HIGHLIGHTS

- Between 1 and 15 June 2017, 356 new arrivals were recorded. Since 1 January 2017, 5,698 Somali new arrivals have been recorded in Melkadida, Ethiopia. All arrivals were registered as refugees by the Government of Ethiopia and UNHCR and 303 refugees have been relocated to the Kobe, Hilaweyn, and Melkadida refugee camps. 53 refugees are awaiting relocation.

- On average, 34 persons arrived daily between 1 January and 15 June 2017. 72% of the total registered new arrivals are children, whilst 88% are women and children.

- The average GAM rate amongst new arrivals below the age of five since January 2017 is 66%.

- The new arrivals, mostly originating from the Bay region (70%), Middle Juba (11%) and Gedo (9%), reported to have fled conflicts, exacerbated by the drought in Somalia.

- To date, Ethiopia hosts 250,259 registered Somali refugees.

For more detailed information on the Somali Situation response in specific country operations, kindly refer to the latest County Updates available on the portal: data.unhcr.org/horn-of-africa/regional.php

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Special thanks to our partners at the Reception Centre: ARRA, IOM, IMC, MSF, NRC, SCI, UNFPA, WFP

Refugee woman receives the award of environmental champion at the Hilaweyn World Environment Day celebration
UPDATE ON THE SITUATION

Protection
- Seven Best Interest Assessments (BIA) were conducted for Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) to assess the protection risks and temporary care arrangement to ensure their wellbeing.
- In Melkadida camp, UNHCR facilitated a half day training on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) for 31 (9 male, 12 female) Community Outreach Workers. The session focused amongst others on the historical background of PSEA, its definition, six core principles of Secretary General’s Bulletin and SEA reporting.
- Information sharing sessions were conducted with refugees in Melkadida and Hilaweyn camps to explain the current state of resettlement and its impact on the Somali refugee community. The discussions also focused on the dangers of secondary movement to Libya and beyond. The refugees expressed serious concern regarding movement of the youth from the camp to seek asylum in Europe through Libya.

Food Security & nutrition
- 112 newly arrived children under the age of five were screened through MUAC (mid- upper arm circumference), weight for height and edema. Of which 9 (8%) of them classified as being severe acute malnourished (SAM) and 21 (19%) were moderately acute malnourished (MAM) and therefore the GAM rate, based on MUAC, Edema and Z-score, for the period stands at 27%. Likewise, 19 (37%) of the total 51 pregnant and lactating mothers screened were at risk for acute malnutrition.
- As compared to the previous two weeks, the nutrition status of newly arriving children has deteriorated by about 10%, while that of the mothers showed improvement. All SAM new arrivals started on appropriate treatment at the reception center. All malnourished children are referred to nutrition centers of the respective camps for appropriate treatment as per the CMAM (Community based Management of Acute Malnutrition) guidelines.

Health
- No disease alert/outbreak was observed during the reporting period in all refugee camps of Melkadida operation.
- Joint and comprehensive UNHCR, ARRA, Woreda and IPs preparedness and response activities are still in place and progressing. Coordination forums are regularly undertaken in camp, zonal & Woreda level, where all relevant actors are involved including health, nutrition and WASH partners and key refugee and host/kebele structures.

WASH
- Regular water, sanitation and hygiene services have been running smoothly in all the five camps and the reception center. Preventive maintenances of electromechanical equipment (pumps, generators, and control panel boards and accessories) were carried out for Bokolmanyo, Melkadida and Kobe water systems. Construction of 235 bathing shelters (120 in Hilaweyn and 115 in Buramino) completed and handed over to refugees.

Livelihoods
- A meeting with the Melkadida Kebele took place regarding the selection of host community farmers for the Melkadida II (40 ha) and Melkadida III (40 ha) irrigation schemes.
- In response to the drought, Sudan grass (Sorghum sudanense) livestock fodder was planted in the entire area of the Melkadida I scheme, as decided by local host community and refugee farmers.

Environment
- The 2017 UN World Environment Day (WED) was celebrated in all refugee camps with the year’s theme “Connecting people to Nature” on 5 June 2017. All concerned stakeholders and key government partners were involved in the event, including ARRA Zone and camps, Dollo Ado and Bokolmayo Woreda Admins & sectors, IPs, and the refugees and host communities at large.

Challenges
- In spite of the efforts to address the nutritional needs of new arrivals, malnutrition continues to pose a challenge, especially considering the already high rates within the receiving refugee camps. Reports of suspected cases of AWD in the host community and in the refugees’ areas of origin increase the risk of communicable disease outbreaks in the camps. The current drought impacting the Somali region poses constraints in terms of available resources.