

Interagency coordination meeting Friday, 29 September 2017

Issue	Development/ Discussion	Action Point	Responsible	Timeline
• Security Updates	The meeting was called to order at 9.28am by the HOSO, Assosa who welcomed all the partner, ARRA and UNHCR staff members present. The UNHCR SOA, FSA reported that the security situation in Benshangul Gumuz, particularly in the area of operation has been calm and stable. He further reported that the Benshangul Gumuz People's Liberation Movement (BPLM) leader and 95 members previously imprisoned in the Assosa prison had been released and reintegrated with the society. The FSA further pointed out that the security situation in the areas bordering Assosa to the west; including Mindi and Gimbi towns were unpredictable and hence recommended that all staff members should seek updates from the local government before conducting missions in the Oromia mission. ARRA zonal coordinator echoed that the security situation in Benshangul Gumuz and its borders were stable and that	The FSA to continue monitoring and providing updates on the security situation in close collaboration with ARRA and other security apparatus in the area of operation.	Mulugeta ARRA, UNHCR and all partner heads	Ongoing Ongoing
	ARRA was working closely with the regional and the federal government to ensure stability in the operation. He however emphasized the fact that security issues should be viewed as a responsibility of all agencies working in the operation.	and keep monitoring on the security situation		

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• Border monitoring	UNHCR and ARRA protection officers reported that border monitoring exercise had not been carried out in 2017 citing security concerns in the borders. It was further pointed out that the Assosa operation had receiving a steady influx from both Sudan and South Sudan since 2016, with the main reason of flight from the vast majority of new arrivals being hunger and lack of access to education in their COO.	Joint ARRA and UNHCR border monitoring to be conducted in September 2017, if security situation allows. Dates to be confirmed.	Sushil and ARRA protection Officer	ASAP
• Recycler refugees in Abrhamo entry point	ARRA and UNHCR protection officers reported that finger print scans conducted during registration exercise for the new arrivals in Tsore camp indicated that the vast majority of the refugees were recyclers. UNHCR HOSO, SOA and ARRA zonal coordinator recommended the persistent use of the recycler SOPs, recently developed jointly by ARRA and UNHCR. All new arrivals to continue being registered in Tsore camp until further guidance was provided, except for family reunification cases with relatives in other camps. It was further recommended that medical screen is conducted for all new arrivals to avoid the spread of communicable diseases in the camps. UNHCR HOSO, SOA and the ARRA zonal coordinator reported to have conducted a joint mission to all the five camps, time during which they disseminated key messages against double registration to the refugees.	UNHCR and ARRA registration staff to continue conducting finger print scans for all new arrivals before registration is done. ARRA medical staff to ensure that all new arrivals are screened and medically cleared before being allowed into the camp.	UNHCR and ARRA registration staff ARRA medical staff	Ongoing Ongoing

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 Surveys on Child labor and Intention to return for the Sudanese refugees 	UNHCR HOSO, SOA reported that BO, Addis had recommended that a child labor survey is conducted following a report emanating from SCI; on child labor cases in the operation, particularly in Bambasi and Tsore refugee camps. She further added that the concept note for the child labor survey and had been finalized and shared with ARRA and other relevant partners. SOA, protection officer added that the survey was tentatively scheduled for the second week of October 2017 and further expounded that random sampling of respondents as well as field observations would be the two methodologies used to solicit information during the survey. ARRA zonal coordinator recommended that the Bureau of Social Affairs, UNICEF and local investors among other stakeholders are involved in the child labor survey in order to ensure a thorough and well informed outcome.	UNHCR, SOA protection office to finalize the survey questionnaires in close collaboration with child protection partners and further conduct the survey as soon as possible.	Sushil	ASAP
	UNHCR HOSO, SOA additionally reported that the Assosa operation has received a request from UNHCR HQ to conduct the intention to return survey for the Sudanese refugees. The request came after the government of Sudan contacted UNHCR HQ, reporting that they had received 'reliable information' that the Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia had expressed their interest to be repatriated to Sudan. The survey will be conducted jointly with ARRA and UNHCR.	UNHCR and ARRA protection officers to work in close collaboration to ensure that the intention to return survey was conducted as soon as possible.	Sushil and the ARRA protection officer	ASAP
 Data sharing and recording of all events in ProGres 	UNHCR HOSO, SOA stated that all partners from now henceforth should validate their data with UNHCR and ARRA Assosa, before submitting their reports to their respective head offices. This is with a view to ensure consistency in reporting. A data sharing guidance had been sent to all partners to that effect.	All partner to comply with the data sharing guidance recently sent to them.	All partners	ASAP

