

# Weekly Gedaref Operational Update #23

5 – 12 December 2021



50,710

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



92

new arrivals recorded in Hamdayet Transit Centre (90) and Taya (2)



1,518

refugees relocated from Hamdayet (1,171) and Basunda (347)

## Operational Highlights

### The relocation of asylum seekers from Basunda Transit Centre to Babikri settlement concluded:

On 7 December, the last convoy from Basunda Transit Centre arrived in Babikri settlement with 65 asylum seekers on board. This brings the **total number of those relocated to 1,812** since the exercise began on 28 November, with support from Sudan's Commission for Refugees (COR) and other partners. These asylum seekers are being individually registered and provided with assistance upon their relocation. Efforts are underway to ensure essential services are available and operating in Babikri settlement. Solidarités international has installed **WaSH facilities with lockable doors** around the settlement to help prevent and mitigate protection risks. Muslim Aid has set up a **cereal milling machine** and FNC is distributing **cooking fuel**. Moving forward, any new arrivals from the Taya border entry point will be directly relocated to Babikri.



The last convoy leaving Basunda Transit Centre for Babikri settlement on 7 December 2021 © UNHCR

**Relocation from Hamdayet to Tunaydbah continues:** During this reporting period, UNHCR, in collaboration with COR and other partners, relocated 1,171 refugees from Hamdayet Transit Centre to Tunaydbah settlement, bringing **the total number of relocated to 3,142**, since the exercise resumed on 22 November. Upon arrival, the newly relocated are accompanied to a **reception centre, prepared with support from ALIGHT, MSF and NRC**, where they are assigned shelters and receive assistance. **Muslim Aid distributes hot meals and bottled water among the newly relocated refugees while MSF provides medical assistance and hand sanitizers.** Refugees are also being individually registered and receive life-saving supplies in a registration and distribution centre. A **dedicated protection desk** has been set up to support persons with specific needs.

**UNHCR and partners responded to a fire at Um Rakuba:** On December 10, a fire broke out in Um Rakuba camp. Refugee volunteers helped evacuate the area and provided psychological first aid. **There were no fatalities nor injuries, but the fire destroyed nearly 70 shelters, affecting 235 refugees, including 67 children.** A technical assessment team determined that the cause of the fire was accidental. UNHCR

and partners immediately supported affected refugees with essential assistance. Some in the group were moved to communal shelters while others were placed with relatives until the construction of the new shelters is completed. A [joint protection team](#) from UNHCR, COR and ALIGHT identified those who were impacted and assessed their priority needs. The [distribution of life-saving supplies, including food, water, dignity kits and core relief items](#) such as blankets, jerry cans, sleeping mats and kitchen sets is ongoing in close collaboration with CARE, DRC, NRC and WFP. NRC has begun the [clean-up and demarcation of the impacted area and will replace the destroyed shelters](#) with new accommodations in the coming days. Plan International also distributed [clothes and footwear to refugees who have lost most of their belongings](#) in the fire. From January to September 2021, UNHCR, together with FNC, conducted [48 fire safety awareness sessions in Um Rakuba for 1,920 refugees](#). To further [strengthen prevention and mitigation measures](#), [additional trainings](#) for Um Rakuba refugee fire safety committee is being planned and [alternative cooking fuel options](#) are being explored.

### 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence concluded:

In continuation of the global 16 Days campaign, a number of activities and events were organized in Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba. This included [trainings](#), facilitated by ALIGHT and DRC, to raise awareness about gender-based violence (GBV), free and available services and referral pathways. Some 40 women and girls in Um Rakuba and 86 newly relocated refugees (28 men and 58 women) in Tunaydbah benefitted from the sessions. The campaign was concluded with a series of [creative and sports activities, including traditional music and dance performances as well as football and volleyball matches](#), held by DRC, IRC, NCA, UNICEF and UNFPA.



Refugees marched in Um Rakuba to commemorate the 16 Days of Activism against GBV. © UNHCR

UNHCR, together with COR and ALIGHT, [celebrated the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 5 December](#). An event was organized in Um Rakuba under [this year's theme](#) "Leadership and participation of persons with disabilities toward an inclusive, accessible and sustainable post-COVID-19 world", with approximately 500 refugees and host community members in attendance. This was followed by the [distribution of mobility aids, including wheelchairs, canes and walkers to 28 individuals with disabilities](#).



Mobility aids were distributed to 28 individuals with disabilities in Um Rakuba. © UNHCR

### New Ethiopian arrivals recorded in Eastern

**Sudan:** As of 11 December, 90 new arrivals were reported in Hamdayet Transit Centre, bringing the total population there to 4,259. Elsewhere, two (2) new arrivals were also recorded in Taya border entry point during the reporting period.

## Key Achievements



### PROTECTION

#### Results and Impact

- UNHCR and COR issued 306 ID cards to registered refugees in Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba. To date, a total of 9,986 ID cards have been issued to refugees in Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba.
- The updated GBV referral pathway documents and forms for Hamdayet Transit Centre, Tunaydbah, Um Rakuba and Village 8 were finalized and disseminated, as were the inter-agency general protection referral form and its accompanying guidance note. This will help strengthen coordination among actors involved in GBV prevention, risk mitigation and response, and ultimately improve the quality of support provided to survivors.
- Twenty (20) refugee women and girls participated in the first phase of an economic empowerment and skills development programme, organized by ALIGHT, in Um Rakuba. This initiative aims to equip the women and girls with skills such as sewing and crochet to help strengthen their capacity to establish sustainable livelihoods.
- With support from UNHCR and COR, a 10-member peace committee, with equal representation from the refugee and host communities, was established in Um Rakuba to foster peaceful co-existence between the two communities and address any issues that may arise.



