



## ETHIOPIA

### UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

11-18 December 2014

#### KEY FIGURES

**194,261**

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 194,261 individuals, comprising 191,659 individuals who entered through Gambella and 2,602 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 and ARRA started an information campaign in the Pamdong temporary site, to raise awareness about the possibility for refugees to relocate to Pugnido.
- The relocation exercise from Matar Waystation and Pagak to Pugnido Camp is on-going with support from IOM for transport. Thus far, 7,196 refugees have been relocated from Matar and Pagak to Pugnido.
- On 8 December, a tent in Tierkidi Camp caught fire, claiming the life of a 13 year old boy.
- The maintenance of the road between Gambella and Nyinyang has started and is being jointly supported by UNHCR and WFP.
- The annual Public Health and Nutrition Meeting is taking place in Addis Ababa, to discuss lessons learned in 2014 and plans for 2015. Participants include UN Agencies, NGO partners, the Ministry of Health and ARRA.
- Between 9-11 December, UNHCR Gambella conducted the 2014 Code of Conduct training for all staff in Gambella. Awareness-raising was also conducted on the role of peer support colleagues.

#### Population of concern

A total of **194,261** 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 194,000 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 (248,580 individuals), surpassing the Somali refugee population (244,066 individuals). 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 and Pagak to Pugnido is ongoing.

### Achievements

#### Protection

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##### Achievements and Impact

- Over the last week, UNHCR's Child Protection partners conducted community-led activities with 160 refugees (including 45 males and 115 females) with the overall aim of improving safety and security for children in the camps. During the week, 303 separated children (including 119 male and 92 female) and unaccompanied children (including 24 male and 24 female) were identified. In Leitchuor, 15 children identified as having specific needs were provided with support and services while an additional 78 children in alternative care arrangements continue to be monitored by UNHCR's Child Protection team.
- With the flood water receding in Leitchuor Camp, 2,270 children participated in activities in the child friendly spaces.
- In NipNip, a group of 15 social workers and community mobilisers (including 12 male and 3 female) have been selected to support child protection activities.
- A total of 878 older persons (including 269 males and 609 females) and 165 people living with disabilities (including 87 males and 78 females) have been registered by UNHCR's Implementing Partner RaDO. Four of the most vulnerable people with disabilities were identified for prosthesis fitting in Addis Ababa. RaDO is continuing with the identification of people with disabilities and older people, with specific needs noted for follow up interventions.
- UNHCR is following up on logistical arrangements for a refugee mother registered in Pugnido camp to reunite with her four children who are living in a refugee camp in Uganda.

### Education

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##### Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR's Implementing Partner, Plan International, visited 1,800 refugees of Opwo ethnicity who are residing in Akule Village near Tierkidi Camp and held a Focus Group Discussion on education. The refugees do not have access to primary education as the community-built school in the village is small and cannot accommodate them. While Plan International will soon start on the construction of a permanent school in the village, with support from UNICEF, in the meantime a Temporary Learning Shelter will be established.
- In Tierkidi, enrolment for Early Childhood Education for children between 3-6 years old has increased over the last week to 46%, from 1,796 individuals registered to 2,567 individuals (including 1,343 females) registered. Plan International also resumed the daily distribution of high-energy biscuits to students, and there may be a correlation between the two events.

- Primary education in Pugnido is on-going, with students attending regular learning programs in the four junior primary and primary schools in the camp. Registration of newly arriving refugee students through the relocation exercise is also on-going. A total of 231 newly arrived refugee students were registered and participated in an entry exam at Village 12 Primary School where they were assigned to the most appropriate grade. The students also received stationary materials and started regular classes.
- In Kule Refugee Camp, absenteeism has been reported in the learning centres and is believed to be linked mainly to curriculum-related issues. There are discussions on-going with regard to the curriculum in Gambella, which is currently the Ethiopian curriculum, and plans to hold meetings with refugee leaders are also underway. UNHCR, ARRA and partners are in the meantime engaging in continued awareness-raising to encourage refugees to continue their education.

## Health

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### Achievements and Impact

- Over the last week, both crude and under five mortality rates remained within Sphere Standards in all refugee camps. The main morbidities reported include malaria, diarrhoea and respiratory infections.
- Training on Hepatitis E was conducted for medical staff in Pugnido. Due to the on-going relocation, there is a risk of disease transmission from locations where Hepatitis E has been reported to those where it has not. Staff were sensitised to re-emphasise the importance of clean water, hygiene and sanitation practices to prevent Hepatitis E as well as on strengthened surveillance techniques to ensure early detection of cases.
- Emergency health services are being provided at the Reception Centre in Pugnido, and polio and measles vaccinations are also provided to children under 5 years old.



## Food Security and Nutrition

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### Achievements and Impact

- A total number of 14,272 children were screened by Community Outreach Agents over the week. Of this group, 190 children (1.3%) were found to be severely malnourished, and 690 children (4.8%) were found to be moderately malnourished and were referred for treatment.
- In Kule Refugee Camp, the General Food Distribution which began on 3 December was interrupted due to a lack of some food items. This was due to a delay in delivery of food commodities to the camp. WFP will dispatch 70 MT of food from the Gambella Warehouse, comprised of 50 MT wheat, 10 MT pulses and 10 MT vegetable oil to enable continuation of Food Distribution. The remaining 102 MT wheat, 13 MT pulses and 8 MT vegetable oil to complete the December distribution will be delivered in the course of the week.
- General Food Distribution by WFP for December continued in Pugnido refugee camp. The distribution includes the new arrivals who have undergone Level 2 registration as well as those waiting to attend Level 2 registration.
- UNHCR provided therapeutic supplies to ARRA to begin the nutrition programme in Okugo Refugee Camp, while WFP will support the supplementary feeding component from January 2015.



## Water and Sanitation

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### Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR's Implementing Partner IRC continued water supply provision for new arrivals residing in Pugnido Extension Site as well as those in the existing Village 12, Nuer and Agnuak Sites. In the Extension Site, refugees are receiving 10 litres per person per day through seven tap stands (42 taps) and refugees residing at the older three sites are receiving 14 litres per person per day through 85 tap stands (492 taps).
- Also in Pugnido refugee camp, four communal waste pits have been excavated in the new extension site.
- A group of 54 Community Health Agents are continuing hygiene promotion activities in the new extension site and in the existing three sites.

- In order to accommodate the increasing population in the extension site, digging of latrines is an ongoing activity. At present, latrine coverage at the existing and extension sites is 1:30 and 1:43 respectively.

## Shelter and NFIs

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### Achievements and Impact

- Road construction activities are on-going in Tierkidi and Kule, with work on culverts and drainage progressing.
- In Pugnido, ARRA continued site clearance and plot demarcation, with site clearance of 5 blocks and plot demarcation of 4 blocks completed in Pugnido Refugee Camp over the last week. UNHCR is assisting with site demarcation and road alignment using GPS technology to ensure the site plan is properly interpreted on the ground.

## Camp Coordination and Camp Management

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### 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

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### 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 has extended the contract for the helicopter services until the end of February 2014. The helicopter is supporting the relocation exercise and transported 40 vulnerable refugees to Pugnido over the last week, as well as transporting supplies and staff.

## 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

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Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 107.9 million**, against **US\$ 210.9 million** requested for the situation, as of end-November 2014.

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.