

## COVID-19 Regional Update

**Date:** 15 – 19 June 2020

### Somali Region

So far, 4,597 laboratory tests have been conducted in the Somali Region. Accordingly, 264 individuals tested positive for COVID-19, with three currently being in ICU. (Figures as of 17 June 2020).

Key activities undertaken this week are:

- Awareness creation campaigns are ongoing.
- Stronger measures in handling in- and out-going hospital patients and visitors were implemented.
- Laboratory testing was conducted by Jijiga University Regional Laboratory, Hawassa University Testing Center, Dire Dawa Testing Center, Haromaya University, and the EPHI.

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

- Testing numbers have declined due to a decreased supply/availability of testing kits.

### Harar and surrounding areas

So far, 1,819 laboratory tests have been conducted in Harar and surrounding areas. Accordingly, 34 individuals tested positive for COVID-19, whereby most cases were detected in Shenkor (11) and Hakim (10) Woredas (Figures as of 17 June 2020).

Key activities undertaken in Harar and surrounding areas this week are:

- A task force was delegated for the follow-up on border movement and quarantine centers in Somali, Harari, and Oromia Regions and Dire Dawa city.
- Haromaya University produced a 5<sup>th</sup> round of hand sanitizers to be distributed to the local communities.
- Training for experts to perform funeral services for deaths linked to COVID-19 was facilitated.

## Oromia Region

This week, 201 laboratory tests have been conducted in Borana Zone. Accordingly, two individuals tested positive for COVID-19. One of the cases has travel history to Kenya, while the other has no travel history and was identified within the community. Contact tracing is ongoing.

Key activities undertaken in Borana Zone this week are:

- COVID-19 awareness creation campaigns continue across the zone. VSF-Suisse collaborated with the Yabello Health Office on social mobilization, and provided logistical support for delivering items (mattresses, bed sheets and food items) to the isolation centers in Dida-Yabello, Harawayu and Dikale Kebeles.



*Figure 1: VSF-Suisse and Yabello Health Office collaboration on social mobilization and delivery of essentials to ICs.*

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

- In a discussion with the Yabello Regional Veterinary Laboratory – COVID-19 Diagnostic Center team, the following capacity issues were identified:
  - Lack of incinerator for effective waste disposal.
  - Lack of water storage facilities resulting in a shortage of distilled water in the laboratory
  - Unsafe sample reception room/waiting space.
  - Shortage of chemicals and reagents for sample processing.
  - Shortage of PPE (masks, gloves, sanitizers, etc.).
  - Shortage of trained manpower for COVID-19 laboratory testing. Only two staff members have been trained so far.