



NFIs Distribution to S/Sudanese asylum seekers at Akobo, Gambella region

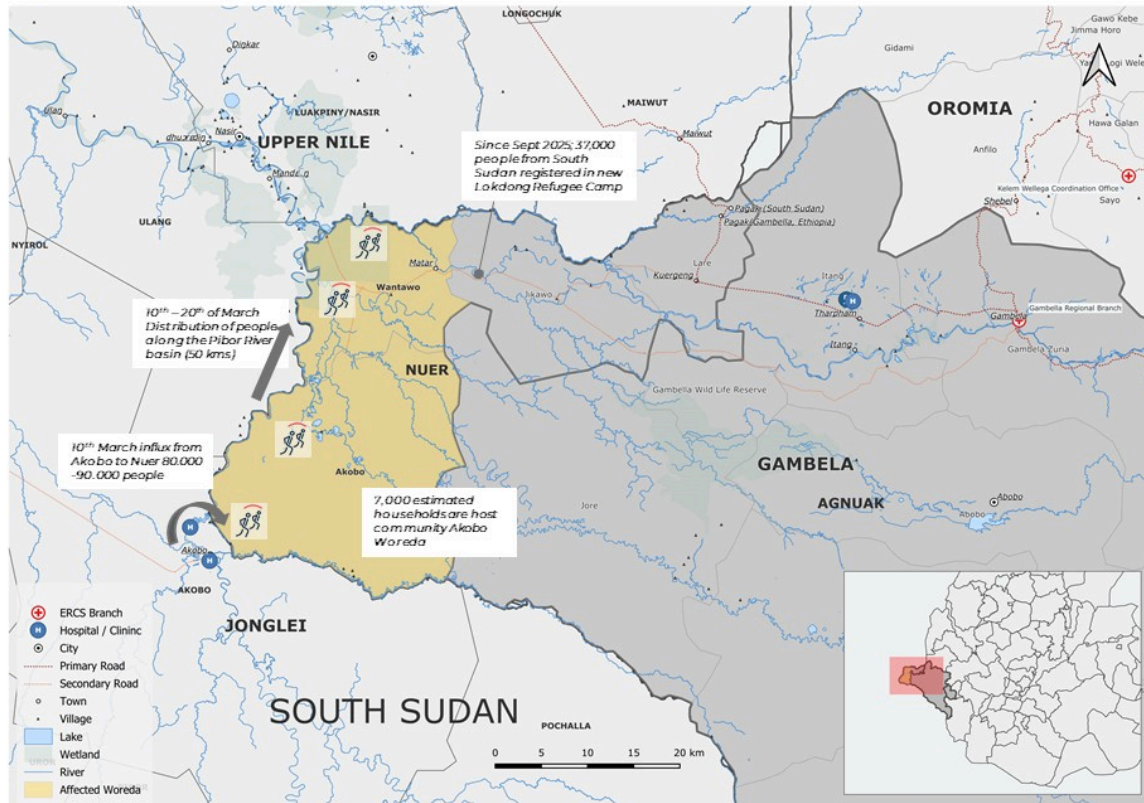
Appeal: MDRET040	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 463,843	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Population Movement
Glide Number: -	People Affected: 201,285 people	People Targeted: 20,000 people	
Event Onset: Sudden	Operation Start Date: 18-03-2026	New Operational End Date: 30-09-2026	Total Operating Timeframe: 6 months
Reporting Timeframe Start Date: 29-06-2026		Reporting Timeframe End Date: 29-10-2026	
Additional Allocation Requested: 236,202		Targeted Regions: Gambella	

Description of the Event

Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) Population Movement | Gambella

Product created by ERCS/ESK Team
Data sources: Ethiopian Red Cross

Updated: 27 March 2026



South Sudan population movement in Gambella, Ethiopia

Date of event

03-10-2026

What happened, where and when?

Following the escalation of conflict in South Sudan in March 2026 in Akobo County, the Gambella region of Ethiopia has experienced significant population inflows, placing increased pressure on Akobo woreda. The situation has continued with ongoing movements between South Sudan and Ethiopia. ERCS field reports indicate a sharp rise in displacement, from over 112,500 people recorded in April 2026 to approximately 125,000 by May, residing across multiple locations along the border areas of Akobo woreda. Many are living in open spaces and along the Pibor riverbank across 50 to 70 kilometers without formal shelter or organized settlement. Updates from Wantawo woreda in mid-May further noted that around 12,218 new arrivals moved onward to the UNHCR-established Tormorok Camp, but were neither accommodated nor registered, remained within host communities without support, and later returned to Akobo in groups.

The HCT meeting of 25 May confirmed ongoing access constraints for humanitarian partners; the National Society remains the sole actor able to reach and assist the displaced population despite rising and unmet needs. The recent assessments conducted by ERCS in April and 17 May identified growing gaps in humanitarian services, while assistance remains limited due to access restrictions. This underscores the urgent need to scale up lifesaving, integrated support.

Updates received on 13 May from Akobo County, Jonglei State, indicate a worsening security situation and increased risk of conflict escalation, further necessitating a scale-up of the current response. The growing number of people and unmet needs has led affected populations to adopt coping mechanisms that remain insufficient in a context of limited assistance. For instance, movements back and



forth continue, as asylum seekers attempt to access food assistance following recent WFP airdrops in Akobo State, South Sudan, despite a persistently high-risk security environment.



Assessment teams during security and needs assessment in Gambella region



NFI distribution in Akobo Woreda, Gambella region



Volunteers training on PSS, PGI and CEA held in Mattar

Scope and Scale

Displacement dynamic and geographical scope:

The ongoing influx of people fleeing conflict and insecurity in Akobo County, Jonglei State, South Sudan, has triggered a major humanitarian crisis along the Ethiopia–South Sudan border. The majority of those crossing into Ethiopia are internally displaced persons (IDPs) who had previously sought refuge in Akobo County after fleeing violence in Urur, Nyirol, and Akobo West counties. Many families have therefore experienced multiple displacements within a short period, exhausting their coping capacities and arriving with few or no resources.

