



KEY FIGURES

330,018 South Sudanese
Refugees in Gambella

57,786 refugees
transported
by IOM from entry points
to camps since September
2016

1,215 transitional shelters
were constructed
in Jewi and Kule camps
since June 2016

Highlights

- 2,851 South Sudanese Refugees were transported from Pagak entry point to Nguenyiel camp following medical screening by IOM staff in January
- 221 households in communities hosting refugees around Jewi camp received in-kind livelihood support
- Training on the use of cash and vouchers in emergency shelter/non-food item (NFI) response was conducted for woreda (district) and regional government officials, international NGO staff, and UN agency staff
- Roof thatching and mud walling was completed in Jewi camp transitional shelters, bringing the total number of completed shelters to 712
- Work will begin in February on 800 transitional shelters in Nguenyiel camp

Situation Overview

IOM is responding to the continuing refugee influx from South Sudan into Gambella Region, Ethiopia. As of the end of January 2017, there were 330,018 South Sudanese refugees in Gambella. Despite attempted peace negotiations in South Sudan, the fighting continues and violence still affects people across the country. Conflict is an aggravating factor in a humanitarian crisis that sees South Sudan suffer from chronic food shortages, economic collapse, destruction of infrastructure and homes, and outbreaks of disease including malaria and cholera.

Many have been internally displaced with large numbers also seeking safety in neighboring countries. Ethiopia currently hosts the second largest number of South Sudanese refugees after Uganda, of which the vast majority are in Gambella. South Sudanese refugees in Gambella mainly originate from Upper Nile State and Jonglei State. Gambella also currently has 10,930 internally displaced persons (IDPs) from a complex mixture of flooding, clan conflict, and cross-border raids from neighboring South Sudan.

IOM is providing humanitarian assistance to both refugees and host communities in Gambella. Since September 2016, IOM has provided safe and dignified transportation services to 57,786 South Sudanese refugees from border entry points to camps in Gambella. These operations are supplemented by IOM's ongoing work on providing shelter solutions to refugees and host communities, together with livelihood support for those living in camps and those communities in Gambella hosting refugees.



Movements

IOM transported 2,851 South Sudanese refugees throughout January. Of this number, 53% were female and 47% were male. Most noticeable was the high number of children, with 68% of those transported under the age of 18. All refugee movements during the reporting period were to the newly established Nguenyiel refugee camp and all of January's new arrivals entered through Pagak. The other camps in Gambella are at full capacity, with Nguenyiel the only one currently available to receive new arrivals. A further spike in refugee numbers entering Gambella in 2017 may result in contingency actions being taken, where the potential scenario of transporting South Sudanese refugees to Benishangul Gumuz Region in Ethiopia could be realized.

IOM conducts medical screening and medical referrals for refugees the day before travel. All 2,851 refugees were screened by IOM medical teams and determined to be medically fit for travel. During the month of January, IOM identified 510 medical cases and referred 20 people to its medical partners in Pagak. The main medical conditions identified were respiratory illnesses, conjunctivitis, complications related to pregnancy, and malaria.

Camp Capacity Overview

| Camp | Camp Population | Remaining Capacity |
|------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| NGUENYYIEL | 28,243 | 21,757 |
| JEWI | 56,989 | Full |
| KULE | 51,272 | Full |
| PUGNIDO 2 | 16,820 | Full |
| TIERKIDI | 69,597 | Full |



Shelter

IOM completed the final stage of construction on 712 transitional shelters in Jewi camp, which included mud plastering of outside walls and final touches on roof thatching. The construction of the shelters is done with the active contribution of refugees themselves, who undergo training by IOM to help them contribute to the construction of their own shelters therefore increasing ownership of the process. The refugees receive payment for their contributions through a voucher system and the final payment in Jewi camp was made this month. IOM has also begun to further utilize the skills of master carpenters from the refugee community in Jewi camp through constructing furniture such as beds and chairs for vulnerable beneficiaries. These items will then be distributed to refugees to use in their shelters.

The reporting period also saw IOM finalize arrangements to begin building 800 transitional shelters in the new Nguenyiel refugee camp in February. Transitional shelters represent a significant upgrade on the existing, more basic, emergency shelters currently being used to accommodate new arrivals in the camp. The shelters will provide dignity and safety to 4,000 people. The emergency shelters are mostly covered by plastic sheeting, which can make living conditions inside unbearably hot during the current dry season. Emergency shelters only have a maximum lifespan of 6 months.



Livelihood

As part of IOM's comprehensive response to the situation in Gambella, both refugee and host community livelihoods are supported. In January, IOM provided 221 host community households with livelihood support in the form of beehives and beekeeping equipment (50 households), and vegetable seeds and farming tools (171 households). The items provided will increase livelihood opportunities and boost family incomes.

The items were distributed in the villages of Kamri, Jewi and Bonga which are all located near the Jewi refugee camp, which hosts 56,989 refugees from South Sudan. Assisting host communities in improving their livelihoods plays a vital role in creating positive interaction with the neighboring refugee camp residents, as well as helping them cope with the immense economic changes that living next to a large refugee camp can bring to daily life.

IOM also provides livelihood support for refugees inside Jewi camp in the areas of pottery, home gardening, embroidery and retail.



