



Humanitarian Bulletin

UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

WEEKLY HUMANITARIAN HIGHLIGHTS IN ETHIOPIA

25 September 2006

AWD SPREADS AT AN ALARMING RATE

New cases of Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) continue to be reported at an alarming rate across the country. Last week, additional 1,680 new AWD cases with 17 deaths were reported. The total number of AWD cases has now reached 20,856 with 199 deaths. The outbreak is also reported to Afder and Liben zones in Somali Region. The Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH), in collaboration with WHO, deployed a team on 22 September to verify and assess the situation. Meanwhile, PCAE, MSF-Belgium, and COOPI, in collaboration with the local authorities, are providing assistance in the affected areas. AWD is also spreading swiftly in the flood affected Lebokemkem woreda of Amhara Region. As many as 6,000 people from Lebokemkem returned to their homes after flood water receded, minimizing the risk of further spread of the disease. WHO provided US\$ 30,000 to regional health bureau through the FMoH in order to enhance disease surveillance, case management and raise people's awareness on environmental sanitation and personal hygiene. For more information contact: ocha-eth@un.org

GENEROUS RESPONSE TO FLOOD VICTIMS

Humanitarian partners are generously responding to the requirements of the 2006 Flash Flood Appeal. To date, approximately US\$ 18 million, representing more than 65% of the requested US\$ 27 million, has been secured. Much of the funding comes from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), and contributions to the UN Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Fund (HRF) from DFID, Netherlands and Norway. In addition Sweden, USAID/OFDA, Irish Aid, German and Italy have contributed to support humanitarian partners' intervention in the flood affected areas. For more information contact: ocha-eth@un.org

FLOOD UPDATE

Flood waters are rapidly receding in many parts of the country. In South Gondar zone of **Amhara Region**, 16 out of the 21 flooded kebeles in Fogera, Libokemkem and Dembia woredas have completely dried up and the displaced people from these areas have been advised to return to their villages by the local authorities. With the recession of the floods, farmers are now engaged in land preparation but many depend on timely provision of seeds. Several NGOs including FHI, WVI, CARE, ActionAid, CCF, and the Ethiopian Red Cross Society are working to rapidly address the critical seed shortage. The Humanitarian Response Fund and ECHO are considering proposals from the aforementioned agencies. The risk of malaria outbreak, following the cessation of the main season rains and the recession of the floods, continues to be of major concern. In **Somali Region**, however, a very recent report indicates that Ferfer woreda in Gode zone has been flooded in the last week of August seriously affecting two administrative units. A WFP mission is assessing the situation. Meanwhile, a Federal Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Agency (DPPA) led multi-agency assessment mission departed to **Gambella Region** to verify the regional assessment results on the flooding. According to the regional report, up to 31,000 people are seriously affected by the floods in eight woredas. For more information contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

SHEIKASH IDPS LEAVE FAFEN CAMP

Approximately 700 Sheikash families from Fafen IDP camp and other places in Jijiga and Degehabur zones have reportedly relocated to the outskirts of Harar town. According to reports from the area, the families have built a new camp in Erer area. ICRC has provided non-food assistance including, plastic sheeting, blankets, kitchen-sets and jerry-cans for as many as 350 families. The ultimate goal of this movement is to reunite the Sheikash families with their relatives in Rasso woreda in West Imi zone. The IDPs have been suffering from insufficient humanitarian assistance in the camp and isolation from the host community. DPPA has been notified about the situation. Contact: ocha-eth@un.org

UPDATE ON DISPATCHES OF RELIEF FOOD ASSISTANCE

The DPPA allocated a total of 7,780 tonnes of relief food for the ninth round of distributions to Oromiya and Southern Nationalities, Nations and People Region (SNNPR). For Amhara Region, the agency is currently preparing the allocation, while Somali Region is in the process of submitting its food requirement. Furthermore, food commodities have been allocated for the 43,300 IDPs in East-Imi woreda of Gode zone and West-Imi woreda of Afder zone in Somali Region. The allocation covers the IDPs' food needs for one month. For more information contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

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