Current displacement figures: According to government reports from Akobo County, more than 125,000 people have crossed into Ethiopia seeking safety, primarily settling in Akobo Woreda and surrounding locations including Yir-Yir, Tiergul, Gangrial, Ore, and Kuichar in the Nuer Zone of Gambella Region. The scale and speed of the influx have overwhelmed local authorities and host communities, whose resources and services were already limited.

The humanitarian impact:

Humanitarian impact is aggravated by the lack of formal registration, which prevents verification of the total caseload and limits understanding of demographic composition and specific vulnerabilities. Conditions are further worsened by the concentration of refugees in open areas, reliance on unsafe surface water, the absence of sanitation infrastructure, and the pressure placed on already limited host community resources. The movement is predominantly river based, with asylum seekers crossing by boat, shaping both the geographic distribution of settlements and the logistical constraints for humanitarian access.

Assessments conducted by the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) since March to May found that thousands of displaced people are living in open spaces, under trees, or in overcrowded public facilities such as schools and health posts. The health system is under severe strain, with health facilities facing critical shortages of medicines, laboratory supplies, medical equipment, and health personnel. Access to safe water is extremely limited, forcing both displaced populations and host communities to rely on untreated surface water sources, while sanitation facilities and hygiene supplies are largely absent.

Food insecurity is also a major concern. Most households depend primarily on fish as their main food source, with little access to a diversified diet. Key Informant Interviews and Focus Group Discussions reported worsening health and nutrition conditions, particularly among children, pregnant and lactating women, and other vulnerable groups.

With few humanitarian partners operating in the affected areas, the response capacity remains insufficient compared to the magnitude of needs. Urgent multi-sectoral assistance is required to address critical gaps in shelter, health, water, sanitation, hygiene, food security, nutrition, and protection services to prevent further deterioration of the humanitarian situation.

Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
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1. OCHA	https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/ethiopia-new-influx-south-sudanese-asylum-seekers-gambella-region-dg-echo-dg-echo-partners-media-echo-daily-flash-11-march-2026
2. OCHA	https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/ethiopia-risk-new-influx-south-sudan-gambella-amid-increasing-tensions-dg-echo-partners-un-ocha-media-echo-daily-flash-3-february-2026
3. UNHCR	https://data.unhcr.org/en/country/eth
4. IOM - Household Needs Assessment	https://dtm.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd11461/files/resources/HNA%20R1_Methodological%20Note.pdf
5. Dawan.Africa	https://www.dawan.africa/news/more-than-100000-people-flee-south-sudan-conflict-into-ethiopia-un-says
6. OCHA	https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/south-sudan/south-sudan-humanitarian-response-situation-report-no-1-16-april-2026
7. Ethiopia Population Movement, DREF Operation	https://go-api.ifrc.org/api/DownloadFile/94711/MDRET040do
8. WFP Distribution	https://www.wfp.org/news/wfp-scales-emergency-response-akobo-catastrophic-hunger-and-malnutrition-deepen
9. International Rescue Committee	https://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/south-sudan-renewed-fighting-akobo-state-leading-alarming-humanitarian-crisis-warns-irc

Summary of Changes

Are you changing the timeframe of the operation	Yes
Are you changing the operational strategy	No
Are you changing the target population of the operation	Yes
Are you changing the geographical location	No
Are you making changes to the budget	Yes
Are you requesting an additional allocation?	Yes



Please explain the summary of changes and justification:

The initial DREF was launched on 18 March 2026 with an allocation of CHF 227,641, targeting 10,000 people (2,000 households) affected by population movement from South Sudan into the Gambella region.

A scale-up is now being pursued due to the continued and rapidly increasing influx of asylum seekers. The caseload has risen significantly to approximately from 85,000 in march to 12500 individuals in May along border areas, placing severe strain on host community resources and existing humanitarian response capacity. These trends are documented in the April and 17 May assessments and prompted a formal request for assistance from Akobo local authorities on 18 May. In parallel, ongoing restrictions, upsurge of needs with new arrivals and uncovered gaps of growing displaced individuals, reconfirmed during the 25 May HCT meeting, continue to demonstrate significant gaps. The National Society remains the only humanitarian partner alongside Government with operational access to support the displaced population.

Given the evolution above, this update includes an increase in the target population from 10,000 to 20,000 people (4,000 households), based on updated assessment findings, and an extension of the operational timeframe from 3 months to 6 months. The budget has been revised to CHF 463,842, with an additional allocation of CHF 236,201. This scale-up does is done with strengthened prioritization and scale-up of the same initial key sectors. Shelter and NFI support have increased from 2,000 to 4,000 households, while health and WASH services are being expanded to reach 20,000 people, focusing on safe water access, basic hygiene, sanitation improvement in camps and health services, and referrals. HSPs will continue to function with integrated service delivery, including protection, orientation, key messaging, and services.

Other critical needs identified during assessment including food and nutrition will be covered through other sources to complemented by operational base, community engagement and monitoring system established by this DREF.

Despite challenges on access, election context and operational complexity, implementation is progressing. Approximately 70% of procured relief items have been delivered, including 1,500 ESNFI kits already transported to Akobo. Beneficiary registration has been completed for 3,000 households, and 500 households have received assistance. A Humanitarian Service Point is being established, while PFA, PSS, health screening, and hygiene promotion activities are ongoing.

Given the remoteness of the affected areas and findings from ongoing assessments, ERCS is strengthening risk management as key for effective delivery of the assistance. This include addressing access challenges, increase of its operational presence by establishing a field base in Akobo, deploying additional technical staff, and positioning a speedboat to support staff movement and emergency medical referrals and ensuring closer monitoring.

