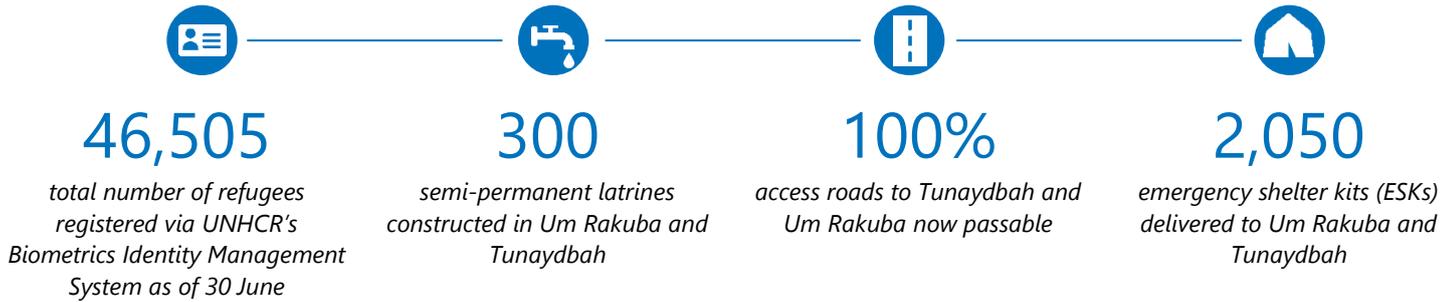


Sudan | Emergency Response to Tigray Situation – New Weekly Update #1

Key Figures



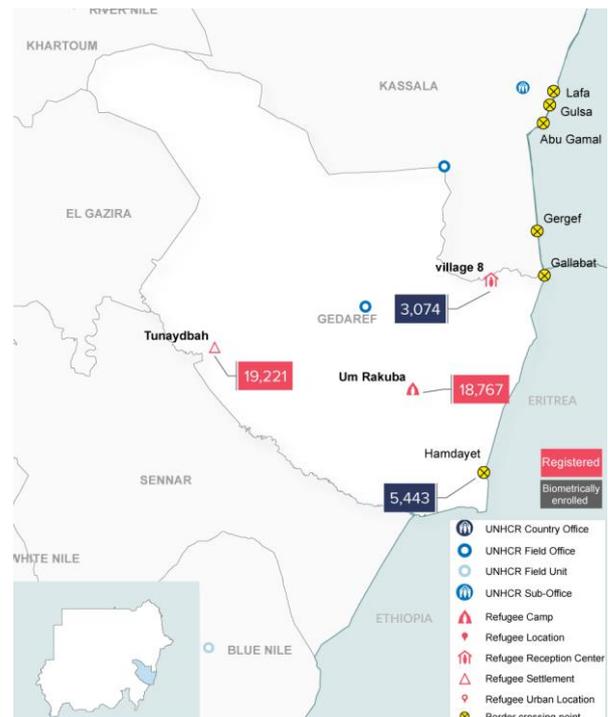
Operational Highlights

Protection

The mood in the four Ethiopian refugee locations (Um Rakuba, Tunaydbah, Hamdayet and Village 8) continued to remain hopeful following the announcement by the Government of Ethiopia of an immediate and unilateral ceasefire in Ethiopia's Tigray region in late June. While focus group discussions and other sources of information indicate refugees are keen to return home, many feel the need to remain in Sudan until a full ceasefire is in place. Currently, refugees are triangulating information from various sources to enable them to make an informed decision on possible return although many are concerned about the occupation of their homes and lands by militia as well as likely landmines, unexploded ordnances, and other remnants of war which have been left in the region. Despite this, some refugees have indicated an interest in leaving the camps for Hamdayet – the closest staging point/area to the Tigray region.

In the meantime, the operation is reviewing its response plan for a possible influx from Ethiopia. CRIs have also been pre-positioned in Hamdayet and Village 8. Sustained advocacy at all levels with the relevant authorities continues so as to resume relocations from Hamdayet and to provide customs clearance for refugees' various assets in Village 8, which include moveable heavy machinery.

