



## ETHIOPIA

### UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

21– 26 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
- Refugee relocation from Matar way station to Pugnido refugee camp
- Search for additional land in view of continued influx

#### 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.
- Registration remains suspended at Akobo and Pagak entry points, while in Burbiey, registration was temporarily halted while the relocation exercise from Matar to Pugnido began. Registration is expected to resume soon.
- The relocation exercise from Matar started on schedule on 17 November, with support from IOM for transport. Thus far, IOM has relocated over 1,340 individuals from Matar, comprising 1,264 who were relocated by boat and bus and 76 vulnerable refugees who were transported by helicopter. There are approximately 13,000 people waiting in Matar for relocation, and there are plans to increase the numbers of refugees relocated in each movement. This leads to a cumulative total of 174,928 refugees that IOM has transported since the emergency began in mid-December 2013.
- Following a “Go and See” visit of five refugee leaders from Matar to Pugnido, the number of refugees interested in relocating there is increasing, with over 1,500 refugees registering their interest as of 22 November. The visit was aimed at dispelling incorrect rumours that refugees at Matar way station were being relocated to Dimma.
- The new UNHCR Representative to Ethiopia, Mr Valentin Tapsoba, spent the last week in Gambella, where he witnessed the first relocation movement of refugees from Matar Waystation to Pugnido. As well as visiting Matar and Pugnido Camp, where he welcomed newly arriving refugees, Mr Tapsoba visited Leitchuor, Tierkidi and Kule refugee camps and met the Regional President, ARRA, partners and UNHCR staff. Mr Tapsoba also presented three vehicles, including two Land Cruisers and an ambulance, to ARRA to support the on-going relocation exercise of South Sudanese refugees from to Pugnido refugee camp.
- The Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Miss Khung-wha KANG, paid a one-day visit to the Gambella Region in order to familiarise herself with the refugee emergency. The DFID Ethiopia Head of Office, Mr Julius Court, and DFID Humanitarian Advisor for the South Sudan Refugee Response, Ms Phillida Strachan, also visited Gambella during the last week.
- Refugees in Kule camp alleged that their drinking water had been poisoned in two of the water bladders in the camp and believed that the action was intentional, taken by unknown people. Several meetings were held by UNHCR and ARRA with the refugees in order to diffuse the situation.
- In Addis Ababa, a meeting was held with partners to validate the revised planning figures for the Refugee Response Plan for 2015.

#### Population of concern

A total of **193,922** people of concern

## UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

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### 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. The relocation exercise of refugees currently in Matar to Pugnido has commenced.

### Achievements

#### Protection

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##### Achievements and Impact

- The issuance of the Proof of Registration document in Kule and Tierkidi refugee camps continued this week. Thus far 49% (comprising 46,554 individuals) of the targeted population of 20,000 households issued with the document. The document is issued to the head of each household with a copy issued to family members over 16 years.
- The nationality screening for refugees suspected to be nationals in Leitchuor refugee camp is on-going and 80% of the pre-identified cases screened by the screening panel, which is composed of Refugee Central Committee, ARRA and religious leaders.
- Community outreach activities are ongoing, aimed at reaching vulnerable children and supporting them to improve their living conditions and well-being. Over the last week, 48 refugees were reached through this programme, comprising 18 in Kule, 2 in Tierkidi and 28 in Leitchuor, reflecting an increase of 18 individuals when compared to last week.
- In total, 5,410 children with specific needs have been identified and services provided for them in the camps, including 20 children in Kule, 3,325 in Tierkidi, 19 in Pugnido and 2,046 in Leitchuor. This reflects an increase of 26% when compared to last week.
- 152 children benefitted from psychosocial support in Tierkidi refugee camp. This brings the total number of children receiving psychosocial support to 552 as compared to 400 reported last week.
- A family that reported protection concerns in Kule camp due to ethnic tensions was successfully transferred to Okugo refugee camp in Dimma. The relocation took place on the request of the family.
- Preparations are ongoing in all refugee camps to mark the 16 Days of Activism against GBV campaign.
- High alcohol consumption continues to be a concern in Kule and other locations. During recent security incidents in Kule camp, it was observed that a high rate of intoxication aggravated riots. ARRA has since confirmed that it is discussing with the Refugee Central Committee to consider a daytime ban on alcohol consumption in the camp.

