



FLOODS DISPLACE 15,000 PEOPLE IN OROMIYA REGION

Flooding of the upper basin of the Awash River affected as many as 15,000 people in Southwest and West Shewa zones of Oromiya Region, on 28 July. The flood has affected three woredas in the zones. The full extent of the damage and casualties is yet to be assessed. Rescue operations commenced on 1-2 August, according to a WFP team deployed in the affected areas. The operation was expanded with the involvement of the military using boats to rescue individuals trapped in their villages. A joint Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency and Regional Bureau (DPPA/DPPB) mission conducted a rapid assessment on 31 July. So far, DPPA has dispatched 9.8 tonnes of grain, 2.7 tonnes of high-energy biscuits, 0.3 tonnes of vegetable oil, 8,800 plastic cups and plates, 1,800 blankets, 115 tents and 240 jerry cans to the affected population. A temporary clinic has been set up to provide service for people who are temporarily displaced. Local authorities predicted the floods will not adequately recede until the end of September. It is therefore expected that regional authorities will request additional assistance for the population in need. The affected areas are normally flood prone but the present flooding occurred earlier than usual and many residents were caught unprepared. Floods of a similar magnitude occurred 10 years ago in this area. Contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

ELEVEN EMERGENCY MOBILE HEALTH AND NUTRITION TEAMS DISCONTINUE THEIR SERVICES, SOMALI REGION

The work of eleven Emergency Mobile Health and Nutrition Teams in Somali Region has been stopped, following the improvement of the overall situation in the region. UNICEF is currently discussing with the Regional Health Bureau (RHB) to keep the remaining five teams in the area in order to support the population still suffering from the aftermath of the drought and to intervene in areas affected by poor *gu* rains and in Hartishek IDP camp. Discussions are on-going to evaluate and improve the quality and efficiency of the health and nutrition services provided by the teams. The RHB is expected to decide on the areas where these five teams will intervene on 5 August. Meanwhile, all the seven Emergency Mobile Health and Nutrition Teams that were deployed to remote vulnerable communities in Borena zone, Oromiya Region are still functional. UNICEF pioneered the use of Emergency Mobile Health and Nutrition Teams in order to reach highly-mobile pastoralists across Somali Region and Borena zone, in response to the extremely challenging environments in the two areas during the drought period. Contact: mapped@unicef.org

A JOINT UN MISSION DEPARTS TO AWD AFFECTED AREAS, OROMIYA REGION

A joint UN/government team commenced its mission in areas that are affected by an outbreak of Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) in Southwest and West Arsi zones (Oromiya Region) and Sidama zone (SNNPR). The outbreak has affected eight woredas in Oromiya Region and spread to three woredas in SNNPR. To date it is known that 33 people have died (although this does not include those who may have died in the villages) and over 5,000 people have been noted as affected. The response is being coordinated by the Zonal authorities and Zonal Health Bureau. Despite all of the efforts made so far, the outbreak has still not been contained. Lack of access to clean drinking water is the suspected initial cause of the outbreak, but transmission routes include person to person, eating unwashed fruit and vegetables and other foods, lack of appropriate awareness of hygiene procedures required at funerals, poor sanitation, and other. Getting messages out to people in the infected areas and surrounding areas to ensure that they know how they can avoid the risk of catching the disease and the need to go to the case treatment centres if they get diarrhoea is one of the biggest challenges. Water purification materials, sanitation and hygiene education for affected and surrounding areas and ensuring continued and effective hygiene and isolation procedures for the case treatment centres are the most immediate needs. For more information contact: mapped@unicef.org

RELIEF DISTRIBUTION UPDATE

Emergency food has been allocated to people affected by the AWD outbreak in Shashemene and Siraro woredas of West Arsi zone in Oromiya Region. Food allocation is also made for some 27,500 people displaced by the recent clashes in Borena and Guji zones, as well as for approximately 19,700 IDPs who fled to Moyale woreda in Somali Region. All allocated food is expected to be delivered to respective sites by next week. Meanwhile, transportation of the sixth round relief food allocation is currently underway. In Oromiya Region, half of the month's food allocation has been dispatched, while in Amhara and Southern Nationalities, Nations and People Region (SNNPR), 74 and 89 percent of the food has been dispatched respectively. The sixth round of food dispatches for Afar and Gambella regions is now finalised. In Somali Region, where transportation problems continue, 88 percent of the fifth round of food has been dispatched, with dispatches currently continuing in Fik, Gode and Korahe zones. Nevertheless, the sixth round of food has been dispatched to Afder and Liben zones of the same region and will be transported to the remaining zones as soon as delivery of the fifth round food is completed. High levels of insecurity and limited transport capacity are the major problems in food deliveries in Somali Region. Military escorts therefore continue to be used for the transportation of food to these areas. The DPPA has also pre-positioned food to areas that are becoming inaccessible during the peak of the on-going rainy season. 9,000 tonnes of food have been pre-positioned for relief operations and 18,000 tonnes are under pre-positioning for the Productive Safety Net's Programme in Amhara, SNNP, Oromiya, and Tigray regions. Contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

TARGETED SUPPLEMENTARY FEEDING UPDATE

Food distribution for WFP's Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme (TSF) under the joint UNICEF/WFP Enhanced Outreach Strategy (EOS) is progressing. A total of 420,000 acutely malnourished children and women are now receiving rations of blended food and oil in SNNP, Amhara, Oromiya, and Somali regions. In East Hararghe zone of Oromiya Region, 550 tonnes of supplementary food have been distributed in areas of current high concern for food insecurity. Food is also currently being distributed in three "hot spot" woredas of East Shewa zone of the same region. In Amhara Region, June screening results are currently available for 32 out of 52 woredas, and it is expected that food distributions will be completed in August, upon receipt of the remaining screening information. In Somali Region, food has been distributed in 18 woredas and is currently moving in the three remaining woredas of Gode zone. In Afar, food distributions are completed in zone 1, and preparations are on-going for programme expansion in zone 2. Training of trainers is scheduled for the first week of August. Contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org