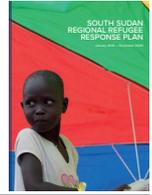


Ethiopia: 2019 Mid Year Report SOUTH SUDAN REGIONAL RRP

January - June 2019



297,918

SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEES HOSTED IN ETHIOPIA (30 JUNE 2019)

US\$ 342.2 M

REQUIRED IN ETHIOPIA IN 2019

22

RRP PARTNERS IN ETHIOPIA IN 2019

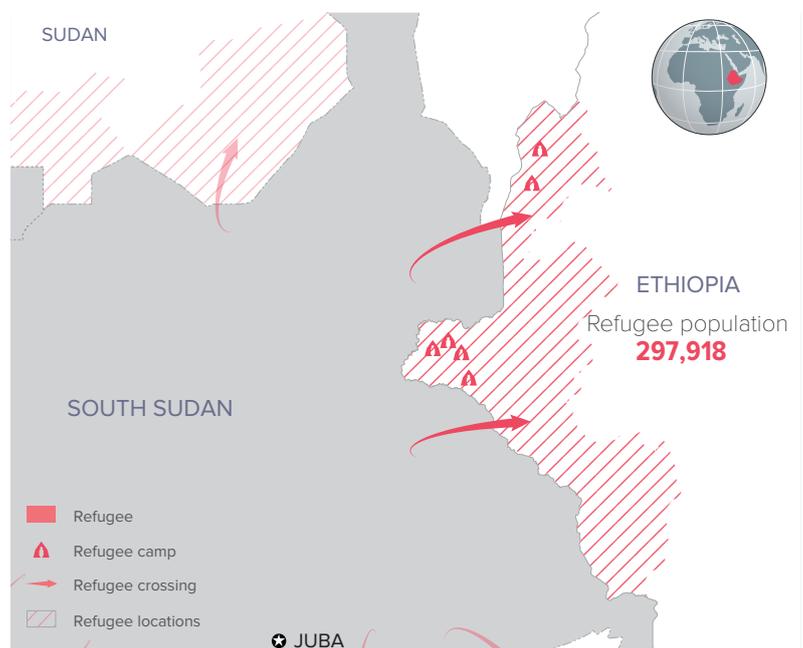
SITUATION OVERVIEW

Following the roll-out of Level 3 registration, the total refugee population in Ethiopia as of June 2019 stands at 628,585,¹ the largest refugee population being the South Sudanese totaling 297,918 individuals. Refugees from South Sudan are recognized on a prima facie basis and Ethiopia maintains an open border policy for persons fleeing persecution or armed conflict, having hosted successive waves of arrivals, and assisted subsequent voluntary repatriation, of South Sudanese over recent decades. Ongoing violence in border areas has resulted in approximately 4,913 new arrivals during the first half of 2019.

While noting with cautious optimism the signing of a revitalized peace agreement in September 2018 and continuing to assess the enabling environment for safe and voluntary returns, the Gambella region in Western Ethiopia continues to receive new arrivals in its Pugnido reception centre. All new arrivals are then relocated to the Benishangul-Gumuz region to ease the pressure on the Gambella region. The decision to stop onward transmission of new arrivals to Gambella region came following an increasing trend of inter-klan and ethnic conflict, which has impacted the overall security in the region and land allocated to the refugee camps competing with the social/economic and the overall development of the region.

There are a total of 24,616 unaccompanied and separated children from South Sudan in the Gambella region, many having experienced traumatic events leading to their initial displacement or during their subsequent flight. Therefore, child protection remained a high priority in the delivery of essential services: strengthening identification and referral of children, who face protection risks, providing specialized services such as psychosocial support, which included support for care arrangements, wellbeing and empowerment of adolescents and youth, as well as raising awareness in the community on their key role in child protection prevention and response.

The security situation in the region remained unpredictable with security incidents affecting refugees, host communities and humanitarian workers. New arrivals were mostly of Nuer ethnicity representing 90.4 per cent of refugees, while the majority of Ethiopians in the Gambella region are drawn from both Nuer and Agnauk populations. Consequently, identifying land and the expansion of camps within areas inhabited by Ethiopian Nuer is essential, as well as the promotion of community security, social cohesion and peaceful coexistence between refugees and host communities by enhancing access to justice for both communities. The natural environment in the area is fragile and access to alternative energy for cooking and lighting is minimal, resulting in refugees having to collect firewood.



¹ Level 3 registration concluded throughout Ethiopia in July 2019. The figures used in this report are only a reflection of the population data as of 30 June 2019 during which L3 registration was ongoing. Pending the completion and endorsement of the figure by UNHCRs government counterpart ARRA, UNHCR will be revising the targets and baselines as per the outcomes of the L3 registration.

