

LWF Ethiopia: South Sudan Refugee Emergency Response



Context of the emergency:

The situation in South Sudan is still volatile. Despite this week's progress in the peace talks, where by the cessation of hostilities by the opposing troops backing ex-Vice President Machar and President Kiir was negotiated, there are pressing security issues still remaining. In addition to looting and fragmentation of militia forces, the humanitarian crisis remains severe. With livelihoods and infrastructure destroyed, and with fears of further terror and reprisals, it does not seem likely that stability can be established any time soon.

On 23rd of January 2014 there were approx 26 000 new Sudanese arrivals in Gambella region, with more than 4000 having arrived in 2 days. The 4000 new arrivals are mainly women and children from Nuer community. However, there is a lot of uncertainty regarding the figures due to the porosity of the border, and with refugees crossing the river back and forth. Akobo suffers from security threats; last week gunfire was heard, causing a mass panic and increasing the fears of further drowning incidents.

A team from ARRA, UNHCR, WFP, OCHA, UNICEF, IOM and UNDSS concluded their joint mission to Akobo Tergol 15-19 January, assessing the humanitarian situation of the asylum seekers in Akobo Tergol, monitoring the assistance provided as well as conducting a border monitoring. Due to the limited capacity of Akobo Tergol in terms of facilities/services, registration resources and the lack security personnel, the relocation plans by ARRA and UNCHR have been expedited. The first group of 200 people have been already transported to the camp, and the relocation of refugees from Akobo to Lietchor will commence on 1st of February.

Population	Individuals
Nuer	21 799
Anuak	2631
Murle	488
Dinka	316
Total	25 234

UNHCR is now urging all implementing partners visiting Lietchor to contribute more time on being on ground rather than a brief visit to the camp. Especially assessments should be provided sufficiently time, and seeing the camp rather than merely discussing in Gambella offers a more in-depth account of the resources, needs and the reality of a refugee camp.

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In addition to Lietchor camp, there is a transit centre in Burbiey, which is located between Akobo-Tergol and Lietchor. It is projected that approx. 1000 asylum seekers can be transported by boat from Akobo per day, and as the river journey takes 9-12 hours, transit center will serve as an overnight shelter before continuing to Lietchor. DRC will be providing emergency water and hygiene services at Burbiey.

However, Lietchor camp does not have much resources at the moment. NRC has started constructing transitional shelters and latrines, and ARRA will provide hot meals for the first 2 days. ARRA has also distributed non-food items. WFP has located 4 grinding mills in the host village, but access and distance to the mills will be a challenge for some at the camp. Save the Children has 1 child protection officer present, and they are planning to have total of 2 protection officers and 2 education officers in Lietchor. UNHCR has planned a family tracing system as well as a Gender Based Violence joint assessment to begin next week as the asylum seekers arrive.

The host community has granted access to their water facilities in the emergence phase, but sufficient water distribution will require several different interventions by various agencies, such as LWF, DRC and Unicef.

Unicef has identified 5 shallow wells, which can be then mechanized by DRC for more widespread distribution of water. In case these measures will not suffice in the emergency phase, trucking water from the river 15km away will need to be started immediately. LWF is prepared to take part in this emergency water intervention, along with the construction of the permanent water supply, which is preferred due to the sustainability aspect. LWF Ethiopia has a programme officer and a site foreman conducting a joint assessment with IOCC-DICAC at the moment in Gambella and Lietchor. They have been closely coordinating with other actors and based on this, a draft budget has been completed to be included in the Act Appeal ETH114.

Akobo UN Joint Assessment Team Travel Routes , Gambella Region, Ethiopia (15-19 January 2014)

- Legend**
- Towns/Villages along the route
 - LeitChor (new refugee camp)
 - Mission travel routes by boat
 - Towns in ETH
 - State Capitals in SS
 - County Capital in SS
 - Principal Towns in SS
 - Main Rivers
 - Main Roads