#### Education

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##### Achievements and Impact

- In Pugnido, stationery materials, including 519 pencils and 1,038 exercise books, were distributed to 519 children aged between 4-6 years at two learning centres.
- The primary education program in Pugnido under ARRA's coordination is on-going with students attending their regular learning programs in the four junior and primary schools. A shortage of desks, absence of gender-

segregated latrines, and a lack of text and reference books remain challenges. Staff are also sometimes required to attend to other duties including food distribution and registration of new arrivals which affects the quality of service delivery in the schools. ARRA is also addressing the issue of low class attendance which was observed in the Village 12 primary school.

## Health

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### Achievements and Impact

- In Pugnido refugee camp, ARRA's medical team started providing emergency health services to the newly arriving relocated refugees in the reception centre. The team also provided measles and polio vaccination to 145 children under 5 years during the week.



## Food Security and Nutrition

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### Achievements and Impact

- WFP's November General Food Distributions (GFD) have been completed in almost all camps, transit centres and entry points with the exception of Leitchuor and NipNip, where distributions are still ongoing due to challenges related to the accessibility of the locations.
- While UNHCR and partners follow up on the repair of the road from Gambella to Leitchuor road by the Ethiopian Roads Authority, WFP is planning to transport 50% (500mt) of the December GFD allocation to Leitchuor camp by river, with an expected arrival by 5 December, and the remaining 50% to arrive by 22 December by road. The plan is to distribute 50% of the ration from 5 December and the remaining 50% from 22 December.
- Commodities for the refugees being relocated from Matar Transit Centre to Pugnido camp have been prepositioned by WFP in Pugnido and refugees are receiving GFD as soon as they arrive in the camp.
- During a meeting held with the Kule camp Refugee Central Committee and women's representatives and chaired by the UNHCR Representative, Mr Tapsoba, one of the primary concerns raised was related to General Food Distribution. Mr Tapsoba assured the meeting that ARRA has agreed to shift to food "scooping" mechanisms from January 2015 and that UNHCR will work with the partners to decentralize food distribution where possible.
- Nutrition programme beneficiaries were transferred from Matar way station to Pugnido refugee camp using treatment cards and referral slips to facilitate continuation of services for children, pregnant and lactating women. During the relocation, IOM provides hot meals to relocating refugees at Itang Waystation, while WFP supports with High Energy Biscuits.
- Nutrition services have been scaled up in Pugnido refugee camp to cater for the incoming caseload from Matar way station. Beneficiary arrival screening is being conducted and appropriate referrals made to the nearest existing health centre for enrolment.
- In Akula village, GOAL resumed blanket supplementary feeding program (BSFP) and other nutrition activities for refugees. WFP also conducted a support visit to Akula after delivery of food commodities. The program was previously scaled down due to floods that restricted access to the beneficiaries.



## Water and Sanitation

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### Achievements and Impact

- In Pugnido, the extension of the water distribution system to the new arrival area was undertaken by UNHCR's partner IRC. Three tap stands, each with six faucets, were installed in the new settlement site and water is now available at all tap stands.



## Shelter and NFIs

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### Achievements and Impact

- Site clearance, demarcation and allocation of plots are all on-going in Pugnido refugee camp, with 140 family tents pitched and three reception hangers constructed.
- ARRA started distributing non-food items to the newly relocated refugees from Matar way station. During the week, as of 22 November, 610 new arrivals to Pugnido had been provided with non-food items.



## Camp Coordination and Camp Management

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### Achievements and Impact

- A special Inter-Agency Refugee Task Force meeting was held at Sub-Office Gambella with the Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Miss Khung-wa Kang, who was paying a one-day visit to the region. Miss Kang commended ARRA, UNHCR and partners for their humanitarian services and noted that a lot of assistance had been provided to South Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia.
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## Logistics

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### Achievements and Impact

- Close to 34,700 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.

## 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.

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

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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.