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	UNHCR HOSO, SOA further stressed on the importance of	UNHCR, ARRA and all	UNHCR, ARRA and all	ASAP
	updating all events including assistance provided to refugees	partners to ensure that all	partners	
	in the operation. In response to this matter, ARRA zonal	necessary events including		
	coordinator reported that he was working closely with his	assistance provided to the		
	team to ensure that they were actively updating refugee data	refugees was updates in the		
	and all necessary events. He further emphasized the fact that	appropriate databases.		
	all partners were required to share their data with ARRA and			
	UNHCR, including gaps identified for future planning			
	purposes.			
		UNHCR, ARRA and partners		
	UNHCR HOSO, SOA added that all partners, UNHCR and ARRA	to utilize the unique	UNHCR, ARRA and all	ASAP
	should utilize the unique individual number on the proof of	individual number during	partners	
	registration during case follow ups, as a standard for ease of	case follow ups for ease of		
	identification of refugees. She further stressed that refugees	identification. Finger prints		
	should sign or at least provide their finger prints during the	and/or signatures of		
	distribution of core relief items, for accountability purposes.	refugees should also be		
		obtained during CRI		
		distribution for		
		accountability purposes.		ACAD
	UNHCR HOSO, SOA reported that the number of new arrivals	HOSO, SOA to follow up	HOSO, SOA	ASAP
	received from Gambella had reduced resulting from the	with BO, Addis for advice on		
	reopening of the Ngunyiel camp in Gambella. Further	the way forward with the relocation exercise.		
	guidance was pending from UNHCR, BO on the way forward with the relocation exercise.	relocation exercise.		
Relocation of	with the relocation exercise.			
convoys from	In response to this matter, ARRA zonal coordinator pointed			
Gambella to	out that the Assosa operation has the capacity to receive up	ARRA zonal coordinator to		
Gure-	to 60,000 refugees. He further stated that the new arrivals	follow up on the land issues	ARRA zonal	ASAP
Shombola	recently received in Pagak reportedly brought their cattle and	to ensure the expansion of	coordinator	AJAL
Shoribola	other property, hence making it expensive to transport them	Gure-Shombola camp for		
	to Gure-Shombola. It would also be difficult to manage cattle	increased capacity		
	in the camp.	mercuscu cupacity		

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	The ARRA zonal coordinator also reported that ARRA had			
	approached the president of the Oromia region requesting			
	for additional land, to allow the expansion of Gure Shombola			
	camp. The president has since sent a letter to the Gimbi zonal administration in support of ARRA's request.			
	autimistration in support of ANNA's request.			
	Partners operating in Gure-Shombola expressed their	All partners to reach out to		
	concerns on the difficulties they were facing in utilizing and	their headquarters to	All partners	ASAP
	reporting for their ear-marked funding, with the diminishing	establish whether they can		
	number of new arrivals being received. UNHCR HOSO, SOA	utilize the funding		
	recommended that each of the partners addresses these	earmarked for Gure		
	concerns with their head offices as the role of field offices is	Shombola, in the light of the		
	predominantly project implementation and not decision	diminishing number of new		
	making. In connection to this mater, ARRA zonal coordinator	arrivals. As an alternative,		
	recommended that Tsore camp should stop receiving new	they should also consider		
	arrivals as of 31 October 2017 citing capacity. All new arrivals coming after the mentioned date should be relocated to	utilizing the funds to establish permanent		
	Gure-Shombola, including Sudanese.	establish permanent structures in Gure		
	Gule-Shombola, including Sudanese.	Shombola.		
	To further address this matter, it was recommended that	Shoribola.		
	UNHCR and ARRA program offices hold a bilateral meeting to			
	discuss on the possibility of funds transfer across PPGs, to	ARRA and UNHCR program	ARRA and UNHCR	ASAP
	allow the utilization of the un earmarked funds to create	officers to hold bilateral	program officers	
	adequate emergency water systems among other vital	meeting to discuss on the		
	investments in the operation.	possibility of transferring		
		funds across the Sudanese		
		and South Sudanese PPGs.		