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	IFRC Addis cluster present in the country has supported the NS to access DREF funding and coordinating with the Surge support, Security assessments, operation planning, finance oversight, and monitoring of ongoing activities.
Participating National Societies	Through the emergency coordination, the operation constraints were shared to partners. Currently 3 partners are mobilizing resources to contribute to this emergency operation. Danish Red Cross, has mobilized Euro 100,000 to support the response in Emergency shelter and essential household items, and WASH. Through the British Red Cross, FCDO has committed to support the NS response on WASH, Shelter, Health, food and nutrition. The Swiss Embassy through Swiss RC present in the country, also has committed to contribute around CHF 500,000 CHF. The NS is continuing with multiple partners in the country to ensure the appropriate support is provided to the influx, while monitoring the situation.



ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

ICRC is actively participating in movement emergency coordination and conducted field security assessment at Gambella city and discussed with Gambella city administration and ERCS Branch on the ongoing response. ICRC committed to complement the ongoing DREF efforts, with the designed emergency health intervention which include the provision of medicines and medical supplies to address stock shortages and ensure continued surgical care for the wounded.

- At Gambella Primary Hospital, in addition to the donation of medical supplies, ICRC will also provide medical materials and mobility devices, on-the-job technical support, to strengthen the early rehabilitation and physiotherapy services to promote faster recovery and reduce complications.

- For Nyinenyang Primary Hospital, ICRC delivered medical items.

In addition, it allocated 1,000 EHI items on top of what is provided in the operational cooperation agreement (OCA) along with the extended RFL services to this response.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	Yes
National authorities	The Federal government, local authorities and RRS are actively engaged in the operation. A coordination mechanism at the Woreda and Zone levels was established. The regional, woreda and RRS department work closely with the ERCS as the sole humanitarian actor in this operation.
UN or other actors	UN agencies are managing several refugees camps in Gambella, including the 2025 influx providing humanitarian services for more than 450,000 South Sudanese and Sudanese. Currently they are yet engaged in the Akobo influx.

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

- The movement emergence coordination on going, the South Sudan population movement being one of the main agenda, where the assessment, operation updates and resource mobilization are shared among the partners. Resources allocation and operation coordination is discussed among the partners with support of IFRC and the NS preparedness and response unit.

- Currently ERCS has separate coordination with government and other partners including UN agencies.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

The situation in Akobo woreda, Nuer Zone is dire. In the last two months, the number of new arrivals has increased from 85,000 reported to approximately 125,000 asylum seeker, i.e. by approximately 46% increase. New arrivals have no shelter, the majority are staying in make-shift structures, while others are hosted by the communities. The influx continues to overstretch the host community's capacity due to doubled needs of shelter within the same geographical location. Currently there is no assigned settlements for the entrants, no settlement plan despite the continuing rainy season which is likely to compound the humanitarian situation that may not be addressed without additional support.





Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Humanitarian conditions in the Akobo settlement areas are extremely poor and overwhelmed with limited resources. The asylum seekers currently have no access to adequate food, safe drinking water, formal shelter, or basic needs, and there is very limited humanitarian assistance in place. Existing local services are insufficient to meet even minimum needs for the increasing number of new arrivals. The initial distribution for 85,000 people by Gambella local authorities is currently stressed to meet basic needs because of the increased influx and lack of humanitarian agencies to complement the response. Population are mainly depending on fish products, and the stress may force them to negative coping strategies.



Health

The displacement poses significant risk to refugees and host communities due to congested settlements, limited health and WASH services within the Woreda, limited medical supplies and medical service providers. It is reported that health posts lack medicines, diagnostic services and basic clinical materials therefore necessitate support to address health needs of the growing population. In addition, the massive numbers have exceeded the surveillance capacity at the woreda, thus increasing the risk of disease importation. The region is classified as a high malaria zone, increasing the risk especially for children and pregnant women. Procurement of LLINs, support with medical supplies, and vector control measures are equally urgent.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

The available potable water sources are insufficient to meet the needs of both the host community and the newly arrived populations. The assessment indicated that asylum seekers depend primarily on untreated surface water sourced from the river. Therefore, lack of water facilities to correct, purify, and distribute poses a risk of water borne diseases to both the host communities and refugees. Inadequate shelter and sanitation facilities further expose communities to open defecation, significantly increasing the risk of disease outbreaks. The assessment stresses the need for safe water, hygiene facilities, supplies, and awareness of good hygiene practices.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Poor living conditions, limited transportation, and scarce resources have increased protection risks for families, particularly for women, girls, and children. Families arrive with inadequate items needed for their safety and well-being, leading to insufficient clothing and basic protective materials against harsh weather conditions, with women and girls facing additional vulnerabilities that require special consideration. Displacement and poor shelters also pose high risk on child protection and GBV and loss of rights to social, moral, education and economic services.



Migration And Displacement

At the time of assessment, there was no formal registration system in place though ERCS encouraged the local authorities to initiate an informal process through clan leaders to have a better estimate of displaced people. The demographic composition of the population remains unverified. The presence of unaccompanied and separated children was confirmed, although exact figures are not available. Based on the assessment finding most of the displaced population are women, children, and youth.

While this number was disputed, the scale and speed of the influx overwhelmed the capacity of the existing Points of Entry (PoE), where reception facilities and basic services remained extremely limited resulting, newly arrived families gathering in overcrowded and poorly organized reception areas with no dignified services. Many arrived exhausted and with minimal belongings after long journeys, increasing their exposure to protection risks, health threats, and harsh weather conditions. The situation underscored urgent humanitarian needs for structured reception services.





