

COVID-19 Regional Update

Date: 18 – 22 May 2020

Somali Region

So far, fifty-six individuals have tested positive for COVID-19 in the Somali Region. No deaths have been reported and three people have recovered.

Key activities undertaken this week are:

- Awareness creation campaigns are ongoing.
- VSF-Suisse is supporting awareness creation campaigns and the distribution of hand-washing materials.
- Jigjiga Polytechnic and TVET School are supporting the establishment of handwashing facilities.
- Project Hope of People to People Foundation Inc. donated 5000 N95 respiratory masks which will be distributed to treatment centers.
- Red Cross Somali Region branch donated 100 mattress, 100 blankets, 800 liquid soaps, 800 body soaps, 800 toilet paper, 100 hand sanitizers and three (3) handwashing facilities.
- Engender Health Ethiopia donated 80% alcohol bottles, heavy-duty gloves, face masks and surgical gloves.

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

- There is no adherence to safety measures in place such as livestock, vegetable, and clothing markets.

Harar and surrounding areas

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

- A volunteer task force was established (COVID-19 Horn Emergency Task Force) in order to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic and associated challenges. Members represent Somali Region, Harari Region, East and West Hararghe and Dire Dawa. So far, the TF has raised ETB 1,131,753.
- Haromaya University supported 200 households with food items, matching 400,000 Ethiopian birr.

- Unicef is supporting the regional health bureau with handwashing facilities, sanitizers, hand gloves and soap.
- Businessman Mr Tsegaye Abebe supported 370 households by distributing food items, matching ETB 680,000.

Oromia Region

Key activities undertaken in Borana Zone this week are:

- 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. Accordingly, VSF-Suisse addressed Haro Bake, Dhadim and Haraweyu Kebeles of Yabello District through market-based awareness creation, house-to-house coaching and monitoring/house marking.
- Borana Zone Health Office continues with the spraying of sanitizer (anti-micro-organism chemicals) in selected places in Dire and Moyale Districts (e.g. bus station, main roads, market centers, offices, etc.). The chemical input was donated by UNICEF and the truck was availed by the Borana Zone Water Office.
- The two COVID-19 Laboratory health experts completed their training in Addis Ababa.



Figure 1: VSF-Suisse awareness creation campaign in Yabello District