

Sudan | Emergency Response to Tigray Situation – New Weekly Update #2

Key Figures



Operational Highlights

New Arrivals from Tigray Region Reported Following Renewed Clashes

On 17 July, the operation recorded some **100 new arrivals** to Hamdayet Transit Centre from Ethiopia's Tigray Region some two weeks after Ethiopia's federal government declared a unilateral ceasefire. Registration is currently ongoing.

The operation has quickly deployed several key staff to Hamdayet, including the Head of Field Office (Gedaref), Field Officer, Field Security Officer and other sector specialists in anticipation of a possible influx. Several partners are also already on the ground. UNHCR has set up **12 communal shelters** able to accommodate **1,200 people**, transferred **2 tractors** and delivered **20 litres of fuel**. UNHCR also plans to lease trailers to use with the tractors to help transport new arrivals, core relief items and support water trucking. Local authorities have additionally allocated a piece of land some **1.5km** from Hamdayet to temporarily accommodate any potential non-Tigrayan new arrivals, who will then be relocated to Shagarab camp in Kassala. In light of renewed fighting in the Tigray Region and subsequent militarisation of the border by both Sudanese and Ethiopian forces over the weekend, UNHCR will continue to maintain strong staff presence in Hamdayet in case there is an influx.

In the meantime, UNHCR is engaging with authorities at all levels to resume the relocation of some **5,400 Ethiopian refugees** from 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. From 14 – 18 July, UNHCR conducted a one-off distribution of core relief items, including **1,084** sleeping mats, **1,084** blankets, **1,084** mosquito nets and **868** kitchen sets and **995** jerry cans, which reached some **1,076** refugees (**860** households).

High-Level Visit by UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner (Operations), Regional Bureau Director and Bureau Head of External Engagement to eastern Sudan

On 11 July, UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner (Operations), Mr Raouf Mazou, Regional Bureau Director for the East and Horn of Africa and Great Lakes (EHAGL), Ms Clementine Nkewta-Salami, and Head of External Engagement (EHAGL), Ms Catherine Wiesner, arrived in eastern Sudan as part of a five-day mission to the country. The delegation was accompanied by UNHCR Sudan Representative, Mr Axel Bisschop.

The mission visited Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba camps, where they met with refugee leaders and host communities and visited several sites in both locations in order to get an overview of the current inter-agency interventions related to shelter, flood preparedness, protection and other sectors. The delegation also met with government officials, donors and several partners engaged in the response.

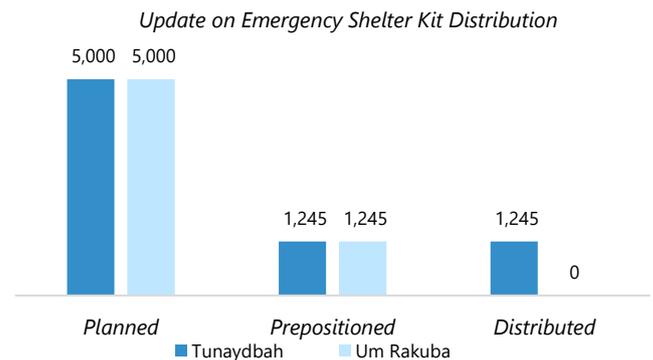


The delegation met with refugee leaders, government officials, partners and UNHCR staff during their visit to Tunaydbah camp © UNHCR/Ismael

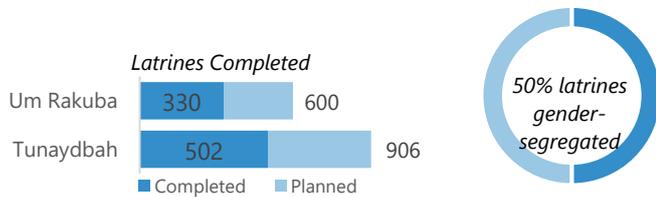
Flood Preparedness Continues

Flood preparedness continued to be scaled up amid an increase in sporadic showers and heavy winds during the reporting period. UNHCR and partners are currently coordinating to quickly respond to the urgent needs of refugees affected by recent extreme weather while preparing for further anticipated storms during the rainy season which runs through September.

As of 17 July, a total of **1,245** out of a total planned **5,000** emergency shelter kits (ESKs) have been distributed in Tunaydbah. **1,245** ESKs out of a total planned **5,000** have been delivered in Um Rakuba. Distribution is expected to commence after the Eid holiday with a view towards completing the exercise in the first week of August. While the distribution of the first **2,500** ESKs will cover most affected households in both camps, the next delivery of **2,500** shelter kits out of a total of **10,000** planned to reinforce all household tents is in process and will be on the ground in the next **3 – 4 weeks**.



