

LWF ETHIOPIA



SITUATION UPDATE

COVID-19 SITUATION AT A GLANCE

Ethiopia reported its first COVID-19 positive case on March the 13th 2020. During the beginning of the week, there were 3,345 total positive cases in the country. At the close of the week, there has been a 35% rise in the number of cases bringing the total to 4,532. Of these cases, over 98.7% are Ethiopian nationals. More than 63% are male and 50% of the cases fall within the 21-40 age group. So far, 20% of the cases are travel-related, 16% due to contact with confirmed cases and 64% are community transmissions. Of the total affected people, 1,122 have recovered, 74 succumbed to the virus 'with active 3,243 cases remaining. The rest two returned to their country of origin.



Closing of Schools – On 16 March, all schools, colleges/universities were closed and large gatherings banned.



Social distancing – The Government is vigorously promoting social distancing short of outright lockdown.



Closing of Land borders – On 23 March all land borders were closed.



Flight suspension Even though Ethiopian Airlines, the flagship airline grounded over 80 flights a day on 29 March, however Bole International Airport is still operational.

On 25 March, the Ethiopian Government declared mandatory 14-day quarantine to all international travellers arriving in Addis in Government identified quarantine centres at own costs. Initially and before recent widespread community transmission, most positive cases have been identified in these quarantine centres. However, the government granted the incoming diplomatic corps and families the right to self-isolate in their own home.



Closing of road transport – during last week of March and early April, some regional governments banned inter-regional public transport to and from their regions. On 8 April, a state of emergency was declared to stem the spread of the virus. Wearing face masks has been declared mandatory for all residents of the capital.



Testing - So far, a total of 216,328 tests have been conducted nationwide.



Infection control - The humanitarian community is scaling up its responses to the pandemic, focusing on preparedness and infection control



Working from home -Most NGOs, including LWF are working from home. A three-way working modality has been instituted: (1) working from home, (2) working physically at the office on rotational basis, and putting non-essential staff on mandatory leave.

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SITUATION UPDATE

LWF ETHIOPIA COVID-19 RESPONSE

1. Bambasi, Benishangul-Gumuz (BSG) Regional State



Duty of care - BSG had recorded a

total of 6 infections to-date. LWF refugee response team in Bambasi is working in a context where there is a steady increase in neighboring Amhara (274 positive cases) and Oromia (222 positive cases) regions and illegal movement of people to and from the Sudan which has recorded more than 8,580 confirmed cases to-date. To ensure safety of staff, the project provides daily updates on COVID-19 and encourages physical distancing, proper hand washing (or cleaning with alcohol rub or sanitizer when water is not available) and use of face masks when in public. Office, furniture and equipment used are cleaned with soap and disinfectant to ensure working space is safe.



Awareness-raising while physical distancing

World Refugee Day (WRD) was observed on June 20. In previous times, LWF organized and supported youth sport and art clubs to mark the day with sport tournaments, music and play. Due to COVID-19 and the precautionary measures in place, WRD was celebrated differently. Instead, messages on WRD were coupled with information about COVID-19 transmission and prevention were broadcast by LWF throughout the camp mounting loud speakers on LWF's vehicle. Refugees hold messages and also share audio/video messages to each other to.

During the week, 250 houses were visited by refugee social workers as part of the project's psychosocial support activity. Through this activity, 1,015 (415 M and 600 F) refugees received information on COVID-19, where to seek help, the importance of personal and environmental hygiene as well as practicing social distancing.

In the host community, LWF collaborated with the Bambasi Woreda to organize campaigns in Bambasi town and Womba, Dabus and Motisa kebeles.

The project office, carried out distribution of vegetable seeds for its 400 (237 M and 163 F) refugees and host community members participating in the Qualification for Employment Perspective (QEP) project funded by GIZ. Participants entered the distribution site after washing their hands and physical distancing was enforced. Awareness raising on COVID-19 transmission and prevention was given for all the 400 participants by stressing on protection measures while working on the fields.

2. Jewi, Gambella Regional State



Duty of care - The confirmed case of

COVID-19 in Gambella has increased to 6. Although this is a low rate of infection, unless strict measures are implemented and redouble awareness raising efforts, the number might rise exponentially as Gambella shares borders with Oromia (22 positive cases) and SNNP (62 confirmed cases) regions internally. Additionally, illegal movement of people to and from South Sudan (1,892 cases and 34 deaths), is a major concern.

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As a preparation for possible increase in positive cases, the project organizes weekly peer-to-peer discussions and update on COVID-19. Staff share their personal experience on how they process information on COVID-19, how they are practicing physical distancing and hand washing. Along with this, the project provides update on COVID-19. Moreover, soap, sanitizer, alcohol and other disinfectants are placed in main LWF office as well as different satellite offices and centers used by staff in Jewi camp while on duty.



