

Sudan | Emergency Response to Tigray Situation – New Weekly Update #5

Key Figures



46,505

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



275

new arrivals recorded in Hamdayet Transit Centre



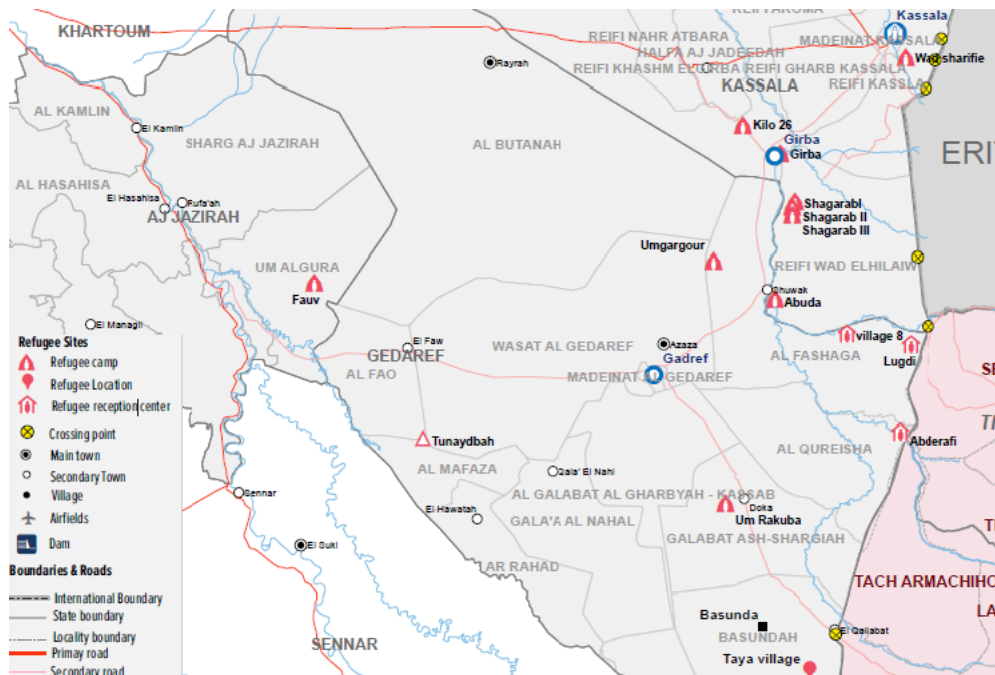
909

Qemant new arrivals reported in Basundah

Operational Highlights



Inter-Agency Response to New Arrivals in Hamdayet and Basundah



As of 6 August, some **275 new arrivals** (235 Ethiopian and 40 Eritrean) were reported in Hamdayet Transit Centre. **Biometric Identity Management System (BIMS) household registration** is scheduled to begin next week. This slight upsurge in new arrivals in recent weeks follows ongoing clashes in the Tigray region. In light of the possibility of a further considerable influx, UNHCR, partners and government counterparts are monitoring the situation along border areas while also advocating for new arrivals to be safely relocated to the camps. In the meantime, we continue to provide much-needed protection and assistance to these new arrivals and relocation to Shagarab camps for Eritrean refugees.

In Basundah locality, as of 6 August, the total number of Qemant new arrivals stands at **909 individuals**. Joint registration with Sudan's Commission for Refugees (COR) was conducted at the family level for this group with a view towards initiating BIMs registration at a later stage.

Following an assessment mission by UNHCR, COR and several partners, support across critical sectors has been significantly scaled up. A primary health care unit managed by MSF in Basanga village is now up and running. It currently operates **7 days a week** and is staffed with **4 medical staff** and **3 refugee volunteers**. **Sanitation promotion and clean up campaigns** to improve refugees' awareness of good hygiene practices are also ongoing. Through MSF and Mercy Corps, approximately **18,000 litres of water** has been provided to refugees. WFP food distributions, which started on 7 August, are complemented by **hot meals** provided by Muslim Aid.

Life-saving supplies, including core-relief items (CRIs) such as **jerrycans, plastic sheeting, sleeping mats** and **soap** have been delivered on site and distributed. The distribution of clothes is expected to take place on 9 August and will prioritise women and persons with specific needs.

Several gaps remain. Currently, **3 emergency latrines** initially constructed by MSF are being decommissioned and work is underway to construct new latrines. Improving the provision of **emergency latrines** will be critical to reducing the likelihood of diseases and ensuring refugees' dignity is respected. Discussions are ongoing with COR in relation to the relocation of this group.

High-level Visit by USAID Administrator to Um Rakuba Camp

On 2 August, **USAID Administrator Samantha Power** visited Um Rakuba refugee camp during her first official visit to Sudan. During her visit, Administrator Power had the opportunity to listen to powerful accounts from refugee women in a focus group discussion organised by UNFPA. Some shared stories about loss and what they left behind while others spoke about their hopes for the future. Administrator Power also met with representatives from the nearby host community in Um Rakuba, which is home to some **20,000 refugees**. The delegation visited a WFP food distribution site, where the Administrator had the opportunity to speak to refugees and learn more about their views on

the recent switch from cash to in kind food assistance.



