



ETHIOPIA

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

11 -17 September 2014

KEY FIGURES

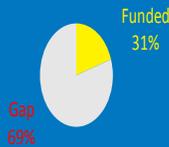
189,156

UNHCR PoC for the situation

FUNDING

USD 210m

requested for the operation



PRIORITIES

- Emergency response to flooding in Leitchuor, Nipnip and Matar
- Search for additional land in view of continued influx
- Implement mitigation measures related to rainy season by strengthening WASH and nutrition interventions and encouraging positive behavioural change

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 189,156 individuals, with the number continuing to increase daily.
- Over the past week, a total of 784 South Sudanese refugees arrived through the three entry points of Akobo, Burbiey and Pagak. The average arrival rate of South Sudanese refugees to the Gambella region has dropped to 122 persons with the commencement of rains in various locations in the region.
- Refugees arriving in Burbiey were relocated to Matar transit site with support from IOM for transport. Matar now hosts over 10,000 refugees. In total, there are 19,233 refugees waiting in Pagak, Matar and Pamdong for relocation to a camp.
- Emergency response activities have continued, implemented by UNHCR and all its partners, with key achievements including the distribution of NFIs, family tents, and food, with support from WFP. WASH interventions such as soap distribution and latrine construction are also ongoing activities.
- Over the past week, the rains have decreased slightly in Gambella, creating moderately improved conditions along the Leitchuor Axis. However, several of the main roads remain flooded, including the road from Gambella to Nyinyang.
- Despite the rains, UNHCR and partners continue to provide services where the refugees are currently located within the host communities. An Operations Continuity Plan for the Leitchuor Axis in consultation with partners in key sectors is being finalized, with the objective of the plan to maintain sustained services to affected areas in the face of reduced staffing and limited access, while simultaneously empowering the refugees to manage more actively the day-to-day aspects of assistance themselves. The plan is designed not only to provide continued protection and assistance, but also to re-orient the operation to function effectively in this changed environment.
- Furthermore, the Okugo Action Plan is also being updated, which outlines key action points for the relocation of refugees to Okugo. As the road to Leitchuor remains flooded, movement from this location can only begin after the road is cleared.

Population of concern

A total of **189,156** 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 188,800 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 has now become the largest refugee group in Ethiopia, surpassing the Somali refugee population. The rainy season has caused damage in Leitchuor and NipNip Camps and refugees in these camps have moved to higher ground within the camps and the surrounding villages.

Achievements

Protection

Achievements and Impact

- Continuous registration has commenced in Kule camp following the conclusion of the Level 2 registration exercise last week. Registration of absentees who did not attend the Level 2 registration exercise has commenced as part of the continuous registration activities, following consultations with ARRA. Registration of inactivated individuals has also commenced in Pugnido.
- The nationality screening exercise is ongoing, with approximately 6,200 persons already screened by ARRA and the authorities. UNHCR is monitoring the process and following up to ensure an appeal process is implemented.
- Harmonisation of data related to unaccompanied minors and separated children as captured by implementing partners Save the Children and PLAN International has commenced in Kule and Tierkidi camps in coordination with UNHCR.
- Services continue to be provided in the communities where refugees have settled. Along the Leitchuor Axis, diverse NFI sets including blankets, sleeping mats and mosquito nets were given to 177 vulnerable children.
- A second Child Friendly Space was opened in Leitchuor 2. A total of 1,177 children (630 male and 547 female) have so far participated in activities included drawing, jumping rope and singing. ARRA and UNHCR have also distributed 70 plastic sheets for the rehabilitation of the roof of the original Child Friendly Space implemented by Save the Children International.
- In Okugo camp, 17 foster families have been identified so far, with additional identification to commence when refugees begin relocating to Okugo camp. ARRA met the Refugee Coordination Committee with the objective of fostering harmony and peaceful coexistence amongst refugees. The meeting not only informed the Committee of the planned relocation of additional refugees but also promoted a sense of harmony and peaceful coexistence.
- On the request of refugee women leaders, UNHCR conducted a training session for the women leaders in Tierkidi on 13 September. The training concluded with a commitment, whereby the leaders agreed to meet weekly in the “Women Friendly Space” and to agree on issues to share in the camp coordination meeting, in which they committed to participate in actively. The leaders also agreed to address the major concern of alcohol in their community, to promote travelling in groups for firewood collection and also requested adult literacy classes.
- A draft of the Gambella SGBV Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), based on the national and Dollo Ado SOPs, has been prepared by UNHCR and IMC and shared with partners for further discussion.
- In Kule, a 3-day case management training for incentive social workers was implemented with the aim of providing quality services for survivors of GBV. Community outreach agents disseminate information on the consequence of Rape and the available services within 72 hours in the camp. Discussions were also held with ARRA on the permanent “women friendly space” site.
- In Tierkidi, 32 refugee policemen and 6 female support staff attended a 2-day training on the basic concepts of the gender-based violence (GBV) referral pathway and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA).

