

Key Issues

- Government allocates US\$29 million for critical health and nutrition emergencies
- The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has called for donor support to assist the return of an estimated 750,000 Ethiopian irregular migrants from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- As of 01 May 2017, the total number of South Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia's Gambella region reached a record 362,806 people.

Following poor performing spring rains, the number of people requiring humanitarian assistance has increased from 5.6 million to 7.78 million in the first quarter of the year, and is expected to heighten further in the second half of the year. Increased funding is needed urgently, in particular to address immediate requirements for clean drinking water, much of which is being delivered long distances by truck as regular wells have dried up.

Government allocates US\$29 million for critical health and nutrition emergencies

The Government of Ethiopia has redirected US\$29 million of Sustainable Development Goal - Performance Fund to respond to the current health emergencies. The fund will fill critical gaps identified in the 90-Day National Health and Nutrition Emergencies Preparedness and Response Plan. These include, provision of supplies for the management of acute watery diarrhoea outbreak particularly in Somali region; treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM); provision of basic health services mainly for internally displaced people (IDPs); addressing Water Sanitation and Hygiene needs; and to cover measles vaccination cost for children under-15 in Afar, Somali and lowlands of Oromia regions, including awareness raising. Of the \$29 million, \$7.2 million is for measles vaccination and \$5 million for SAM management. The Federal Ministry of Health will continue to chair the Health Cluster meetings at national level and lead the Somali regional coordination from Jijiga.

IOM calls for support to assist the return of some 750,000 irregular migrants from KSA

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has called for donor support to assist the return of an estimated 750,000 Ethiopian irregular migrants from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). On 29 March 2017, the Government of KSA declared that all irregular migrants in KSA must leave the country within a 90-day amnesty period. Irregular migrants are free to leave the country on a voluntary basis without facing any criminal charges, and with possibility of return with regular contract if they make use of the amnesty. Those who refuse will be at risk of being imprisoned, fined and deported in the second phase of the operation.

As of 30 April 2017, 4,829 people arrived in Ethiopia, including 626 voluntary returnees, 3,632 deportees and 571 unknown. At present, the Government of Ethiopia is leading the response through a full range of Government actions and has requested IOM's support for specific aspects of the response. Support includes provision of free and organized transportation, post arrival assistance, social and psychosocial reintegration support, strengthening the existing operational presence at Bole International Airport and registering the profiles of returning migrants.

Ethiopia continues to receive drought and conflict-induced South Sudanese refugees

Conflict, exacerbated by deepening drought conditions in neighboring South Sudan, has caused a large influx of South Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia. Some 350 refugees cross into Ethiopia's border region of Gambella on a daily basis. As of 01 May 2017, the total number of South Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia's Gambella region reached a record 362,806 people. This

includes 32, 972 refugees living within host communities and 3, 238 new arrivals awaiting relocation. In addition, at least 11,667 South Sudanese refugees are hosted in the Assosa (Benishangul Gumuz region) camps. Interviews with some refugees revealed that those with large livestock herds and traders were unwilling to move inland from border entry locations.

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Monthly arrivals since September 2016