As of 1 July, **18,767** individuals were registered in Um Rakuba and **19,221** in Tunaydbah. **5,443** individuals were biometrically enrolled in Hamdayet and **3,074** individuals in Village 8.



Protection by Presence

The operation continues to scale up its protection presence and established integrated protection desks, building on the ongoing work of the protection partner Alight in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah. UNHCR staff have been continuously present on the ground, undertaking protection monitoring while receiving referrals and guiding partners in the response. UNHCR presence has been enhanced to encourage reporting and build more confidence in the collective protection response. The protection desks in Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba have constant UNHCR presence while those in Hamdayet are supported by UNHCR staff members who visit

periodically. In the past three weeks, there has been an increase in the number of people turning up for support to the protection desks in Um Rakuba, Tunaydbah and Hamdayet. While on 27 June, only **5 people** approached the protection desks for assistance, on 6 July, this figure increased to **25 people**, thus indicating refugees' confidence in the service. Moreover, the type of complaints received has also shifted from being mostly shelter related to include issues related to security, assistance for persons with specific needs and other protection concerns.

Relocation of Tigrayan refugees from Blue Nile to Tunaydbah

The operation has decided to relocate some **94 Tigrayan refugees** to refugee sites in eastern Sudan after several confrontations between Gumuz and Tigray refugees currently residing in Camp 6. The tension between the two groups has been mounting for quite time due to the situation inside Ethiopia. Sudan's Commission for Refugees (COR) and state security entities have given the

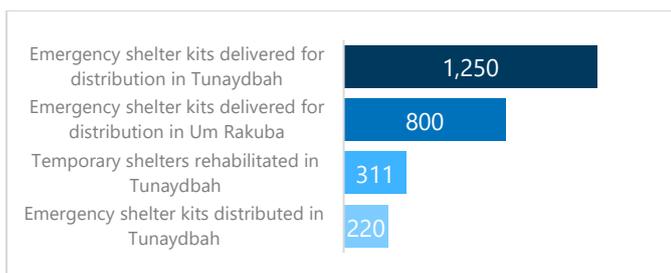
go ahead for the relocation to Gederaf State. A relocation plan detailing the actions required and timeframe has been devised and is ready for implementation.

As of 5 July, there are a total of **1,896 Gumuz asylum seekers** in Camp 6.

Flood Preparedness

Flood preparedness continued to be scaled up in the operation amid an increase in sporadic showers and heavy winds during the reporting period. UNHCR and partners are currently coordinating to quickly respond to the urgent needs of the affected population while preparing for further anticipated storms during the rainy season which runs through September.

Following damages and/or the destruction of some **4,000** shelters due to extreme weather events, as of 8 July, a total of:



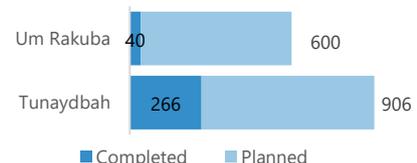
Of the **22 latrines** damaged by the latest storms in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah, all were rehabilitated by UNHCR

and partners. The construction of semi-permanent latrines in both camps is also ongoing. So far, **266 out of 906** semi-permanent latrines have been completed in Tunaydbah and **40 out of 600** semi-permanent latrines in Um Rakuba.

100% of Latrines Damaged in 8 July Storm Rehabilitated



Latrines Completed



In addition, a cholera vaccination campaign targeting refugees in all locations was recently concluded during the reporting period. This will be critical to mitigating the risk of a huge spike in cholera cases during the rainy season. Through IRC, UNHCR availed 1 ambulance for Tunaydbah to support medical referrals. COVID-19 vaccinations for refugees kicked off on 9 July thanks to Sudan's Ministry of Health with support from WHO, which provided **8,000 doses**. This latest campaign targets refugees aged 45 years and above and those with chronic illnesses.

Access roads to Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah camps are now **100% passable** although some minor quick fixes are being carried out. This is part of a joint UNHCR-WFP project intended to bolster flood preparedness thereby guaranteeing access to the sites during the rainy season. In the meantime, work to elevate critical service structures in flood prone areas, construct emergency communal

latrines, pre-position essential supplies and equipment, including tractors, and rehabilitate damaged International Humanitarian Base Camp structures used by UNHCR and partners for office space and overnight accommodation, is ongoing.