Cash and Voucher Programming

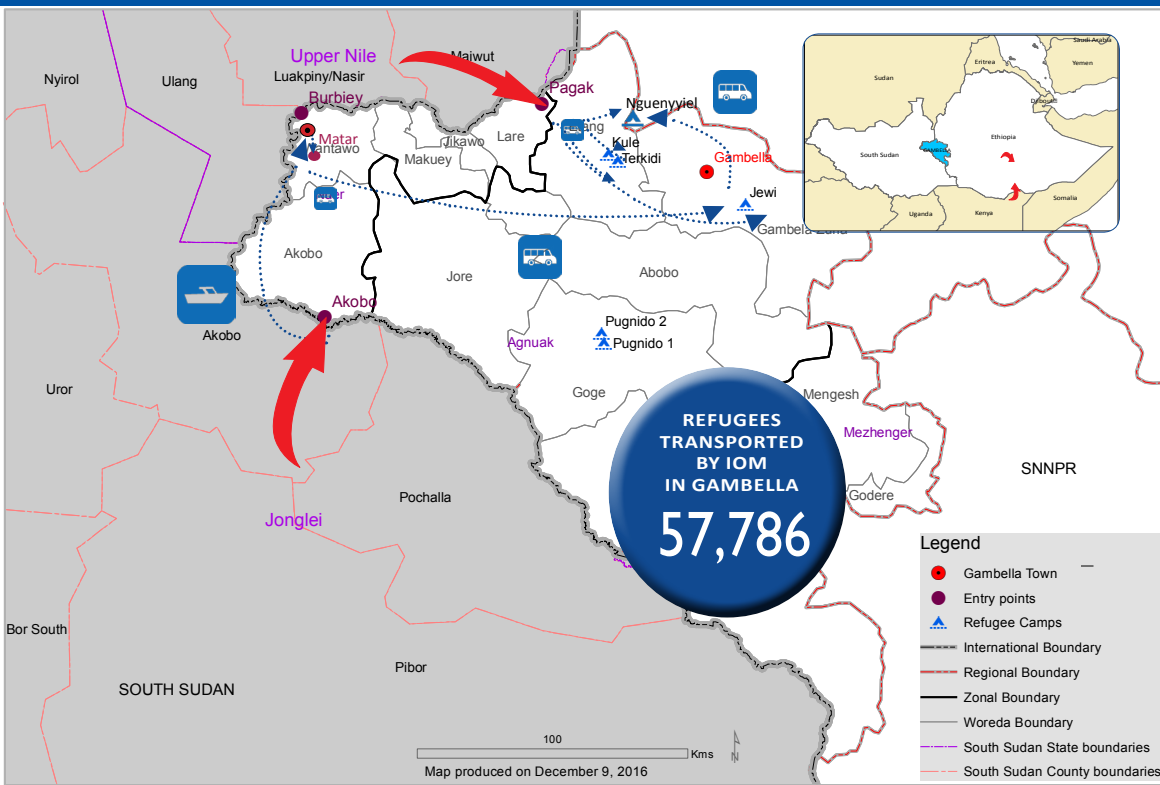
January saw IOM train officials from Lare woreda and from regional bodies in Gambella on cash and voucher modalities, including staff from Disaster Prevention and Food Security Agency (DPSFA); Gambella Regional Administration; Gambella Regional Justice Bureau; and the Small Enterprises Development Agency. Key topics included the different types of cash transfers that can be used, as well as the importance of sharing information. Whilst cash transfers have already been used to assist IDPs in other parts of Ethiopia, the training marks the first use of cash transfer in the ES/ NFI sector in Gambella.

IOM is piloting cash and voucher activities in Gambella to see how the use of local markets, cash and vouchers can provide for the diverse needs of IDPs in Gambella while also contributing to the local economy. Cash transfers to IDPs in Gambella have enormous potential in helping them to buy non-food items such as clothing and mattresses, food items, and materials to improve their shelters. Gambella boasts many functioning and well stocked markets which are easily accessible to IDPs. There are currently 10,930 IDPs in Gambella who cannot return to their homes due to various factors related to flooding; clan conflict and cross border raids emanating from South Sudan.



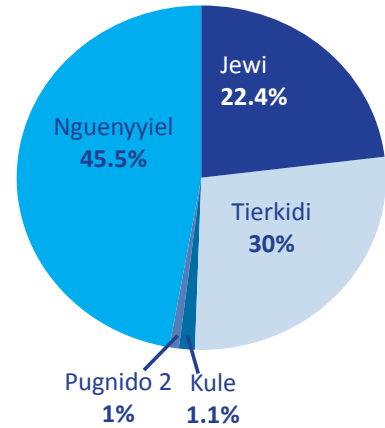
Transitional Shelter constructed by IOM with assistance from refugees in Jewi camp. Photo IOM 2017.

MOVEMENT



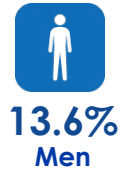
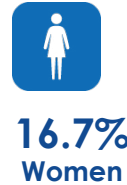
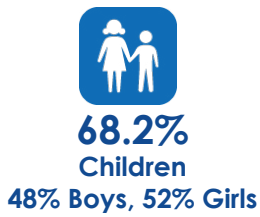
Refugees boarding the bus at Pagak entry point for Nguenyiel camp.

RELOCATION TO CAMPS



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DEMOGRAPHICS OF REFUGEES TRANSPORTED TO CAMPS IN GAMBELLA



| Date | From | To | Total Individuals |
|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------------|
| | Entry Point | Camp | |
| 4-Jan-17 | Pagak | Nguenyiel | 780 |
| 10-Jan-17 | Gambella | Nguenyiel | 13 |
| 14-Jan-17 | Pagak | Nguenyiel | 849 |
| 28-Jan-17 | Pagak | Nguenyiel | 1,209 |
| Total | | | 2,851 |

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