

Ethiopia Situation Operational Update #8/2022

24 February – 10 March 2022



60,167

total number of Ethiopian refugees in eastern Sudan (Kassala, Gedaref and Blue Nile) as of 28 February 2022



447

new arrivals recorded in eastern Sudan



82

number of tukuls (durable shelters) completed in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah

Operational Highlights

International Women’s Day Celebrations: On 8 March, UNHCR and partners, including ALIGHT, DRC, IRC and NCA came together to celebrate the International Women’s Day, engaging refugee communities in a diverse range of activities under this year’s theme of “Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow”. This included drama performances by women and girls, poetry writing and recital contests, sport events and awareness raising sessions on gender equality in Babikri, Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba. In Camp 6, a march was organized with the participation of women and youth from refugee and host communities. In tandem, an exhibition was held of the handicrafts produced by women in the livelihoods project by CAFA Development Organization. Communities also celebrated the day with traditional Gumuz and Tigrayan songs and dances.



International Women’s Day celebrations in Camp 6, Blue Nile State
© UNHCR

Transfer of refugees to camps: During the reporting period, 230 refugees from Hamdayet Transit Centre and 52 refugees, who had entered Sudan via Gallabat border crossing point, were transferred to Um Rakuba camp. In Blue Nile State, UNHCR and COR relocated 148 refugees from Menza border crossing point to Camp 6. Upon arrival, the newly relocated were registered and provided with essential assistance, including shelter, food and core relief items.

New Ethiopian arrivals recorded in eastern Sudan: Following the re-opening of the Gallabat border crossing in Gedaref State on 2 March, there was an uptick in the number of new arrivals compared to the previous two weeks. In Gedaref State, a total of 69 new arrivals were recorded: 52 and 10 at the Gallabat and Taya border entry points respectively and seven (7) at Hamdayet Transit Centre. In Blue Nile State, a total of 378 new arrivals were recorded: 230 in Camp 6 and 148 at the Menza border crossing point.

Key Achievements



PROTECTION

Results and Impact

- UNHCR and Sudan's Commission for Refugees (COR) **individually registered 313 refugees** in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah camps and Babikri settlement and issued **1,541 ID cards** to registered refugees in Tunaydbah (1,279) and Um Rakuba (262).
- UNHCR held a **two-day workshop** in Gedaref for **25 participants** from COR, the police force and military intelligence, focusing on the **fundamental principles of protection** and key issues of concern, including gender-based violence (GBV), human trafficking and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). Considering their **critical role as frontline actors**, the workshop aimed to increase their understanding of and capacity to address protection related issues.
- As part of efforts to **promote access to justice for refugees**, UNHCR held a series of discussions with **judges and public prosecutors** from the Gedaref State judiciary on potential **areas of collaboration** and concrete measures to increase access such as the **operation of mobile courts**.
- From 27 February to 3 March, ALIGHT provided **targeted assistance and referrals to 138 refugee women (48) and men (90)** in Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba through its protection desks.
- UNHCR set up a **protection desk in Camp 6** and **provided targeted assistance to 47 refugees**, including with regard to shelter, core relief items and documentation.
- As part of a **capacity building workshop** for **27 teachers**, organized by NRC in Tunaydbah camp, UNHCR facilitated a **session on child protection and the role of teachers**. In addition to core principles, the participants were trained on **GBV and PSEA**, the **reporting modalities** and **available services** in the camp. One of the concrete outcomes was the **establishment of GBV and PSEA committees** in the schools, made up of teachers and students, aimed at promoting awareness as well as improving prevention and response.



Child protection training for teachers in Tunaydbah © UNHCR

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The **operation of child friendly spaces in Camp 6** should be resumed to enhance child protection including through ensuring children's access to safe environments and promoting their psychosocial well-being.
- The **access of youth to livelihood opportunities should be increased** to strengthen their **self-reliance** and help **reduce protection risks**, including onward movements.



HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

Results and Impact

- UNFPA provided **sexual and reproductive health services** to **389 women** in Hamdayet Transit Centre (39), Tunaydbah (229), Um Rakuba (109) and Village 8 (12), through ALIGHT, MSF, PUI, SRCS and ZOA clinics, and carried out **32 facility-based deliveries**. In addition, UNFPA and SRCS provided **antenatal care services** to **25 women** in Hamdayet Transit Centre. **Ten (10) individuals** also received **consultation and treatment** for sexually transmitted infections provided by UNFPA, ALIGHT and ZOA.
- ALIGHT referred **eight (8) emergency cases** from Um Rakuba for **secondary care support** and **14 chronic non-emergency cases** (10 refugees and 4 nationals) from Tunaydbah to Gedaref. The non-emergency cases were provided with the necessary diagnostic, care and treatment by WEDCO, whose four-month project aims to **support 120 cases**.
- **Eight (8) cases of Hepatitis E** were recorded in Tunaydbah, five (5) refugees and three (3) host community members, **a decrease of over 38 per cent** in the number of cases compared to the previous two weeks. As part of **prevention and mitigation measures**, community awareness and mobilization on improved hygiene practices continue.
- **Three (3) cases of COVID-19** were identified in Um Rakuba camp. The individuals have been **placed in isolation** and **provided with treatment**.
- SFPA completed the construction of **a semi-permanent structure for their clinic in Um Rakuba camp** which will help improve the quality of health services.
- CAFA Development Organization provided psychosocial support to **20 refugees in Camp 6** and ALIGHT to **32 refugees in Um Rakuba**.



