

ETHIOPIA UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

19 – 25 March 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

KEY FIGURES

197,314

UNHCR PoC for the situation

FUNDING

USD 153.2m

requested for the UNHCR operation



PRIORITIES

- The sensitization of refugees and host community, and the subsequent relocation of refugees from Nip Nip and Leitchuor camps to Pugnido and Jewi camps respectively.

- The registration of refugees for relocation from Nip Nip camp to Pugnido camp, which started on 11 March, was temporarily halted on 20 March by host community elders in the area. The group of elders reportedly went to ARRA and ordered that the exercise be stopped. The elders are said to have told ARRA that continuation of refugee relocation against the wish of the host community could lead to conflict. To date, 634 refugees have expressed an interest to move and a total of 388 refugees have been relocated to Pugnido camp including the initial convoy of 366 refugees on 16 March. Local authorities, including the Gambella Regional President, are expected to address the issue following UNHCR's intervention.
- A total of 51,316 refugees from flood-prone Leitchuor and Nip Nip refugee camps are to be relocated (2,888 refugees from Nip Nip and 48,428 from Leitchuor). Those from Nip Nip will be moved to the existing Pugnido camp, which currently hosts nearly 56,000 South Sudanese refugees.
- Refugees from Leitchuor will be relocated to the new Jewi camp located 18 kilometres from Gambella and which was opened on 15 March. The camp was inaugurated by President Gatluak Tuk Khot of Gambella Regional State; UNHCR Director Valentin Tapsoba; Deputy Assistant Secretary Catherine Wiesner of the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM); ARRA Deputy Director Ato Ayalew Aweke; and Deputy Chief of Mission of the US Embassy in Ethiopia, Peter Vrooman. The new camp is now being developed, site planning and road construction has started.
- An average of 66 South Sudanese refugees arrived daily in Gambella during the reporting period through Pagak, Akobo, and Burbiey entry points.
- The cumulative figure of new arrivals from South Sudan from 15 December 2013 to date is 197,314 of whom 57% are female and 67% are children. Gambella post December 2013 arrivals total 194,497 while 2,817 new arrivals are in Assosa. The total number of South Sudanese refugees (new and old caseload) in Ethiopia is 261,294.
- The UNHCR Deputy Representative Bornwell Kantande visited Gambella Region from 20–22 March to assess the progress made in the delivery of humanitarian assistance to South Sudanese refugees, including refugee relocation from flood-prone camps before the rainy season begins in a couple of weeks. He visited the new Jewi camp site – where community and plot layouts have been completed for the first phase of development for 13,000 refugees –, Pagak border, Kule and Pugnido camps. He met with refugees, partners and UNHCR staff to appraise relocation preparations.
- IRC is finalizing the bidding process for the hydro geological study ahead of borehole drilling in Tsore camp. They have also identified a suitable location for the water reservoir. Tsore camp (capacity 30,000) will accommodate South Sudanese refugees and Sudanese refugees from Ashura transit site.

Population of concern

A total of **197,314** people of concern

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

- The total number of South Sudanese refugees who have entered Gambella Region since the outbreak of the conflict in mid-December 2013 is now 194, 497 individuals with a small but steady number of 66 new arrivals recorded daily during the reporting week. The focus of the Gambella operation is the sensitization of refugees and members of the host community on relocation of refugees from flood-prone Leitchuor and Nip Nip refugee camps before the next rainy season. The Jewi Refugee Camp was officially inaugurated on Sunday, 15 March.

Achievements

Protection

Achievements and Impact

- A Protection Officer from the Division of International Protection Services (DIPS), Solutions Unit, in Geneva is on mission in Gambella. The mission's focus is on the rule of law and access to justice in Ethiopia and will have discussions with relevant stakeholders in that area (ARRA, actors working on issues related to justice, partners, refugees, etc). The mission conducted some Focus Group Discussions in Tierkidi Refugee Camp with the ARRA Camp Coordinator, some members of the local courts in the camp, and groups of women and youth.

