

Weekly Gedaref Operational Update #12

19 – 23 September 2021



48,320

total number of Ethiopian refugees in eastern Sudan as of 31 August 2021



10

new arrivals recorded in Hamdayet Transit Centre



540

Qemant new arrivals recorded in Basundah locality

Operational Highlights

New arrivals into eastern Sudan recorded: A significant uptick in Qemant asylum seekers was recorded with some 540 new arrivals crossing into eastern Sudan and it is anticipated to continue due to the volatile situation across the border. This brings the total number of Qemant asylum seekers to 1,991 since the influx began in July. UNHCR and partners are providing much-needed protection and critical assistance to this group in close coordination with partners, including access to healthcare, shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene, and targeted support to those with specific needs and vulnerabilities.

Ten (8 Ethiopian and 2 Eritrean) new arrivals were reported in Hamdayet Transit Centre – a decrease of 6 individuals from the previous reporting period, bringing the total to 5,902 individuals. UNHCR and partners continued to provide life-saving assistance to this group, including safe and clean drinking water, hot meals, medical assistance, and core-relief items such as blankets, sleeping mats and mosquito nets. Protection desks in Hamdayet remain operational with UNHCR staff carrying out weekly visits to identify vulnerable individuals and refer them to appropriate services.

Relocation of Qemant asylum seekers to new transit centre commences: On 22 September, the relocation of Qemant asylum seekers from the first hosting site in Basinga to a more suitable temporary facility in Basunda town began. This exercise is currently being coordinated with officials from Sudan's Commission for Refugees (COR) and local authorities. As of 23 September, a total of 552 individuals have been relocated to the new location, which will accommodate this group pending their eventual transfer to a long-term settlement.



Protection assessments were also carried out prior to the relocation to the new transit facility in Basunda town © UNHCR/ Hamam

ID card rollout continues in Um Rakuba: A registration team jointly led by COR and UNHCR issued some 660 ID cards to refugees in Um Rakuba camp. The project, which will be extended to other locations next month, targets around 27,000 individuals aged 16 years and above. Government-recognised identity documentation is integral to the legal and socio-economic inclusion of refugees within their host communities and is in line with UNHCR's commitment under the [Global Compact on Refugees](#) to strengthen the host government's capacity for individual registration and documentation.

Key Achievements



PROTECTION

Results and Impact

- A child protection workshop was held in Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba, targeting some 15 partners, including the Sudan State Council for Child Welfare. Participants learnt how to conduct best interest assessments, communicate with children and provide alternative care arrangements.
- A newly established people with specific needs (PSNs) inter-agency task force met for the first time to strengthen the collection, analysis, storage and dissemination of operational data and information relating to PSNs in order to provide targeted assistance.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Discussions are underway to harmonise family tracing reunification procedures according to national standards and standard operating procedures in order to promote a harmonised approach and provide guidance to agencies to better respond to family separation.



EDUCATION

Results and Impact

- UNHCR, through Care International, [completed the construction of 64 gender segregated latrine cubicles](#) in 7 learning centres and 3 child friendly spaces in Um Rakuba. This activity is part of an Education Cannot Wait initiative intended to enhance the delivery of education in emergencies.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Scaling up the provision of learning facilities, including primary schools and youth centres, in Tunaydbah are priorities. Discussions between UNHCR and NRC are ongoing to address this gap.



HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

Results and Impact

- As of 23 September, a total of 1,328 Hepatitis E patients have been line-listed: 1,121 in Um Rakuba, 102 in Tunaydbah, 18 in Hamdayet and 7 in Village 8. Most patients presented with mild symptoms. Health and WaSH partners and the Ministry of Health are continuing to work together to respond to the outbreak. Measures include enhanced water and sanitation interventions and the promotion of personal and community hygiene practices.
- Some 25 participants from the Ministry of Health, WHO and UNICEF attended a workshop on UNHCR's integrated refugee health system (iRHIS). During the workshop, participants learnt about iRHIS and how it is used to collect, verify and analyze health data to improve humanitarian decision making during emergencies.
- UNFPA continued to support MSF clinics in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah with in-kind support in the form of sexual and reproductive health and family planning supplies.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Scaling up nutritional support for people living with HIV and TB are priorities.
- Discussions are ongoing with WFP to see how to provide additional nutritional support to children under the age of five at risk of malnutrition. Options for additional supplementary nutritional support for patients undergoing long-term treatment are also currently being explored.



