



ETHIOPIA

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

6 – 12 November 2014

KEY FIGURES

193,649

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 behavioral 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 193,649 individuals, comprising 191,086 individuals who entered through Gambella and 2,563 who entered through the Assosa region.
- The average arrival rate of South Sudanese refugees to the Gambella region has remained low during the rainy season, with an average of 87 South Sudanese refugees arriving daily in Gambella during the week through Burbiey. New arrivals from Burbiey were relocated to Matar way station with assistance from IOM for transport. Registration of new arrivals remains suspended in Pagak and Akobo entry points. UNHCR continues to discuss registration with ARRA and the resumption of registration in Pagak and Akobo is expected shortly.
- On 4 November, the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, visited Tierkidi refugee camp where he witnessed nutritional services being supported by Irish Aid through Concern Worldwide and GOAL. UNHCR informed the President that only 46% of funding required to provide humanitarian assistance to South Sudan refugees had been received so far. During the visit, it was announced that the Irish Government is to provide an additional €2 million in aid towards the refugee response, bringing the total funding from Ireland to €8.5 million this year.
- On 7 November, the Administration for Refugees and Returnees Affairs (ARRA) and UNHCR formally informed partners through the weekly Inter-Agency Task Force meeting that the relocation by IOM of 15,000 South Sudanese refugees from the Matar way station to Pugnido will commence on 17 November, with 500 refugees to be transported six days a week. Due to the road condition and reducing river level, refugees will be transported by boat from Matar to Itang, and by road from Itang to Pugnido.
- UNHCR supported the ECHO-WFP media mission which visited Pagak border entry point, Kule and Leitchuor Refugee Camps between 5-6 November. Six journalists from different media organizations formed the media delegation.
- The flood water from Baro River continued to recede, and some refugees were seen moving back from Nyinyang town centre to Leitchuor camp. However, the majority of refugees remain where they self-relocated, in different parts of Nyinyang, and along the NipNip – Jikawo corridor and Gambella - Matar highway.
- ARRA and the Refugee Central Committee discussed last week's incident when refugees became agitated during an Awareness Raising Campaign accompanied by music associated with the Dinka ethnicity. The refugees agreed to report any concerns to ARRA and will not resort to violence.
- The new UNHCR Representative to Ethiopia, Mr Valentin Tapsoba, has arrived in country and taken up his functions.

Population of concern

A total of **193,649** 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 almost 191,000 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 is the largest refugee group in Ethiopia (250,528 individuals), surpassing the Somali refugee population (245,850 individuals). 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

- The issuance of Proof of Registration documents in Kule and Tierkidi camps commenced this week, with a total of 1,400 households issued with the document. The document is issued to the head of a household and a copy is issued to any family member who is 16 years and above. The exercise will continue for the next three weeks and targets over 20,000 households.
- UNHCR's registration team went to Pugnido to support food distribution process through biometric verification of identities for food collection.
- Data quality checks are on-going for Okugo, Kule, Leitchuor and Tierkidi camps. Similar exercises are planned for Pugnido to streamline data synchronisation.
- In Pugnido, as part of psychosocial support for Persons with Disabilities, a total of 50 bed sheets and 50 pieces of soap were provided to 50 people with severe disabilities, including 21 males and 29 females, who were identified during home-to-home visits in the Anuak site. To facilitate mobility of people with disabilities and to enhance their participation in community activities, four wheelchairs, one elbow crutch and one cane were provided to six individuals.
- In Pugnido, UNHCR's Implementing Partner Save the Children organised two training sessions in Village 12 and the Anuak sites on parenting skills for foster parents. Some of the topics covered included communication with children, better parenting and the importance of education. The training was attended by 159 foster parents, including 144 females.
- A forum on the establishment of a Best Interests Determination panel was organised in Pugnido. Six partners were represented in the meeting, including Save the Children, RaDO, UNHCR, DICAC, ARRA and WFP.
- The revised SGBV Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were signed by all relevant partners working in Pugnido camp and distributed to the Working Group. The SOPs have been revised in accordance with the 2010 SGBV SOP and to take into account comments from all agencies working in the camp. This final document will assist all partners with more coordinated SGBV prevention and response interventions.
- In Pugnido, a two-day training session on SGBV prevention and response was conducted by UNHCR's implementing partner, RaDO, for 40 newly elected refugee leaders in Village 2.
- In Tierkidi refugee camp, UNHCR's implementing partner, IMC, continued with the distribution of dignity kits to women and girls of reproductive age in Tierkidi camp.

