



ETHIOPIA

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

17 - 23 October 2014

KEY FIGURES

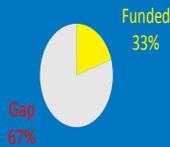
190,510

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 190,510 individuals.
- The average arrival rate of South Sudanese refugees to the Gambella region has decreased slightly due to the ongoing rainy season in various locations in the region. Nevertheless, over the last week, a daily average of 102 new arrivals entered the Gambella Region through the main entry points of Akobo, Pagak and Burbiey. To date, 787 new arrivals have arrived in October 2014, with 404 relocated to the camps with support from IOM for transport. Since the beginning of September, 1,696 South Sudanese refugees have been relocated by IOM from the entry points to the camps, showing a significant decline when compared to August 2014 when IOM relocated 8,650 individuals.
- While emergency response activities continue to be carried out in the Leitchuor Axis, the flood water from Baro River is gradually receding. There are signs of the ground within the camp is becoming dry, although much of the affected area remains wet and refugees are remaining where they settled in different parts of Nyinyang and along the NipNip and Jikaw corridor and Gambella - Matar highway. However, over the last week there were two heavy downpours which led to flooding of the road between Leitchuor and NipNip village and NipNip camp.
- UNHCR and the Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) undertook a joint assessment mission to Akobo to assess the situation of newly arriving refugees through the border entry point. It was observed that Akobo remains an active entry point that is receiving between 50 and 60 new arrivals each day. UNHCR and ARRA are following up on the resumption of registration activities in Akobo, which were previously suspended.
- Additional funds amounting to USD 15 million were approved under CERF for the refugee programme, to be jointly implemented by WFP, IOM, UNICEF and UNHCR. OCHA has requested that the agencies coordinate with UNHCR on the implementation of the funding.
- A donor mission of UNHCR ExCom members is currently in Ethiopia, and visiting the Gambella refugee operation as well as Shire and Addis Ababa.

Population of concern

A total of **190,510** 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 190,500 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. Emergency response activities are being undertaken in these locations.

Achievements

Protection

Achievements and Impact

- Twelve refugees comprising five households were relocated from Pagak Entry Point to Okugo refugee camp on 16 October, after their expression of interest in relocation there. The refugees were transported by helicopter and provided with shelter, food and NFIs upon arrival. UNHCR and the Refugee Central Committee and monitoring their situation as they familiarize themselves with the camp.
- Continuous registration is ongoing in Kule and Tierkidi camps, following the conclusion of the Level 2 registration exercises in both locations. As part of these activities, the registration of those who were absent during the Level 2 exercise in Kule has started.
- Harmonisation of unaccompanied minors and separated children (UAM/SC) data captured by implementing partners Save the Children and PLAN International in coordination with UNHCR is ongoing in Kule, Tierkidi and Leitchuor Camps. The total number of verified cases of unaccompanied and separated children in all camps is 2,422 and 5,683 individuals respectively. These figures are likely to increase further when the data matching is complete. 210 psychosocial support sessions were held with unaccompanied and separated children as compared to 200 last week.
- Save the Children International has also introduced a Child Protection Team in NipNip camp, with activities expected to begin from 20 October. In the meantime, UNHCR had proposed alternative care arrangements for the identified unaccompanied minors as an interim measure, pending a more permanent resolution of their situation.
- 17,000 children accessed Child Friendly Spaces and were supported with recreational activities over last week, reflecting an increase of approximately 2,500 children. Children identified as requiring psychosocial support were targeted and supported. In Tierkidi and Kule, there are four children's clubs which will be trained in child participation and peace education.
- Detention monitoring was undertaken in the Dimma Woreda, where five refugees were detained at the police station. UNHCR is following up on these cases.
- Awareness-raising discussions on SGBV prevention and the mitigation of risks and challenges related to the floods were carried out in Leitchuor Camp and Matar Way Station.
- UNHCR through NRC provided eucalyptus poles and nails to 120 households from the host community who were previously settled within Tierkidi refugee camp. The government is relocating these households from the camp and they will use the materials provided to construct shelters, with the aim of fostering peaceful co-existence between refugees and members of the host community.

Education

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR in Gambella hosted a joint UNHCR-NRC mission on Accelerated Learning Programmes (ALP) between 11-15 October. The mission is part of an on-going global ALP partnership looking at how to strengthen capacity of ALP practitioners as well as ALP programming itself. The schools of World Vision International and Plan International were visited in Kule refugee camp and focus group discussions held with students, teachers, caregivers and youth representatives. In addition, the mission participated in the weekly Education Working Group meeting for a discussion on the added value of setting up ALP for students over 10 years old and the challenge of how to coordinate such a programme with existing 1st-4th grade interventions.
- In Kule refugee camp, World Vision International conducted an awareness-raising campaign to encourage the community to send more children to the newly-started Upper Primary classes. The campaign included a special emphasis on girls' education as only 25% of the presently enrolled students are female.
- In Tierkidi refugee camp, Save the Children International started recruiting teachers for the planned Upper Primary classes, which was followed by community mobilization to encourage registration for this new education service. Until learning spaces have been secured and classrooms constructed, the 5th-8th grade classes will utilise the existing Early Childhood Education facilities in the afternoons.



Health

Achievements and Impact

- Refugees and other persons of concern continued to receive regular health services from UNHCR's health partners, including ARRA, MSF-F, MSF-H, Concern and SCI, in Leitchuor, NipNip, Kule, Tierkidi, Pamdong, Pagak, Itang, Akobo and Matar.
- The MSF-F vaccination team arrived in Gambella to start preparing for the for Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) campaign which will take place in all the camps and entry and transit points.



Food Security and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

- Routine health and nutrition services are being provided in Kule, Tierkidi and Leitchuor, and at reception points including Pagak, Matar and Pamdong transit site. WFP and its nutrition partners, including GOAL, ACF and Concern Worldwide, continue to provide blanket supplementary feeding (BSF) and targeted supplementary feeding (TSF) programmes in Tierkidi, Kule, Leitchuor and NipNip camps respectively.
- Food distribution for the October cycle is currently ongoing and will be finalized in the coming week in Tierkidi, Kule, Leitchuor and NipNip refugee camps. Food distribution for Pamdong is scheduled to take place next week following the refugees' acceptance of maize meal cereal, which was earlier rejected. The monthly food distribution is completed in Pugnido refugee camp.
- A joint WFP, UNHCR and ARRA assessment mission arrived in Gambella on 15 October and conducted orientation training for all participants of the Joint Assessment Mission the following day. The participants were appointed by partners working in Gambella in various sectors including WASH, health, food security and nutrition, protection and education. Data collection for the joint assessment started on 17 October and a country-wide debriefing will be held in Addis Ababa on 24 October.



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. Access to water is now at 10 litres per person per day (lpppd) in Tierkidi, 11 lpppd in Kule, 15 lpppd in Leitchuor and 18 lpppd in Okugo.
- In Leitchuor and NipNip, 18 additional latrines were commissioned during the week. As of October, the ratio of latrines to population are 1:40, 1:38, 1:91, 1:5 and 1:92 in Tierkidi, Kule, Leitchuor, Okugo and NipNip respectively.

Achievements and Impact

- In Leitchuor and NipNip, refugees and host community members continue to salvage tukuls in the camp.

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\$ 71.6 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.