



ETHIOPIA

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

13– 20 November 2014

KEY FIGURES

193,922

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 behavioral 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 193,922 individuals, comprising 191,359 individuals who entered through Gambella and 2,563 who entered through the Assosa region.
- The average arrival rate of South Sudanese refugees to the Gambella region has remained low during the rainy season, with an average of 97 South Sudanese refugees arriving daily in Gambella during the week through Burbiey. New arrivals from Burbiey were relocated to Matar way station with assistance from IOM for transport.
- Following the announcement by ARRA and UNHCR that the relocation by IOM of 15,000 South Sudanese refugees from the Matar way station to Pugnido would begin, over the last week UNHCR and partners have been focussed on preparing for the relocation exercise. In Pugnido, site clearance is on-going, as is the construction of new reception hangars and the extension of WASH facilities. By 17 November, tents were pitched in one block and all reception hangars were ready for use.
- The relocation started on schedule on 17 November, with support from IOM for transport. Thus far, IOM has relocated over 500 individuals from Matar where there are approximately 13,000 people waiting. There are plans to increase the numbers of refugees relocated in each movement.
- The new UNHCR Representative to Ethiopia, Mr Valentin Tapsoba, arrived in Gambella to witness the first relocation movement of South Sudanese refugees from the Matar way station to Pugnido camp. The Representative was received upon arrival at Gambella Airport by the President of the Gambella Regional State, ARRA, and the UNHCR Head of Sub-Office, and will also meet Government officials, UNHCR staff, and partners. He is accompanied by the ARRA Deputy Director, Ato Ayalew Aweke.
- The Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration, Centre for Disease Control and the Deputy Chief of Mission of the US Embassy in Addis Ababa visited the Gambella region. The mission visited the camps and held meetings with refugees, UNHCR and partners. The objective of the mission was to undertake monitoring and evaluation of US Government funded programs and to assess the refugee humanitarian situation in the region. In Pugnido, the mission visited health centres, WASH facilities and schools.
- The Refugee Coordination Model (RCM) mission visited Gambella. During their three days in Gambella, the mission visited the Pagak border entry point and flew to the flood-affected Leitchuor Camp where meetings were held with refugees and partners. The delegation, accompanied by the UNHCR Deputy Representative Mr Bornwell Kantande, also held a meeting with the Gambella Refugee Inter-Agency Task Force.

Population of concern

A total of **193,922** 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 193,000 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 (250,528 individuals as at end October 2014), surpassing the Somali refugee population (245,850 individuals as at end October 2014). 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. Emergency response activities are being undertaken in these locations.

Achievements

Protection

Achievements and Impact

- The issuance of the Proof of Registration document in Kule and Tierkidi refugee camps continued this week. Thus far 28% of the targeted population of 20,000 households issued with the document.
- The UNHCR registration team in Leitchuor is supporting the nationality screening process for refugees suspected to be nationals. The screening panel is composed of representatives from the Refugee Central Committee, ARRA and religious leaders.
- The UNHCR registration team in Leitchuor is gathering information on refugees who are willing to move to Pugnido, using the Level 1 Registration data recorder.
- The Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS) consultant provided a training of trainers to 16 participants from Save the children, UNICEF, IMC and Plan International Ethiopia. The technical training was aimed at building the capacity of staff to use and manage the CPIMS database and be able to train others on it in the future. Training and other materials were also shared for future reference.
- Over the last week, a total of 34 unaccompanied (UAC) children and 14 separated children (SC) were identified and registered in the camps. Overall, there are now 3,395 UAC registered and 5,075 SC registered in the camps.
- This week 44 cases of abuse and neglect of children, comprising 27 males and 17 females, were reported in Leitchuor, Pugnido and Kule. Holistic assessments and care plans are being planned for these children.
- Home visits, follow up and psychosocial support were provided this week to 612 unaccompanied and separated children by UNHCR's partners Save the Children and Plan International in Pugnido, Leitchuor, Tierkidi and Kule. Social workers also identified that the majority of these children urgently need clothes.
- UNHCR's partner Save the Children provided trainings for 159 caregivers of unaccompanied children in two sites in Pugnido camp. The training targeted 15 males and 144 females. The objective of the training was to empower caregivers on parenting styles and skills, good parent-child communication and effective and positive discipline skills. Additionally, the training helped participants identify some of the challenges of being a caregiver for unaccompanied minors and discussed solutions and strategies.
- In Leitchuor, a training on Strengthening the Community Based Child Protection structure was given for 21 child protection workers, Child Friendly Space facilitators and 28 social workers on using positive discipline in everyday parenting. In addition, training was given for seven social workers on Monitoring and Evaluation Accountability and Learning (MEAL) over the last week.
- In Kule camp, training for Child Protection Committees was provided to 28 committee members. UNHCR's partner Save the Children also conducted community-led activities whereby 30 community members participated in reach-out activities for vulnerable children to improve their safety and overall wellbeing.