Community Engagement And Accountability

The host community is described as the primary source of immediate support to the new arrivals. According to the assessment, host households opened their homes, shared limited food stocks, and organized local support for wounded asylum seekers. Community level solidarity therefore constitutes the main available support mechanism which needs encouragement, integration and formal engagement for all the plans and support provided. The current case load is 3 times the host community.

Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

Limited or protected formal registered data of arrivals, posing unclear information for planning the response.

The needs of the refugees are focused on life saving and addressed in the DREF. however, with increased influx constraining community resources, and limited allocated resources, the situation remains dire with partial supported and majority unmet need in shelter, food and nutrition, wash, health. and RFL services.

Despite The humanitarian situation in Gambella that was at the crisis point before the influx and stressed need to meet basic needs, the situation has not changed due to lack of humanitarian agencies to support the operation. The current funding landscape has put additional strain on ERCS to meet the growing needs in Gambela region.

Poor roads and marine services to Akobo woreda, fuel shortage and insecurity situation limits transportation of relief materials and services to the destination. Similarly, for the assessment, the team could not access all areas

No formal external coordination; limited partner support strain the ERCS capacity in the response as the sole approved partner to provide support to the affected population.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

The objective of the DREF operation is to provide immediate, life-saving humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable populations fleeing South Sudan and seeking refuge in Akobo Woreda, Gambella Region. The response ensures dignified reception services and delivers essential shelter and non-food items (NFI), emergency health care, WASH, and Protection services. The operation aims to increase the target to reach directly 20,000 people (4000hhs) through a participatory approach, with Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) integrated as a cross-cutting component to promote safe, inclusive, and dignified access to services for 6 months.

Operation strategy rationale

The DREF Operation strategy is focusing on the actual needs that were identified by the need assessment conducted at the community level and addressing the asylum seekers and host community through immediate humanitarian support targeting directly 20,000 people, (4000 HH). Given the dire humanitarian situation, challenging security situation, poor access, bad weather situation and limited humanitarian support, this strategy assumes ERCS acting as the sole humanitarian service provider to both asylum seekers and host communities aligning all partners support to ensure no duplication and the operational strategy will focus on key sectors including:

A: Establishing Humanitarian Service Points: ERCS is delivering dignified reception services at Points of Entry (PoEs), where new arrivals are accessing essential information, referrals to Psychosocial Support (PSS) and counselling services, basic first aid for injured individuals, and emergency nutrition assistance through dry food ration packages for identified vulnerable people. Family Links support services, including phone calls and charging facilities, are being integrated to support communication needs and to monitor unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) and families. ERCS is also advocating with the relevant authorities to ensure consistent registration processes for accurate data collection while maintaining compliance with data protection policies

B: WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene): ERCS will improving access to safe water through the installation of pre-positioned WASH Kit 5, including water bladders, storage tanks, extension lines, and a water treatment plant at the source. A WASH Officer is being deployed to support the operation, while community WASH committees and community volunteers are being oriented on water quality management.



Continuous water quality monitoring and chlorination are being maintained both at the water source and household level.

Trained community volunteers will be leading water distribution and facilitating community engagement activities on hygiene and health awareness, while promoting good hygiene practices to reduce the risk of disease outbreaks. A total of 4,000 households is targeted with water storage equipment and hygiene supplies, including one bucket, one jerry can, four bars of soap, and a family hygiene kit, to support and sustain safe hygiene practices. In addition, ERCS is installing six inclusive emergency latrines at densely populated hotspot

C: Shelter and EHI: The operation provides ESNFI kits comprising of emergency shelter materials (2 tarpaulin, 5m rope and 2Kg nails) and Essential Household Items (2 blankets, 2 sleeping mats, 2 solar lamps and 1 kitchen sets) to the most vulnerable 4000 HH. currently 500 HH have received kits, and distribution process is ongoing. During distribution, communities are oriented on shelter kits management, and volunteers continue mentoring during House-to-house visits.

D: Health and Care: The trained BFA and PSS community volunteers continue to provide services at the HSP and community. ERCS planned to support health facility with essential medicine and medical supplies, to meet health facility gaps, targeting at least 10,000 people and planned to improve service provision through the outreach services by deploying HCW from the zonal level 2-3 times a week to support with routine medical services at facility and community level on the revised plan. To complement the preventive measures, ERCS planned also procure and distribute treated mosquito nets to at least 4000HHs to prevent malaria infection targeting HH with Under-fives and pregnant women. ERCS will deploy its prepositioned rescue boat to facilitate outreach and referral services. 5 CHW deployed to support screening at the HSP.

E: Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) continue to be mainstreamed throughout the operation ensuring the needs of the marginalized groups are considered, disaggregated data reporting, continuous safeguarding, monitoring and establishing referral pathways. SGBV related issues are tracked and addressed through existing PSS, counseling and referral pathways are established for managing critical case. The community complaints and feedback mechanism that is capable of identifying and addressing sensitive feedback are strengthened through trusted sources. Community awareness on the availability and accessibility of ERCS services provided are designed and shared to ensure community centered response. The trained volunteers actively promote PGI and CEA integration and continue to support the activities implementation in an integrated manner across the sectors.

F: Branch response capacity: ERCS HQ and the regional branches is capacitated through staff deployment, support the response operation at all levels, and strengthen coordination with partners internally and externally. Operational base is established at Akobo to ensure continued support to volunteers, beneficiaries and ensure quality services. ERCS, ICRC and IFRC frequently monitor the security situation in line with the assessment findings and recommendations for safety and security of service providers. ERCS has deployed the rescue boat to support with staff movement and emergency referral services, currently on shipping process.

G: Food and Nutrition: The need assessment identified the food, and nutrition needs as one of the critical needs. This has been prioritized and is addressed with funding from other sources while the major coordination is covered by the DREF, including beneficiary selection, management of complaint and feedback using the trained volunteers and community committees.

