

# Weekly Gedaref Operational Update #7

15 – 22 August 2021



**47,959**

total number of new arrivals from  
Ethiopia as of 31 July 2021



**13**

new arrivals recorded in  
Hamdayet Transit Centre  
during the reporting period



**34**

Qemant new arrivals recorded  
in Basundah locality during the  
reporting period

## Operational Highlights



Norwegian Minister Dag Inge Ulstein and UNHCR HC Filippo Grandi visiting a food distribution point in Um Rakuba © UNHCR

**High-Level Visit to Um Rakuba:** On 22 August, UNHCR High Commissioner Mr Filippo Grandi visited Um Rakuba camp as part of a [three-day mission to Sudan](#). The High Commissioner was joined by Norway's Minister for International Development Mr Dag Inge Ulstein, UN Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator a.i. Eddie Rowe, UNHCR Sudan Representative Axel Bisschop and UNICEF Sudan Representative Mandeep O'Brien. During the visit, the delegation met with representatives from the refugee and host community, officials from Sudan's Commission for Refugees, the acting Governor for Gedaref, and several partners engaged in the

humanitarian response. The delegation also visited a WFP food distribution point, a newly constructed NRC learning centre, and UNICEF/ZOA health and nutrition facility. The High Commissioner ended his visit by thanking the host community for their generosity, partners for their collaboration and donors for their unfailing support and open dialogue.

**New arrivals into eastern Sudan recorded:** The operation continued to respond to new arrivals from two entry points in eastern Sudan, i.e., Hamdayet and Gallabat. Between 15 and 19 August, [13 new arrivals](#) (8 Ethiopian and 5 Eritrean) were recorded in Hamdayet Transit Centre. Registration is currently ongoing for this group. Protection desks continue to be operational with UNHCR and Alight partner staff carrying out weekly visits to identify the most vulnerable individuals and respond to their specific needs. [13 family tents have been pitched](#) in preparation for a potential influx of refugees from the Tigray region.

Since the last update, some **34 Qemant new arrivals** were recorded in Basundah locality, bringing the total to **976** as of 19 August. Interviews with refugees indicate a significant number remain across the border in Ethiopia who are planning to cross into Sudan to seek refuge. In the meantime, UNHCR and partners are responding to the needs of this group in Basunda town. They are **provided with life-saving supplies**, including various core-relief items such as blankets, sleeping mats, jerry cans, plastic sheets, soap and solar lamps. Refugees continue to receive two meals (lentils and *injera*) per day with priority given to persons with specific needs and pregnant and lactating women (PLW). Water (6,000 litres per day) is also provided via 5 chlorinated water storage tanks.

## Key Achievements



### PROTECTION

#### Results and Impact

- During the reporting period, UNHCR led a comprehensive workshop on **protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA)** in Um Rakuba camp targeting 36 community volunteers, 25 community leaders, 23 camp officials, 19 police staff and 3 security personnel. Through this training, participants learnt about **UNHCR's code of conduct**, sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), prohibited and strongly discouraged behaviour, the consequences of breaching these standards, and how to ensure victims of SEA have access to support. A similar training is currently ongoing in Tunaydbah settlement.
- **A total of 32 awareness raising sessions** were held in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah on gender based violence (GBV) and response, reaching close to 430 refugees. These sessions introduced the concept of GBV, underlined the importance of a survivor-centered approach and gave an overview of the services available to refugees.
- **Close to 140 referrals were received** at the integrated protection desks. The types of complaints varied and referrals and follow ups were made to the relevant partner to ensure these were addressed. The protection desks in Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba are constantly manned by the protection partner on a daily basis with UNHCR staff joining one day per week while those in Hamdayet are supported by UNHCR staff who conduct weekly missions.
- Following weeks of constructive engagement with partners, **GBV standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the emergency refugee response have been successfully adopted**. The document outlines the guiding principles, procedures, roles and responsibilities in the prevention of and response to GBV for actors engaged in the humanitarian response. Building on best international practices, these procedures have been developed through a consultative process with service



PSEA training in Um Rakuba camp © UNHCR

providers and will play a critical role in helping to improve the services offered to GBV survivors and individuals exposed to GBV. Plans are currently underway to organize a session with partners to operationalize the SOPs.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Data sharing between and among child protection and GBV partners is challenge.** Discussions are ongoing to see how to improve the accuracy of protection statistics.



