



ALARMING MALNUTRITION IN BERHALE WOREDA, AFAR REGION

GOAL-Ethiopia conducted a nutritional survey in Berhale woreda, zone two of Afar Region from 16-20 October and reported an alarming malnutrition among children. The survey revealed 19% Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) and 2% Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) with a 1.05 under five mortality rate/10,000/day. Poor access to clean water and health facilities in most of the communities is also observed. GOAL also reported concern regarding the presence and expected reliance on relief food by the majority of the population. Consequently, the survey recommends improvement in quality and quantity of general ration by revising beneficiary numbers and complementing it through blanket supplementary feeding program for children under five and pregnant and lactating mothers. Contact: santiagoc@goalethiopia.com

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE TO CONDUCT NUTRITIONAL SURVEY IN TIGRAY REGION

The Tigray regional DPPB in collaboration with the Early Warning Capacity Building Project requested assistance to conduct nutritional surveys in Ofla, Endamehoni, Raya Azebo, Kola Tembein and Erob woredas. The survey is intended to evaluate the current nutritional status of children under five, in response to the findings of critical malnutrition in the June 2005 Enhanced Outreach Strategy (EOS) screening. The GAM and SAM revealed by the screening were 17.8% and 1.8% (Ofla), 17.7% and 3.7% (Endamehoni), 22.5% and 3.3% (Raya Azebo), 21% and 1.5% (Erob) and 27.9% and 6.5% (Kola Temben). Meanwhile the regional DPPB reported that this year's *meher* season rainfall, both in amount and distribution, was better than that of the past three years. A better yield is expected in the region except where the rains ceased early (by the end of August) affecting both long and short cycle crops (Raya Azebo, Ahferom and lowlands of H/Wajirat woredas). For more information contact: Tigray Early Warning Department @04-400342/406497

ICRC PROVIDES NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE TO 3,000 FAMILIES IN AFDER AND FIK ZONES, SOMALI REGION

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) conducted an assessment in Fik and Afder zones, Somali Region in mid-October and reported that 3,000 families are displaced in West Imi and Raso woredas in Afder and Selahad and Lagahida woredas in Fik zone due to ongoing clashes. According to ICRC, since the displacement started four months ago, the people have been depending on DPPC's relief food assistance. The people also survive by selling their livestock and receiving support from the host communities. ICRC reported that the people do not have appropriate shelter that can protect them from the coming rains. Diarrhea, malaria and pneumonia are prevalent in the areas where health posts are either not fully operational and/or short of drugs. In response, ICRC distributed tarpaulin, kitchen sets, blankets and sleeping mats to 1,200 households in West Imi, 1,000 households in Raso and 400 households in Selahad and Legahida woredas on 24-25 October. It has also provided dressing materials and basic medicines to Raso, Selahad and Lagahida health facilities. For more information contact: icrcethiopia@ethionet.et

SOMALI REGION UPDATE

The Somali Regional Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Food Security Bureau in its monthly (October) food security update reports that the overall food security situation in the region is normal to near normal. The *deyr* rains were reported in most woredas of the seven *deyr* receiving zones with the exception of Dolobay and West-Imi in Afder zone, Dolo-odo in Liben zone, Shekosh and Debeweyin in Korahe zone which only received a one-day shower. The *deyr* rains have not yet arrived in Gode zone, with the exception of Gode and Denan woredas. The availability of pasture and water seem to be improving in the areas that have received good initial rains. The two *karan* rain receiving zones (Jijiga and Shinile) have not received rains this month as they started the long dry spell of *Jiiaal* season. However these zones have received good *karan* rains until the end of September; as a result have sufficient pasture and water as well as satisfactory harvests. The update also indicated that insufficient or no food crops were harvested in most zones of the region, with the exception of small vegetables and fruits grown in irrigated farms in Dolo-odo woreda. Although the livestock body condition in most zones is good, a local disease called *Sooguduud* was reported in Shinile zone and an outbreak is expected in the area. For more information contact: ewprojectscuk@ethionet.et

UNICEF SUPPORTS NEW TFP IN KOMBOLCHA, EAST HARARGHE ZONE

UNICEF has supported the Oromiya Regional Health Bureau (RHB) in establishing a Therapeutic Feeding Programme (TFP) at the health center in Kombolcha woreda in East Hararghe zone. The programme is in response to the EOS nutritional screening conducted in the first week of October that showed high number and percentage of Severe Acute Malnutrition (624 cases, 2.6% SAM). UNICEF provided the programme the necessary drugs and therapeutic products as well as technical assistance. The programme, which has been operational since the end of October, has the capacity to treat up to 100 children. For more information contact: mapped@unicef.org

APDA'S AFAR REGION UPDATE

Afar Pastoralist Development Association (APDA) reports in its latest update that the dry season has resumed in Afar Region as of late September. In most areas, the duration of the rains was insufficient to retain pasture. Water is scarce as water pools in many areas have dried up. The update indicates that APDA's retention dams in Elidar and Dubti woredas are currently playing a crucial role in watering the herd. APDA also reported that it is appealing to DPPB to construct mobile houses (*daboyta*) for the people that are affected by the seismic activities at the end of September in Teru woreda. With local contributions, APDA thus far has assisted 25 households constructing their houses. For more information contact: afarpda@yahoo.com