

# Sudan | Emergency Response to Tigray Situation – New Weekly Update #4

## Key Figures



46,505

total number of refugees registered via UNHCR's Biometrics Identity Management System as of 30 June



162

new arrivals recorded in Hamdayet Transit Centre



894

Qemant new arrivals reported in Basundah

## Operational Highlights



### Inter-Agency Response to New Arrivals Continues in Hamdayet

As of 29 July, the total number of registered new arrivals to Hamdayet Transit Centre during the month of July stood at approximately **162 individuals**. Of this figure, **127 are Ethiopian refugees** who fled the latest clashes in the Tigray region while the remaining **34 are Eritrean refugees** who escaped compulsory and indefinite military service and **1 is Qemant**. This small but significant uptick in new arrivals – which started some three weeks after Ethiopia's federal government declared a unilateral ceasefire – follows renewed fighting between state and non-state armed actors in the Tigray region. It is likely that skirmishes between these groups in Tigray, particularly in the nearby border town of Humera, could spark a considerable influx of refugees in the coming weeks.

UNHCR, partners and government counterparts strive to continue monitoring the situation along border areas given the fluid and dynamic context in the Tigray region and militarisation of the border by both Sudanese and Ethiopian forces. Several scenarios and contingency plans are being finalised by the operation, including a new influx from Tigray region, influx of non-Tigrayan arrivals, and spontaneous returns from the camps to Ethiopia.



### UNHCR and COR Register New Qemant Arrivals in Basundah

On 27 July, some **894 Qemant new arrivals** who fled the Gondar area in Ethiopia's Amhara region were reported in Taya village. Soon after, local authorities relocated this group away from the border to Basanga village in Basundah locality, Gedaref State, for their safety and protection. In addition, some **500 Qemants** are said to have remained in Taya village, where they are tending to the livestock they brought

with them while fleeing. This group will require additional support to be relocated further inland with their assets.

On 28 July, UNHCR, Sudan's Commission for Refugees (COR) and partners carried out an assessment mission to identify this group's immediate needs. Joint registration with COR was conducted at the household level for the

group, which also received tokens to receive assistance. Protection assessments are in the pipeline to identify persons with specific needs (PSNs) and separated families in order to facilitate immediate follow up upon relocation.

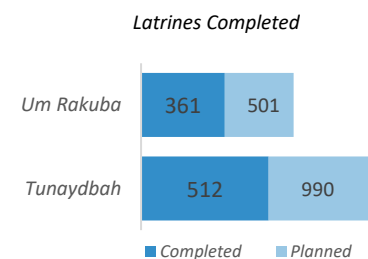
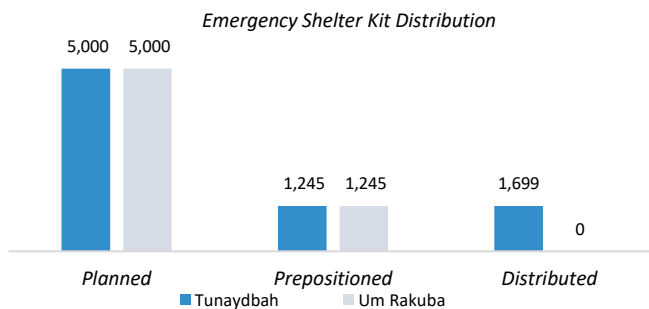
Through partners, life-saving supplies such as core-relief items (CRIs) are being distributed to immediately assist the new arrivals. Food, including **200 kg of rice** and **160 kg of lentils**, and **5 water tanks** have been provided. Handwashing stations and soap distributions to encourage good hygiene practices are being organized. Water trucking has also been

initiated with the help of the local community. In addition, **2 mobile medical teams** are being set up.



UNHCR and partners distributed various items to Qemant new arrivals © UNHCR/Abdalla

## Flood Preparedness



Construction of semi-permanent latrines is ongoing with **512 out of the planned 990** completed in Tunaydbah and **361 out of the planned 501** semi-permanent latrines completed in Um Rakuba. Access roads to Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah camps have been rehabilitated and are now **100% passable** although some minor quick fixes will continue to be needed in view of the current weather conditions. This work is part of a joint UNHCR-WFP project intended to bolster flood preparedness by guaranteeing access to and around the sites during the rainy season.

UNHCR and partners also came together to support some **824 families from the host community** from eight flood-affected villages in Al Faw and the surrounding areas. UNHCR handed over **10 water tanks** with the capacity to store **10,000 litres**, **1,500 mosquito nets**, **900 jerry cans** and **200 plastic sheets** to authorities in Al Faw. Other partners, including COOPI, IOM and ZOA, also provided **45,000 bars of soap**, **6,000 dignity kits** and **1,000 ibriks** (water containers).



