



Gu and Belg Rainfalls Favourable So Far

Even though the seasons are not yet over, rainfall for *belg* (minor season) cropping areas and *gu* (main season) for southern pastoral areas, continue to be favourable. An assessment mission from late June to early July will assess the impact of the rainfall. With the exception of North Shewa, most zones in **Oromiya Region** had well distributed and good amount of rainfall. In the western half of the region, farmers are well advanced with land preparation for *meher* (main rainy season) crops and planting of long cycle crops such as maize and sorghum. In **Amhara**, there have been moderate rains in Wag Hamra, North and South Wello zones, favouring vegetative growth of *belg* crops in Wello, although crops are later than normal due to delays in planting. Recent rains have helped regeneration of pastures, replenishment of water and initiation of land preparation for the main season planting. Large areas in Southern Nations Nationalities and People's Region (**SNNPR**) had moderate rainfall with Hadiya, lowland and midland areas of Gamo Gofa and Sidama receiving light showers while the rainfall in South Omo was moderate to heavy. During the past week, no rain was reported in Alaba Special woreda and Silti and Gurage zones. **Afar Region** is already in its dry season and there has been no rainfall since the beginning of May. The recent *sugum* rains (short rainy season) have been better than the past few years. There is improvement in the conditions of browse. Consequently, milk production from goats and camels is showing improvement but that of cattle remains very poor. Meanwhile, floods are reported in Dolo Bay and Chereti woredas in Afder zone and Mustahil woreda in Gode zone in **Somali Region**. According to Islamic Relief, the head of Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Office (DPPO) reported that the floods in Chereti have destroyed nine villages and displaced more than 870 households. More than 4,500 animals (shoats) are also reported to have been killed by the floods. DPPO and Ministry of Health are providing food and medicines to the affected population. In addition, the floods in Mustahil woreda have affected 20 kebeles, according to the Jijiga Save the Children-UK office. On the other hand, Jijiga and Shinille zones had no rains in the second week of May. Warder zone received some light showers in the first half of May with Warder woreda having one day of heavy rainfall that destroyed houses and property. In Fik zone, Hamero, Fik and Lagahida woredas had one day of normal rainfall on 14 May but the remaining woredas were dry. In Degehabur zone, most woredas had moderate rains while the northern part of Aware and Gunagado received light showers. Gode, Korahe and Afder zones had mixed fortunes, with moderate to good rains around mid-May in several woredas, including East and West Imi, Denan, Chereti, Gode, Kelafo and Adadle, with light rains reported from Hargele, Bare and Kebridehar. For more information contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org & representative@islamic-relief.org.et

HRF Disbursed the First Fund Allocation

The Humanitarian Response Fund (HRF) disbursed its first allocation of US\$ 5.3 million towards the current drought emergency in Oromiya and Somali regions. Other projects are also under consideration for funding. Currently, all approved agencies have commenced start-up activities. The HRF for Ethiopia is designed to be a rapid, flexible resource to fund live-saving interventions identified collaboratively by the Humanitarian Community and the Government through the Humanitarian Appeal, Flash Appeals, and assessments. The initial contribution of 4 million pounds came from DFID, and additional funds are in the pipeline for this year. OCHA is coordinating closely with other donors, implementers, and humanitarian partners to address gaps and reduce overlaps in order to maximise the impact of resources utilised in the regions. For more information contact: ocha-eth@un.org

Relief Food Dispatches Continue but are Slow for Somali Region

DPPA's daily relief food dispatches continue in the drought affected areas of the country. Food movement to Somali, the most affected region, continues to be slow due to security problems and difficult road conditions due to heavy rains in some areas. From the 23,500 tonnes of WFP relief food allocated for Somali Region in February, 93 percent has been dispatched to date. DPPA is still moving allocations made in March for Afder and Liben zones, and for the other zones of the region, dispatches are expected to start this week. For Borena zone of Oromiya Region, the DPPA has dispatched 98 percent of the 2,500 tonnes of food aid allocated in February and 98 percent of the 2,500 tonnes food allocated in March. The DPPA has completed transporting Afar's March allocation (875 tonnes) and is in the process of starting to dispatch April's allocation. For more information contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

Safety net Update

The Productive Safety Nets Programme (PSNP), which plans to reach 7.2 million beneficiaries in 2006, is well underway. After initial delays in resource transfers, most of the PSNP woredas have received food or cash for the first two months (April and May). Food resources for the third month have been dispatched to the woredas, while preparations are underway to channel financial resources (through the banking system) to cash woredas. According to a recent report released by the Federal Food Security Coordination Bureau, in many woredas, grain prices have continued to increase progressively, affecting the purchasing capacity of safety nets cash beneficiaries. One of the essential thrusts of the PSNP in general and its Public Works (PWs) component in particular, is to build a range of assets of communal value, including maintenance and/or construction of social service facilities, land and water conservation structures and related physical infrastructure such as feeder roads. However, PWs have been implemented with varying levels of seriousness and commitment. Cognisant of this, a Government and multi-donor technical team has been deployed to undertake a technical review of PWs in different parts of the country. The findings are being collated and once it is finalised, regional workshops will be conducted to discuss on the findings and to agree on the way forward. For more information contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

Promotion of the Tracking Strategy Approach for Livestock in the Horn of Africa

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) launched its "Regional Livestock Study in the Greater Horn of Africa" in Ethiopia on 18 May at the Federal Agriculture Task Force meeting. The study, which aims to provide a comprehensive picture of the current livestock/pastoralists situation and of responding to emergencies within this context, recommends using the Tracking Strategy Approach, which includes: more attention to addressing causes; greater harmonisation in approaches; a stronger link between early warning systems and responses; greater donor flexibility; more livelihood diversification; and improving production levels in specific areas. For more information contact: ecosec.nai@icrc.org (Mr. Piers Simpkin)