



DROUGHT UPDATE-SOMALI REGION AND BORENA ZONE IN OROMIYA REGION

The Somali Region Disaster Prevention and Food Security Bureau's (DPPFS) and Save the Children UK monthly food security highlights indicate that the food security situation in **Somali Region** continues to be critical in Liben, Afder, Gode and parts of Fik zones, and below normal in the remaining parts of the region. Large numbers of livestock are still dying in Liben, Afder and Gode zones due to prolonged feed, water stress and diseases. The situation in Liben is rising to a full-scale emergency, especially in Dolo Ado, Hudet and Moyale woredas. Although there has been a considerable improvement over the last three weeks delayed delivery of food due to logistic-related problems is still a problem in the critically affected areas. The outbreak of measles in Bare woreda (60 cases confirmed according to the DPPFS and SC-UK report) and livestock diseases in Dolobay and Erer woredas are the major health concerns. The onset of unseasonal showers in parts of Gode, Jijiga, Fik, Koraha, Afder and Liben in the last week of February has increased fears of poor rains in the upcoming *gu* season. Traditionally, these showers, locally called *lixkor* rains, are an indication of failure of upcoming rainfall. Although physical conflict has subsided, clan tensions in Geladi woreda of Warder zone are still limiting pastoral mobility and there is concern that similar resource-based clan conflicts could emerge if the situation does not improve soon. The Somali Regional Health Bureau and UNICEF have completed EOS activities in 20 woredas in Somali Region. Results are as follows: 159,533 children (6-59 months) supplemented with Vitamin A (83 percent of the target population); 137,000 children (1-5 years) de-wormed (81 percent); and 158,936 children vaccinated against measles (83 percent). In addition, 26 percent of the children (6-50 months) screened for malnutrition (185,558, or 97 percent), and 25 percent of the pregnant or lactating women (42,922, or 90 percent) were referred for DPPB/WFP targeted supplementary feeding. Due to its low coverage (83 percent), the measles campaign must be re-conducted in EOS woredas in Somali Region to achieve the required 95 percent coverage. On 24 March, measles campaigns are planned for all woredas in Somali Region and for Borena zone by the respective regional health bureaus and UNICEF. The campaigns will include measles vaccination and vitamin A supplementation, and, in Borena zone, will also include de-worming. Discussions are on-going with NGOs interested in supporting the measles campaigns; other interested NGOs should contact UNICEF's Health Section at vvansteirteghem@unicef.org. Similarly, the humanitarian situation in **Borena zone of Oromiya Region** remains critical with increasing livestock deaths and serious water shortage. The zonal DPPC formulated a project proposal for all emergency needs, identifying water, animal feed and veterinary drugs as priorities; the plan is currently being reviewed by the region. The Early Warning Department of the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency (DPPA) is organising a mission to the zone in order to re-assess the beneficiary figures (155,000) identified by the last *meher* assessment in November 2005. As of 8 March, the DPPA transported 81 percent of the January allocation of 29,100 tonnes to Somali Region. In Oromiya Region, the January allocation of 6,000 tonnes of relief food is nearly completed and, for the February allocation of 4,970 tonnes, 70 percent is dispatched. Of the Safety Net allocation for Borena for February, 89 percent of the 1,800 tonnes have been dispatched.

CERF PROVIDES US\$ 10 MILLION IN RESPONSE TO THE DROUGHT IN HORN OF AFRICA

The UN Secretary General Kofi Annan launched the Central Emergency Response Fund ([CERF](#)) on 9 March. The fund seeks to get rapid assistance to humanitarian crisis and respond to neglected emergencies. During the launch the Emergency Response Coordinator announced that its first allocation, US\$ 10 million, would be to the Horn of Africa drought for immediate response. At a regional meeting in Nairobi it was decided the US\$ 1.8 million would go towards Ethiopia with the priority sectors being health and nutrition, water and sanitation and livestock interventions. For more information: ocha-eth@un.org

UPDATE ON AFAR

A Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MoARD) and FAO team visited Cheffa valley to assess livestock migration from different parts of the region. It found that groups that had migrated were forced to go back with their livestock to their original places due to fear of escalated conflicts. The regional Livestock Crop and Natural Resource Development Bureau held a two-day livestock emergency meeting on 10 and 11 March to discuss gaps, responses and suggest solutions. Meanwhile, in response to the existing water problem in zone 1, World Vision is implementing water and sanitation programmes aimed at providing water and sanitation facilities in seven schools in Assayita, Dubti, Mile and Elidar woredas in partnership with UNICEF. The programme will run till September 2006 targeting more than 2,000 beneficiaries. Regarding food distribution, the DPPA has delivered 35 percent of the February relief allocation of 800 tonnes and 96 percent of Safety Net dispatches to the region. In addition, CONCERN is planning to conduct a nutritional survey in Yalo woreda of Zone 4, while GOAL continues to provide targeted supplementary food for approximately 16,000 beneficiaries in Berhale woreda of zone 2 for three-months, starting February. For more information: ocha-eth@un.org

CARE MONTHLY FOOD SECURITY UPDATE FOR EAST AND WEST HARERGHE

The 2006 *belg* rains started in the third week of February but ceased within four days in East and West Harerghe zones of Oromiya Region. Pasture and water availability remains below normal in the lowlands of East Harerghe while livestock conditions were normal in most parts of the zones. Farmland preparation for long-cycle and *belg* crops has started, however severe shortage of seeds was reported in the lowland areas due to failure of last *meher* harvest. Admission of severely malnourished children in CARE's Community-based Therapeutic Care (CTC) programme showed an increase in Grawa (East Harerghe zone) and Dire Dawa City Administration. For more information: moges@careet.org