

Weekly Gedaref Operational Update #9

29 Aug – 2 Sept 2021



48,307

total number of new arrivals in eastern Sudan as of 2 September 2021



37

new arrivals recorded in Hamdayet Transit Centre during the reporting period



992

Qemant registered in Basundah locality during the reporting period

Operational Highlights

New arrivals into eastern Sudan recorded

Between 29 August and 2 September, **37 new arrivals** (35 Ethiopian and 2 Eritrean) were recorded in Hamdayet Transit Centre – an increase of **17 individuals** from the previous reporting period, bringing the total of refugees there up to 5,858.

Intentions surveys at transit centres

UNHCR and partners conducted intention surveys in **Hamdayet, Village 8, and Basunda** to assess whether refugees plan to relocate to the designated locations further inland, to gather data on persons with specific needs (PSNs), and to identify existing family ties with refugees already residing in the camps.

Potential new site to accommodate non-Tigrayans refugees:

On 31 August, an **Inter-Agency mission** took place in **Qalaat Al Nahl**. As a result, I/NGO partners reported that 50% of the allocated land is viable subject to further technical assessment. Some segments of the access road need to be rehabilitated, including bridges. The team also suggested to local authorities to provide an additional plot of land, closer to the hills, where the soil is not black cotton and has an acceptable slope to minimize flood risk.



Inter-Agency mission to assess Qalaat Al Nahl site. @DRC

Refugee Rapid Response (RRR) in Basundah locality

Following the arrival of some 992 Qemant refugees in the Basundah locality, UNHCR and Inter-Agency partners fielded a RRR mission. UNHCR continued to lead and coordinate the response to provide assistance to new arrivals and to facilitate and support the partners and counterpart in service provision. This was the occasion also to continue monitoring activities, in coordination with operational partners, including COR and local authorities. Furthermore, the RRR mission assessed a potential site for a new Transit Centre where to relocate the population.



Inter-Agency mission to Basundah @UNHCR

Key Achievements



PROTECTION

Results and Impact

- During the reporting period, as part of an [Inter-Agency rapid GBV assessment](#), focus group discussions and key informant interviews were conducted in both Tunaydbah settlement and Um Rakuba camp, to map out risks and challenges faced by refugees. All types of demographics in all blocks and zones were included to be as comprehensive and representative as possible. [Safety audits](#) were carried out, also in Hamdayet and Village 8 transit centres.
- State Council for Child Welfare and Child Protection partners met with UNICEF to discuss Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR) activities. They also plan a joint verifications exercise for unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) in order to confirm figures and to ensure that alternative care arrangements identified by partners are accurate.
- As part of the relocation intention survey, a protection screening was carried out simultaneously to identify PSNs currently residing in the transit centres near the border areas and to determine whether they will need additional assistance as part of the relocation process, during travelling and upon arrival to the designated camps.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Joint reporting on case management remains challenging due to strict confidentiality regulations and operational obstacles still hindering the sharing of quantitative data among partners.

EDUCATION

Results and Impact

The Refugee Education Working Group held a three-day workshop for education partners to establish a joint action plan for 2022. Discussions covered how the current education services offered in camps could be adapted to enhance the use of the Sudanese curriculum within the next 18 months. Modalities to create greater complementarity between child protection and education, meet the needs of youth and those who are out of school and strengthen communication with communities were also examined. 15 I/NGO staff, refugee teachers, and representatives of the State and Federal Ministries of Education attended this workshop.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Existing classrooms cannot accommodate the total number of school-age children who signed up for education activities, although more facilities are under construction.



HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

Results and Impact

- A total of 957 suspected cases of Hepatitis E Virus (HEV) have been line-listed: 806 in Um Rakuba, 87 in Village 8, 49 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. Patients are mainly presenting mild symptoms, while severe cases are admitted at the MSF hospital in Um Rakuba.
- Since November 2020, a total of 60,988 children below the age of five were screened for malnutrition, out of which 8,297 were identified as at risk of, while 2,321 and 788 were identified for moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) respectively and admitted for treatment. 11,958 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) were also screened and 5,747 PLW received consultations on infant and young child feeding (IYCF).
- In August, in both camps, a mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) case management tool was developed for improved case tracking and qualitative analysis of case management. Integrated Refugee Health Information System (IRHIS) data was collected, and the tool is to be presented at the next MHPSS working group.
- Alight held an MHPSS awareness workshop on suicide prevention and response for community leaders in Tunaydbah. This included how to look for warning signs, what to do if someone is at risk of suicide and where to access services. Staff members of operation partners were also trained on psychological first aid, basic counselling skills and suicidal prevention and response.

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, as well as for children below the age of five who are at risk of malnutrition.