Awareness-raising while physical distancing

Similar to Bambasi refugee camp, LWF collaborated with refugee youth to commemorate WRD. Messages from five young refugee singers about WRD were integrated with COVID-19 information and broadcast at LWF's Youth Center and in the camp from LWF's vehicle using loud speakers. Different hand drawings by refugee youth were shared with UNHCR for wider coverage.

A total of 504 (167 M and 337 F) refugees were reached through house-to-house visits and information on COVID-19 were shared. Two incentive refugee social workers are assigned at LWF's field office who also use the centre to induct any visitors on COVID-19 transmission and prevention methods.

LWF and other partners held a zoom meeting on MHPSS needs and the importance of conducting a camp level assessment on COVID-19 and its impact on wellbeing of refugees.

SITUATION UPDATE

3. Bale, Oromia Regional State



Duty of care

LWF Bale Regional Coordination Office (RCO) continued its effort to create a safe working environment for project staff and Community Development Extension Workers (CDEW).

The project is being implemented in Oromia region which record a total of 222 positive cases so far and which shares internal borders with all regional states except one. Hence, it is important to keep staff informed and equipped with necessary items to enable them perform their duties safely. Accordingly, daily updates are provided for the project staff about COVID-19 trends nationally, in Oromia and in neighboring regions.

Each staff is supported to practice physical distancing, wearing face masks and keeping personal hygiene. One particular challenge for staff during the COVID-19 outbreak has been accessibility of food and water as most hotels decided to close the service.

A key action taken by the project is establishing canteen at project level where staff can safely find food. The project is also trucking water from Robe town and neighboring town i.e. Dambel for staff use.

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Awareness-raising while physical distancing

In Gasera Woreda of Bale Zone, LWF has been working on public information sharing and organizing awareness raising campaigns on COVID-19 pandemic in two town Kebeles and four rural targeted kebeles of the Woreda.

Market places are potential risk for COVID-19 transmission as large numbers of people come to the market without wearing face masks and rarely adhering to physical distancing. Moreover, there is no access to hand washing facilities. Lack water is a major challenge in the area and it is very difficult to implement preventive measures at individual, community and institutional level in the area.

LWF collaborated with Gasera Woreda Health Office to organize hand washing campaign and information sharing on COVID-19 transmission and prevention methods at Gasera, Birbisa, Abukemedi, Balohabebe and Melkaolifgadi kebeles. The campaigns were carried out on market days which helped to get large number of people. The Woreda administration demarcated and divided market places of the town to ensure physical distancing.

An estimated to be 23,000 people were reached in the events. Stickers and banners bearing messages on COVID-19 and prevention methods were used for the awareness raising.

SITUATION UPDATE



WASH response

To support the local government implement prevention measures, jerry cans fitted with faucets and soaps were distributed in the woreda along with face masks and sanitizers.

4. East Hararghe, Oromia Regional State



Duty of care

The regional office located in Jijiga regularly monitors effective use of PPE and installed hand washing stands to ensure that staff take proper measures to protect themselves and others from COVID-19. All staff and guests have to comply with the rules of washing hands when entering LWF premises and keeping acceptable physical distancing when interacting.

4.1. Gursum, Oromia regional state



Awareness-raising while physical distancing

Awareness raising campaign was carried out to transmit vital information on COVID-19 transmission and prevention methods from World Health Organization, Ethiopian Ministry of Health and Ethiopian Public Health institute.



WASH response

To promote hand washing, 50 jerry cans fitted with faucets and soaps were distributed to the selected public places. Additionally, 300 jerry cans and 1,200 soap bars were provided for 300 households.

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SITUATION UPDATE

4.2. Babile, Chinaksen and Fedis woredas, Oromia region



Awareness-raising campaign on COVID-19 was held in Walensu, Koradawe, Kararu, Orda Lemefa and Kochor kebeles of Chinaksen Woreda as well as in Derara Arba Kebele of Babile Woreda in collaboration with the Health Office of the two Woredas.

Simultaneously to the awareness raising, dignity kits were distributed to 283 women and girls in Derara Arba. Posters prepared in local language were displayed and message was transmitted using loud speakers. An estimated number of 24,000 individuals were believed to be reached in the process.

Babile Woreda Health Office took temperature reading of more than 650 (510 F) people through infrared thermometer coordinated with the campaign which were provided by LWF.

5. Kebribeyah, Somali Regional State



The staffs in Kebribeyah have been practicing all the necessary precautions including hand washing and use of sanitizer and facemask before entering Kebribeyah field office compound and when interacting with the target community.