The operation has also begun rolling out UNHCR's global distribution tool (GDT). GDT is UNHCR's corporate tool for identity management and assistance tracking at the point of assistance distribution. It uses biometrics to verify refugee identities during distribution, speeding up the process and at the same time minimizing avenues for fraud and preventing unauthorised collection. Through partners, **3,400 households** in Um Rakuba and Hamdayet received additional core-relief items, including blankets, mosquito nets, cooking sets, jerry cans and sleeping mats, and over **2,600 households** in Tunaydbah received multi-purpose cash assistance through NRC during the reporting period.

Key Priorities and Identified Needs

- As the humanitarian response begins to move away from an emergency phase and into a more sustained operational phase, a plan of action has been devised by the operation covering a period of six months. The plan of action is a living document intended to provide an overview of the short- and medium-term priorities for the operation across several critical areas and the steps being taken to address them covering a period of six months. Efforts will be stepped up to implement the activities detailed in the plan in close coordination with partners.
- Scaling up the distribution of ESKs and CRIs before the rains intensify is a top priority. However, increased rains in the last few weeks have caused some delays to the ESK distributions and hampered the provision of select materials for the WFP-UNHCR road and drainage construction project. In the interim, alternative solutions are being explored to deliver CRIs, including the use of donkey carts and tractors. A new quarry has also been identified to support the provision of select materials in Al Faw for the joint WFP-UNHCR project.
- UNHCR and partners will continue to scale up protection by presence efforts in all sites following an increase in the number of refugees turning up at the protection desks in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah.
- Internet connectivity inside the camps was severely affected by heavy rains this week. UNHCR is deploying IT support to see how this challenge can be resolved.

Coordination

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 leads the UN Emergency Coordinators' Working Group and co-chairs with the authorities the Inter-Agency Refugee Working Group. These forums meet on a bi-weekly basis, bringing together actors active in both locations, ranging from other UN agencies to NGOs and volunteer groups. UNHCR also chairs the protection working group and co-chairs sub-working groups on basic assistance, sexual and gender-based violence, and child protection. In addition, UNHCR participates in thematic working group meetings on WaSH, Health and Education. Together, we work to ensure refugees and other people of concern receive the assistance and protection they need.

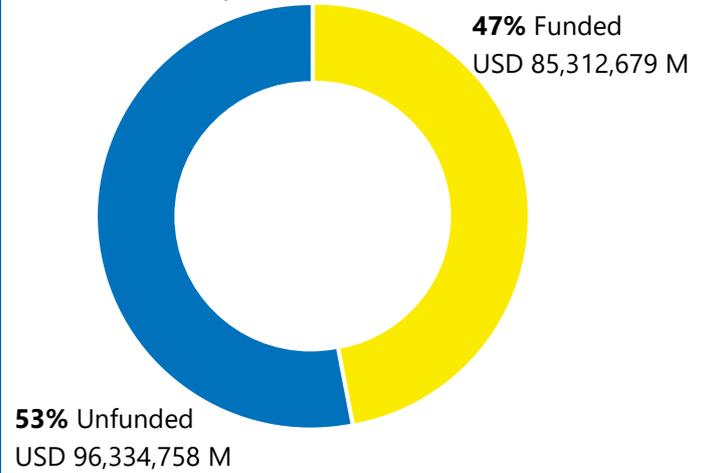
Situation in eastern Sudan

In early November, clashes in Ethiopia’s Tigray region sparked an outflow of refugees, mostly women and children, into eastern Sudan via Hamdayet, Lugdi/Village 8 and Al Asera border points. Since then, some 45,000 refugees have fled to Sudan in search of safety. 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 30 June, 47% (USD 85,312,679) has been received. UNHCR Sudan would like to thank donors who responded to the appeal for their generous support, which was critical to helping scale up the delivery of basic and essential services, close critical gaps, and save lives.

Funding (as of 30 June 2021)

USD 182 M required



**Only includes appealing organizations in the "Inter-Agency Refugee Emergency Response Plan | Sudan: Refugee Influx From Ethiopia - May 2021 REVISION"*