Challenges

- A total of 267 refugees continue to wait for Level I registration in Leitchuor Refugee Camp. Demarches with ARRA are continuing to be made to seek their registration and ensure continued border monitoring so that all new arrivals can be registered at the border. Since the beginning of the rainy season last year, ARRA and UNHCR closed the reception centre in Burbiey due to flooding. New arrivals are now presenting themselves in Leitchuor camp.

SGBV

- In Kule Refugee Camp, eight 'Tea-talk' sessions were organized in different zones and a total of 399 (368 female and 31 male) refugees participated in the sessions on "Types of GBV and how to report the incident if it occurs in the community".
- In Leitchuor camp, one legal awareness session was organized on "Forced marriage and Ethiopian law". A total of 76 (66 female and 10 male) participants attended the discussion. The session was organized by community mobilizers and facilitated by IMC GBV community mobilizers and GBV legal advisor.

Child Protection

- The UNICEF child protection consultant conducted a five-day training through classroom and field practice for 27 (10 female and 17 male) staff members from child protection partners (SCI, PIE, ERC and UNHCR) on psychosocial support. The main areas discussed were how to identify children in need of psychosocial support, how to undertake group work for the provision of psychosocial support, and how to execute counseling sessions with children under stress.
- UNHCR conducted a capacity building training for the Best Interest Determination (BID) panel's eight nominated individuals who were representing ARRA, NGOs and UN staff based in Kule Refugee Camp.

Education

Achievements and Impact

- Save the Children completed the erection of tents to cover the gap of pre-school needs at Pugnido camp new site. The tents will be used as temporary classrooms to enrol 734 children already registered, including 335 girls. Also in Pugnido, ARRA erected temporary structures at the new site to be used as classrooms for the lower grade primary emergency education.

- In Pugnido camp, secondary education activity under Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission (DICAC) was operational with some 756 (167 female) students accessing classes. Additionally, some 144 (three female) students from Pugnido camp new site were also enrolled in Grade 9 and are attending classes. DICAC also reported that preparatory activity for placement exams was finalized and students who are currently attending the special classes will take the exam in the coming days.
- The issue of 33 refugees currently studying in Gambella University and not receiving stipend over the past three months was resolved following UNHCR's intervention. The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) reported that 300 youth receiving vocational / skill training will graduate on the 31 March in Tierkidi Refugee Camp.
- A meeting on school feeding programme was convened at the ARRA Gambella office. The meeting was attended by WFP, UNHCR UNICEF and child protection actors on how to implement the school feeding programme in Tierkidi and Kule camps. The matter is still under discussion.



Health

Achievements and Impact

- A team of health experts from UNHCR and WHO visited Nyine Nyang and conducted a maternal death audit along with ARRA and MSF-F staff from Leitchuor. The review was done at the MSF and Matar Health Centres.
- Emergency Reproductive Health Kits (ERHKs) comprising delivery kits, dignity kits and uterotonic drugs for prevention and treatment of postpartum haemorrhage were donated by UNFPA and given to health partners working in Tierkidi and Kule camps to improve reproductive health services.



