



## **RAINS: GU RAINS START IN SOUTHERN PASTORAL AREAS: BELG PERFORMANCE MIXED SO FAR**

Drought affected areas in Somali Region and Borena zone, Oromiya have begun receiving badly needed rains in the past week. The Somali DPPB-Early Warning Department reported that the *gu* rains have started in all nine zones of the region. Rains started two weeks ago in Jijiga and Shinile zones, and to date the amount and distribution is reported as very good. It has also started raining in the seven other zones since the beginning of April. Light to strong rains were received in all woredas of Liben zone, temporarily easing the water shortage. All woredas in Afder zone, with the exception of Dolobay and parts of West Imi, also received good rains. Moderate to heavy rains were received in most woredas of Gode zone between 2 and 4 April, but Adale, East Imi, and Ferfer woredas have not received rain. Rains were reported in Fik zone, with the exception of Segeg, Gerbo, Lagahida and Moya Muluk woredas. No rain is reported in Korahe zone, except in the northeastern and eastern parts of Kebirdahar woreda; while a one day shower was reported in Danot and Bokh woredas in Warder zone. In Degeharbur zone, one to two days of rains was reported in Degehabur and Degehamadow woredas. DPPA reports that communication is difficult in Warder, Gashamo, Shekosh, Filtu, Ferfer and Dolobay woredas and as a result the situation is not known. Even though it is early to speculate on the performance and the impact of the rains, they have significantly improved the situation in Jijiga and Shinile zones. As a result, OXFAM suspended its water tankering service in Harshin woreda in Jijiga zone. Meanwhile, DPPB noted the need to prepare a contingency for flood risk areas since the region experiences floods every year around mid-April. Contact: [ocha-eth@un.org](mailto:ocha-eth@un.org)

CARE in its March situation update reports adequate rain in Yabello and Teltele woredas in **Borena zone**. However, erratic and inadequate rains are reported in Dire, Moyale and Miyo woredas. Moyale and parts of Miyo woredas have received only few days of rains, as a result, pasture regeneration has been slow. Due to the new availability of surface water, water distribution in Borena is expected to cease almost immediately. Deaths of livestock have decreased in most areas and pastoralists are bringing only shoats for de-stocking. Meanwhile, CARE reports a relatively normal food security situation in most of its reporting woredas, except in some kebeles bordering Miyo and Moyale woredas. Contact: [care.eth@ethionet.et](mailto:care.eth@ethionet.et)

The re-assessment mission in Borena zone recommends an increase of 64,436 emergency beneficiaries starting from April to June 2006 and in the worst case scenario (if the rains perform badly) the total number of people in need of assistance is estimated to be up to 124,145. Contact: [ewd@dppc.gov.et](mailto:ewd@dppc.gov.et)

The performance of the *belg* rains (short rainy season in cropping areas) so far is mixed. It is relatively poor in northern parts of the country but encouraging in most southern parts. *Belg* rains in south Tigray were delayed by two weeks of the normal onset; similarly, *sugum* rains have started two weeks late in Afar Region. Last week, almost all woredas in Afar have received good amount of rains, including Kilbet Rasu and Fanti Rasu areas. Rainfall in *belg* crop growing areas of Amhara Region were delayed by two months compared to normal year but have received rains recently. The onset of *belg* rains was earlier or normal in most *belg* crop growing areas of Oromiya Region and performance of *belg* rains so far in SNNPR is rated as good. Contact: [wfp.addisababa@wfp.org](mailto:wfp.addisababa@wfp.org)

## **ASSESSMENT REVEALS CRITICAL WATER SHORTAGE IN ZONE TWO AND FOUR OF AFAR REGION**

A rapid assessment by UNICEF and DPPB (17 to 22 March) reports critical water shortage in Zone two and four of Afar Region. Although there were no major human disease outbreaks, concerns about the welfare of the vulnerable people are increasing due to the shortage of clean water. UNICEF gave US\$ 111,604 to the regional DPPB for emergency water tankering and other related interventions. The fund will be used for life saving activities to 20,000 beneficiaries in the drought affected woredas of Berhale, Dalol, and Erebtu woredas of Zone two, and Teru woreda in Zone four. Meanwhile, new reports indicate flooding of the Awash River, which caused displacement of people in Dubti woreda (Begale Keber village). The woreda officials have transported up to 80 bags of corn and DPPA has sent an assessment mission to the affected areas. Contact: [mapped@unicef.org](mailto:mapped@unicef.org)

## **EMERGENCY FOOD DISPATCH AND DELIVERY UPDATE**

The federal Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency (DPPA) is continuing its daily dispatches to Somali Region and Borena zone of Oromiya Region. From the 23,500 tonnes of food aid allocated for Somali Region in February, 41 percent has been dispatched. The DPPA has also started moving quantities of food allocated in March. For Borena, the DPPA has allocated 2,500 tonnes of food aid in February and currently the dispatch status is at 67 percent; from the 2,240 tonnes allocated in March, some 57 percent has been dispatched. WFP is regularly monitoring the food arrivals and distributions and confirms that food has been delivered to all the nine zones of the Somali Region and Borena zone of Oromiya Region. The DPPA is also dispatching March allocations of emergency food, 875 tonnes, to Afar and to date 53 percent of the allocation has been transported. Contact: [wfp.addisababa@wfp.org](mailto:wfp.addisababa@wfp.org)

## **PROGRESS IN PLUMPY'NUT ISSUES**

UNICEF has cleared nine consignments of Plumpy'nut from its warehouse and is sharing the proclamation number with partners so they can clear their stock under the same procedure. The proclamation says that food items for emergency purposes are exempt from import duties. To support the Outreach Therapeutic Programme activities, UNICEF has sent 53 tonnes, 18 tonnes and 48 tonnes of Plumpy'nut to Somali Region, Borena and East Hararghe (Oromiya Region) respectively. USAID/OFDA is also taking measures to resolve the difficulties of import clearance of Plumpy'nut and other products such as bed nets, and water and diarrhea treatments, and is willing to accept consignment of these products but only for products imported for USAID funded projects. Contact: [mapped@unicef.org](mailto:mapped@unicef.org)

## **SECOND ROUND SAMPLES TESTS NEGATIVE FOR AVIAN FLU**

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development announced that the second round laboratory tests on the samples of dead chickens that were suspected of having the H5 strain came out negative. In March, a second-round of samples were sent to Italy after initial tests at the Sabata Laboratory of samples of dead chickens from a Government-owned farm in SNNPR indicated H5 influenza strain. The Italian laboratory confirmed that the chickens had died of another viral disease called Gumboro, which affects chickens but cannot be transmitted to humans. Contact: [fao-ethiopia@fao.org](mailto:fao-ethiopia@fao.org)