- Over the last week, 105 children with specific needs living in Kule, Tierkidi and Leitchuor camp were identified and provided relevant support and services. Overall, 4,010 children with specific needs have received relevant support and services.
- The cumulative number of Social Workers in the camps has increased, with 50 engaged in Tierkidi, 36 in Kule, 32 in Leitchuor and 34 in Pugnido, bringing the overall total in all camps to 152. All Social Workers have received training in the camps on various aspects of child protection including Case Management, Psychosocial Support and Child Participation. In Leitchuor, additional Social Worker Training is planned to take place during the current month.
- In Kule, the Child Protection Committees received refresher training on child protection. 30 participants attended the training, where the topics covered included the identification of children with specific needs, referral of UAMs and separated children to service providers and assistance of children in recreation and play. The Child Protection Committees are now playing an active role in the activities of the Child Friendly Spaces and reorienting children to their culture and folklore. In total, there are 16 Child Protection Committees, comprising 3 in Tierkidi, 5 in Kule, 2 in Leitchuor and 6 in Pugnido. .
- In Pugnido, four awareness-raising sessions were conducted for 71 community members (comprising 21 males and 50 females) on the rights of children with disabilities and roles of the community to facilitate access to inclusive education.
- In Pugnido, a meeting was held by RaDo, UNHCR and ARRA on managing the grinding mills in the camp and the utilization of the money collected to support Women’s Associations, especially with regard to undertaking income-generating activities to improve their livelihoods. It was agreed that RaDo will develop a proposal on managing resources received from the grinding mills in consultation with the Women’s Associations.
- In Pugnido, a two-day training session on SGBV prevention and response was conducted by UNHCR’s implementing partner RaDO for the 40 newly elected Nuer Site refugee leaders, comprising 20 males and 11 females. Additionally, a two-day training session on Basic Concepts of SGBV for 60 girls’ club members was conducted.

Education

Achievements and Impact

- In Okugo, ARRA and UNHCR jointly meet the Refugee Central Committee and the students who will join Dimma High School. They were informed about the progress made in the students’ enrolment and advised to prepare for the entrance exam. The enrolment of 70 high school refugee students in Dimma High School has been supported by the Gambella Regional Council and the Dimma Woreda Administration Bureau.

Health

Achievements and Impact

- Meetings were conducted with the IOM Medical Team Leader, MSF-F Deputy Head of Mission and ARRA Medical Coordinator to agree upon detailed health and nutrition planning for the relocation of the 15,000 refugees from Matar way station to Pugnido. UNHCR and ARRA also visited the ARRA health facilities in Pugnido to finalise an assessment of gaps and action points in view of the relocation exercise.
- A training session on condom promotion and distribution was given to all of the RaDO HIV/AIDS social workers in Pugnido to address this identified skill gap. From the training, social workers were able to develop their skills on how to promote condom use and on condom storage and distribution. Also in Pugnido, a Life Skills training session was given to 60 students from four different schools in Pugnido camp. The trainees received a comprehensive knowledge on the basic concepts of HIV/AIDS, practical skills applied in school and out-of-school situations that can be helpful for HIV prevention, how to resist peer pressure and develop self-confidence.