H. ERCS with support from IFRC Country Cluster established a coordination mechanism in line with emergency response framework, where the federation wide movement partners coordination is established and resource mobilization is ongoing among the partners. ERCS is also coordinating with government authorities at federal, regional and woreda level to ensure smooth implementation, and advocate for other humanitarian support. Additionally, ERCS is working closely with the Refugee and Returnees' Service (RRS) department to coordinate the ongoing operation. To ensure full-service provision to the affected population and sustainable project, ERCS is advocating with UN agencies and INGO to mobilize more resources and is closely monitoring the situation in coordination with IFRC Ethiopia and Juba CCD the possibility of continued influx, for longer term planning.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

The operation increased from 10,000 to 20,000(10%) of the displaced people residing in the Akobo woreda, Nuer Zone, Gambella Region. It is reported that the total number of displaced persons in the Akobo woreda is approximately 125,000 with host community approximated to 35,000. The priority targeting will be given to Unaccompanied children, pregnant and lactating women, people with disabilities, wounded and people with chronic illness. The vulnerable host communities hosting the asylum seekers will be considered in the targeting, along with the social and community services, which relieve stressed services.

Particular attention is made to engaging both the displaced and host communities by setting up community committees to support in



beneficiary identification, registration and verification to overcome the challenge of registration. Complaint and feedback mechanisms to inform operations while promoting social cohesion is set up by engaging communities to identify proper channels.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The DREF focuses on and give priority to asylum seekers, and host communities prioritizing unaccompanied and separated children, pregnant and lactating women, elderly persons, women-headed households, individuals with chronic illnesses, peoples with disability and those with serious injuries or wounds fleeing violence in neighboring South Sudan and host community. Initial reports and assessment findings described a dire humanitarian situation with most arriving with few belongings and some injured due to ongoing fighting.

Total Targeted Population

Women	5,040	Rural	-
Girls (under 18)	5,540	Urban	-
Men	3,660	People with disabilities (estimated)	8.8%
Boys (under 18)	5,760		
Total targeted population	20,000		

Risk and Security Considerations (including "management")

Does your National Society have anti-fraud and corruption policy?	Yes
Does your National Society have prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse policy?	Yes
Does your National Society have child protection/child safeguarding policy?	Yes
Does your National Society have whistleblower protection policy?	Yes
Does your National Society have anti-sexual harassment policy?	Yes

Please analyse and indicate potential risks for this operation, its root causes and mitigation actions.

Risk	Mitigation action
Security in the region remains precarious, with instability continuing to drive cross-border, internal displacement and	* Mitigation actions were developed after the Security assessment and under implementation in addition to



<p>limit access for humanitarian actors. Upcoming elections in Ethiopia may exacerbate tensions already present. Protracted conflict may lead to aid dependency without a durable solution for integration/return.</p>	<p>continuously monitoring of the situation in both South Sudan and Ethiopia. * Coordinate with external partners in sharing relevant security Information. * Engage with host and affected communities to ensure access and acceptance. * Identify specific triggers within Gambella region to activate existing ERCS Election Violence Contingency Plans. * Continue to engage with government at Region and National levels to advocate for settlement solutions.</p>
<p>Difficulty reaching the operational sites due to poor roads and longer distances from regional capital.</p>	<p>ERCS Gambella Branch work closely with Region and Zonal administration to ensure efficient sharing of logistics infrastructure (warehousing, watercraft). Well Equipped field office and Min warehouse will be established to ease the operation.</p> <p>ERCS is deploying a motorboat to use in transportation of staffs and evacuate the most critically sick for further management where necessary.</p>
<p>Conflict in South Sudan worsens and continues for a longer period which may result in a significant population movement which exceeds the capacity of this response plan.</p>	<p>Situation is continuously be monitored with the possibility of launching an Emergency Appeal and mobilizing resources from other sources.</p>
<p>Tensions between new arrivals and local population over available resources and services.</p>	<p>ERCS continue to monitor the established community engagement and accountability mechanism to ensure transparency during implementation and engagement communication with host communities to align the response to strengthen available community services and promote social cohesion</p>
<p>Delay in procurements and transportation hampering the response.</p>	<p>Following materialisation of this risk, Alternative transport has been put in place. Including contracting cargo boats, assigning ERCS rescue boat for operation team and tracking progress through weekly calls and updates/ follow up and coordination meetings.</p>
<p>Epidemic/Outbreak Risk: poor access to sanitation, lack of clean water, overwhelmed surveillance systems increase risk for water-borne disease outbreaks/other epidemics.</p>	<p>conduct integrated hygiene/health promotion complemented with supplies and infrastructure; coordinate with partners, government on improving surveillance Coordinate with regional partners on utilization of EWARs system to monitor outbreaks.</p>
<p>Procurement and supply chain disruptions due to Middle East conflict. Ongoing conflict in Persian Gulf may restrict international procurements, fuel shortage.</p>	<p>Local procurement and utilization of existing stocks will be prioritized wherever possible. Regional Branch will advocate for access to government fuel reserves to support operations.</p>
<p>Upcoming rainy season continues to worsen humanitarian situation, while limiting transportation access via roads and river.</p>	<p>Need assessment recommended alternative road and water route access to Akobo wereda. The operation will identify safer and well-drained sites for temporary shelter construction in collaboration with Woreda administration. The operation will continuously monitor environmental hazards.</p>
<p>Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Increased risk of physical, psychological, and social harm.</p>	<p>Implement safeguarding measures; establish confidential reporting mechanisms; train staff and volunteers; provide referral pathways to specialized services.</p>



