South Sudan Emergency, Gambella, Ethiopia
External Update #11
1–19 October 2025

Cover photo: Water collection at a new distribution point in Tormorok © UNHCR

KEY FIGURES

50,000*
PEOPLE PLANNING FIGURE

29,651
REGISTERED REFUGEES

20,999
REFUGEES RELOCATED TO LUAKDONG SITE

6,165
REFUGEES IDENTIFIED WITH DIFFERENT VULNERABILITIES

3,815
CHILDREN AT RISK

LEVEL 2 EMERGENCY
DECLARED BY UNHCR FOR 6 MONTHS

*According to estimates

Overview

Asylum seekers continued to move to Tormorok, where the new registration centre is situated. Overcrowding there is causing concern for the spread of cholera and malaria, and partners are diverting their emergency response there to cope with the need for health, water provision and sanitation services.

With the worsening flood conditions at Luakdong, UNHCR contracted a bulldozer and begun flood mitigation measures at the site. Dykes are quickly being constructed to prevent further floodwater from entering.

Fighting in South Sudan was reported, with aerial bombardment near Jikmir on 9 October.

UNHCR and Partners' response

Despite the onset of flooding, UNHCR, RRS and partners have continued constructing the new refugee site at Luakdong and providing essential lifesaving services to refugees and asylum seekers in surrounding communities, particularly, the nearby village of Tormorok.

Protection

- Level 1 (L1) registration continued at the new registration centre in Tormorok, with 29,651 South Sudanese refugees registered by 19 October. Screening for persons with specific needs continued also.
- By 12 October, the previously registered refugees who were awaiting relocation had been transported from Muon/Matar to Luakdong (5,502 individuals/852 HHs).
- Newly relocated families underwent orientation by partners, including GBV/PSEA sensitisation from Plan International and received NFIs from AAHI before moving to their designated plots of land.
- With the onset of flooding at Luakdong, relocation was suspended on 18 October.

Health

- Vaccination and supplementation continued for new arrivals.
- During the reporting period, 86 new cholera cases were detected, bringing the total to 540 cases. Additionally, one death was recorded during the reporting period due to a diarrhea-related case.
- The cholera response was stepped up through the Regional Health Bureau's Emergency Operations Cell, bringing an inter-agency approach, especially with health and WASH sectors.
- GOAL's healthcare services in Tormorok are stretched with demand, so CUAMM will move their mobile clinic from Gade to Tormorok.
- DPO continued to provide PHC services at Luakdong, although having to move their clinic to the Luakdong junction because of flooding.

Food Security & Nutrition

- The September General Food Distribution (GFD) was completed on 13 October, serving 50,030 individuals. The delay was due to the pace of registration and the corresponding availability of data.
- Targeted supplemental feeding continued with hot meals provided by GOAL and a fresh food market provided by DCA.
- Malnutrition screening and treatment are ongoing at all locations. Rates have jumped alarmingly during the reporting period for both under-5s and pregnant and lactating women (PLW).
- During the reporting period, the Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate among U5 reached 22%. The GAM prevalence among PLW reached 30%.
- Over 17,000 individuals reached with different health and nutrition education through IYCF-E programs during this period.
- Shortages of supplies for malnutrition treatment is a top concern, as is the lack of resources to conduct a blanket supplementary feeding program.

Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)

- During the reporting period, water supply at Luakdong reached 17.3 litres/person/day, over the minimum Sphere standard. In addition, Oxfam completed the laying of 1.5km of a pipeline from the Luakdong junction to the reception area, greatly increased the capacity, meaning refugees don't need to walk to the junction to collect water.
- Oxfam mobilised water storage in Tormorok to store trucked water for distribution.
- Latrine coverage at Luakdong improved to 1:50 persons (still below Sphere standards). Emergency latrines are being constructed at Tormorok to improve sanitation.
- Hygiene campaigns were commenced to mark World Handwashing Day. Oxfam and NCA maintained 57 hygiene workers to awareness-raising and cleaning campaigns.

Site Development, Shelter & NFIs

- By 19 October, 1,049 emergency upgradeable shelters have been constructed by DEC.
- A total of 873 HHs received shelter kits (plastic sheet, poles, rope and nails) to build their own shelters at Luakdong.
- Between 3–19 October, AAHI distributed NFI kits to 1,812 HHs. Distributions had to move to dry ground near the junction as the rub hall distribution point was completely flooded.
- The contracted bulldozer began constructed a dyke to prevent further flooding at Luakdong, supported by community-led efforts capacitated with equipment from DEC.

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Response Partners Under Emergency Response Plan

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