

11 August 2014

KEY EVENTS

- WHO procured 200,000 doses of meningitis vaccines in response to the increasing meningitis caseload nationwide and ahead of the meningitis epidemic season starting in October 2014.
- In Gambella region, monitoring visits and health assessments conducted since May 2014 revealed critical resource gaps in the public health systems of the refugee hosting *woredas*.
- Despite the current near-normal *karan* (mid-July to September) rains in parts of Somali region, critical water shortages persist.

KEY FIGURES

**South Sudanese
refuge arrivals (since
mid-December).** 184,254
Source: UNHCR

**South Sudanese
refugees awaiting
relocation to camps** 17,335

Source: UNHCR

Relief Food Distribution as of 6 August 2014



Source: WFP

Health Update

In the first week of August, 160 suspected measles cases were reported nationwide, 50 per cent reported from Amhara and Oromia regions. In 2014, the Government and partners responded to 202 measles outbreaks across 189 *woredas*, the majority in Amhara (61 outbreaks), Oromia (75 outbreaks) and SNNP (31 outbreaks) regions. 69 per cent of the confirmed cases were children under-15. Increasing numbers of meningitis cases are being reported from Amhara, Gambella, Oromia, SNNP and Tigray regions. 26 cases were reported from Amhara and SNNP regions in the first week of August alone. WHO procured 200,000 doses of meningitis vaccines in response to the increasing meningitis caseload and ahead of the meningitis epidemic season starting in October 2014.

In Gambella region, monitoring visits and health assessments conducted since May 2014 revealed critical gaps in human resources, medical supplies and funds in the public health systems of the refugee hosting *woredas*. Among other services, the public health facilities in these *woredas* provide EPI and maternal health care to the refugees. Without adequate and timely support, the health system's capacity will likely further weaken, given the increasing refugee influx and growing public health challenges amongst the refugee community. At present, an Hepatitis E outbreak is confirmed in the refugee camps and entry points, suspected cases of yellow fever are being reported, there is a high risk of an acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) outbreak, and the poor nutritional status of the refugees puts them increasingly at risk of contracting diseases.

In July 2014, the WHO Director General declared Ebola a public health emergency in West Africa. Countries in close proximity with and those that make frequent travels to the countries affected by an Ebola outbreak (Liberia, Guinea, Nigeria and Sierra Leone) were advised to strengthen their outbreak preparedness and surveillance capacity. To this effect, Ethiopia's Federal Ministry of Health conducted an Ebola outbreak orientation workshop for health professionals in Addis Ababa and is enhancing preparedness activities. For more information, contact: who-wro@et.afro.who.int

Refugee Update

As of 8 August, more than 184,000 South Sudanese refugees arrived in Ethiopia's Gambella region. The influx continues at a current average daily arrival rate of 841 people. The new arrivals in Akobo and Burubiey entry points are relocated to Matar way station, and the refugees in Pagak entry point are relocated to the new Pamdong transit centre. The relocation to Pamdong started on 2 August, while the development of basic infrastructures is on-going. UNHCR and partners are developing a new camp to be named Nip Nip. Flood-affected refugees will be prioritized for relocation to the new camp. More than 17,000 new refugee arrivals await relocation to camps. Meanwhile, a joint mission to Okugu camp in Dimma *woreda* revealed that the camp can accommodate an estimated 35,000 refugees, including the 6,000 refugees already hosted in the camp. UNHCR and partners are working on an action plan for the relocation exercise, as well as on an expansion of the camp. Okugu camp is 400 kilometres away and takes two days to reach by road. For more information, contact gegziabk@unhcr.org

WaSH Update

Despite the on-going near-normal *karan* (mid-July to September) rains in parts of Somali region, critical water shortages persist. At present, only six water trucks are operating in the region. Similarly, critical water shortages continue to be reported in the drought-prone areas of Afar and Oromia regions. 12 of 15 water trucks requested are operational in Afar, while 19 of 28 water trucks requested are operational in Oromia. For more information, contact awesterbeek@unicef.org

No information received from Education, Agriculture and Nutrition sectors