

23 March 2015

Key Issues:

- The 2015 appeal calls for \$386 million; with \$41 million carry-over from 2014, the target is \$344 million. Funding prospects are bleak.
- Commodity shortfalls are reported for the first round relief food ration for 2015.
- Following the relocation of more than 48,000 South Sudanese refugees from Leitchuor camp, Jewi, the new camp in Gambella region, will nearly reach full capacity. Additional camp sites are needed to accommodate new arrivals
- Federal Ministry of Health and partners are fighting a new outbreak (diphtheria) in SNNPR.
- The FMoH needs to mobilize \$38 million for a mass measles vaccination campaign, targeting 40 million children under-14.

UNHCR is relocating 51,000 flood-affected refugees

On 16 March 2015, UNHCR and ARRA, supported by IOM, started to relocate nearly 3,000 flood-affected South Sudanese refugees from Nip Nip camp to Pugnido camp. Pugnido, which already hosts 56,000 refugees, was recently expanded to accommodate more people. More than 48,400 refugees in the flood-affected Leitchuor camp will be moved to Jewi camp. Jewi, the newest camp site in Gambella region with a capacity of 50,000 people, was inaugurated on 15 March 2015. UNHCR needs an additional US\$16.5 million to develop the new camp. UNHCR and partners project up to 110,000 new South Sudanese refugee arrivals in 2015. Additional camp sites are needed to accommodate new arrivals. For more information, contact gegziabk@unhcr.org

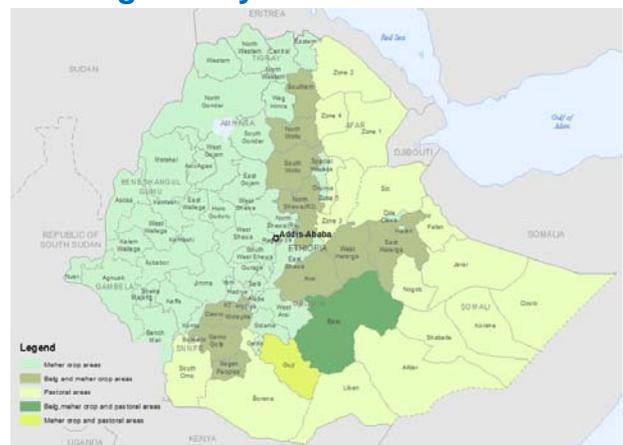
Health partners fighting measles and diphtheria outbreaks

In 2015, 2,190 suspected measles cases were reported in 61 separate outbreaks, of which 929 cases were confirmed positive. The majority of the cases were from Nejo and Nole *woredas* of West Wellega zone (Oromia) and Kola Tembien *woreda* of Central Tigray zone (Tigray). Twenty eight per cent of cases were children under-5 and 33 per cent of those affected were above 15 years of age. The Federal Ministry of Health took measures to improve the national measles vaccination administration and coverage, including pushing the vaccination age from under-5 to under-14 and improving on data quality and reporting. The Ministry also plans to conduct measles Supplementary Immunization Activity (SIA) in October 2015 targeting 40 million children under-14 years of age at a cost of \$38 million.

An outbreak of diphtheria, an upper respiratory tract illness, was reported in Alle and Konso *woredas* (SNNPR) on 25 February. As of 7 March, there were 31 suspected cases and six deaths. The federal and regional health authorities, CDC, WHO and Medecins Sans Frontiere (MSF) responded to the outbreak. Investigations to determine the extent of the outbreak are on-going. For more information, contact who-wro@et.afro.who.int

Water shortages increase with belg's delay

As of mid-March, most of the *belg* receiving parts of the country (see map) remained dry. Few areas in central Amhara, southern Benishangul Gumuz and Gambella and western Oromia regions received trickles of rain for one to three days in the second week of March. Meanwhile, Southern and western Afar received good amounts of *sugum* rain on 19 March, while the seasonal *gu* rains started in most parts of Somali region on 21-22 March. The National Meteorological Agency (NMA) noted that rains expected to start in all *belg* receiving areas within the next 10 days are, overall, forecast to be below-normal in performance.



Meanwhile, the number of *woredas* reporting water shortages further increased in Afar, Amhara, Oromia, Somali, SNNP and Tigray regions. Seventy one water trucks were requested in Oromia alone, of which 23 trucks were deployed. The lack of water is exacerbated by the large number of non-functional water supply systems in drought-prone areas. Humanitarian needs are likely to increase in the coming months given the delayed *belg* rains. For more information, contact awesterbeek@unicef.org