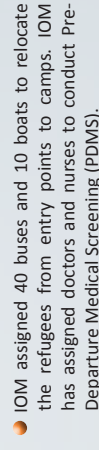


IOM'S South Sudan Refugee Relocation 28 October, 2014



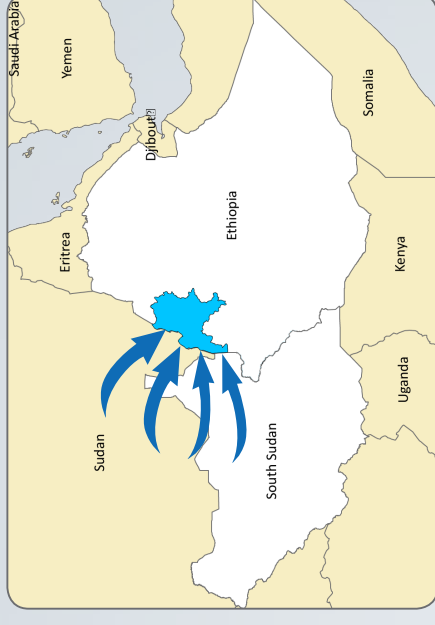
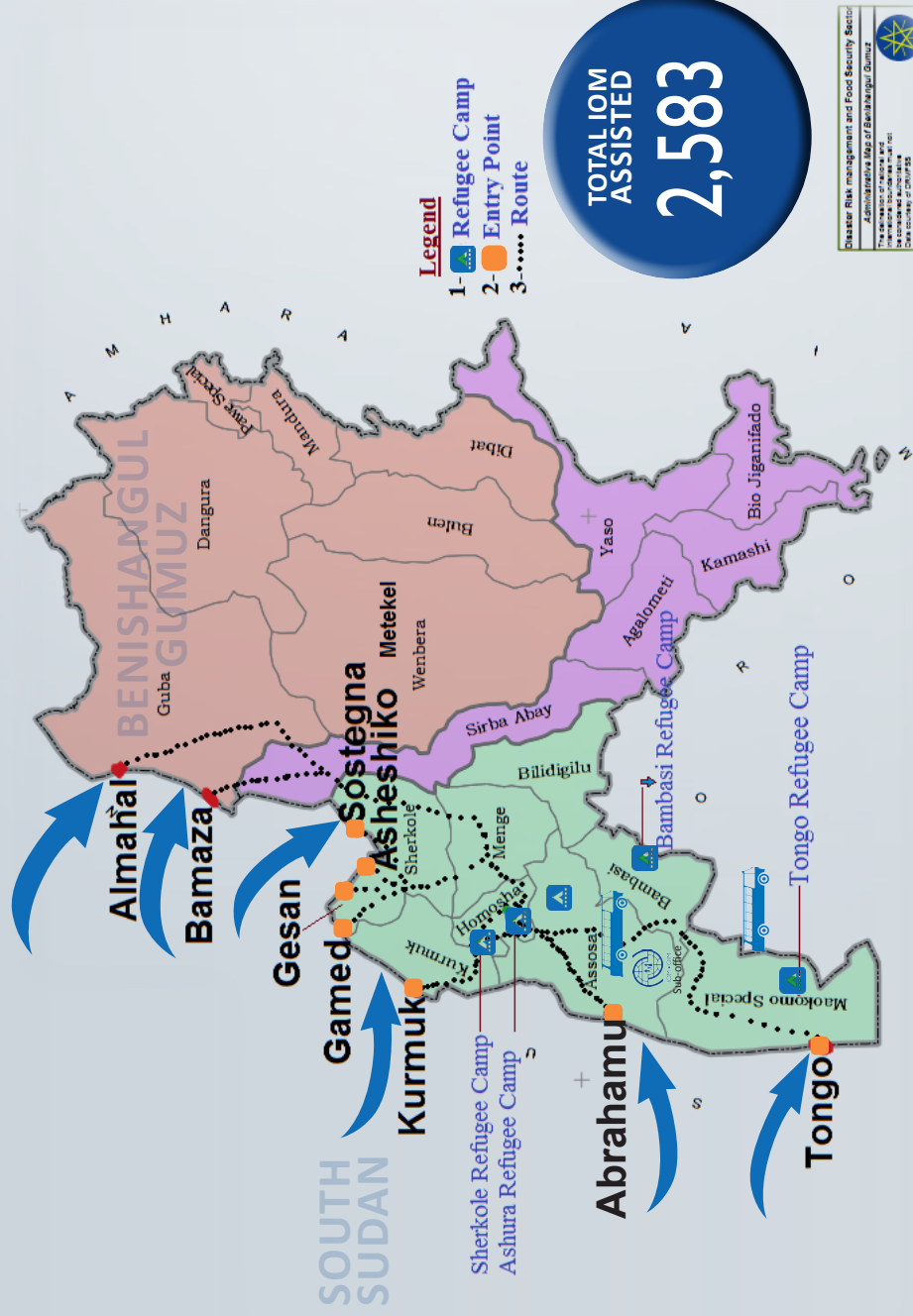
A total of 190,510 South Sudanese asylum-seekers have arrived in Ethiopia mainly through the Pagak and Akobo-Tergol border points since the influx began on 16 December, according to UNHCR. IOM has relocated a total of 173,588 refugees to Pugnido, Leitchuor, Bonga, Kule and Nip Nip camps as of 28 October, 2014. Children make up 70% of new arrivals; and , women make up more than three-quarters of the adults. New arrivals are relocated from the Buriyeb border entry points to Matar way station by rental vehicles. The IOM medical team is conducting the PDMS at the entry points.



