

Weekly Gedaref Operational Update #26

26 – 31 December 2021



50,710

total number of Ethiopian refugees in eastern Sudan as of 30 November



58

new arrivals recorded in Hamdayet Transit Centre



10

new arrivals recorded in Village 8 (4) and Taya border entry point (6)

Operational Highlights

COVID-19 vaccination campaign reaches 50 per cent of its target: In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, ALIGHT, IRC, UNICEF and ZOA International Sudan, a total of 17,864 refugees have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine in Babikri, Tunaydbah, Village 8 and Um Rakuba. This represents approximately 50 per cent of the target population of the campaign.

Fire safety trainings for refugees continue: UNHCR, DRC and the Gedaref Fire Brigade held a fire safety training on 30 December in Um Rakuba for 22 refugee volunteers of the WaSH committee. The participants received theoretical and practical training on preventing and responding to fire incidents. It concluded with participants practicing how to put out a fire during different scenario-based exercises. This is the second in a series of ten (10) fire safety training sessions in Babikri, Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba which targets 100 refugee volunteers by February 2022.

New Ethiopian arrivals recorded in eastern Sudan: There was a slight decrease in the number of new arrivals from Ethiopia, compared to the previous week, with a total of 68 new arrivals being recorded in Kassala's State Hamdayet Transit Centre (58) and Gedaref's State Taya border entry point (6) and Village 8 (4).



Refugees receiving the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine during the second round of vaccination in Tunaydbah © ALIGHT

Key Achievements



PROTECTION

Results and Impact

- UNHCR and COR biometrically registered the 126 remaining refugees who had been recently relocated to Tunaydbah as well as seven (7) asylum seekers, including new arrivals in Babikri. In Um Rakuba, a total of 100 birth certificates were issued by the Civil Registry for refugee children born in the camp.
- UNHCR and ALIGHT completed the joint vulnerability verification exercise in Um Rakuba. As a result, the status of 997 refugees with specific needs was verified and updated which will help inform protection interventions and targeted assistance for this group. The exercise is conducted on a regular basis to maintain an updated data base.
- UNFPA and NCA organized a total of seven (7) information sessions on GBV prevention, risk mitigation, referral pathways and available services for 550 women and girls in Tunaydbah (100) and Um Rakuba (450). In addition, a total of two (2) trainings on GBV case management and provision of psychological first aid were held for 50 staff members of the Women and Girls Safe Spaces in Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba. This complements the three (3) information sessions that were held between 15 and 25 December in Um Rakuba with the participation of 30 women and girls.
- ALIGHT conducted a door-to-door distribution of mattresses to 344 refugees with specific needs, including persons with disabilities, pregnant women and older persons in Tunaydbah (210) and Um Rakuba (134).
- In Um Rakuba, 20 refugee women and girls graduated from an economic empowerment and skills development programme, organized by ALIGHT. The programme equipped participants with skills such as sewing and crochet to increase their capacity for sustainable livelihoods. As part of the graduation ceremony, an exhibition was organized to showcase the different items that the women and girls had made, and the graduates received certificates as well as starter kits containing sewing machines.



Refugee women and girls receiving their graduation certificate in Um Rakuba © ALIGHT

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- More sports and livelihood activities are needed for refugee youth to help improve their mental and physical health, and increase their self-reliance.



HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

Results and Impact

- The second round of COVID-19 vaccination campaign in Tunaydbah concluded with **3,017** refugees aged **18 and above** receiving their **first dose of COVID-19 vaccine**. The four-day campaign targeted refugees who were not reached during the first round and the newly relocated. This brings the **total number of refugees and asylum seekers who have been vaccinated against COVID-19 with the first dose to 17,864**, approximately **50 per cent** of the campaign's target population.
- UNFPA, in collaboration with ALIGHT, MSF and the Ministry of Health, provided **sexual and reproductive health and family planning services** to a total of **457** women in Hamdayet (45), Um Rakuba (25), Tunaydbah (337) and Village 8 (50).
- ALIGHT conducted a total of **five (5) awareness sessions on mental health and psychosocial support**, three (3) in Um Rakuba with the participation of **39 women (20) and men (19)** and two (2) in Tunaydbah with **177 men (87) and women (90)** in attendance. The sessions focused on several issues, including psychological stress, mitigation measures and available psychosocial support services.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Additional **COVID-19 vaccine doses and strengthened community mobilization** are required to meet the vaccination campaign's target in all refugee-hosting locations.



