

# Weekly Gedaref Operational Update #24

12 – 19 December 2021



50,710

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



92

new arrivals recorded in Hamdayet Transit Centre



347

refugees relocated from Hamdayet

## Operational Highlights

**Relocations from Hamdayet to Tunaydbah concluded:** The last convoy from Hamdayet Transit Centre relocated 67 refugees on 16 December, bringing the exercise to a successful conclusion two weeks ahead of schedule. UNHCR, Muslim Aid, NRC and COOPI jointly assisted the newly relocated, including those identified with specific needs. Refugees received assigned shelters and protection assistance, while being provided with hot meals and bottled water as well as hygiene kits. MSF community health workers visited the newly relocated in their shelters to share health-related information and provide medical assistance. The refugees are being individually registered and receiving life-saving supplies at a registration and distribution centre.



Reception of the newly relocated refugees at Tunaydbah © UNHCR

**Refugees receive COVID-19 vaccine:** Efforts by the Ministry of Health, Concern Worldwide, UNICEF, ZOA International Sudan and other partners led to a total of 14,004 refugees receiving vaccines against COVID-19 in Tunaydbah (6,544), Um Rakuba (5,771) and Village 8 (1,689). The first round of vaccination campaign in Babikri was launched on 19 December.

**UNHCR and partners provide advanced fire safety trainings for refugees:** UNHCR, in collaboration with DRC and Gedaref Fire Brigade, is organizing a total of ten (10) fire safety training sessions for refugee volunteers in Babikri, Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba to strengthen fire prevention and mitigation measures. The first training was held on 16 December in Um Rakuba for 17 members of the refugee fire safety committee and consisted of theory and practical skills for preventing as well as responding to fire incidents. A total of 100 refugee volunteers will be trained by beginning of February 2022.



A refugee is practicing how to safely extinguish a fire during a fire safety training at Um Rakuba on 16 December 2021 © UNHCR

**New Ethiopian arrivals recorded in Eastern Sudan:** As of 18 December, 40 new arrivals were reported in Hamdayet Transit Centre, a decrease of over 50 per cent compared to the previous week. No new arrivals were recorded in Taya border entry point during the reporting period.

## Key Achievements



### PROTECTION

#### Results and Impact

- Since the exercise resumed on 22 November, UNHCR, in collaboration with Sudan's Commission for Refugees (COR) and partners, has relocated a total of **3,490 refugees** in ten (10) convoys. With the relocations drawing to a close, efforts are now being undertaken to improve reception, protection and assistance services at Hamdayet Transit Centre. Moving forward, the aim is to relocate any new arrivals to the camps **within 72 hours**, following registration and provision of immediate assistance.
- During the reporting period, UNHCR and COR prioritized the registration of newly relocated refugees and asylum seekers. All of the **2,025 asylum seekers in Babikri<sup>1</sup>** and **an additional 1,041 relocated refugees in Tunaydbah** were biometrically registered.
- UNHCR and ALIGHT, in collaboration with community leaders, conducted a rapid assessment of the needs of refugee households that were affected by the fire in Um Rakuba and made referrals for emergency support related to shelter, food assistance and NFIs. As part of this, 62 children were identified and referred to Plan International to receive support and assistance.
- ALIGHT conducted a total of **five (5) awareness sessions on GBV prevention and response**, two (2) in Um Rakuba with **15 women and girls** in attendance and three (3) in Tunaydbah with **76 men (36) and women (40)** in attendance. The sessions focused on **women's rights**, including sexual and reproductive health rights as well as sexual exploitation and abuse. The aim is for participants to develop a **better understanding of the different forms of GBV** and have **increased awareness of prevention and response measures** as well as **available services**.
- Additionally, ALIGHT held a **capacity-building training in Tunaydbah on GBV prevention and response** for **60 participants (33 women and 27 men)** from key stakeholder groups, including **COR and the police**. It focused on community-based GBV prevention and response strategies and practices aimed at increasing protection from GBV in the camp.



A GBV prevention and response session at the women's centre in Tunaydbah © ALIGHT

<sup>1</sup> The number of asylum seekers in Babikri has been corrected since the [previous Weekly Gedaref Operational Update](#) following the completion of the registration process.

- UNHCR, ALIGHT and COR distributed equipment, including jackets and flashlights to 140 members of the community watch group in Tunaydbah to help improve security for refugees.

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- More livelihood activities for women and girls are needed to enhance their self-reliance.
- Organizing awareness sessions on sexual and reproductive health and scaling up family planning services is a priority.



