



## ASSESSMENT MISSIONS UNDERWAY

Due to recent concerns over the deteriorating food security situation in Afar Region, a re-assessment mission is currently underway to monitor the overall situation and identify gaps. The region identified during the November *meher* assessment 435,000 beneficiaries but only 54,600 beneficiaries were authorised for emergency food assistance. The majority of beneficiaries now fall under the Productive Safety Net Programme and 95 percent of the food for the first 2006 distribution has been transported but as of yet no distribution has started. The teams, comprising the regional bureaus (water, agriculture, health and DPP), NGOs (ACF and APDA) and UNICEF, will debrief humanitarian partners on their findings at the regional emergency coordination meeting scheduled on 29 March. The Federal DPPA is not taking part in the assessment mission but the Pastoral Development Coordination Bureau head is in Addis Ababa to inform the DPPA. Meanwhile, a DPPA led multi-agency re-assessment mission in Borena zone is currently reviewing the beneficiary numbers and non-food needs. There are currently 155,000 emergency beneficiaries with 100,000 under close monitoring. During the last few days, parts of Borena have received small amounts of rain but the distribution was erratic and further rain is necessary to have a positive impact on pasture and water availability. For more information contact: [ocha-eth@un.org](mailto:ocha-eth@un.org)

## SAMPLES TESTED NEGATIVE FOR AVIAN FLU

Ethiopia reported that the samples sent to Italy from the dead chickens have tested negative for both H5 and H5N1 strains of bird flu. Earlier this month, the presence of Avian Influenza was announced in the country after the Sabata Laboratory tested samples of dead chickens from a Government-owned farm in SNNPR, and confirmed they tested positive for the H5 strain. Government authorities incinerated the remaining chickens and banned movements of poultry products including chickens within a 60 km radius of the farm. Meanwhile, the Sabata laboratory is still conducting tests on dead birds being sent in from across the country. In preparation of the potential pandemic in the country, the Government has prepared a three-year National Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan. To date, the Ministry of Health has secured US\$ 288,018 for prevention and control activity. In addition, regional Emergency Coordination Centers might be established in different parts of the country as a contingency measure. For more information contact: [fao-ethiopia@fao.org](mailto:fao-ethiopia@fao.org)

## DROUGHT AFFECTING NOT ONLY SOMALI AND BORENA

The serious humanitarian situation in the southeastern parts of the country persists, especially in Somali Region and Borena zone of Oromiya Region. However, as the dry season persists, there are concerns about the water situation both for humans and livestock in other parts of Oromiya Region, especially in lowland parts of Bale, East and West Hararghe zones bordering Somali Region, and Fentale woreda of East Shewa zone. In Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR), serious water shortages for livestock are reported in most parts of South Omo zone and the rift valley areas of Silti and Gurage zones. The food security situation is being closely monitored in view of these deteriorating conditions. For more information contact: [wfp.addisababa@wfp.org](mailto:wfp.addisababa@wfp.org)

## EMERGENCY FOOD DISPATCH UPDATE

The Federal Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Agency (DPPA) is continuing its daily dispatches to Borena zone of Oromiya Region and to Somali Region, with January's distribution nearly completed. Out of 6,037 tonnes allocated to Oromiya in January, 98 percent has been dispatched so far. For Somali Region, the dispatch status is at 90 percent of the 29,055 tonnes in January. In February, DPPA has allocated a further 5,186 tonnes to Oromiya and 23,459 tonnes to Somali Region and so far 60 percent has been dispatched to Oromiya and 2 percent to Somali Region. In Moyale and Meyo woredas, in Borena zone, February's distributions are 90 and 50 percent dispatched respectively. In Somali Region, food distributions have been confirmed by WFP field teams in Warder, Shinile and Jijiga zones, where most of the January allocation has been delivered and distributed. In addition, NGOs have allocated 5,295 tonnes of food to Dolo Ado and Filtu woredas of Liben zone and to Dolobay woreda of Afder zone in Somali Region and for Borena zone, 399 tonnes have been allocated to Hagere Mariam and Gelana woredas. For other regions of the country, DPPA has allocated 800 tonnes of emergency food to Afar and 436 tonnes to SNNPR. So far, DPPA has dispatched 63 percent of the allocation to Afar and 100 percent to SNNPR. Meanwhile, using the recent EOS results, food dispatches to the 20 screened woredas in Somali Region are expected to start shortly. In order to speed up food aid dispatches and distributions, the Regional Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Bureau has temporarily waived the usual tender procedures for transportation. Nutrition screenings in the remaining four EOS woredas of the region will be carried out shortly. Contact: [wfp.addisababa@wfp.org](mailto:wfp.addisababa@wfp.org)

## POOR NUTRITIONAL STATUS IN GORO WOREDA, OROMIYA REGION

CONCERN's nutritional survey in Goro woreda, Bale zone in Oromiya Region reveals a 6.1 percent GAM and a 0.8 percent SAM with 1.34 /10,000/day U5MR. The nutritional level is considered as poor due to the presence of aggravating factors such as series of poor harvests and limited access to water. The report recommends for an improved delivery of EOS-SFP for moderately malnourished children; interventions to improve access to safe water and outreach health promotion initiatives. The report also indicates the need to conduct a survey in six months (June 2006) to monitor the food security situation following the upcoming 'hunger' season. It is to be recalled that an outbreak of scurvy was reported in mid-May 2005. The detailed report and recommendations will be available. Contact: [concern.ethiopia@concern.net](mailto:concern.ethiopia@concern.net)

## 2006 NON FOOD CONTRIBUTIONS

To date, of the US\$ 111 million requested for the 2006 Humanitarian Appeal, only 10.4 percent has been funded, leaving a shortfall of 89.6 percent. Meanwhile, in response to the current drought crisis in the Horn of Africa, the Norway Government has announced US\$ 45 million contribution for long-term and emergency assistance. It is not known what proportion of this will go towards Ethiopia. The UN is organising a Regional Consolidated Appeal for drought affected countries in the Horn of Africa, including Ethiopia. The Appeal will be launched in Nairobi on 7 April by the Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mr. Jan Egeland. For more information contact: [ocha-eth@un.org](mailto:ocha-eth@un.org)