

# Sudan | Emergency Response to Tigray Situation – New Weekly Update #3

## Key Figures



## Operational Highlights

### Preparedness Continues to be Scaled Up in Hamdayet

As of 25 July, the total number of new arrivals to Hamdayet Transit Centre from Ethiopia's Tigray Region since 17 July stood at approximately **150 individuals**. This latest influx – starting some three weeks after Ethiopia's federal government declared a unilateral ceasefire – follows renewed fighting in the Tigray Region and subsequent military build-up at the border of both Sudanese and Ethiopian forces. Biometrics Identity Management System (BIMS) data indicates that these arrivals include returnees who were previously registered as refugees in Sudan in May. The exact number of *new* arrivals will be determined once the registration process for this group is completed.

In light of latest developments in the Tigray Region, UNHCR strives to maintain strong staff presence, provided there is access, in Hamdayet in case there is an increased influx. Several partners continue to remain on the ground in anticipation of this possibility. Currently, UNHCR is setting up **12 communal shelters** able to accommodate **1,200 non-Tigrayan new arrivals** (as well as an additional **250 tents** of which **25** are for persons with specific needs), transferring **2 tractors** and delivering **10,000 litres of fuel**. UNHCR plans to lease **3 trailers** to use with the tractors to help transport new arrivals, lifesaving supplies such as core-relief items (CRIs), and support water trucking. Hot meals have also been planned for **750 new arrivals**. Moreover, a humanitarian hub capable of accommodating **25 people** is being set up with internet connectivity. Essential medicines are also being pre-positioned. Local authorities have allocated land some **1.5 km** from Hamdayet to temporarily accommodate new arrivals.

In the meantime, UNHCR continues to engage with authorities at all levels to resume the relocation of some **5,400 Ethiopian refugees** currently remaining at Hamdayet. Except for family reunification, un-accompanied minors and medical cases, relocation from Hamdayet to the camps has been suspended since late February 2021 pending authorization by local authorities.

### WFP Food Distribution in Um Rakuba

On 23 July, WFP agreed to temporarily resume in kind food assistance and put on hold cash transfer assistance in Um Rakuba. This comes after a joint WFP/UNHCR and COR meeting with refugee leaders in the camp following a series of demonstrations by refugees over the switch from in kind to cash assistance.

## Cases of Acute Jaundice Recorded in Um Rakuba Camp

According to reports from Health partners, **246 cases** of acute jaundice syndrome have been recorded in Um Rakuba with **7 individuals** reportedly testing positive for hepatitis E. In addition to this, **4 cases** of acute jaundice and **3 cases** of hepatitis E in Tunaydbah and **1 case** of hepatitis E in Hamdayet have been identified. No fatalities have been reported thus far. Jaundice can be one symptom of hepatitis E, which is a virus that damages the liver, and is transmitted by eating food or drinking contaminated water. UNHCR and partners have been working to improve sanitation in the camps, increase the availability of safe drinking water and promote improvements in personal and community hygiene practices.

On average, water provision in Um Rakuba is approximately **31 l/p/d** and **21 l/p/d** in Tunaydbah. In Village 8, the daily average was **14.7 l/p/d** and **21 l/p/d** in Hamdayet.

Water chlorination has been increased in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah camps with enhanced water quality testing and monitoring currently ongoing. In Hamdayet, UNHCR handed over a generator to operational partner COOPI, which is expected to enhance productivity of the water treatment plant network and satisfy the needs of both people of concern and the nearby host community. **16,500 people** received soap in Um Rakuba and a similar distribution is planned for Tunaydbah camp next week. An inter-agency task force has also been initiated to strengthen water quality monitoring at water distribution points, conduct cleaning exercise campaigns in both camps, disinfect boreholes, decommission emergency latrines, bolster hygiene promotion and carry out surveillance and active case finding.

