



KEY FIGURES

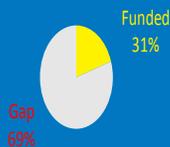
189,539

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

ETHIOPIA

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

2 - 9 October 2014

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 189,539 individuals. The average arrival rate of South Sudanese refugees to the Gambella region has dropped with commencement of rains in various locations in region.
- A total of 1,411 South Sudanese refugees arrived in Ethiopia during the month of September, through the three entry points of Akobo, Burbiey and Pagak, while some also entered via Raad and continued to Okugo Camp. New arrivals from Akobo and Burbiey were relocated to Matar with assistance from IOM for transport.
- Emergency response activities continued to be carried out in the Leitchuor Axis, where the Baro River continues to flood. The ground within the camp has not dried yet and refugees remain where they have settled in different locations near Nyinyang and along the NipNip and Jikaw corridor and Gambella - Matar road.
- In Kule refugee camp, a group of refugees demonstrated when the October food distribution began as they wanted to receive wheat rather than sorghum. UNHCR and the Administration for Refugees and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) with support from the Refugee Central Committee, elders and some volunteers within the camp mobilized the refugees and explained to them the available items in the food basket and the distribution process. Thereafter, the refugees agreed to receive food on the basis that sorghum and wheat would be distributed simultaneously.
- In Leitchuor and NipNip, and following two cases of drowning, an information campaign was conducted in the refugee camps and schools and markets in the host community to inform families, caregivers and children on the available child friendly services in the camp and the surrounding areas to prevent children from drowning in the river or flooded zones. Key messages disseminated include the need to prevent children from fishing, crossing and swimming in the river or in stagnant water and to send them to Child Friendly Spaces when their caregivers are unable to supervise them. The information campaign was needed following two cases of drowning.

Population of concern

A total of **189,539** 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 189,500 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

- Between 29 September and 1 October, UNHCR conducted a rapid assessment of the protection environment of refugees displaced by flooding in and around Nyinyang town. The assessment covered a total of 900 households comprising 3,600 individuals. The findings of the assessment reflect that there are several protection risks affecting the refugees, mainly related to WASH, shelter, legal and physical protection needs. Follow-up actions are underway to identify the most vulnerable refugees and provide them with the required services.
- Routine protection activities were also carried out covering Leitchuor and NipNip camps as well as Matar Waystation, Kule and Tierkidi. Protection reception and referrals were conducted as well as identification of the most vulnerable refugees through protection assessments for prioritisation for service delivery.

Education

Achievements and Impact

- In Leitchuor, school supplies such as blackboards, chalk, pens and 2,470 exercise books for 1,235 students were distributed to the learning centres.
- Also in Leitchuor, a total of 972 children, comprising 514 males and 458 females, attended Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) while registration for more children continued. Regular outdoor games and activities were also arranged.

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.
- Save the Children – International continued to provide limited health services to refugees in NipNip camp with support from Concern Worldwide. The flooding of the road from Leitchuor to Gambella remains a serious challenge with regard to the referral of emergency medical cases from the Leitchuor Axis. For the time being, patients requiring treatment are transported either by helicopter or boat.
- MSF-F postponed the third and final round of the Oral Cholera Vaccination programme in the Leitchuor axis, with the exercise now scheduled to commence after the flooding subsides.

- Health-related contingency planning for an expected new influx of 100,000 refugees has been undertaken in consultation with partners.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Critical drug shortages were noticed at the Nyinyang Health Centre. To rectify this situation, UNHCR's partners have supplied the centre with additional drugs to ensure that they can continue to offer free medical services to refugees.
- It was reported that diarrhoea cases among children under 5 years old has increased. UNHCR and partners are intensifying the hygiene promotion campaigns in the camps.
- Over 500 cases of Acute Jaundice Syndrome have so far been reported across the camps; however, over recent weeks the trend has been declining.
- Active case finding for Hepatitis E is ongoing with a total of 10 cases reported in Leitchuor.



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. WFP and its nutrition partners, GOAL, ACF and Concern Worldwide, continue to provide blanket and targeted supplementary feeding programmes in Leitchuor, Tierkidi, Kule and NipNip camps. The performance indicators for the Targeted Supplementary Feeding programmes at Kule and Tierkidi indicate good progress, with recovery rates at 93.7% and 99.7% respectively. Sufficient nutrition food is prepositioned in most locations despite transportation challenges due to the floods.
- Secondary data collection has begun in preparation for the country-wide Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) to be conducted between 15 - 22 October. The JAM is coordinated by UNHCR and WFP and invites the participation of all partners.
- The reliance on boat movement for movement of nutrition commodities has also contributed to delays in delivering nutritional products, particularly for the target and blanket supplementary feeding programmes.
- Food distribution for the October cycle is ongoing in all locations with support from WFP, despite serious challenges due to the logistical complexities of the operation and flooded roads. Boats and trucks are being used by WFP for transport; however, there are a limited number of trucks available.
- The second two-week General Food Distributions (GFD) for Matar Transit Center was completed for the month of September for an estimated 10,000 refugees, with support from WFP.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Food delivery has been a challenge particularly in Leitchuor and NipNip as food has to be transported by boat to Matar and then by road to Leitchuor and NipNip.



Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

- Over the last week, UNHCR and WASH partners have continued to focus on the flood response in Leitchuor, NipNip and Matar, along with Hepatitis E prevention activities and monitoring in Tierkidi, Kule, Matar and Pagak.
- Three additional water points were installed within Nyinyang town where refugees have settled within the host community.
- 11,928 water purification sachets were distributed to 347 households in several locations. Post distribution monitoring was conducted which indicated correct use of the water purifiers by 100% of the randomly selected households monitored.
- In Leitchuor, several WASH-related non-food items, including 7,868 plastic buckets and 1,289 plastic basins, were contributed by Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and the distribution of the items will commence shortly.

- Over the last three weeks, WASH partners have been implementing the “Indicator Improvement Plan”, with the results showing considerable improvement especially in access to latrines in Kule and Tierkidi Camps. The challenges in Leitchuor remain enormous, with the flooding of four blocks of latrines recently constructed, thereby increasing the ratio of people to latrines to over 1:90. However, there have been major improvements in Kule and Tierkidi with the latrine ratio reduced to below 1:50, due to the construction of latrines by several partners including NRC, Oxfam and MSF-H.
- The number of hygiene promoters to refugees has also reached a ratio of 1:500, with over 26 additional hygiene promoters recruited and trained by NRC in Kule and Tierkidi.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Inaccessible inter-camp roads continue to challenge water trucking in Kule, with only 18 out of 21 water points currently accessible.



Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

- In Leitchuor and NipNip refugee camps, the flood water has saturated the soil to the extent that it can no longer support the weight of tukuls, leading to many of them collapsing. Refugees and some members of the host community have taken some of the materials from the collapsed tukuls and latrines to use for construction of other shelters or as firewood for cooking.
- By the end of September, approximately 300 tukuls had collapsed. A total of 994 tukuls had some of their construction materials taken, including 2,737 plastic sheets. With support from ARRA and the RCC, 130 plastic sheets and 21 doors were recovered and handed over to UNHCR’s shelter partner NRC.

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. In both Addis Ababa and Gambella, discussions are underway with the Task Forces for preparations for updating the Regional Response Plan for 2015.

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.