

Weekly Gedaref Operational Update #14

30 September – 7 October 2021



48,320

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



22

new arrivals recorded in Hamdayet Transit Centre during the reporting period



28

Qemant new arrivals recorded in Basundah locality during the reporting period

Operational Highlights

Decline in new arrivals recorded: There was a downward trend in the number of Ethiopians crossing into eastern Sudan compared to *last week*. As of 7 October, 22 new arrivals were reported in Hamdayet, bringing the total population there to 5,950. Elsewhere, some 28 Qemant new arrivals were recorded in Basinga. This brings the total number of Qemant asylum seekers to 2,176 since the influx began in July. UNHCR continues to provide protection and assistance to both groups in close coordination with partners.

ECHO mission to eastern Sudan: From 4 to 7 October, a delegation led by ECHO Sudan's Head of Office and two experts from ECHO's Regional Office visited Hamdayet, Um Rakuba camp and Tunaydbah settlement. As part of their visit, the mission met with various partners and refugees and discussed the specific challenges and opportunities related to gender-based violence (GBV), prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and camp coordination and camp management (CCCM).

Key Achievements



PROTECTION

Results and Impact

- In collaboration with UNFPA and ALIGHT, UNHCR organised a **four-day workshop on the clinical management of rape survivors**, targeting healthcare workers from Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah. Participants learnt about best practices in clinical rape management and how to develop robust and context-appropriate



Participants during the four-day workshop on clinical rape management © UNHCR/ Lebbad

procedures during emergencies. Plans are currently underway to draft common standard operating procedures to enable partners to better respond to GBV.

- ALIGHT coordinated [two awareness raising sessions on GBV risks, mitigation and prevention measures](#), reaching close to 70 participants in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah. These sessions touched on the survivor-centred approach and highlighted the services and support available to survivors, including medical, psychosocial, legal and material assistance.
- [A total of 718 refugee ID cards](#) were issued during the reporting period in Um Rakuba, bringing the total to 2,135 since exercise began. 174 ID cards have been issued so far in Tunaydbah.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Plans are currently underway to [update existing referral pathways at the camp level and the 5Ws](#).
- [Strengthening information, education and communication \(IEC\) materials](#) to improve messaging in the camps and transit centres is a priority. IEC materials are being finalised in Khartoum to be distributed to partners in the camps.



EDUCATION

Results and Impact

- During the reporting period, [four early childhood care and development \(EECD\) centres](#) implemented by Save the Children and funded by Education Cannot Wait were inaugurated in Tunaydbah by the state Director General for Gedaref's Ministry of Education. This brings to the total number of EECD centres currently operating in the two camps to six.



The inauguration ceremony of the new EECD centres in Tunaydbah © UNHCR/ Mambilo

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- [Scaling up the provision of livelihoods training and access to tertiary education](#) are priorities. UNHCR's Registration and Education units are currently profiling youth inside the camps in order to develop targeted youth programming.



HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

Results and Impact

- A total of 30 participants were [trained on the integrated refugee health information system \(iRHIS\)](#). The aim of the workshop is to ensure that the data generated is standardised and that indicators are comparable across locations.
- [The COVID-19 vaccination roll out](#) for refugees aged 45 and over, those with chronic illnesses, and healthcare workers is ongoing.
- Ahead of World Mental Health Day, ALIGHT conducted a [two-day workshop on suicide prevention and response](#), reaching over 35 stakeholders, including officials from Sudan's Commission for

Refugees (COR), police and community leaders. Participants received training on how to better identify and assist refugees and other persons of concern with mental health and psychosocial issues.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Increasing the COVID-19 vaccine uptake via awareness raising to counter misinformation.
- Establishing a consolidated health information system to improve the quality of health and nutrition data collected is underway.



WATER AND SANITATION

Results and Impact

- A total of 1,080,286 litres of water was provided via water pumping from rivers and treatment through water treatment plants (WTPs), boreholes and water trucking during the reporting period. Water supply has increased to 25 litres per person per day (l/p/d) in Um Rakuba, 21 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 20 l/p/d, which is the SPHERE minimum standard in post-emergencies settings. Sustained coordination is essential to ensuring these collective gains are maintained by the WaSH sector.
- 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 above 0.5mg/l.
- Efforts to improve latrine coverage are ongoing. 940 latrines have been completed so far in Um Rakuba and an additional 264 are under rehabilitation/construction or planned. 1,316 have been completed in Tunaydbah with another 260 requiring rehabilitation/construction.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Efforts are underway to provide one (1) communal latrine for every 20 people, which is the SPHERE minimum standard in emergencies. The person to latrine ratio currently stands at 1:20 in Um Rakuba and 1:15 in Tunaydbah.
- 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.



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

Results and Impact

- During the reporting period, NRC concluded a blanket distribution of 15,000 mosquito nets donated by WHO and soap bars donated by IOM targeting the refugee population in Um Rakuba and a minority non-Tigrayan group in Um Rakuba village.
- Ahead of the planned voluntary relocation of refugees residing in Hamdayet and Village 8, some 1,360 plots in Tunaydbah are currently being demarcated.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Scaling up the provision of solar lights and cooking fuel (firewood and charcoal) for refugees is a priority.



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 over 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

Links

For more information on the Ethiopian Emergency situation in eastern Sudan, please visit the Inter-Agency Information Sharing [Portal](#). [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

Funding (as of 31 August 2021)

USD 182 M required