Information on COVID-19 transmission, hand washing, physical distancing, where to seek assistance, etc. were shared to 138 (28 F) project beneficiaries gathered for seed distribution in Kebribeyah Woreda, in Gumer, Hare and Konton.

6. Aw-Barre/Sheder ref. camps, Somali Regional State



As part of recommended actions of preparedness to COVID-19, staff in the refugee camps continued practicing social distancing, proper hand washing, covering mouth and nose with face mask, and using sanitizer when it is appropriate. Additionally, temperature reading of all staff entering the compound is taken. AS a proposed measure, a staff with high temperature reading and a cough was referred to a health station for further testing. Pending the test results, a replacement is arranged.



100 posters conveying COVID-19 message were prepared in Somali languages and posted in Aw-Barre (50) and Sheder (50).

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SITUATION UPDATE

7. Lasta/Lalibela, Amhara Regional State



Duty of care

With 274 COVID-19 cases, Amhara region is the third most affected region in the country. There have not been any additional cases after two positive case was reported in Lalibela. The project in Lalibela takes the context in the region and within the country into consideration when engaging with project targets. Information and updates on COVID-19 are regularly shared with staff members to take maximum care in protecting themselves, their families and the people they work with. Office and field staffs are also sharing such messages and have been monitoring actions of non-LWF personnel visiting the office.



Awareness-raising while physical distancing

LWF Lalibela project office is collaborating with Kebele administration in creating awareness among community members and providing hygiene and sanitary materials for vulnerable groups. Awareness raising sessions are carried out in all the four project Kebeles.



WASH response

So far, 2,660 pieces of soap bars, were distributed to 665 (168 F) households.

Additionally, 96 jerry cans fitted with faucets and 172 soap bars were distributed to farmers training centers, farmers cooperatives offices, health centers, schools, kebele offices, churches, mosques, and on-the-road-check-points.

8. Addis Ababa City Administration

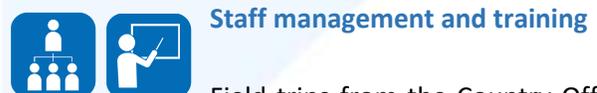


Coordination and Resource Mobilization

The Country Office in Addis Ababa is the Coordination hub for COVID-19 response, ProLog services for the procurement and dispatch of goods and services as well as resource mobilization.

During the week, all the procured PPE and health equipment were transported to Gasera field office where interventions on COVID-19 are going on.

Additionally, the country office is collaborating with the Ethiopian Orthodox Church Development and Inter Church Aid- Mission (EOC-DICAC) to share resources and experiences on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS). As a first step, a telegram group has been created where relevant staffs from LWF and DICAC are members. This platform is used to share resources and experiences on MHPSS responses during COVID-19 outbreak. The group is co-managed by LWF and DICAC CBPS Officers.



Staff management and training

Field trips from the Country Office to the projects have been suspended since the end of March. Close monitoring is being carried out through virtual meetings and through updates and photos for COVID-19 response.

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Week of June 15

LWF ETHIOPIA



SITUATION UPDATE

COVID-19 RESPONSE IN PICTURES



COVID-19 taskforce meeting in Aw-Barre



WRD message for refugees by South Sudanese youth in Jewi



Refugee children in Bambasi dancing during WRD



Figure 1 Hand washing facility set up in Birbisa Kebele, Bale for hand washing campaign



Refugee children in Bambasi with WRD message



Figure 2 COVID-19 campaign in Birbisa Kebele market area

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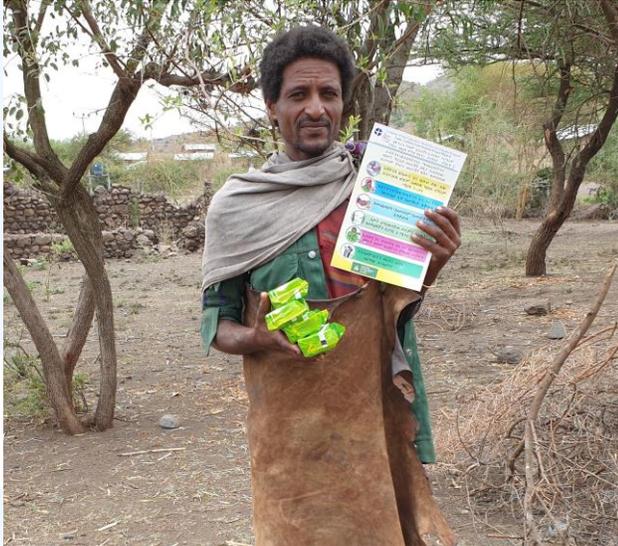
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Week of June 15

SITUATION UPDATE



Soap distribution and personalized COVID-19 information for COVID-19 prevention response in Lalibela

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