

Weekly Gedaref Operational Update #10

5-9 Sept 2021



48,476

total number of Ethiopian refugees in eastern Sudan as of 9 September 2021



18

new arrivals recorded in Hamdayet Transit Centre during the reporting period



232

Qemant new arrivals recorded in Basundah locality during the reporting period

Operational Highlights

New arrivals into eastern Sudan recorded

Between 5-9 September, **18 new arrivals** (13 Ethiopian and 5 Eritrean) were recorded in Hamdayet Transit Centre – a **decrease of 15 individuals** from the previous reporting period, bringing the total of refugees there up to 5,876. In addition, between 7 and 8 September, 232 Qemant new arrivals were recorded in Basundah, out of which 123 were registered and received life saving supplies.

Intentions surveys at transit centres

UNHCR and partners continued with the intention surveys in Hamdayet and Village 8 to assess whether refugees plan to relocate to the designated locations further inland, to gather data on persons with specific needs (PSNs), and to identify existing family ties with refugees already residing in the camps. So far, 126 individuals (105 households) and 393 individuals (211 households) have been surveyed in Hamdayet and Village 8 respectively.

Key Achievements



PROTECTION

Results and Impact

- UNHCR joined an Inter-Agency effort to contextualize the national Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) for Identification, Documentation, Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR) of



Weather conditions impeding access to Hamdayet Transit Centre @UNHCR

Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASCs) in Sudan. While it was a consensus that the SOPs are a national document and therefore should not be changed, it was agreed to develop an annex to contextualize the SOPs for refugees. An information sharing protocol will also follow. A draft on the roles and responsibilities of agencies in the FTR process has been shared by UNHCR.

- UNHCR engaged child protection (CP) partners in both camps to rollout the CP referral pathways developed for the response. Participants agreed to adopt the documents as a working tool to enhance case management of children.
- A baseline survey report was completed and shared with partners, assessing refugees' motivations behind onward movements, their knowledge on the dangers associated with the journey and their preferred source of information on onward movements. The findings provide a basis on which UNHCR and partners mixed migration colleagues will implement outreach activities to counter human trafficking.
- Door to door awareness campaigns to counter false narratives by smugglers have been conducted in both Um Rakuba camp and Tunaydbah settlement. Meetings were held with target groups to discuss the outcome of said door-to-door campaign.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Strengthen coordination between child protection partners through joint case management, capacity building, and verification of children at risk. The verification of children living in alternative care arrangements is to be conducted.



HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

Results and Impact

- As of 9 September, there are no new cases of Hepatitis E Virus (HEV) while collaboration between relevant Health and WaSH partners and the Ministry of Health continues to curb the outbreak, enhance sanitation and promote improvements in personal and community hygiene practices.
- Reproductive health services were provided in both Um Rakuba camp and Tunaydbah settlement: 54 pregnant women received antenatal care and 128 births attended by skilled birth attendance.
- Alight continued to hold MHPSS awareness workshop on suicide prevention and response for community leaders in both Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah and reached 743 individuals (478 females, 265 males). The sessions included how to look for warning signs, what to do if someone is at risk of suicide and where to access services. Staff members of operational partners were also trained on psychological first aid, basic counselling skills and suicidal prevention and response.
- Information, education, and communication (IEC) materials focusing on raising awareness of suicide risk and safety measures are being developed by UNHCR based on feedback from partner's staff from IOM, Alight, ZOA, GHA, IRC, DRC.
- Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) working group members were provided with online materials on suicide prevention and discussed the draft of an Inter-agency MHPSS case management database tool.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Strengthening secondary referrals to government-run facilities for diagnosis and treatment, improving nutritional support for people living with HIV and TB, as well as for children below the age of five who are at risk of malnutrition remains essential.
- Increase MHPSS awareness sessions, psychological first aid (PFA) training, psychosocial skills, suicide response and prevention at Hamdayet reception centre.
- Improve screening and follow-up for mental health issues in Hamdayet reception centre.