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	 WFP Head of WFP field office, Assosa reported that they had secured enough funding to adequately support the food ration program including cash distribution from October 2017- March 2018. UNHCR HOSO, SOA appreciated WFP for addressing the ration cut issue, but also emphasised the need to ensure that refugees are informed of any changes to their entitlements in good time, to avoid a repeat of what happened in Sherkole refugee camp in June 2017. She recommended that the refugee leadership structures are briefed of any changes before the information is communicated to the rest of the refugees. Nutrition, Wash and Shelter 	WFP and all other agencies to always ensure that refugees are updated on any changes affecting them including, their entitlements in good time.	WFP, UNHCR, ARRA and all partners	Ongoing
• Key sector updates	ARRA reported that a Nutrition survey was planned for 9-27 October 2017, with special focus on malnutrition, post natal care among other specific areas. Partners engaging in shelter activities were requested to support with the labelling of refugee shelters in readiness for the survey. In relation to this, UNHCR, ARRA and all partners were requested to provide at least one vehicle in support of the survey. It was also pointed out that the malnutrition levels in the Assosa operation were higher than in Gambella and thus urgent interventions were required. HOSO, SOA recommended the integration of all the planned surveys to avoid refugee fatigue from the many surveys planned in the coming months.	Shelter partner to support with labeling of all refugee shelters in readiness for the nutrition survey. UNHCR, ARRA, WFP and all partners to provide at least one vehicle each in support for the planned survey.	Dr. Alemahiyu, Abiyot ARRA	Ongoing

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	 Protection a) Save the Children (SCI) SCI child protection focal point reported that they have so far accomplished the following:- ✓ They have so far identified 1,500 children in need of various kinds of assistance and that they were working closely with the group. ✓ They conducted capacity building activities for parents and caregivers with a view to address the issues of illegal movements in the camps. ✓ They are planning to conduct a child resilience workshop in the coming weeks that targets 200 youth with an aim to address addiction and defiant behaviour. 	SCI to continue ensuring proper follow up of vulnerable children in the camps.	SCI coordinator	Ongoing
	 b) IRC IRC representatives reported that have so far accomplished the following:- *Child protection ✓ They are continuing to provide psychosocial support for refugee children through the CFS. ✓ They conducted awareness raising campaigns against child abuse for parents and caregivers. ✓ They conducted capacity building on effective parenting as well as distributed various materials including blankets, clothes, underwear among other items to the identified beneficiaries. *CWI ✓ New coffee discussions were established under the CWI project. ✓ They conducted case management trainings in all the camps. 	IRC to continue ensuring proper follow up on their projects to ensure that their funds were utilized exhaustively before the close of the fiscal year.	IRC coordinator	Ongoing

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	 They provided material and psychosocial support for 62 GBV survivors. *WASH The OCHA funded projects in Tongo, Tsore and Sherkole had been completed They will be completing the borehole rehabilitation project in Tongo in the coming 12 days. They have completed 100% of the pit latrine construction in Tongo Tsore water supply is currently at 21.2% per capita while the supply in Tongo is expected to shift from 13% to 15% per capita before the close of September 2017. They received a top up grant for Gure-Shombola and 505 of the project completed; with the remaining expected to be finalised before the close of 2017. They completed fencing around the water source and water treatment area in Gure-Shombola camp. They are continuing to construct pour flash latrines in Gure-Shombola camp with a plan for about 2.8km coverage. Currently 63 units completed. 			
	 c) RaDo RaDo representative reported that have so far accomplished the following:- ✓ They have so far been able to repair 61 damaged wheel chairs, 6 artificial legs and distributed 6 white canes to beneficiaries. ✓ 3 children with cleft foot underwent corrective surgery in Bambasi resulting from their referral. ✓ They conducted training for 140 community leaders as well as conducted 57 awareness raising campaigns across the five camps. 	RaDo to continue ensuring proper follow up on their project and to ensure that their funds are utilized exhaustively before the close of the fiscal year.	RaDo coordinator	Ongoing

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	 d) Plan International The RaDo representative reported that they had have so far accomplished the following:- ✓ Supported the 11th-15th relocation convoys; time during which they identified 75UAM/SC. ✓ They facilitated the International Youth day celebrations on 12th August 2017 in Gure-Shombola. ✓ They started construction of the permanent children center. ✓ They registered 99 children into the child protection EMIS database during the reporting period. ✓ Home visits and follow ups had been conducted for 181 UAM/SC. ✓ They had recruited 40 social workers (20F/20M) to support their CP activities in G.S. ✓ They had signed an MOU with the Mau Komo Woreda to start engaging children from the host community. ✓ They are working on data harmonization 	Plan Int'l to continue ensuring proper follow up on their CP project and to ensure that their funds are utilized exhaustively before the close of the fiscal year.	Plan Int'l coordinator	Ongoing
	 e) LWF-Bambasi The LWF representative reported that have so far accomplished the following:- ✓ The current water supply for the refugees is at 19 litres per capita per day. ✓ They distributed 200 briquette stoves as well as 400 briquettes. ✓ They recently ordered additional briquette stoves and recruited 12 social workers with a view to scale the project. ✓ They conducted generator maintenance ✓ They conducted one refresher training for refugees 	LWF to continue ensuring proper follow up and monitoring of their projects and to ensure that their funds are utilized exhaustively before the close of the fiscal year.	LWF coordinator	Ongoing

