



FOOD SECURITY UPDATE

The prevailing food security problem in Somali, SNNP and lowlands of Oromiya regions is anticipated to further deteriorate in the coming months as there is no *belg* harvest expected in July/August due to the failure of the rains. Amhara, Tigray and Afar regions are emerging as new hotspots. The national emergency beneficiary figure has substantially increased elevating emergency requirements. WFP and UNICEF report serious emergency resource shortages, particularly blended food for Relief and Targeted Supplementary Feeding (TSF) programmes and Ready to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) for the treatment of severe acute malnutrition, attributed to national and global market restrictions and funding limitations. The high staple food prices have further exacerbated the situation.

Rapid increase in cases of Severe Acute Malnutrition and Kwashiorkor with alarming admission rates continue to be reported in **SNNPR**. Improved rains have allowed farmers to conduct late planting of *belg* crops in Gamo Goffa, Sidama, Alaba and East Badawacho zones. WFP reports that floods have displaced over 700 people and damaged haricot bean crops in Welayita zone. A DPPA led joint verification team is in the region assessing needs. The food security situation in **Oromiya Region** is rapidly deteriorating particularly in Siraro, Sheshamene, Shala and Dinsho woredas of West Arsi zone; Meda Wolabu and Menan Gatu woredas in Bale zone; and Chinaksen, Fedis and Gursum woredas in East Hararghe zone. Approximately 411,700 emergency beneficiaries require food assistance in **Amhara Region**. The most affected areas include: Beyeda woreda in North Gonder zone; Guba Lafto, Bugna, Delanta, Dawnt woredas in North Wollo zone; Sayint, Legabmo and Tenta woredas in South Wollo zone; Dewe Harawa and Bati woredas in Oromiya zone; and Geshe Rabel woreda in North Shewa zone. The region has identified seed, animal feed, and livestock health interventions as major requirements.

The Disaster Prevention Preparedness Bureau and Save the Children UK's April Food Security Update for Afar and Somali regions report that the food security situation in the regions continues to worsen as a result of the cumulative effects of market disruption, increased cereal prices and below normal performance of the rains. In **Somali Region**, the report highlights that the ongoing livelihoods and livestock related interventions should be strengthened as the overall food security situation is not expected to significantly improve due to the poor *gu* rains. In **Afar Region**, the update recommends for the food security situation in central and northern parts to be closely monitored. Prices of cereals have gradually stabilized following the distribution of one month food ration (January) under the Productive Safety Net Programme. In Asayita market, the price of maize per quintal has reduced to 260 birr from 302 birr compared to March 2008. In the same market the price of livestock particularly for goats has increased by 24 percent due to increased demand following the Easter holiday.

The Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency (DPPA) and WFP to date have distributed a total of 61,856 MTs of mixed food commodities (cereals, pulses and oil) to approximately 2.3 million beneficiaries in Beneshangul Gumuz, Gambella, Oromiya, Somali, SNNP and Tigray regions. Somali Region also received 1,530 MTs of blended food and oil under the Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme (TSF) and locations for delivery are being prioritized. For more information contact: ocha-eth@un.org, wfp.addisababa@wfp.org, adendppbew@yahoo.com & afardpfsb@yahoo.com

HEALTH HAZARD UPDATE

Sporadic cases of Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) continue to be reported in Oromiya and Amhara regions during the week. Ankesha woreda in Amhara Region and Nonno woreda in West Shoa zone of Oromiya Region are identified as hotspot areas. Munesa woreda (Arsi), Arsi Negelle woreda (West Arsi) and Nonno woreda (West Shoa) continue to report AWD cases since 16th of April 2008. Similarly, Dera woreda (South Gonder), Denbecha woreda (West Gojam) and Ankesha woreda (Awi) and Bahir Dar town in Amhara Region have reported AWD since 31st of March 2008. Although the region has not officially reported new cases for the last two weeks, field information indicate increased AWD cases in Ankesha woreda. Additionally, there are rumors of AWD cases in Abeshenge woreda of Gurage zone in SNNPR that requires further investigation. Shortage of operational cost is the major identified gap in the affected areas, along with inadequate supply of drugs, medical equipment and case treatment center materials. WHO continues to provide financial and technical support to the affected regions.

Two cases of meningitis were reported during the week, bringing the national cumulative case to 427 and 17 deaths. The national Case Fatality Rate (CFR) is 4 percent. The majority of the new cases was reported from Liben and Bore woredas in Guji zone of Oromiya Region. Vaccination campaigns are ongoing in Tigray, Amhara, Gambella and Beneshangul Gumuz regions. To date, 451,136 people have been vaccinated nationally. WHO has received US\$ 4 million from CIDA and approximately US\$ 2 million from DFID to support the meningitis epidemic response in Ethiopia. Procurement of meningitis vaccines, drugs, medical and laboratory supplies are in process. Meanwhile, the Addis Ababa City Administration reported 10 new cases of measles from Nefas Silk Lafto sub-city in the last two weeks, totaling the national cases to 7,043 and 17 deaths with CFR of 0.2 percent. For more information contact: who-wro@et.afro.who.int

HRF RECEIVES US\$ 13 MILLION

In response to the deteriorating humanitarian situation, the OCHA/Humanitarian Response Fund (HRF) has recently received funding or commitments of approximately US\$ 13 million from donors including the Governments of Norway, Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Other donors have also shown interest in funding the HRF. Since the beginning of the year, the HRF has allocated US\$ 5.5 for water and livestock interventions in Borena, Guji zones of Oromiya and parts of Somali regions. At present, the HRF is receiving applications from UN and NGOs to respond to the critical life saving humanitarian needs in SNNP, Oromiya and Somali regions. For more information contact: ocha-eth@un.org