



AWD UPDATE

Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) continues to be of major concern with increased reports of newly affected woredas. During the week 511 new cases with three deaths – CFR 0.6% – were reported nationwide. Majority of cases are reported from Dalo-Mana, Girja and Abaya woredas in Oromiya Region and Gedeo zone in SNNPR. The swift spread of the disease in these woredas is due to inadequate availability of safe drinking water and sanitation facilities as well as poor hygiene awareness. WHO and UNICEF have deployed health consultants to provide technical assistance to the Regional Health Bureaus as well as zonal and woreda bureaus in affected regions. Meanwhile, a WHO team conducted rapid assessments in newly affected woredas of Oromiya, SNNP, Afar and Somali regions. The team also trained health workers on case management and reactivated health coordination committees in Bale and Guji zones. In addition, UNICEF, OXFAM and CARE are actively engaged in improving water supply systems as well as community awareness in affected areas. For more information contact: who-wro@et.afro.who.int

VERIFICATION ASSESSMENT TEAMS TO BE DEPLOYED IN OROMIYA AND SNNP REGIONS

In line with the DPPA led Monitoring Sub Group proposal, the DPPA plans to undertake rapid verification assessments in Oromiya and SNNPR that have requested immediate food assistance. The Oromiya assessment, covering 11 woredas in five zones, is tentatively planned to commence on April 12 while that of SNNPR covering three woredas in Wolayita zone is scheduled to start on April 18. For more information contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

SITUATION UPDATE

A recent monitoring visit by WFP to Shinile zone, Somali Region indicates that pasture is getting scarce in both Shinile and Erer woredas due to the long dry season that is now extending into its fifth month. *Gu* rains, due to commence from third week of March, have so far been light and sporadic. Water supply shortage is experienced in northern parts of Erer woreda, although the situation of some kebeles that have recently received 1-2 days of rain has slightly improved. Moreover, there are reports of unusual migrations of cattle and camels to Afdem woreda of Shinile zone and the neighboring Oromiya Region. Milk production is also reported to be very low owing to migration and poor condition of remaining livestock. In Afar Region, the *belg/sugum* rains have so far been light and limited to a few areas in Zones 3 and 5. Livestock movements, mainly from parts of zones 2 and 4 to adjacent regions of Tigray and Amhara have been observed due to water and feed shortages. In addition, slight declines in the physical conditions of livestock has been noted, but it is not yet of concern. Food security situation in the region generally remains stable. For more information contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

REPATRIATION OF SUDANESE REFUGEES

Voluntary repatriation of Sudanese refugees from Ethiopia continued with 1,138 refugees departing to Southern Sudan between 1 and 2 April 2007. A total of 518 people from Fugnido camp returned to Pagak and Maiwut in Upper Nile State on 1 April and a convoy from Bonga camp took 620 returnees to the Blue Nile State of South Sudan on 2 April. For more information contact: gegziabk@unhcr.org

CHILD CARE PRACTICES KEY UNDERLYING CAUSES OF CHILD MALNUTRITION

Preliminary findings of a recent WFP funded study reports that harmful child care practices at household levels are one of the key underlying causes of young child malnutrition in Ethiopia. The study – Child Caring Practices as Underlying Causes of Young Child Malnutrition in Rural Ethiopia – was conducted in Sidama zone (SNNPR) and East Hararghe zone (Oromiya Region). Major recommendations include strengthening of health extension workers training at woreda health office level; increasing the provision of educational materials at health post level; expanding radio programming for nutrition and health education; and increasing growth monitoring promotion. For more information contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org