



CONFLICT IN GAMBELLA REGION

Since the beginning of the year ongoing cross border tribal attacks by Sudanese Murle on Ethiopian Annuak and Nuer have resulted in widespread displacement, unconfirmed deaths and casualties in Gambella Regional State. Those displaced by the conflict are seeking temporary shelter at Chentua, six hours walking distance from their villages. Reports from ZOA Refugee Care indicate that those displaced have fled without any belongings as their huts and possessions were destroyed by fire in the conflict. ZOA Refugee Care and the Regional Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Food Security Bureau (DPPFSB) have left for Jor woreda to assess the situation. The assessment mission is expected to return on 14 April. Meanwhile, the joint Government-Humanitarian verification team deployed to assess the region's request for assistance is expected to return at the end of this week. For more information contact: zoa.ethiopia@ethionet.et

FLASH FLOODS HIT DIRE DAWA

Following heavy rainfall, the city of Dire Dawa experienced flash flooding on April 12. There are no reports of casualties, although the flooding was reportedly intense, as warning messages allowed people to move to higher ground. Several houses and infrastructure, such as electric poles, water pipes, roads and flood protection walls have been damaged leading to the displacement of some households and the disruption of services. The Regional Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Bureau (DPPB) have commenced registering of those affected and preparedness measures are ongoing. The community is filling sandbags and duty machinery has been deployed to strengthen the river banks. The city was one of the worst affected by last year's nationwide flooding. For more information contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

BELOW AVERAGE BELG HARVEST EXPECTED

According to WFP below average *belg* harvest is anticipated this year based on the performance of the season. Delayed onset of *belg* rains coupled with a three-to-four week dry spell in February/March is expected to have a negative impact on crop production and yields in the *belg* - growing areas of Oromiya and SNNPR. In addition to pocket areas affected by moisture stress, rainfall information from the National Meteorological Agency and remotely sensed satellite data indicate poor performance in Amhara and Tigray. For more information contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

AWD UPDATE

Efforts by various actors to combat the spread of AWD continue. Approximately 70 health personnel from Somali Region have now been trained by those that took part in Training of Trainers supported by UNICEF, MSF-Belgium and IRC last month. UNICEF is also in the process of sending 30,000 bottles of Water Guard and more than six thousand sachets of PUR water purification chemicals to Gedeo Zone in SNNPR through Oxfam GB. Meanwhile, the situation continues to be of concern in Oromiya (Jimma Zone), Afar (zones 3 and 5), SNNP (Gedeo zone) and Somali (Gode and Lieben zones) Regions. UNICEF is currently soliciting partners to support these regions through CERF funding in the areas of small-scale water supply, improving sanitation, hygiene promotion and community mobilisation and dialogue. For more information contact: aingabire@unicef.org

LOCUST OUTBREAK IN EASTERN ETHIOPIA

WFP has reported a desert locust outbreak in parts of Denbel, Aisha and Afdem woredas in Shinnile zone, Somali Region leading to fears that pasture and browse availability will deteriorate unless immediate control measures are implemented. The presence of desert locust in Somali Region is part of a wider regional desert locust outbreak affecting the Red Sea coastal plains near the Sudan – Eritrea border and areas in northern Somali along the border with Djibouti. Ethiopia faces a significant risk of further locust infestations from April as wet and warm conditions could further aggravate the situation. For more information contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

REPATRIATION OF SUDANESE REFUGEES CONTINUES

Repatriation of Sudanese refugees continued with approximately 1,785 refugees repatriating during the week. Approximately 720 refugees departed to Blue Nile State from Bonga camp, 543 others left Fugnido camp for Upper Nile State, and the remaining 520 people departed from Dimma camp to Upper Nile State. The camps are located in the Gambella Regional State. As of 13 April 11,398 Sudanese refugees have returned to their country in an organized manner in 2007. For more information contact: gegziabk@unhcr.org