



FLOOD UPDATE

To date, an estimated 239,586 people have been affected by floods in Amhara, Afar, Somali, Tigray, SNNP and Gambella regions. In Somali Region, a joint government and humanitarian partners' mission conducted a rapid assessment in the flood affected woredas of Mustahil, Kelafo and Ferfer from 24-30 September. The mission reported that approximately 48,300 people are affected, of whom 8,880 are displaced. The floods have also damaged farmlands and grazing areas. The team also reported that although the current level of the river is below that observed at the same time last year, an unusual change in the volume of the flow has been observed this year. The overflow also devastated kebeles that were not affected in the worst flooding of 2006. Access has also been restricted to some villages and this could be further aggravated by the forthcoming *deyr* season (rainy season). In addition, WHO reported that incidences of water borne diseases particularly Biliharzia have increased. The situation could further deteriorate due to the poor health and water and sanitation services in the region. Meanwhile, in Gambella Region, the Baro and Gilo Rivers flooded eight neighbouring woredas. The floods destroyed crop land and have further restricted access in the region. According to a recent OCHA mission, in Gambella town alone, an estimated 2,270 people have been displaced and are currently residing in five temporary shelters including schools and farmers' training centers. In Afar Region, although flood waters have receded, access to the flood affected woredas of Gewane and Bure Mudaytu remains challenging. For further information contact: ocha-eth@un.org & wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

SOMALI REGION: SOME IMPROVEMENTS NOTED

The overall humanitarian situation in Somali Region appears to be improving, though serious humanitarian concerns remain. Reports from the regional government officials note that commercial trade has been reinstated following the opening of four major trade routes including two in the North, one in the East and one in the Southeast. This has paved the way for the opening of informal smaller routes and slightly increasing the presence of commercial food in the region. The United Nations has been consulting with Government and partners on a range of humanitarian interventions which need to begin urgently. The Government has shown support in beginning the implementation of activities in health, nutrition and emergency food assistance. Re-supply of ten health centers in the region by the Regional Health Bureau, supported by UNICEF has begun. Prices of basic food commodities, however, remain elevated. The *deyr* rains have commenced on time and it is anticipated that this will improve the food security situation. The dispatch of 9,632 tonnes of emergency food allocated for 530,000 beneficiaries by DPPA is ongoing from the previous allocation made in July. To date, dispatches have been finalized in Afder, Liben and Shinile zones and 73 percent of the 5,396 tonnes allocated for Fik, Degehabur, Warder, Koraha and Gode zones has been dispatched. The remaining food will continue to be transported to the region. Forty six loaded trucks are currently awaiting escort in Dire Dawa. For further information contact: ocha-eth@un.org & wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

ACUTE WATERY DIARRHOEA

A total of 120 woredas in six regions – Amhara, Oromiya, Somali, SNNP, Oromiya and Afar reported active cases of Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) during the week. Out of the reporting woredas, eight are newly affected – Munesa in Arsi zone, Oromiya Region; Dale in Sidama zone, Alaba Special woreda, SNNPR; Dalol in Zone 2, Afar Region; and Ankasha in Awi zone; Bahri Dar Zuria in West Gojjam; Hulet Eju Enesie and Machakel in East Gojjam zone in Amhara Region. Nationally, however, the timeliness and completeness of case reporting remains very low due to the lack of health professionals, poor communication systems and security problems in some areas. WHO still maintains seven consultants in the regions in response to emergencies, including AWD epidemic and flood response. In Tigray, the regional government has allocated 675,000 Birr for AWD response. The Regional Health Bureau has also deployed 12 health workers to assist affected woredas in AWD case management. In Afar Region, Oxfam distributed non-food items including jerry-cans and soaps; World Vision provided US\$ 59,200 for drug procurement and staff training and supervision; Concern covered operational cost in Zone 3 and CARE distributed water guard and soap. Meanwhile, in Somali Region, UNICEF in collaboration with the RHB is currently supplying essential drugs, medical supplies, disinfectants and soap to selected woredas. For further information contact: who-wro@et.afro.int

HRF MISSION VISITS AKOBO, GAMBELLA

A recent OCHA monitoring mission to Akobo and other areas in the west of Gambella Region found that the humanitarian situation has been exacerbated by a lack of food, clean water, health clinics, and education. In Tiergol kebele, Akobo woreda, particularly the Government has yet to re-establish the education system with no school buildings or teachers. Moreover, there are no proper health clinics or medical services available in the village. Inaccessibility aggravated by the rainy season and consequential flooding, has hindered transportation and efficient levels of humanitarian assistance. Recommendations include stronger coordination by the regional government with UN and NGO partners, the distribution of food aid in Akobo and greater investment in public infrastructure. For more information contact: ocha-eth@un.org

TREE LOCUST INFESTATION IN AFAR REGION

A tree locust infestation is reported in Zone 1, 2, 4 and 5 in Afar Region. The infestation affected Dubti, Assayita, Mille, Uwa, Awra, Yallo, Gewane and Magalle woredas and is currently spreading to other areas due to favourable wet conditions. A similar infestation also occurred in the region at the same time last year. The Pastoral and Rural Development Bureau should conduct a rapid assessment to identify its coverage and impact in order to ensure the required response. For further information contact: afardpsb@yahoo.com