



KEY FIGURES

193,960

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

ETHIOPIA

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

4 – 10 December 2014

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 193,960 individuals, comprising 191,375 individuals who entered through Gambella and 2,585 who entered through the Assosa region.
- The average arrival rate of South Sudanese refugees to the Gambella region has remained low as the rainy season comes to an end.
- UNHCR has been informed that registration of new arrivals is set to resume in Pagak on 11 December, while in Burbiey and Raad registration is on-going.
- The relocation exercise from Matar Waystation and Pagak to Pugnido Camp is on-going with support from IOM for transport. Thus far, 6,208 refugees have expressed interest in relocating, of which 5,676 have been relocated, including 248 vulnerable individuals who were relocated by helicopter.
- The leader of the SPLM/IO, Riek Machar, arrived in Gambella on 3 December to attend the on-going consultative peace talks in Pagak, South Sudan. The conference began on 4 December at which time Mr Machar travelled from Gambella to Pagak, South Sudan, which shares a border with Pagak, Gambella. Security measures have been observed on both sides of the border.
- The International Day of Persons with Disabilities was celebrated over the last week, with camp-based agencies, host community sector offices, refugee and members of the host community attending the event.
- 15 out of 23 UNHCR drivers attended a two-day Defensive Driver Training course organised by UNDSS.

Population of concern

A total of **193,960** 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 193,900 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, surpassing the Somali refugee population. The rainy season caused damage in Leitchuor and NipNip Camps and refugees in these camps moved to higher ground within the camps and the surrounding villages. Emergency response activities are being undertaken in these locations to ensure continuity of services. The relocation exercise of refugees currently in Matar to Pugnido has commenced.

Achievements

Protection

Achievements and Impact

- The Level 2 registration of relocated refugees is on-going in Pugnido, with 1,956 refugees Level 2 registered and issued with Proof of Registration documents in collaboration with ARRA. Of the registered refugees, 51% are male while 68 % are children.
- The issuance of Proof of Registration document in Kule and Tierkidi camps continued this week and a total of 82,185 individuals, 86% of the population, have been issued with the document. The document is issued to the head of a household and any family member who is 16 years and above.
- UNHCR has been informed that registration of new arrivals will resume on 11 December at Pagak entry point, where approximately 100 newly arrived refugees are waiting for registration. Registration remains suspended at Akobo but is ongoing at Burbiey and Raad.
- UNHCR Protection and Field staff participated in a Family Tracing Workshop held in Gambella. The participants discussed a variety of topics related to child protection tools, coordination with partners and procedures. The prioritization matrix was reviewed and a 2-month action plan developed which will be used to follow up on family tracing action points.
- UNHCR's implementing partner Save the Children continued with the identification and registration of newly relocated separated children and unaccompanied minors. Over the last week, a total of 142 unaccompanied and separated children were identified (including 41 girls and 101 boys).

Education

Achievements and Impact

- The existing pre-school education activities coordinated by UNHCR's education partners were operational over the last week, with 4,020 pupils attending their regular learning program in the ten pre-school centres of Pugnido camp. Save the Children reported that the number of pupils has increased significantly due to the ongoing arrivals of the newly relocated refugees from Matar Waystation and Pagak entry point and is continuing to register students eligible for pre-school as the relocation exercise continues. In order to increase the capacity of the existing pre-schools, UNHCR provided materials including 4,468 exercise books, 1,579 pencils and 22 erasers to Save the Children.
- In Leitchuor refugee camp, education activities were carried out over the last week for 636 children (including 285 male and 351 female) between the ages of 3-6 years old, who participated in outdoor games and numeracy and literacy activities.

Achievements and Impact

- On 1 December a team consisting of an Ophthalmologist and a Cataract Surgeon held a one-day eye clinic at ARRA Health Centre in Tierkidi. This service was facilitated by HelpAge International and approximately 150 patients received ophthalmology services.
- Delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) from Geneva and Addis Ababa are currently on an assessment mission to Gambella Hospital to analyse gaps and consider potential support to the region.
- UNFPA has donated several reproductive health kits to partners including MSF-F, MSF-H, IMC and ARRA, including dignity kits and medical kits as well.
- At the Health Centre in Leitchuor, the main diagnoses over the last week including acute malnutrition (28%), Malaria (22%) and Lower Respiratory Tract Infection (28%).
- The ARRA medical team continued providing emergency health services for the newly relocated refugees from Matar way station to Pugnido refugee camp in the reception centre the health packages include polio and measles vaccination for under five children in Pugnido during the reporting period.



