

Weekly Gedaref Operational Update #20

11 – 22 November 2021



50,159

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



153

new arrivals recorded in Hamdayet Transit Centre



49

new arrivals recorded in Taya

Operational Highlights

Ethiopian refugees relocated from Hamdayet to Tunaydbah:

On 22 November, UNHCR, Sudan's Commission for Refugees (COR) and partners resumed the relocation of 129 Ethiopian refugees from Hamdayet Transit Centre to Tunaydbah camp. This was the first movement from Hamdayet since the exercise was temporarily put on hold earlier this year. A large number who signed up for relocation were male, single-headed households and most indicated they were relocating to be closer to family and friends already in Tunaydbah. Eight (8) buses and four (4) trucks were leased to facilitate the relocation of refugees and their belongings. Several partners involved in the relocation provided various types of assistance, including hot meals, biscuits and water, face masks and hand sanitizers. A medical escort accompanied the convoy to Tunaydbah, where refugees were received by UNHCR and partners and assigned shelters. Registration for the second convoy, which is planned for 25 November, is ongoing.



Final checks before refugees board a bus to Tunaydbah camp © UNHCR

Registration for the second convoy, which is planned for 25 November, is ongoing.

New Ethiopian arrivals recorded in eastern Sudan: There was a slight uptick in the number of Ethiopians crossing into eastern Sudan compared to the previous reporting period. As of 18 November, 153 new arrivals were reported in Hamdayet, bringing the total population there to 6,213. Elsewhere, 49 new arrivals were recorded in Taya border entry point. This brings the total number of new arrivals who crossed via Taya to 2,371 since the influx began in July. Registration for both these groups continues.

Key Achievements



PROTECTION

Results and Impact

- UNHCR carried out several community dialogues in Hamdayet in preparation for relocation to Tunaydbah. These dialogues are part of ongoing efforts to ensure refugees are well informed about the relocation and the available services in Tunaydbah.
- UNHCR and COR issued 442 ID cards to registered refugees in Um Rakuba and 497 in Tunaydbah, bringing the total to 5,284 and 3,259 respectively.



UNHCR visits a refugee household in preparation for the relocation exercise © UNHCR

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The dynamic operating context remains challenging although UNHCR and partners are maintaining efforts to ensure the delivery of critical protection and life-saving assistance and services.
- Enhancing PSEA information, education and communication (IEC) materials (pamphlets and information boards) remains a priority.



EDUCATION

Results and Impact

- The first inter-agency youth working group meeting was held on 11 November. Topics discussed included the ongoing youth activity mapping exercise and how to enhance coordination among partners. This group is expected to play a leading role in harmonizing partner youth activities in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah.
- One (1) early childhood care and development (EECD) centre set up by Save the Children and funded by Education Cannot Wait was opened in Um Rakuba. This brings to the total number of EECD centres currently operating in the camp to seven (7). In Tunaydbah, four (4) EECD centres are operational. The enrolment rate of students aged between 4 and 5 in these centres is over 90%.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Increasing the distribution of learning materials remains key.
- Scaling up the provision of WaSH facilities in the two youth centres and two primary learning centres in Tunaydbah is 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, a total of 10,000 refugees aged 18 and above in Um Rakuba, Tunaydbah and Village 8 received their COVID-19 vaccinations. A similar campaign is planned for Hamdayet and Basunda.
- Close to 30,000 personal protective equipment, including masks, gloves and hand sanitizers were distributed to refugees, partners and the host community in Um Rakuba, Tunaydbah and Village 8 via ALIGHT as part of COVID-19 prevention measures.

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 6 refugees in Basunda.
- Tertiary medical referrals to medical facilities in Khartoum have been disrupted as a result of the unpredictable context.



WATER AND SANITATION

Results and Impact

- A total of 1,290,000 mega litres of water per day was provided via water pumping from 4 water treatment plants (WTP), 6 boreholes and water trucking during the reporting period. Water supply increased to 26 litres per person per day (l/p/d) in Um Rakuba, 30 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 22 l/p/d. This exceeds the *SPHERE post-emergency standard* of 20 l/p/d.
- 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 now provides water to over 70% of the camp. Plans are underway to extend emergency WaSH infrastructure to cover the relocation of refugees from Hamdayet.
- Efforts to improve latrine coverage continue. 975 latrines have been completed so far in Um Rakuba and 1,222 in Tunaydbah.

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.
- **Authorities need to find and approve a new faecal sludge management site and its design in Tunaydbah.**
- **Hygiene promotion and awareness raising continues.** This will be critical to reducing the risk of a disease outbreak.



SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIS)

Results and Impact

- **Site clearance by COR in Babikri** in preparation for the relocation of asylum seekers from Basunda continues. 40 shelter plots have been demarcated so far.

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

- **UNHCR trained 14 community leaders and volunteers** in Um Rakuba on how to counter false narratives spread by smugglers. Community leaders were targeted because of their trusted and respected role in the camp, which is critical to highlighting the dangers of onward movement.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Efforts continue to raise refugees' awareness of 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

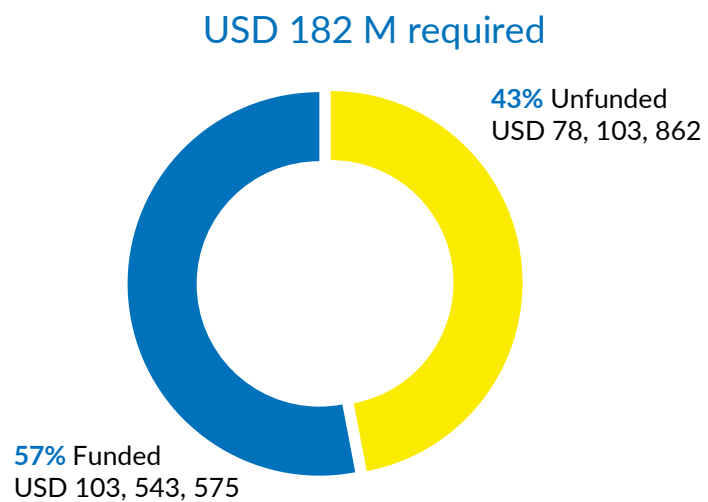
In early November 2020, clashes in Ethiopia's Tigray region sparked an outflow of refugees into eastern Sudan via Hamdayet, Lugdi/Village 8 and Al Asera border points. Since then, some **49,000 refugees** have been individually registered in Sudan. In November 2020, UNHCR began to relocate refugees to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

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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