

## SOUTH SUDAN EMERGENCY

27 February-6 March

### UNHCR Operational Highlights

- South Sudanese asylum seekers continue to arrive in the Gambella Region mainly through Akobo Tergol and Pagak border entry points which remain open, providing asylum seekers unhindered access to Ethiopian territory. The majority of new arrivals cite fear and displacement resulting from the ongoing hostilities in Upper Nile State and Jonglei State as the primary reasons for their flight to Ethiopia. The majority (95%) of new arrivals comprise women and children. Some male new arrivals reported to UNHCR that soldiers from the rebel forces tried to prevent them from leaving South Sudan and told them they should join the fight.
- On 5 March, 1,555 individuals were registered at Pagak entry point, bringing the total number of asylum seekers who arrived in this location between 1-5 March to 4,986 people. The total number of registered new arrivals to the Gambella Region since mid-December 2013 is now 65,389 people, of which 33,390 have been registered at Pagak (Level 1 registration). 24, 715 new arrivals entered Ethiopia at Akobo of which 9,379 have been registered and are ready for relocation.
- 19,164 registered refugees (57% of 33,390) in Pagak have now been relocated to the camps with support from IOM for transport. From Akobo, 2,728 refugees have been relocated (29% of 9,379). UNHCR is working together with IOM to increase the frequency of the boat transfers and the number of boats used.
- Level 2 registration is ongoing in Leitchuor Camp. Thus far, over 2,400 people have been registered. The total population of Leitchuor is now 24,643 individuals.
- Relocation of refugees from Pagak and Akobo is continuing. On 5 March, 942 refugees were relocated to Leitchuor and 300 refugees were relocated to Tierkidi, comprising malnourished children with their families. On average, between 1,100 and 1,400 refugees are relocated daily from Pagak. Upon arrival in the camps, the relocated refugees are provided with a hot meal and given NFIs including kitchen sets, blankets, mats, soap, jerry cans and mosquito nets provided by UNICEF. The refugees are hosted in family tents erected by NRC with the support of UNHCR. Tierkidi Camp is now host to over 1,200 people.

### NUTRITION

- An important element of the response strategy in Gambella is the prioritised relocation of malnourished children and their families to the camps. So far, 182 malnourished children and their families have been relocated to Leitchuor and 200 to Tierkidi where interventions are in place.

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- A Blanket Supplementary Feeding programme is also ongoing in Pagak, implemented by ACF and supported by UNHCR, WFP and UNICEF. Children under 5 years old and pregnant and lactating women are screened and if found to be malnourished they immediately begin on-site feeding and are prioritised for relocation.
- In Tierkidi, UNHCR provides hot porridge to children under 5 years and pregnant and lactating women. ACF is also implementing a treatment programme for severely malnourished individuals (SAM) who are provided with plumpy nut, and moderately malnourished children who receive porridge (CSB, oil and sugar).
- Following an inter-agency technical visit to Leitchuor, UNHCR and its partners agreed to conduct a mass MUAC screening between 8-10 March to determine the nutritional status of children in the camp and ensure follow-up action for any child identified as malnourished. The results of this exercise will also help determine whether or not Blanket Supplementary Feeding will begin in Leitchuor. Also in Leitchuor, ACF is assessing the nutritional status of relocated refugees who have arrived from Akobo, with results to be shared after the screening is complete.
- WFP has agreed to provide food items (sorghum and oil) to the refugees in Pagak for 15 days. The other food items including sugar, CSB, salt and pulses will be provided later when the items are received. UNHCR and ARRA are following up with WFP on this issue. In the meantime, WFP is also providing High-Energy Biscuits to relocating refugees.

### WASH

- Refugees in Pagak are accessing potable water from the UNICEF-provided EMWAT kit as well as sharing water points used by the host community and using emergency latrines constructed by DRC. However, the emergency services are becoming overwhelmed by the large number of people requiring access to them. The priority of UNHCR and its partners remains the accelerated relocation of refugees to the camps where services are stabilizing. Hygiene and sanitary conditions remain a concern in Pagak, with diarrhea commonly reported.
- In Burbiey, DRC has set up a 30,000 litre bladder tank for treatment and a 10,000 litre tank with two taps to supply water to refugees arriving from Akobo.

### HEALTH

- The second mass measles vaccination campaign was completed in Pagak and Leitchuor on 3 March. Since this time, permanent teams of vaccinators have been stationed at Pagak, Leitchuor and Tierkidi to continue to screen and vaccinate all new arrivals and relocated refugees who do not have a vaccination card indicating they were previously screened and vaccinated. These activities are implemented by the Regional Health Bureau with support from UNICEF, UNHCR and ARRA.

# UNHCR Ethiopia

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- As of 5 March, 4,282 individuals in Akobo have received vaccinations, 10,899 in Pagak, 6,973 in Leitchuor and 524 in Tierkidi. Vitamin A supplement has been provided to 2,116 children in Akobo, 5,970 in Pagak, 2,990 in Leitchuor and 314 in Tierkidi. A region-wide measles and polio vaccination campaign is planned for 14-17 March. This campaign will be implemented by the Regional Health Bureau with support from UNICEF and will visit 12 out of 14 *Woredas* (districts) in the Gambella Region, including all of the camps.
- Gambella Regional Health Bureau is providing a 24 hour clinical service in Pagak. On 5 March, a MSF-France team comprising one health officer and 6 nurses started their mobile clinic service alongside the Gambella Regional Health Bureau. A referral system to Lare Health Centre is in place and UNHCR's ambulance is providing transport for medical referrals from Lare Health Centre to Gambella Hospital and will now also serve Tierkidi Camp and Itang Health Centre referrals as well.
- UNICEF and ARRA with support from UNHCR have provided medicines to Lare and Itang Health Centres as well as to Tierkidi Camp clinic, while ICRC has donated surgical equipment to Gambella Hospital to support the refugee response. ICRC also met UNHCR and ARRA health teams to discuss areas requiring support while ensuring there is no duplication with other efforts.

### Estimated immediate needs

UNHCR is revising its budgets for the new planning figures of 140,000 people. UNHCR is also coordinating together with its partners an inter-agency appeal for the emergency to be launched in early March 2014.

UNHCR is also continuing to coordinate a Task Force for partners present in Gambella on a fortnightly basis in Addis Ababa, and three times a week in Gambella in addition to the regular Inter-Agency Task Force meetings at Addis Ababa level.

### Partners

Government	UN/IO	NGO			
ARRA	WFP	ERC	SCI	LWF	DRC
NRDEP	Unicef	NRC	ZOA	MSF/F	HelpAge
Regional Health Bureau	IOM	IRC	Goal	ACF	IMC
Regional Water Bureau	UNOPS				
	WHO				
	UNFPA				

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