USAID Administrator speaks with UNHCR Sudan Deputy Representative and an official from COR in Um Rakuba © WFP

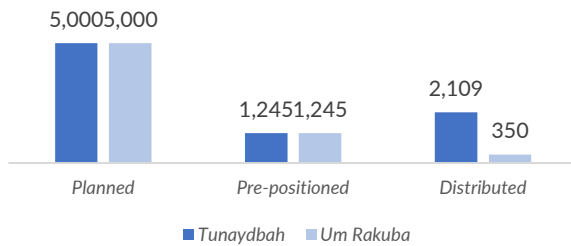


Flood Preparedness

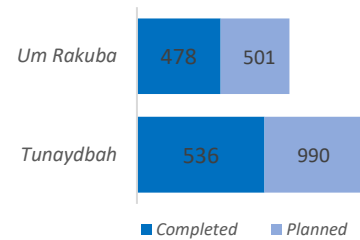
A total of **2,109 emergency shelter kits (ESKs)** were distributed in Tunaydbah as of 1 August. The distribution of ESKs began in Um Rakuba with **350 ESKs** provided to refugees.

As of 7 August, approximately **536 out of the planned 990 semi-permanent latrines** were completed in Tunaydbah and **478 out of the planned 501** completed in Um Rakuba. It is important to note, however, that cumulative figures for latrines often fluctuate as they are continuously decommissioned, dislodged or might be in need of repairs/replacing due to adverse weather. The aim is to replace all emergency latrines with semi-permanent latrines by the end of the rainy season in October.

Emergency Shelter Kit Distribution



Latrines Completed



During the reporting period, the average weekly water supply across the four refugee-hosting sites continued to meet [SPHERE minimum standards](#) of **20 litres per person per day** in post-emergency contexts. The provision of safe and clean drinking water for the week remained stable and was maintained at approximately:

- **31 l/p/d** in Um Rakuba
- **21.5 l/p/d** in Tunaydbah
- **23.4 l/p/d** in Village 8
- **42 l/p/d** in Hamdayet*

Regular water testing continues to be carried out to ensure the **free residual chlorination level** meets the minimum standards for drinking water – **0.5 mg per litre** – at the point of delivery in all sites. This is critical to maintaining the quality of water through the various distribution networks and reducing the likelihood of a disease outbreak.

**Given that many of the 5,400 refugees in Hamdayet actually among the host community, this figure is higher than the provision in the other locations.*

Hepatitis E Response

As of 2 August, **38 refugees** reportedly tested positive for Hepatitis E. Of these cases, **13** are in Um Rakuba, **10** in Tunaydbah, **10** in Hamdayet and **5** in Village 8. No fatalities have been recorded. Given that the incubation period for Hepatitis E is between **2 to 10 weeks**, it is likely that the number of cases will rise.

Measures to improve sanitation, increase the amount and availability of safe and clean drinking water and promote improvements in personal and community hygiene practices are

being stepped up by UNHCR and relevant Health and WaSH partners.

During the reporting period, close to **16,000 refugees** received soap in Tunaydbah as well as some **14,000 refugees** in Um Rakuba. Hygiene promotion in all locations and the construction of latrines in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah is ongoing in order to reduce the potential for an outbreak as well as prevent the spread of other waterborne diseases such as malaria.

Visit to Fau 5

On 2 August, a multi-functional team carried out a mission to Um Algura locality, in Aj Jazirah State, to view a site proposed by the government to accommodate non-Tigrayan new arrivals. A second **inter-agency assessment**, led by UNHCR and COR, was carried out on 7 August. Several partners joined, including ALIGHT, DRC, Mercy Corps, MEDAIR, NRC and Plan International.

Fau 5 – a **former refugee camp** which closed in 2018 – is located some 180 km from Gedaref town (3 hours via road). The site is currently used for farming and grazing by the host community and about

1,200 refugees who still reside in the area. Initial assessments indicate the site has a capacity to accommodate up to **20,000 individuals** although extensive rehabilitation on infrastructure is required. Moreover, like Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah, the site lies on **black cotton soil**. Discussions with authorities are ongoing.

Key Priorities and Identified Needs

- Finalising discussions with authorities at all levels on Fau 5 remains a priority.
- In light of the fluid context in Ethiopia and possible further influx into Sudan, protection presence and access to critical services and assistance needs to be maintained in the border areas. Advocacy at all levels to resume relocations from Hamdayet and Basundah to the camps continues.
- Scaling up efforts to contain the spread of Hepatitis E in Um Rakuba continues. Given the risk of infection is high in densely populated settings such as refugee camps, UNHCR and several Health and WaSH partners are working together 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 key.

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 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.

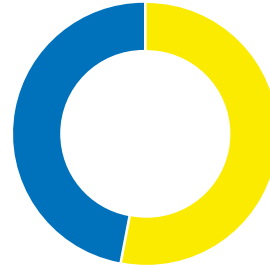
Situation in eastern Sudan

In early November, 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 31 July, **52.7% (USD 95,759,057)** 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 31 July 2021)

USD 182 M required



53% Funded **47% Unfunded**
USD 95,759,057 M USD 85,912,380

