

Weekly Gedaref Operational Update #15

7 – 14 October 2021



49,490

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



25

new arrivals recorded in Hamdayet Transit Centre



102

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 16 October, 25 Ethiopian new arrivals were reported, bringing the total population there to 5,975. Elsewhere, there was a slight uptick in Qemant asylum seekers in Basinga compared to the *previous reporting period* with some 102 new arrivals recorded. This brings the total number of Qemant asylum seekers to 2,278 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.

New site for Qemant asylum seekers: The operation received official clearance to open a new site for Qemant asylum seekers. Babikri is located some 1 km north east of Babikri village and 9 km from Basunda. The site lies on government owned land and initial assessments indicate that it is not flood-prone. An inter-agency assessment mission is planned for next week.

Key Achievements



PROTECTION

Results and Impact

- Some 954 refugee ID cards were issued during the reporting period in Um Rakuba, bringing the total to 3,089 since exercise began. 536 ID cards have been issued so far in Tunaydbah.
- A series of gender-based violence (GBV) awareness raising workshops were held in (4) Um Rakuba camp and (2) Tunaydbah settlement, reaching over 150 refugees. The aim of these workshops is to increase refugees' awareness of GBV and the services available to survivors, and to encourage them to be more actively involved in protecting women, men, girls and boys from GBV.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Efforts are ongoing to **enhance protection mainstreaming across all sectors**. Protection risk templates have been shared with UNHCR sector leads to identify potential protection risks, mitigation and monitoring and response measures in an effort to mainstream protection methodologies and integrate protection safeguards.



EDUCATION

Results and Impact

- **Islamic Relief competed construction** on two additional classrooms in Um Rakuba funded by Education Cannot Wait, bringing the total number of classrooms under this grant to 6.
- **Close to 800 children were enrolled** in the recently completed early childhood care and development (EECD) centres implemented by Save the Children in Tunaydbah. To date, close to 1,300 children are enrolled in these centres.



Enrolment day in Tunaydbah © UNHCR/ Mambili

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Scaling up the provision of primary schools in Tunaydbah remains a priority**. A “double-shift” system (morning and afternoon classes) is currently in place in an effort to reach all school-age going children and ease the pressure. COR has also allocated an additional piece of land for NRC to construct an additional two primary schools, which will go some way towards increasing refugee children’s access to education.



HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

Results and Impact

- **The COVID-19 vaccination roll out** for refugees aged 45 and over, those with chronic illnesses, and new healthcare workers is ongoing. The roll out has also been extended to include teachers and previous healthcare workers who might have missed the first dose.
- During the reporting period, **three suicide prevention awareness raising sessions** were held in Um Rakuba, reaching over 50 refugees. In Tunaydbah, two awareness sessions were held on mental health and the available services, reaching over 125 individuals. Participants received training on how to better identify and assist refugees and other persons of concern with mental health and psychosocial issues.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Increasing the 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 ongoing.



WATER AND SANITATION

Results and Impact

- 1050,290 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 25 litres per person per day (l/p/d) in Um Rakuba, 21 l/p/d in Tunaydbah, 20 l/p/d in Village 8 and 15 l/p/d in Hamdayet. This brings the average available supply of water to 20 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. 975 latrines have been completed so far in Um Rakuba and an additional 225 are under rehabilitation/construction or planned. 1,340 have been completed in Tunaydbah with another 340 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.



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

Results and Impact

- A Rubb Hall in Tunaydbah has been upgraded for use as a storage and distribution facility for operational partners. UNHCR and NCA are currently coordinating activities while also providing technical support.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

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



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.

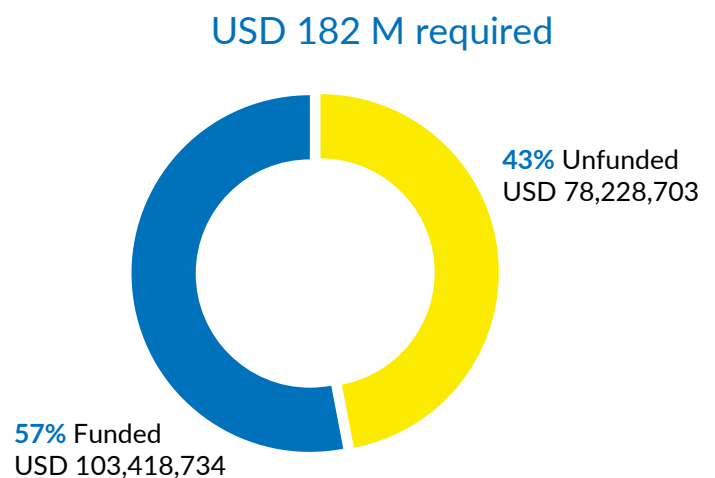
Situation in eastern Sudan

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.

Funding (as of 30 September 2021)



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



Links

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