Food Security and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

- The March GFD was completed in all camps except Leitchuor camp, which is ongoing, distribution was smooth.
- Sufficient nutrition food was prepositioned in the camps. Nutrition partners GOAL and ACF reported that TSFP and BESFP programmes progressed well with 6,028 and 44,642 beneficiaries enrolled and getting nutrition support in TSFP and BESFP interventions respectively.
- During the relocation of refugees from Nip Nip to Pugnido, high energy biscuits and hot meals were provided to the refugees by WFP/ARRA and IOM respectively. Refugees also received general food distribution rations and nutrition foods (6-59 months of children and PLW) when they arrived at the camps.
- To date in 2015, a total of 9,236.73mt, 2,111mt and 619.653mt of assorted food commodities were delivered to South Sudan by air, road and river respectively. To date in 2015, the total quantity of food airdropped from Gambella stands at 4,160mt through a total of 142 rotations; a total of 2,868mt was airdropped from Jimma through 102 rotations; while a total of 2,209mt has been air lifted from Assosa through 140 rotations. Some 2,111mt was dispatched so far by river and 619.653mt delivered through road.
- Standardized Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS) data collection was completed in Okugo and Pugnido camp. Analysis of data for Kule, Tierkidi, Okugo and Pugnido camp surveys is ongoing.
- Concern Worldwide (CWW) began Nutrition services in Pugnido camp after handover by ARRA. UNHCR provided technical support to ensure clear internal transfers of beneficiaries between ARRA and CWW. Documentation of the handing over process is complete. CWW will provide infant and young child feeding (IYCF), Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM), Nutrition Community Mobilization, Blanket Supplementary Feeding Program (BSFP) for children 6-23 months and Pregnant and lactating women services, and monitoring, evaluation and reporting of nutrition activities in Pugnido in close liaison with ARRA. ARRA is currently managing cases of malnutrition with medical complications.
- There were 117 new severe acute malnutrition (SAM) cases during the week. The caseload of children under five years with Severe Acute Malnutrition is 1,147 (506 Leitchuor, 296 Kule, 146 Tierkidi, 146 Pugnido camps; 13 Nip Nip, two Okugo and 38 Matar) while 242 new cases were admitted for moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) during the reporting period. The current caseload for Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) for children under five years is 5,378 (2,742 Leitchuor, 1,666 Kule; 813 Tierkidi; two Okugo; 57 Nip Nip, 67 Matar and 39 Pugnido). There were 416 children under five years and 178 Pregnant and lactating women new admissions into the blanket supplementary feeding programme (BSFP). A total of 39,828 children under-five years are enrolled in BSFP: 8,655 Leitchuor, 13,736 Kule; 13,428 Tierkidi, 2,774 Pugnido, 184 Okugo camps; 548 Nip Nip, 503 Matar. A total 11,835

pregnant and lactating women are enrolled (1,680 Leitchuor, 3,692 Kule, 3,123 Tierkidi; 2990 Pugnido; 174 Okugo camps; 133 Nip Nip and 43 Matar).



Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

- Water provision in all camps – Kule, Tierkidi, Leitchuor, Pugnido and Okugo – was maintained within Sphere standard: Kule 16.5 litres per person per day, Tiekidi 17.52 lpd, Leitchuor 16.5 lpd, Pugnido 16.4 lpd.
- Ongoing activities to establish sustainable water supply in Kule and Tierkidi camps have stepped up as the contractor engaged by UNICEF has occupied the site, and construction of the tank base at Kule is ongoing. Sanitation coverage in all camps was maintained at below 50 persons per latrine and within Sphere standards.



Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Achievements and Impact

- In Jewi camp, community and plot layouts were completed for the first phase of development for 13,000 refugees. In Kule camp, NRC completed 1.3 km of the 3km road construction and 20 % of the office complex construction while in Pugnido camp, NRC started construction of the 6km in-camp access road.



Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

- Supply Unit continued movement of tents from Dimma to Pugnido. As of 20 March, 520 tents have been delivered. UNHCR released 10 rolls of 4X50M plastic tarpaulins to IOM to support the relocation of refugees from Nip Nip to Pugnido. Supply Unit also received 300 tents from UNHCR Addis Ababa warehouse



Logistics

Achievements and Impact

- Supply Unit delivered laundry soap to refugee camps, including 9,542 pieces to Kule and 12,348 pieces to Tierkidi.

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 Pugnido, the monthly inter-agency camp coordination meeting was held on 3 March and was attended by all partners and refugee representatives during which issues to do with operational achievements and challenges over the past five months were discussed. The meeting is hosted on rotational basis between ARRA and UNHCR.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the UNHCR operation amount to some **US\$ 22 million**, against **US\$ 153.2 million** requested for the situation, as at 9 March.

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.