



## Key Events

- IOM continues to face a funding gap to assist the Ethiopians repatriated from Saudi Arabia. Some 144,507 people were so far repatriated, nearly a fivefold increase on the 30,000 people initially expected to return.
- An estimated 40,000 Kenyans crossed into Ethiopia's Moyale *woredas*, fleeing inter-communal conflict in northern Kenya. An Incident Command Post (ICP), led by the DRMFS, was established to coordinate the humanitarian response.
- As the dry season progresses over the next couple of months, water trucking needs will increase in the chronically water-stressed areas of the country.

## Update on Saudi Returnees

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) continues to face a substantial funding gap to assist the large number of Ethiopians repatriated from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). From 13 November- when the repatriation started – to 22 December, 144,507 Ethiopians were repatriated: 88,976 men, 47,854 women and 7,677 children, including 330 unaccompanied minors (UAM). This is nearly a fivefold increase on the 30,000 people initially expected to return. The Government expects an additional 35,000 returnees. IOM further revised the expected number of arrivals to 155,000, up from 120,000 last week. The arrivals are provided with food, water, NFIs, health and psychological services and transportation support. 292 of the 330 UAMs were also reunited with their families. As of 19 December, IOM reported a funding gap of \$12.35 million of the \$20.15 million required for the operation. For more information, contact: [sdimanche@iom.int](mailto:sdimanche@iom.int)

## Moyale Update

At the end of November, renewed inter-communal conflict in northern Kenya pushed thousands of Kenyans into Ethiopia's Moyale *woredas* (Somali and Oromia regions). The Ethiopian Government estimates that 40,000 people have crossed the border in this recent influx. The new arrivals are staying with their relatives and sharing scarce resources. A joint Government and humanitarian partners mission last week identified food, WaSH, shelter/NFIs and health to be the priority needs. An Incident Command Post (ICP), led by the Government's Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector (DRMFS), was established to coordinate the response. DRMFS, in partnership with WFP and JEOP, will dispatch a one-month relief food ration to the entire caseload. Water trucks will also be deployed to meet the immediate water needs, while the ICP will coordinate with the Moyale towns' administration on the possible use of existing water supply systems. Hygiene promotion activities will be supported by UNICEF. Health, Shelter and NFI support will also be provided. For more information, contact: [infodrmfs@dppc.gov.et](mailto:infodrmfs@dppc.gov.et)

## WaSH Update

Water shortages continue to be reported in drought-prone areas of Afar and Tigray regions, affecting an estimated 122,000 people. At present, one of three water trucks requested in Afar and two of eight trucks requested in Tigray are operational. The Tigray Regional Water Bureau, with UNICEF support, will soon deploy three additional water trucks for Shire, Shiraro and Saesie Tsaeda Emba *woredas*, Tigray region. As the dry season progresses over the next couple of months, water trucking needs will increase in the chronically water-stressed areas of the country. Meanwhile, the Government and WaSH partners continue to support sustainable water supply systems. In Oromia region, more than 11,500 people benefitted from the expansion and maintenance of four water supply schemes in Gololcha *woreda* of Arsi zone, Midega Tola *woreda* of East Hararge zone and Sawena *woreda* of Bale zone. Similarly, in SNNPR, the rehabilitation and maintenance of water supply schemes are on-going in 27 drought-prone and flood-affected *woredas*. For more information, contact [awesterbeek@unicef.org](mailto:awesterbeek@unicef.org)

## Refugee Update

In November, more than 2,500 new refugees were registered in Ethiopia, the majority (70 per cent) of whom were from Eritrea. The average monthly arrival rate of Eritrean refugees remains high, and stands at between 1,500 to 2000 refugees. Before this sudden surge nine months ago, the average monthly arrival rate for several years stood at between 800 to 1000 people. Among the new Eritrean arrivals are unaccompanied minors (UAM), some as young as six, requiring special assistance and protection. UNHCR is leading an inter-agency task force that is looking into ways to better protect the UAMs, and find solutions to their plight. The new arrivals are accommodated in the new Hitsats camp in Tigray region, which has a capacity of 20,000 people. As of 13 December, more than 8,000 refugees were hosted in the camp. At the end of November, Ethiopia hosted 427,077 refugees from Somalia (56 per cent), Eritrea (19 per cent), South Sudan (16 per cent), Sudan (7 per cent) and refugees from several other countries (1 per cent). For more information, contact: [gegziabk@unhcr.org](mailto:gegziabk@unhcr.org)

## Relief food update

As of 18 December, distribution of the fifth round of relief food assistance stood at 95 per cent and the sixth round at 46 per cent. Allocations for the seventh round are on-going and food dispatch is expected to start soon. The seventh round of relief food assistance will be at full ration and full basket in all areas, except in DRMFS-assisted areas where beneficiaries will receive a reduced ration of corn soya blend (CSB). For more information, contact [wfp.addisababa@wfp.org](mailto:wfp.addisababa@wfp.org)

No information received from Agriculture, Nutrition, Education and Health sectors this week