Protection

 **100%**
of identified SGBV survivors received appropriate support

297,918
South Sudanese refugees were registered through L3 registration

91.2%
of UASC are in appropriate interim or long term care 

The integration of the Biometric Identity Management System (BIMS) and transition to Level 3 Registration countrywide was completed in July 2019. At the end of the reporting period 297,918 South Sudanese refugees were registered through L3 registration. The new system was comprehensively deployed for registration of all new arrivals and to update changes in the refugee population in Ethiopia. It also strengthened management of the refugee response and improved the planning and implementation of essential protection and assistance activities.

In the Gambella and Assosa operations, RRP partners enhanced child protection prevention and response services for unaccompanied and separated children and other children with specific needs. In line with the regional Child Protection strategy for the South Sudan refugees and the national child protection strategy, particular focus was given to strengthen the case management component of the child protection programme. To this end, UNHCR provided capacity development for child protection partners on the revised Guidelines on Assessing and Determining the Best Interests of the Child (BIP Guidelines).

The sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) prevention, mitigation and response programme was sustained and functional in all the camps in Gambella and Assosa for the South Sudanese refugees. According to the 2019 first two quarterly GBVIMS reports, 147 incidents of SGBV were reported and 100 per cent of the survivors received appropriate support.

SGBV and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) mainstreaming in all sectors has been prioritized in 2019 in Gambella and Assosa offices, aimed at mitigating the risk of SGBV and PSEA. A mid-year review exercise streamlined the action plan for the remainder of 2019. For PSEA, RRP partners are working to institute functional internal and external Community-Based Complaints Mechanisms (CBCM) to enhance accountability to populations of concern.

Education

81.2%
Gross Enrolment Rate (GER) for primary education

 **247**
refugee teachers received in-service training through the Education Cannot Wait project

 **413** 
refugees received scholarships for tertiary education

For the 2018/2019 academic year, a total of 107,086 South Sudanese children (28,145 in pre-primary, 74,252 in primary and 4,689 in secondary) were enrolled in education. The Gross Enrolment Rate (GER) stands at 45.6%, 81.2% and 15.9% for pre-primary, primary and secondary education respectively. Pre-primary education has been supported by RRP partners, while primary education was implemented mainly by the government Refugee Agency, Administration for Refugee & Returnee Affairs (ARRA).

In line with the New York Declaration and CRRF and Djibouti Declaration, where IGAD member States are committed to integrate education for refugees into national systems, the refugee Education Information Management System (EMIS) has already been integrated into the national education system and the Ministry of Education (MoE) published two consecutive Education Statistical Annual Abstracts (ESAA). Furthermore, RRP

partners engaged the World Bank and developed a concept note for Additional Financing on General Education Quality Improvement Program on Equity (AF-GEQIP-E). In addition, the Ministry of Education began development of a costed plan to integrate refugee education into the national system following the IGAD commitment. A total of 413 refugee students, who qualify for tertiary education, have been placed in different public universities across the country through the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI) Scholarship Programme with support from the Government of Germany and the Government of Ethiopia Scholarship Programme supported by the Government of Denmark.

Education for South Sudanese refugee children has been challenged by overcrowded classrooms, inadequate supply of education materials, shortage of learning spaces, shortage of qualified teachers, especially in lower primary classes. For example, the student ratio, as indicated in the 2017/2018 Education Statistical Annual Abstract published by MoE was 139:1 for primary education while student teacher ration was 191:1. In addition, lack of vocational skills training programmes for youth and those, who cannot make to secondary and tertiary education, remains a major gap.

Food



Reduced
food rations,
implemented since
November 2015,
continued

72,147
children aged 6-59 months
received a complementary
food intended
to meet the nutrient gap



272,449
persons received
in-kind food
assistance

Monthly food assistance has been consistent in all camps since January 2019. During this time, provision of reduced food rations, implemented since November 2015, continued. Due to funding constraints, only 84 per cent of the recommended minimum rations were provided (1764 Kcal against the minimum Sphere standard of 2100 Kcal). Access to livelihoods remained limited with limited investment in food security and livelihood activities to improve household food security. Consequently, food assistance does not last the whole month and there is limited diet diversification especially for fresh foods, including fruits, vegetables and proteins of high nutritional value. Additionally, continued challenges in accessing cooking energy impacted negatively on the quality of food utilization. To reduce this impact, a fresh food voucher program has been piloted targeting children aged 6-35 months who have the most critical specific needs to receive an additional meal through community-based/managed care groups.

