



ETHIOPIA

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

19 December 2014 – 7 January 2015

KEY FIGURES

194,546

UNHCR PoC for the situation

FUNDING

USD 210m

requested for the operation



PRIORITIES

- Emergency response to flooding in Leitchuor, Nipnip and Matar
- Refugee relocation from Matar way station to Pugnido refugee camp
- Search for additional land in view of continued influx

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 194,546 individuals, comprising 191,944 individuals who entered through Gambella and 2,602 who entered through the Assosa region.
- The average arrival rate of South Sudanese refugees to the Gambella region has remained low, with approximately 70 new arrivals received during the week through Pagak and Akobo entry points.
- On 24 December, UNHCR received official notification from ARRA that two sites had been identified and approved for development as refugee camps. The two sites are Koben and Cholan, 43 kilometres and 18 kilometres from Gambella respectively. UNHCR is following up with site assessments immediately to determine which site is most appropriate in terms of capacity and suitability.
- On 2 January, UNHCR together with ARRA and IOM conducted a mission to Akobo entry point, where over 100 individuals from South Sudan arrived approximately three weeks ago. The mission met the local authorities and partners working in Akobo and registration for relocation was scheduled to begin on 5 January.
- On 29 December, a crocodile killed a 15-year-old refugee boy who was swimming in Akobo River near Okugo Camp. An awareness campaign is now being conducted to sensitise the refugees about the dangers of swimming in the river.
- A group of 20 refugees have been identified from Pugnido, Kule and Tierkidi Camp to participate in the upcoming Great Ethiopian Run which will take place in Gambella on 11 January.
- The relocation exercise from Matar, Pagak and Pamdong to Pugnido Refugee Camp continued with support from IOM for transport. A total of 6,507 refugees have been relocated from Matar, including 844 unaccompanied and separated children. Of the total, 427 vulnerable refugees were relocated by helicopter. Additionally, 1,278 refugees have been relocated from Pagak, including 123 unaccompanied and separated children, and 421 refugees have been relocated from Pamdong. The relocation exercise ended at the end of 2014 as all refugees who had registered for relocation were moved.

Population of concern

A total of **194,546** 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 194,000 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, surpassing the Somali refugee population. The rainy season caused damage in Leitchuor and NipNip Camps and refugees in these camps moved to higher ground within the camps and the surrounding villages. Emergency response activities are being undertaken in these locations to ensure continuity of services. The relocation exercise of refugees currently in Matar and Pagak to Pugnido is ongoing.

Achievements



Protection

Achievements and Impact

- Level 2 Registration of relocated refugees is ongoing in Pugnido. Thus far, 7,712 refugees have been registered and issued with Proof of Registration documents. 51% of the registered refugees are male and 68% are children.
- Distribution of sanitary materials comprising pads, soap and underwear to women of reproductive age (12-50 years) began on 29 December, with 1,117 packages distributed so far. Solar lanterns are also being distributed to vulnerable groups including persons living with disabilities, elderly and unaccompanied minors and separated children, with 107 lanterns distributed so far.
- UNHCR's partner Save the Children-International continues to identify unaccompanied and separated children amongst the new arrivals to Pugnido Camp. Thus far, 615 newly arriving unaccompanied and separated children have been identified and foster families have been arranged accordingly.
- A Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR) Desk has been established at Leitchuor Camp to register unaccompanied children with FTR needs and receive requests for tracing missing children.
- As part of livelihoods activities and to strengthen the self-sufficiency of the refugee community, the Natural Resources Development and Environmental Protection (NRDEP) and IOM distributed chickens to vulnerable refugee households. IOM targeted 100 households in Village 12 to which 10 chickens were distributed each, while NRDEP distributed three chickens each to persons with disabilities and elderly refugees.

Education

Achievements and Impact

- In Kule Refugee Camp, sets of educational materials comprising text books, exercise books, pens, pencils, rulers, sharpeners, erasers, school bags and uniforms for Grades 5, 6, 7 were distributed to 1,351 students, including 1,087 Male and 264 Female students.
- The High School being coordinated by UNHCR's partner Development and Inter Church-Aid Commission (DICAC) in Pugnido is operational. DICAC is arranging a placement examination for eligible high school students amongst the new arrivals so that they can catch up with the current academic year. A shortage of classrooms remains a critical challenge and the construction of additional classrooms is being prioritised.