WATER AND SANITATION

Results and Impact

- A total of 950,000 litres of water was provided during the reporting period by water pumped from rivers and treated via water treatment plants (WTPs), boreholes and water trucking. The provision of water was maintained at 24 litres per person per day (l/p/d) in Um Rakuba, 18 l/p/d in Tunaydbah, 20 l/p/d in Village 8 and 15 l/p/d in Hamdayet. This brings the average available supply of water to 19 l/p/d.
- In all locations, particularly where water has been trucked and/or treated through WTPs and stored in tanks or bladders, WaSH partners continued to provide safe and clean water with a free residual chlorine level of 0.5mg/l.
- Efforts to improve latrine coverage are ongoing. 872 latrines have been completed so far in Um Rakuba and an additional 332 are under rehabilitation/construction or planned. 1,046 have been completed in Tunaydbah with another 412 requiring rehabilitation/construction. 113 are finalised in Village 8. 162 have been completed in Hamdayet and work is ongoing on 10.
- A joint inter-agency assessment of latrines affected by shallow groundwater is currently ongoing in Um Rakuba. The aim of the study is to develop sustainable mitigation measures, which includes

relocating people from severely affected zones, improving latrine design, and establishing groundwater monitoring and water chlorination systems.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Efforts are underway to provide 1 communal latrine for every 20 people, which is the **SPHERE minimum standard** during emergencies. The person to latrine ratio currently stands at 1:22 in Um Rakuba, 1:23 in Tunaydbah and 1:36 for Hamdayet and 1:28 for Village 8.
- Work is ongoing to **improve the provision of gender-segregated latrines across all locations**.
- **Phasing out water trucking** in favour of other more sustainable durable solutions, including piped water supply distribution systems, remains a priority.



SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIS)

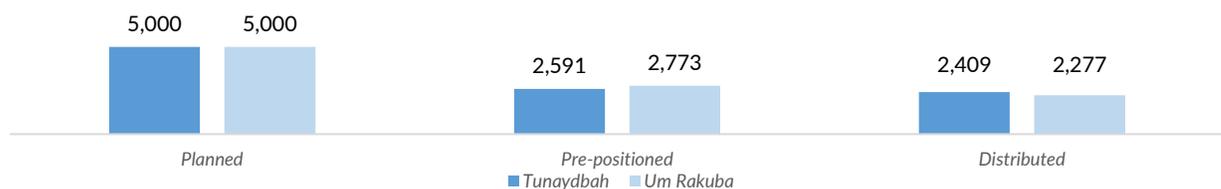
Results and Impact

- During the reporting period, NRC distributed 300 emergency shelter kits (ESKs) in Tunaydbah, bringing the total number of kits distributed so far to 2,409 out of 5,000 planned. In Um Rakuba, the total number of emergency shelter kits distributed stands at 2,277 out of the planned 5,000. **ESKs contain wooden posts and bamboo, grass thatch/mats, plastic sheets and locally-sourced plastic ropes.**
- In Um Rakuba, **NRC completed a prototype** of the proposed durable shelter to be implemented before the end of the year with ACTED and Medair. The prototype was constructed for refugees to see how their shelters will look like once completed, what materials will be used, and to get their opinions on it.
- In Um Rakuba, **20 shelter plots were demarcated** to accommodate refugees who will soon be relocated there from Hamdayet and Village 8.



A prototype of a recently constructed durable shelter in Um Rakuba © NRC/Issa

Emergency Shelter Kit Distribution



- UNHCR and Alight supported the [distribution of some 2,000 core-relief items](#) (CRIs) for people with specific needs in Tunaydbah. These were donated by the Qatar Red Crescent and included 3 blankets, 1 kitchen set, 2 water buckets, 1 tarpaulin and 1 plastic sheet.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Um Rakuba, [2,723 ESKs and 3,700 disaster kits are required](#) to support the need of the remaining camp residents. In addition, 20 additional culvert lines need to be installed and 10 km of secondary roads in the camp need to be constructed. In Tunaydbah, [2,591 ESKs and 3,700 disaster kits are needed](#). 900 bridges/footpaths, 20 additional culvert lines, and 10 km of secondary roads in the camp also require construction.