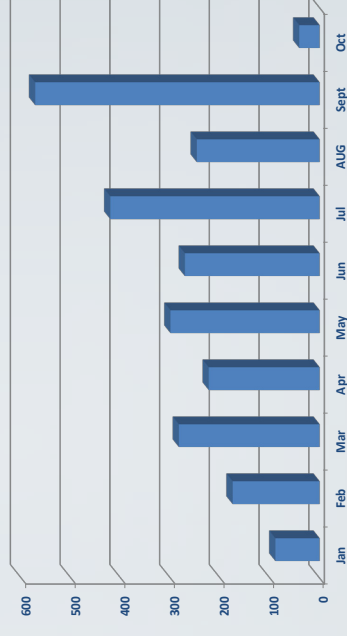
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INFO-GRAPHICS BENISHANGUL-GUMUZ REGION:

IOM's South Sudan Refugee Relocation 28 October, 2014



TOTAL ARRIVALS/ REGISTERED/ RELOCATED



BACKGROUND

IOM has facilitated refugee movement in the Regional State of Benishangul-Gumuz. Requested by Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA), IOM has, since January 2014, facilitated transportation for 2,583 refugees from South Sudan. Since the beginning of the South Sudan crisis, there has been an influx of refugees through nine entry points, namely: Kurmuk, Gesan, Gamed, Asheshiko, Tongo, Al-mahal, Abrahamu, Sostegna camp and Bamaza. IOM is also providing pre-departure medical screening to identify refugees who may need medical attention and/or referral on arrival at the camp.

Month	Transported from Abrahamu Entry Point to camps within Benishangul	Transported from Tongo Entry Point to the camps within Benishangul	Transported from Assosa Entry Point to camps within Benishangul	Transported from Kush-megani Entry Point to camps within Benishangul	Transported from Amoma (3rd camp) Entry Point to camps within Benishangul	Transported from Kurmuk (Dilashe) Entry Point to camps within Benishangul	Total Number of Individuals Moved
January	7	0	17	0	0	64	88
February	32	89	0	51	0	0	172
March	65	52	54	112	0	0	283
April	11	15	0	11	177	0	214
May	252	49	0	0	0	0	301
June	152	29	72	0	0	0	253
July	388	28	0	0	0	0	416
Aug	229	5	0	0	0	0	234
Sep	572	0	0	0	0	0	572
Oct	41	9	0	0	0	0	41
TOTAL	1749	276	143	174	177	64	2,583



IOM · OIM

IOM SLO Response to South Sudan Crisis in Ethiopia

EXTERNAL SITUATION REPORT

22-28 October 2014



IOM staff checking the list of names at Burbiey, Gambella. ©IOM 2014 (Photo: Alemayehu Seifeselesie)

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Since the conflict broke out in December 2013, the total number of South Sudanese refugees crossing to neighbouring countries, has surpassed 467,009 individuals. Ethiopia has received the highest number of refugees with a total of 190,510 individuals crossing its border. The Ethiopian borders remain open to asylum seekers. The South Sudanese refugee population has become the largest refugee group in Ethiopia, surpassing the Somali refugee population according to UNHCR.

