

Weekly Gedaref Operational Update #16

14 – 21 October 2021



49,490

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



17

new arrivals recorded in Hamdayet Transit Centre



14

Qemant new arrivals recorded in Basundah locality

Operational Highlights

New Ethiopian arrivals recorded in eastern Sudan: The number of Ethiopians crossing into Hamdayet continued to remain low. As of 21 October, 17 Ethiopian new arrivals were reported, bringing the total population there to 5,992. There was a sharp decline in Qemant asylum seekers in Basinga compared to the *previous reporting period* with some 14 new arrivals recorded. This brings the total number of Qemant asylum seekers to 2,292 since the influx began in July. UNHCR continues to provide protection and assistance to both groups in close coordination with partners while also scaling up preparedness measures in the event of a significant influx.

Global Handwashing Day 2021: Refugees and UNHCR staff and partners came together to commemorate Global Handwashing Day. This year's theme was "Our Future is at Hand – Let's Move Forward Together." Several activities were organised to help promote good hygiene practices, including handwashing demonstrations, as one of the most important measures to reduce and prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.



Handwashing demonstrations to commemorate Global Handwashing Day © Eisa/UNHCR

Key Achievements



PROTECTION

Results and Impact

- A protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) workshop was held in Tunaydbah settlement, targeting 40 community-based protection networks. The aim of these workshops is to increase refugees' awareness of SEA, how and where to report such incidents and to reiterate UNHCR's zero tolerance policy.
- A verification exercise for persons with specific needs (PSNs) commenced in Tunaydbah. To date, household level verification has been completed for over 1,350 individuals in Tunaydbah using partners' offline data lists. A similar exercise is also planned for Um Rakuba.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Strengthening information, education and communication (IEC) materials to improve messaging in the camps and transit centres is ongoing. PSEA IEC materials, including fliers and pamphlets, have already been distributed ahead of next week's national PSEA awareness campaign.



EDUCATION

Results and Impact

- Close to 5,500 girls are currently enrolled in early childhood care and development (EECD) centres and primary and secondary learning centres, representing 46% of school-age children (4 – 18) in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah. Students in secondary and primary learning centres are now being taught core subjects (English, Maths and Science).

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Improving enrolment rates continues to remain a priority. To date, more than 50% of school-age children are currently 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

- The second dose of COVID-19 vaccines was administered to healthcare workers in Um Rakuba, Tunaydbah and Village 8. Vaccination campaigns are currently ongoing to increase vaccination uptake among refugees.
- A psychological first aid training was carried out in Tunaydbah, reaching close to 25 community leaders. Participants received training on how to provide immediate support people in their communities who are in distress and struggling to cope after experiencing trauma.
- UNFPA continued to provide in kind support for sexual and reproductive health to MSF facilities in Hamdayet, Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah. During the reporting period, close to 30 deliveries were carried out in these facilities. Nearly 125 women also received family planning services.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Increasing the COVID-19 vaccine uptake via awareness raising.
- Establishing a consolidated health information system to improve the quality of health and nutrition data collected is ongoing.



WATER AND SANITATION

Results and Impact

- 1060,290 litres of water was provided via water pumping from rivers and treatment through water treatment plants (WTPs), boreholes and water trucking during the reporting period. Water supply increased to 26 litres per day (l/p/d) in Um Rakuba, 22 l/p/d in Tunaydbah, 23 l/p/d in Village 8 and 15 l/p/d in Hamdayet. This brings the average available supply of water to 21.5 l/p/d, which is the SPHERE minimum standard in post-emergencies settings. Sustained coordination is essential to ensuring these collective gains are maintained by the WaSH sector.
- 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. 942 latrines have been completed so far in Um Rakuba and an additional 225 are under rehabilitation/construction or planned. 1,350 have been completed in Tunaydbah with another 330 requiring rehabilitation/construction.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Efforts are underway to provide and maintain one (1) communal latrine for every 20 people, which is the SPHERE minimum standard in emergencies. The person to latrine ratio currently stands at 1:20 in Um Rakuba and 1:15 in Tunaydbah.
- 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. Work on water piping systems is expected to be finalised by the end of the month.
- **Promoting good hygiene practices** to reduce the risk of a disease outbreak is another priority.



SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIS)

Results and Impact

- UNHCR partner NRC distributed 3,356 emergency shelter kits (ESKs) in Um Rakuba camp out of the planned 5,000 kits. In Tunaydbah, a total of 2,535 out of the planned 2,500 kits have been distributed so far. In addition, 1,060 and 1,350 disaster kits have been distributed in Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba respectively out of 5,000 planned in each site.
- **Work on the joint UNHCR/WFP road/drainage and site maintenance project in Um Rakuba is now complete.** Work is still ongoing in Tunaydbah.
- **NRC has started construction work on 10 *Tukuls* (durable shelters) in Um Rakuba.** The plan is to use this community-led approach to train beneficiaries so that they can share their new-found skills with other refugees thereby accelerating the transition to durable shelters.

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.



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**

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:

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Funding (as of 30 September 2021)