WATER AND SANITATION

Results and Impact

- A total of 782,000 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 22 litres per person per day (l/p/d) in Um Rakuba, 13 l/p/d in Tunaydbah, 20 l/p/d in Village 8 and 10 l/p/d in Hamdayet. This brings the average available supply of water to 16 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. 716 latrines have been completed so far in Um Rakuba and an additional 215 are under rehabilitation/construction. 1,082 have been completed in Tunaydbah and work is ongoing on 480. 113 are finalised in Village 8 and work is ongoing on other 60. 162 have been completed in Hamdayet and work is ongoing on 10.
- In Village 8, 149 Dignity Kits (DK) were distributed, while distribution in all other sites is planned in the coming weeks.

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 1:28 in Um Rakuba, 1:18 in Tunaydbah and 1:36 for Hamdayet and 1: 28 for Village 8.
- Work is ongoing to ensure latrines are gender segregated 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 mosquitos and can also cause localised flooding.
- Coordination with COR and local water authorities to ensure access to the canal for water in Tunaydbah.



SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIS)

Results and Impact

- In Tunaydbah, delivery of emergency shelter kits (ESKs) material resumed as the surface water on El Fau–Tunaydbah road subsided; distribution will start as soon as ESK sets are complete.
- 1,300 disaster kits have been pre-positioned in Um Rakuba and distribution will start next week.
- Work on the joint UNHCR/WFP road/drainage and site maintenance project in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah continues. Three (3) culvert lines were installed on Um Rakuba access road, to safely drain away surface water. Furthermore, three (3) culvert lines were installed in Tunaydbah village to help drain surface water after heavy rain that flooded the village and cut access by road. In Tunaydbah camp, free of surface water, clean-up of the main drains clogged with garbage and mud began.
- UNHCR, through NRC resumed the distribution of female dignity kits in both Um Rakuba camp and Village 8; a total of 4,088 individuals were assisted.
- Global Aid Hand (GAH) distributed 300 male dignity kits targeting PSNs.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Um Rakuba, distribution of ESKs was put on hold after members of the host community protested that they should also benefit from this assistance. COR negotiated with community leaders and agreed for the distribution to be resumed on 5 September. Community leaders called upon UNHCR and partners to also consider providing the host community with shelter support.
- In Um Rakuba, 2,500 ESKs and 3,300 disaster kits are needed to support the remaining camp residents, 20 additional culvert lines need to be installed, and 10km of secondary road in the camp needs to be constructed.
- In Tunaydbah, 2,800 ESKs and 3,300 disaster kits are needed to support the remaining camp residents, 900 bridges/footpath to be built over the roadside and drains, 20 additional culvert lines need to be installed, and 10km of secondary road in the camp needs to be constructed.



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

Results and Impact

- In Um Rakuba, two (2) information desks were completed and one (1) is pending construction.

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.
- Ensure Global Distribution Tool (GDT) SOPs are used during any distribution in the camp is critical.



COMMUNICATING WITH COMMUNITIES

Results and Impact

- The analysis for the baseline survey on mixed migration was completed and the report will be shared soon.
- Twenty (20) youth community volunteers – 10 in each refugee camp – were recruited and trained on issues related to trafficking and mixed migration. They will act as focal points in disseminating information on danger of onward movements and undertaking other protection related initiatives, such as outreach activities.
- In Tunaydbah, youth music, arts, and theatre groups were engaged to distribute posters with messages on the dangers of onward movements.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- A database is needed to help identify youth that are employed/engaged, to inform who is involved with more than one organisation and to help increase access to opportunities for skilled youth.



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.

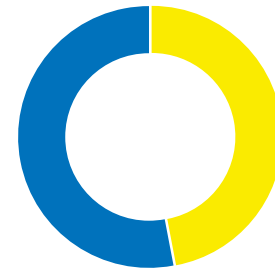
In late November 2020, UNHCR launched the Inter-Agency Refugee Emergency Response Plan, which asked for **USD 147.6 million** to provide lifesaving assistance for **100,000** refugees in eastern Sudan. The plan was revised in May 2021 with **USD 182 million** now required for the response – an increase 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:

[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](#)

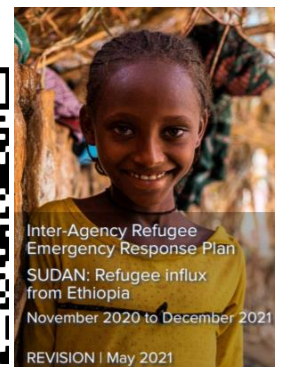
💰 Funding (as of 31 July 2021)

USD 182 M required



47% Unfunded
USD 85,912,380 M

53% Funded
USD 95,759,057 M



Links

For more information on the Ethiopian Emergency situation in eastern Sudan, please visit the Inter-Agency Information Sharing [Portal](#).
[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)