



IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE REQUIRED FOR THE DISPLACED IN BORENA AND GUJI ZONES, OROMIYA REGION

The situation in Borena zone, Oromiya Region remains of concern. While the numbers of displaced people vary across the affected woredas (Arero, Yabelo, Dugda Dawa in Borena zone and Shakiso in Guji zone), it is clear that a significant amount of people require immediate assistance. Needs vary but priorities include food and non-food items such as shelter, blankets, household goods and water and sanitation in some areas. Some NGOs, including MSF-Greece, World Vision International, Oxfam, IMC, Danish Church Aid and the Ethiopian Red Cross, have already started provision of food and non-food assistance. While further needs are being monitored, humanitarian partners should continue providing assistance. The joint *belg*/pastoral assessment teams deployed to these areas are expected to report findings of the assessment related to more specific needs of the displaced by next week. For more information contact: ocha-eth@un.org

ACUTE WATERY DIARRHOEA IN EAST SHOA ZONE, OROMIYA REGION

Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) has killed 14 and affected several hundred people in Shashemene, Siraro and Arsi Negele woredas in East Shoa zone, Oromiya Region. A total of 537 cases are reported from 25 June to 6 July in the zone including, 423 cases in Shashemene and 114 cases in Arsi Negele woredas. A river is suspected to be the cause of the outbreak; however, the source of infection is still under investigation. AWD treatment units are established at Shasheme Hospital and a health center has been built in the town. Five mobile community treatment centers are also providing services in the rural kebeles of Shashemene woreda. To complement the shortage of health professionals, the Oromiya health bureau has sent three staff equipped with essential drugs. The Oromiya Water Bureau and the Ministry of Health (MoH) have also sent additional health professionals to the affected areas. There is an immediate need for water and sanitation support and MoH has requested UNICEF to intervene. An inter-agency assessment team from UNICEF, Merlin and the Ministry of Water Resources has traveled to the area on 6 July and UNICEF has sent some immediate supplies. For more information contact: mapped@unicef.org

DRY SEASON BEGINS IN SOMALI REGION

The dry windy *hagaa* season has started in southern parts of Somali Region. As the dry season progresses, the food security condition in some woredas is expected to deteriorate. According to WFP field reports, pasture and browse have started drying in Gode and Korahe zones. Nevertheless, in most parts of Afder and Liben zones pasture and browse are in good condition. Over the next months, it is anticipated that lack of production, high prevalence of malnutrition, high commodity price in the market and an increase of internal livestock migration could worsen the food security conditions. WFP is monitoring the situation in these areas. For more information contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

STATUS OF RELIEF FOOD DISPATCHES

Ethiopia's food needs have reached 30,000 tonnes per month. The sixth round of relief food allocations is almost complete in most regions. The seventh round is under preparation. In Somali Region security related transportation problems continue to hamper food deliveries. To date, only 63 percent of the fifth round of relief food allocations is transported to the region. Near 100 percent of the food has been delivered to all zones except for Gode, Korahe and Fik, where high level of insecurity is delaying the delivery. The inter-agency emergency assessment teams currently deployed in the field to assess requirements for the July-December period are also monitoring and reporting food deliveries and distributions in the region. Meanwhile, following requests from the regional government, 250 tonnes of relief food, which covers one month requirements, is being transported to Hartisheik and Fafen IDP camps. The assessment teams will determine further requirements. Contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

REGIONAL PASTORALIST GATHERING, BORENA ZONE, OROMIYA REGION

The UN OCHA Pastoralist Communication Initiative has organised the second Pastoralist Gathering from 11 - 18 July. Over 300 pastoralists from Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Somalia, Djibouti and Sudan are to meet for eight days in a temporary camp in the rangelands near Yabello in Borena zone, Oromiya Region to discuss the viability and significance of pastoralism in the Greater Horn of Africa. The gathering will be hosted by the *Gada* Council of the Borena, Guji and Gabra pastoralists groups. It will also be attended by other members of the pastoral economy, key government officials and members of international and national agencies from across the Greater Horn Region. Members of the international and national media will also join the event. Trade, product innovation, conflict, governance, the environment, education and HIV/AIDS are some of the issues for discussion. The agenda will be decided by pastoralists themselves. The event marks the continuation of a process started at the Global Pastoralist Gathering held in January 2005 in South Omo Special zone, SNNPR. For more information contact: ocha-eth@un.org

EMERGENCY FOOD AND CASH RESERVE STATUS

Emergency Food Security Reserve (EFSR) reports 197,034 tonnes of stock on hand, 59,603 tonnes of stock under withdrawal, and 148,366 mts in outstanding loans. EFSR also provides non-food items on a returnable basis. These figures are as of 6 July 2006. The National Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Fund Administration also offers US\$ 13.6 million in loans to fill financial gaps during the early stage of emergencies.