



## FOOD SECURITY UPDATE

The deteriorating food security situation due to the delayed onset and poor performance of seasonal rains continues to be reported in SNNP, Oromiya and Somali regions. In SNNPR, delay in the start of the current *belg* rains combined with failure of the previous two consecutive rains significantly impacted lives and livelihoods. There are reports of increased malnutrition admission rates to Therapeutic Feeding Centers (TFCs). The extended dry season impeded planting of *belg* crops. The poor performance of the rains combined with crop damage caused by pests resulted in failure of the seasonal root crops that are major gap filling staples during the hunger season between March and June. The situation is anticipated to exacerbate in the coming two-to-three months with poor harvest prospects. The situation has significantly affected markets with limited supply of cereals and root crops. Grain prices have rapidly increased – the price of maize has more than doubled over the last six months. The areas most affected by the failure of the *sapien* and *belg* rains in the region include Awassa Zuria, Boricha and Loke Abaya woredas in Sidama zone; other woredas in Wolayita, Hadiya, Kembata Tembaro, Gamo Gofa and South Omo zones; and Burji, Amaro and Alaba Special woredas. In Oromiya Region, the extended dry season in the lowland areas Borena, Guji, Bale, East, West Hararghe and parts of West Arsi zones contributed to deteriorating nutritional levels. Some rains have been received in Oromiya and Somali regions temporarily resolving the critical water shortage. The impact of the rains on pasture regeneration has been, however, limited highlighting the need for continued feed interventions. The Afar Pastoralist Development Association (APDA) in its latest report also indicated continued water shortage in the chronically water insecure areas as well as increased malnutrition cases and animal disease outbreaks. Contact: [ocha-eth@un.org](mailto:ocha-eth@un.org) & [wfp.addisababa@wfp.org](mailto:wfp.addisababa@wfp.org)

## HEALTH HAZARDS

Sporadic cases of meningococcal meningitis continued to be reported from Afar, Amhara, Oromiya, SNNP and Tigray regions. Last week, 42 cases and 1 death were reported nationwide. Most of the cases were reported from Bore woreda in Oromiya Region. Containment vaccination exercises have been undertaken in the affected woredas of Oromiya and SNNP regions. In addition, preventive vaccination campaigns were conducted in Tigray, Addis Ababa, Amhara and Gambella. Memorandums of understandings have been signed between DFID-WHO and CIDA-WHO to ensure funding for preparedness and response activities for a possible large scale meningococcal meningitis outbreak. Meanwhile, there is significant decrease in the number of reported measles cases. The Humanitarian Response Fund mobilized US\$ 700,000 to support response to measles outbreaks in Borena and Guji zones of Oromiya and in SNNP regions.

Suspected cases of Acute Watery Diarrhea have been reported in Amhara Region. The first suspected case was reported on 31st of March 2008 from Dera woreda of South Gondar zone. The outbreak spread to Denbecha and Ankesha woredas. The FMOH and WHO will shortly deploy a team to the affected woredas. Meanwhile, WHO has assigned an expert to provide technical support in the affected areas. Contact: [who-wro@et.afro.who.int](mailto:who-wro@et.afro.who.int)

## REVIEW OF MOBILE HEALTH TEAMS

Review of the performance of the 15 mobile health and nutrition teams that have been deployed in Somali Region by the Regional Health Bureau with support from UNICEF was undertaken in Jijiga on 21 and 22 April. During the last three months (Jan-Mar) a total of 47,175 patients - an average of 1,210 patients per team per month – were treated by the teams. Among the total number of patients, 20,985 (44 percent) were children under the age of 5 years. The most common causes of diseases were diarrheal diseases, other water scarcity related diseases, respiratory tract infections and malaria. The mobile teams also provided water purification tabs to 4,530 families as part of the water trucking interventions undertaken by the Regional Water Bureau, DPPB and UNICEF in the worst drought affected areas. The teams also reached approximately 43,405 people with hygiene and health education campaigns.

Meanwhile, UNFPA supplied basic clinical delivery kits to seven mobile health teams in Gode and Afder zones. Reproductive health kits were also provided to Denan, Kelafo, El-Kere health centers and Gode hospital. On 23rd April 2008, UNFPA Reproductive health coordinator conducted a one-day training on maternal health issues for twenty members of the UNICEF/RHB mobile teams in Jijiga town. For more information contact: [kmcdonald@unicef.org](mailto:kmcdonald@unicef.org) & [arrault@unfpa.org](mailto:arrault@unfpa.org)

## RELIEF FOOD DELIVERY

The DPPA has continued to distribute relief food in the drought affected areas. Approximately 24,772 MTs has been allocated to 956,000 beneficiaries in Somali Region for the first quarter of 2008. To date, approximately 12,000 MTs has been dispatched and 2,769 MTs has been distributed. In addition, out of the allocated 26,578 MTs of food (Oct - Dec) to the five zones under military operation, 21,784 MT has been dispatched to the Food Distribution Points (FDPs) while 18,282 MTs has been distributed. During the last six months, WFP undertook monitoring activities in 120 FDPs in the five zones. Meanwhile, a total of 16,871 MTs of food has been allocated for approximately 746,767 beneficiaries in Beneshangul Gumuz, Gambella, Oromiya, SNNP and Tigray regions for the months of January to April 2008. A total of 10,845 Mts has been dispatched to date and 3,310 MTs has been distributed.

The national food aid pipeline faces significant shortfalls in light of the rising food needs due to the deteriorating food security situation. The shortfall against the 2008 food requirements stands at as follows: Relief food - 57,000 MTs; Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme - 40,000 MTs; and for the Productive Safety Net Programme 70,000 MTs. Contact: [wfp.addisababa@wfp.org](mailto:wfp.addisababa@wfp.org)