

Weekly Gedaref Operational Update #1/2022

1 – 6 January 2022



50,710

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



26

new arrivals recorded in Hamdayet Transit Centre



65

number of tukuls (durable shelters) completed

Operational Highlights

Refugee families move from emergency into durable shelters: NRC started handing over ready-to-move in tukuls (durable shelters) to refugee families in Um Rakuba, in collaboration with UNHCR and COR. During the reporting period, 17 refugee families moved from emergency shelters into their tukuls and the transfer of 10 tukuls per day to refugees is planned for January. The completion and handover of an additional 890 tukuls by NRC in Um Rakuba and 600 tukuls by ACTED and Medair in Tunaydbah is expected by March 2022.



To date, 175 tukuls (durable shelters) have been completed in Um Rakuba © UNHCR

UNHCR and partners respond to a fire at Um Rakuba: On January 2, a fire broke out in Um Rakuba camp. There were no fatalities

or injuries, but the fire destroyed 60 shelters, affecting 53 refugee families (97 individuals) and ten (10) unaccompanied and separated children. An assessment confirmed the cause of the fire to be accidental. UNHCR, COR, DRC, NRC and Save the Children are working to set up new shelters for the affected refugee families in a different area of the camp while reinstalling shelters near the same location for the unaccompanied and separated children so that they can remain close to their caregivers. UNHCR's registration team has replaced the documentation that was lost in the fire, and COOPI, together with NRC, are distributing hygiene and core relief items to this group. In addition, UNHCR is working with WFP to provide emergency food assistance. As part of broader fire prevention and mitigation measures, two (2) sessions of advanced fire safety trainings were held in December 2021 for 39 refugee volunteers in Um Rakuba. Additional sessions are also planned for January 2022, including in Babikri and Tunaydbah, targeting a total of 100 refugee volunteers. Efforts are underway to establish a fire station at the camps and install fire extinguishers in specific locations.

New Ethiopian arrivals recorded in eastern Sudan: The decreasing trend in the number of new arrivals from Ethiopia continued during the reporting period, with 26 new arrivals being reported in Hamdayet Transit Centre and no new arrivals recorded in Taya border entry point.

Key Achievements



PROTECTION

Results and Impact

- ALIGHT held 13 fire safety awareness sessions in Um Rakuba for a total of 211 women (143) and men (68), with discussions focusing on causes of fire accidents and recommendations on how communities can work together to prevent and respond to fire incidents.
- UNFPA and NCA provided information on gender-based violence prevention and risk mitigation, referral pathways and available services to a total of 442 women and girls (363) as well as men and boys (79) in Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba, including through awareness raising sessions and morning coffee gatherings.
- IRW provided food assistance to 44 refugees with specific needs in Tunaydbah.
- A total of 119 women and girls participated in 30 income generating workshops in Um Rakuba (89) and Tunaydbah (30), organized by UNFPA and NCA. The participants acquire skills related to sewing, crochet and hairdressing to increase their self-reliance and capacity for sustainable livelihoods.



Refugees participate in a fire safety awareness session at Um Rakuba
© ALIGHT

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

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



HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

Results and Impact

- The Ministry of Health provided 20 COVID-19 rapid test kits for isolation centres in Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba.
- IRC conducted medical screening of 674 refugees in Tunaydbah and referred four (4) cases to health facilities in Gedaref.
- UNFPA, ALIGHT, MSF and ZOA International Sudan provided sexual and reproductive health and family planning services to a total of 284 refugee women in Hamdayet (18), Um Rakuba (74) and Tunaydbah (192).
- ALIGHT conducted one (1) awareness session on mental health and psychosocial support for 13 men (6) and women (7) in Um Rakuba aimed at discussing psychosocial issues facing refugees and available support services.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Additional **COVID-19 vaccine doses and strengthened community mobilization** are required to meet the vaccination campaign's target in all refugee-hosting locations.
- The provision of an adequate **supply of medication for mental illnesses** in Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba is needed.



WATER AND SANITATION

Results and Impact

- A total of **1.2 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. Water supply was provided at **35 litres per person per day (l/p/d)** in Um Rakuba, **21 l/p/d** in Tunaydbah, **26 l/p/d** in Village 8 and **19 l/p/d** in Babikri. This brings the **average available supply of water to 25 l/p/d**, which **exceeds** the **SPHERE post emergency standard** of 20 l/p/d. Given that all refugees in Hamdayet Transit Centre were relocated to Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba, the water supply was reduced to 10 cubic metres per day.
- In Tunaydbah, Solidarités International rehabilitated **50 latrines** and **87 showers** while CARE rehabilitated **18 latrines**.
- In Um Rakuba, CARE desludged **18 latrines** and rehabilitated 5 others.
- Work is ongoing to finalize the **water supply network in Zone 4 of Um Rakuba** and **extend the water network in Tunaydbah** to cover the new blocks where the relocated refugees live.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The construction of **more accessible WaSH facilities** is needed for the use of persons with disabilities in all the locations.



SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIS)

Results and Impact

- During the reporting period, NRC constructed **65 tukuls in Um Rakuba**, bringing the total number of completed tukuls to **175**.
- ACTED and Medair started building **12 additional tukuls in Tunaydbah**, bringing the total number of tukuls under construction to **39**. To date, **257 tukuls** have been completed by ACTED and transferred to refugee families, predominantly to persons with specific needs.
- DRC completed **a needs assessment of core relief items (CRIs) for the newly relocated refugees in Tunaydbah**, the results of which will inform UNHCR's upcoming CRI distribution for this group.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Completion and handover of **more tukuls to refugees and asylum seekers in Babikri, Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba before the start of the rainy season** remains a priority.



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

Results and Impact

- UNHCR and FNC continued the [distribution of cooking fuel](#) in Um Rakuba. During the reporting period, a total of [1,724 families \(2,177 individuals\)](#) were provided with [338 bags of charcoal](#) and [590 cubic metres of firewood](#).
- In Babikri, WFP distributed [in-kind food assistance](#) and MSF provided [soap](#) to [1,942](#) asylum seekers.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- UNHCR is working with Gedaref Fire Brigade to establish a [firefighting station](#) at the camp and procure a [firefighting motorcycle](#) and [fire extinguishers](#) to increase fire preparedness.
- The [installation of more lighting](#) in and around the camps remains a priority.



WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

As part of the response to the Ethiopia 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.

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 31 December 2021)

USD 182 M

