



Humanitarian Bulletin

UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

WEEKLY HUMANITARIAN HIGHLIGHTS IN ETHIOPIA

28 August 2006

JOINT FLASH APPEAL FOR THE 2006 FLOOD CRISIS LAUNCHED

A Joint Government and Humanitarian Partners Flash Appeal for the 2006 flood disaster in Ethiopia was launched on 25 August. The Flash Appeal seeks a total of US\$ 27,099,526 to meet the emerging needs. This includes a total of 10,178 MT of emergency relief food worth US\$ 5,184,673, US\$ 13,849,864 worth of non food relief items and US\$ 8,064,989 worth of rehabilitation requirements. Approximately 199,000 people in eight out of 11 Regions in the country have been affected by severe flooding. As many as 600 people have died and more than 34,000 people are displaced. Most of them are being housed in temporary relief shelters. Further assessments are going on and figures may vary over the coming weeks based on new needs. Humanitarian partners are providing emergency assistance to the flood affected areas. DFID has contributed an additional amount of UK£ 1,000,000 to Humanitarian Response Fund. Private contributions, channeled through DPPA, have exceeded US\$ 1 million as of 24 August. The Federal Government has set up a committee chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister to address the countrywide flood crisis.

New floods continue to be reported across the country as heavy rains prevail. In Amhara Region, over 13,000 people that are displaced are temporarily in relief shelters. Flooding of the upper basin of Awash River in West Shewa zone of Oromiya Region displaced 2,052 people. In Somali Region the overflow of the Wabishebelle River affected in Mustahil and Kelafo woredas in Gode zone. Overflow of Tekeze River in Kafta Humera woreda of Western Tigray zone has displaced 450 households. The situation is also exacerbated by the fact that many dams have nearly reached their maximum capacity. Koka Dam along the Awash River is of particular concern as the dam will reach maximum levels in the coming days. To avert disaster the Ministry of Water is releasing 100 cubic meter water/per second. Two teams from the Federal Ministry of Water are currently monitoring the situation as the potential threat of further flooding from the dams is possible. The national crisis began over two weeks ago when the Dechatu River devastated the town and environs of Dire Dawa, leaving 254 dead and 244 still officially missing. Since then, the most severe flooding has taken place in South Omo Valley affecting over 15 villages in two remote woredas in SNNPR. DPPA has confirmed that 364 people have perished in the South Omo floods and approximately 15,000 have been displaced. For more information contact: ocha-eth@un.org

ACUTE WATERY DIARRHOEA OUTBREAK REPORTED IN FIVE REGIONS

The Acute Watery Diarrhoea outbreak that was first reported in Gambella in April has continued to spread at an alarming rate. There are now confirmed cases in the previously unaffected Amhara Region which brings the number of affected regions to five. Preliminary data indicates that AWD cases have reached 15,520 with 156 deaths. Federal Ministry of Health and the affected Regional health Bureaus have mobilized resources from various partners including WHO, UNICEF, PSI, Ethiopian Red Cross, MSF and Merlin. Despite continued efforts by Government and partners containment has remained a big challenge with case fatality rates reaching 64.23 percent in Amhara. For more information contact: who-wro@et.afro.who.int

JAPANESE GOVERNMENT DONATES US\$4.7 MILLION TO UNICEF

The Government of Japan pledged over US \$4.7 million to UNICEF for polio eradication programmes and malaria control in Ethiopia as the ongoing flood crisis threaten the outbreak of malaria. The funds will be used to provide 300,000 Long Lasting Insecticide Nets (LLINs) through the Enhanced Outreach Strategy to 150,000 malaria-affected families around the country. In addition, the funds will be used to provide a large quantity of vaccines to conduct two rounds of polio supplemental immunization campaign, targeting 15.6 million children under five in each round. For more information contact: mapped@unicef.org

MSF – HOLLAND AND BUREAU OF HEALTH TACKLE MEASLES OUTBREAK IN TIGRAY

An outbreak of measles has been confirmed in Humera woreda, Tigray Region. There are currently 73 patients being treated by the Bureau of Health and MSF-Holland in Humera hospital. So far, 4 fatalities have been reported. Adults are likely to be affected due to low immunization within Ethiopia and chronic levels of malnutrition in the area. A mass vaccination campaign for the estimated 200,000 people in the area is planned by MSF-Holland. For more information contact: msfh-ethiopia-hom@field.amsterdam.msf.org

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