



SOMALI REGION UPDATE

The food security situation in Somali Region continues to be of concern as the dry season – *jilaa* – progresses. Meanwhile sectoral responses in the five military operation zones are ongoing. UNICEF supported mobile medical teams, deployed to Danot, Aware, Degehabur, Segeg, Duhun, Denan, Debeweyin, Shilabo and Kebridehar woredas during the first half of December have begun operation. The mobile teams plan to provide treatment for approximately 626,250 people in the region during their three-month stay. In addition to distributing plumpy'nut for malnourished children, the mobile teams will also provide water and sanitation, first aid and counseling services. In order to avoid overlapping and duplication of activities by the newly deployed teams and other on-going programs, the teams will focus on areas where there are no health facilities. As of 29 January, out of the 53,000 MT emergency food allocated for three months, approximately 20,663 MT has been dispatched to the five priority zones under military operations. To date, approximately 13,649 MT of relief food commodities have reached the FDPs, of which 72 percent has been distributed to beneficiaries. Meanwhile, in Fik woreda, animal vaccination campaign is underway by the woreda agricultural office.

There is an overall increase in prices of commodities, particularly food. Among other factors the increase is attributed to poor market supply and little or no harvest in agro pastoral and riverine areas in the southern zones. The price of livestock, on the other hand, continued to decline due to poor livestock body condition and decrease in demand. For more information: ocha-eth@un.org & wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

CONCERNING FOOD SECURITY SITUATION IN BORENA ZONE

There is a concern about the food security situation in the lowland woredas of Borena zone with increased reports of pasture and water depletion. The situation is very severe in Dire, Moyale, Miyo Dillo, Dhas, Arero, Yabello and Teltele woredas. Locust infestation in the affected woredas is aggravating the situation. Poor households in these woredas have resorted to coping mechanisms such as reduction of daily meals. Pasture reserves in the zone are over grazed, resulting in poor physical condition of livestock. Unusual livestock migration in search of water and pasture is reported from Moyale and Miyo woredas. According to CARE, deaths of livestock including calves and milking cows are reported particularly in Dire woreda. A significant increase in the price of staple foods has largely reduced purchasing power of pastoralists. Meanwhile, the Oromiya Emergency Coordination Meeting has been revitalized to facilitate effective coordination and timely response. Immediate intervention in water supply, livestock feed, human health, food aid provision and market stabilization is required. For more information contact: mandert@care.org.et & ocha-eth@un.org

SUSPECTED MENINGITIS CASES IN SNNPR

Suspected cases of meningitis were reported from Kambata Tembaro and Hadiya zones in SNNPR last week. A total of six cases with one death were reported in Adorro Tuntoo, Kadida, Kaccha Birra, and Tenbarro woredas in Kambata Tembaro zone. In Hadiya zone, five cases and one death were reported from Hadiya hospital. Laboratory investigation is underway to confirm the reports. In late December 2007, the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) alerted humanitarian partners to be prepared for a possible large scale Meningitis outbreak. Following the alert, the FMoH in collaboration with partners developed a preparedness and response plan seeking for US\$ 28 million. The plan focuses on pre-positioning of vaccines, drugs and medical supplies. It also plans to enhance a disease surveillance system, training of health workers on case detection, appropriate case management and community awareness raising. For more information contact: who-wro@et.afro.who.int

MEASLES CASES IN GUJI ZONE OF OROMIYA

Increased cases of measles were reported in Guji zone, Oromiya Region. More than 650 cases were reported as of the end of last week. Surveillance and preventive measures are strengthened; while proper case management is on-going. Earlier this year, measles cases were reported from seven zones of West Shoa, North Shoa, Bale, Illubabur, East Wollega, and West Hararghe zones. The situation is reported to be under control in the six zones. For information contact: who-wro@et.afro.who.int