



Humanitarian Bulletin

UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

WEEKLY HUMANITARIAN HIGHLIGHTS IN ETHIOPIA

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AREAS OF CONCERN INCREASED FROM THE PREVIOUS YEARS

According to the World Food Programme (WFP), the total number of woredas regarded as areas of concern in the country has reached 70, the highest in recent years. About 63 percent of these woredas are pastoral and agro-pastoral areas. Fifteen new woredas are now listed as areas of concern due to the deterioration in their Food security situation. Eleven of them are in Oromiya region (Borena, East Shewa and Arsi zones), and the remaining three are in the southern zones of Somali region. In Borena zone, three woredas are considered new hotspots due to the ethnic conflict; in East Shewa, three woredas are of concern because of the recent Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) outbreak; in Arsi zone, five woredas have now been assessed as new hotspots due to the very poor harvest from the 2005 main season. On the other hand, six woredas in the southern zones of Somali region - Moyale, Hudet, Chereti and East Imi, Gashamo and Gunagado - are no longer hotspots due to the improvement in the overall food security situation. wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

ACUTE WATERY DIARRHOEA OUTBREAK IN WEST ARSI ZONE, OROMIYA REGION

The total number of Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) cases reported reached 2,923 with 13 deaths during the period between June 22 to July 13, in the three affected woredas of Arsi Negele, Shashamane and Sirario, in West Arsi zone, Oromiya Region. Currently there are 20 case management centers. Though there is decline in the admissions to the case management centers, new AWD cases are reported in four neighbouring woredas, namely Kofale, Adeba, Dodola and Kokosa.. Disease surveillance experts from the Ministry of Health, WHO, the Oromiya Regional Water Bureau, Oromia Health Bureau and others are currently on the ground monitoring the situation. Drugs supplied by the Ministry of Health are being used, UNICEF has distributed ORS and non-food-items including water purification chemicals, hygiene items and cartons of BP5 biscuits. UNICEF has also provided two Water Purification Units benefiting more than 20,000 people a day. Additional water purification materials, sanitation and hygiene education, food items including supplementary for children are still needed to ensure a limitation in the spread of the AWD. For more information contact: mapped@unicef.org

BELG/GU ASSESSMENT TEAM DEBRIEFING

A debriefing of the findings by the *belg/gu* assessment teams was held on Thursday, 20 July. The team presented regional reports on the emergency needs assessment in *belg/gu* producing and pastoral areas of the country. The *belg/gu* performance was good in most parts of the country, except the below normal performance of *gu* rains in most of Somali Somalia Region, and the poor performance of rains in some pocket areas in SNNPR, Oromia and Amhara Regions. The assessment will determine the emergency food aid requirements for the August-December period in all regions. For more information contact: ocha-eth@un.org

RELIEF FOOD DISPATCH UPDATE

The seventh round of food allocation is ongoing in regions under emergency food operations, including Afar, Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR) and Oromiya - where food is currently moving to Borena and parts of East Harerge zones, Gambella and Beneshangul Gumuz regions. Meanwhile, the fifth round of food has started arriving in the three least accessible zones of the Somali Region: Gode, Fik and Korrahe. Security related transportation problem in the region continue to hamper food deliveries; the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency (DPPA) is utilizing military escorts in order to transport the relief food to these zones. In the meantime, the sixth round of food allocations are dispatched to Afer and Liben zones of the same region. For more information contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

REGIONAL PASTORALIST GATHERING HELD IN YABELLO

The Regional Pastoralist Gathering, held in Borena zone, Oromiya Region, from 11-18 July, brought together 300 pastoralists from 18 countries and 60 different groups for a week of discussion on issues related to pastoralist livelihoods. Beneath the shade of acacia trees, the participants discussed four major issues: the need to eliminate conflict, increasing the productivity of pastoralism, increasing pastoralists' access to markets, and the development of governance structures to support pastoralism. Peace was a major topic of discussion among a number of groups. Participants of the gathering agreed that in spite of such obstacles as impediments to cross-border trade and the prevalence of conflict, pastoralism remains a viable livelihood capable of making a significant contribution to the national economy. Government and UN officials joined the pastoralists for the final two days of the Gathering to hear and offer their support for the pastoralists' proposed solutions. For more information contact: ocha-eth@un.org

Contributions are welcome. Please submit to UN OCHA-Eth by Friday 1100hrs, ocha-eth@un.org