

# Weekly Gedaref Operational Update #8

22 – 26 August 2021



47,959

total number of new arrivals in eastern Sudan as of 31 July 2021



20

new arrivals recorded in Hamdayet Transit Centre during the reporting period



16

Qemant new arrivals recorded in Basundah locality during the reporting period

## Operational Highlights

### New arrivals into eastern Sudan recorded

In Hamdayet – Between 22 and 26 August, 20 new arrivals (12 Ethiopian and 8 Eritrean) were recorded in Hamdayet Transit Centre – an increase of 7 individuals from the previous reporting period, bringing the total of refugees there up to 5,828. Protection desks in Hamdayet continue to be operational with UNHCR staff carrying out weekly visits to identify the most vulnerable individuals and respond to their specific needs. A total of 53 family tents have been pitched. 80 semi-permanent latrines and 24 showers are fully functioning and equipped with solar street lights which offer refugees more safety and security at night.



Solar lights funded by Practical Action will enable refugees to access latrines and showers safely © UNHCR/ Bakary

Following months of sustained advocacy, the operation received official clearance from local authorities to resume the relocation of up to 7,000 refugees residing in the border areas to Um Rakuba camp and Tunaydbah settlement. The operation plans to conduct an intention survey and vulnerability assessment in Hamdayet on 29 August and Village 8 on 1 September. Relocation plans are currently being finalised. Several options are also being explored with regards to the various assets (tractors, vehicles, trucks and trailers) refugees brought with them. This includes securing clearance from Sudan's Commission for Refugees (COR) and Customs Authority to allow refugees to use these assets within the camps' perimeters or alternatively temporarily keep these assets in their current locations or transfer them to the Customs Office in Gedaref. Discussions with COR and Customs officials continue.

In Basundah – Some 16 Qemant refugees were reported in Taya village and subsequently registered during the reporting period, bringing the total of this group to 991 as of 26 August. They are currently hosted on a small plot of land in Basanga, Basundah locality and UNHCR and partners continue to respond to their needs. 250 mosquito nets are on ground ready to be distributed to new arrivals who did not receive them in the last distribution. Muslim Aid continues to provide two meals (lentils and injera) with priority given to persons with specific needs (PSNs) and pregnant and lactating women (PLW). MSF and Mercy Corps have delivered 10,000 litres of clean drinking water per day via 5 chlorinated water storage tanks. Plans are underway to improve WaSH facilities and increase the provision of latrines in order to ensure refugees' immediate survival, dignity and the prevention of disease outbreaks.

The operation received clearance from local authorities to construct a reception facility in Basanga. UNHCR and partner organizations will start work on the new facility following a land survey planned for next week. Once completed, the facility will help enhance the dignity of refugees and bolster the delivery of essential services available to new arrivals until this group is relocated further inland to a new site.



UNHCR staff during a monitoring visit to Village 8 © UNHCR/ Khalif

Potential new site to accommodate non-Tigrayan refugees: On 23 August, the operation received clearance from local authorities for a new site to accommodate non-Tigrayan refugees. Qalaat Al Nahl – which lies some 60km from Gedaref town in Aj Jazirah state – has been proposed as a second option to Fau 5. A multi-functional team has been formed to conduct a joint technical assessment with COR and key partners on 29 August.

## Key Achievements



### PROTECTION

#### Results and Impact

- During the reporting period, UNHCR continued to build the capacity of various stakeholders, including community leaders, refugee volunteers, camp officials and law enforcement personnel deployed to Um Rakuba and Tunaybdah on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). A total of 106 people in Um Rakuba have been trained and activities are ongoing in Tunaydbah. Topics covered include UNHCR's code of conduct, sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), how to

facilitate SEA survivors to have access to support, prohibited and strongly discouraged behaviour and the consequences of breaching these standards.

