



# FOCUS ON *Ethiopia*

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## HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

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Focus on Ethiopia is produced by UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), in collaboration with other UN agencies and partner NGOs. Focus on Ethiopia provides a monthly overview of humanitarian trends and activities in Ethiopia, as well as focusing on particular issues of interest. Send comments, suggestions and contributions to [ocha-eth@un.org](mailto:ocha-eth@un.org)

## Building Blocks For Peace And Development: Pastoralists seek solutions in Ethiopian bush

For 14 years, the Lou and Jikany Nuer fought each other along the Ethio-Sudanese border. Murder, displacement and cattle raids characterized the war between these two pastoralist societies. No one counted the dead, though they are believed to number in the thousands. The fighting was of no interest to the outside world.

Unfortunately, conflict between sub-Saharan Africa's pastoralists occurs with such regularity that it is often accepted as normal. But these hostilities are both the

consequence and the cause of a host of workable challenges such communities face. Limited economic opportunities, lack of education, environmental stresses and violence overlap to undermine pastoralist livelihoods. Markets develop for small arms instead of cattle. Migration routes are disrupted. States become wary of pastoralists' nomadic way of life.

It doesn't have to be this way. For an estimated 100 million people worldwide, pastoralism offers a means of self-sufficient economic and social security with the potential to make a significant contribution to national economies. Pastoralist societies are typically regulated by complex systems of property rights and compensation procedures intended to prevent conflict. Properly supported by government policy and the efforts of pastoralists themselves, pastoralism's vulnerabilities can be reduced and its potential fulfilled. A Regional Pastoralist Gathering held in Borena zone, Oromiya Region, for a week in July brought together pastoralists and policymakers to discuss how to overcome pastoralism's vulnerabilities. Chiefs and elders from the Lou and Jikany Nuer sat down to air their grievances and put forward a strategy of peace for their people. Others discussed the intricate lattice of economic relationships and policies that can precipitate violence.

The good news is that the building blocks for peace and development are already in place. At the gathering, sponsored by UN OCHA's Pastoralist Communication Initiative, pastoralists argued for the preservation of traditional governance mechanisms alongside the formal legal codes of the state, noting that local-level management was both



effective and low-cost. What pastoralists need is for government to take a leading role by recognizing and harmonizing with traditional governance mechanisms and by ensuring the administration of justice by public institutions.

Economic opportunity is critical to resolving the underlying causes of conflict. Lenkupae, a Samburu woman from Kenya, noted that pastoralists travel long distances to take their animals to market. As a result, many animals lose weight—and value—on the journey. Pastoralists are also looking for relief from government-imposed barriers to trade, such as the Gulf States' ban on livestock imports following outbreaks of Rift Valley fever in 1998 and 2000. These economic blockages can be removed through such good governance measures as reducing import taxes, controlling livestock disease, and generating overseas market options.

But to climb out of poverty, pastoralists themselves must focus on creating strong socioeconomic, marketing and civic institutions. Such groups provide a foundation for the development of small industry and enable pastoralists to advocate for their needs to the government. "You can't be rich as an individual," said Mercy Kamau of Kenya's Vital Camel Milk. "People must come together as a group."

Providing basic services is critical. Like any other community, pastoralists' future depends on access to education, health care, and potable water. Moreover, pastoralists want to be active participants in the development of programs meant to assist them.

Some are already inspired by the possibility of change. Simon, a Masai from Kenya, wants his community to form an association to market livestock. Moses, another Masai, plans to develop a small milk industry in his own community. Ahmed and Ousman, from northern Nigeria, plan to introduce Ethiopian methods of storing dried grass in their own Fulani communities upon their return.

For the Jikany and Lou Nuer, the next steps were obvious. The peace talks they initiated continued after the gathering's close. Two days later, with support from Ethiopia and South Sudan, the chiefs from both sides issued a declaration of peace.

## REGIONAL OVERVIEW



## Somali

The livelihoods of pastoralists in Somali Region are threatened by repeated rain failures, including the poor performance of the recent *gu* rains; conflicts; relative decline in income sources; and expected shortage of water and pasture for livestock. The food security situation of the region is below normal and is expected to deteriorate quickly, which requires continued close monitoring. Moreover, the humanitarian condition of IDPs in Hartishek and Fafen camps remains critical.

Security related transportation problems continue to hamper food deliveries in the region. The fifth round of emergency food assistance has started arriving in the three least accessible zones of the region: Gode, Fik and Korahe. In the meantime, the sixth round of food allocations were dispatched to Afder and Liben zones of the same region.

