

Weekly Gedaref Operational Update #25

19 – 26 December 2021



50,710

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



109

new arrivals recorded in Hamdayet Transit Centre (76) and Taya (33)



475

refugees and asylum seekers relocated from Hamdayet Transit Centre and Taya border entry point

Operational Highlights

Newly arrived refugees and asylum seekers relocated: Following the conclusion of the relocation exercise from Hamdayet Transit Center last week, an additional 475 refugees and asylum seekers who had recently crossed the border from Ethiopia into Sudan, were transferred to [Tunaydbah \(241\)](#), [Um Rakuba \(207\)](#) and [Babikri \(27\)](#). UNHCR, Sudan's Commission for Refugees (COR) and partners, including ALIGHT, DRC, IRC, NRC and Plan International provided the newly relocated with [shelters and assistance](#). COOPI, Muslim Aid and CARE distributed [hygiene kits](#), [hot meals](#) and [water](#) among the refugees and asylum seekers. The group is currently being [individually registered](#) and receiving [life-saving supplies](#) at registration and distribution centres in the three locations. Since November 2020, a total of [47,165 refugees and asylum seekers](#) have been relocated alongside an estimated 727 of their livestock.



The newly relocated refugees are being registered at Um Rakuba © UNHCR

COVID-19 vaccination campaign advances: UNHCR, together with the Ministry of Health, UNICEF and ZOA International Sudan, vaccinated [843 asylum seekers in Babikri](#) during a three-day campaign, bringing the [total number of vaccinated to 14,847](#) in all refugee-hosting locations.

New Ethiopian arrivals recorded in eastern Sudan: As of 26 December, 76 new arrivals were reported in Hamdayet Transit Centre, while 33 new arrivals were recorded in Taya border entry point.



Vaccinated asylum seekers receiving their COVID-19 vaccination card in Babikri © UNHCR

Key Achievements



PROTECTION

Results and Impact

- During the reporting period, UNHCR and COR biometrically registered **334 newly relocated refugees in Tunaydbah (188) and Um Rakuba (146)** as well as all the **33 new asylum seekers in Babikri**.
- UNHCR and ALIGHT are conducting **a joint vulnerability verification exercise in Um Rakuba**, applying a door-to-door approach to update the status of refugees with specific needs who had been previously included in the database and to identify new cases. So far, a **total of 850 refugees with specific needs** have been verified, including **18 new cases**. The exercise will help **improve data on refugees with specific needs** which will ultimately inform protection interventions and targeted assistance for this group.
- ALIGHT conducted a total of **five (5) awareness raising sessions on gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response**, three (3) in Um Rakuba with **40 women and girls** and two (2) in Tunaydbah with **72 men (24) and women (48) in attendance** from among the newly relocated refugees. In addition to **increasing knowledge of GBV prevention and response and available services onsite**, the sessions allow participants to openly **discuss protection issues** that affect them and their community.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Targeted assistance to refugees with specific needs** need to be increased.



EDUCATION

Results and Impact

- UNHCR and UNICEF, with support from the Ministry of Education, organized **a half-day workshop to take stock of progress made in providing education for refugees and asylum seekers in 2021** and identify educational needs for 2022. The aim is to develop **a response plan to meet the current educational needs** of school aged children in Babikri, Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba and **put in place preparedness measures** to absorb a potential influx of new refugee students.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- With the arrival of newly relocated refugees and asylum seekers in Babikri and Tunaydbah, establishing **additional learning centres** is key to maintain and increase access to education.



HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

Results and Impact

- In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Sudan Family Planning Association and ALIGHT, a **mobile health clinic** has been set up in Babikri to provide services to asylum seekers, including

treatment for tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS care and treatment. Efforts are underway to finalize the establishment of health and nutrition services and infrastructures in Babikri.

- The first round of COVID-19 vaccination campaign in Babikri concluded with 843 asylum seekers aged 18 and above, vaccinated. In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and MSF Switzerland, routine immunizations have also been launched in Babikri and are provided once a week.
- ALIGHT conducted home visits to provide psychosocial support services to 18 refugees with mental health issues and illnesses in Tunaydbah (10) and Um Rakuba (8).



Routine immunizations are now provided once a week in Babikri © UNHCR

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Vaccinating refugees and asylum seekers against COVID-19 remains a priority.



WATER AND SANITATION

Results and Impact

- A total of 1.3 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 to all refugee-hosting locations. Water supply was provided at 26 litres per person per day (l/p/d) in Um Rakuba, 27 l/p/d in Tunaydbah, 26 l/p/d in Village 8 and 25 l/p/d in Hamdayet and was increased to 32 l/p/d in Babikri. This brings the average available supply of water to 27 l/p/d, which exceeds the SPHERE post emergency standard of 20 l/p/d.
- The water supply network in Tunaydbah is operational in the camp's established blocks and water is being provided through trucking in the new blocks where the relocated refugees live.
- UNHCR and partners continue the construction, rehabilitation and desludging of latrines in Babikri, Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba. CIS constructed 236 showers in Tunaydbah and dislodged 15 latrines in Um Rakuba and continues its rehabilitation work in both camps. IOM completed the construction of 56 latrines in Um Rakuba.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Efforts continue to ensure (1) communal latrine for every 20 people (1:20 ratio), which is the SPHERE minimum standard. The person to latrine ratio currently stands at 1:13 in Tunaydbah and was improved in Um Rakuba to 1:19 and in Babikri to 1:31, compared to the previous week.



SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIS)

Results and Impact

- NRC completed the construction of **72 tukuls (durable shelters)** in Um Rakuba and continues building another 110.
- Medair commenced work on the construction of **12 tukuls in Tunaydbah** and ACTED is working on building another 10.
- NRC finished the construction of **four (4) office shelters for COR, UNHCR and the police** in Babikri. This will help improve the security of asylum seekers in this location.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- While efforts are underway to construct more tukuls, additional funding is required to support the construction of a total of **7,570 tukuls** in Um Rakuba (2,605), Tunaydbah (3,665) and Babikri (1,300).



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

Results and Impact

- In collaboration with FNC, **1,178 bags of charcoal** and **437 cubic metres of firewood** were distributed to **4,712 individuals** and **1,754 households** respectively in Um Rakuba. The distribution of cooking fuel will continue to reach the entire population of the camp.
- UNHCR, NCA and FNC distributed **468 emergency stoves** together with cooking fuel in Babikri.



The distribution of emergency stoves in Babikri © UNHCR

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The distribution of more dignity kits for women and girls of reproductive age is a priority.



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

