



BORENA ZONE UPDATE

Clashes between rival clans (mainly Borena and Guji) are still of major concern. A recent UN mission confirms that many are displaced and require immediate assistance. Oxfam International has begun distribution of non-food items in the region including 6,000 blankets and household items. Government and other humanitarian partners are providing food and non-food assistance. Discussions are ongoing among traditional leadership and Government authorities to stabilise the situation. For more information contact: ocha-eth@un.org

DISPLACED AFARI ERITREANS IN AFAR REGION

A recent joint UN/Government mission (12-19 June) to Afar Region confirmed the presence of displaced Afari Eritreans in Kilbet Rasu (zone 2). According to the regional authorities, the people are coming from the Debubawai K'eyih Bahri and the Semenawi K'eyih Bahri zones of Eritrea. Water and sanitation and health are chronic problems in the area. Some of the refugees are receiving emergency food assistance but the majority are assisted by the host community. The team recommends food assistance and provision of basic emergency services. A formal registration process must be established. For more information contact: ocha-eth@un.org

NUTRITION SURVEYS CONTINUE IN REFUGEE CAMPS

Annual nutrition surveys conducted by UNHCR, WFP and the Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) continue in all refugee camps. In Yarenja camp in Beneshangul, which hosts Sudanese refugees, the health and nutrition situation has not substantially changed from 2005. Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) is reported at 11.5 percent against 12 percent in 2005. The Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) level is 1.2 percent. The Crude Mortality Rate is also stable compared to last year. Although the coverage of supplementary and therapeutic feeding has improved since 2005, it is still very low. In Sherkole camp in Beneshagul, which also hosts Sudanese refugees, the health and nutrition situation remains the same as last year. The GAM is 10 percent and SAM is 0.6 percent. As previously reported, nutrition surveys carried out in Shimelba camp for Eritrean refugees and Kebribeyah camp for Somali refugees, showed improvements in the nutrition status of the population. Nutrition surveys in the last two camps in Gambella Region, Fugnido and Bonga, are planned to start this week. For more information contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org & HQdist@unhcr.ch

ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS SOUGHT FOR REFUGEE ASSISTANCE IN ETHIOPIA

Requirements for WFP's refugee operation are not fully met for 2006. A shortfall of 1,800 tonnes of relief food is recorded for the remainder of the year. New contributions are urgently sought. A new Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation for refugees living in the country is currently under preparation. The new phase of this operation will contemplate an expanded food basket that could assist refugees in maintaining a better nutritional status, provided that donors respond generously. For more information contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

UPDATE ON STATUS OF TRANSFERS FOR THE PRODUCTIVE SAFETY NET PROGRAMME

The Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP), which plans to reach 7.2 million beneficiaries in 2006, continues to deliver cash and food transfers to beneficiaries. All regions and most of the PSNP woredas have received food or cash for the first three months of transfers. More than 54 percent cash and 64 percent food of the first two months allocation is distributed to beneficiaries. Only a few woredas have started distributing the third month allocation, with the exception of parts of Afar Region and some woredas of Borena zone in Oromiya Region. The Federal Food Security Co-ordination Bureau (FSCB) and the Regional Food Security Bureaus have solicited woredas to speed up the rate of transfers and reduce bureaucratic processes related to public works verification. This is expected to improve the rate of transfers. The FSCB has also received the regional requests to shift the transfer modality from food to cash in some woredas while in others, beneficiaries and the woredas/regions expressed their willingness to shift from cash to food as a mechanism to over-come market constraints related higher food prices (based upon local conditions). Some 1.3 million PSNP beneficiaries will receive food instead of cash for the remaining three months of transfers and allocations have already been processed by the FSCB for immediate dispatch. For more information contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

UPDATE ON RELIEF FOOD DISPATCHES

The sixth round of relief food allocations is almost complete in most regions. The seventh round is under preparation. In Somali Region, however, security related transportation problems, continue to hamper food deliveries. About 60 percent of the fifth round of food allocations has been dispatched to the region. The inter-agency emergency assessment teams currently deployed in the field to assess requirements for the July-December period are tasked to monitor and report any changes in food deliveries and distributions in Somali Region. For more information contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

GOAL CONDUCTS NUTRITIONAL SURVEYS IN DEDER AND METTA WOREDAS, OROMIYA REGION

GOAL, with support from the Regional Bureau of Health and DPPB, is undertaking nutritional surveys in Deder and Metta woredas of East Hararghe zone, Oromiya Region. Preliminary results are expected in mid-July. Recent Enhanced Outreach Strategy (EOS) results detected several cases of severe acute malnutrition in the woredas. WFP field reports also indicate a deterioration of food security in both woredas. Contributing factors are reported to be the late start of safety net transfers to beneficiaries, combined with the high price of food commodities and scarce supply in the markets. Underestimation of emergency beneficiaries has also exacerbated the situation contact: goal.ethio@ethionet.et