Refugee women and girls acquiring skills to create clothing and accessories at ALIGHT Women's Centre in Um Rakuba © UNHCR

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Strengthening awareness about GBV and relevant services for survivors and at-risk individuals remains a priority.



### EDUCATION

#### Results and Impact

- The target for enrolment in pre-primary education was exceeded by 49 per cent, with a total of 1,657 students, aged between 4 and 5, receiving education services in early childhood care and development centres in Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba.
- UNHCR and partners, including ECW, IRW, NRC and SCI provided education kits to students at all education levels (pre-primary, primary and secondary) in both camps with the aim of enhancing their learning.

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Over 500 additional education kits for pre-primary students are required to meet the greater demand due to the increased enrolment.





## HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

### Results and Impact

- In continuation of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign, with support from the Ministry of Health and partners, including Concern Worldwide, UNICEF and ZOA International Sudan, [an additional 3,048 refugees in Um Rakuba were vaccinated](#) during the reporting period. This represents 46 per cent of the target population for the vaccination campaign in this location.
- UNICEF provided technical support and supplies to MSF for the management of severe acute malnutrition as part of efforts to scale up nutrition services in Babikri settlement.
- As part of a [door-to-door psychosocial support campaign](#), conducted by ALIGHT, 42 refugees (22 men and 20 women) received psychosocial counselling in Um Rakuba. The campaign aimed to bring psychosocial support to refugees who may face challenges in accessing service points.
- During the reporting period, UNFPA provided [sexual and reproductive health and family planning services](#) to a total of 186 women in Hamdayet (40), Um Rakuba (51), Tunaydbah (82) and village 8 (13) through clinics operated by ALIGHT, MSF and SRCS.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- [More COVID-19 vaccine doses](#) are required to advance the vaccination campaign in Tunaydbah and Babikri.



## WATER AND SANITATION

### Results and Impact

- A total of 1.3 mega litres of water per day was provided via water pumping from five (5) water treatment plants (WTP), five (5) boreholes and water trucking during the reporting period to all refugee-hosting locations. Water supply was provided at 26 litres per person per day (l/p/d) in Um Rakuba, 29 l/p/d in Tunaydbah, 29 l/p/d in Village 8 and 25 l/p/d in Hamdayet, and was increased to 19 l/p/d in Babikri. This brings the [average available supply of water to 26 l/p/d](#), which [exceeds the SPHERE post emergency standard of 20 l/p/d](#).
- In all locations, particularly where water has been trucked and/or treated through WTPs and stored within tanks or bladders, WaSH partners ensured that water remained clean and safe with [a free residual chlorine level of above 0.5mg/l](#).
- The [piped water scheme in Tunaydbah](#) is in its operational testing phase with the camp's existing blocks and emergency [WaSH infrastructure continues to be extended](#) to cover the site where newly relocated refugees from Hamdayet live.



*A freshly filled water bladder in Village 8 © UNHCR*

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Efforts continued to provide and maintain one (1) communal latrine for every 20 people (1:20 ration), which is the *SPHERE minimum standard* in emergencies. The person to latrine ratio currently stands at **1:20 in Um Rakuba, 1:13 in Tunaydbah and 1:55 in Babikri.**
- The Um Rakuba **pipelined water system is scheduled to be finalized** by end December 2021.
- Work continued to **ensure gender-segregated latrines are available across all locations** and that the **rehabilitation of latrines is done in accordance with safety audits** to mitigate the risk of GBV.



Gender-segregated latrines are installed across all refugee-hosting locations © UNHCR



### SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIS)

#### Results and Impact

- UNHCR, together with NRC, pitched **a total of 575 family tents** in Tunaydbah (395) and Babikri (180) settlements for refugees and asylum seekers being relocated from Hamdayet and Basunda Transit Centres.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Um Rakuba, 2,465 emergency shelter kits (ESKs) and 3,650 disaster kits are required to support the needs of the remaining camp residents. Moreover, 20 additional culvert lines need to be installed and 10 km of secondary roads must be constructed. Similarly, in Tunaydbah, 1,644 ESKs and 3,940 disaster kits are required for camp residents. Furthermore, 20 additional culvert lines and 10 km of secondary roads need to be constructed.



### COMMUNICATING WITH COMMUNITIES

#### Results and Impact

- The Counter-Trafficking and Mixed Migration Working Group consolidated its **2022 action plan for Gedaref.**
- UNHCR **trained a group of ten (10) refugee volunteers from Um Rakuba** on conducting door-to-door campaigns and facilitating community-led focus group discussions on dangers of onward movement and false narratives used by smugglers.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Enhancing refugees' awareness of the dangers of trafficking and smuggling via information campaigns, community-led outreach and distribution of IEC materials remains 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 40 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 but 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 others of concern the assistance and protection they need. Please consult the list of partners involved in the refugee response in Sudan and their activity areas at "[Partner Coverage, Who, Does What and Where \(3W\) – National Level](#)" which may be found [on UNHCR Sudan data portal](#).

## 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 **50,000 refugees** have been welcomed in Sudan.

In late November 2020, UNHCR launched the Inter-Agency Refugee Emergency Response Plan, which was then revised in May 2021 with **USD 182 million** required for the response – an increase of **USD 33 million** – to incorporate additional flood mitigation and the response for Ethiopian asylum seekers in Blue Nile, as well as a reprioritization of the original requirements.

One year on, we are grateful to the following donors for supporting the Ethiopian Emergency situation in eastern Sudan with critical funding enabling the scale up of 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 30 November 2021)

USD 182 M

