

Key Figures


62,814 *

 Estimated arrivals
at border points
as of 23 March

41,181

 Individuals
relocated

20,572

To Um Rakuba camp


20,609

To Tunaydbah settlement


19,000

 Individuals individually
registered (BIMS)
as of 23 March

*Figure is subject to change following ongoing verification exercise in Hamdayet

Key Highlights

- An inter-agency flood mitigation and preparedness plan is underway by UNHCR and COR, ahead of the rainy season expected to start in May.
- UNHCR and WFP started their joint rehabilitation of an overall 56 kilometres road structures to Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah, and extensive drainage work is underway.
- A verification exercise by UNHCR, COR, host and refugee community leaders on the number of refugees currently in Hamdayet is underway.

Priorities

- Continuous individual biometric electronic registration (BIMS) in Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba.
- Preparations of Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah ahead of the rainy season to mitigate flood risks, including drainage work and relocation of shelters in areas most likely to be affected by floods.
- Provision of medical supplies for health services and ramp up of COVID-19 prevention measures.
- Improve the provision and access to cooking fuel in all locations and/or alternative energy sources.

Operational Context

Following the spark of violence in Ethiopia's Tigray region, bordering both Sudan and Eritrea, in early November 2020, thousands of civilians crossed the border into Sudan – mainly in Hamdayet (Kassala State) and Lugdi/Village 8 (Gedaref State). To mitigate potential health, security risks, and offer better living conditions to the newly arrived, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), COR and partners have relocated refugees on a voluntary basis to designated refugee locations further in-land in Gedaref State, away from the border.

Since the start of the crisis, when Sudan saw the arrival of up to thousands of refugees per day, the daily average has now decreased to some 50/100 individuals, the majority of which continue to arrive via Hamdayet. To ensure

the individuals access to protection, COR continues conducting family level registration at Hamdayet and Village 8 transit centres, while UNHCR and COR are jointly registering arrivals in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah using biometric electronic registration (BIMS) and case management at individual level.



UNHCR's Standby Partners in the International Humanitarian Partnership (IHP) completed the construction of a basecamp in Hamdayet to host humanitarian staff in the response. © UNHCR



Protection

- UNHCR agreed with partners to re-establish a protection desk in a shelter by International Medical Corps (IMC) in Hamdayet.
- UNHCR placed protection desks near registration activities in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah to respond to cases identified during the process.
- COR deployed additional staff for crowd control at the registration sites in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah. It also met with registration teams and community leaders to discuss the arrangement of a registration flow.
- A focus group discussion was held with women in Village 8 who raised issues with access to water and hygiene kits.
- UNHCR conducted an assessment focusing on gender-based violence (GBV) in Village 8.
- UNHCR and COR conducted an assessment among non-Tigrayan refugees to identify their needs.





Child/Youth Protection

- Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) continued to facilitate calls between refugees and their relatives. A total of 14 calls in Hamdayet and 207 in Village 8 were successful.
- Plan International (PI) registered and engaged 80 children in recreational activities in its child friendly space (CFS) in Hamdayet, including games and sports.
- In Um Rakuba, a youth centre, run by a volunteer teacher, continued hosting recreational activities, such as volleyball, football and board games.



Education

- Partners agreed to construct semi-permanent classrooms ahead of the rainy season.
- The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) received funding from UNHCR to conduct secondary and youth livelihood initiatives. The project activities are still being discussed.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Partners agreed to start building temporary learning spaces (TLSs) in Tunaydbah, as well as implementing parallel activities, including training of teachers, identification and registration of students. ■ NRC established two TLCs with five classrooms each for children at primary education level in Um Rakuba. The TLC also hosted temporary learning activities for children at secondary education level. The construction of a third TLC is expected to start soon. ■ A group of refugee youth formed the Tigrayan Refugee University Students (TRUSS) Association in Um Rakuba aiming at supporting advocacy for higher level education, community sensitization, translation and other activities. In Tunaydbah, refugee youth formed the Tegar University Students Union with similar objectives.
 Health and Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ UNHCR and Alight identified 180 persons with specific needs in Hamdayet, Tunaydbah, Village 8 and Um Rakuba and referred them to service providers for support. It included elderly, separated children, persons with chronic diseases and disabilities, and women at risk. ■ Alight's specialist provided five cases with direct psychosocial support in Um Rakuba. ■ Alight assessed the needs of pregnant mothers in Um Rakuba's Zone 3 to provide them with mosquito nets and baby kits. ■ The preparations of the flood preparedness plan for health continued. ■ UNHCR and partners continued its regular mass screenings for malnutrition among children. ■ The sub-working Group on mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) held discussions to develop training plans and build capacities of frontline workers, aimed to address current challenges in mental health supplies and services.
 Food Security and Livelihoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ UNDP allocated 900 solar stoves for Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah to replace traditional cooking stoves and fuel. ■ The Forest National Corporation (FCN) distributed 2,000 fuel-efficient cooking stoves to Um Rakuba, as well as a big stove with firewood to Muslim Aid's community kitchen, with the latter intended to be used only in case of an emergency. ■ Humanitarian Relief Foundation (IHH) distributed 90 kilos charcoal to 140 families each, as part of a distribution targeting 1,500 families in Tunaydbah. ■ WFP continued its monthly food distribution.



WaSH Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- A disposal site in Tunaydbah was identified for solid waste. CARE is preparing a plan for solid waste management, which includes collection of waste using tuk-tuks, while other partners have started cleaning campaigns.
- The sector held meetings with refugee community representatives in Tunaydbah and Um Rakuba. The need for cleaning materials and WaSH training was raised. Focus group discussions (FGDs) are also being planned in both sites to understand the water consumption and preferences for hygiene kits among refugees.
- Water trucking in Um Rakuba continued, with a daily water production ranging between 11.5 litres and 17.4 litres per person, depending on the available power supply.
- UNHCR and partners continued the construction and rehabilitation of boreholes in Um Rakuba. ZOA International Sudan drilled two boreholes in Zone 3, of which one is now operational. CARE is in the process of rehabilitating one in Zone 1 and drilling another in Zone 4. UNICEF is also planning to drill a borehole but is yet to set on the location. Once all completed the water supply will be above the camp's total demand of 723 m3.



Shelter and Non-Food Items

- Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Alight and COR delivered new core relief items (CRIs) to six families whose tent was destroyed in a fire in Um Rakuba, until they can be relocated to a new site.
- UNHCR identified 380 shelters in Um Rakuba which will be prioritized for relocation to mitigate risks of flooding during rainy season. To inform and include the affected refugees in the relocation plans, UNHCR met with community leaders.
- COR and partners supported the construction of over 8,100 emergency shelters in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah. The shelters will serve as temporary measures to provide newly relocated refugees from the border locations with a minimum standard of living until they can move to permanent shelters. In Hamdayet, 12 communal shelters were also completed to accommodate newly arrivals until they can be relocated further inland.

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