The current *gu* rains have performed below normal in most zones of region. Although the *gu* rains started on time in most part of the region, the distribution of rains were erratic with low intensity. There were also long dry spells extending up to four weeks in most areas of the zones. In addition, cessation was generally early in the region.

In the three southern zones affected by severe drought during the dry *jilaa* season, rains started on time and temporarily alleviated the water and pasture problems, which gradually decreased in amount. Nevertheless, rains were very poor in pocket areas such as Dollo Odo in Liben zone, Bare, Dollobay and Elkere woredas in Afder zone and Mustahil, Ferfer and Kelafo woredas in Gode zone. Most of Warder and Korahe zones and parts of Fik and Degehabur zones have also experienced below normal to poor rains.

Due to the poor performance of the *gu* rains, water sources are not adequately replenished in the region. Thus, there is a need for water tankering interventions in the chronically water shortage areas. Available water can sustain livestock and humans for about 1-1 ½ months. Furthermore, water and sanitation and hygiene require immediate attention; in almost all zones, human and livestock water borne diseases are rampant.

There are no reports of major human disease outbreaks apart from persistent reports of clinically detected cases of measles in some woredas of Afder, Degehabur, Gode, Liben and Fik zones. Incidence of endemic diseases such as diarrhoea, malaria, and respiratory tract infections have also increased in all zones.

Pasture and browse have improved in areas which received better rains. Nevertheless, the impact on the livestock condition is undermined by overgrazing. This problem is compounded by the onslaught of armyworms and other pests on available pasture and browse. Livestock body condition is generally good apart from some woredas in Gode and Korahe zones, where cattle and shoats have not yet fully recovered from the impact of the prolonged drought during the *jilaa* season.



There are no major animal disease outbreaks reported apart from unknown camel disease, which has killed some camels in the region, and also severely affected camel productivity and marketability. This has resulted in a deficit in food and income sources for the pastoralists

Prices of livestock show a mixed trend with improvements in some zones such as Jijiga, Shinile, parts of Degehabur and a fall in others. The demand for camels has decreased due to unknown camel disease. A significant increase in

the prices of basic cereals and other consumables as the result of the rise in fuel prices and delays in relief food delivery have worsened the terms of trade for the pastoralists. According to the *belg/gu* assessment report, most of these items have shown a price increase of 50 percent to 110 percent.

The rise in prominence of the Council of Islamic Courts (CIC), with their current control of most of Southern Somalia and their possible move to the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) seat in Baidoa, has raised concerns of large scale conflict in Somalia. This could potentially result in refugees entering Somali Region, to seek protection. Contingency planning is undertaken by the UN Country Team, led by UNHCR and OCHA in consultation with Ethiopia's Administration for Refugees and Returnee Affairs (ARRA).

### Oromiya

Large numbers of people are currently in need of emergency food in Oromiya Region. This is mainly due to poor *belg* season performance in some low-lying areas, low estimate of relief needs in the 2005 *meher* (main cropping season) assessment, increased market prices and the internal displacement of large number of people in Borena and West Hararghe zones.



Continued uncertainty abounds as to the numbers of displaced people and their immediate needs in Borena zone. The *belg* assessment team reported 6,800 people as displaced and in need of immediate assistance. This figure is, however, far below the more than 100,000 IDPs reported by the UN team and OXFAM-America. The *belg* assessment team recommended further assessment of

the number of IDPs in the area requiring emergency assistance. So far, household coping mechanisms and host community support systems coupled with some assistance from some of the humanitarian agencies and Government have prevented a major humanitarian crisis.

There is an Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) outbreak in West Arsi zone of the region. The total number of AWD cases reported has reached over 5,000 with 33 deaths during the period between June 22 and the end of July. In the four initial affected woredas of Arsi Negele, Shashamane, Sirario and Kofele, there are approximately 20 case management centers. Though there was a decline in the admissions to some of the initial case management centers, new AWD cases are reported in three neighboring woredas: Adaba, Dodola and Kokosa. Lack of access to clean drinking water is the suspected cause of the outbreak; people in all affected villages tend to drink water from the river sources that are highly contaminated by sewage. Absence of adequate sanitation facilities and good hygienic practices are exacerbating the situation. The zonal Government is coordinating the response with the support of the Regional Health Bureau. Drugs have been supplied by the Ministry of Health. The Ministry of Water Resources, the Regional Water Bureau, Merlin, MSF-CH, UNICEF, ESHE and PSI have provided various items and staff support. The support includes ORS and other non-food-items, medical supplies, training support, water purification units and chemicals. Emergency food has been allocated for Shashamane and Sirario woredas by WFP. Additional water purification materials, sanitation and hygiene education, logistics, food items including supplementary for children are still likely to be needed over the coming period.

