

Ethiopia Situation Operational Update #11/2022

1 – 30 April 2022



58,604

total number of Ethiopian refugees in eastern Sudan (Kassala, Gedaref and Blue Nile) as of 30 April 2022



1,167

new arrivals recorded in eastern Sudan



85

number of refugees transferred from Hamdayet to Tunaybah (43) and Um Rakuba (42)

Operational Highlights

New Ethiopian arrivals recorded in eastern Sudan: In April, the number of new arrivals in Gedaref State decreased by almost 70% compared to the previous month, with a total of 37 new arrivals recorded in Hamdayet Transit Centre (14), Gallabat border crossing point (10) and Taya border entry point (13). At the same time, the number of new arrivals increased in Blue Nile State, with a total of 1,130 new arrivals recorded, primarily from the Benishangul-Gumuz region.

Solutions Working Group launched in Gedaref State: With support from UNHCR and UNDP, a Solutions Working Group was launched mid-April in Gedaref, co-chaired by Gedaref State's Ministry of Finance and COR. The working group aims to mobilize more efficient and coordinated support for host communities and refugee-affected areas.

Funding raised for education: UNHCR successfully raised \$2 million in funding from Education Cannot Wait for education and youth programmes in Babikri, Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba. The funding will help increase access to education for approximately 8,000 boys, girls and adolescents in the three locations.



First meeting of the Solutions Working Group in Gedaref State
© UNHCR

Key Achievements



PROTECTION

Results and Impact

- As part of efforts to strengthen prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV), the GBVIMS is being rolled out in Gedaref to ensure effective and safe collection, management and sharing of GBV-related data generated through service delivery.

- With support from UNHCR and the Commissioner for Refugees (COR), Sudan's Civil Registry launched a [birth registration exercise](#) with the target of registering **2,000 children** across all refugee-hosting locations in Gedaref State by end 2022. As part of the first phase of the exercise in April, the birth of **206 refugee children (107 female and 99 male) in Tunaydbah** was recorded. A similar exercise will be conducted in Um Rakuba in May 2022. Birth registration is an [important protection tool](#) as it establishes a child's identity, prevents the child from becoming stateless and is essential for accessing basic services.
- A total of **85 refugees**, including new arrivals were transferred from Hamdayet Transit Centre to **Tunaydbah (43)** and **Um Rakuba (42)**. Upon arrival, all newly transferred were provided with hot meals, shelter and other essential assistance.
- UNHCR and COR, in collaboration with ALIGHT and DRC, launched a [state-wide vulnerability assessment exercise](#) aimed at improving data on persons with specific needs, assessment of protection risks and the provision of targeted assistance to this population. The exercise started in Babikri where **over 70% of refugee households (446 households)** have been assessed so far and will be undertaken in Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba next.
- UNHCR, in collaboration with SCCW and UNICEF, facilitated family tracing for **five (5) unaccompanied and separated children** who were transferred from Hamdayet Transit Centre and successfully reunited with their families in Tunaydbah.
- As part of efforts to enhance access of refugees to justice, UNHCR and Mutawinat provided a total of **189 refugees and asylum seekers (143 male and 46 female) with legal assistance** including through conducting 26 visits to prisons and police stations and intervening in 39 legal proceedings before national courts and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Efforts are underway to [establish an effective coordination mechanism](#) to harmonize child protection activities and interventions among all stakeholders involved.



HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

Results and Impact

- UNHCR and its health partners, ALIGHT, PUI and ZOA adopted national [standard operating procedures \(SOPs\) for secondary and tertiary referrals](#). In addition, the referral for non-emergency care to Khartoum, which had been halted since January 2022 pending the approval of the SOPs, has resumed.
- UNHCR held a [refresher training on Integrated Refugee Health Information System \(iRHIS\)](#) for **18 staff members of partner organizations**, including ALIGHT, IRC, PUI, SFPA, UNICEF and ZOA. UNHCR plans to gradually roll out iRHIS in the health facilities across all refugee-hosting locations to improve consistency and accuracy of health-related information.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Maintaining an [adequate supply of medicine](#), including for non-communicable diseases remains a challenge. Procedural barriers to the importation of medicines as well as significant delivery delays is leading to increased risks of medicine shortage.
- [Additional funding is required to scale up the capacity of CAFA health clinic to provide services](#) to refugees and host community members in Camp 6.



WATER AND SANITATION

Results and Impact

- The **water network** in Um Rakuba has been commissioned in zones 2, 3 and 4, helping reduce water trucking to a minimum.
- The drilling of **one (1) borehole in Babikri** was completed. This will provide a sustainable water supply for the settlement once operational and obviate the need for seasonal wells and water trucking.
- In Tunaydbah, CARE constructed **400 household latrines**, allowing the phaseout of communal latrines.
- In Camp 6, UNHCR built **a total of 170 household (100) and communal (70) latrines**.



The drilling of a bore hole in Babikri © UNHCR

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Additional funding** is required to ensure that the **number of household latrines** constructed is parallel with the number of tukuls planned for 2022 in Babikri, Camp 6, Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba.
- Scaling up the **water supply provision in Camp 6** is key to reducing competition for resources and promoting peaceful co-existence between refugee and host communities.



SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIS)

Results and Impact

- UNHCR, ACTED, Medair and NRC, commenced the **construction of 365 tukuls** in Babikri (100), Tunaydbah (65) and Um Rakuba (200) of the total 2,450 tukuls planned for 2022. To date, NRC has completed **1,000 tukuls in Um Rakuba** while ACTED and Medair have constructed **607 in Tunaydbah**.
- In April, UNHCR and NRC distributed **63 tents** to refugees affected by extreme weather events in Tunaydbah and **65 tents** to refugees impacted by the fire incidents in Um Rakuba.
- In Blue Nile State, UNHCR pitched **227 tents** for the newly arrived refugee households.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Decreased availability of some raw materials** and **inflation in prices** have affected the construction pace of tukuls.



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

Results and Impact

- In preparation for the rainy season, a total of **2,800 emergency shelter kits (ESKs)** were distributed in Babikri (601) and Tunaydbah (2,199). This will be followed by the provision of 400 ESKs to refugee households in Um Rakuba. The ESKs enable refugees to strengthen their shelters to better withstand weather elements. In addition, UNHCR, DRC, Medair and NRC commenced the distribution of pre-disaster kits (PDKs), which include sandbags and steel wires in Babikri and Tunaydbah. So far, **4,100** of the targeted 9,229 households (**over 40%**) in Tunaydbah and **538** of the targeted 601 households (**almost 90%**) in Babikri have received the PDKs. An **information campaign** is underway to raise the awareness of refugees about rainy season preparations and provide them with guidance on how to use the sandbags and other tools to mitigate the impact of extreme weather on their tents and shelters. WFP started the **rehabilitation of the road** between El Fao and Tunaydbah, which had been flooded during the previous rainy season. In tandem, DRC completed the **cleaning of roadside, secondary and tertiary drainages** in Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba.
- As part of fire prevention and mitigation measures, fire safety committees, comprised of refugee volunteers, were established in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah. UNHCR, COR and DRC, in collaboration with Gedaref Fire Brigade, **trained 62 committee members** in Tunaydbah (42) and Um Rakuba (20) on fire prevention and response. Following the training, committee members received **fire safety materials**, including helmets, face masks and gloves. In addition, **firefighting equipment**, such as fire extinguishers, buckets, shovels and other tools have been placed in designated locations in each camp for the use of the fire safety committee in the event of a fire incident. The **capacity building** combined with the **provision of equipment** empowers refugees to help **prevent, mitigate and provide an immediate response to any fire incidents** in the camps while observing safety measures.



The distribution of ESKs in Babikri © UNHCR



Members of the fire committee helping extinguish a fire in Um Rakuba using the fire safety material © DRC

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The **distribution of the remaining PDK items, namely axes and hoes** to refugee households in Babikri, Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba is a priority.

- **Additional funding and support** are required to address gaps in preparations for the rainy season in all refugee-hosting locations, including the construction of additional drains and pedestrian bridges.



COMMUNICATING WITH COMMUNITIES

Results and Impact

- As part of efforts to strengthen **communication with communities** and **accountability to affected populations**, UNHCR, COR and partners, including ACTED, ALIGHT, CARE, DRC, IRC, Medair, MSF, Mutawinat, NCA, NRC and PI held **a series of integrated community meetings** in Babikri, Tunaydbah and Village 8 with the participation of **935 individuals (430 female 505 male)**. This allowed community members to raise issues of concern with humanitarian actors and collectively discuss potential solutions. It also provided a forum to sensitize communities about feedback and complaint mechanisms as well as GBV and PSEA prevention and response measures among other issues.



Community meetings with refugees in block C and F in Tunaydbah © UNHCR

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- UNHCR plans to organize similar **integrated community meetings** in Um Rakuba next.



WORKING IN COORDINATION

In response to the Ethiopia situation in eastern Sudan, UNHCR is working with authorities and partners to provide lifesaving assistance and protection to Ethiopian refugees and asylum seekers as well as host communities. UNHCR and COR co-chair the Inter-Agency Refugee Working Group (RWG), which meets on a bi-weekly basis, to strengthen coordination of the response. 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 \(3W\) – National Level](#)" which may be found on [UNHCR Sudan data portal](#).

Community meeting with refugees in Tunaydbah ©UNHCR

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 **60,000 refugees and asylum seekers** have been welcomed in Sudan.

To deliver protection and life-saving assistance to Ethiopians displaced across the border and within their country, UNHCR launched a regional appeal in January 2022 for the prioritization of \$205 million of its existing funding needs for the northern Ethiopia emergency situation and regional preparedness in 2022. This includes \$72 million to assist the over 60,000 Ethiopian refugees who have arrived in Sudan since November 2020 and potential additional arrivals in 2022. Support is urgently needed to scale up interventions across all sectors while maintaining preparedness for any additional influx from Ethiopia.

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

UNHCR Northern Ethiopia Emergency Situation Regional Appeal Funding

USD 205.4 M required

