

then most land crossings were subsequently closed as the authorities said they needed to sort out issues such as visas and what duty

ple such as famous Eritrean singer Bereket Mengisteab and his colleagues are in Addis Ababa to strengthen the two countries deep social

service, border trading and other activities following the two countries leader's reciprocal visit and rapprochement processes last year.

Hunger on the Rise in Africa, new UN Report Reveals

By Yonas Asefa

ADDIS ABABA - The level of hunger in Africa is on the rise following years of decline due for various reasons, said a new United Nations report revealed.

The report gives a number of reasons including difficult global economic conditions, adverse climatic conditions due to El Niño and soaring staple food prices for the new alarming trend.

Titled the 2018 Africa Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition Report, the joint UN Report reveals that the prevalence of under-

nourishment continues to rise.

It affects 20 percent of the population on the continent, more than in any other region. This is despite years of decline trend in Africa.

There are 821 million undernourished people in the world.

Of these, 257 million are in Africa, of which 237 million in sub-Saharan Africa and 20 million in Northern Africa.

Compared to 2015, there are 34.5 million more undernourished people in Africa, reports the joint report of the UN ECA and FAO.

Nearly half of the increase

is due to the rise in the number of undernourished people in Western Africa, while another third is from Eastern Africa.

ECA's deputy Executive Secretary, Giovanni Biha, said the report sounds alarm bells for the continent.

At this rate, she said Africa does not seem to be on track to achieve sustainable development goal number 2, which is zero hunger

"Interestingly, African economies grew at impressive rates often exceeding five per cent over the past decade spanning from 2004 to 2014," Biha said. "However,

ture sector.

Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General of FAO, said it is sad that after years of progress, the continent was regressing in its efforts to improve food security.

"Policy-makers must work towards scaling-up actions to strengthen the resilience of people's livelihoods, food systems and nutrition to climate variability and extremes," she said, adding the FAO will continue to work with its partners in an effort to combat hunger on the continent.

The new report also said achieving this would require policies to enhance the continent's structural transformation efforts through the facilitation of the reallocation of labor and capital towards more productive sectors of national economies, including modernizing the agricultural