

9 March 2015

Key Issues:

- An estimated 2.9 million people will require food assistance in 2015.
- The Government and humanitarian agencies are concerned over possible funding shortfalls in many critical sectors.
- UNHCR needs an additional US\$16.5 million to develop the new camp site in Gambella.

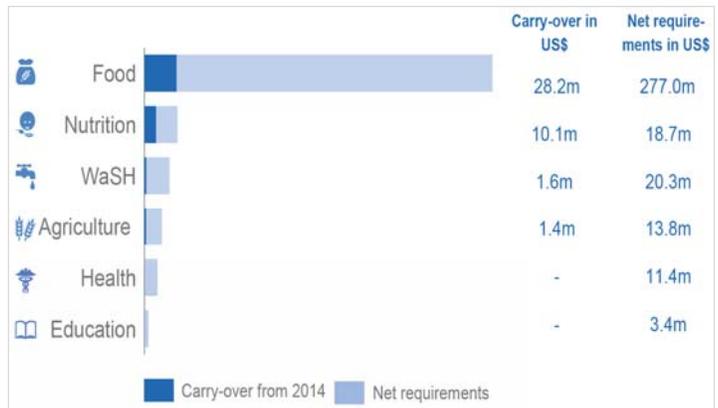
2015 humanitarian requirements officially released

On 6 March, the Government launched the 2015 Humanitarian Requirements Document (HRD)¹ in the presence of donors, UN and NGO partners. The document identifies emergency food and non-food requirements based on the findings of the national humanitarian needs assessment concluded on 21 December, and a five year trend analysis to project needs for the second half of the year.

An estimated 2.9 million people will require relief food assistance during the year, of which 38 per cent are from Oromia, 31 per cent from Somali, 12 per cent from Tigray and 6 per cent from Amhara regions. Humanitarian operations will also target thousands of people in the nutrition, health, WaSH, agriculture and education sectors. The July-December 2015 needs projection will be revised based on the mid-year review (*belg* needs assessment) in June.

Funding prospects for 2015

An estimated US\$ 386 million is needed to fund humanitarian operations in 2015, but funding prospects are bleak. Carry-over fund from 2014 is limited to US\$41 million, including \$17 million for the food sector and \$24 million for the non-food sectors. Donors' commitment for the year is severely limited so far. The delayed



HRD launch will compromise resource mobilization. For more information, contact ocha-eth@un.org

The Gambella Regional Government endorses a new camp site

Gambella regional authorities endorsed a new camp site for urgent development ahead of the next rainy season in May/June. A UNHCR team assessed the site and deemed it suitable for development. Located at 18 kilometres from Gambella town, the new camp (to be named Jewii) will have a capacity of 50,000 people, and will accommodate refugees from the flood-affected Leitchuor and Nip Nip camps as well as new arrivals. UNHCR needs an additional US\$16.5 million to develop the new camp.

Meanwhile, South Sudanese refugees continue to cross the Ethiopian border, albeit at a decreased rate since 2014. South Sudanese refugees account for the biggest refugee population in the country with more than 260,000 individuals, including more than 196,000 that arrived since mid-December 2013. UNHCR and partners project up to 110,000 new arrivals in 2015.

Eritreans are the fastest growing refugee population in the country since the last quarter of 2014 when the monthly arrival rate increased to 5,000 people. After a sharp decline in January with 2,700 refugee arrivals, the number of new arrivals went up again in February with 3,394 registered refugees. There are more than 126,000 Eritrean refugees registered in northern Ethiopia. For more information, contact gegziabk@unhcr.org

¹ You can find the full document on <http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/operations/ethiopia>