**WEEKLY HUMANITARIAN HIGHLIGHTS IN ETHIOPIA**

**17 February 2014**

**Key Events**

- During the past week, three additional woredas in Bale and East Hararge zones of Oromia region reported water shortages. Meanwhile, discussions are on-going regarding the exploitation of existing water harvesting mechanisms, or building new ones, ahead of the March rainy season in Afar region.
- The number of measles cases surged to 3,162 since mid-January. The majority of cases are reported from SNNPR.
- The number of yellow fever cases reported in South Omo zone, SNNPR increased to 155 during the same period.
- Gambella region continues to witness a large influx of South Sudanese asylum seekers. While the majority of the new arrivals are in Akobo (24,630 people), an increasing number of people are arriving in Pagak (12,578 people) and Matar (3,788 people in February).

**WASH Update**

During the past week, additional water shortages were reported in drought-affected woredas of Oromia region. Nineteen water trucks – up from 15 trucks last week – were requested to meet the water needs of nearly 130,000 people in Bale and East Hararge zones. At present, four operating water trucks are reaching some 30,000 people. The Oromia Water Mines and Energy Bureau is working to deploy additional trucks, and called on the federal Ministry of Water, UNICEF and NGOs for support. The water trucking demands in Afar (seven trucks) and Tigray (eight trucks) regions remain the same. Three water trucks operating in Afar are benefitting some 10,700 people, leaving a gap of four water trucks in Bidi, Dupi and Eldid woredas. In Tigray region, all requested water trucks were deployed to benefit more than 109,000 people in Eastern Tigray, North Western Tigray and South Tigray zones. Meanwhile, discussions to exploit existing water harvesting mechanisms, or build new ones, ahead of the rainy season in March in Afar region are on-going. For more information, contact awesterbeek@unicef.org

**Health Update**

The number of reported measles cases in the country surged since mid-January. So far in 2014, 3,162 suspected cases were reported from Amhara, Oromia, SNNP and Tigray regions, of which 825 cases were reported in February, the majority (92 per cent) from Gedeo, Sidama and Wolayita zones of SNNPR. Initially planned for 11 January, the measles vaccination campaign targeting 6.8 million children under-15 in Oromia, SNNP and Somali regions continues to be delayed due to funding shortfalls. Also in SNNPR, since the peak of the outbreak in May 2013, 155 yellow fever cases and 54 deaths were reported from South Omo, zone. An investigative team was sent to the area to verify the suspected new outbreak since January 2014.

Meanwhile, the number of polio cases in Ethiopia remains at nine. All cases were reported from Bhok, Geladi and Warder woredas of Doolo zone, Somali region. The supplementary polio immunization campaign (SIA), which started on 24 January, is on-going. The campaign is targeting 3.1 million children under-15 in Somali region, five woredas in Bale zone of Oromia region, and three refugee camps in Benishangul Gumuz, Gambella and Somali regions. Preliminary reports of the 27 – 30 December national immunization campaign (NID) indicate 98 per cent immunization coverage. The Horn of Africa wild polio virus outbreak currently accounts for 55 per cent of global polio cases (386 cases) with 190 cases in Somalia, 14 cases in Kenya and nine cases in Ethiopia. For more information, contact wro@et.afro.who.int

**Refugee Update**

Ethiopia continues to witness a large influx of South Sudanese asylum seekers since the conflict erupted in mid-December. As of 12 February, 42,366 South Sudanese new arrivals were registered in Gambella region. While the majority of the new arrivals are in Akobo (24,630 people), an increasing number of people arriving in February are reaching Pagak (12,578 people) and Matar (3,788 people). Burubiey, Raad and Pochalla are additional entry points. Since 23 January, the Government refugee agency, ARRA and UNHCR, with IOM support, relocated more than 9,700 new arrivals to the new Lietchor camp. Initially scheduled for 1 February, the relocation of the Akobo caseload was postponed until the procured life vests, necessary for the boat transportation, are cleared from customs.

A level 1 registration is conducted at all entry points. In Lietchor camp, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) is assisting with shelter development, while WFP is providing food. In Pagak, the Regional Health Bureau established a health post, with UNICEF support, while the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) is constructing sanitation facilities and emergency water treatment kits dispatched to the area for the provision of clean water. Health partners are providing polio and measles vaccinations to children in Lietchor camp and Pagak area. The polio and measles vaccination, the distribution of mosquito nets and a nutrition screening started in Akobo on 10 February. The Government refugee agency, ARRA, UNHCR and partners expect as many as 120,000 South Sudanese asylum seekers in Gambella and 30,000 in Benishangul Gumuz region in the near future. For more information, contact gegziabk@unhcr.org

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