Most areas in the region had good *belg* rains with adequate and even distribution, except in lowlands of Arsi, East Shewa, and East and West Hararghe zones. On the other hand, excessive rains, hailstorm, and flood hampered timeliness of planting in East Hararghe, and damaged crops in Bale, Arsi and West Hararghe. There were dry spells in lowlands of Arsi and pocket areas of Bale zones that have affected crops.

The overall *belg* crop production prospect in Arsi, Bale, Guji and highland areas of West and East Hararghe zones is good. Nevertheless, inadequate moisture affected crop production in some areas in Arsi, North Shewa and East Shewa zones. In East Shewa zone, crop production is severely affected by floods, excessive rains, and dry spell during the season.

The physical condition of livestock is rated normal in the region except in Boset and Fentale woredas in East Shewa zone. There is no major animal disease outbreak despite reports of unidentified camel disease in the lowlands of Bale and West Hararghe. In addition, bovine pasteurolosis, anthrax and blackleg outbreaks were reported in Amigna woreda in Arsi Zone.

The availability of water and pasture is normal across the region, apart from Boset and Fentale woredas in East Shewa, lowlands of West Hararege and parts of Arsi zones.



Livestock and grain price has increased in all zones, compared to the normal year. Livestock price increment is due to increased internal and external demand.

### Gambella

According to a joint assessment conducted by ZOA Refugee Care and the regional authorities in March and April, 2006, as many as 44,000 people may be displaced in Gambella Region. In July, however, the Gambella Regional DPPB stated that the number of IDPs in the region had dropped to 20,000-25,000, as some people are reported to have returned home. As is often the case in Ethiopia, the determination of people's status as 'displaced' is complicated by the fact that many people move regularly as a consequence of their pastoral livelihoods.

The displaced belong to the region's three largest indigenous ethnic groups—the Anuak, Nuer, and Mazingir—as well as to highlander groups. Many of the displaced people included in the March/April assessment originated from Gog, Makoye, Akobo, Tata, and Abobo woredas, with others coming from Jor and Jikaw. As of April 2006, IDPs were located in ten woredas, including Gambella, Itang, Jor, Gog, Poul Dan, Methar, Jikaw, Akobo, and Godere. By July, the displaced were reportedly concentrated in Jikaw and Lare woredas.



Most IDPs in Gambella have been displaced by conflict, though flooding (which has a seasonal displacement consequence) has also displaced a small percentage. The causes of the region's many conflicts are multidimensional and complex, including both inter- and intra-ethnic (specifically Sudanese Nuer and Ethiopian Nuer) tensions; competition for resources such as land, pasture, and water; clashes of livelihoods between sedentary Anuak farmers and pastoralist Nuers; and cycles of revenge.

IDP needs include water for humans and animals, shelter, security, and livelihood assistance such as farming tools and seeds. Some of these needs are already being met by the NGOs and UN agencies based in the region, including ICRC, WFP, PACT, ACORD, UNICEF, Mekane Yesus, MSF-CH, and ZOA Refugee Care. UNICEF, for example,

provided 97,000 ITNs to 1,700 households, including IDPs in the region. ICRC also provided food assistance. Additionally, DPPB organized the distribution of 250 bags of maize for IDPs. Constraints to intervention in the region include security risks and lack of funding.

At least four of the organizations operating in the area—PACT, ACORD, Mekane Yesus, and ZOA Refugee Care—are also engaged in peace building activities designed to prevent, mitigate, and resolve the conflict underlying much of the region's displacement. Peace efforts are hampered, however, by the absence of any coordination mechanism and by the continued movement of Sudanese populations (both refugees and aggressors) into Ethiopia. Ultimately, committed engagement by the international community to addressing the underlying causes of conflict is instrumental to meeting the humanitarian needs of the displaced.

### Afar

The overall food security situation in the Afar Region is better in all aspects, compared to previous years. Moreover, the food security situation of most areas in this region is expected to remain stable. There has been good performance of *sugum* rains in most areas in the region, followed by water availability and improved pasture and livestock conditions. Some challenges still remain, however, and an extension of the existing relief food is required in all woredas of zone 2 and parts of zone 4.