WATER AND SANITATION

Results and Impact

- A total of 840,000 litres of water was provided via water pumping from rivers and treatment through water treatment plants (WTP), 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, 16 l/p/d in Tunaydbah, 9 l/p/d in Village 8 and 11 l/p/d in Hamdayet. This brings the average available supply of water to 15 l/p/d.
- In all locations, particularly where water has been trucked and/or treated through water treatment plants and stored within tanks or bladders, WaSH partners have ensured water remains safe and within the free residual chlorine level of 0.5mg/l.
- Efforts to improve latrine coverage are ongoing. 809 latrines have been completed so far in Um Rakuba and an additional 302 are under rehabilitation/construction. 824 have been completed in Tunaydbah and work is ongoing on 253. 113 are finalised in Village 8 and work is ongoing on other 60. 162 have been completed in Hamdayet and work is ongoing on 10.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Efforts continue to ensure the communal latrine ratio to people is 1:20. The person to latrine ratio currently stands at 1:28 in Um Rakuba, 1:18 in Tunaydbah, 1:36 for Hamdayet and 1: 28 for Village 8.
- Work is ongoing to increase the number of gender segregated latrines across all locations and latrines rehabilitated.
- Phasing out water trucking in favour of other more sustainable solutions is currently being explored.
- Scaling up awareness campaigns discouraging refugees from blocking drains is a priority since stagnant water can be a breeding ground for mosquitoes and also can cause localised flooding. Distribution of mosquito nets in all locations is expected to be completed by the end of October at latest.
- WaSH partners to coordinate the delivery and access to services at the Basundah transit centre.



SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIS)

Results and Impact

- 2,109 and 2,202 emergency shelter kits (ESKs) have been distributed so far in Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba respectively, out of 5,000 planned in each camp.
- In Um Rakuba, 1,127 disaster kits have been distributed out of 5,000 planned.
- UNHCR and partners mobilized materials (500 family tents, 300 plastic sheets, 1 rub hall) to set up the transit centre in Basundah. So far, 45 tents have been pitched out of 500 planned.
- UNHCR and shelter partners NRC, Medair, and ACTED completed the revision of durable shelters to meet similar standard levels across all camps.
- Work on the joint UNHCR-WFP road/drainage and site maintenance project in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah camps continue. One (1) culvert line was installed in Tunaydbah village to help drain surface water after heavy rain that flooded the village.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Um Rakuba, 2,800 ESKs and 3,700 disaster kits are needed to support the remaining camp residents, 20 additional culvert lines need to be installed, and 10 km of secondary road in the camp needs to be constructed.
- In Tunaydbah, 2,800 ESKs and 3,700 disaster kits are needed to support the remaining camp residents, 900 bridges/footpath to be built over the roadside and drains, 20 additional culvert lines need to be installed, and 10 km of secondary road in the camp needs to be constructed.



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

Results and Impact

- The registration of 107 newly arrived refugees was completed in Um Rakuba, and coordination among all sectors is ongoing to provide them with food, shelter, and life saving supplies.
- Partners were introduced to the Global Distribution Tool (GDT). This will help to increase coordination and avoid any offline distribution in the camp.
- Coordination took place for the distribution of dignity kits, soaps, mosquito nets, and basins for new-borns, through GDT, which is planned to start this week in Um Rakuba and the next in Tunaydbah.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Provision of hot meals to newly registered refugees in Um Rakuba until they receive their portions from WFP.



COMMUNICATING WITH COMMUNITIES

Results and Impact

- Weekly meetings were held in both camps to discuss the outcome of door-to-door human trafficking information sharing and youth focused groups discussions being facilitated by the volunteers.
- A meeting was held with Education partners to discuss youth activities. NRC will launch a call to invite youth groups to share their proposals. Each group will receive USD 500 to carry out the proposed activities.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- A Human Trafficking Working Group is needed to review the efforts made in combating human trafficking. Identification of core partners is ongoing. UNHCR is carrying out fact finding missions to identify which partners are implementing activities addressing Human Trafficking issues. Together, they will review the mandate of the working group and draft the TORs.



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 some 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 ensure refugees and other people of concern receive 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 **47,000 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.

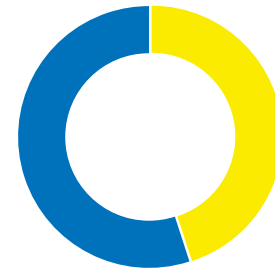
In late November 2020, UNHCR launched the Inter-Agency Refugee Emergency Response Plan, which asked for **USD 147.6 million** to provide lifesaving assistance for **100,000** refugees in eastern Sudan. The plan was revised in May 2021 with **USD 182 million** now required for the response – an increase 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:

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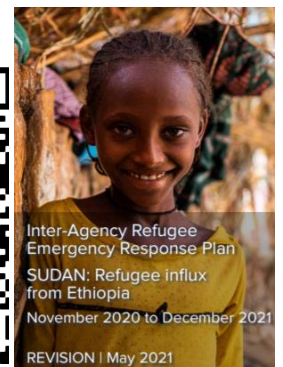
💰 Funding (as of 31 August 2021)

USD 182 M required



45% Unfunded
USD 81,125,177

55% Funded
USD 100,522,260



Links

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