UNHCR Sudan | Emergency Response to Tigray Situation – New Weekly Update #6
Reporting Period: 8 – 14 August

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Key Figures

46,505

total number of refugees registered via UNHCR’s Biometrics Identity Management System as of 30 June

335

new arrivals recorded in Hamdayet Transit Centre

942

Qemant new arrivals reported in Basundah

Operational Highlights

Inter-Agency Response to New Arrivals in Basundah and Hamdayet

As of 12 August, a total of 335 new arrivals (291 Ethiopian and 44 Eritrean) were reported in Hamdayet Transit Centre. Biometric Identity Management System (BIMS) family registration is underway.

The operation continues to prepare for a considerable influx in light of the fluid and dynamic situation in Ethiopia. Tensions remain high particularly around border areas since most new arrivals are entering Hamdayet through Zahana village border point. Advocacy with authorities to relocate new arrivals safely to the camps has been stepped up in the event the situation across the border deteriorates further.

As of 12 August, a total of 942 Qemant new arrivals were recorded in Basundah locality. Joint registration with Sudan’s Commission for Refugees (COR) is currently being carried out at the family level.
UNHCR and partners have scaled up the humanitarian and protection response for this group. **10,000 litres** of clean drinking water have been provided and efforts are underway to increase water provision. Refugees received daily hot meals (lentils and *injera*) and additional food continues to be provided to pregnant and lactating women. Construction of **2 emergency latrines** to replace full latrines is ongoing. **503 clothing kits**, prioritising women and people with specific needs (PSNs), including people with disabilities and the elderly, have been distributed so far as well as **159 dignity kits** to women of reproductive age.

In the meantime, discussions with COR on the relocation of refugees from Hamdayet, Village 8 and Basundah to the camps are ongoing.

### Flood Preparedness

![Emergency Shelter Kit Distribution](image)

As of 14 August, approximately **624 out of 1,312 semi-permanent latrines** were completed in Tunaydbah and **407 out of 931** completed in Um Rakuba. Latrine coverage in Tunaydbah stood at **1:16** and **1:20** in Um Rakuba. The aim is to ensure a of **1:20 coverage** – the **SPHERE minimum standard** in post-emergency settings – in both locations by September.

While the cumulative figures for latrines often fluctuate since they are continuously decommissioned, dislodged or might be in need of repairs/replacing due to adverse weather, the aim is to replace all emergency latrines with semi-permanent latrines by the end of the rainy season in October.

The average water supply in all sites was approximately **20 l/p/d**, which is the SPHERE minimum standard.

Access and internal roads to the camps have been rehabilitated and are now **100% passable** in Tunaydbah and **90%** in Um Rakuba. However, some minor quick fixes will continue to be needed in view of the current weather conditions. Elevation work on existing service structures across the camps to reduce the risk of flooding is approximately **80% complete**.

### Hepatitis E Response

As of 14 August, **40 refugees** reportedly tested positive for Hepatitis E. Of these cases, **13** are in Um Rakuba, **10** in Tunaydbah, **12** in Hamdayet and **5** in Village 8. No fatalities have been recorded.

Collaboration between relevant Health and WaSH partners has been stepped up to contain the risk of an outbreak, enhance sanitation and promote improvements in personal and community hygiene practices.
During the reporting period, messages were disseminated in Tigrinya, Arabic and English discouraging refugees from drinking untreated water and eating raw food or food washed in unclean water. The construction of latrines in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah is also ongoing. Not only will this reduce the potential for an outbreak, it also mitigates the risk of other waterborne diseases.

Key Priorities and Identified Needs

- Maintaining protection presence and access to critical services and assistance in border areas in the event of a considerable influx. Advocacy at all levels to resume relocations from Hamdayet and Basundah to the camps continues.
- Scaling up efforts to contain the spread of Hepatitis E. Given the risk of infection is high in densely populated settings such as refugee camps, UNHCR and several Health and WaSH partners are working together to reduce the potential risk of an outbreak.
- Finalising discussions with authorities and partners on re-opening Fau 5.
- Implementing the six-month action plan. The action plan – 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.
- As the rains continue, strengthening flood preparedness across several critical sectors, including WaSH, Shelter, Protection and Health, is key.

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 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 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 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 into eastern Sudan via Hamdayet, Lugdi/Village 8 and Al Asera border points in search of safety. Since then, some 46,000 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.

Funding (as of 31 July 2021)

USD 182 M required

47% Unfunded
USD 85, 912, 380 M

53% Funded
USD 95, 759, 057 M
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 July, **52.7% (USD 95,759,057)** has been received. UNHCR Sudan would like to thank all donors who responded to the appeal for their generous support, which was critical to helping scale up the delivery of basic and essential services.

**Links**

For more information on the Ethiopian Emergency situation in eastern Sudan, please visit the Inter-Agency Information Sharing Portal.

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