UNHCR Associate Field Officer Akaran Napakiro hands over the items to officials from El Faw © UNHCR/Khalif

## Hepatitis E Response Continues

As of 29 July, **28 refugees** reportedly tested positive for Hepatitis E – a virus that damages the liver and is transmitted by eating or drinking contaminated food or water. Of these cases, **12** are in Um Rakuba, **6** in Tunaydbah, **5** in Village 8 and **5** in Hamdayet. An additional unconfirmed number of cases of acute jaundice syndrome – which can be a symptom of Hepatitis E – from the host community in and around Um Rakuba have also been reported. No fatalities have been recorded thus far.

Together with partners, measures are being taken to improve sanitation, increase the amount and availability of safe and clean drinking water and promote improvements in personal and community hygiene practices.

As an immediate response, soap distributions are planned across all locations. So far, **78%**

(**approx. 14,000**) of the total population in Um Rakuba have been reached and similar distributions will commence in other locations. A jerry can cleaning campaign has also been organized for the coming week.

In addition to improving water and sanitation standards, including via the construction of semi-permanent latrines to reduce the spread of other waterborne diseases such as malaria during the rainy season, and enhancing community awareness on the importance of hand-washing, refugee health workers are being trained to look for suspected cases in the community. Given the incubation period for Hepatitis E is between **2 to 10 weeks**, it is likely that the number of cases will increase. UNHCR will continue to work closely with partners and refugees to control the spread of Hepatitis E.



## Commemoration of World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

On 30 July, UNHCR and partners came together to mark World Day Against Trafficking in Persons. The theme for this year – [Victims Voices Lead the Way](#) – underscores the importance of listening to and learning from survivors of human trafficking and turning their suggestions into concrete actions to help combat this crime.

The event was attended by stakeholders, including members of the refugee communities in the camps, officials from COR, camp police and other humanitarian actors. Several drama and musical performances were held to raise awareness about the possible dangers of irregular onward movement, the rights of persons of concern and services available. A football match was also organised.

Sudan is a critical country of destination, transit as well as country of origin along routes to Libya and Egypt. Refugees and migrants departing from countries such as Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia usually cross Sudan before traveling onwards. Key migration hubs include Gedaref and Kassala States, where people crossing from Eritrea or Ethiopia initially arrive.

## Key Priorities and Identified Needs

- The operation is currently responding to new arrivals from two border entry points in eastern Sudan, ensuring contingency plans are finalised and preparedness measures have been initiated in order to absorb and respond to potential influxes.

- In light of the fluid geo-political context in Ethiopia, particularly in border towns close to Hamdayet Transit Centre, protection presence and access to critical services and assistance needs to be maintained. Advocacy at all levels to resume relocations from Hamdayet to the camps continues.
- Scaling up efforts to contain and slow the spread of Hepatitis E in Um Rakuba continues. Given that the risk of infection is high in densely populated settings such as refugee camps, UNHCR and partners are working together to ensure the appropriate WaSH measures are in place and good practice is encouraged so as to mitigate the potential risk of outbreaks.
- Implementing the six-month action plan remains essential. The action plan – a living document intended to provide an overview of the short- and medium-term priorities for the operation across several critical areas and the steps being taken to address them – has been shared with partners and donors for their comments.
- As the rains continue, strengthening flood preparedness across several critical sectors, including WaSH, Shelter, Protection and Health, remains a priority.

## Coordination

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 30 partners to provide lifesaving assistance and protection to the thousands of Ethiopian women, men and children who crossed into the country. UNHCR leads the UN Emergency Coordinators' Working Group and 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 sub-working groups on basic assistance, sexual and gender-based violence, and child protection. 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.



*Drainage construction as part of a joint UNHCR/WFP project which is currently ongoing in Tunaybah and Um Rakuba.*

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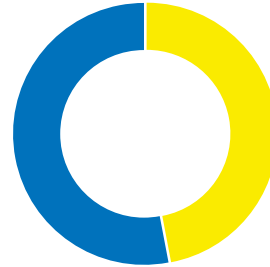
## Situation in eastern Sudan

In early November, clashes in Ethiopia’s Tigray region sparked an outflow of refugees into eastern Sudan via Hamdayet, Lugdi/Village 8 and Al Asera border points in search of safety. Since then, some **46,000 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 30 June, **47% (USD 85,312,679)** has been received. UNHCR Sudan would like to thank all donors who responded to the appeal for their generous support, which was critical to helping scale up the delivery of basic and essential services.

## Funding (as of 30 June 2021)

USD 182 M required



**53% Unfunded**  
USD 96,334,758 M

**47% Funded**  
USD 85,312,679 M

