



Key Events

- For the first time in decades, on 14 May, desert locust swarms invaded parts of Addis Ababa. Afar, Oromia, Somali regions and Dire Dawa city are also affected by the locust infestation. Humanitarian and development partners have urged the Government to further intensify its response efforts to wipe out the locusts ahead of the *belg* harvest season in June.
- Conforming to seasonal trends, admissions of severely malnourished (SAM) children to Therapeutic Feeding Program (TFP) sites increased in SNNP, Amhara and East Hararge zone of Oromia regions. The nutrition situation in Tigray region is reportedly stable, while the TFP admission trend for March is not clear for Afar and Somali regions due to the low reporting rates. The Government and partners have strengthened nutrition interventions in pocket areas that registered alarming nutrition situations.
- Given the increasing South Sudanese refugee influx, UNHCR now expects between 300,000 and 350,000 refugees in Gambella by December 2014.

Desert locust swarms invade parts of Addis Ababa

For the first time in decades, on 14 May, desert locust swarms invaded parts of Addis Ababa. The swarms migrated from neighbouring Somaliland, and were first seen in Ethiopia in March in Awbere *woreda* of Fafan zone, Somali region. The desert locust infestation later spread to Dire Dawa city and parts of Afar and eastern Oromia regions before reaching Addis Ababa. In the past three weeks, six aerial control operations covering 2,910 hectares of land and ground control operations covering 370 hectares were implemented in Dire Dawa, Oromia and Somali using 3,670 litres of pesticide. Should the locust infestation continue, the food security of communities in affected areas will negatively be affected as the availability of pasture for livestock will diminish and the *belg* harvest destroyed. Humanitarian and development partners have urged the Government to further intensify its response efforts to wipe out the locusts ahead of the *belg* harvest season in June. For more information, contact: ocha-eth@un.org

Nutrition Update

In March, 20,037 severely malnourished (SAM) children were admitted to Therapeutic Feeding Program (TFP) sites (80.1 per cent reporting) in six regions prone to nutrition emergencies. Looking at regional trends, TFP admissions increased by 8.9 per cent in SNNPR from 4,639 admissions in February to 5,050 in March (87.5 per cent reporting), which conforms to the seasonal trend. The March 2014 TFP caseload in SNNP is 30 per cent lower compared to the same time last year. Similarly, TFP admissions in Amhara region registered a 21 per cent increase between February (3,728 cases) and March (4,502 cases) at 93 per cent reporting. The increase is partly associated with the Community Health Day (CHD) mass nutrition screening conducted in March and the deteriorating food security in *belg*-dependent areas, especially *woredas* in North Wollo zone, and pocket areas in *meher*-dependent *woredas*, particularly in Waghimra zone. In East Hararge zone of Oromia region, TFP admissions slightly increased by 3.4 per cent between February and March (95 per cent reporting). The March 2014 admissions are 11 per cent lower compared to March 2013. The nutrition situation in Tigray region is reportedly stable, despite seasonal fluctuations in TFP admissions associated with CHD screenings. The regional TFP admission trend for March is not clear for Afar and Somali regions due to the low reporting rates.

However, an ad hoc nutrition survey conducted by GOAL in Afdera *woreda* of Afar region revealed a critical nutrition situation with GAM and SAM prevalence of 20.7 and 3.9 per cent respectively. The crude and under-five mortality rates were reportedly normal as per the national and sphere standard emergency thresholds. DRMFSS' Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (ENCU) engaged Save the Children International (funded by UNICEF) and APDA (funded by OFDA) to strengthen emergency nutrition responses in Afdera, Elidar and Teru *woredas* of Afar region. Similar ad hoc nutrition surveys in Oromia region revealed a normal nutrition situation in Bule Hora and Dhas *woredas* of Borena zone (GAM rates below 6 per cent); a poor nutrition situation in Dawe Kechen *woreda* of Bale zone (11.2 per cent GAM, with the absence of elements that aggravate the malnutrition level); and a serious nutrition situation in Meyu Muluke *woreda* of East Hararge zone (12.3 per cent GAM, with the presence of aggravating factors). The crude and under-five mortality rates were reportedly normal as per the national and sphere standard emergency thresholds. ENCU, in consultation with GOAL, engaged IMC (funded by OFDA) to strengthen emergency nutrition interventions in Meyu Muluke *woreda*. For more information, contact isaack.manyama1@gmail.com

Refugee Update

So far in May, an estimated 27,000 South Sudanese refugees – compared to 12,200 refugees in April – arrived in Gambella region following the escalation of violence in Nassir town of Upper Nile state (South Sudan) on 4 May. This brought the number of refugee arrivals from South Sudan since mid-December to some 125,000 people. Given the increasing influx, UNHCR, the Government refugee agency (ARRA) and partners increased the planning figure to between 300,000 and 350,000 South Sudanese refugee arrivals by December 2014. The expected refugee arrival figure has already been revised four times from an initial figure of 30,000 people. UNHCR and ARRA, together with partners, continue to scale up their response efforts in all camps and major entry points, including Akobo Tiergol, Pagak and Burubiey. In addition to the 4,000 tents airlifted to Gambella on 24 April, UNHCR started airlifting 5,000 tents and more than 25,000 kitchen sets to Gambella and Addis Ababa last week. All refugee children and pregnant and breastfeeding mothers are vaccinated upon arrival. With the progressing rains, water-borne diseases remain a concern in some of the camps. For more information, contact gegziabk@unhcr.com

Relief food update

As of 14 May, 97 per cent of the first round of relief food assistance was dispatched and 82 per cent of the ration distributed. As of the same date, the second round of relief food ration was 25 per cent dispatched and 8 per cent distributed. The PSNP's Risk Financing Mechanism (RFM) will cover the relief food needs of beneficiaries in PSNP *woredas* for the second to the fourth relief food rounds. For more information, contact wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

No information received from the Education and Health sectors this week