

8 December 2014

KEY EVENTS

- Between 17 November (when the relocation started) and 6 December, UNHCR and IOM relocated 5,667 South Sudanese refugees from Matar way station to Pugnido camp.
- *Woredas* in the lowlands of Oromia that did not receive enough rain to replenish water sources continue to report water shortages. During the week, six water trucks provided water to an estimated 59,542 people.
- On 4 December, the Government's Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector (DRMFSS) launched the Disaster Risk Management Strategic Program and Investment Framework (DRM-SPIF) in the presence of donors, UN and NGO partners.

Refugee relocation from Matar to Pugnido continues

The average daily arrival rate of South Sudanese refugees to Ethiopia remained low, with 53 daily arrivals registered last week, compared to an average daily arrival of 566 people since the beginning of the year. There is growing concern that the arrival number will spike as more roads become accessible and river crossing possible. Nearly 194,000 South Sudanese have sought refuge in Ethiopia since December 2013.

Meanwhile, UNHCR, with transportation support from IOM, continues to relocate refugees from Matar way station to Pugnido camp. Between 17 November (when the relocation started) and 6 December, 5,667 people – of the 15,000 awaiting relocation – were transferred to Pugnido. On 2 December, the Gambella Rural Road Authority started rehabilitating the Gambella-Matar road. Once completed, the road will improve access to Lietchor and Nip Nip camps and Matar way station. As of 3 December, the South Sudanese refugee operation in Ethiopia was 49 per cent funded. For more information, contact gegziabk@unhcr.org

Water shortages continue to be reported in parts of Oromia

Seasonal rains over the past weeks improved water availability in most of the south and south eastern pastoralist areas. Consequently, the water trucking operation in Miyo *woreda* of Borena zone in Oromia region ceased operation. However, *woredas* in the lowlands of Oromia that did not receive enough rain to replenish water sources continue to report water shortages. During the week, six water trucks provided water to an estimated 59,542 people in Borena (3 trucks), East Hararge (2 trucks) and West Hararge (1 truck) zones. In Afar region, three water trucks operated by UNHCR supplied water for 6,000 refugees in Berhale *woreda*. No water trucking requirements were reported in other regions of the country.

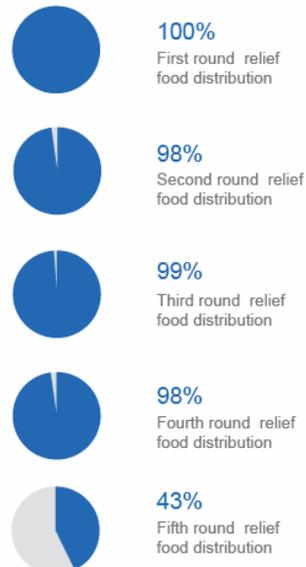
Most parts of Amhara region, with the exception of North Shewa, Oromia and Wag Himra zones, reported unseasonal rains in the first half of November, confirming to the National Meteorological Agency (NMA) 2014-2015 *bega* season forecast released on 24 September. The extended rains negatively affected matured crops, including the staple *teff*. The cessation of the rains in most *woredas* in the region in the second half of November allowed harvest and post-harvest activities. As of the end of November, 26 per cent (1,151,299ha) of the planted *meher* cropland (4,370,286ha) in Amhara was harvested.

The Government and WaSH partners continue to rehabilitate non-functional water schemes throughout the country. Concerns were raised over the inadequate emergency WaSH response in the flood-affected Dassenech and Nyangatom *woredas* of South Omo zone in SNNPR. Reportedly, 36 per cent of the water supply systems in Dassenech and 34 per cent of the systems in Nyangatom are not functional. The limited number of working water sources obliges people to use water from unprotected water sources, which heightens the risk for acute watery diarrhoea and other water-related diseases. In Afar region, the Ministry of Water reported a budget shortfall to repair the flood-damaged water schemes in the region. For more information, contact awesterbeek@unicef.org

The Government officially launches the DRM-SPIF

On 4 December, the Government's Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector (DRMFSS) launched the Disaster Risk Management Strategic Program and Investment Framework (DRM-SPIF) in the presence of donors, UN and NGO partners. The DRM-SPIF was developed by DRMFSS to effectively implement the National DRM policy, which came into effect in July 2013. The Ethiopian government has been taking steps towards disaster risk management and resilience building to address chronic vulnerabilities. For more information, contact ocha-eth@un.org

Relief Food Distribution (as of 3 December 2014)



Source : WFP