Health & Nutrition

99%

women gave birth with
assistance of qualified
personnel



13.5% prevalence of
Global Acute Malnutrition
(GAM)



Crude mortality rate
maintained low at

0.1/1000/month

Health services were enhanced through additional investments in health centres and the scaling up of services for non-communicable diseases and neglected tropical diseases. The Ministry of Health and humanitarian and development actors continued to ensure joint medical screening and vaccination of new arrivals, as well as emergency treatment and referrals at border entry points. To enhance the quality of services, balanced score card assessments were conducted and followed up by action plans and capacity development, while the new tablet-based Health Information System has been rolled out to enhance data management and improve disease surveillance.

Overall, a total 200,106 medical consultations were undertaken with a health facility utilization rate of 1.5 visits/person/year. Due to coordinated efforts by all health partners, 1,978 people living with HIV are currently receiving

treatment in Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) sites located in the camps. Prevalence of Anemia remained high among children under 5 years at 40.5%. The Crude and Under 5 Mortality Rate (U5MR) remained within acceptable level at 0.1death/1000/month, slightly lower compared to the same period of last year at 0.11/1000/month.

Screening for acute malnutrition for all children aged 6-59 months and consequent referrals to appropriate programs has been ongoing. Comprehensive nutrition services focusing on preventive and curative care were made available in all camps. Emphasis was placed on preventive interventions with particular focus on multi-sectoral linkages/synergies with nutrition sensitive sectors like WASH, health, food security, protection, shelter and livelihoods to ensure the needs of the refugees were met within their respective interventions.

Fresh food vouchers were established to shore up the micronutrient density of foods for children aged 6-35 months, who generally have high prevalence of anemia. The prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) is reported the same as the baseline until the 2019 Standardized Expanded Nutrition Surveys were completed in July 2019.

Recurrent ethnic tension affected access to secondary health services in Gambella, as well as 24/7 health services in most camp health facilities.



In the Gambella region, UNHCR partnered with various partners to implement livelihoods activities. A total of 8,298 refugees and 4,448 host community households were engaged with small scale agricultural activities. 40 refugee households were supported with livestock activities (goat and poultry rearing). 460 refugees and 50 host community members benefitted from Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET). 1,535 refugees and 135 host community members received start-up financial assistance through cash grants to establish micro-businesses. Further, 300 households benefitted from micro-enterprise development initiatives. Women artisan groups have also been supported by IMC and SCI.

In the Benishangul-Gumuz region, UNHCR partnered with NRC to implement livelihoods activities. 1,513 households received agricultural inputs and training. Through ECHO funding, 200 beneficiaries benefitted from CBI. 198 beneficiaries were assisted with IGAs (poultry rearing, restaurant and tailoring businesses). 982 refugees received one form of livelihoods training, either in business skills development, CBI, irrigated farming, poultry rearing and restaurant catering. From the trained beneficiaries, 485 beneficiaries received start-up kits. 418 host community households received one form of livelihoods training, with 215 households receiving start-up kits to support their livelihood activities.

Investments in energy and the environment are informed by the global Safe Access to Fuels and Energy (SAFE) strategy, which provides orientation and details the application of innovative approaches and technologies, including clean or fuel-efficient cooking stoves, alternative and sustainable fuels, and solar-powered lighting. The natural environment in Gambella and Assosa has remained fragile and access to alternative energy for cooking and lighting is minimal due to resource constraints. As a result, 2076 HHs received Fuel Saving Stoves (FSS) and 1920 HHs have received fuel for cooking necessitating refugees to collect firewood, only 192 ha of land has been planted as of 30 June 2019 to offset this.



Shelter & NFIs

56.1 %

of South Sudanese refugees live in transitional shelter



All new arrivals were provided with emergency shelter



18.9%



households have had their basic and domestic items needs met

Subject to available resources, all new arrivals were provided with emergency shelter with the provision of transitional shelters during the reporting period upon relocation to the camps. A 2017-2020 National Shelter Strategy has been designed based on a countrywide Shelter Needs Assessment and has provided a basis for improved shelter and site planning standards for South Sudanese refugees. Of 63,713 South Sudanese refugee households, 56.1 per cent received transitional shelter.

The reduction in the number of refugees showing up for the construction of transitional shelter units posed a major challenge to partners. The number dwindled due to security challenges and movement of refugees within the camps.

Non-food item (NFI) distribution continues to be impacted by the limited distribution of certain items like kitchen sets, collection and storage containers. Only 12,479 (18.9 per cent) households have had their basic and domestic items' needs met with 94 per cent of refugee households receiving soap consistently every month. The increased focus on NFI distribution received positive feedback from refugees citing improved living conditions, water storage facilities and reduced conflict among neighbours that usually arises out of sharing specific NFIs. Criteria for distribution are jointly discussed with UNHCR, ARRA and the Refugee Central Committee (RCC) to ensure that NFIs are fairly and transparently distributed.

