



RAINFALL PERFORMANCE MIXED: CONCERN OVER REDUCED RAINFALL IN MID-APRIL

In Somali Region and southern parts of Oromiya Region, there has been a dry spell in most areas over the last week to ten days. There are reports of rain on the 19 and 20 of April in some parts of Gode zone in Somali Region. Even though it is too early to determine the performance, the rainfall forecast for the next ten days is discouraging for pastoral areas. Resumption of rains is now crucial for improvements in the humanitarian situation. Consequently, water tankering is still continuing in Warder, Kebridehar and Gode and Afder zones. There are also reports of migration of people (including cross border from Somalia) to areas that received good rains. This posed serious health threat in the region as an outbreak of measles was reported in Bare woreda where measles vaccination was completed last week. The disease was reported in families that recently migrated to the woreda. Meanwhile, good rains are forecasted in crop-growing areas. The onset and performance of the short rainy season have been mixed. The onset of *belg* and *sugum* rains was late in the northern parts of the country including in Tigray, Afar and Amhara regions. *Belg* rains were delayed for two months and two weeks in *belg* crop-growing areas of Amhara and Tigray regions respectively in comparison with normal years. *Sugum* rains were also late by two weeks in most zones of Afar Region. In the central, southern and eastern part of the country: Oromiya, Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples (SNNP) and Somali regions, onset of *belg* and *gu* rains was normal except in some woredas of Somali Region (Warder, Bare, Geladin, Shekosh and Gashamo) where no *gu* rains have been received until the second week of April 2006. Since the second week of April, the amount and distribution of *belg*, *sugum* and *gu* rains has decreased. For more information contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org and ocha-eth@un.org

SERIOUS SHORTAGE OF THERAPEUTIC PRODUCTS IN THE COUNTRY

UNICEF recently announced a serious shortage of therapeutic products in the country. In addition to the already identified needs in the country especially in the drought affected areas of Somali Region and Borena zone in Oromiya Region, needs are expected to increase in other areas of the country as the hunger season approaches. UNICEF reports that 500 tonnes of plumpy'nut (ready to use Therapeutic food) is needed to address the already identified needs. NGOs are urged to secure additional resources from the donor community. UNICEF has cleared nine consignments of plumpy'nut from its warehouse and is sharing the proclamation number with partners so they can clear their stock under the same procedure. UNICEF has sent 53 tonnes, 18 tonnes and 48 tonnes of plumpy'nut to Somali Region, Borena and East Hararghe (Oromiya Region) respectively. USAID/OFDA is also taking measures to resolve the difficulties of import clearance of plumpy'nut for USAID funded projects. In addition, local supply of plumpy'nut is expected to commence in December. For more information contact: mapped@unicef.org

RELIEF FOOD AND TARGETED SUPPLEMENTARY FOOD DISPATCH UPDATE

The DPPA daily dispatches of relief food continue. From the 23,527 tonnes of food aid allocated for Somali Region in February, to date 70 percent has been dispatched. DPPA has also started moving small quantities of food allocated for March. From the 11,516 tonnes allocated to Oromiya in March, 94 percent has been dispatched. DPPA has dispatched 78 percent of March's allocation (875 tonnes) for Afar. Meanwhile, a total of 228 tonnes of blended food and 26 tonnes of oil will move to Afar starting next week. SNNPR has started the second round of food movement for 105,000 beneficiaries bringing the total food distributed for the first half of 2006 to 5,250 tonnes of CSB and 588 tonnes of oil. In Tigray, distributions are almost complete and the DPPB is preparing for the next round in May. This will then bring the region into synchronisation with the distributions for 2006. In Amhara, the dispatch to food distribution centres has begun. At the end of this week 50 percent of 1,675 tonnes of blended food and 188 tonnes of oil will have been dispatched. Targeted supplementary food for the first round of 2006 distributions is moving in Somali Region. Latest figures show that dispatches have begun in Harshin, Gashamo, Aware, Boh and East Imi, and that dispatches are completed for Danan, Adadle. In Oromiya Region, food has started moving to an additional 47 woredas. WFP is planning a 'logistics roadshow' to tackle and reduce the significant delays, which are caused mainly the time taken for retrieval of beneficiary data and the current transporting procedures. Contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

THE NEW SPECIAL ENVOY FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA TO VISIT ETHIOPIA

The newly appointed Special Humanitarian Envoy for the Horn of Africa, Kjell Magne Bondevik, will be on a two-day visit in Ethiopia (28 - 30 April). During his stay, Mr. Bondevik will meet Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, Government officials, humanitarian agencies, international donors' representatives and the United Nations Country Team. The Special Envoy will also travel to the field to talk to pastoralists leaders on the current emergency and discuss longer term approaches to their livelihoods. For more information contact: ocha-eth@un.org

USAID/OFDA GRANT SCHEME FOR EMERGENCY PROJECTS

GOAL received approximately US\$ 250,000 from USAID/OFDA for its sub-grant scheme for nutrition and nutrition-related emergency interventions, including rapid assessments, nutrition surveys and projects. The grant is available to all interested national and international NGOs. The scheme will be supervised by GOAL's Rapid Response Programme team. For more information contact: johnr@goalethiopia.com or dinkneha@goalethiopia.com

ENCU RESUMES THE QUARTERLY EMERGENCY BULLETIN

The Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (ENCU)/DPPA resumed issuing its quarterly emergency bulletin. The first bulletin for the year includes regional situation update and results of nutritional surveys conducted from January to March 2006. The report will be available on the DPPA website www.dppc.gov.et soon.