Exclusion of vulnerable groups- Unequal access to services and aid.	Conduct inclusive needs assessments; apply vulnerability-based targeting; ensure disability-inclusive and gender-sensitive programming; engage community representatives in planning and monitoring.
Privacy and data protection breaches- Exposure of personal information and increased vulnerability.	Apply data protection protocols; obtain informed consent; limit access to sensitive information; securely store beneficiary data.
overall operational delivery delayed, questioning the relevance and feasibility of the proposed intervention for the community and limiting impact.	<p>to maintain Relevance and feasibility of this request:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To speed-up the implementation for the initial allocation and scale-up: ERCS is setting up operation base in the field to support the response, monitor progress; <p>ERCS with IFRC delegation have reviewed the implementation plan with enhanced operation team and put in place an acceleration plan for monitoring activities and continuously support the field team</p> <p>To maximize the relevance and impact of assistance, community engagement by involving local stakeholders in outreach activities and maintaining an operational base within the response area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Targeted mitigation measures are in place for the transport and access challenges as per above risks.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation:

The Nuer Zone is categorized as Red security level through IFRC security monitoring. The transportation of materials from Addis might also face roadblocks in transit due to security challenges in the neighboring regions. IFRC Security officer jointly with NS security conducted comprehensive security assessment to ensure safety and security of all staff and volunteers. The staffs and volunteers will be oriented on the security procedures and continue to monitor the situation.

Ethiopian National elections are scheduled in June 2026. The National Society and Movement Partners have established contingency plans in the event of election-related violence.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?	No
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Planned Intervention



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 189,757
Targeted Persons: 20,000
Targeted Male: 9,420
Targeted Female: 10,580

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of people reached with shelter support.	20,000	2,500



Number of assessments completed	1	1
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Progress Towards Outcome

During the period under review, the assessment was carried out in Akobo wereda. The key findings identified increasing number of asylum seekers, scattered along the river in with no shelter, mostly concentrated in several localities, approximately 20,000 people in Yir-Yir, 20,000 in Tiergul, 15,000 in Gangrial, 10,000 in Tore, and 5,000 in Kuichar

A total 2000 full ESNFIs Kits procured, by the reporting time, 1000 kits were transported to Gambella, and 500 are already distributed to the beneficiaries. This was a follow up activity after beneficiaries' identification, selection and registration targeting 3000 HH to include the support from both DREF and ICRC.

During distribution, beneficiaries were provided with information on the use and management of the kits and oriented volunteers were assigned to follow up.

ERCS could not meet its planned target because of transportation challenge, However, the NS has identified and contracted the marine service provider for shipping materials from Matter to Akobo, aligned to the security assessment and recommendation. During this reporting period, two trucks has been assigned to transport the remaining 1000 Kits from Addis to Gambella.

Following the assessment findings and recommendations, and request from the government, ERCS is targeting additional 2000hhs for shelter support to reach 4000hhs (20,000 people).

With the existing transport arrangement, ERCS will be able to timely implement the planned activities.



Budget: CHF 45,168

Targeted Persons: 20,000

Targeted Male: 9,420

Targeted Female: 10,580

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of people reached with basic first aid services.	2,000	78
Number of volunteers trained in BFA	25	26
Number of First Aid Kits procured	30	0
Number of volunteers and staff trained on PSS	15	24
Number of Health Facilities provided with essential medicines	2	0
Number of HHs receiving treated mosquito nets	4,000	0
Number of people reached through outreach services	5,000	0
Number of people reached with PSS services	5,000	200

Progress Towards Outcome

Health

Mental health and Psychosocial support and BFA trainings were provided to 24 volunteers and 26 volunteers respectively from 3 major localities in the target areas. Working in groups, plans and budgets were developed to support implementation.

During the period under review, the teams supported 78 people by providing basic First aid, 200 people through group discussions about emotional wellbeing, and facilitated 50 referral cases for further management. It is estimated that cases are likely to increase due to continuing influx, strained community resources and limited support to asylum seekers.

30 FA kits were procured and 10 deployed to the field while the remaining 20 will be distributed to newly identified sites.

Key Pending /Ongoing Activities

- Procurement and delivery of mosquito nets for 4,000 HHs.
- Continue and extend First Aid services and PSS to target population.
- Procurement of essential medicines to health facilities.
- Integrated health and hygiene awareness at community level.
- Deployment of rescue boat for outreach and referral services.
- Coordination is ongoing with stakeholder on support for nutrition component.

Challenges:

Large proportion of households not yet reached due to logistics delays however, ERCS is deploying a motorboat to support the emergency health referral, transporting HCW for outreach services and ERCS staff for monitoring activities.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 95,751

Targeted Persons: 20,000

Targeted Male: 9,420

Targeted Female: 10,580

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number people reached with safe water services through water trucking .	10,000	0
Number of people reached through health and hygiene promotion and awareness activities.	20,000	4,560
Number of hand washing stations procured and installed	50	0
Number of volunteers trained in hygiene awareness and promotion	25	26
Number of households reached with jerry cans/buckets	4,000	0
No of HH provided with hygiene kits hbf	4,000	0
Number of emergency latrines installed	6	0

Number of emergency water supply systems installed	4	0
Number of people accessing safe water	20,000	0

Progress Towards Outcome

- 26 community volunteers were trained in Health and hygiene awareness and are actively engaged in community awareness raising, promotion of good hygiene practices, and contributing to efforts aimed at reducing the risk of disease outbreaks targeting densely populated areas. Through house to house and group sessions, the team has reached 4560 people with key developed messages.
- Beneficiary identification, verification and registration 2000 HH.
- Procured WASH NFI and Hygiene supplies for 2000hhs.
- Procured 6 water tanks.
- Procured 50 hand washing points – fiber.
- Transported the water bladder to Gambella.

Key Pending/ ongoing activities

- Transportation and installation of water tanks.
- Procurement of water treatment chemicals
- Transportation and distribution of WASH NFIs and supplies.
- Beneficiary identification, verification and registration of additional 2000 HH.
- Installation of water bladder.
- Set up of handwashing stations.
- Construction of 6 Emergency latrines at critical sites.

