

Weekly Gedaref Operational Update #18

28 October – 4 November 2021



49,490

total number of Ethiopian refugees in eastern Sudan as of 30 September



33

new arrivals recorded in Hamdayet Transit Centre



51

Qemant new arrivals recorded in Basundah locality

Operational Highlights

Visit by Commission for Refugees (COR) Commissioner to eastern Sudan: UNHCR and partners had the pleasure of welcoming the newly appointed COR Commissioner Mr Musa Ali Altrun to several refugee-hosting sites in eastern Sudan. As part of a five-day mission to the region, the Commissioner and his delegation met with refugee and host community representatives and several partners in Hamdayet Transit Centre, Um Rakuba camp and Tunaydbah settlement. The Commissioner thanked humanitarian agencies for their sustained collaboration and commitment to delivering critical and life-saving assistance to refugees while also supporting the host community which continues to generously provide a safe refuge to the displaced.



Commissioner Altrun visits a Registration Centre in Um Rakuba as part of his tour of the camp © UNHCR



UNHCR donates motorcycles and ICT equipment to local authorities in Gedaref © UNHCR

UNHCR donates motorcycles and ICT equipment: To enhance refugees' safety and security, UNHCR donated 8 motorcycles to authorities in Gedaref. These motorcycles will enable security and police officials to increase patrols in and around Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah and help mitigate the risk of smuggling and human trafficking. In addition, UNHCR donated 15 desktops and 4 printers. During the handover ceremony attended by the COR Commissioner, Gedaref Wali

and Gedaref State Security Committee, which included police, military and general intelligence and criminal investigation representatives, UNHCR thanked the people of Sudan for their unwavering hospitality and reiterated its commitment to scaling up support to local authorities.

New Ethiopian arrivals recorded in eastern Sudan: There was a slight uptick in the number of Ethiopians crossing into eastern Sudan compared to last week. As of 6 November, 33 new arrivals were reported in Hamdayet Transit Centre, bringing the total population there to 6,034. Elsewhere, 51 Qemant new arrivals were recorded. This brings the total number of Qemant asylum seekers to 2,318 since the influx began in July. In the meantime, contingency measures are being enhanced in light of the recent escalation of hostilities in Ethiopia's Amhara and Tigray regions in the last week.

Relocation of Qemant asylum seekers: The relocation of Qemant asylum seekers from Basinga to Basunda was completed during the reporting period. Plans are underway to scale up services in this temporary facility in close coordination with partners before relocating this group to Babikri, which is located some 11 km from Basunda, after UNHCR received official clearance from authorities to establish a new site.

Key Achievements



PROTECTION

Results and Impact

- A registration team jointly led by COR and UNHCR issued 321 refugee ID cards in Um Rakuba camp and 212 in Tunaydbah settlement, bringing the total to 3,998 and 2,200 respectively. Government-recognised identity documentation is integral to the legal and socio-economic inclusion of refugees within their host communities.
- A preparatory meeting was held on 31 October with partners to review the proposed tools for the upcoming protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) assessment. Data collection is scheduled to take place in mid-November and will comprise focus group discussions and key informant interviews to gauge representative samples from the community on the risks of sexual exploitation and abuse and knowledge of existing complaint mechanisms and their mitigating role.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Enhancing PSEA information, education and communication (IEC) materials (pamphlets and information boards) remains a priority.



EDUCATION

Results and Impact

- Despite the dynamic operational context, education services in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah continued uninterrupted during the reporting period.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Youth programme mapping in both camps is currently ongoing as part of efforts to enhance the coordination and implementation of youth activities.
- Improving enrolment rates continues to remain a priority. To date, more than 50% of school-age children are out of school. Efforts are ongoing to increase enrolment by scaling up the provision of learning centres in the camps in order to widen refugees' access to education at all levels.



HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

Results and Impact

- Clinics inside the camps continued to operate as normal with refugees receiving unhindered access to healthcare.
- Plans are underway to activate a nutrition coordination forum in Gedaref. Terms of reference have been drafted and shared with nutrition partners with a view towards launching the group before the end of the month.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Scaling up TB treatment in Um Rakuba camp remains a priority.



SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIS)

Results and Impact

- 200 new shelter plots were demarcated in Basunda to accommodate Qemant asylum seekers who are being temporarily relocated from Basinga. SRCS also pitched 200 UNHCR family tents.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Um Rakuba, 2,465 ESKs and 3,650 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, 1,644 ESKs and 3,940 disaster kits are needed. 900 bridges/footpaths, 20 additional culvert lines, and 10 km of secondary roads in the camp also require construction.



COMMUNICATING WITH COMMUNITIES

Results and Impact

- A mixed migration and trafficking working group was officially launched during the reporting period. One of the main objectives of the working group is to facilitate a joint comprehensive

approach to address irregular mixed movement, including preventing/combating trafficking in persons, protection of and support for victims of trafficking, and strengthening alternatives to unsafe migration.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Scaling up support for youth-focused initiatives via programme mapping to avoid duplication, continues to be 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. 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 in search of safety. UNHCR and Sudan's Commission for Refugees (COR) co-chair the Inter-Agency Refugee Working Group. This forum meets on a bi-weekly basis and brings 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.

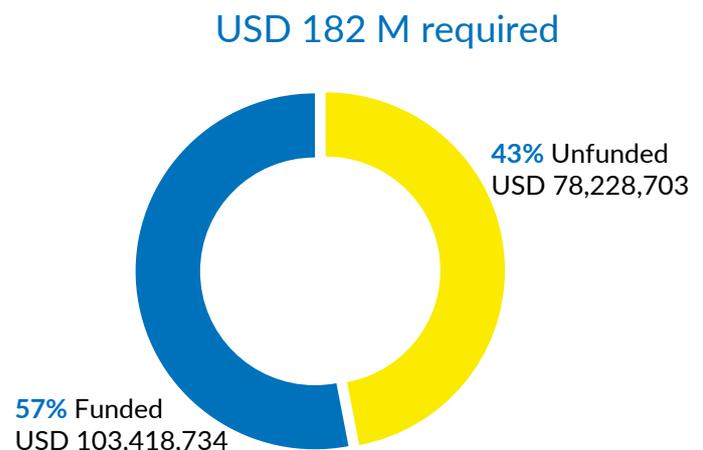
Situation in eastern Sudan

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 **49,000 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**

Funding (as of 30 September 2021)

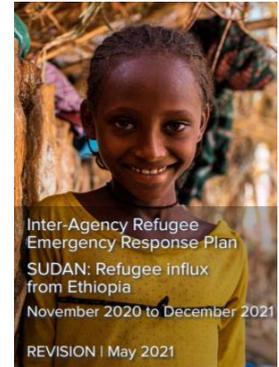


million to incorporate additional flood mitigation and the response for Ethiopian refugees in Blue Nile, as well as a

reprioritization of the original requirements. As of 30 September, 57% (USD 103,418,734) 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



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