

Influx from Ethiopia to Sudan

12 March 2019

1,587

 Ethiopian arrivals
 to Sudan from
 10 Jan to 12 Feb 2019

1,372

 Ethiopian individuals
 transported to
 Shagarab camp

838

 Ethiopian returnees
 so far

660

 newly arrived Ethiopians
 currently hosted in
 Shagarab camp

BACKGROUND:

- Following renewed confrontations between ethnic groups along the western Ethiopian border, a total of **1,587 individuals** fled into Sudan between 10 January and 14 February 2019. Of these, 1,544 were from Kement background, 39 from Tigray ethnicity and four were Amhara.

RESPONSE:

- The arrivals were initially hosted in the bordering localities of Al Fazra, Basunda and Kuneina and registered by the Sudanese Commission for Refugees (COR). After crossing the border, the group was supported with water, emergency latrines (UNICEF), medical assistance (WHO and Ministry of Health), food (TOD), Core Relief Items and temporary shelters (UNHCR).
- Between 23 January and 2 February, a total of **1,328 individuals** were relocated to Shagarab camp from the host bordering localities of Al Fazra, Basunda and Kuneina, after they expressed intention to seek asylum in Sudan. Local authorities with the support of UNHCR transported the asylum seekers in three convoys. Another group of 15 arrivals from Gallabat border crossing point and 29 arrivals from Jabal Halawa border area were also transported to Shagarab camp on 4 and 21 February, reaching a total of **1,372 individuals** relocated. A total of 12 people have been reported as disappeared during the transportation from bordering localities in January and February.
- The arrivals were received by COR and UNHCR in the camp and were supported with food (TOD and WFP), water, latrines, showers (UNHCR) and medical assistance (HAI). UNHCR built temporary shelters for the arrivals and provided non-food items such as soap, blankets and kitchen sets.
- After the arrival of the three groups into Shagarab camp, a large group of people requested assistance by local authorities, UNHCR and Ethiopian consulate to voluntary repatriate to Ethiopia following their perception that the security situation had improved in their area of origin.
- UNHCR and local authorities assisted a total of **712 Ethiopians** to repatriate from Shagarab camp through the Gallabat-Metema crossing point in three convoys on 24 February (250 individuals), 28 February (223 individuals) and 4 March (239 individuals). During transportation, the returnees were provided with meals (TOD) and health assistance (HAI). The group of male sheep herders with cattle of Kement background, who had initially expressed intention to seek asylum and remained in Kuneina (64 individuals) and Siefa (13 individuals) bordering localities, were also assisted to return after expressing willingness to repatriate. Another 126 arrivals were assisted to return from border areas, before moving to Shagarab camp in January. So far, a total of **838 individuals** have returned.
- Out of the 1,372 arrivals that were transported to Shagarab, there are **660 Ethiopians** remaining in the camp. UNHCR jointly with the local authorities and the Ethiopian consulate is coordinating the return of another 250 individuals who expressed intention to voluntarily repatriate. The next convoy is planned to depart on 12 March 2019.



712 Ethiopians have been assisted to repatriate from Shagarab to Ethiopia, after they expressed their willingness to return. Photo: ©UNHCR

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