The performance of the recent *sugum* rains was better compared to the past few years. Apart from rain scarcity in few woredas, the distribution was adequate and uniform in most parts of zones 1, 3 and 5 with an average of 3 to 10 days of good rainfall. The lower parts of woredas in zone 2 and two woredas in zone 4, however, received either sparse showers or remained dry for most part of the season.

The recent *sugum* rains brought some relative improvement in water availability, particularly in most woredas of zone 1, 3 and 5. Nevertheless, some areas in these zones that are normally dry and which received scarce *sugum* showers continue to experience chronic water shortage. These include some areas in, Elidar, Dupti and Mile woredas in zone 1; Awash Fentale, Argoba and Buremudaitu woredas in zone 3; and Komame town and its vicinities in zone 5. Furthermore, most parts of Yallo and Teru woredas in zone 4 and Dalol, Berhale and Erebt woredas in zone 2 have been exposed to critical water shortages due to the adverse effects of the last recurrent droughts and the under performance of both the 2005 *dedaa* and the 2006 *sugum rains*. Emergency water trucking operations are ongoing in few woredas in zones 1, 2 and 4, to mitigate water shortage.

Some improvements were also observed in the pasture and browse conditions in most parts of the region, following the recent *sugum rains*. Because of the successive impact of several severe droughts, however, pasture regeneration, remains difficult in almost all parts of the region. This condition is exacerbated by the fast inundation of *prosopis juliflora*, a toxic tree, in large parts of zone 1 and zone 3 that



has prohibited pasture growth. There are also manifestations of tree locust infestation in four woredas in zone 3 and zone 5. As mentioned earlier, zones 2 and 4 remain affected by recurrent droughts.

The rains have improved livestock condition in the region but problems continue. Milk production from shoats and camels is showing improvement. Nevertheless, due to the successive drought years and the consequent deaths of livestock, productivity and herd size have been affected.

Both crop and livestock price in most parts of the region have increased mainly due to the limited supply of cereals and the increased demand for livestock both internally and on the international markets.

There are no reports of major human disease outbreaks apart from malaria and waterborne diseases. Shortages of medical facilities, staff and medicines are also rampant almost in all areas of the region.

Approximately 54,600 relief beneficiaries and 472,229 Safety Net beneficiaries in the region received their rations for February to May. Regarding the relief programme, deliveries for June's allocations are completed; meanwhile, 66 percent of the Productive Safety Net program (PSNP) food allocated for June has been transported.

Furthermore, food distributions under the Enhanced Outreach Strategy and Targeted Supplementary Feeding Initiative (EOS/TSF) are completed in zone 1, and preparations are on going for to expand the programme in zone 2.

### Amhara

The general food security situation in the *belg* producing zones of this region is expected to be stable, apart from some pocket areas in the region.

The onset of *belg* rain was late by one to two months in all the *belg* producing areas. However, the distribution and amount remained generally good between the onset and cessation in most areas. Nevertheless pocket areas in all the four *belg* producing zones were affected by early cessation and long dry spells. In this regard, Oromiya zone was relatively more affected.

Consequently, planting was late in all zones leading to a significant reduction in area planted, particularly in Oromiya zone. Despite delays in planting, however, an estimated eight percent increase from last year is expected in crop harvest.

Current pasture and water conditions have improved in the region apart from pocket areas. The physical condition of livestock is also improving, and there is no major animal disease outbreak in the region.

Meanwhile, the market price for both crops and livestock has increased in all zones. This is due to a decline in the

supply of major crops resulting from poor harvests in the 2005 *meher* season. According to WHO, measles outbreaks are confirmed in West Gojam and Bahir Dar zones.

Furthermore, food distributions of 2,156 tonnes of supplementary rations for 77,425 beneficiaries is currently ongoing for EOS andTSF. June screening results are currently available for 32 out of 52 woredas, and it is expected that food distributions will be completed in August, upon receipt of the remaining screening information.

### SNNP

The good performance of the recent *belg* rains resulted in good crop and livestock production in most zones. Consequently, apart from Silti, Guraghe and Sidama zones, there will be no food gap beyond the Safety Net coverage. Currently, 1,490,740 people in the region are receiving food and cash aid through PSNP.

Most of the areas received timely and well distributed *belg* rains, apart from delay in onset in some areas. There were short dry spells ranging from one-to-three weeks in the lowland pastoral areas and dry mid lands in five zones. Despite these delays and early cessation in few areas, this year's *belg* rains were sufficient in amount and distribution.

The overall crop performance is above the baseline year for most areas in the region. Production is, therefore, expected to increase in all *belg* growing areas of the region.

