South Sudan Emergency, Gambella, Ethiopia
External Update #12
20 October – 2 November 2025

Cover photo: Refugee walks through flood water to access Luakdong © UNHCR

KEY FIGURES

50,000*
PEOPLE PLANNING FIGURE

42,552
REGISTERED REFUGEES

21,333
REFUGEES RELOCATED TO LUAKDONG SITE

9,945
REFUGEES IDENTIFIED WITH DIFFERENT VULNERABILITIES

7,507
CHILDREN AT RISK

LEVEL 2 EMERGENCY
DECLARED BY UNHCR FOR 6 MONTHS

**According to estimates*

Overview

While floodwaters are slowly reducing around Luakdong, many areas in the site remain flooded. Flood mitigation measures continue at a slow pace due to frequent mechanical failures involving the contracted bulldozer.

UNHCR, RRS and partners undertook a joint inter-agency assessment mission to the Nuer Zone on 24 October to examine concerns and make recommendations for next steps in the response to the ongoing flooding. These were set out as action points for the weekly inter-agency meeting held in Gambella. Aside from continuing the dyke construction, it was recommended to use tractors to transport essential staff and supplies in and out of Luakdong to ensure continuation of services, stepping up the cholera and malaria response and the increase of services at Tormorok, while relocation to Luakdong remains unfeasible.

Finally, in Tormorok, four children were attacked at night by wild animals during the reporting period, leading to the death of one child under 10. A Community Watch Group was established, and police were brought in to patrol at night. These proved successful, as there were no more attacks after 26 October.

UNHCR and Partners' response

Protection

- While relocation to Luakdong remained suspended, L1 registration at Tormorok continued, reaching 42,552 individuals by 1 November.
- Given the continued flooding at Luakdong, relocation also remains suspended.
- GBV and child protection case management, awareness-raising and capacity-building continued to take place at Luakdong and Tormorok.
- A temporary safe space for persons with specific needs, accessible for persons with disabilities was established at Luakdong.
- A Complaint and Feedback Mechanism was established at Luakdong as part of efforts under Accountability to Affected People (AAP) principles.

Health

- Vaccination and supplementation continued for new arrivals by the Regional Health Bureau with the support of UNICEF.
- CUAMM and GOAL run primary healthcare (PHC) facilities in Tormorok, while CUAMM also maintained a mobile clinic in Muon. DPO continued to run PHC services at Luakdong.
- IRC moved their Cholera Treatment Centre to Tormorok as cases there rose due to overcrowding and flooding. 27 new cases reported during this time.
- The DPO ambulance, already stretched due to demand was involved in a road traffic accident and is out of service. Temporary measures were put in place pending replacement.

Food Security & Nutrition

- The entrance area to the Food Distribution Site that was selected suffered minor flooding, so a new site was selected inside the Luakdong site near the junction. This will delay the GFD by at least a week, as communities and partners highlight food shortages as a growing concern.
- WFP and World Vision distributed High Energy Biscuits to those were registered and missed the GFD.
- GOAL and DCA continued to provide hot meals and a fresh food market, respectively, for targeted supplementary feeding.
- Malnutrition screening and treatment are ongoing at all locations. Rates continue to be high for both under-5s and pregnant and lactating women (PLW).

Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)

- During the reporting period, water supply at Luakdong reached a weekly average of 14.2 litres/person/day, just under the minimum Sphere standard.
- Water trucking continues to Tormorok. During the reporting period, 16 out of a planned 36 latrines were constructed, with the remaining 20 under construction.
- Hygiene promotion activities continue to be conducted by Oxfam and NCA, with a focus on cholera prevention.
- A number of hygiene campaigns were initiated at Luakdong and Tormorok targeting cholera prevention, jerrycan cleaning, environmental cleaning and latrine cleaning.

Site Development, Shelter & NFIs

- Following the handing over of the road construction at Luakdong to DEC, significant progress has been made in laying the first layer of the access road.
- Flood mitigation works continue at Luakdong at a slow pace due to regular mechanical failures. A second bulldozer is urgently needed to accelerate the works.
- Shelter activities remain on hold pending the completion of these flood mitigation measures at Luakdong.

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Response Partners Under Emergency Response Plan

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