Key challenges/gaps

Transportation due to fuel shortage and Access to the site resulting in delayed implementation however this has been addressed by contracting a service boat and negotiation with the government on prioritising humanitarian services to fuel access.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 22,084

Targeted Persons: 10,000

Targeted Male: 4,710

Targeted Female: 5,290

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of assessments and analysis carried out incorporating protection, gender & diversity and inclusion considerations as part of emergency operations.	1	0
Number of people reached with PGI services and awareness	5,000	200
Number of volunteers trained on the PGI Minimum Standards	50	57
Number of child safeguarding risk analysis conducted	1	0
No if women and girls received MHM kits	2,000	0



% of individuals who have access to safe reporting and referral mechanisms for sexual exploitation and abuse and child safeguarding incidents.	60	10
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Progress Towards Outcome

- A total of 57 volunteers and staff (48 male and 9 female) equipped with knowledge and skills in PGI are now champions in addressing safeguards, discrimination and exploitation issues, and gender concerns in communities. This has increased the level of awareness.
- Partner mapping and establishment of referrals pathways have been done at Kabele level however, with increasing influx, ERCS will intensify awareness and timely support.
- procured 1000 MHM kits.

Pending /ongoing activities

- Transportation and distribution of MHM kits.
- Child safeguarding risk analysis.
- Printing of EIC materials with key PGI messages.
- procurement of additional 1000 MHM kits.
- Continue mapping of referral pathways.
- PGI/GBV dissemination.



Migration And Displacement

Budget: CHF 13,779

Targeted Persons: 20,000

Targeted Male: 9,420

Targeted Female: 10,580

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) providing assistance and/or protection at border crossings.	2	1
Number of people accessing RFL - through phone charging and free phone calls	1,000	0
Number of people reached with Psychosocial services at the HPSS	5,000	200
Number of people reached with proper information and at the HSPs	10,000	0
Number of people provided with high energy biscuits	10,000	0

Progress Towards Outcome

- One HSP was established.
- Volunteers deployed to provide basic FA and PSS services.
- RFL services are integrated at the service point with support from ICRC.

Key Pending/ ongoing activities

- Mapping and establishment of one new HSPs.



- Continue provision of integrated dignified reception at HSPs.
- Provision of referral and linkage to service provider.

Challenges

Extended riverbank with informal or porous entry points with limited management of the PoE however, the Response team will continue to map out key entry points and provide information and engagement of community leaders to map and report new entrants.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 7,225

Targeted Persons: 20,000

Targeted Male: 9,420

Targeted Female: 10,580

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of community committees established	2	3
Number of communications channels established to collect community feedback.	3	2
Number of assessments completed.	1	1
Number of Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) conducted	1	0
Number of opportunities for communities to participate in planning and managing the programme/operation (e.g., number of community committee meetings, planning workshops, focus group discussions, town hall meetings etc).	4	3
Percentage of people surveyed who feel the National Society's support/services meets their most important needs/provides useful support.	80	0
Percentage of people surveyed who report they know how to provide feedback about the organisation/programme/operation	80	0

Progress Towards Outcome

- 2 inception workshops conducted for 50 ERCS staff, RRS, regional and woreda leaders (41 male and 9 female) The workshops were instrumental in enabling the key actors to have a common understanding of the engagement strategy, coordination and alignment of the planned activities.
- At community level 6 committees were established at 3 locations i.e. 3 committees for beneficiaries' selection and 3 committees for complaint handling.
- Engagement of community committees in beneficiary identification and selection.

Pending/ Ongoing activities:

- Follow up and strengthening communication and feedback systems/channels.



- Advocacy with the government and local leaders.
- Beneficiary selection and identification.
- Orientation to committees on feedback and complaint management.
- Post distribution monitoring.
- Printing of CEA materials.



Coordination And Partnerships

Budget: CHF 0

Targeted Persons: 20,000

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of coordination meetings held with Regional/Zonal Administration and/or UNHCR.	6	2
Number of coordination meetings held with in-country movement partners.	4	2
No of stakeholders coordination meeting held by ERCS	2	0
number of advocacy sessions conducted	4	3

Progress Towards Outcome

- ERCS with support from IFRC Country Cluster established movement emergency response coordination mechanism in line with Operation coordination procedures.
- 2 movement coordination meeting has been held with at headquarter level, where situational analysis, assessment finding and recommendation and implementation updates. There has been interest to support the response especially from the DRC for NFIs and ICRC for RFL support.
- ERCS is coordinating closely with the Refugee and Returnees' Service (RRS) to coordinate the on-going operation.
- ERCS held meetings with partners including FDCO, WFP and UNHCR, who have expressed interest support the response in their respective sectors.

Pending/ Ongoing activities:

- With the support of this DREF, ERCS will continue to intensify the coordination d with government, UN agencies and other stakeholders. The continuous engagement with local representatives at regional level also continue to play both a strategic and technical role on the progress and effectiveness of the intervention. This will be maintained and adequate inclusion of local representatives are ensured for the planned distributions and onward assistance.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 38,513

Targeted Persons: 0

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -



Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of monitoring visits conducted	1	0
Number of coordination forums established.	2	2
Number of security assessment conducted	1	1
Number of DREF monitoring calls	1	4

Progress Towards Outcome

- The IFRC Cluster office have provided both technical and human resource, supported 2 assessments, planning, orientation of the key actors in addition to surge support.
- One comprehensive security assessment was carried out by the IFRC and ERCS security officers, findings and recommendations were shared and have been actioned.
- Two operation meetings were held to update the movement partners, look for alternative action to address existing financial, and implementation challenges. DRC committed and FCDO committed support towards food and nutrition.
- The presence of the Ops manger- Surge, and extension of the DREF period, will enhance effective planning and implementation, quality monitoring and reporting.

