Overview

The protracted drought in the Doolo Zone has impacted people’s access to water and sanitation across the region. As part of the Inter-agency Response Plan, UNHCR in collaboration with RRS and partners are concentrating efforts to rehabilitate and extend local water infrastructure to ensure both host community and refugees have reliable and sustained access to appropriate amounts of safe water and sanitation services. Gender-separated latrines are being installed in the Mirqaan Settlement, whilst hygiene and sanitation awareness-raising activities are ongoing with a strong engagement from the refugee and host community.

Key figures

- 8 partners collaborating
  - IOM, IRC, OWDA, RRS, SRWB, UNHCR, UNICEF, WWO

- 10 average liters of potable water is provided per person per day

- 58 communal latrines have been constructed

- 32 communal latrines are under construction

- 1 borehole in Mirqaan has been rehabilitated

NEEDS

- The prolonged drought in the Doolo Zone impact people’s access to water and sanitation across the region and the WASH services are strained with the arrival of an estimated 100,000 refugees.
- More than 2,500 households living in two kebeles located at the border areas rely on the boreholes located in Somalia and therefore have difficulties accessing water supplies.
- Host community continue relying on traditional water catchment ponds called birqa for water provision which raises the risk of water borne diseases.

RESPONSE

- Partners are concentrating efforts to provide longer-term water provision solutions through repairing damaged infrastructure and drilling of new boreholes. The Mirqaan borehole, which serves the Mirqaan town with a population of 45,000 has been rehabilitated and two boreholes that will serve the Mirqaan Settlement to initially support 20,000 people, have already been identified with the water provision is expected to begin within three months.
- Hygiene promotion through community engagement with both the host community and refugee coordination committee is ongoing.
- Community sensitization efforts regarding the risks of using birqa water is ongoing.

GAPS

- Considering the needs, lack of funding for all WASH activities remain low to support people affected.
- In line with the Inter-Agency Response Appeal, WASH assistance that goes beyond short term water trucking and includes the provision of long-term WASH service delivery, supply of family hygiene kits, rehabilitation of existing WASH infrastructure, and water and sanitation management is needed.
- For the planned capacity of 45,000 people in the Mirqaan Settlement as well as the Mirqaan kebele at least 8 additional boreholes and and more than 700 latrine facilities are needed.

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