Food Security and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

- The WFP Food Distribution for the November 2014 cycle was completed for Akula, Pugnido, Matar and Pagak with support from WFP. Food distribution is currently ongoing in Tierkidi and Kule, and will be completed within the coming days. The distribution in Leitchuor is in progress.
- WFP continues to provide High Energy Biscuits to refugees at reception sites and to refugees upon relocation to the camps. WFP provided High Energy Biscuits for refugees undertaking the boat journey from Matar to Itang, en route to Pugnido. A 2-day ration of High Energy Biscuits was also provided to refugees by WFP upon their arrival in Pugnido.
- WFP and the nutrition partners, including GOAL, ACF and Concern Worldwide, continue to provide blanket and targeted supplementary feeding programmes in Leitchuor, Tierkidi, Kule and NipNip camps. As of mid-November 2014, WFP and partners are providing blanket supplementary feeding to a total of 43,015 beneficiaries (comprising 7,115 Pregnant and Lactating Women and 35,900 children under 5 years), and targeted supplementary feeding to 7,500 refugees, comprising 2,524 Pregnant and Lactating Women and 4,976 children under 5 years).
- Resource requirements for WFP's refugee operation in Ethiopia for six months between November and April 2015 are estimated at USD 69 million. During this same period, shortfalls are currently estimated at USD 41.6 million. The food shortfalls, the bulk of which related to cereals, start in December, and will continue for the rest of the project duration unless contributions are received.
- The Food Security and Nutrition micro-plan was developed and shared with all nutrition partners, ahead of the relocation of refugees from Matar way station to Pugnido refugee camp.



Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

- Over the last week, the supply of water in Pugnido was observed to be consistent, uninterrupted and timely for all the three sites. UNHCR's Implementing Partner IRC finalised and installed the new borehole at the Old Nuer site and connected it to the camp water distribution system.



Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

- In Pugnido, preparations are on-going for the relocation of 15,000 refugees from Matar way station. The clearing of three blocks has started and is being followed by the construction of the reception hangars in Zones A and B.
- A physical site planning exercise continued in the new site for the relocation of 15,000 relocated refugees. The map of the blocks, water distribution system and areas for new camp facilities was revised and is now being used to undertake demarcation of plots.
- In Okugo camp, the construction of the 450 shelter superstructures is complete, with 123 shelters thatched with grass and 212 shelters covered with plastic sheets due to unavailability of grass during the rainy season. NRC is now mobilizing the refugees to replace the plastic sheets with grass.
- In Kule and Tierkidi refugee camps, construction of tukuls is on-going, with the targets for the end of 2014 set at 3,150 tukuls to be constructed in Kule and 2,500 in Tierkidi. The availability and quality of materials is sufficient for this construction, apart from grass for roofing. As the grass is still not ready for harvesting the tukuls are being covered with plastic sheets.
- All 10 hangars at Matar way station have been rehabilitated.



Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Achievements and Impact

- The Refugee Coordination Model mission held a meeting with refugees in Leitchuor Camp and expressed an interest and appreciation in how camp coordination is done in the area.

Achievements and Impact

- As of mid-November, close to 33,000 mt of food has been dispatched by WFP in its cross-border operation to South Sudan by air, river and road. Approximately 80% of this amount was dispatched by air.
- UNHCR organized the transportation of 900 family tents, 10,884 zero fly plastic sheets, 43,554 litres of diesel fuel, 12,000 solar lanterns and 72.50 metric tons of soap from Djibouti and Addis Ababa, with all items now received in Gambella. Following the decision to relocate 15,000 refugees from Matar to Pugnido refugee camp, UNHCR and its partners have coordinated the transportation of 467 family tents, 2,000 blankets, 3,000 plastics sheets, 1,200 sleeping mats, 3,420 mosquito nets and 3,000 jerry cans from Gambella to Pugnido camp and Itang way station.
- Over 250 humanitarian workers and Government officials were transported by the helicopter hired by UNHCR and were able to reach and provide services to refugees affected by floods in the Leitchuor axis.
- Over the last week, UNHCR coordinated the transport of 35 metric tons of soap from Gambella to Tierkidi, Kule and Pugnido refugee camps for the November cycle soap distribution.

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 both Addis Ababa and Gambella, discussions on the Regional Response Plan for 2015 were completed.
- A planning meeting for the 2015 implementation and budget was hosted by UNHCR and ARRA. All partners working in Pugnido camp also participated in a brainstorming exercise on existing gaps and proposed interventions for possible implementation in 2015 in all sectors.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 104.5 million**, of which **48.6 million** were given to **UNHCR** and **US\$ 55.9 million to partners**, against **US\$ 210.9 million** requested for the situation.

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.