Pending/ on going

- Field monitoring visits to operation area and provision of technical support.
- Support, rereviews, planning and reporting.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 51,565

Targeted Persons: 0

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of volunteers mobilized for response.	50	75
Number of volunteers insured	50	0
Number of visibility materials procured	50	0
Number of NS personnel deployed to operation.	4	2
Number of volunteers receiving MHPSS response	50	0



Progress Towards Outcome

- 3 staffs recruited and deployed to the field (HQ project coordinator, Project Field Coordinator, and Health and wash officer)
- Mobilization and recruitment of 66 volunteers
- Leading in coordination and mobilization of resources
- Procurement and logistics support to be strengthened with ongoing mitigation measures to address the access challenges.
- NS maintain a strong commitment to humanitarian assistance despite ongoing changes. Most of the activities are initiated and implementation accelerated. E.g.
 - o Training carried and sectoral response teams in place (i.e. PFA, CEA, PGI, BFA and hygiene awareness); community outreach ongoing;
 - o Current expenditure is 60% of initial DREF allocation.
 - o Procurement is completed for the initial 2000hh targeted, pending delivery for some of the items and others under distribution.

Pending/ Ongoing activities:

- Implementation of the DREF strategy, monitor the situation, provide support to the volunteers to effectively deliver the planned activities for six months.
- Lead the coordination with the government and other agencies for resource mobilization.
- Ensure wellbeing of volunteers and provide visibility, Insurance and PSS to volunteers.

Risk and challenges management

- Some of the main challenges are related to fuel shortages and election-related tensions. This is being monitored and solution sought to ensure continuity. ERCS has secured government support to prioritize fuel access and contracted a marine vessel to strengthen logistics to accelerate the humanitarian support. In coordination with IFRC, ERCS and other stakeholders, will continue monitoring needs and scaling up assistance as required, aligned to the NS auxiliary role.
- Access challenges are also analysed and managed with solutions and mitigations underlined in the risk section.

About Support Services

How many staff and volunteers will be involved in this operation. Briefly describe their role.

To initiate the operation, 4 staff and 3 BDRT Professional volunteers) will be deployed to orient at least 50 local volunteers mobilized to support the response operation on site. From the regional Branch, 6 staff and 8 sectoral and supporting units' staff from HQ.

- 26 volunteers for WASH at the PoE, community for 3 days per week for 2 months.
 - 40 volunteers for providing services at the HSP, including PSS, BFA, food distribution and information sharing at the HSP
- 4 ERCS staff members, including Project coordinator, Health and WASH, field officer and driver, will to be deployed to support the operation on site.

At regional, Zonal branch, the branch head will be responsible for resource management, and coordination with stakeholders, DRM coordinator operation lead, RFL, EMS officer, Finance, Logistic and admin will contribute to the operation support.

At HQ, 4 sector technical leads, Health and Wash, PGI, CEA, and Migration will support the field team, and the support functions PMER, Finance, Logistic and HR.

Does your volunteer team reflect the gender, age, and cultural diversity of the people you're helping? What gaps exist in your volunteer team's gender, age, or cultural diversity, and how are you addressing them to ensure inclusive and appropriate support?

The deployed volunteers will comprise of both male and female volunteers from host community and will also include the affected population.



Will surge personnel be deployed? Please provide the role profile needed.

Depending on the progress of the operation, Additional support may be required from the IFRC to support operation management and coordination.

If there is procurement, will it be done by National Society or IFRC?

The National Society has a strong procurement unit at HQ and branches with clear thresholds set in the procurement manual. The locally available supplies are procured by the NS, managing storage, transportation to the distribution sites. NS has outsourced marine commercial transporters for water related shipping from Matter to Akobo, inclusive storage before loading and late offloading for risk management. For materials unavailable locally the NS request the international procurement support through IFRC or other PNS in-country. For ant materials available in stock, the NS also utilized available stock, where delivery time is longer than usual and replenishes the stock afterwards. Pre distributions plans are organized by field team, basing on the CEA, sites and modality are set, for delivery. On arrival, relief materials are organized for distribution within one or two days depending on the quantities and locations.

How will this operation be monitored?

The ERCS and IFRC PMER personnel will oversee and ensure quality and accountability with lessons from past operations ensuring clear indicator definition, quality data collection, aggregation, analysis and reporting of all gathered information during the DREF implementation period. ERCS branch offices staffs and volunteers will be trained on Kobo toolbox system for real-time reporting. All reporting timelines and tools will be oriented and well communicated at all levels for compliance. Post distribution monitoring, and lesson learned workshop will be organized for future programming. Coordination meetings will be held throughout the operation to ensure harmonized monitoring and capture learnings. In addition, IFRC will provide operation management and coordination support, resource mobilization and monitoring.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

The Internal communication is managed through existing ERCS channels according to standard practices and policies. Movement Partners (PNS, IFRC, ICRC) continue to meet regularly through in-country Movement Coordination meetings. Communication with partners has been established at the Regional and Zonal branch offices in the Gambella region as identified through assessment and supported at the National level.

ERCS well-managed communications team with dedicated staff handles any media inquiries. Any communications or media support requests to the IFRC cluster team in Addis is directed to the Regional IFRC communications team.



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

MDRET040 - Ethiopian Red Cross Society Population Movement

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	373,764
Shelter and Basic Household Items	189,757
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	0
Health	45,168
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	95,751
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	22,084
Education	0
Migration	13,779
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	7,225
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	90,079
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	38,513
National Society Strengthening	51,565
TOTAL BUDGET	463,843

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)



Contact Information

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

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IFRC Project Manager: Sahal Abdi, IFRC- Coordinator Program and Operations, sahal.abdi@ifrc.org

IFRC focal point for the emergency: Sahal Abdi, IFRC- Coordinator Program and Operations, sahal.abdi@ifrc.org

[Click here for the reference](#)

