



SOMALI REGION UPDATE

It is anticipated that the overall poor performance of the *deyr* (October – December) rains in Degehabur, Fik and Warder Zones, combined with the previous below normal *gu* rains, may further deteriorate the food security situation. The performance of the rains in Jijiga and Shinile zones, however, has been favorable with anticipated near normal crop production apart from Aisha and pocket areas of Dembel and Afdem woredas in Shinile zone. In the first *dekad* of November, favorable but delayed rains were received in most parts of the southern zones of Gode, Korahe, Afder, and Liben, which has improved water availability for both human and livestock consumption. Nevertheless, the remaining zones, including Gorobokoksa, West Imy, Bare, and Dolobay woredas in Afder zone; Filtu and western Dolo Ado woredas in Liben zone; Shilabo and Shekosh woredas in Korahe zone; Geladi and Boh woredas in Warder zone and Aisha woreda in Shinile zone received below normal rains. Although, livestock condition has started to improve in those woredas with favorable rains, water shortage is reported from Geladi and Boh woredas of Warder and Aisha woreda of Shinile zones. The poor *deyr* rains in the region have also triggered early migrations of herds in some of the zones.

Meanwhile, relief operations as well as the humanitarian coordination forums are ongoing. To date, 11,370 tonnes of emergency food has been dispatched to the five zones under military operation, while an additional 12,400 tonnes of food remains to be transported. To facilitate food aid distribution, DPPA and WFP are planning secondary transport arrangements from woreda capitals to outlying Food Distribution Points (FDPs) – presently 186 FDPs are being used for food distributions. Efforts are underway to establish food distribution committees in the five zones. WFP undertook food aid monitoring visits to Degehabur and Korahe zones. In Warder and Fik zones, however, monitoring has not been conducted thus far. Meanwhile, WHO allocated approximately US\$12,800 to the Regional Health Bureau (RHB) to support staff training, CTC management and community education. It has also procured drugs and medical supplies amounting to US\$ 20,200. For more information contact: ocha-eth@un.org, wfp.addisababa@wfp.org & who-wro@et.afro.who.int

TSF SHORTAGE

The Targeted Supplementary Food (TSF) programme in support of the Enhanced Outreach Strategy (EOS) for Child Survival Initiative continues to face shortages of 6,500 tonnes of blended food and 1,437 tonnes of vegetable oil for January 2008 to provide supplementary food to approximately 629,110 beneficiaries identified as malnourished. No additional contributions have been confirmed to date to address this shortage. WFP is appealing for emergency funds to fill the gap and has submitted a joint letter of appeal with UNICEF to the donor community. Meanwhile, EOS screening is being carried out throughout the country, identifying additional cases of malnourished children, pregnant and nursing women. For more information contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

FOOD SECURITY SITUATION: AMHARA AND AFAR REGIONS

The *meher* crop production seasonal assessment that provides the bases for determining emergency requirements for 2008 is expected to be completed this week. Preliminary findings from Amhara Region indicate that crop production prospects from the current main cropping season are promising and likely to be better than the past four years. Adequate availability of water and pasture has resulted in good livestock conditions. Emergency assistance is, however, required in pocket areas affected by excessive rainfall, floods, pests, landslides and moisture stress. Moreover, crops in the highlands of north and South Wello, North and South Gondar and North Shewa are currently facing a high risk of damages by frosts. The incidence and impact of malaria this year has been significantly lower, largely due to distributions of large numbers of mosquito nets, chemical sprays and the continued education on sanitation and hygiene. In Afar Region, the overall food security situation is stable due to the combined impact of the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) interventions and improved market access to livestock products. For more information contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

AWD UPDATE

A nationwide decrease in reports of new AWD cases in most of the affected woredas continued during the week. During the last two weeks less than 20 woredas reported active cases compared to 120 woredas six weeks ago. Currently, AWD cases are mainly reported from three regions: Oromiya, Amhara and Somali. The major hot spot woredas are Gololcha, Hamaya, Goro, Waliso and W. Badwasho in Oromiya Region; Denbacha and Burie in Amhara Region and Jijiga in Somali Region. Continued AWD epidemic interventions as well as awareness raising need to be enhanced in order to ensure the continued decrease of reported cases until the epidemic is fully contained. UNICEF recently conducted AWD Training of Trainers (TOTs) in Beles town of Metekele zone, Benishangul Gumuz region following reports of unconfirmed AWD cases. Approximately 43 participants from health offices, teaching institutions and experts from water offices attended the training. Furthermore, PSI has conducted training on the use of water guard for the community focal persons in Benishangul Gumuz. Meanwhile, WHO continued to provide technical assistance to the MoH in health emergency response, including AWD. WHO has recruited one more consultant assigned in Gode Zone, Somali Region making a total of 8 National Consultants nationwide assisting RHBs in responding to the AWD epidemic. Additionally, three Surveillance assistants assigned in Gode, Kebridehar and Degehabur zones are supporting the surveillance system and health data gathering. For more information contact: who-wro@et.afro.who.int

LOCUST INFESTATION AFFECTS FIVE REGIONS

New locust infestation was reported in Yabello, Moyale and Arero woredas of Borena zone, Oromiya Region during the week. An emergency team composed of Government and NGOs on the ground has been established to monitor movement of the locust and to coordinate efforts for eradication. Locust infestation has so far been reported in Amhara, Afar, Somali and Tigray regions, damaging different types of crops. For more information contact: mandert@care.org.et