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

Results and Impact

- UNHCR, UNDP and COR [identified suitable locations](#) to pitch over 40 solar street lights in Tunaydbah for latrines and water distribution points and the nearby host community villages. Properly planned lighting interventions improve refugees' security and potentially reduce the protection risks they face.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- [Scaling up the provision of firewood and charcoal for refugees](#) in Um Rakuba remains a priority. UNHCR has identified several partners to help cover this gap to mitigate the risk of GBV during firewood collection.



WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

- As part of the response to the Tigray situation in eastern Sudan, UNHCR has been actively supporting the authorities, at their request, with service mapping and inter-agency coordination. Currently, UNHCR works with some 30 partners to provide lifesaving assistance and protection to the thousands of Ethiopian women, men and children who crossed into the country. UNHCR co-chairs with the authorities the Inter-Agency Refugee Working Group. These forums meet on a bi-weekly basis, bringing together actors active in Gedaref, ranging from other UN agencies to NGOs and volunteer groups. UNHCR also chairs the protection working group and co-chairs all sub-working groups with the exception of food security and livelihoods. In addition, UNHCR participates in thematic working group meetings on WaSH, Health and Education chaired by designated partners. Together, we work to provide refugees and other people of concern the assistance and protection they need.

Situation in eastern Sudan

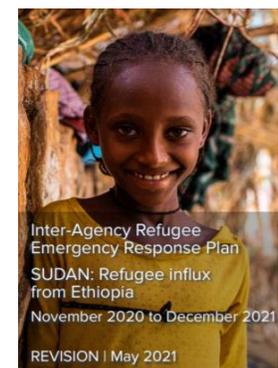
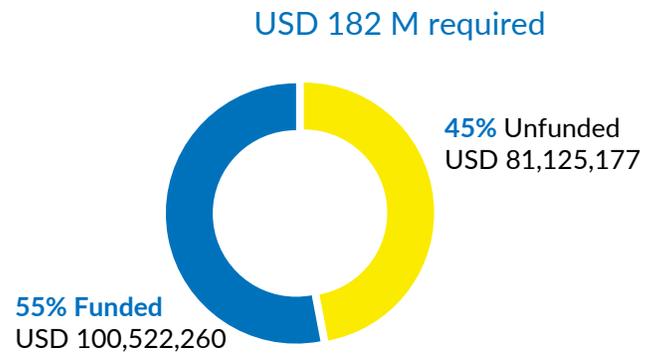
In early November 2020, clashes in Ethiopia’s Tigray region sparked an outflow of refugees into eastern Sudan via Hamdayet, Lugdi/Village 8 and Al Asera border points. Since then, some **48,000 refugees** have been individually registered in Sudan. In January 2021, UNHCR began to relocate refugees to Um Rakuba camp, which is located some 70 kilometres away from the Ethiopian border in Gedaref State. With Um Rakuba reaching capacity, a new site was opened in Tunaydbah, which is located approximately 136 kilometres from Gedaref town.

In late November 2020, UNHCR launched the Inter-Agency Refugee Emergency Response Plan, which asked for **USD 147.6 million** to provide lifesaving assistance for **100,000** refugees in eastern Sudan. The plan was revised in May 2021 with **USD 182 million** now required for the response – an increase of **USD 33 million** to incorporate additional flood mitigation and the response for Ethiopian refugees in Blue Nile, as well as reprioritization of original requirements. As of 31 August, 55% (USD 100,522,260) has been received.

We are grateful to the following donors for supporting the Ethiopian Emergency situation in eastern Sudan with unearmarked and earmarked funding, which was critical to helping scale up the delivery of basic and essential services:

Canada | Czech Republic | Denmark | ECHO (EU) | Finland | Germany | Ireland | Italy | Japan | New Zealand | Norway | Qatar | Sweden | Switzerland | United Arab Emirates | United Kingdom | United States of America | United Nations CERF | United Nations SHF | Private Donors

Funding (as of 31 August 2021)



Links

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