Construction of semi-permanent latrines is ongoing with **502 out of the planned 906** completed in Tunaydbah and **330 out of the planned 600** semi-permanent latrines completed in Um Rakuba. Of the **524** latrines completed, over **50% (287)** are gender segregated. Work is ongoing to ensure appropriate signage is in place in the next **2 weeks**.



UNHCR and partners plan to complete all outstanding latrines by the **end of July**.

Several parallel water provision systems are in place in Tunaydbah camp to mitigate the impact and likelihood of water disruptions. Water is currently being trucked by partners from temporary water treatment plants located approximately **1km** west of the camp. An emergency pipeline connecting the water treatment plant to **2 high capacity storage units** inside Tunaydbah is now fully operational. In addition, a water distribution pipeline connecting the water treatment plant to water distribution points inside the camp is partially complete and is expected to cover the east of the camp after the Eid holiday. The plan is finalise this intervention by mid-

August, meaning **100%** of the camp will no longer rely on water trucking.

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. 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 **74%** of internal roads have been finalised. This 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, is ongoing.

From 5 – 10 July, in collaboration with Sudan's Ministry of Health and WHO, close to **12,000 refugees** aged 1 – 15 years from Um Rakuba, Tunaydbah and Village 8 received their first dose of the measles vaccine, while **18,000** received their second dose.

50 Refugees from Um Rakuba Detained by Police Released

On 16 July, UNHCR helped facilitate the release of **50 refugees** from detention in Qureisha locality, some **9km** from Doka town in Gedaref. The refugees left Um Rakuba in search of work as casual labourers in the nearby farms before being detained by local police. Upon release, they were transferred back to the camp. This latest incident, and an observed increase in the number of refugees leaving the camps, underlines the importance of enhancing livelihood opportunities for refugees. Last

week, some **80 refugees** from Um Rakuba were also detained by authorities for the same reason before subsequently being released. UNHCR plans to engage with refugee leaders to increase awareness of the risks involved with such movements, including human trafficking and smuggling, while also continuing to advocate for more livelihoods opportunities including regularizing access to agricultural work permits as has been discussed with the Government.

Key Priorities and Identified Needs

- In the event there is an upsurge of new arrivals crossing into eastern Sudan, ensuring critical services and assistance is available in Hamdayet Transit Centre is an urgent priority. Key UNHCR staff from Protection, Field, WaSH, Shelter and Security as well as other partners continue to remain on the ground ready to receive new arrivals. Advocacy to resume relocations from Hamdayet to the camps is ongoing.

- While there were no recorded movements from Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah to Hamdayet, UNHCR is aware of reports that youth from the camps are following the events across the border in Humera closely and will likely attempt to return to Ethiopia once the situation allows.
- Finalising the six-month action plan remains a major priority. 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 with associated timelines are currently being incorporated in the revised version to help promote accountability.
- As the rains continue, strengthening flood preparedness across several critical sectors, including WaSH, Shelter, Protection and Health, is another 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.

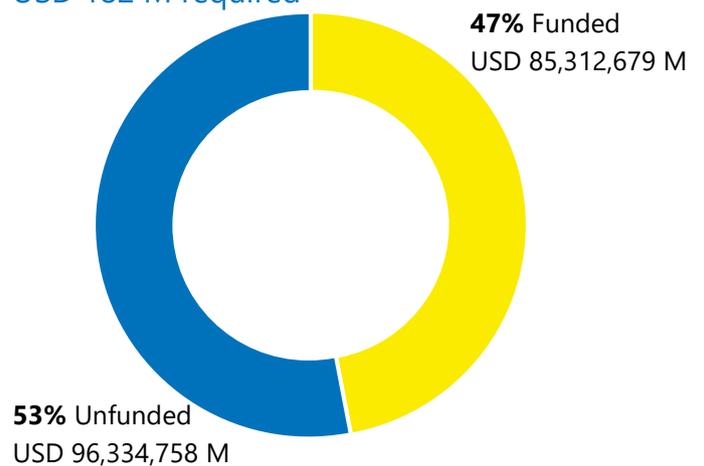
Situation in eastern Sudan

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 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 30 June, **47% (USD 85,312,679)** has been received. UNHCR Sudan would like to thank 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"*