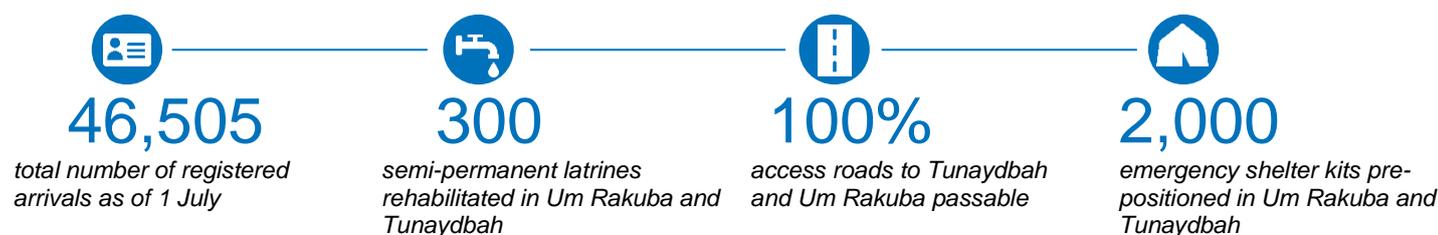


Emergency Response to Tigray Situation Weekly Update #1

Key Figures



Operational Highlights

Protection

The mood in the four refugee-hosting sites in Gedaref (Um Rakuba, Tunaydbah, Hamdayet and Village 8) continued to remain hopeful following last week's announcement by the Government of Ethiopia of an immediate and unilateral ceasefire in Ethiopia's Tigray region. While focus group discussions and other sources of information indicate refugees are keen to return home, many feel the need to remain in Sudan until the ceasefire between the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) and government forces is formalised. Given the fragile and dynamic context back home, refugees are triangulating information from various sources to enable them to make an informed decision on possible return. There are also concerns raised by the refugees on likely landmines, unexploded ordnances, and other remnants of war in the region. Despite this, some refugees have an indicated an interest in leaving the camps for Hamdayet – the closest staging point/area to the Tigray region.

In the meantime, the operation is reviewing its response plan for a possible influx from Ethiopia. CRIs have also been pre-positioned in Hamdayet and Village 8.

Except for family reunification, un-accompanied minors and medical cases, relocation from Hamdayet remains suspended pending authorization by the local authorities. Sustained advocacy at all levels with all the competent authorities continues so as to resume relocations from Hamdayet and to provide customs clearance for refugees' various assets in Village 8, which also include moveable heavy machinery.

As of 1 July, **18,767** individuals were registered in Um Rakuba and **19,221** in Tunaydbah. **5,443** individuals were biometrically enrolled in Hamdayet and **3,074** individuals in Village 8.

Protection by Presence

The operation has scaled up its protection presence and established integrated protection desks. In the last three weeks, there has been an increase in the number of people turning up for support to the protection desks in Um Rakuba, Tuneydbah and Hamdayet. While on 27 June, only **5 people** approached the protection desks for assistance, on 6 July, this figure increased to **25 people**,

thus indicating refugees' confidence in the service. Moreover, the type of complaints received has also shifted from being mostly shelter related to include complaints ranging from security, requests for additional assistance by persons with specific needs as well as combined shelter and protection needs. The trends will continue to be analysed by the operation.

Relocation of Tigray from Blue Nile to Tunaydbah

The operation has agreed to relocate some **94 Tigray individuals** to refugee sites in eastern Sudan after several confrontations between Gumuz and Tigray refugees currently residing in Camp 6. The tension between the two groups has been mounting for quite time due to the situation inside Ethiopia.

Sudan's Commission for Refugees (COR) and state security entities have given the go ahead for the relocation to Gederaf State. A relocation plan detailing the actions required and timeframe has been devised and is ready for implementation.

As of 5 July, there are a total of **1,896 asylum seekers** in Camp 6.

Flood Preparedness

Flood preparedness continued to be scaled up in the operation amid an increase in sporadic showers and heavy winds during the reporting period. As more rains are anticipated in eastern Sudan, UNHCR and partners are currently coordinating to quickly respond to the urgent needs of the population and to mitigate future climate shocks.

Following the destruction of several shelters due to bad weather, as of 8 July, a total of:

- **1,250** emergency shelter kits have been pre-positioned for distribution in Tunaydbah
- Some **800** emergency shelter kits have been pre-positioned for distribution in Um Rakuba
- **220** emergency shelter kits have been distributed in Tunaydbah
- **311** temporary shelters have been rehabilitated in Tunaydbah

Of the **22 latrines** damaged by the latest storms in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah, all were rehabilitated by UNHCR and partners. The construction of semi-permanent latrines in both camps is also ongoing. So far, **266 out of 906** semi-permanent latrines have been completed in Tunaydbah and **40 out of 600** semi-permanent latrines in Um Rakuba.

In addition, a cholera vaccination campaign targeting refugees in all locations was recently concluded during the reporting period. This will be critical to mitigating the risk of a huge spike in cholera cases during the rainy

season. Through IRC, UNHCR availed 1 ambulance for Tunaydbah to support the referral mechanism. **8,000 doses** of COVID-19 vaccinations have also been availed by the Ministry of Health with support from WHO, targeting people aged 45 years and above and those with chronic illnesses.

Access roads to Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah camps are now **100% passable** although some minor quick fixes are being carried out. This is part of a joint UNHCR-WFP project intended to bolster flood preparedness thereby guaranteeing access during rainy season. In the meantime, work to elevate critical service structures in flood prone areas, construct emergency communal latrines, pre-position essential supplies and equipment, including tractors, and rehabilitate damaged International Humanitarian Base Camp structures, is ongoing.

The operation also began rolling out UNHCR's global distribution tool (GDT) for the first time since the influx. GDT is UNHCR's corporate tool for identity management and assistance tracking at the point of assistance distribution. It uses biometrics to verify refugee identities during distribution, speeding up the process and at the same time minimizing avenues for fraud and preventing unauthorised collection. Through partners, **3,400 households** in Um Rakuba and Hamdayet received core-relief items, including blankets, mosquito nets, cooking sets, jerry cans and sleeping mats, and over **2,600 households** in Tunaydbah received multi-purpose cash assistance through NRC during the reporting period.

Key Priorities and Identified Needs

- The immediate priority for the operation is to implement the agreed plan of action – a living document intended to provide an overview of the short- and medium -term priorities for the operation across several critical areas, which outlines the steps being taken to address them covering a period of six months.
- Scaling up the distribution of ESKs and CRIs before the rains intensify is another priority. However, increased rains in the last have delayed some distributions and hampered the provision of selected materials for the WFP-UNHCR road and drainage construction project. A new quarry has been identified for provision of selected materials in Al Faw and in the interim, alternative solutions are being explored, including the use of donkey carts and tractors to help increase the distribution quota.
- UNHCR and partners will continue to scale up protection by presence efforts in all sites following an increase in the number of refugees turning up at the protection desks in Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah.
- Internet connectivity inside the camps was severely affected by heavy rains this week. UNHCR is deploying IT support to see how this challenge can be resolved.

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