Education

Achievements and Impact

- In Leitchuor and NipNip refugee camps, an advocacy and consultative meeting was conducted with representatives of the refugee community including the Refugee Central Committee, Zonal Leaders, Women's Associations and Church leaders on the issue of low enrolment and attendance rates of school-aged children and adolescents. The causes of the problem were discussed and suggestions made for implementation. A joint action plan has been prepared for use by partners in their implementation of activities.
- Plan International reported that in their Education in Emergency programme, over 7,779 children between Grades 1-4 were recorded as regularly attending school at the three centres in Kule refugee camp. Of this figure, approximately 950 have received school bags provided by UNICEF. Plan International intends to have each child provided with a school bag shortly.
- UNHCR, ARRA, RHB and UNICEF provided a third round of standardized teachers' training which was completed for refugee teachers at the end of October, with 304 refugee teachers from Leitchuor, Kule and Tierkidi camps were trained on standard teachers' skills. This training, which equipped the teachers with improved teaching practices, will benefit over 30,000 refugee children. This is a follow up of the first round of host community teachers' training which was conducted from 22 to 24 October 2014 for 160 host community teachers from Itang, Lare Abobo, and Gog Woredas.
- The previously pending issue regarding the enrollment of 70 high school refugee students in Okugo was resolved with support from the Gambella Regional Council and the Dimma Woreda Administration Bureau. An entrance exam will be conducted for students who entered Ethiopia without education documents.
- In Pugnido, stationery materials including pencils and exercise books were distributed to 519 students, including 218 girls.
- In Kule refugee camp, a group of women's representatives emphasised that as cultural norms mean that they are often busy with household activities, they would like adult education and literacy courses to be provided. UNHCR is following up on this request.

Health

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR participated in an Ebola preparedness meeting which was hosted by the Regional Health Bureau. A strategy will be communicated to all partners for input.
- Preparations are underway to install solar panels in the ARRA health facility in Tierkidi refugee camp to enable 24-hour operation of the medical centre.



Food Security and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

- In general, a marked decrease has been observed in the number of new admissions into the nutrition treatment programmes, reflecting an improved nutrition situation. WFP and its nutrition partners, including GOAL, ACF and Concern Worldwide, continue to provide blanket and targeted supplementary feeding programmes in Leitchuor, Tierkidi, Kule and NipNip camps. Food commodities for nutrition interventions were dispatched to all the camps, including a total of 30 MT dispatched to Concern Worldwide and 111 MT to ACF.
- Two UNHCR Nutrition and Food Security Officers and one Health Officer attended a training on Mobile Data Collection using the Open Data Kit (ODK) android technology in Adama, Nazareth.
- WFP completed pre-positioning of food in all camps and distribution for the November cycle began on 3 November in Tierkidi, Kule, Pugnido, Pagak and Okugo. The October and November food distribution in Matar was completed for 13,000 refugees.

- The November food distribution in Leitchuor Camp is scheduled to begin from November 11. The start of the distribution was slightly delayed due to the flooding of the road.
- At the distribution site in Kule refugee camp, WFP erected a board in Nuer language indicating the amounts of food entitlements. This will help foster accountability and transparency during food distribution. For the message to trickle down to each household, WFP has tasked the Refugee Central Committee to raise awareness by disseminating this information to all refugees.



Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

- The pipeline extension of 600 metres from Leitchuor refugee camp to supply water to refugees residing along the Jikawo corridor was completed and is now functional.
- In Kule refugee camp, the water access levels are improving as the roads to water points become more accessible. Oxfam reported they are providing 11.5 litres per person per day, which while below standards still reflects an improvement.
- In Okugo refugee camp, IRC completed the construction of six water points in the new site. Also in Okugo, IRC started the construction of six Community Health Club training centres.
- With UNHCR and UNICEF support, the design of a permanent water system for Kule and Tierkidi refugee camps has been completed. Initial work for the water intake comprising of drilling for boreholes has been done by International Rescue Committee (IRC) and World Vision International (WVI). The water system will cost an approximate USD 7.5 million funded by a consortium of UNHCR, UNICEF, DFID, HRF, CERF, IRC, WVI and other donors.



Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

- In Kule and Tierkidi refugee camps, construction of tukuls is on-going, with the targets for the end of 2014 set at 3,150 tukuls to be constructed in Kule and 2,500 in Tierkidi. The availability and quality of materials is sufficient apart from grass for roofing; as the grass is still not ready for harvesting the tukuls are being covered with plastic sheets.
- All 10 hangers at Matar way station have been rehabilitated.



Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Achievements and Impact

- In Nyinyang, a technical assessment of the access road to Leitchuor camp was conducted in cooperation with ARRA, DRC and UNHCR.
- Technical detailed assessment and site planning was conducted in Pugnido in preparation for the relocation of 15,000 refugees from Matar way station and entry points.



Logistics

Achievements and Impact

- The road to Leitchuor remains impassable. WFP has been using Baro River to transport food to Leitchuor; however, the water level is dropping very fast. Therefore, the loading of food to Matar may be undertaken in Itang.
- The dropping water level is also a challenge for the relocation movement implemented by IOM. To alleviate the problem, refugees will be brought from Matar to Itang by boat, and then from Itang to Pugnido by road.
- As of 8 November, WFP has dispatched a total of 31,487 MT of food through the cross-border operation to South Sudan through air, river and road transport. Of this amount, 79% was transported through airdrops.

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 on the Regional Response Plan for 2015 were completed.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 104.5 million**, of which **48.6 million** were given to **UNHCR and US\$ 55.9 million to partners**, against **US\$ 210.9 million** requested for the situation.

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