

# Weekly Gedaref Operational Update #19

4 - 11 November 2021



50,159

total number of Ethiopian refugees in eastern Sudan as of 31 October



26

new arrivals recorded in Hamdayet Transit Centre



4

Qemant new arrivals recorded in Basundah locality

## Operational Highlights

**New Ethiopian arrivals recorded in eastern Sudan:** There was a slight decline in the number of Ethiopians crossing into eastern Sudan compared to *last week*. As of 5 November, 26 new arrivals were reported in Hamdayet Transit Centre, bringing the total population there to 6,060. Elsewhere, 4 Qemant new arrivals were recorded. This brings the total number of Qemant asylum seekers to 2,322 since the influx began in July. UNHCR and partners continue to scale up contingency measures in response to the developing situation in Ethiopia which could spark a new influx. These measures include a follow up assessment of Fau 5, Um Algura locality, Aj Jazirah state, as a potential site to accommodate non-Tigrayan new arrivals.

## Key Achievements



### PROTECTION

#### Results and Impact

- In a bid to ensure better refugee protection, UNHCR and COR issued 844 ID cards to registered refugees in Um Rakuba and 542 in Tunaydbah settlement, bringing the total to 4,842 and 2,762 respectively.

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The protection working group is currently revising various referrals forms. The inter-agency general protection referral form has been endorsed while work is ongoing to finalise child protection and GBV referral forms to facilitate referrals by non-GBV actors.
- Enhancing PSEA information, education and communication (IEC) materials (pamphlets and information boards) remains a priority.



## EDUCATION

### Results and Impact

- Save the Children and Gedaref State Ministry of Education officials trained a total of 60 people from eight (8) parent–teacher associations from early childhood care and development centres in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah on their roles and responsibilities and the importance of child safeguarding.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Improving enrolment rates continues to remain a priority. To date, more than 50% of school-age children are 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.
- Scaling up the provision of WaSH facilities in the two youth centres and two primary learning centres in Tunaydbah remains a priority.



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

### Results and Impact

- Following sustained advocacy with the Ministry of Health (MoH) by UNHCR and partners, including IRC, UNICEF and WHO, preparations are underway to launch a COVID-19 vaccination targeting refugees in Um Rakuba, Tunaydbah and Village 8 next week. Over 19,000 doses have been availed so far. Vaccinations will cover refugees aged 18 and above.
- A distribution of personal protective equipment, including masks, gloves and hand sanitizers is ongoing as part of COVID-19 prevention measures. The exercise will cover refugees, partners and the host community in Um Rakuba, Tunaydbah and Village 8.
- Together with the MoH, UNICEF, WFP and UNHCR, a mass nutrition screening for children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women was carried out in Basunda with data analysis underway.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Scaling up treatment for tuberculosis (TB) in Um Rakuba remains a priority. So far, UNHCR via the MoH, has availed anti-TB drugs to 170 refugees.



## WATER AND SANITATION

### Results and Impact

- A total of 1,050,200 litres of water per day was provided via water pumping from 4 water treatment plants (WTP), 6 boreholes and water trucking to the 2 camps and 2 transit centres during the reporting period. Water supply increased to 26 litres per person per day (l/p/d) in Um Rakuba, 23 l/p/d in Tunaydbah, 20 l/p/d in Village 8 and 17 l/p/d in Hamdayet, 13 l/p/d in

Basunda transit centre. This brings the average available supply of water to 21 l/p/d which is *the SPHERE minimum standard* in post-emergencies.

- 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 continue. 980 latrines have been completed so far in Um Rakuba and an additional 330 are under rehabilitation/construction or planned. 1,400 have been completed in Tunaydbah with another 561 requiring rehabilitation/construction.
- 300 hygiene kits were distributed to girls in a secondary school in Um Rakuba under the Education Cannot Wait initiative in collaboration with CARE International and Islamic Relief. The kits contain a toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, washable masks, nail clippers and razor blades.

### 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.



## SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIS)

### Results and Impact

- NRC completed the construction of five (5) tukuls (semi-permanent shelters) which were immediately handed over to refugees in Um Rakuba. This project is part of ongoing efforts to scale up the provision of durable shelters in the camp.
- Site clearance continues to be carried out by COR in Babikri in preparation for the relocation of Qemant asylum seekers from Basunda. Once the site is cleared, plots will be demarcated.



The newly constructed tukuls in Um Rakuba © UNHCR

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Um Rakuba, 2,465 emergency shelter kits (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.



## COMMUNICATING WITH COMMUNITIES

### Results and Impact

- A review of applications by 30 youth groups in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah for the UNHCR-funded youth initiative grant supported by NRC is underway. The winning groups will be awarded between \$300 and \$900 each to support activities which promote gender equality, respect for human rights and the inclusion of people with disabilities, and also receive mentoring.
- Door to door campaigns were carried in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah out as part of ongoing efforts to raise refugees' awareness of the dangers of trafficking and smuggling. Following this, volunteers began compiling frequently asked questions and notable concerns raised by refugees to determine common themes and facilitate targeted awareness raising.



Community volunteers review frequently asked questions on human trafficking and smuggling © UNHCR

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Scaling up support for youth-focused initiatives via programme mapping to avoid duplication, continues to be 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

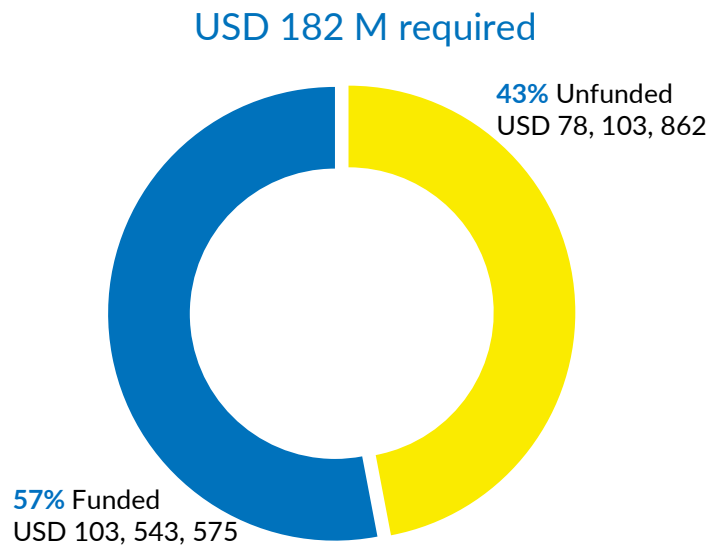
In early November 2020, clashes in Ethiopia’s Tigray region sparked an outflow of refugees into eastern Sudan via Hamdayet, Lugdi/Village 8 and Al Asera border points. Since then, some **49,000 refugees** have been individually registered in Sudan. In November 2020, UNHCR began to relocate refugees to 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 31 October, **57%** (USD 103, 543, 575) 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:

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 October 2021)



### Links

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