

20 April 2015

Key Issues:

- IOM assisted the return of nearly 170 Ethiopians from Yemen. IOM evacuated nearly 300 people from more than 20 countries through the humanitarian bridge to Khartoum. Direct flights from Sanaa to Ethiopia are also expected to begin in the coming days.
- The Government allocated resources to procure 5000MT of maize to cover shortfalls in the first round relief food ration.
- In support of the communities affected by the delayed rains in Borena zone, the HRF supported five projects (nutrition, WaSH, and livelihood sectors) at a cost of US\$1.6 million.
- Eritrean continued to be the largest group of new arrivals during March. Ethiopia hosts nearly 683,000 refugees.

Update on the conditions in Borena zone, Oromia region

Until the first *dekad* (10 days) of April, the rains in Borena zone (southern Oromia region) were significantly below normal. The poor performance of the *hagaya* (March-May) rains during March affected nearly 1.3 million people in 13 *woredas* in the zone. The contribution of the *hagaya* (short) rains is significant for the availability of water and pasture as well as the production of short cycle crops in agro-pastoralist areas. The Government and partners are mobilizing resources to respond to the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Borena zone. The HRF supported five projects (nutrition, WaSH and livelihood sectors) at a cost of US\$1.6 million.

Agricultural situation in the zone

Reduced rangeland productivity decreased the amount of milk produced by livestock. Reportedly, more than 9,000 livestock died due to feed shortages and livestock body conditions deteriorated. Local authorities secured 200,000 bales of grass hay to support households in 10 lowland *woredas*, while NGO partners supplemented grass hay with concentrate to increase livestock body conditions. However, with livestock increasingly vulnerable, commercial destocking is urgently required for nearly 262,000 heads of cattle.

Water availability, hygiene and sanitation

The rains during the first *dekad* of April alleviated the extreme water shortages. Consequently, water trucking activities were suspended on 7-8 April. Local authorities and humanitarian partners supported the water rationing activities. However gaps in hygiene services and in sachets of water treatment chemicals remain unmet.

Nutritional conditions

Increasing moderate acute malnutrition cases were reported in Arero, Bule Hora, Melka Soda and Miyo *woredas*, while complicated SAM cases were reported in Abaya and Gelana *woredas*. Enhanced nutritional interventions are required to manage these cases. In addition, 776 suspected measles cases were reported in several *woredas*, with the highest numbers in Bule Hora with 431 suspected cases. Out of the ETB 561,296 required to conduct a measles vaccination campaign and procure supplies for case management, the regional government provided ETB 220,000, leaving a financing gap of ETB 341,296.



assessment in the area identified an additional 10,000 people that require food assistance. For more information, contact ocha-eth@un.org

Relief food assistance

Some 106,000 people in the zone were identified as requiring relief food assistance during the December 2014 *meher* assessment. The delayed rains reduced the availability of income sources, thus reducing people's access to markets. Given the impact of the delayed rains in the zone, the mid-March 2015 joint

Ethiopia hosts more than 682,761 refugees

Ethiopia hosts the biggest refugee population in Africa, hosting more than 682,761 individuals by the end of March. Refugees from South Sudan account for the biggest refugee population with 261,643 individuals, followed by Somali refugees (246,206 individuals) and Eritreans (133,348). Like in previous months, Eritreans were the largest group of new arrivals in March with 3,636 new registered arrivals, followed by 1,171 South Sudanese in Gambella and 977 Somalis in Dollo Ado. In the first two weeks of April the arrival rate of South Sudanese refugees into Gambella increased with 1,324 refugees registered in Akobo entry points. The majority of the new arrivals came from Jonglei State and cited violence and alleged reports of forced recruitment of young men as their main reason for flight. IOM will facilitate the boat relocation of the new arrivals in Akobo. All new arrivals in Pagak were relocated to Pugnido camp. The relocation of refugees from Leitchor to the newly established Jewii camp has not yet commenced due to logistical and security constraints. For more information, contact gegziabk@unhcr.org