

Weekly Gedaref Operational Update #13

23 – 30 September 2021



48,320

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



26

new arrivals recorded in Hamdayet Transit Centre



Qemant new arrivals recorded in Basundah locality

Operational Highlights

New arrivals into eastern Sudan: There was a slight decline in the number of Qemant asylum seekers crossing into eastern Sudan compared to last week with some 102 new arrivals recorded during the reporting period. This brings the total number of Qemant asylum seekers to 2,093 since the influx began in July. UNHCR is providing protection and assistance to this group in close coordination with partners. Plans to relocate them from the first hosting site in Basinga to a more suitable temporary facility in Basunda town are ongoing.

26 Ethiopian new arrivals were reported in Hamdayet Transit Centre – an increase of 16 individuals from the previous reporting period, bringing the total to 5,928 individuals. UNHCR and partners continue to provide life-saving assistance to this group, including safe and clean drinking water, hot meals, medical assistance, and core-relief items such as blankets, sleeping mats and mosquito nets. Protection desks in Hamdayet are operational with UNHCR staff carrying out weekly visits to identify and refer vulnerable individuals to appropriate services.

Key Achievements



PROTECTION

Results and Impact

- To date, some 773 refugees have been issued with ID cards in Um Rakuba camp. The project is jointly led by UNHCR and Sudan's Commission for Refugees (COR)



ID card distribution is currently ongoing in Um Rakuba © UNHCR/ Ali

and targets around 27,000 individuals aged 16 years and above. Government-recognised

identity documentation is integral to the legal and socio-economic inclusion of refugees within their host communities and is in line with UNHCR's commitment under the *Global Compact on Refugees* to strengthen the host government's capacity for individual registration and documentation.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Strengthening information, education and communication (IEC) materials** to improve messaging in the camps and transit centres is underway. IEC materials are currently being finalised in Khartoum to be distributed to partners in the camps.



EDUCATION

Results and Impact

- During the reporting period, **NRC distributed over 2,300 school kits to school children** in Um Rakuba camp. Each kit contains assorted learning and writing materials such as book bags, stationery and water bottles.
- Gedaref's State Ministry of Education **donated primary school-level reference books** for 8 subjects to teachers currently supporting NRC learning centres in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Scaling up the provision of learning facilities**, including primary schools and youth centres, in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah are priorities.



HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

Results and Impact

- As of 26 September, **a total of 1,328 Hepatitis E patients have been line-listed**: 1,121 in Um Rakuba, 102 in Tunaydbah, 18 in Hamdayet and 87 in Village 8. Most patients presented with mild symptoms. Health and WaSH partners and the Ministry of Health are continuing to work together to respond to the outbreak.
- **The COVID-19 vaccination roll out** for refugees aged 45 and over, those with chronic illnesses, and healthcare workers is currently underway. Advocacy with the Ministry of Health is ongoing to extend the age bracket to include refugees aged over 18.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Increasing 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.
- **Scaling up nutritional support** for people living with HIV and TB are priorities.



WATER AND SANITATION

Results and Impact

- A total of 980,000 litres of water was provided via water pumping from rivers and treated through water treatment plants (WTPs), boreholes and water trucking during the reporting period. Water supply was maintained at 23 litres per person per day (l/p/d) in Um Rakuba, 20 l/p/d in Tunaydbah, 20 l/p/d in Village 8 and 14 l/p/d in Hamdayet. This brings the average available supply of water to 19 l/pd.
- 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. 902 latrines have been completed so far in Um Rakuba and an additional 302 are under rehabilitation/construction/planned. 1,176 have been completed in Tunaydbah with another 280 requiring rehabilitation/construction.
- Emergency WaSH facilities have been established in the new transit facility in Basunda. These include two 10,000 l water tanks and 16 gender-segregated latrine blocks.
- Groundwater assessments are currently ongoing with partners in Um Rakuba to determine if latrine designs can be optimised.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Efforts are underway to provide one (1) communal latrine for every 20 people, which is the SPHERE minimum standard during emergencies. The person to latrine ratio currently stands at 1:22 in Um Rakuba, 1:23 in Tunaydbah and 1:36 for Hamdayet and 1:28 for Village 8.
- 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

- A total of 2,000 NFI kits donated by the Qatar Red Crescent Society were distributed during the reporting period with support from Sudanese Red Crescent Society, Alight and NRC. Items included 3 blankets, 1 kitchen set, 2 water buckets, 1 tarpaulin and 1 plastic sheet.
- COR initiated the demarcation of some 1,360 plots in Tunaydbah ahead of the planned voluntary relocation of refugees currently residing in Hamdayet and Village 8.



A total of 2,000 NFI kits were distributed to refugees © UNHCR/ Rady

- The combined distribution of WHO provided mosquito nets and IOM provided soap bars by NRC via UNHCR's global distribution tool is currently underway.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

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



COMMUNICATING WITH COMMUNITIES

Results and Impact

- To promote peaceful co-existence, a friendly football match between refugee and host community youth in Um Rakuba was organised. UNHCR provided transport, covered venue costs and offered snacks and refreshments.
- A comprehensive database of community volunteers was created during the reporting period. This will help strengthen information sharing between agencies and harmonise existing pay scales.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Efforts are underway to encourage partners to feed into the community volunteer database.



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

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Funding (as of 31 August 2021)

USD 182 M required