The newly completed SFPA health clinic in Um Rakuba camp
©SFPA

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Additional funding is required to scale up the capacity of CAFA health clinic to provide services to refugees and host community members in Camp 6.
- Efforts are underway to establish **referral pathways for tertiary health care** in Gedaref State.



WATER AND SANITATION

Results and Impact

- Water supply was provided at **25 litres per person per day (l/p/d)** in Um Rakuba, **29 l/p/d** in Tunaydbah, **26 l/p/d** in Village 8, and **29 l/p/d** in Babikri. This brings the **average available water supply to 27.5 l/p/d** which exceeds the **SPHERE post emergency standard** of 20 l/p/d. Water supply was provided at **14 l/p/d** in Camp 6 in Blue Nile State.

- The person to latrine ratio stands at **1:19 in Um Rakuba**, **1:12 in Tunaydbah** and **1:17 in Babikri**, which exceeds the SPHERE standard of one (1) communal latrine for every 20 people (1:20 ratio).
- UNHCR constructed **10 emergency latrines in Camp 6** to meet the needs of new arrivals. Work is underway to build durable latrines and showers.
- CARE rehabilitated **10 communal latrines** and **20 showers** in Um Rakuba and constructed **10 household latrines** for persons with specific needs and **59 showers** in Tunaydbah.
- Solidarités International conducted hygiene promotion in Babikri settlement, reaching 1,500 refugees.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The **construction of household latrines** in Babikri, Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba is a priority.
- Efforts are underway in Babikri to **drill two (2) bore holes** and **phase out water trucking** in advance of the rainy season.



SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIS)

Results and Impact

- In Um Rakuba, NRC completed the construction of a further **33 tukuls (durable shelters)**, bringing the total number of **tukuls** to **973**, while the construction of an additional 27 is ongoing.
- In Tunaydbah, a further **49 tukuls** were built by ACTED and Medair, bringing the total number of tukuls constructed in 2022 to **72**. The construction of an additional **176** is underway.
- In Camp 6, **152 tents** were pitched to accommodate the newly arrived refugee families.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The completion and transfer of over **4,400 tukuls** is expected by the end of 2022 in Babikri, Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba. **More funding is required** to build **additional tukuls** for the remaining refugee families in refugee-hosting locations in Gedaref and Blue Nile States.



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

Results and Impact

- UNHCR distributed **core relief items**, including blankets, sleeping mats, soap and solar lamps to **52 refugees** as well as **dignity kits** to **16 refugee women and girls** at Gallabat border crossing point.
- In Babikri, Solidarités International distributed **personal hygiene kits** to **2,287 refugees**, and UNHCR provided **dignity kits** to **562 women and girls**.
- UNHCR, in collaboration with partners, including DRC and WFP, stepped up **preparations at household and camp levels for the rainy season**. Efforts are underway to **rehabilitate access roads** as well as **internal roads and drainage system**, particularly in Babikri settlement and Tunaydbah camp. As part of pre-disaster kits, **329,000 sandbags** and **3,400 spades** have been procured and will be distributed to refugee households in Babikri, Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba in the coming weeks. In Camp 6, UNHCR is **constructing 1.5 kilometres of roads** to improve accessibility, particularly during the rainy season.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Additional funding and support** are required to address gaps in preparations for the rainy season in all three locations (Babikri, Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba), including the construction of additional drains and pedestrian bridges.



WORKING IN COORDINATION

In response to the Ethiopia situation in eastern Sudan, UNHCR is working with authorities and partners to provide lifesaving assistance and protection to Ethiopian refugees and asylum seekers as well as host communities. UNHCR and COR co-chair the Inter-Agency Refugee Working Group (RWG), which meets on a bi-weekly basis, to strengthen coordination of the response. 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 **60,000 refugees and asylum seekers** have been welcomed in Sudan.

To deliver protection and lifesaving assistance to Ethiopians displaced across the border and within their country, UNHCR launched a regional appeal in January 2022 for the prioritization of \$205 million of its existing funding needs for the northern Ethiopia emergency situation and regional preparedness in 2022. This includes \$72 million to assist the over 60,000 Ethiopian refugees who have arrived in Sudan since November 2020 and potential additional arrivals in 2022. Support is urgently needed to scale up interventions across all sectors while maintaining preparedness for any additional influx from Ethiopia.

We are grateful to the following donors for supporting the Ethiopian Emergency situation in eastern Sudan with critical funding in 2021 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

UNHCR Northern Ethiopia Emergency Situation Regional Appeal Funding (as of 15 March 2022)

USD 250.4 M required