IOM has assisted 173,588 refugees in Gambella and 2,583 in Benishangul-Gumuz since the conflict broke out. Since the last update, IOM has evacuated a total of 350 refugees in Gambella Region and 11 from Benishangul-Gumuz Region. This has showed a consistent drop since the beginning of September due to inaccessible roads as result of the heavy rain and flooding including rising water level of the Baro River in various locations in the Region. Over all, the number of South Sudanese refugees IOM has evacuated in October has declined due to the persistent rain, camp flooding, stalled relocations to Okugu camp in Dima and an

HIGHLIGHTS

- During this reporting period, IOM has evacuated a total of 361 refugees from South Sudan entering Ethiopia through various entry points in Gambella and Benishangul-Gumuz Regions
- The total number of refugees evacuated by IOM is 173,588 in Gambella and 2,583 in Benishangul-Gumuz.



IOM-SLO Ethiopia Deputy Chief of Mission Mr. Zhao Jian visiting the shelter construction at Kule, Gambella. ©IOM 2014 (Photo: Ahimed Almajub)

ongoing search for alternative camp sites. The temporarily halt in the registration process of asylum seekers in Akobo has also created a challenge in the movement. The Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) staff members are expected to return to Akobo entry point by the end of October to restart the registration process.

IOM and partners have been advised by ARRA to maintain a strong presence in Dima, Leitchour, Matar and Nip Nip for continuous emergency service delivery. However, permanent investment in Leitchour is still discouraged.

According to a UNHCR and ARRA's joint assessment mission, Akobo remains an active entry point receiving an average of 50 new arrivals every day. UNHCR and ARRA are following up on the resumption of previously suspended registration activities in Akobo .

Since September 2014; the WHO has maintained an Ebola centre at the entry points in Gambella region.

The road to Leitchour is still impassable, IOM is facing challenges to continue its normal operations in Matar. Though, water levels have receded over the past weeks, much of the affected area still remains wet and refugees continue to stay where they settled in the different parts of Nyinyang and along the Nip Nip and Jikaw corridor and Gambella - Matar highway.

There are more than 62,800 refugees in need of relocation from various camps and transit centres within Gambella region. ARRA and UNHCR have requested that all new arrivals from the three entry points of Burbiey, Akobo and Pagak be moved to Okugu camp.

IOM has devised an action plan to start the relocation of refugees from flooded camps to Okugu camp and has also constructed a transit station at Geder around Macha. IOM is on standby as it awaits the relocation to Okugu. Currently; there are a number of challenges for the relocation to Okugu to happen such as: 40km of muddy road from Gambella to Macha. Unwillingness of the refugees to move to Okugu due to security concerns; and the capacity of Okugu to accommodate the refugee caseload to be relocated have continued to pose a challenge. Okugu can only accommodate

29,000 refugees in addition to the 6,000 already on ground. Therefore, the search for a new site with higher ground in the Gambella Region is still on top of the agenda. The only ongoing relocation is between Akobo to Matar as all other movements are restricted.

A donor mission field visit to Pagak and Kule on 23 October was organized. The donors represented 15 countries among them were also ECHO and PRM. As a result of an accident that happened along the way, the donor mission could not proceed to Pagak reception centre and thus the donors could not witness IOM activities at Pagak reception centre. However, the donor representatives were able to see 235 shelters constructed by IOM in Kule and were also able to interact with some of the shelter beneficiaries.

In Benishangul-Gumuz Region, IOM is facilitating refugee movements from border entry points to designated refugee camps. As of 21st October, 2,583 refugees have been relocated from various entry points in the Region. During this reporting period, 11 refugees have been evacuated from the border entry point in this region.

On request by UNHCR, IOM is also facilitating camp-to-camp transportation for refugees who may want to relocate to different camps for one reason or another.

Partnerships and Coordination

IOM closely collaborates with the Government of Ethiopia's ARRA, UNHCR and humanitarian partners on the ground to respond to this emergency. IOM is also coordinating health referrals and care with the Ministry of Health, WHO, UNHCR, UNFPA, IFRC, UNICEF, WFP, IMC, ARRA, ACF, MSF-F as well as regional hospitals.

Challenges

- Limited reception capacity resulting in limited movement.
- Heavy rains flooding rivers made the stay at camps and Burbiey, Pagak and Matar challenging. The rain has also made roads inaccessible.
- Security threats have made some camps in Benishangul-Gumuz inaccessible.
- Refugees' concerns about relocation to Okugu.

IOM appreciates the invaluable support from the following donors and partners whose support has enabled us reach out to those most in need:

