

Weekly Gedaref Operational Update #3/2022

13 – 20 January 2022



51,081

total number of Ethiopian refugees in eastern Sudan (Kassala & Gedaref) as of 31 December 2021



32

new arrivals recorded in Hamdayet Transit Centre (23) and Taya border entry point (9)



408

number of tukuls (durable shelters) completed in Um Rakuba (396) and Tunaydbah (12)

Operational Highlights

Multi-purpose centres set up for refugee youth:

During the reporting period, NRC completed the construction of **two (2) multi-purpose youth centres**, one in Tunaydbah, the first of its kind, and another in Um Rakuba. Each centre has **three (3) learning spaces**, a library and a multi-use court, and will provide refugee youth with vocational trainings, computer literacy courses and sport activities. The centres offer refugee youth a platform for developing a sense of community and engaging in positive initiatives.



One of the newly completed multi-purpose youth centres in Um Rakuba © UNHCR

Youth football teams play a friendly match under the theme of women's empowerment:

A football match was held in Tunaydbah with the participation of **34 girls (26) and boys (8)**, organized by ALIGHT and the refugee youth committee. Prior to the start of the match, the coach facilitated a discussion where refugee youth talked about the different ways in which sports help increase women and girls' empowerment.



Refugee youth football teams playing a friendly match in Tunaydbah © ALIGHT

New Ethiopian arrivals recorded in eastern Sudan:

During the reporting period, **23 new arrivals** were recorded in Hamdayet Transit Centre and **nine (9) new arrivals** crossed into eastern Sudan via Taya border entry point.

Key Achievements



PROTECTION

Results and Impact

- The **gender-based violence (GBV) sub-working group** is developing an information sharing protocol based on the results of a survey on the **data sharing and processing practices** of **seven partners working on GBV referrals and case management** in eastern Sudan. During the reporting period, GBV partners reviewed the results of the survey which assessed **how personal data of persons of concern is handled** during the **referral process** and identified additional **data protection safeguards** that may be required. The GBV sub-working group aims to have the **information sharing protocol in place** by end of February 2022.
- To increase awareness on prevention and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) among refugee communities, UNHCR disseminated posters in Amharic, Arabic and Tigrinya in **various locations** across Babikri, Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba, including health facilities, registration centres, protection desks and women centres. The posters list the **numbers for hotlines** and information about **available services** for survivors. In addition, UNHCR is leading the development of **interagency standard operating procedures** on PSEA, expected to be finalized in the first quarter of 2022.



PSEA posters in several languages being put up across the different refugee locations © UNHCR

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Increased security presence** and **monitoring by refugee watch groups** are required to improve security in Tunaydbah.



EDUCATION

Results and Impact

- NRC completed the construction of **two (2) primary schools in Tunaydbah**, each with **six (6) semi-permanent classrooms**. With this, a total of **three primary schools** will be operating as of February 2022, helping increase the enrolment rate in the camp which stood at 20 per cent at the end of December 2021. **Mobilization efforts** have commenced to encourage parents to enrol their children in school, and the **recruitment of 30 refugee teachers** is also underway.
- During the reporting period, NRC also distributed **education kits** to **3,400 students** in Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba. The kits contain an assortment of **books** and **stationery items** such

as exercise books, pens and coloured pencils aimed at improving the learning experience for students.

- Save the Children International opened an additional Early Childhood Development Centre (ECDC) in Um Rakuba. This brings the total number of ECDCs to eight in Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba (four in each camp) providing services to over 90 per cent of refugee children aged four to five years old.
- UNICEF and Save the Children International organized a training for 13 teachers on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse at one of the ECDCs in Tunaydbah.



A class at the new ECDC in Um Rakuba in session © UNHCR

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Setting up child-friendly and learning spaces in Babikri is a priority.
- More funding is required to ensure the continued operation of secondary schools in Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba camps and uninterrupted access of 1,000 refugee students to education.
- In Tunaydbah, additional learning spaces at pre-primary and primary levels are needed to meet the educational needs of recently relocated refugee children.



HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

- ALIGHT provided nutritional support to 150 refugees living with HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis in Um Rakuba.
- Five (5) new cases of Hepatitis E were recorded in Tunaydbah, a decrease of 37 per cent compared to the previous week. As part of prevention and mitigation measures, UNHCR and partners have strengthened health promotion across the camp, scaled up community-based contact tracing, increased monitoring of free residual chlorine at water distribution points and improved the person to latrine ratio.
- UNFPA provided sexual and reproductive health services to 194 refugee women in Hamdayet Transit Centre (13), Tunaydbah (96) and Um Rakuba (85), through clinics operated by ALIGHT, MSF and ZOA International, and carried out 16 facility-based deliveries.
- ALIGHT conducted one (1) awareness session on mental health and psychosocial support for 14 men (6) and women (8) in Um Rakuba and provided psychosocial support services to eight (8) men (5) and women (3) in Tunaydbah.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Efforts are ongoing to ensure 24-hour coverage for emergency services in Babikri.



WATER AND SANITATION

Results and Impact

- Water supply was provided at 25 litres per person per day (l/p/d) in Um Rakuba, 19 l/p/d in Tunaydbah, 26 l/p/d in Village 8 and 19 l/p/d in Babikri. This brings the average available water supply to 22 l/p/d, which exceeds the *SPHERE post emergency standard* of 20 l/p/d.
- In Tunaydbah, Solidarités International rehabilitated 50 latrines and 87 showers while CIS rehabilitated 18 latrines.
- In Um Rakuba, CIS rehabilitated 65 latrines and desludged 18 others.
- During the reporting period, the person to latrine ratio was at 1:19 in Um Rakuba, 1:12 in Tunaydbah and 1:19 in Babikri, which is below the *SPHERE minimum standard* of one (1) communal latrine for every 20 people (1:20 ratio).
- UNHCR and UNICEF reinstated the WaSH technical working group that will focus on household latrines, water treatment and sludge management as priorities.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Construction of household latrines
- Prepositioning hygiene materials and supplies in Babikri, Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba before the rainy season



SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIS)

Results and Impact

- NRC completed the construction of a further 94 tukuls (durable shelters) in Um Rakuba, bringing the total number of completed tukuls to 396.
- In Tunaydbah, ACTED completed and handed over 12 tukuls to refugee families.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The construction and handover of more tukuls in Tunaydbah, Um Rakuba and Babikri before the start of the rainy season is a priority.



Refugee families receiving the paperwork for their tukuls in Um Rakuba
© UNHCR



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

Results and Impact

- In Um Rakuba, **cooking fuel** (charcoal and firewood) was distributed to **90 refugees** who have been affected by recent fire incidents in the camp.
- WFP provided **in-kind food assistance** to over **5,500 refugee households** (11,697 individuals) in Um Rakuba.
- In Tunaydbah, DRC finished the construction of **covered outdoor waiting areas** that will help protect refugees from the sun or rain during distributions. One part of the covered areas will be **allocated for use by persons with specific needs**.
- As part of **ongoing efforts to scale up support to Sudanese communities**, DRC met with community leaders of Abraham Village, near Tunaydbah to seek their feedback on **quick impact projects**.
- In Babikri, UNHCR, MSF Switzerland and NRC distributed **1,500 mosquito nets** and **4,793 bars of soap** to asylum seekers.



Covered outdoor waiting areas, constructed by DRC in Tunaydbah, to protect refugees from sun and other elements during distributions © DRC

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Preparations for the rainy season** in collaboration with local authorities and partners is a key priority.



COMMUNICATING WITH COMMUNITIES

Results and Impact

- As part of mitigation measures to address onward movements, UNHCR held a **refresher training** for a total of 16 refugee volunteers in Babikri (5), Tunaydbah (10) and Um Rakuba (11). It focused on **identifying trafficking victims**, awareness raising campaigns and monitoring.
- To enhance **collaboration with refugee communities** and promote their **participation in decision-making**, UNHCR is working with Sudan's



Refugee volunteers participating in one of the refresher trainings in Tunaydbah © UNHCR

Commission for Refugees (COR), partners and refugees on developing standard operating procedures for organizing [elections of refugee leaders](#).

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- [Scaling up border monitoring activities and strengthening collaboration with local authorities](#) is needed for a better understanding of [mixed and onward movement trends](#) in eastern Sudan and stronger response capacity.
- [Provision of livelihoods and education opportunities to youth in camp as an alternative to onwards movement](#) is also a priority.



WORKING IN COORDINATION

As part of the response to the Ethiopia situation in eastern Sudan, UNHCR is supporting the authorities 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.

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 **59,000 refugees and asylum seekers** 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. A new Inter-Agency Response Plan for 2022 will be launched in the coming weeks.

We are grateful to the following donors for supporting the Ethiopian Emergency situation in eastern Sudan with critical funding in 2021 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 31 December 2021)

USD 182 M

