

COVID-19 Regional Update

Date: 1 – 5 June 2020

Somali Region

So far, 101 individuals tested positive for COVID-19 in the Somali Region. Out of which, 23 have recovered while 77 are currently located in the Jigjiga treatment center and 1 in the Hawassa treatment center.

Key activities undertaken week are:

- Awareness creation campaigns are ongoing, including in the Qalloji IDP camps.
- Spraying of the main street and some neighborhoods in Jigjiga Town was conducted by trained health professionals and the local fire brigade.
- The Regional COVID-19 Prevention and Response Committee issued an enforcement of the use of masks in public places, with the consequence of noncompliance entailing the issuing of fines as well as arrest.

Harar and surrounding areas

12 individuals tested positive for COVID-19 so far in Harar and surrounding areas.

Key activities undertaken this week are:

- The government cabinet visited due to the awareness creation campaigns conducted by health professionals.
- Adu Flour Factory donated an estimated ETB 220,000 in flour (100 quintal) to economically affected households.
- Haromaya University supported 308 households with food items, cooking oil and spices.
- Haromya, Qerssa, Gerawa and Kumbi Districts supported 1,300 households with seeds, food items and hygiene materials.
- The women, children and youth minister donated an estimated 800,000 Ethiopian birr in food items, masks, sanitizers, and hygiene materials to the community.
- 6,694 youth volunteers raised 254,000 Ethiopian birr through awareness creation and community sensitization programs, to be donate to elderly and female headed households.

Some of the challenges Harar and surrounding areas are facing in COVID-19 preparedness and prevention are:

- Adherence to safety measures was lacking during the celebration of Shawal Eid.

Oromia Region

Key activities undertaken in Borana Zone this week are:

- COVID-19 Diagnostic Center was launched at the Yabello Regional Veterinary Laboratory Center on 2 June 2020. The laboratory equipment has the capacity to test 96 samples at once and 500 samples per day. Due to the vulnerability of the local community owing to the proximity to the Ethiopia-Kenya border and the lack of self-protection facilities, the launching of COVID-19 testing services holds great value for the community. In addition, the laboratory equipment installed will help build capacity of the Regional Veterinary Laboratory Center and thereby, improve local animal health services. This is a prime example of effective One Health application.



Figure 1: Inauguration of the COVID-19 Diagnostic Center at the Yabello Regional Veterinary Laboratory Center on June 2, 2020

- Borana Zone Task Force Meeting was carried out on 3 June 2020, with the main objective of evaluating progresses and improving coordination for COVID-19 responses among GO and NGO partners.
- Social mobilization continues across all districts in Borana Zone. A total of 17 NGOs (including VSF-Suisse) are engaged in COVID-19 awareness creation campaigns, as well as in the support of quarantine and treatment centers, the COVID-19 Diagnostic Center, and the provision of PPE and food items to vulnerable households.

Some of the challenges Borana Zone is facing in regards to COVID-19 preparedness and prevention are:

- Low behavioral change among communities is identified as a risk factor which needs persistent and integrated efforts of all stakeholders.