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Registration remains suspended in Pagak. While UNHCR follows up on the resumption of registration, food and NFI assistance was provided to over 2,200 persons last week with support from WFP.

Education

Achievements and Impact

- Progress has been achieved in enrollment rates over the the last month. The overall enrolment rate for the 3-18 years-old has increased from 18% to 31%. Primary enrollment has increased from 28% to 45%, and pre-primary from 10% to 21%.
- 35% of all boys between the age of 3-18 in the three camps of Kule, Tierkidi, and Leitchuor are now enrolled in school. For girls, the rate is slightly lagging behind at 27%.
- Save the Children established four new temporary learning spaces based in host community churches across the Leitchuor 2 site.



Health

Achievements and Impact

- Refugees and other persons of concern continued to receive regular health services from UNHCR's health partners in Leitchuor, NipNip, Kule, Tierkidi, Pamdong, Pagak, Itang, Akobo and Matar. In some flood affected locations, patients requiring referral to Gambella Hospital for treatment and investigation were transported by helicopter. In Pamdong, MSF-F is providing routine clinical services three days a week, while it was also agreed that health workers are provided incentives so as to provide emergency care on a 24 hour basis.
- In Tierkidi, ARRA and MSF-H continue to provide health services at an average rate of 133 and 163 consultations per day respectively. In Kule, MSF-Holland provides an average of 307 consultations per day while in Leitchuor, MSF-F provides an average of 170 consultations per day. Disease surveillance and defaulter tracing are ongoing by Community Outreach Agents (COAs).
- Incidences of Hepatitis E have decreased significantly, with a total of 499 cases and 16 deaths reported from the three camps of Tierkidi, Kule and Leitchuor as of 5 September. Training was provided for 127 Community Outreach Agents on Hepatitis E prevention.
- A polio immunization campaign began in Leitchuor, NipNip and Matar.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Malaria is still one of the main causes of morbidity in all the sites. Malaria prevention and control activities are ongoing through the Community Outreach Agents (COAs), including the distribution of Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLINs), environmental management, and community awareness.



Food Security and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

- Routine health and nutrition services are being provided in Kule, Tierkidi and Leitchuor, and at entry points including Pagak, Matar and Pamdong transit site. Slightly higher levels of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) and Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) were determined through the routine MUAC screening. UNHCR, WFP and nutrition partners are discussing the design of more effective surveillance screening modalities over an agreed period of time to monitor the impact indicators for malnutrition.
- Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) program performance indicators for the nutrition programs are all within sphere standards for OTP and SFP programs; an indication of improved case management & follow up.