Food Security and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

- The WFP General Food Distribution for November was completed in all camps and transit centres
- Plans are underway to kick-start a comprehensive nutrition programme supporting the host community in 3 Woredas around Leitchuor and NipNip, which will be supported by ACF in collaboration with UNICEF and the Gambella Regional Health Bureau.
- Preliminary analysis of the joint UNHCR/WFP/ARRA post food distribution monitoring (PDM) conducted in Kule and Tierkidi shows that the main concerns of refugees relate to the grouped distribution mechanism, which they feel does not ensure fairness. Individual, scooped distribution is expected to begin in January 2015.
- WFP is currently pre-positioning items for the December food distribution. WFP and ARRA have agreed that in Leitchuor and NipNip, refugees will receive an initial 15 day ration, followed by a second 15-day ration. This is because it has only been possible to deliver 50% of the food basket due to transportation challenges related to the lowering of the Baro River water level and road inaccessibility. Thus far, 58% of the allocation has already been delivered to Matar. While the maintenance of the road between Gambella and Nyinyang is underway to rehabilitate the sections of road that were washed away during the rains, the road currently remains impassable and boat transportation has ceased due to the low water levels.
- WFP has also pre-positioned commodities in Pugnido Camp and refugees are provided with General Food Distribution as soon as they arrive in the camp.



Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

- Provision of water in Kule, Tierkidi and Pamdong remains through water trucking from a treatment facility at Itang. The water quality has improved after shifting the water source from the river to ground water, with turbidity and Free Residual Chlorine levels maintained within UNHCR standards.
- The final design presentation for the permanent water system for Kule and Tierkidi is to take place together with WASH partners.
- In Leitchuor camp, a health club consisting of 20 students (10 male and 10 female) has been established at the Junior School. The club focusses on hygiene promotion activities among the students.
- Also in Leitchuor over the last week, an additional 60 latrines were commissioned, bringing the cumulative total of functional latrines to 784 and the latrine stance ratio improving from 1:69 to 1:64.
- A latrine facility count has been concluded in Kule and Tierkidi camps and analysis by partners is on-going.
- WASH funding has been secured from UNICEF which targets WASH facilities in 10 schools and 5 health centres.

- Focus group discussions on household sanitation measures have been successful and resulted in the refugee community participating in the digging of latrines in Kule refugee camp.

Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

- Road maintenance and construction activities are on-going in Tierkidi and Kule, with 80% of the work completed thus far.
- Over the last week, 1,328 plots were demarcated in Pugnido refugee camp while 10 blocks, 6 community facility areas and 2.2 kilometres of access road were cleared, demarcated and completed in the new site. UNHCR is assisting with site demarcation and road alignment using GPS technology to ensure the site plan is properly interpreted on the ground.
- Lack of firewood and cooking gas in Leitchuor refugee camp is causing refugees to travel long distances to search for firewood, with female refugees expressing fear of possible assault while they are outside the camps.
- The site assessment of a potential location, Bilyaknii in the Nuer area of the Leitchuor Axis was completed, and the site found not to be suitable for development as a camp.
- To accommodate the new arrivals from Matar Waystation and Pagak entry point, 880 tents were pitched in Pugnido over the last week.
- The construction of planned tukuls in Tierkidi Refugee Camp is on-going, with 100% (2,521) and 80% (2,016) of mud plastering completed. Preparations for grass thatching on-going and doors are now being installed.
- Likewise, in Kule Refugee Camp, the construction of tukuls is on-going, with 100% (3,150) and 27% (850) mud-plastered. Mobilisation activities for the mud-plastering are on-going, with implementing partners encouraging beneficiaries to plaster their tukuls as long as surface water is available.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Achievements and Impact

- In Pugnido, ARRA, UNHCR and partners attended the weekly inter-agency coordination meeting which focussed on the relocation of new arrivals. The meeting participants agreed on the need to accelerate the site clearance process, strengthen education services for newly arrived students, enhance the presence of RaDO at the new arrival site to identify and assist people with specific needs and work on site selection for the planned construction of 200 transitional shelters.

Logistics

Achievements and Impact

- Close to 36,000 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 dispatched required Core Relief Items and 880 tents to Pugnido for the relocating refugees.

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\$ 107.9 million**, 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.