

COVID-19 Regional Update

Date: 27 April – 1 May 2020

Somali Region

One COVID-19 case has been identified in Jigjiga this week. The individual has been deported from Bosaso Puntland along with 953 other travelers, who currently are all under quarantine in the isolation center of Jigjiga University.

Key activities undertaken in Somali Region this week are:

- While no restrictions have been placed on 'Qat' in Ethiopia, Somaliland banned the selling and chewing of it completely. Accordingly, the influx of people from Somaliland to Ethiopia in search of Qat is likely to increase.
- Five COVID-19 treatment centers were established in Somali Region: Dulqabow treatment center in Jigjiga Town, Karamarda Hospital in Jigjiga (preparation ongoing), Qabridahare treatment center, Dollo Ado treatment center, and Dawale treatment center (preparation ongoing). The centers received surgical masks, gloves, disposable caps and gowns, shoe covers, Tyvek suits, goggles, face shields, sanitizers, biohazard bags, respiratory N95, surgical gowns and hard gloves. The equipment is expected to last for three months.

Some of the challenges the Somali Region is facing in COVID-19 preparedness and prevention are:

- The preparedness for a severe virus outbreak in the region remains very low.
- The region is very vulnerable to COVID-19 due to its borders with Djibouti and Somalia.
- The deportation of Ethiopians from neighboring countries puts the region under pressure, due to the lack of support from the federal government.

Oromia Region

In Borana Zone, one COVID-19 case has been confirmed in Moyale Town. The individual has a travel history from Mandera County in Kenya and is in mandatory quarantine in Moyale. Contact tracing is pending.

Key activities undertaken in Borana Zone this week are:

- The Borana Zone Taskforce meeting was held, with a focus on COVID-19 prevention and control. The main topics discussed include:

- The strengthening of Moyale Hospital as a COVID-19 treatment center, and the Moyale Health Center taking over regular health services, through medical supplies, PPE, as well as accommodation and food for medical staff.
- The strengthening of quarantine centers, which require mattresses, blankets, bedsheets, food, PPE and other essentials,
- WASH, PPE and food for people in need.
- VSF-Suisse resumed the community awareness creation campaign in Yabello District.
- VSF-Suisse supported social mobilization and hand-washing demonstrations, initiated by a Yabello-based volunteer.