



## HUMANITARIAN UPDATE IN DROUGHT AFFECTED AREAS

Of the 2.6 million people requiring emergency food assistance in Ethiopia, 1.5 million are in Somali Region and 155,000 are in Borena zone (Oromiya Region). These areas are affected by the same drought as the neighboring parts of Kenya and Somalia. WFP aims to cover around two-thirds of the overall emergency food requirements, which would be up to 1.7 million people, with the remainder covered through bilateral contributions to the government or NGOs. The needs of the chronically food insecure population will be addressed through food and cash transfers under the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) (covering 7.2 million people in the first half of the year and 8.3 million in the second half). In Afar Region, most of the food insecure population is to be covered by the PSNP; it is essential to start food transfers for this region as soon as possible, as there are needs in the early part of the year. Meanwhile, emergency food stocks are sufficient to address the immediate emergency food needs in the country. Food dispatches for Somali Region and Borena zone are continuing and food distributions are ongoing. For Somali Region, 10,000 tonnes were allocated to the worst-affected woredas in December and transport and distributions of these allocations continued in January. Some 29,000 tonnes of WFP food has been allocated in January and so far up to one-third has been dispatched. Borena received over 2,000 tonnes in December and 2,900 tonnes have been allocated in January. Emergency distributions include "general" rations of cereals, pulses and vegetable oil. Fortified corn soya blend is also being dispatched for blanket supplementary feeding as preliminary results of nutrition surveys indicate "serious" levels of malnutrition in Somali Region. This is an additional ration for the 35 percent of the population considered to be at particular risk (children under-five, pregnant and nursing women, the sick and the elderly). In the meantime, UNCT has completed a logistics mission to Gode to facilitate an expansion of its presence in the zone in order to ensure effective response. For more information contact: [wfp.addisababa@wfp.org](mailto:wfp.addisababa@wfp.org)

## CARE INDICATES SITUATION DETERIORATING IN BORENA ZONE, OROMIYA REGION

CARE in its monthly update reports a normal food security situation in most of its reporting woredas except in Borena zone of Oromiya Region where the situation is particularly serious in Moyale and Dire woredas. A large number of dead and weak animals were observed by the CARE-led nutrition survey team in Dire and Moyale woredas. In addition, an increasing influx of animals have been reported from Kenya in Yabello and Teltele woredas. The report also indicated that the number of beneficiaries in Borena zone could radically increase (up to 50 percent) from the number estimated in November 2005 by the multi-agency assessment team. Due to severe water shortages in Dire, Moyale and Teltele woredas there is a high concentration of livestock at permanent water points. Maintenance of water points and boreholes as well as water rationing by the government and NGOs continue in all three woredas of the zone. CARE is distributing 18 tonnes of supplementary food in Dire and Moyale woredas. CARE is also planning to undertake de-stocking and targeted animal feeding for lactating and pregnant cows. Preliminary results of CARE's nutrition surveys carried out in January 2006 will be released by the middle of next week. For more information: [care.eth@ethionet.et](mailto:care.eth@ethionet.et)

## EMERGENCY MEASLES VACCINATION CAMPAIGN UNDERWAY IN AFAR REGION

The Afar Regional Health Bureau, in collaboration with UNICEF and WHO, is currently rolling out an emergency measles vaccination campaign targeting 434,441 children from 6-15 years in response to the recent measles outbreak that is affecting most woredas of the region. The campaign, which began on 28 January, is due to be completed on 4 February. From July to December 2005, the region has reported 370 cases, with 20 resulting in death. For more information contact: [mapped@unicef.org](mailto:mapped@unicef.org)

## ETHIOPIA SUSPENDS GRAIN EXPORTS

The Ministry of Trade and Industry announced that Ethiopia has suspended exports of grain products (*teff*, maize, sorghum, and wheat) indefinitely. The ban is intended to stabilise prices of staple food in response to recent price increases and fears of undue pressure on consumers. Ethiopia exports relatively small amounts of grain but the Ministry noted that exports and smuggling were among the causes for the domestic price hikes. For more information contact: [wfp.addisababa@wfp.org](mailto:wfp.addisababa@wfp.org)

## REVIEW OF THE SC-UK/DPPA NUTRITION SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME

Save the Children-UK (SC-UK) commissioned a review of the SC-UK/DPPA Nutrition Surveillance Program (NSP) that was operational in some of the most drought-prone areas of the country between the late 1970's and 2001. The NSP was an early warning system that used Anthropometry data (mean, weight for length measurement) to provide trend analysis. The program phased out in 2002 due to a number of reasons, including high cost, lack of joint ownership and participation, and lack of integration with the government's early warning system. The review compared the NSP to the 187 standard (30x30 cluster) nutrition surveys that were conducted in the country from 2002-2003. According to the review, health information and food security status were well covered in all the surveys, while limited information was gathered on care. The review identified the surveys' recommendations as their weakest area, as they did not address non-food needs, and thus mobilised food aid but not non-food response. The review also found that, while the surveys were used as a form of surveillance system, they lacked trend analysis, and had no role in early warning (as most were conducted after a crisis in the country). It concluded that the NSP was cost-effective compared to the standard nutrition surveys, but that there had been limited capacity building throughout its operational period. The review noted that while there is wider comprehension of nutrition information, there is still a need for broader advocacy. The review recommended: increasing the number and capacity of local nutritionists; broadening advocacy; and integrating nutritional survey programmes with the government for joint ownership and participation. The report is being compiled and will be circulated once finalised.