Sanitary kit/hygiene supplies distribution has taken place in Okugo and Gure - Shembolla. 2,931 girls and women received three hygiene supplies/ sanitary kits per individual to last one quarter. Supply pipeline challenges have negatively impacted the activity.



WASH

16 litres

of water per person per day provided



94% of refugee households received soap consistently every month

Hygiene / sanitary kits supply pipeline challenges have negatively impacted the activity

The provision of safe drinking water, construction of household latrines and dissemination of key messages on personal and environmental hygiene to refugees at their residents were continuously prioritized as part of concerted efforts to reduce morbidity from water-borne diseases, as well as the risk of communicable disease outbreaks. 208,976 refugees were reached through environmental and hygiene campaigns.

Emergency water supplies were provided to new arrivals. Solarization and upgrading of the Okugo water supply system was completed and commissioned in February 2019. However by mid-year the provision of water had dropped to 16.0 l/p/d for all camps compared to 18 l/p/d in 2018. The main reason for the drop was lack of capacity of the Itang Water Utility to manage the system which was handed over to the centre to provide water to three Itang camps. In addition, there were frequent breakdowns, lack of trained personnel and overall lack of management capacity.

In parallel and subject to availability of resources, shared household and family latrines and bathrooms were constructed to service each block in different refugee camps. RRP partners constructed 1,163 household latrines from January to June 2019. Despite successes, almost 41,645 families do not yet own a family latrine.

CRRF

Following significant progress on the implementation of Ethiopia's CRRF pledges during 2018, additional milestones were achieved in the first half 2019.

Firstly, Ethiopia's adopted the much-awaited revised Refugee Proclamation No. 1110/2019 on 19 January and promulgated on 27 February 2019. Proclamation 1110/2019 grants more rights to refugees and asylum-seekers, including allowing for greater freedom of movement for refugees and encouraging refugee participation in local economies in line with the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) calling for an increasingly integrated model of refugee assistance.

To support the implementation of the Refugee Proclamation, the Agency for Refugees and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) presented a draft National Comprehensive Refugee Response Strategy (NCRRS) to government stakeholders in June 2019. With such continued commitment demonstrated, an invitation was extended to Ethiopia to co-convene the first Global Refugee Forum (GRF) to be held in Geneva in December 2019.

Secondly, progress was made on strengthening refugee data to support the move away from a traditional camp-based approach towards greater inclusion of refugees into host communities and national systems. Following the finalization of the Comprehensive (L3) Registration of all refugees in Ethiopia in June 2019, UNHCR and partners will gain access to detailed information on individual skills, education and occupations among others.

Throughout the period, UNHCR maintained its convening and catalytic role to advance CRRF and GCR objectives through engagement with authorities, as well as efforts to engage development partners. UNHCR supported local authorities on the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) capacity assessments and development plans, and continued CRRF/GCR coordination in Jijiga (Somali region) under UNHCR's agreement with the European Union Trust Fund (EUTF). UNHCR also functioned as a co-convenor of the New Dutch Partnership with ILO, including UNICEF, the World Bank and IFC leading to a substantial joint programme submission.

Additionally, UNHCR supported the CRRF National Coordination Office (NCO) with a range of activities, including working towards NCRRS conclusion, production of 2018 Pledge reports, and knowledge management, taking stock of ongoing studies and assessments. Development partners, supported by UNHCR, worked to increase coordination and coherence with the formation of a new CRRF sub-group of the Refugee Donor Group (RDG).

Sector level coordination progressed in livelihoods and education, where commitments from Ethiopia's Minister of Education on refugee inclusion into the national system have been boosted by ministerial commitments through IGAD.

Following a major restructuring in ARRA over the past 12 months, UNHCR's senior management continues to advocate for the re-convening of the national CRRF Steering Committee meetings, including through a 'whole-of-government' approach, and thorough preparation of the upcoming Global Refugee Forum, where Ethiopia will be in a position to demonstrate achievements under the CRRF/GCR and other commitments as a leader in the region.

RRP PARTNERS

- Action contre la Faim
- Action For The Needy In Ethiopia
- African Humanitarian Aid and Development Agency
- Bethany Christian Service Global, LLC
- Concern WorldWide
- Danish Refugee Council
- Doctors with Africa
- Food and Agriculture Organization
- GOAL
- Help Age International
- International Medical Corps
- International Organization for Migration
- International Rescue Committee
- Lutheran World Federation
- Norwegian Church Aid
- Norwegian Refugee Council
- OXFAM
- Save the Children International
- United Nations Development Programme
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- United Nations Children's Fund
- World Food Programme

FOR MORE INFORMATION

South Sudan Data Portal - <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/southsudan>

Vincent Parker, Representative a.i. to Ethiopia, parker@unhcr.org; **Gavin White**, Snr. External Relations Officer, white@unhcr.org;