

Weekly Gedaref Operational Update #21

18 – 28 November 2021



50,159

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



162

new arrivals recorded in Hamdayet Transit Centre (161) and Taya (1)



912

refugees relocated from Hamdayet (831) and Basunda (81)

Operational Highlights

Relocation continues from Hamdayet to Tunaydbah: On 28 November, 483 Ethiopian refugees were relocated from Hamdayet Transit Centre to Tunaydbah camp. This was the third relocation convoy since the exercise resumed on 22 November, bringing the **total number of relocated refugees to 831**. This ongoing activity is supported by UNHCR, Sudan's Commission for Refugees (COR) and partners, and is aimed at safely moving refugees away from the border and further inland, where they will have access to more services and targeted assistance.



UNHCR staff carrying out door to door visits ahead of the relocation in Hamdayet
© UNHCR

A reception centre has been established to receive these refugees, provide food assistance and allocate shelters in Tunaydbah. So far, **200 tents have been pitched in a specially cleared and demarcated zone** in the camp intended to accommodate this group. A dedicated help desk has also been set up to support persons with specific needs and a recreational 'safe corner' has been created for children. A registration and distribution centre has been established to individually register this group and provide life-saving supplies, including blankets, mats and jerry cans. In the meantime, **preparedness continues in the border locations** for a possible increase in new arrivals from Ethiopia.

New Ethiopian arrivals recorded in eastern Sudan: As of 25 November, 161 new arrivals from Ethiopia's Tigray region were reported in Hamdayet, bringing the total population there to 5,516. Elsewhere, one (1) new arrival from the Amhara region was recorded in Taya border entry point. This brings the total number of new arrivals who crossed via Taya to 2,372 since the influx began in July.

Launch of 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence: On 25 November, UNHCR and partners came together to commemorate the start of **16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV)**. The global theme for this year's campaign, which runs from 25 November to 10 December, is "Orange the world: End violence against women now!" A number of events will be held in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah camps to increase awareness and galvanize advocacy efforts, including traditional music, dance and drama presentations, sessions on early marriage, GBV, HIV/AIDS, prevention from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), and a handicraft market and Ethiopian food and coffee festival.



Talented Ethiopian dancers kicked off 16 Days of Activism with traditional music and dancing © UNHCR

First convoy of Ethiopian refugees depart from Basunda to Babikri: On 28 November, more than 80 Ethiopian asylum seekers from Amhara region who crossed into Sudan via Taya border point have been relocated from Basunda transit centre to Babikri settlement. 260 tents were pitched and 11 latrines established in preparation for this group's arrival. Water bladders are fully operational and milling machines and a community kitchen have also been finalised. The demarcation of various offices and camp infrastructures is ongoing. Plans are underway to relocate about 2,000 individuals to Babikri by the end of next week.



260 tents pitched and 11 latrines have been established in Babikri © UNHCR

Key Achievements



Results and Impact

- UNHCR and COR issued 470 ID cards to registered refugees in Um Rakuba and 442 in Tunaydbah, bringing the total to 5,754 and 3,701 respectively.
- UNHCR continued to carry out community dialogues ahead of relocations from Hamdayet to Tunaydbah and Basunda to Babikri. This initiative is part of ongoing efforts to ensure refugees are well informed about the exercise and the available services in both sites.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The unpredictable operating context remains challenging although UNHCR and partners are maintaining efforts to deliver critical protection and life-saving assistance and services.



Results and Impact

- NRC commenced construction on two (2) youth multi-purpose centres in Um Rakuba (1) and Tunaydbah (1). Upon completion, the youth centres will have an Information Communication Unit equipped with computers and internet access.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- To ensure more youth are reached, efforts are underway to adopt a more inclusive and integrated approach by extending beyond non-formal and formal learning programmes.



HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

Results and Impact

- In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, UNHCR and various partners, including UNICEF, a follow up COVID-19 vaccination campaign was initiated, targeting some 13,000 refugees aged 18 and above in both Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah who did not turn up for the previous vaccination cycle.
- UNHCR via ALIGHT provided a fully equipped ambulance with medical staff to escort refugees being relocated from Hamdayet to Tunaydbah.
- As part of ongoing efforts to support host communities surrounding the camps, UNDP completed the rehabilitation of a health centre in Tawarit village near Um Rakuba. 90 per cent of work on a village health centre and 90 per cent of work on Doka hospital, both near Um Rakuba, has also been completed.



A refugee receiving their COVID-19 vaccination as part of an ongoing campaign © UNHCR

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- More funding is needed to facilitate tertiary medical referrals to Khartoum.
- Enhancing COVID-19 preparedness is a priority.



