



RESPONSES TO ACUTE WATERY DIARRHOEA IN GAMBELLA REGION

Recent reports indicate that ten people died and up to 1,400 people to date are affected by acute watery diarrhoea in Gambella Region, particularly in Gambella and Itang woredas. A few non-fatal cases have been reported in three refugee camps in the area. Presently UNHCR has suspended the repatriation operation of South Sudanese refugees due to logistical problems and as a preventive measure to the outbreak. The situation is exacerbated by a severe shortage of clean drinking water at Gambella Hospital. MSF-CH is treating the Baro river water with chlorine, and Population Services International's WaterGuard, a chlorine treatment, is being sold on the market in Gambella town. Following the outbreak, the Regional Council established a Regional Task Force, presided by the Vice President of the Region. The Regional Health Bureau, as the main actor for the management and control of the outbreak, established two Technical Task Forces (case management and prevention and control), which meets fortnightly. At the Federal level, a UN inter-agency meeting was called by the WHO to discuss further preparedness and response plan. To discuss the water supply system in Gambella, the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) jointly with UNICEF convened an urgent meeting on 3 May in Addis Ababa with private and public enterprises. In the meeting, partners agreed to carry out interim activities in the region. MoWR will provide a generator, a de-watering pump, and six sets of 5,000 litre water bladders. It will also provide two trucks to carry the emergency supplies to Gambella town, as well as to provide water trucking services for the initial period of one month. WATT International (private organisation) has donated a submersible pump of 4 litre/second capacity in support of clean water provision and Water Works Construction Enterprise (WWCE) in an effort to solve the fuel shortage in the town, it has allowed the use of its fuel station in Gambella. UNICEF will arrange the use of the Catholic Church Mission's borehole to draw water from the source and WWCE will install a temporary distribution system by laying a provisional pipeline. UNICEF is negotiating to send a drilling rig to fix Gambella's town system. UNICEF has also sent four Emergency Water treatment Units, water purification chemicals, which are sufficient for up to two months, 200 Plastic Squatting Plates, 30 OXFAM Sanitation Kits, 12 water bladders as well as 14,000 bars of soap. In addition, UNICEF provided the treatment centres with ORS, ringers lactate and antibiotic drugs for the treatment of 3,000 cases of Acute Diarrhoeal Disease. To support the regional response activities, MoWR and UNICEF have sent experts to provide technical support in the areas of water quality and treatment. The Ministry of Health has also dispatched a health professional to assess the situation and identify gaps. Assessment reports will be shared with all partners in the coming week. Contact: mapped@unicef.org & GEGZIABK@unhcr.org

ALARMING MALNUTRITION IN MAREKO WOREDA, SNNPR

Action Contre la Faim (ACF) conducted a nutritional survey in Mareko woreda in Gurage zone, SNNPR in mid April and preliminary results indicate alarming malnutrition with 13.6 percent Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) and 2.7 percent Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). Consequently, ACF opened a Therapeutic Feeding Programme in the woreda on 24 April and admitted 91 under five children during the first four days. In addition, following depletion of food stocks from the previous harvest, high grain prices and delays in transferring the safety net resources, the lowland areas of Gurage, Selti, Kembata-Tembaro, Sidama and Dawro zones are suffering from food shortages. A recent DPPA-led rapid assessment revealed increased malnutrition among vulnerable groups. Contact: aicf@ethionet.et & wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

SERIOUS NUTRITIONAL STATUS IN FENTALE WOREDA, OROMIYA REGION

GOAL's nutritional survey in Fentale woreda, East Shewa zone in Oromiya Region reveals a 12.2 percent GAM and a 1.5 percent SAM with 0.86/10,000/day U5MR. The nutritional level is considered as serious due to the presence of aggravating factors such as poor food security status, low coverage of measles vaccination and vitamin A supplementation, and relatively high morbidity rate of infectious diseases. The report recommends the resumption of general food distribution for both the safety net and emergency programmes and blanket supplementary feeding for children under five, lactating and pregnant women and the elderly. DPPA is dispatching a full relief food basket to the woreda for 6,300 beneficiaries for the month of March and to date the dispatch status is at 90 percent. All of the Safety Net allocation to Fentale for February has been dispatched (383 tonnes of cereals). Meanwhile, the food security situation in Fedis, Kersa, Golo-Oda, Goro-Gutu, Babile, Haro-Maya and Gursum woredas is also reportedly deteriorating due to delays in transfers for the Productive Safety Net Programme. A DPPA-led rapid assessment mission is expected begin in the coming week to assess the situation. Contact: goal.ethio@telecom.net.et & wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

RISKS AND REPORTS OF FLOODING IN THE COUNTRY

Moderate to heavy rainfall dominated much of the past week in most zones of Somali Region. Following increased precipitation, water levels at some of the major catchment areas of the Shebele, Genale and Dawa rivers have been steadily increasing in the past few days. However, the latest report from the WFP Gode sub-office indicates that the level of the Shebele River is subsiding and there are no reports of flooding along the river basin. Nevertheless, if rainfall continues with the current intensity there is still a risk of flooding in some areas along the river, including Gode, Kelafo, Mustahil and Ferfer woredas of Gode zone. The last severe flooding of the Shebele River occurred at the end of April 2005 affecting thousands of people. Currently, one section of Dolo Odo town in Liben zone is reportedly encircled by floods from the Dawa River and as a result some people in the town have already been relocated. In Southern Nations, Nationalities and People Region (SNNPR), evenly distributed rains have been reported. The amount has been moderate to heavy with isolated incidences of floods and/or hailstorms in parts of Wolayita, Gedio, Gamo Gofa and Sidama zones. The rainfall is generally rated as favourable for *belg* crop development. *Belg* rains this year in East Hararghe of Oromiya Region and in Dire Dawa and Harar are reportedly better than last year. The generally good rains in March/April in these areas have improved water and pasture supplies, especially in the lowland areas where serious shortages were reported during the preceding dry months. Heavy rains in the last week of April caused some floods in Deder woreda of East Hararghe zone. Rainfall in Tigray, particularly in the *belg* crop growing areas, has been favourable during the month of April and many woredas in the Southern zone have received 12-18 days of light to heavy precipitation. The rainfall situation in the *belg* producing eastern zones of Amhara (North Wello, South Wello, Oromiya and North Shewa zones) has been mixed. North Wello had medium to heavy falls in most of its woredas and some areas of the other eastern zones received light to medium rainfall. However, Afar Region had no rains this week except some light showers observed in Awash town of Zone 3. Meanwhile, some delays in **food dispatches** are being experienced due to bad road conditions caused by the heavy rains, especially in Afder zone of Somali Region and Afar Region. From the 23,500 tonnes of relief food allocated for Somali Region in February, 83 percent has been dispatched to date. DPPA has also started moving small quantities of food allocated during March. For Afar Region, DPPA has dispatched 76 percent of March's allocation (875 tonnes). For Borena zone of Oromiya Region, the DPPA has allocated 2,500 tonnes of food aid in February and currently the dispatch status is at 92 percent; and from the 2,200 tonnes allocated for March, 95 percent has been dispatched. Contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org