WATER AND SANITATION

Results and Impact

- A total of **1.1 mega litres of water per day** was provided via water pumping from five (5) water treatment plants (WTP), five (5) boreholes and water trucking during the reporting period. Water supply was provided at **26 litres per person per day (l/p/d)** in Um Rakuba, **21 l/p/d** in Tunaydbah, **26 l/p/d** in Village 8 and **25 l/p/d** in Hamdayet and **19 l/p/d** in Babikri. This brings the **average available supply of water to 23 l/p/d**, which **exceeds the SPHERE post emergency standard** of 20 l/p/d. Given that all refugees in Hamdayet Transit Centre were relocated to Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba, the water supply was reduced to 10 cubic metres per day.
- Work is ongoing to **extend the water network in Tunaydbah** to cover the new blocks where the relocated refugees live.
- Solidarités International completed the construction of **25 latrines in Babikri**, improving the person to latrine ration to **1:19**. CIS finished the construction of **10 latrines** in Um Rakuba.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Increasing the **quantity of the water supply** in Tunaydbah is a priority.



SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIS)

Results and Impact

- NRC completed the construction of 110 tukuls (durable shelters) in Um Rakuba.
- The construction of 26 tukuls in Tunaydbah by ACTED (14) and Medair (12) is ongoing.
- UNHCR's work on building four (4) multipurpose shelters in Um Rakuba and six (6) others in Tunaydbah is nearing completion.
- UNHCR and NRC pitched nine (9) tents for the 33 new arrivals in Babikri.



Newly constructed tukuls for refugees in Um Rakuba © UNHCR

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Building additional tukuls in Babikri, Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba before the start of the rainy season remains a priority.



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

Results and Impact

- UNHCR, NCA and WHH distributed hygiene and core relief items, including blankets, clothing, soap and sanitary napkins to 133 families (168 individuals) among the newly relocated refugees and to 67 families (127 individuals) affected by the 10 December fire in Um Rakuba.
- In collaboration with FNC, a total of 3,533 families (7,014 individuals) were provided with 760 bags of charcoal and 1,001 cubic metres of firewood in Um Rakuba. The distribution of cooking fuel will continue to reach the entire population of the camp.
- WFP installed a milling and fortification unit in Babikri with a view to improving health and nutrition of asylum seekers.



Refugees receiving hygiene and core relief items in Um Rakuba © UNHCR

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Efforts are underway, in collaboration with COR and other partners, to implement a shelter solution for the refugee households that were affected by the fire in Um Rakuba last December.



COMMUNICATING WITH COMMUNITIES

Results and Impact

- The first meeting of the [communication with communities \(CwC\) working group](#) took place on 27 December, with the participation of COOPI, Mercy Corps and ZOA International Sudan. The discussions focused on the [mapping of the communication channels](#) that have been established as part of [complaint and feedback mechanisms](#) in the camps and the challenges encountered. The outcomes of the discussion will help inform the work of the CwC working group in 2022 aimed at [improving the provision of information to and feedback](#) from the refugee communities.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Identifying and utilizing [the preferred channels of communication for refugee communities](#) is key to improving the provision of information and facilitating feedback.



WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

As part of the response to the Ethiopia situation in eastern Sudan, UNHCR has been actively supporting the authorities, at their request, 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. 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](#).

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 **50,000 refugees** 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.

One year on, we are grateful to the following donors for supporting the Ethiopian Emergency situation in eastern Sudan with critical funding 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 30 November 2021)

USD 182 M

