



# Humanitarian Bulletin

UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

WEEKLY HUMANITARIAN HIGHLIGHTS IN ETHIOPIA

16 October 2006

## AWD SPREADS TO AFAR REGION

Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) has now spread to Afar Region. To date, 30 cases with seven deaths are reported in Afdera town, a salt production area near the Danakil depression. The regional government conducted an initial assessment and the regional sector bureaus are making further assessments. There are plans to establish treatment centers and to place water tankers in the AWD affected areas. The situation in other regions, including Amhara and SNNP is also of major concern as other disease outbreaks are competing for financial and health resources. In Amhara, a new woreda, Laygayint has also reported AWD outbreaks. Meanwhile, the joint Federal Ministry of Health and WHO team deployed to verify reports of AWD outbreak in Somali Region reported no AWD outbreak in the region. As of 9 October, a total of 25,740 AWD cases with 218 deaths are reported across the country. For more information contact: [ocha-eth@un.org](mailto:ocha-eth@un.org)

## INFLUX FROM SOMALIA

Approximately 1,350 Somali families from different clans are reported to have crossed the border from Somalia to Bare woreda of Afder zone in Somali Region, according to an inter-agency assessment mission led by UNHCR. The refugees reportedly fled from Gedo, Bakol and Bay regions of Somalia following a conflict between Gadsan and Mo'allin-weyne clans over land ownership and due to the current political situation in the country. Meanwhile, 1,370 Ethiopians who attempted to cross the Gulf of Aden illegally have been expelled from Somalia and have settled in Geladin woreda, Warder zone of Somali Region. The Regional DPPB has requested food assistance but no action has been taken so far. For more information contact: [wfp.addisababa@wfp.org](mailto:wfp.addisababa@wfp.org) and [gegziabk@unhcr.org](mailto:gegziabk@unhcr.org)

## FEARS OF LOCALIZED MALARIA OUTBREAK IN FLOOD AFFECTED AREAS

A recent joint WHO and government malaria assessment mission in 50 flood-affected woredas of Afar, Amhara, Dire Dawa, Oromiya and SNNP regions indicate that there is no major malaria epidemic in these regions. Nevertheless, there are fears of focal malaria outbreaks in some of the malaria prone areas. There is, therefore, an immediate need to strengthen technical support from national and regional levels to high risk woredas by increasing monitoring and providing timely response. To address the immediate requirements, the team estimated the need for approximately US\$ 62,375 in Afar, Amhara and SNNP regions. The major problems observed in some malaria prone areas are delay in the transportation of anti-malarial drugs and lack of operational funds. The rapid malaria assessment that was conducted during August and September aimed to strengthen malaria epidemics preparedness and responses capabilities, particularly in the flood-affected regions. For more information contact: [ambachewm@et.afro.who.int](mailto:ambachewm@et.afro.who.int)

## SEASONAL RAIN UPDATE – SOMALI AND OROMIYA REGIONS

Although the *deyr* rains started three weeks earlier in Somali Region, the geographic coverage and amount have been inadequate. Light to moderate rains that facilitated regeneration of browse and eased water shortages were reported in pocket areas of Fik, Degehabur and Gode zones. Nevertheless, heavy rains in Denan woreda, Gode zone caused flash floods that displaced 600 households and damaged 200 ha of irrigated farmland. The region's food security situation is feared to further deteriorate if the *dyer* rains fail as most areas have not yet recovered from the impacts of the failure of the previous *gu* rains. In addition, the *hagaya* rains and short rains are delayed in the pastoral and agro-pastoral areas of Borena zone, Oromiya Region and in SNNPR. Contact: [wfp.addisababa@wfp.org](mailto:wfp.addisababa@wfp.org)

## NATIONWIDE FLOOD IMPACT ASSESSMENT TEAM DEPARTED

A joint government and humanitarian partners flood impact assessment is conducted from 15-30 October in all flood-affected areas. The DPPA-led joint teams attempt to assess the impact of the flood crisis, the response to date and gaps in relief and rehabilitation needs of the affected population. The flood impact assessment was proposed by the flood taskforce established under the auspices of the DPPA Early Warning Working Group. The taskforce is comprised of DPPA, OCHA, WFP, UNICEF, FEWSNET, USAID, Ministry of Water Resources, National Meteorological Services Agency and the Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation. The taskforce also plans to facilitate the establishment of Flood Early Warning and Monitoring System in the country. For more information contact: [ocha-eth@un.org](mailto:ocha-eth@un.org)

## UPDATE ON RELIEF FOOD DISPATCHES

The DPPA has made a general relief food allocation for 155,900 beneficiaries in Amhara, 10,000 in Dire Dawa, 446,580 in Oromiya and 29,300 in SNNP regions. Furthermore, food has been allocated for 43,300 IDPs in West-Imi of Somali Region. Further allocations will be made for the remaining zones shortly. For more information contact: [wfp.addisababa@wfp.org](mailto:wfp.addisababa@wfp.org)

Contributions are welcome. Please submit to UN OCHA-Eth by Friday 1100hrs, [ocha-eth@un.org](mailto:ocha-eth@un.org)