- **150 referrals were received at the integrated protection desks** – a slight increase from **the previous reporting period**. The types of complaints varied and referrals and follow ups continued to be made to the relevant partners to ensure these were addressed. The protection desks in Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba are manned on a daily basis by the protection partner, Alight, with UNHCR staff present once a week; those in Hamdayet are supported by the protection partner daily while UNHCR staff conduct missions to the site one day per week.
- **Child protection referral pathways** were drafted and adopted in the child protection working group. A case management task force led by UNHCR, COR, Sudan State Council for Child Welfare, Alight and DRC has also been initiated in Um Rakuba with a view towards streamlining case management and ensuring that minimum standards are respected.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Although UNHCR is able to categorize protection incidents captured through the protection desks, **data sharing between and among child protection and GBV partners remains a challenge**. Improving the accuracy of protection statistics continues to be a priority. In the meantime, the operation continues to advocate for joint reporting amongst partners.



## EDUCATION

### Results and Impact

- Eight (8) secondary school teachers (5 men and 3 women) from Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah attended a workshop on the Sudanese curriculum. This is part of an **IGAD-led teacher training initiative** funded by Germany via GIZ and in collaboration with the Ministry of Education which works towards **the systematic inclusion of forcibly displaced children and youth** in the national curricula of IGAD member states – a main pillar of the **Djibouti Declaration on Refugee Education**.
- **Two (2) Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres** run by Save the Children were officially opened in Um Rakuba. Enrolment is ongoing and close to 180 children have signed up. These centres were funded with the support from Education Cannot Wait (ECW) – the first global fund dedicated to education in emergencies and protracted crises.



*Various representatives from the Ministry of Education and COR during the official opening of the ECD centre in Um Rakuba © Save the Children*

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Although the construction of ventilated improved pits** in ECD centres and primary learning centres is nearing completion in Um Rakuba, a shortage remains in the integrated learning centre in Tunaydbah. Efforts to scale up the provision of latrines, handwashing stations and water drinking points in these centres in both locations are ongoing.

- Work on the construction of additional semi-permanent classrooms in Tunaydbah continued to be hampered by adverse weather.



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

### Results and Impact

A total of 880 potential cases of Hepatitis E have been line-listed: 747 in Um Rakuba, 87 in Village 8, 31 in Tunaydbah and 15 in Hamdayet. Collaboration between relevant Health and WaSH partners and the Ministry of Health continues to be stepped up in order to curb the outbreak, enhance sanitation and promote improvements in personal and community hygiene practices.

- Standard operating procedures (SOPs) and referral pathways for mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services were adopted by the technical working group during the reporting period. This is a significant step towards ensuring the integration of MHPSS in all programmes in a safe, dignified, participatory, community-owned, and socially and culturally acceptable way.
- During the reporting period, Alight held two psychosocial awareness sessions on suicide prevention and response, reaching close to 23 community leaders in Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba. Topics included how to look for warning signs, what to do if someone is at risk of suicide and where to refer people to access services.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Strengthening secondary referrals to government-run facilities for diagnosis and treatment and improving nutritional support for people living with HIV and TB remain essential.



## WATER AND SANITATION

### Results and Impact

- A total of 925,000 litres of water was provided via water pumping from rivers and treatment through water treatment plants (WTP), boreholes and water trucking during the reporting period. Water supply was maintained at 23 litres per person per day (l/p/d) in Um Rakuba, 20 l/p/d in Tunaydbah, 23 l/p/d in Village 8 and 11 l/p/d in Hamdayet. This brings the average available supply of water to 19.5 l/p/d.
- In all locations, particularly where water has been trucked and or treated through water treatment plants and stored within tanks or bladders, WaSH partners have ensured water remains safe and within the free residual chlorine level of 0.5mg/l.
- Efforts to improve latrine coverage are ongoing. 616 latrines have been completed so far in Um Rakuba and an additional 315 are under rehabilitation/construction. 932 have been completed in Tunaydbah and work is ongoing on 380. 113 are finalised in Village 8 and work is ongoing on 60. 162 have been completed in Hamdayet and work is ongoing on 10.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Efforts are underway to [ensure the communal latrine ratio to people is 1:20](#). The person to latrine ratio currently stands at 1:30 in Um Rakuba, 1:27 in Tunaydbah and 1:36 for both Hamdayet and Village 8.
- Work is ongoing to expand the numbers of gender segregated latrines across all locations.
- Phasing out water trucking in favour of other more sustainable durable solutions are currently being explored.
- [Scaling up awareness campaigns](#) discouraging refugees from blocking drains is a priority since stagnant water can be a breeding ground for mosquitoes.



### SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIS)

#### Results and Impact

- During the reporting period, [ACTED completed the construction of 5 durable shelters](#) in Tunaydbah, bringing the total completed so far to 216 out of the planned 262.
- UNHCR partner [NRC distributed 537 emergency shelter kits \(ESKs\)](#) in Um Rakuba camp, bringing the total number of kits distributed so far to 2,167 kits out of the planned 5,000 kits. In Tunaydbah, a total of 2,109 out of the planned 5,000 kits have been distributed so far.
- Work on the [joint UNHCR/WFP road/drainage and site maintenance project](#) in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah continues. Minor quick fixes on the roads and drainage networks are ongoing. [Phase 2 of the project includes the spreading and compaction of access and internal roads](#) and will be initiated after the rainy season.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- [Some 900 bridges/footpaths](#) need to be built over roadside and secondary drains in Tunaydbah. In addition, 2km of collector drains in Tunaydbah and 35 culvert lines in both Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba are needed in order to expel storm water during heavy rains.



### CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

#### Results and Impact

- [A joint needs assessment](#) was carried out by UNHCR, COR and several partners, including Alight, DRC, IRC, NCA, NRC, Solidarités International, UNICEF and members of the surrounding host communities in the villages close to Tunaydbah affected by heavy rains and flooding which damaged or destroyed WaSH facilities, health centres, schools and roads. Initial findings indicate a shortage of adequate shelters and WaSH facilities, need for awareness raising on water-borne diseases and good hygiene practices, and rehabilitation of several existing structures. The findings will enable partners to better understand the current gaps and see how best to scale up inter-agency support to the host community.

- 1 out of the 2 planned information desks has been completed in Um Rakuba; a site for 1 fixed information desk has been identified in Tunaydbah, this will compliment 3 mobile desks. Once complete these desks will be managed by UNHCR and DRC.

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Improving information sharing on food distribution points for in-kind food distributions to ensure refugees turn up to receive their entitlements in both camps remains a priority.



Discussions with the host community during the joint needs assessment © DRC



## COMMUNICATING WITH COMMUNITIES

### Results and Impact

- On 22-25 August, a [baseline assessment on mixed migration](#) was conducted in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah. The findings of the assessment are currently being compiled. Once finalised, the assessment will guide targeted interventions which discourage dangerous onward movement. A total of 20 volunteers in each location have been engaged to support awareness raising, carry out door-to-door visits and undertake focus group discussions with the refugee community on the dangers of human trafficking and smuggling.
- In partnership with Gedaref State Radio Corporation, [UNICEF broadcast a radio programme](#) called “Voices of the Tigray” with support from refugee youth in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah. A total of 12 episodes have been aired so far. The radio programme addresses various topics such as good hygiene practices, importance of vaccinations, HIV prevention, Hepatitis E awareness and prevention and response to gender-based violence.

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The potential to increase the frequency of UNICEF’s radio programme in order to air targeted messages and information campaigns is currently being explored.



## 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. Currently, UNHCR works with some 30 partners to provide lifesaving assistance and protection to the thousands of Ethiopian women, men and children who crossed into the country. UNHCR 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 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 ensure refugees and other people of concern receive 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 **47,000 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 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 reprioritization of original requirements. As of 31 July, **52.7% (USD 95,759,057)** has been received.

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 helping scale up the delivery of basic and essential services:

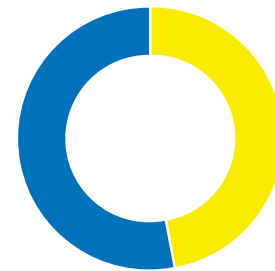
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### Links

For more information on the Ethiopian Emergency situation in eastern Sudan, please visit the Inter-Agency Information Sharing [Portal](#).  
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## 💰 Funding (as of 31 July 2021)

USD 182 M required



**47% Unfunded**  
USD 85,912,380 M

**53% Funded**  
USD 95,759,057 M

