Weekly Gedaref Operational Update #5/2022
27 January – 3 February 2022

51,207
total number of Ethiopian refugees in eastern Sudan (Kassala & Gedaref) as of 31 January 2022

13
new arrivals recorded in Hamdayet Transit Centre (9) and Taya border entry point (4)

574
number of tukuls (durable shelters) completed in Um Rakuba in total

Operational Highlights

Qemant asylum seekers relocated to Babikri: UNHCR, Sudan’s Commission for Refugees (COR) and partners relocated 74 Qemant asylum seekers (39 families) from Um Rakuba camp to Babikri settlement. This group had previously indicated during focus group discussions their desire to relocate to Babikri to be closer to their relatives. For the relocation, ALIGHT provided an ambulance with medical staff to escort the convoy. Upon arrival, the newly relocated were assigned shelters, set up by NRC, and provided with hot meals and water by Muslim Aid and Solidarités International. UNHCR and DRC assisted persons with specific needs and MSF Switzerland provided medical assistance to vulnerable asylum seekers. A protection desk has been set up in Babikri settlement to address protection issues and facilitate referrals to the different service providers.

Fire safety awareness and trainings conducted for refugees: UNHCR, DRC and Gedaref Fire Brigade held two (2) fire safety trainings in Tunaydbah for 39 members of the refugee fire safety committee. In Um Rakuba, following the fire safety trainings in December 2021, DRC has launched a dynamic sensitization efforts in Tigrinya to raise awareness on fire hazard, practice different fire scenario and immediate measures to extinguish the fire.

New Ethiopian arrivals recorded in eastern Sudan: There was an increase in the number of new arrivals compared to the previous week, with nine (9) new arrivals recorded in Hamdayet Transit Centre and four (4) new arrivals reported crossing the Taya border entry point.

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Key Achievements

PROTECTION

Results and Impact

- A total of 93 refugees were individually registered in Tunaydbah (70) and Um Rakuba (23), including 73 newborns. UNHCR and COR issued 722 ID cards to registered refugees in Tunaydbah (448) and Um Rakuba (274). As of end January 2022, a total of 10,826 ID cards have been issued for registered refugees aged 16 and above in Um Rakuba (6,513) and Tunaydbah (4,313), covering 48 and 32 per cent of beneficiaries respectively.
- The gender-based violence (GBV) sub-working group launched the inter-agency GBV action plan for the first quarter of 2022 and reached consensus to deploy the GBV Information Management System (GBVIMS) tool to harmonize GBV data collection and case management.
- UNICEF, UNHCR and Sudan’s State Council for Child Welfare reunited eight (8) unaccompanied and separated children with their families in Um Rakuba (4) and Tunaydbah (4). To date, a total 900 boys (558) and girls (342) have received family tracing and reunification services.
- UNHCR, in collaboration with COR, DRC and Muslim Aid, conducted a vulnerability verification exercise in Babikri and assisted 124 persons with specific needs, including pregnant women and unaccompanied and separated children.
- ALIGHT held two (2) awareness raising sessions on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) for 20 refugee women and girls in Um Rakuba. The sessions focused on the rights of refugees, expected standard behaviors of humanitarian actors, modalities for reporting SEA incidents and available services for survivors.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Family tracing services need to be scaled up at Hamdayet Transit Centre to improve and expedite family reunification.

EDUCATION

Results and Impact

- UNHCR conducted a rapid education needs assessment in Babikri, holding three (3) focus group discussions with 30 youth, boys and girls. The preliminary findings indicate that over 40 per cent of primary school age children were not previously enrolled in schools. The outcomes of the needs assessment will inform the education response in Babikri.
- In tandem with the rapid education needs assessment, UNICEF, UNHCR and COR conducted a joint site evaluation in Babikri and identified suitable locations for school facilities and child friendly spaces, taking into account protection considerations.
NRC recruited ten (10) youth facilitators to assist with mobilizing the enrolment of and subsequently conducting skills training for 300 refugee youth at the recently completed multi-purpose youth centres in Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba.

**Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps**

- Procuring furniture and equipment for the multi-purpose youth centres is a priority.
- More funding is needed for the operation of the secondary schools in Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba camps.
- Accreditation of vocational education and trainings is key to improving youth access to livelihood opportunities in the medium to long-term.

**HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)**

**Results and Impact**

- UNFPA provided four (4) post rape treatment kits for ALIGHT, MSF Holland, PUI and ZOA clinics in Tunaydbah, Um Rakuba and Village 8. Each kit is used to assist 45 survivors. In addition, UNFPA also provided three (3) sexually transmitted infection management kits for ALIGHT, MSF Holland and ZOA clinics in Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba. Each kit is used to assist 250 individuals.
- UNICEF, UNHCR and partners, undertook routine nutrition screening of a total of 1,394 children under-five at health facilities in Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba. Of this number, seven (7) were identified with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and six (6) with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). All 13 children are receiving treatment.
- In complement, Concern Worldwide and ZOA conducted mass MUAC nutrition screening for 739 children in Um Rakuba, of whom one (1) (0.1%) was identified with SAM and 22 (3.0%) with MAM. This is below the Global Acute Malnutrition emergency standard of 15%. All the children identified with malnutrition have been enrolled in the nutrition programme.
- UNFPA provided sexual and reproductive health services to 262 refugee women in Hamdayet Transit Centre (17), Tunaydbah (158) and Um Rakuba (74) and Village 8 (13), through ALIGHT, MSF, PUI and ZOA clinics, and carried out 30 facility-based deliveries.
- Two (2) positive cases of COVID-19 were reported in Village 8. The individuals have been placed in isolation and are receiving medical assistance.
- SRCS held 56 awareness sessions on Hepatitis E in Tunaydbah for 964 refugee women (600), men (321) and children (43), sharing information about personal and community hygiene practices.
- ALIGHT conducted three (3) mental health awareness sessions for 43 men (20) and women (23) in Um Rakuba, focusing on depression and prevention of suicide. In Tunaydbah, psychosocial support was provided for two (2) refugees and four (4) follow-up visits were conducted.

**Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps**

- Establishing referral pathways for tertiary health care is a priority.
- Scale-up of referrals for persons with visual impairments is needed.
WATER AND SANITATION

Results and Impact

- Water supply was provided at 21 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 water supply to 22 l/p/d, which exceeds the SPHERE post emergency standard of 20 l/p/d.
- The person to latrine ratio was at 1:19 in Um Rakuba, 1:12 in Tunaydbah and 1:19 in Babikri, which is below the SPHERE minimum standard of one (1) communal latrine for every 20 people (1:20 ratio).

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The construction of additional showers and latrines with lighting in Babikri and installation of latrines in the multi-purpose youth centres in Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba are a priority.
- Maintenance of latrines in Tunaydbah need to be strengthened.

SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIS)

Results and Impact

- In Um Rakuba, NRC completed the construction of a further 70 tukuls (durable shelters), bringing the total number of tukuls to 574, of which 174 have been handed over to refugee families.
- NRC distributed 350 emergency shelter kits to vulnerable refugee families in Tunaydbah and pitched 30 tents for newly arrived refugees.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The completion and transfer of over 4,400 tukuls is expected by the end of 2022 in Babikri, Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba. More funding is required to build an additional 7,900 tukuls for the remaining refugee families in the three locations.

CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

Results and Impact

- In Um Rakuba, DRC and WFP conducted four (4) focus group discussion with a total of 40 refugee representatives on grinding mills, the outcomes of which will inform the standard operating procedures for their operation in the camp.
- UNHCR, COOPI, IOM and NRC distributed 6,240 bars of soap and 1,685 female dignity kits to 1,560 refugee women and girls in Um Rakuba. The distribution will continue in order to meet the target of 33,552 bars of soap and 4,476 female dignity kits.
- DRC completed the installation of 45 solar lights in Um Rakuba (31 in the camp and 14 in host communities) and 44 in Tunaydbah (30 in the camp and 14 in host communities).

**Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps**
- Flood preparations at household and camp levels, in collaboration with local authorities and partners, is a priority.

**Communicating with Communities**

**Results and Impact**
- As part of efforts to prevent onwards movements, UNHCR met with 11 refugee youth and leaders (2 women and 9 men) in Babikri to formulate strategies for raising community awareness about risks of onward movements. In addition, more trafficking posters were put up in visible locations across the settlement.
- In Um Rakuba, ALIGHT conducted four (4) community awareness sessions on trafficking for 38 refugee women (31) and men (7). Participant were provided with information on how to report trafficking, identify victims and refer them to available services in a confidential manner.

**Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps**
- Establishing youth initiatives in Babikri is a priority to help reduce the incentive for onward movements.

**Working in Coordination**

In response to the Ethiopia situation in eastern Sudan, UNHCR is working with authorities and over 40 partners to provide lifesaving assistance and protection to Ethiopian refugees and asylum seekers as well as host communities. UNHCR and COR co-chair the Inter-Agency Refugee Working Group (RWG), which meets on a bi-weekly basis, to strengthen coordination of the response. One of the priorities of the RWG for 2022 is to consolidate and scale up support to host communities in refugee affected areas. In this respect, members of the RWG, led by UNHCR and COR, met with representatives of host communities in six localities neighbouring Tunaydbah camp to discuss needs and potential solutions. As a next step, UNHCR and COR will work with the office of the Governor (Wali) to identify areas where the needs of host communities could be addressed by the ongoing activities of RWG members. UNHCR is also collaborating with UNDP to establish a solutions working group to increase the resilience of local communities affected by the refugee crisis and foster peace co-existence, in alignment with State and local development plans.
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 59,000 refugees and asylum seekers 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 State, as well as a reprioritization of the original requirements. A new Inter-Agency Response Plan for 2022 will be launched in the coming weeks.

We are grateful to the following donors for supporting the Ethiopian Emergency situation in eastern Sudan with critical funding in 2021 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

UNHCR Country Appeal Funding (as of 2 February 2022)
USD 348.9 M required
6% Funded
USD 19,481,260
94% Unfunded
USD 329,413,099