The distribution of equipment, including jackets and flashlights to the community watch group in Tunaydbah © ALIGHT



## EDUCATION

#### Results and Impact

- A total of 61 temporary learning spaces have been established in Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba, providing access to non-formal education for 4,780 school-aged children in Um Rakuba (3,163) and Tunaydbah (1,617).
- IRW, with support from Education Cannot Wait, completed the construction of three (3) new classrooms in Tunaydbah, bringing the total number of classrooms for secondary education to six (6). The secondary school enrolment rate for students, aged between 15 and 18, currently stands at 15 per cent (275 students) in both Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba. The availability of additional classrooms will help increase the access of refugees to secondary education.
- Education and child protection working groups identified areas for collaboration to strengthen the provision of education services for children at risk, including children with disabilities and unaccompanied and separated children.

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- With the arrival of newly relocated refugees and asylum seekers in Tunaydbah and Babikri, establishing additional learning centres is key to maintain and increase access to education.
- The construction of latrines in the three (3) secondary schools being built in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah is a priority.



## HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

#### Results and Impact

- In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and partners, including Concern Worldwide, UNICEF and ZOA International Sudan, a total of 14,004 refugees have received COVID-19 vaccines in Tunaydbah (6,544), Um Rakuba (5,771) and Village 8 (1,689). The first round of COVID-19 vaccination campaign in Babikri was launched on 19 December, targeting 1,600 asylum seekers aged 18 and above. Prior to the start of the campaign, UNHCR and partners, including the Ministry of Health and UNICEF conducted community outreach through volunteers to increase awareness about the importance of COVID-19 vaccination.
- A fully equipped ambulance and medical staff were made available, in collaboration with ALIGHT, to accompany the refugees en route from Hamdayet to Tunaydbah.

- ALIGHT conducted a total of five (5) awareness sessions on mental health and psychosocial support, two (2) in Um Rakuba with 12 women (7) and men (5) in attendance and three (3) in Tunaydbah with 335 men (203) and women (152) in attendance. The sessions focused on coping with experiences of trauma and managing stress as well as available psychosocial support services.

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- UNHCR conducted a health and nutrition assessment in Babikri during the reporting period. As a result, the scaling-up of maternal and child health and nutrition services, including antenatal care and delivery services as well as community outreach activities related to infant and young child feeding, is a priority.



### WATER AND SANITATION

#### Results and Impact

- A total of 1.3 mega litres of water per day was provided via water pumping from five (5) water treatment plants (WTP), five (5) boreholes and water trucking during the reporting period to all refugee-hosting locations. Water supply was provided at 26 litres per person per day (l/p/d) in Um Rakuba, 27 l/p/d in Tunaydbah, 26 l/p/d in Village 8 and 25 l/p/d in Hamdayet and was increased to 22 l/p/d in Babikri. This brings the average available supply of water to 25 l/p/d, which exceeds the SPHERE post emergency standard of 20 l/p/d.
- UNHCR and partners continue the construction, rehabilitation and desludging of latrines in Babikri, Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba. CIS rehabilitated 75 latrines and dislodged another 59 in Tunaydbah. IRW completed the construction of 60 latrines in Tunaydbah while Solidarités International finished building 16 latrines in Babikri. UNICEF completed the construction of 18 latrines in Um Rakuba and has commenced work on building six (6) school latrines in Tunaydbah.
- Work continues to ensure gender-segregated latrines are available across all locations and that the rehabilitation of latrines is done in accordance with safety audits to mitigate the risk of GBV.

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Efforts are ongoing to ensure (1) communal latrine for every 20 people (1:20 ration), which is the SPHERE minimum standard in emergencies. The person to latrine ratio currently stands at 1:21 in Um Rakuba, 1:13 in Tunaydbah and 1:34 in Babikri.
- The installation of lighting in and around sanitation facilities in Babikri remains a priority.



### CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

#### Results and Impact

- WFP, in collaboration with ACTED, distributed in-kind food assistance to a total of 1,249 refugee households (1,886 individuals) in Um Rakuba.

- During the reporting period, FNC commenced the distribution of cooking fuel (charcoal and firewood) in Babikri and Um Rakuba.

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The provision of [additional milling machines](#) in Babikri is 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 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 but 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 others of concern the assistance and protection they need. Please consult the list of partners involved in the refugee response in Sudan and their activity areas at "[Partner Coverage, Who, Does What and Where \(3W\) - Natial Level](#)" which may be found [on UNHCR Sudan data portal](#).

## 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 **50,000 refugees** have been welcomed in Sudan.

In late November 2020, UNHCR launched the Inter-Agency Refugee Emergency Response Plan, which was then revised in May 2021 with **USD 182 million** required for the response – an increase of **USD 33 million** – to incorporate additional flood mitigation and the response for Ethiopian asylum seekers in Blue Nile, as well as a reprioritization of the original requirements.

One year on, we are grateful to the following donors for supporting the Ethiopian Emergency situation in eastern Sudan with critical funding enabling the scale up of 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 November 2021)

USD 182 M

