

Weekly Gedaref Operational Update #17

21–28 October 2021



49,490

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



9

new arrivals recorded in
Hamdayet Transit Centre



26

Qemant new arrivals
recorded in Basundah
locality

Operational Highlights

Impact of the political instability in Sudan on the humanitarian response: Despite the political instability in Sudan, efforts to maintain protection and assistance to refugees and asylum seekers in eastern Sudan remains a priority. In the past week, humanitarian actors have carried out monitoring missions to the camps and transit/reception centres to assess the situation on the ground and maintain continuity. Although a number of activities are unaffected, the prolonged uncertainty risks disrupting the delivery of life-saving and essential services, including the distribution of much-needed food, shelter and core-relief items (CRIs). Internet connectivity remains intermittent and a fuel shortage is anticipated. UNHCR is closely monitoring the situation as it evolves while also activating contingency measures should the situation in Ethiopia spark a new influx in the coming weeks.

New Ethiopian arrivals recorded in eastern Sudan: The number of Ethiopians crossing into Hamdayet continued to remain low. As of 28 October, 9 new arrivals were reported, bringing the total population there to 6,001. Elsewhere, 26 Qemant new arrivals were recorded. This brings the total number of Qemant asylum seekers to 2,318 since the influx began in July. UNHCR continues to provide protection and assistance to both groups in close coordination with partners.

Key Achievements



PROTECTION

Results and Impact

- As of 24 October, the joint registration team issued 120 refugee ID cards in Um Rakuba camp and 390 in Tunaydbah settlement, bringing the total to 3,677 and 1,988 respectively. Government-recognised identity documentation is integral to the legal and socio-economic inclusion of refugees within their host communities.
- On 28 October, **UNHCR led a multi-functional monitoring mission to Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah** to assess the situation in the camps and to see how best to resolve any sectoral challenges which

might have been exacerbated by the dynamic operating context. Several action points were noted, including the need to scale up protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) information, education and communication materials (IEC) in the camps.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Movement restrictions currently in place** due to the unpredictable context has impacted registration activities.
- **Enhancing PSEA IEC materials** (pamphlets and information boards) remains a priority.



EDUCATION

Results and Impact

- **NRC received 116 applications from youth groups in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah** for the UNHCR-funded Youth-led Initiative Grant. 8 groups will be awarded \$500 to support activities which promote gender equality, respect for human rights and the inclusion of people with disabilities. The winning groups will also receive mentoring.



NRC supporting refugees with their applications © UNHCR / Mambili

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Enhancing the provision of youth-led initiatives** for youth groups.
- **Improving enrolment rates continues to remain a priority.** To date, more than 50% of school-age children are currently 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.



HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

Results and Impact

- **Clinics inside the camps continued to operate as normal** with refugees receiving unhindered access to healthcare.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **The COVID-19 vaccination campaign was temporarily put on hold** as result of the prevailing situation in Sudan.
- **Secondary referrals to Gedaref Hospital have been postponed** due to low staffing as a result of the ongoing instability.



SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIS)

Results and Impact

- UNHCR partner NRC distributed 3,650 emergency shelter kits (ESKs) in Um Rakuba camp out of the planned 5,000 kits. In Tunaydbah, a total of 2,535 out of the planned 5,000 kits have been distributed so far. In addition, 1,060 and 1,350 disaster kits have been distributed in Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba respectively out of 5,000 planned in each site.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Um Rakuba, 2,465 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

- Plans have been finalised to officially launch the mixed migration and trafficking working group next week. One of the main objectives of the working group will be to facilitate a joint comprehensive approach to address the adverse effects of irregular mixed movement, including preventing/combating trafficking in persons, protection of and support for victims of trafficking, and strengthening alternatives to unsafe migration.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Scaling up support for community-led initiatives, particularly among the youth, 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

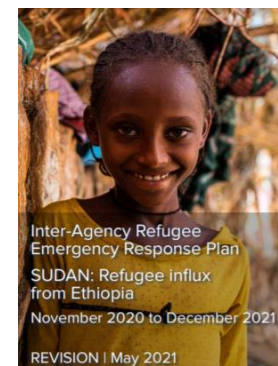
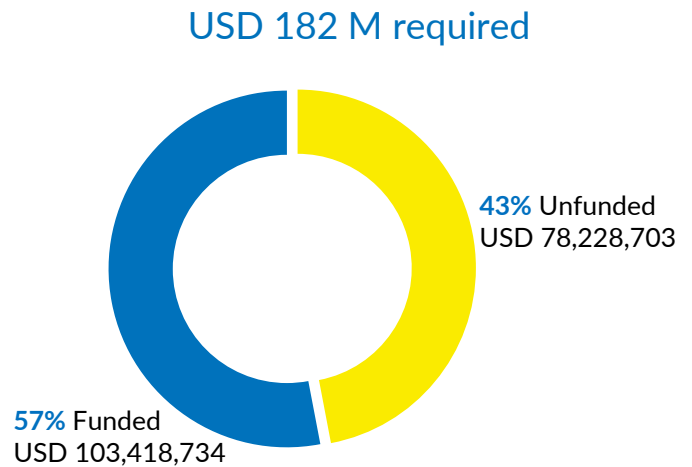
In early November 2020, clashes in Ethiopia’s Tigray region sparked an outflow of refugees into eastern Sudan via Hamdayet, Lugdi/Village 8 and Al Asera border points. Since then, some **49,000 refugees** have been individually registered in Sudan. In January 2021, UNHCR began to relocate refugees to 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.

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 30 September 2021)



Links

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

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