



SOMALI REGION FLOOD UPDATE

The DPPC convened a meeting on 16 May to update UN/donors on the recent Somali Region flood. The number affected remains unclear with conflicting reports of the number in need. Estimates range from 23,000 to more than 100,000. As a result, the DPPC has decided to conduct a re-assessment with the participation of concerned ministries and the UN (OCHA, FAO, UNICEF, WHO, WFP) starting from 25 May. The assessment will look at water, sanitation, health, agriculture and nutritional needs as well as road conditions in the flood affected areas around Gode and Jijiga. The regional authorities have 800 tonnes of maize in Gode, but lack the means to distribute it. WFP is proposing to take responsibility for the maize and distribute it and to reimburse the regional government later from other stocks. Apart from security concerns, logistics is reportedly one of the main constraints to the relief operation, as the DPPC has very limited operational budget in Gode and the road conditions are very difficult. UNICEF, WFP, and some NGOs may be prepared to help with logistics. The ICRC will airlift Non Food Items (NFI) from Dire Dawa to Gode early next week. This assistance will be distributed to over 1,000 flood affected families around Kelafo. In the meantime ICRC teams continue to assess the humanitarian conditions in areas of difficult access around Mustahil. UNICEF has deployed a Malaria Officer to Gode to provide a refresher course on the use of Co-Artem to the Health personnel of the 15 outreach teams that it is supporting. Recent reports indicate that the water level of the Wabi Shebelle river is again on the rise especially in West Imey and Abokoro kebele. Following a flash flood in Dire Dawa on 21 May, regional authorities report 32 people to have died. More information on the flood is available at www.ocha-eth.org

NEW DISPLACEMENTS DUE TO CONFLICTS IN OROMIYA REGION

The ongoing tribal conflict between Guji and Gabbra in southern Oromiya has resulted in massive displacement of people. In April an NGO reports as many as 50,000 people in Hagere Mariam, Yabello and Arero have been displaced and several thousand huts burnt. The DPPC has sent an assessment team to the affected zone but was unable to verify the figures because not all affected areas were accessible due to poor road conditions and security concerns. There is also a report of an additional 7,000 displaced people in the border area of Moyale and Borena zones. The displacement in Moyale and Borena is reported to be a result of conflict between Oromos and Somalis. According to Somali regional authorities the displaced are in need of food, shelter and medical attention.

UPDATE FROM AMHARA REGION

An OCHA team visited South Wello of Amhara Region from 10-14 May. Sayint woreda is undertaking both resettlement and Safety Net Programs. Although the safety net program officially started in all kebeles in February, food transfer started only in late April in most places, but was interrupted because of the election campaign. Exclusion of the poorest families (landless and female headed households) from the safety net program and other local benefits up to now is also a major concern. Enhanced Outreach Strategy (EOS) data showed GAM rates which indicate a serious nutritional problem. According to the team, the woreda authorities requested DPPB/DPPC for emergency food assistance for 22,600 persons, which represent 10 percent of the population, and supplementary food for almost 3,400 children and women. The team also confirmed that the *belg* rains are performing better since mid April. For more information contact: ocha-eth@un.org

MEASLES ' PLUS' CAMPAIGNS

Following confirmed cases of measles in Afar, Gambella and East and West Hararghe zones of Oromiya Region, UNICEF with the Ministry of Health conducted an emergency measles vaccination and Vitamin A supplementation in Gambella from 25 April to 4 May, targeting 199,582 children from 6 months to 15 years. Reports from the region showed an average of 68.6% coverage (1,642 children were not reached due to security reasons). In addition, distribution of de-worming tablets has been included in this campaign in response to the poor health and nutritional status of children in the region. The campaign in Afar, targeting about 286,700 children from 6 to 59 months, will commence in the second week of June. For more information contact: igetachew@unicef.org

UNICEF TRAINS 40 HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN GAMBELLA

The Gambella Regional Health Bureau (RHB) requested UNICEF to establish a Nutrition Rehabilitation Unit (NRU) to enable an emergency response to the high rates of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) reported in the region. In response UNICEF held a three day training workshop starting 16 May in Gambella Hospital on case management for 40 Health Professionals. UNICEF also provided therapeutic milk products (F75, F100) and malnutrition screening equipment. For more information contact: igetachew@unicef.org

FOOD CONTRIBUTION UPDATE

The German Government has announced a new contribution of US\$ 647,000 for food in response to the joint Flash Update issued on 4 May 2005.

FAO SUPPORTING WOMEN IN DROUGHT AFFECTED WOREDAS OF SNNPR

FAO is supporting drought affected woredas in SNNPR through a pilot project involving vegetable production assistance to 50 women farmers in Boricha, Boloso Sore, Kindo Koysha and Omo Sheleko woredas. Training was done in two cycles to develop capacity. Each of the farmers cultivated at least 12, 8m² seed beds of five vegetable types (tomato, carrot, onion, hot pepper and kale). A recent visit to the farms indicated good progress and some had started harvesting and selling the products. This project is meant to demonstrate means to improve individual and household nutrition status in addition to involving women in the development process. For more information contact: fao-ethiopia@fao.org