from Leitchuor, Nipnip and Matar to Okugo Camp. The proposal continues to be rejected by the refugees, with the refugee leaders citing insecurity as their main concern, including attacks by the South Sudanese armed forces from the nearby border areas.
- Her Royal Highness Princess Anne visited Tierkidi refugee camp in her capacity as Patron of Save the Children. The Gambella Regional President received Her Royal Highness as a guest of honour, while UNHCR and other partners also supported the visit. Her Royal Highness was impressed with the level of coordination among partners and with the Government of Ethiopia.
- On 29 September, refugees in Kule camp became agitated over the visit of an Ethiopia-South Sudan Peace Committee. ARRA intervened and the situation was quickly brought under control.

Population of concern

A total of **189,539** 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 189,500 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 has now become the largest refugee group in Ethiopia, surpassing the Somali refugee population. The rainy season has caused damage in Leitchuor and NipNip Camps and refugees in these camps have moved to higher ground within the camps and the surrounding villages.

Achievements

Protection

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR visited the Itang Detention Centre twice over the last week, where poor conditions were observed. Detainees do not have access to legal counsel, there is no division between the men's and women's areas, and there is no secure area for private counselling. On the first visit, 17 refugees were in detention, the majority of whom had been detained for fighting and disorderly conduct on a public road, while by the second visit, 13 of the refugees had been released. Four remained in detention for theft at a store in Tierkidi, and five additional refugees had been detained.
- In Tierkidi Camp, distribution of maize was completed for elderly refugees, with 1,516 individuals each receiving 60 kilograms of maize. This commodity was selected by the beneficiaries themselves, as a supplementary support that they felt would most benefit them.
- Also in Tierkidi, distribution of non-food items is on-going to 400 of the most vulnerable elderly refugees and 100 members of the host community. The package includes mattresses, jerry cans, buckets, bedpans, soap, bed sheets and plastic mats. The types of NFIs were chosen in consultation with the Older Person Groups.
- An additional implementing partner, DICAC, began SGBV activities in the reporting week in Nyinyang and Leitchuor camp.
- UNHCR conducted a monitoring visit to Akula village on 29 September, an area which hosts approximately 1,700 South Sudanese refugees in an informal settlement. There are about 50 unaccompanied and separated children (UASCs) in the village, who are reportedly all in care of relatives and in-laws. Several issues were documented for further discussions and action.
- In Pugnido, registration of unaccompanied minors (UAMs) into the full registration database continued, with 46 unaccompanied minors including 17 girls registered.

Education

Achievements and Impact

- In Kule camp, following the back to school campaign, more than 7,196 students (comprising 4,382 males and 2,814 females) were registered to attend school, against the target for the campaign which was to reach out to 5,238 students. The official school opening ceremony took place on 26 September.



Achievements and Impact

- Refugees and other persons of concern continued to receive regular health services from UNHCR's health partners in Leitchuor, NipNip, Kule, Tierkidi, Pamdong, Pagak, Itang, Akobo and Matar.
- The first round of the polio immunization campaign for children under 5 years of age was completed in the refugee camps with coverage of 127%, 118%, 106% and 61% for Kule, Tierkidi, Leitchuor and Pamdong respectively.
- The preliminary results from the post-Oral Cholera Vaccination (OCV) cross sectional survey undertaken by Epicentre and MSF-F reflects high coverage for both rounds of the campaign. In Tierkidi, the results indicate coverage of 92.3% in the first round and 89.2% in the second round, while in Kule, 95.2% and 93.5% coverage was reflected for the first and second rounds respectively.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Malaria is still one of the main causes of morbidity in all the sites, with a gradual increase in the incidence rate over the last few weeks. Malaria prevention and control activities are ongoing through the Community Outreach Agents (COAs), including the distribution of Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLINs), environmental management, and community awareness, although challenges including poor bed net utilization remain.
- Five suspected measles cases were reported in Kule. Case management was undertaken and samples sent to Addis Ababa for confirmation. Sporadic measles cases have continued to be reported since February 2014, and routine vaccinations are ongoing at all entry points and the camps.
- Active case finding for Hepatitis E is ongoing with a total of 10 cases reported during the week.



Achievements and Impact

- Routine health and nutrition services are being provided in Kule, Tierkidi and Leitchuor, and at entry points including Pagak, Matar and Pamdong transit site. WFP and its nutrition partners, GOAL, ACF and Concern Worldwide, continue to provide blanket and targeted supplementary feeding programmes in Leitchuor, Tierkidi, Kule and NipNip camps. Sufficient nutrition food is prepositioned in most locations despite transportation challenges due to the floods.
- A joint visit by UNHCR, ARRA, Save the Children, the Regional Health Bureau (RHB) and MSF-F took place to Leitchuor and NipNip to assess health facilities in the flood affected region with a focus on difficulties of access to health care faced by the refugees in the area. UNHCR discussed with partners how best to support RHB health facilities given that refugees are also reported to be seeking health care in these locations.
- Due to a lack of access to NipNip camp, Concern Worldwide (CWW) is now operating a mobile clinic in NipNip village, providing the full package of nutrition interventions.
- Pre-positioning of food for the October cycle of distribution has been undertaken with support from WFP. WFP and ARRA will begin the October monthly General Food Distribution in the first week of October. Distribution for refugees in NipNip will be conducted in Leitchuor due to access-related challenges. Both road and river transportation is being used to move the food.
- The second allocation of a two-week General Food Distribution ration was delivered to the Matar Transit Centre, with distribution ongoing for an estimated 10,000 refugees with support from WFP.



Achievements and Impact

- Over the last week, UNHCR and WASH partners have continued to focus on the flood response in Leitchuor, NipNip and Matar, along with Hepatitis E prevention activities and monitoring in Tierkidi, Kule, Matar and Pagak, including responding to the water access level reduction in Kule and Tierkidi.

- Pumping to 26 water points within Leitchuor camp is ongoing together with chlorination and monitoring of Free Residual Chlorine (FRC) levels. The level is being maintained at 1 mg/litre. An additional water point (10 CM roto tank and 1 tap stand with 6 faucets) was installed in Nyinyang town to ease the extra burden that the pre-existing water points and their users had to bear as a result of increased population in the area following the recent movement of refugees to the town.

Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

- In Okugo, the construction of five hangers is progressing. Additionally, 31 tukul superstructures were completed this week and 31 tukuls covered with plastic sheets.
- In Kule, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) is supporting mud plastering of tukuls, with 100 tukuls finished so far. IOM is also progressing with the construction of superstructures, with 60 tukuls completed and occupied.
- In Tierkidi, NRC is facilitating mud plastering with 214 tukuls completed within the last week while in Leitchuor/Nip Nip, an assessment of tukuls and latrine structures in Leitchuor camp has been launched.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Achievements and Impact

- The repair of roads in several critical locations in both Kule and Tierkidi is in progress. This will assist with access for water trucks as well as other services. In both camps, NRC is working on the Irish bridges which are approximately 50% complete in both locations. Meanwhile, road construction of approximately 7 kilometres in Kule and 1.8 kilometres in Tierkidi is scheduled to begin.
- Updating of the maps of Tierkidi has been finalised and shared for use by all stakeholders. The update of Kule camp map is in progress.
- In Okugo, site clearing has been undertaken for 95 units (80 x 40 metres per unit) and demarcation is ongoing with 7½ blocks (68.5 communities) demarcated so far.

Logistics

Achievements and Impact

- As of 30 September, WFP Ethiopia has dispatched over 24,000 mt of assorted food commodities to South Sudan by air, road and river through the cross-border operation.

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\$ 65.7 million**, against **US\$ 210 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 programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.