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	 on hygiene promotion. ✓ The boreholes and latrines are at risk from silting resulting from heavy rains causing flooding in the camp, hence urgent preventive measure were required to address the issue. ARRA zonal coordinator recommended that LWF should hold consultations with UNHCR and ARRA on how to protect the boreholes located in the marshy areas. UNHCR HOSO, SOA stated that all partners should always set aside a budget for WASH facilities during the planning phase of any construction project to address the current challenge of lack of adequate WASH facilities in schools, health center and other social amenities in the operation. HOSO, SOA further recommended a thorough and critical review of the current energy projects including ethanol and briquette production to establish their sustainability. If not found viable, alternative projects that can better the current 	LWF to hold consultation meeting with the ARRA and UNHCR technical teams to deliberate on how to protect boreholes located in swampy areas.	LWF, UNHCR and ARRA technical teams	ASAP
	 gap should be established as soon as possible. f) ARRA The ARRA health officer reported that:- ✓ They had fumigated against mosquitos had been completed in all the camps. ✓ They conducted a health and WASH workshop in Assosa level where experience sharing and a plan for the next 3 months was developed. ✓ They are planning to conduct a polio campaign, time during which they are targeting to conduct polio vaccination for 11,300 children. ✓ They recently received 8 health staff for Gure-Shombola camp, expected to start work as soon as 	ARRA to continue ensuring proper follow up and monitoring of their health programme and to ensure that their funds are utilized exhaustively before the close of the fiscal year.	ARRA health team	ASAP

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Issue	 possible. ✓ They are still waiting to receive ambulance for Gure-Shombola camp UNHCR, SOA health officer requested the ARRA zonal coordinator to send an official memo to the ARRA health staff in the camps, with a view to ensure that they start completing HIS reports. g) NRC The NRC representative reported that: ✓ They had received 3 grants (UNHCR, ECHO & NMFA) through which they were utilising for the bee keeping, poultry and pottery livelihood projects. ✓ They had constructed 4 shops in Bambasi utilizing the force from their YEP graduates. ✓ They had distributed a total of 88 chicken and rosters 		Responsible ARRA zonal coordinator	Timeline ASAP Ongoing
	5		PRS coordinator	Ongoing

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	 HOSO, SOA recommended that partners should take advantage of the refugee skills and willingness to engage in livelihood activities including farming. She further added that business ideas for the livelihood projects should be obtained from refugees themselves in order to enhance project ownership. i) NRDP The NRDP representative reported that: ✓ They are continuing to provide protection of the existing resources including forests through patrols and installation of guards. ✓ They completed the preparation of tree nurseries as well as the slashing and clearing of areas around the forests in a view to reduce the risk of fire spreading in the event of a fire accident. 	All partners engaging in livelihood activities to always consult refugees on their favorable livelihood projects, as well as try to tailor the projects to suite the skills of the refugees in order to enhance ownership and sustainability of the projects.	Livelihood officers	Ongoing
	 NRDP further expressed concerns on the fact that refugees were engaging in farming activities even in areas that had a gradient of above 30% which resulted to soil erosion. They recommended ongoing consultations between NRDP, UNHCR and ARRA to address the matter. ARRA zonal coordinator agreed to the suggestion and further stated that ARRA was ready to provide land for the refugees in appropriate areas, in support for the refugee farming activities. Other challenges expressed by NRDP included: ✓ Deforestation linked to the over dependence to the natural resources for both domestic energy (firewood) and food (bamboo apex). 	NRDP to continue ensuring proper follow up and monitoring of their projects and to ensure that their funds are utilized exhaustively before the close of the fiscal year.	NRDP coordinator	Ongoing
	 ✓ Low level of community participation in tree planting and other environmental protection activities. ✓ Lack of office and residence in the camps. 			