- Routine Infant and Young Child Nutrition (IYCF) services are being offered in all the camps, at entry points and the mobile sites through integration of IYCF messaging and provision of breastfeeding, psychosocial and complementary feeding support at the baby friendly spaces.
- WFP is in the process of pre-positioning food for October to ensure a smooth distribution. Food distribution is complete in Leitchuor and Nipnip, and is ongoing in Kule and Tierkidi with support from WFP. Food for an estimated 10,000 beneficiaries was dispatched to Matar by WFP using boat transport due to the flooding of the roads. Two-week food distribution for 3,000 refugees was also dispatched to Pagak by WFP together with ARRA. Milled grain was provided for beneficiaries in Pamdong, Pagak and Matar, with UNHCR, WFP and ARRA continuing to sensitize the refugees on the food value and preparation of the milled grain. Furthermore, information on food entitlements is ongoing through community leaders and during distribution. Food entitlement boards have also been installed in Kule, Tierkidi and Leitchuor.
- Alternative food delivery mechanisms are being used to deliver food in the Leitchuor axis, including transportation by boat and air for Ready to Use Therapeutic Food.
- UNHCR's partner MCMDO registered a total of 155 beneficiaries for the livelihood programme who have already received seeds and agricultural equipment to support the start of their activities. An additional 300 beneficiaries have also been identified and are awaiting training. Kitchen gardening will be the main activity until the end of the year, with additional activities to be implemented from January 2015.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Accessibility to Matar and Nipnip remains a challenge for the provision of mobile nutrition services. UNHCR is working with its partners ACF and CWW to support nutrition service provision, while national health staff are also being recruited to support nutrition triage and management at the Woreda health clinics and the mobile sites.
- The provision of food rations to beneficiaries whose ration cards were retrieved in Leitchuor camps in the screening exercise remains unresolved. UNHCR is still following up with ARRA for provision of food to this group.



Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

- Over the last week, UNHCR and WASH partners have focussed on the flood response in Leitchuor, NipNip and Matar, along with Hepatitis E prevention activities and monitoring in Tierkidi, Kule, Matar and Pagak.
- In response to difficulties of trucking water to some areas due to poor road conditions, UNHCR's WASH team with the support of UNICEF and OXFAM set up an EMWAT kit which is now providing potable water to several zones in Tierkidi.



Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

- 1500 tents have been transported to Okugo camp; however, the erection of the tents will not be undertaken until the refugees arrive.
- In Kule camp, NRC continues to support mud-plastering of tukuls, undertaken by the refugees. IOM is also progressing in constructing superstructures, with 40 tukuls completed and occupied. Tent retrieval will follow in collaboration with UNHCR and ARRA, for tents that are no longer needed and can be recycled.
- In Tierkidi camp, an address system is being implemented and allocation of tukuls is ongoing.
- In Nip Nip camp, around 280 shelters have been transferred to the northern side of the camp, with nobody remaining in the original camp area.
- In Leitchuor camp, tent distribution to vulnerable refugees is ongoing. ARRA is also distributing plastic sheets for families that have not received shelter.
- UNHCR, ARRA and NRC are currently working on a strategy to salvage materials from tukuls that fell down during the events of the last weeks. The materials will be allocated to a number of families to dismantle and use to improve their shelter situation on higher grounds.



Achievements and Impact

- Rains have continued across the Pagak axis, causing flooding and affecting the access roads and other infrastructure in the camps. While Pagak reception and registration center was the most affected, the rains also caused damage to access roads in Kule, Tierkidi and Pamdong transit site. UNHCR is working with NRC to ensure that the road repairs are completed within the shortest possible time. NRC has already mobilized to respond to the emergency repairs of critical spots to enable water trucking to continue as they scale up in preparation for comprehensive road constructions.
- The camp map for Tierkidi camp has been updated, while the map for Kule is being finalized.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- As the registration center in Tierkidi is flooded, there are ongoing discussions on the construction of a new multi-purpose centre to be used for continuous registration as well other activities.



Logistics

Achievements and Impact

- As of 16 September, WFP Ethiopia has dispatched close to 22,000 mt of assorted food commodities to South Sudan by air, road and river through the cross-border operation. The majority of the dispatch is through the air operation that has three bases, in Gambella, Assosa and Jimma.
- UNHCR dispatched fuel and gensets to Matar by river for onward delivery to its office in Nyinyang.
- A bridge which will create access from the main highway to Kule camp is near completion.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Road rehabilitation remains a major challenge, as certain parts of the Kule camp are cut off due to flooding. NRC has been contracted to facilitate urgent intervention in the maintenance of two critical spots and several metres of road maintenance itself.

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\$ 65.7 million**, against **US\$ 210 million** requested for the situation.

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.