

### Key Issues

- NGOs encouraged to redirect EHF allocations to AWD response in Somali region
- Partners to distribute ES/NFIs to displaced people in Gog and Jor woredas of Gambella region
- Government and partners to launch water chlorination campaign in Somali region
- MIDROC Ethiopia sister companies and the chairman, Sheik Mohammed Hussein Al Amoudi, donated over 22 tons of cereals to drought-hit communities in Oromia region. The Oromia Government Communications Affairs Office said MIDROC Ethiopia also supported 20 transport trucks as well as livestock feed to the region.

Back-to-back seasons of poor or non-existent rainfall in 2015, exacerbated by the strongest El Niño phenomenon on record in the same year, led to the worst drought in decades in Ethiopia in 2016. While the country continues to respond to residual needs from the past drought, below average rains in the southern and eastern parts of the country caused by the negative Indian Ocean Dipole have left 5.6 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in 2017. Some US\$948 million is urgently required to respond to the new humanitarian needs.

#### NGOs encouraged to redirect EHF allocations to AWD response in Somali region

In view of the escalating Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) outbreak in Somali region, the Ethiopia Humanitarian Fund (EHF) encouraged partners with existing funding in the region to discuss with the AWD Management Team in Jijiga and redirect resources as appropriate. The EHF will support any proposed changes as agreed with the Jijiga team, but formal project amendment processes must still be followed. Upon notification of proposed change, the EHF team will advise as to whether changes may be implemented immediately or should await completion of modification requests. Recently, the EHF has allocated US\$21 million to provide immediate response to needs in Nutrition, WaSH, Agriculture, Education, Health and Protection in the new drought belt. The severity of the AWD situation is such that there may need to be a re-alignment of priorities resulting in delay to some projects.

At least 40 *woredas* across seven zones of Somali region are currently affected by the outbreak. The disease is reported to be rapidly spreading to neighbouring *woredas*. The Federal Ministry of Health is taking the lead in the response to the AWD outbreak by deploying over 1,200 health professionals, including 500 nurses and 68 doctors.

#### Partners to distribute ES/NFIs to displaced people in Gog and Jor woredas of Gambella region

Starting from 18 April 2017, International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) will start distributing emergency shelter and non-food items (ES/NFIs) for 592 households displaced (IDP) by Murle attacks in Gog and Jor *woredas*, Gambella region. A gap of 519 NFI kits remains, mostly for Jor IDPs. According to a multi-agency assessment conducted on 17 – 19 February, some 743 households were displaced by successive cross-border attacks by the South Sudanese Murle ethnic group in January and February 2017. The displaced people require food and emergency shelter and non-food items support to meet their basic needs.

Meanwhile, fresh Murle incursions were reported in Gog, Jor and Dima *woredas* of Anywaa zone between 5 and 10 April, despite the deployment of the Ethiopian Defense Forces (EDF), the Regional Special Police Force and militias in various parts of the zone. The Dima *woreda* Disaster Prevention and Food Security Coordination Office (DPFSO) informed OCHA that the populations along the border areas are living in fear and preparing to leave their homes in search of safety and security. The Dima *Woreda* Administration is set to deploy officials to affected rural areas and assess the security situation.

#### Government and partners to launch water chlorination campaign in Somali region

In an effort to contain water-related disease outbreaks in Somali region, including the ongoing AWD outbreak, the Government and partners are set to begin a mass chlorination campaign in various zones across Somali region. The Regional Water Bureau has deployed nine teams to six zones (2 in Jarar, 2 in Dollo, 2 in Korahey, 1 in Shabelle, 1 in Nogob, and 1 in Erer) to support the campaign. UNICEF has also deployed a water specialist to the region for this purpose. The campaign will include training for borehole attendants at water trucking locations, HTH logistics management, and shock treatment of open sources.

For further information contact: [ocha-eth@un.org](mailto:ocha-eth@un.org)