



Hand print painting by children in Um Rakuba camp at the community centre opening ceremony December 9th, 2021

Refugee & Host Community Response in Eastern Sudan

Community Centre in Um Rakuba Refugee Camp

Since November 2020, when the conflict erupted between Ethiopia's federal forces and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) in neighbouring Ethiopia's Tigray region, an influx of over 60 thousand refugees have escaped in search for shelter, protection and assistance into Kassala and Gedaref States in eastern Sudan. DRC, funded by the European Union under the Instrument Contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) is working to deliver assistance and support the needs of the refugees and host community in Gedaref state in order to improve life in the camp and host community and ensure dignity.

In Um Rakuba camp, DRC has worked with the Ethiopian refugees to build and establish a community centre with the purpose of providing a safe space where refugees can socialize with each other. This community centre offers a sense of community and facilitates interaction as well as tension reduction thus building bonds between different generations. The opening ceremony of the centre took place on December 9th, 2021. It was attended by the women committee (42 women), adolescent girls part of the structured psychosocial support groups (30 girls), music band (45 participants) and people from the refugee community. The opening ceremony included several activities and performances such as traditional dances, martial arts performed by children, paintings to say stop to gender based violence (GBV), theatre. At the end of the ceremony a march took place from the community centre to the DRC office with a megaphone to say stop violence against women.

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The adolescent girls' group also participated by presenting art work composed of their hand print along with a note about their hopes, dreams and what they aspire to be as adults.



Dance show at the opening ceremony of the Community Centre

The last activity of the day was a march where the participants from the centre to the camp gate raising awareness about the centre and spreading key messages to end violence against women and girls. In the community centre, DRC is facilitating awareness sessions on rights, capacity building sessions for community networks, including women committees, and psychosocial support (PSS) sessions targeting different groups including isolated elderly and people with chronic illness, women with unwanted pregnancies and adolescent girls, etc.

Rahwa, Yohana and Elan are between 14 and 18 years old, they are taking part in the psychosocial support group sessions for adolescent girls.

“I learn in the community centre how to solve my problems and to build my mind, this is the most important for me today”

Rahwa, 18 years-old

“I feel freedom when I come here, thank you for our teacher, I love to come to the community centre”

Elan, 14 years-old

“I am very stressed in my home in the shelter, after I come to the community centre, I feel a lot better, we learn, we laugh, we find support”

Yohana, 16 years-old



March through the camp to say stop to violence against women

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The Danish Refugee Council is a leading, international humanitarian displacement organization, supporting refugees and internally displaced persons during displacement, in exile, when settling and integrating in a new place, or upon return. We provide protection and life-saving humanitarian assistance. We support displaced persons in becoming self-reliant and included into hosting societies - and we work with communities, civil society and responsible authorities to promote protection of rights and peaceful coexistence. Founded in Denmark in 1956, 9,000 staff, 7,500 volunteers.