WATER AND SANITATION

Results and Impact

- A total of 1.1 mega litres of water per day was provided via water pumping from four (4) water treatment plants (WTPs), five (5) boreholes and water trucking during the reporting period to all refugee-hosting locations. Water supply increased to 26 litres per person per day (l/p/d) in Um Rakuba, 21 l/p/d in Tunaydbah, 24 l/p/d in Village 8, 13 l/p/d in Hamdayet and 17 l/p/d in Basunda. This brings the average available supply of water to 20 l/p/d, which is the *SPHERE post-emergency standard*.
- 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.
- The piped water scheme in Tunaydbah is now currently in an operational testing phase for the camp's existing blocks with emergency WaSH infrastructure being extended to cover the site where newly relocated refugees from Hamdayet reside.
- Efforts to improve latrine coverage continue. 892 latrines have been completed so far in Um Rakuba and 1,239 in Tunaydbah.
- Solidarités International has taken over the delivery of emergency WaSH services from MSF-Switzerland in Basunda and is currently developing a new site in Babikri with good progress in latrine construction and water supply provision from shallow wells.

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 1:21 in Um Rakuba and 1:16 in Tunaydbah.
- Work is ongoing to increase 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 system in Um Rakuba is expected to be finalised by year end.
- The increased demand for water in parts of Um Rakuba needs to be addressed given the current warmer temperature.
- Authorities need to find and approve a new faecal sludge management site and its design in Tunaydbah.



SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIS)

Results and Impact

- Site clearance by COR continues in Babikri in tandem with the relocation of asylum seekers from Basunda. The demarcation of offices and various camp infrastructures is ongoing.
- Ahead of the ongoing relocation from Hamdayet and planned relocation from Village 8, COR demarcated 1,600 shelter plots in Tunaydbah (1,350) and Um Rakuba (250).

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In the Gedaref camps, more funding is required to support the construction of **7,570 tukuls (durable shelters)** in Um Rakuba (2,605), Tunaydbah (3,665) and Babikri (1,300).
- In Um Rakuba, **2,465 emergency shelter kits (ESKs)** and **3,650 disaster kits** are required to support the needs of the remaining camp residents. More funding is required to also support the installation of 20 additional culvert lines and construction of 10 km of secondary roads in the camp. Similarly, in Tunaydbah, 1,644 ESKs and 3,940 disaster kits are needed in addition to 900 bridges/footpaths, 20 additional culvert lines, and 10 km of secondary roads in the camp.



COMMUNICATING WITH COMMUNITIES

Results and Impact

- NRC started construction work on a youth center in Um Rakuba. The youth centre is expected to be completed in January 2022 and will include a dedicated computer lab, library and multipurpose playground.
- To better understand why refugees might be interested in leaving the camps, UNHCR met with community and religious leaders in Um Rakuba and Tunydbah to see **how best to address factors likely to contribute to increased onward movement**. Suggestions included more awareness raising campaigns via refugee volunteers.
- **960 individuals were reached via door to door household campaigns in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah on the issues facing them.** Topics included the challenges of restricted movement and how to improve their lives in the camps.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Enhancing partnership with the dangers of trafficking and smuggling via door to door campaigns and the distribution of IEC materials.



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 40 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

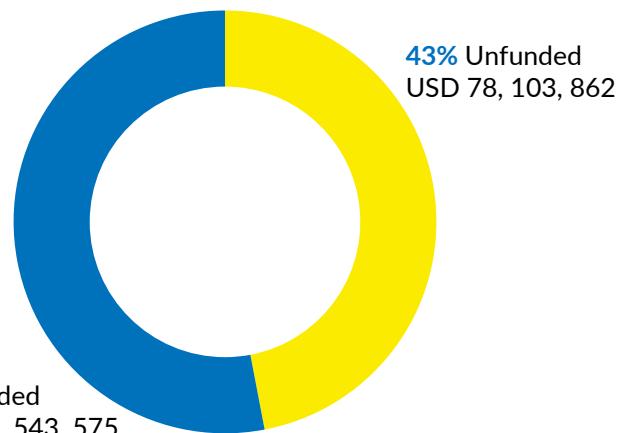
In early November 2020, clashes in Ethiopia's Tigray region sparked an outflow of refugees into eastern Sudan via Hamdayet, Lugdi/Village 8 and Al Asera border points. Since then, some [49,000 refugees](#) have been individually registered in Sudan. In November 2020, UNHCR began to relocate refugees 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 per cent (USD 103, 543, 575) has been received.

One year on, 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 scaling up the delivery of basic and essential services:

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Funding (as of 31 October 2021) USD 182 M



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