## Flood Preparedness

Access roads to Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah camps have been rehabilitated and are now **100% passable** although some minor quick fixes continue to be carried out in view of the current weather condition. According to WFP, **100%** of the access road and **75%** of internal roads have been completed in Tunaydbah. In Um Rakuba, **77%** of the access road and **95%** of internal roads have been finalised. Work will continue to be scaled up following the Eid break. This work is part of a joint UNHCR-WFP project intended to bolster flood preparedness by guaranteeing access to and around the sites during the rainy season. In the meantime, work to elevate critical service structures in flood prone areas (clinics, schools, distribution points), deliver essential supplies and equipment, and rehabilitate damaged International Humanitarian Base Camp structures used by UNHCR and partners for office space and overnight accommodation, will continue.

## Protection

Efforts to scale up mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) programming in the camps are currently underway starting with the mapping of psychosocial counseling service providers inside the camps. A previously established working group has been re-activated with clear terms of reference, MHPSS standard operating procedures and templates for data collection. In addition, several trainings on appropriate MHPSS services, including first aid, for community based refugee networks and protection and health staff are scheduled to take place next week. While many refugees show resilience, their mental health is often put under significant stress. In response, UNHCR and protection and health partners are exploring how best to integrate MHPSS into existing interventions to support the development of positive coping mechanisms in addressing and alleviating stress.

## Key Priorities and Identified Needs

- Scaling up efforts to contain and slow the spread of hepatitis E in Um Rakuba remains an urgent priority. Given that the risk of infection is high in densely populated settings such as refugee camps, UNHCR is coordinating with partners to ensure the appropriate WaSH measures are in place and good practice is encouraged so as to mitigate the potential risk of an outbreak.
- In light of the fluid and unpredictable situation across the border, maintaining access to critical services and assistance in Hamdayet Transit Centre continues to be key. Advocacy to resume relocations from Hamdayet to the camps is ongoing.
- Implementing the six-month action plan remains essential. The action plan – a living document intended to provide an overview of the short- and medium-term priorities for the operation across several critical areas and the steps being taken to address them – has been shared with partners and donors for their comments. Sector-specific indicators measuring achievements against targets as well as the subsequent timelines are currently being incorporated and will help promote accountability.
- As the rains continue, strengthening flood preparedness across several critical sectors, including WaSH, Shelter, Protection and Health, remains a priority.

## Coordination

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. Currently, UNHCR works with 30 partners to provide lifesaving assistance and protection to the thousands of Ethiopian women, men and children who crossed into the country. UNHCR leads the UN Emergency Coordinators' Working Group and co-chairs with the authorities the Inter-Agency Refugee Working Group. These forums meet on a bi-weekly basis, bringing 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 sub-working groups on basic assistance, sexual and gender-based violence, and child protection. In addition, UNHCR participates in thematic working group meetings on WaSH, Health and Education chaired by designated partners. Together, we work to ensure refugees and other people of concern receive the assistance and protection they need.

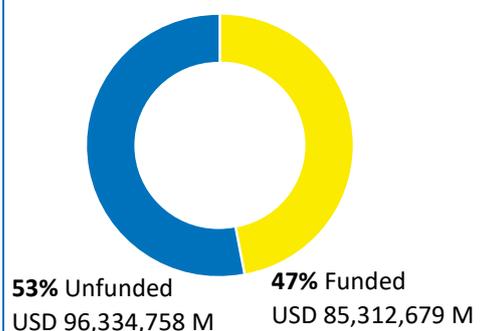
## Situation in eastern Sudan

In early November, clashes in Ethiopia's Tigray region sparked an outflow of refugees into eastern Sudan via Hamdayet, Lugdi/Village 8 and Al Asera border points in search of safety. Since then, some **46,000 refugees** have been individually registered in Sudan. In January 2021, 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 Tunaybah, 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 reprioritization of original requirements. As of 30 June, **47%** (**USD 85,312,679**) has been received. UNHCR Sudan would like to thank all donors who responded to the appeal for their generous support, which was critical to helping scale up the delivery of basic and essential services.

## Funding (as of 30 June 2021)

USD 182 M required



\*Includes 30 appealing organizations in the "Inter-Agency Refugee Emergency Response Plan | Sudan: Refugee Influx from Ethiopia - May 2021 REVISION"