Health

Achievements and Impact

- Training on diseases including Hepatitis E, malaria, TB and diarrheal diseases was conducted in Pugnido for 14 community workers recently deployed at the new site. The training also included the information on the importance of antenatal care and hospital delivery and referral systems.
- In Pugnido, training was conducted on the inter-relationship between HIV/AIDS and Disabilities. 203 participants explored the dynamic between HIV/AIDS and disabilities and learned about prevention and transmission.
- Three new suspected measles cases were identified in NipNip. Samples were collected and sent for further investigation.
- Three children with cleft palates were identified in Tierkidi Refugee Camp and referred by UNHCR's partner RaDO for reconstructive surgery in Addis Ababa.
- In Kule Refugee Camp, MSF-Holland moved its activities into the completed semi-permanent health facility, which comprises an Outpatient Department, Maternity area, Dispensary, Inpatient Department, Intensive Therapeutic Feeding Centre, Sterilisation, Intensive Care Unit and Laboratory.
- In Dimma, a 3-day training on the transmission and prevention of HIV/AIDs was conducted for commercial sex workers from Dimma town.
- Indoor Residual Spraying commenced on 24 December in Kule, with a total of 1,321 tukuls sprayed to control insects including mosquitoes.
- UNHCR, ARRA and partners have finalised the Leitchuor and NipNip flood impact assessment tool for health, nutrition and food security. The assessments are scheduled to start on 5 January and will entail qualitative and quantitative data review. Findings of the assessment will be used to enhance future preparedness and response activities.



Food Security and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

- The Enhanced Outreach Strategy Campaign for Vitamin A supplementation, de-worming and Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) screening commenced in all camps on 1 January 2015. The campaign is led by the Regional Health Bureau with technical support from UNHCR, ARRA and UNICEF and is targeting all children between 6-59 months for Vitamin A supplementation and MUAC screening, and children between 24-59 months for deworming.
- The current caseload for Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) for children under 5 years of age is 5,108 individuals (including 2,275 in Leitchuor, 912 in Tierkidi, 1,759 in Kule and 162 in NipNip). A total of 93 new cases have been admitted in the Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme.
- The current caseload for Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) is 1,078 individuals, (including 440 in Leitchuor, 180 in Tierkidi, 407 in Kule, 33 in NipNip and 18 in Pamdong), with a total of 41 new SAM cases admitted to the Outpatient Therapeutic Feeding Programme.
- A total of 35,309 children under 5 years are enrolled in Blanket Supplementary Feeding programmes (BSFP), including 8,765 in Leitchuor, 12,513 in Tierkidi, 13,204 in Kule, 546 in NipNip and 281 in Pamdong. 212 new cases were admitted to BSFP during the week. Furthermore, 8,187 pregnant and lactating women are enrolled in BSFP, including 1,569 in Leitchuor, 2,913 in Tierkidi, 3,457 in Kule, 188 in NipNip and 60 in Pamdong, with 119 new cases admitted to BSFP during the week.
- Nutrition activities in Pagak and Matar have been scaled down due to the relocation of many refugees to Pugnido. New arrivals continue to be screened in Pagak.
- WFP is currently pre-positioning food for the January food distribution cycle, during which the complete food basket will be provided.

Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR's Implementing Partner IRC installed a submersible pump at the newly constructed borehole in the Agnuak Site of Pugnido. Work on the connection of four boreholes, located in the Agnuak and Nuer sites, to two elevated 50,000 litre central water storage tanks has also started.

Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

- Transitional shelter construction is ongoing in Pugnido, Kule and Tierkidi Camps. In Kule, transitional shelters (tukuls) that were previously roofed using plastic sheets are now being replaced with grass, with 40 tukuls roofed so far. Beneficiaries are involved in the grass thatching of their shelters.
- Road construction activities continue in Kule and Tierkidi, with the construction of slab culverts at several points in each camp.
- Also in Kule, burning of tents and shelters have been reported. The fires are attributed to cooking or children playing with fire. UNHCR and ARRA are urging refugee leaders and the community to take requisite precautions while cooking or burning grass around the camp to prevent fires.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR is following up with site assessments immediately for Koben and Cholan to determine which site is most appropriate in terms of capacity and suitability for a camp.

Logistics

Achievements and Impact

- Close to 36,000 mt of food has been dispatched by WFP in its cross-border operation to South Sudan by air, river and road. Approximately 80% of this amount was dispatched by air.
- UNHCR has extended the contract for the helicopter services until the end of February 2014. The helicopter is supporting the relocation exercise and transported 40 vulnerable refugees to Pugnido over the last week, as well as transporting supplies and staff.

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\$ 107.9 million**, against **US\$ 210.9 million** requested for the situation, as of end-November 2014.

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.

