



## SOMALI REGION UPDATE

The general food security situation in the *deyr* dependent areas of Degehabur, Korahe, Warder, Gode, Afder, Liben and Fik zones is of concern. Water and pasture shortages are being reported in many parts. Fik, Hamero, Dihun, and Segag in Fik zone and Gunagado and Degehamedo in Degehabur zone are among the affected woredas. Emergency water tankering is needed in the chronically water insecure areas of Gorobaqqa, Filtu, and Hudet woredas of Afder and Liben zones. The situation could further deteriorate with the start of the *Jilal* (dry) season. The reported desert locust outbreak in the southern zones Gode, Warder, Korahe, Afder and Liben is also anticipated to affect the available pasture, browse and crops. Control measures are currently underway in Gode zone. The Gode Emergency Agriculture Taskforce has been convened to discuss the issue; a technical committee composed of FAO, SC-US, WFP, Gode-LCNRD, GOPAC, CHF and Gode zone administrator has been established.

In Somali Region, food aid dispatch is progressing. Out of a total of 23,786 tonnes food allocated in October 2007, 70 percent has been dispatched to different Food Distribution Points (FDPs) in the five military operation zones as of 18 December. Food distribution has started in limited FDPs in Gode, Fik, Kebridehar and Degehabur zones. On 17 December, three teams comprised of WFP, OCHA, UNICEF, WHO and UNDSS were deployed to Warder, Danan, Boh and Geladin woredas of Warder zone and Shekosh and Shilabo woredas of Korahe zone. The team will assess the humanitarian situation and WFP staff will monitor food aid targeting and distribution. For more information contact: [wfp.addisababa@wfp.org](mailto:wfp.addisababa@wfp.org)

## AWD DECREASING ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Report from the Federal Ministry of Health and WHO consultants indicate that AWD cases are decreasing in most affected areas of the country. Amhara, Tigray, Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa city administration have reported zero cases for more than three weeks. Apart from South West Shoa zone, Oromiya Region has also reported zero cases from most of the affected zones. Meanwhile, in Gode zone, Somali Region, WHO Surveillance officer reported that there are no confirmed AWD cases thus far. There has been however, high number of admissions due to diarrhea in Gode zone. Increased admission rates of malnourished children have also been reported in the same zone. For more information contact: [who-wro@et.afro.who.int](mailto:who-wro@et.afro.who.int)

## SUDANESE REFUGEES REPATRIATION RESUMED

UNHCR resumed the voluntary repatriation of Sudanese refugees from western Ethiopia on 15 December after six months hiatus due to the rainy season. On 15 and 22 December, a total of 1,222 people left Bonga camp to Sudan's Blue Nile state via the border crossing Kurmuk. An additional 600 will depart the camp before the end of December. The repatriation, started in March 2006, has helped more than 21,000 Sudanese refugees to return to their homes. In 2008, the programme plans to assist the return of an estimated 30,000 Sudanese refugees. Upon arrival in Sudan, the returnees will receive a reintegration package comprising three months food, seeds and agricultural tools by WFP and FAO. For more information contact: [GEGZIABK@unhcr.org](mailto:GEGZIABK@unhcr.org)

## ASSESSMENT TEAMS DEBRIEF

The findings of the multi-agency *meher/pastoral* areas emergency needs assessment for Afar, Somali, Oromiya (Borena zone), Beneshangul Gumuz and Gambella regions were presented on 21 December 2007. The overall food security situation in pastoralist areas of Borena and Somali is reported to be poor due to unfavourable performance of the rains. Hailstorms and floods also resulted in poor food security prospects in some parts of Gambella Region. Apart from Zone 2, the *Karma* rains (June to September) were satisfactory in Afar Region. In Beneshangul Gumuz, the overall food security situation was normal, apart from pocket areas affected by crop pest and hailstorm. Moreover, in the main crop producing areas of the country, the *meher* harvest is above average due to the good rains. The findings of the assessments coupled with the non-food requirements will provide the basis for emergency requirements of the country. For more information contact: [dppaewd@dppc.gov.et](mailto:dppaewd@dppc.gov.et)

## MARKET ANALYSIS

Despite a series of measures taken by the government, prices remain extremely high and above the long-term average across the country. FEWSNET in its latest update (November) indicates that price increases follow general inflation in the country, which was 18.4 percent in August 2007, according to the National Bank of Ethiopia. The wholesale prices of mixed *teff*, white wheat, and white maize were 66 percent, 80 percent and 97 percent greater than the five-year average (2002-2006) in September respectively. For more information contact: [ethiopia@few.net](mailto:ethiopia@few.net)