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	 j) Gaia Association Gaia representative reported that:- ✓ They had distributed 3250 litres of ethanol to 230 beneficiaries in Tsore and 200 in Sherkole camps respectively as well as to the inpatient feeding program in the Sherkole health center. ✓ They had distributed 70,840 Kgs of firewood to refugees in Gure-Shombola. ✓ The briquette production in Tsore and Sherkole is progressing well. ✓ They had procured safety wear for incentive workers engaging in the briquette production and distribution of the same to be completed in the coming weeks. Gaia representative expressed a challenge in that some of the beneficiaries were selling the briquette stoves distributed to them. 	Gaia to continue ensuring proper follow up and monitoring of their projects and to ensure that their funds are utilized exhaustively before the close of the fiscal year.	Gaia coordinator	Ongoing
	Education ARRA ARRA zonal coordinator pointed out that the quality of education in the Assosa was very low and further recommended that a comprehensive assessment is conducted as a matter of priority. HOSO, SOA reiterated stating that a lot of resources had been invested in the education sector; hence the quality of education in the operation should much the inputs. She further added that additional effort was required to improve the sector, with special consideration to the nine pledges. It was agreed by UNHCR and ARRA that a special date is set for meeting with all stakeholders involved in the education sector.	ARRA to continue ensuring proper follow up and monitoring of the education project and to ensure that their funds are utilized exhaustively before the close of the fiscal year.	ARRA program office	Ongoing

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	The DICAC head pointed out that the secondary school in Sherkole was at risk of losing its temporary accreditation for the preparatory school, citing failure to implement the requirements of the education bureau. He at the same time appeal to UNHCR for additional funding to ensure that necessary requirements were fulfilled in good time.	UNHCR program office to hold a meeting with DICAC to find a solution to the raised concerns	John, DICAC	ASAP
	 Shelter NRC NRC representative reported that: ✓ They had completed the construction of 170 shelters in Sherkole and that the remaining 120 would be completed in due course. ✓ They had involved 320 refugees in the shelter construction activities in Tsore camp in a bid to ensure refugee participation in their projects. ✓ They had recruited a shelter assistant and three guards from the host communities in Gure Shombola 	NRC to continue ensuring proper follow up and monitoring of their shelter project and to ensure that their funds are utilized exhaustively before the close of the fiscal year.	NRC shelter program coordinator	Ongoing
	 camp. ANE ANE representative reported that: ✓ The improvement of the disembarkation area at Gure-Shombola camp as well as the 0.5kms stretch to the military base was currently at 90% and the remaining part would be completed in the coming weeks. 			
	 They had constructed 18 speed bumps on the main road around Gure-Shombola camp and that the remaining 6 would be completed in the coming weeks. They had completed the maintaince of the road leading to Sherkole camp 	ANE to continue ensuring proper follow up and monitoring of their shelter project and to ensure that their funds are utilized exhaustively before the close of the fiscal year.	ANE coordinator	Ongoing

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	 They reported that the revision of plan to use G32 iron sheets instead of the initially agreed G22 had caused the delay in their shelter construction. However, they had made a requisition for the G32 iron sheets from a vender in Addis and would resume construction as soon as possible. They are planning to replace the bridge connecting Zone B & C of Bambasi camp. 	ANE to follow up on the G32 iron sheet vendor to avoid further delay in the shelter construction	ANE shelter program officer	ASAP
	UNHCR SOA Program officer reported that the partner selection and retention exercise is planned for the coming weeks. He further requested the traditional partners to commence drafting their project proposals for 2018 in close consultation with UNHCR and ARRA. The projects should be camp specific and not generic. ARRA project officer further added that partners should prepare two budgets; one based on the existing budget and the second based on prioritization of gaps. He further pointed out that the Assosa operation is not willing to repeat the mistake of duplication of projects and therefore partners should consult each other to ensure that their project proposals do not have overlapping interventions.	Partners to start drafting their 2018 project proposal in consultations with UNHCR and ARRA. The proposals must be camp specific and not generic.	All partner coordinators	ASAP
	HOSO, SOA appealed to all partners to ensure that they exhaustively spend their 2017 budgetary allocations in good time to avoid the re-allocation of the same to other operation. She further added failure to do this would have a negative implications on the funds allocated to the Assosa operation in the 2018 fiscal year.	All partners to ensure that their 2017 funding is exhausted in good time, before the close of the 2017 fiscal year.	All partner coordinators	ASAP

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	In her closing remarks, UNHCR HOSO, SOA recommended that partners should be sending their inter agency inputs to UNHCR in advance of the meeting; to have it complied into one PowerPoint presentation in order to save on time. She further reported that UNHCR, Ethiopia has nominated a popular singer, Betty G as their high profile supporter and that she would be visiting the Assosa operation (Gure- Shombola and Tsore camps) in the following week.	ARRA, UNHCR and all partner to send their inputs for the next inter-agency coordination meeting to Wilfred UNHCR; ideally 2 weeks in advance, to enable the compilation of the same into one PowerPoint presentation to save time.	UNHCR, ARRA, all partners	
AOB	Next meeting in October – date TBD	UNHCR HOSO, SOA and ARRA zonal coordinator to communicate on the dates		