There is no report of major outbreaks of human diseases in the region apart from malaria prevalence in most lowland areas and reports of meningitis in some areas of Gamogofa, Wolaita, Kembata Tembaro, and South Omo zones. Malnutrition, however, remains a high concern in the rural community, particularly in Mareko and Meskan woredas in Guraghe zone; Shashego woreda in Hadiya zone; Dalocha, Silti and Sankura woredas in Silte zone. There are high numbers of edematous cases in Guraghe and Silte zones. Moreover, according to nutrition surveys conducted by GOAL, the Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) is serious with 12.2 and 11.9 in Silti woreda and Sankura woreda respectively.



Water conditions have generally improved in the region except for the chronic water shortage in the northwestern parts of Alaba woreda. Pasture and browse have



replenished, particularly in the pastoral and agro pastoral areas in South Omo zone.

The livestock condition in the region has improved in terms of body condition, production and reproduction. Some epidemic diseases, however, were reported in some zones. Among these, trypanosomosis infestation was reported in the lowland areas, with severe impact in Dawro zone that resulted in the death of approximately 32,000 cattle.

Market prices for both grain and livestock have increased compared to the past three years. Low supply of commodities to markets and export from the region by local traders have contributed to the increases in the prices.

**Tigray**

The good harvests from the 2005 *meher* season as well as the current *belg* crop production are expected to stabilize food security situation in the Southern zone- the only *belg* producing area in the region. PSNP along with various food security packages also contribute to the stable food security situation in the zone.

The onset of *belg* rains was late by four to six weeks. The amount and distribution, however, was good apart from some pocket areas in Alamata, Raya Azebo and Enda Mehoni woredas. The planting period was delayed by a month, following the delay in the start of the *belg* rains. Nevertheless, the area planted and overall crop production increased from last year and from the average of the last four years. Approximately 17,000 hectare of land was planted and 13,100 tonnes of grain is expected. Compared to last year, area planted has increased by 26 percent and estimated production by 21percent.

Pasture and water availability is good in the zone. The physical condition of livestock has also improved in all woredas of the zone. Moreover, there is no livestock diseases outbreak.

The market price of cereals and livestock has increased, while the supply is almost normal. The main reason for the price increment is the household food security package, which has increased credit facility of farmers to purchase livestock and big export demand at a national level.

There is no major human disease outbreak in the zone. Effective preventive measures against malaria including distribution of mosquito nets, sanitation activities and awareness creation in the community contributed to lower malaria cases in malaria endemic areas of the zone.

**UPCOMING AND ONGOING MEETINGS**

**In Addis Ababa**

- August 1, 15, 29** Water Task Force Meeting, MoWR, 1000hrs (Open to all)
- August 2,16,23,30** Emergency Health and Nutrition Task Force Meeting, MoH, 1400hrs (Open to all)
- August 4,11,18,25** UN Department of Safety and Security Meeting, 09:30hrs, DSS office (open to all)
- August 23** Food Aid Task Force meeting, 09:00hrs, DPPA, (Open to all) **TO BE CONFIRMED**  
  
Agriculture Task Force meeting, 09:00hrs, FAO conference hall, (Open to all) **TO BE CONFIRMED**
- August 31** Technical Information Management Exchange Meeting, 1000hrs, DPPA (Open to all)

**EVENTS**

- August 3-4** 2 day workshop on emergency WASH/ WATSAN / WES assessments. (Open to all)
- August 7-10** HRF Mission, Borena zone, Oromiya Region

**In the Regions**

- August 7** Somali WES Task Force meeting, 09:00hrs, Jijiga (Open to all)
- August 8** Somali Region Coordination meeting, 08:00hrs, Jijiga (Open to all)
- August 14** Borena Zonal Coordination meeting,09:00hrs, Yabello, (Open to all)
- August 23** Afar WASH Task Force meeting, 09:00hrs, Water RB in Semera, (Open to all)
- August 24** Afar Regional Coordination meeting, 08:00HRS, PCDC Conference Semera, (Open to all)

<b>TOTAL NON-FOOD REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>US\$ 111,014,995</b>
<b>Contributions:</b>	
Agriculture	US\$ 7,326,314
Health and Nutrition	US\$ 11,950,966
Water and Sanitation	US\$ 10,126,508
Disaster Response / Capacity Strengthening	-
Overall Coordination	US\$ 730,728
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>US\$ 30,134,516</b>
<b>FUNDED</b>	<b>27.1%</b>

**FOOD UPDATE**

Following the *belg*/pastoral assessment, negotiations continue on food requirements for the second half of the year. DPPA and WFP will issue food requirements when they are available.