## EDUCATION

### Results and Impact

- Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah are completing the finishing touches ahead of their official opening next week. So far, **more than 1,500 children have registered** to attend ECD centres in both camps. These centres were funded through generous support from Education Cannot Wait (ECW) – the first global fund dedicated to education in emergencies and protracted crises.
- **ECW school packs containing notebooks, stationery and water bottles have been delivered** to both locations to be distributed next week during “Back to School” celebrations. These school packs will help encourage and motivate students to attend learning centres and provide some sense of normalcy for children whose education has been disrupted by the conflict in the Tigray region.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **The construction of ventilated improved pits** in ECD centres in Tunaydbah has been hampered by delays experienced by the contractor. In the meantime, efforts are underway to see how to scale up the provision of latrines, handwashing stations and water drinking points in these centres in both locations.
- UNHCR and partners are looking at **how to increase girls’ secondary school enrollment** since the re-opening of schools earlier this month. The low enrollment rate could be linked to social and cultural conventions, sometimes limiting refugee women and girls’ potential.



## HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

### Results and Impact

- Since the start of the emergency, **over 25,000 children and some 6,600 PLW have been screened for malnutrition** in all refugee-hosting locations. In addition, almost 470 children have been admitted to outpatient therapeutic programme while some 1,700 children and approximately 980 PLW were admitted to supplementary feeding programmes. Nutrition sensitive interventions are also ongoing. Infant and young children feeding counselling sessions continue to be conducted, reaching close to 2,000 women of child-bearing age.
- Almost **700 potential cases of Hepatitis E** have been line-listed: 594 in Um Rakuba, 63 in Village 8, 26 in Tunaydbah and 15 in Hamdayet. Collaboration between relevant Health and WaSH partners and the Ministry of Health continues in order to curb the outbreak, enhance sanitation and promote improvements in personal and community hygiene practices.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Discussions are ongoing to see how to **strengthen secondary referrals** to government run-facilities for diagnosis and treatment.
- **Scaling up nutritional support** for people living with HIV and TB are other priorities.
- Discussions continue with WFP to see how to provide **additional nutritional support** to children under the age of five who are at risk of malnutrition.
- Discussions with the Ministry of Health and WHO are also ongoing to **increase COVID-19 rapid testing** capacities inside the camps.
- Efforts are being stepped up to **bolster MHPSS services inside the camps** following an increase in the number of refugees seeking these services. Some 12 participants were reached via suicide prevention and response sessions conducted by Alight. In addition, a total of **23 volunteers were trained** on how to look for warning signs, what to do if they think someone is at risk of suicide and where to refer them to access services.



### WATER AND SANITATION

#### Results and Impact

- During the reporting period, water supply was maintained at 26 litres per person per day (l/p/d) in Um Rakuba, 22 l/p/d in Tunaydbah, 23 l/p/d in Village 8 and 10 l/p/d in Hamdayet. This brings the **average available supply of water to 20 l/p/d across all locations**, which falls within the **SPHERE minimum standard** in post-emergency settings.
- **Efforts to improve latrine coverage are ongoing.** 536 latrines have been completed so far in Um Rakuba and an additional 395 are under rehabilitation/construction. 832 have been completed in Tunaydbah and work is ongoing on 480. 113 are finalised in Village 8 and work is ongoing on 60. 162 have been completed in Hamdayet and work is ongoing on 10.
- Over 16,000 refugees in Um Rakuba and close to 20,000 in Tunaydbah **received 450g of soap each.** In addition, 4,000 women and girls in Tunaydbah and 500 in Um Rakuba received dignity kits. Additional distributions are ongoing. Such distributions will play a critical role in improving refugees' awareness of good hygiene.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Efforts are underway to ensure the communal latrine ratio to people is 1:20 in both sites. 50% of latrines are gender segregated in Tunaydbah and work is underway to scale this up in other locations.



### SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIS)

#### Results and Impact

- During the reporting period, UNHCR partner NRC distributed 540 emergency shelter kits (ESKs) in Um Rakuba camp, bringing the total number of kits distributed so far to 1,630 kits out of the planned 5,000 kits. In Tunaydbah, a total of 2,109 out of the planned 5,000 kits have been distributed so far. To date, **over 3,700 ESKs have been distributed in both locations.**

- MEDAIR constructed 540 meters of micro-drainage in Tunaydbah, bringing the total micro-drainage laid to 28,546 meters. This will play a critical role in **reducing the likelihood of flooding**.
- Work on the joint UNHCR-WFP road/drainage and site maintenance project in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah continues. **Phase 1 is almost complete** and minor quick fixes on the roads and drainage networks are ongoing until the start of Phase 2, which will be initiated after the rainy season.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The provision of some materials to **elevate shelter plots in low areas** are in short supply. The operation is looking at ways to address this gap without slowing down flood preparedness interventions.



## CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

### Results and Impact

- UNDP donated **6 motorcycles** to camp police in Tunyadbah (2) and Um Rakuba (4) to facilitate police movement in and around the sites. This will help to improve police monitoring and provide refugees with a greater sense of security.
- **2 out of the 5 planned grinding mills** intended to enable refugees to process food provisions have been installed in Tunaydbah. In Um Rakuba 2 out of the 5 planned grinding mills are operational. Refugees will be able to access these mills free of charge.
- **A mapping of community leadership structures** inside the camps was concluded during the reporting period. These structures are integral to bolstering information sharing between agencies and refugees and will ensure refugees receive the right information in a timely manner while also preserving their protection, access to services and well-being.



Two grinding mills are now operational in Um Rakuba camp © UNHCR

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The delivery of much-needed shelter materials continues to be hampered by **rains which have flooded almost 3.7 kilometers** of the El Fao – Tunaydbah road. Other means of transporting these materials across the flooded section of the road are currently being explored.



## COMMUNICATING WITH COMMUNITIES

### Results and Impact

- An inter-religious leaders' committee was established to **strengthen peaceful co-existence** between the host and refugee communities in Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba. SOPs are currently being drafted by UNHCR, COR and DRC outlining the committees' terms of reference.

- Work is currently ongoing to identify and vet 20 community volunteers (10 in Um Rakuba and 10 in Tunaydbah) by the end of the August. These volunteers will play an important role in identifying at risk individuals and [raising awareness of the dangers of onward irregular movement](#).

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Preparations are underway to conduct a baseline assessment in order to gain an [evidence-based understanding of refugees' intention](#) to leave Sudan. Enumerator training, data collection and focus group discussions are scheduled to take place next week. The outcome of the assessment will feed into the current plan of action to combat Trafficking in Persons.



#### WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

- 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 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 all sub-working groups with the exception of 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 ensure refugees and other people of concern receive the assistance and protection they need.

## 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 **47,000 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.

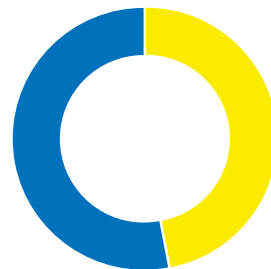
In late November 2020, UNHCR launched the Inter-Agency Refugee Emergency Response Plan, which asked for **USD 147.6 million** to provide lifesaving assistance for **100,000** refugees in eastern Sudan. The plan was revised in May 2021 with **USD 182 million** now required for the response – an increase 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 31 July, **52.7% (USD 95,759,057)** has been received. UNHCR Sudan would like to thank all donors who responded to the appeal for their generous support, which was critical to helping scale up the delivery of basic and essential services.

We are grateful to the following donors for supporting the Ethiopian Emergency situation in eastern Sudan with unearmarked and earmarked funding:

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 31 July 2021)

USD 182 M required



**53% Funded**

USD 95, 759, 057 M

**47% Unfunded**

USD 85, 912, 380 M



### Links

For more information on the Ethiopian Emergency situation in eastern Sudan, please visit the Inter-Agency Information Sharing [Portal](#).

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