

# FOCUS ON



AUGUST 2007

*Ethiopia*



## HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

- REGIONAL OVERVIEW
- REVIEW OF EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS IN PASTORAL AREAS
- UPCOMING & ONGOING MEETINGS

Focus on Ethiopia is produced by UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), in collaboration with other UN agencies and partner NGOs. Focus on Ethiopia provides a monthly overview of humanitarian trends and activities in Ethiopia, as well as focusing on particular issues of interest. Send comments, suggestions and contributions to [ocha-eth@un.org](mailto:ocha-eth@un.org)

## REGIONAL OVERVIEW

### AMHARA

During the month of August, flooding affected approximately 42,850 people and displaced 12,571 in ten woredas in five zones, according to the region. New cases are being reported in flood affected areas.

The Regional Food Security and Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Bureau (FSDPPB) reported that floods damaged a total of 20,300 hectares of cropped land.

Affected woredas include Libo Kemkem and Dera in South Gondar zone; Quara and Dembia in North Gondar zone; Artuma Fursi, Dewa Chefa, Jille Timuga and Kemissie town in Oromiya zone, Kobo in North Wollo and Antsokia Gemza in North Shoa. Flood water coverage has increased this year with occurrences of flooding in traditionally non flood prone woredas such as Quara in North Gondar zone. According to WFP, the number of displaced is increasing daily in Libo Kemkem and Dera woredas of South Gondar Zone. This is putting pressure on available shelter space and has increased fears that high congestion in some shelters could amplify communicable diseases.

In order to mitigate the severe impacts of flooding witnessed last year, the region has ensured better preparedness through timely circulation of early warning messages. As a result, precautionary measures including relocation of people and livestock to higher ground were undertaken.

A Regional Flood Contingency Plan identifying emerging humanitarian needs was developed during the month. The Regional Emergency Coordination Forum and regional and woreda level sectoral taskforces have also been reactivated to coordinate response. Woreda officials are closely monitoring developments in flood prone areas.



Humanitarian Response is ongoing by both government and humanitarian partner. Food and non-food items have been provided by the Regional FSCDPO and Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERC). In addition, DPPA dispatched 244.1 metric tonnes of food based on the region's request for assistance. In addition to pre-positioning four boats for rescue efforts, UNICEF deployed four experts in Bahir Dar, capital of Amhara Region, to provide technical support. UNICEF also provided 371,305 water purification sachets and 4,575 bottles of water guard for more than 5,500 people for two months. Two EMWAT kits and 4,109 jerry cans were also dispatched.



AWD cases were reported in four zones in six woredas - Dawa Chefa; Kemissie, Artuma and Dawa Hariwa woredas in Oromiya Zone; Habru, Gubalافت and Kobo in North Wollo zone; Metema in North Gongar zone. According to WFP, 823 and 97 cases respectively were reported from Habru and Gubalافت woredas while 148 cases were reported from Metema woreda. UNICEF has provided four CTC kits and ten essential drug kits as well as 990,000 ETB to support the region's effort in control and prevention. WHO has also assigned one consultant and has allocated 89,099 ETB to support the Regional Health Bureau (RHB).

There has been an increase in dog bites in two kebeles in Ayina Bugina woreda, North Wollo Zone. Approximately, 240 people have been bitten by stray dogs leading to four suspected rabies deaths. The last case was reported on 6 August. A total of 230 stray dogs have been killed by local authorities as part of rabies prevention activities. Anti-rabies vaccines have also been supplied by the Federal Ministry of Health (MoH) with WHO support. The zone, however, does not have the storage facilities available for the vaccines so they are currently stocked in Dessie Hospital in South Wollo zone.

Despite adverse weather conditions reportedly stunting the growth of crops in some parts of the region, the 2007 *meher* season rain has, in general been favorable for crop planting and development. Reports indicate that the rainfall situation has been satisfactory especially

in mid and lowland areas during the month; as a result most crops are at their normal growth stage. Sorghum and Maize are at growth and grain filling stages, wheat and barley are at late growth, pulses are flowering and *teff* is at the seedling stage.

The physical condition of livestock is poor in most areas of the region due to a shortage of grazing lands compared to the number of livestock. Reports indicate that a considerable amount of livestock deaths were attributable to Pastrolosis and sheep pox disease outbreaks in Gishe (North Shoa), Mekdela (South Wollo) and Delanta (North Wollo) woredas. A shortage of veterinary personnel has been a major challenge for disease control in these areas.

The price of staple crops and livestock showed an increasing trend during the month. High cash inflow into woredas, poor market supply and anticipation of higher price has contributed to the increment.

Two DPPA-led teams conducted rapid verification assessment missions in 13 woredas in five zones in response to reduced 2006 *meher* and 2007 *belg* crop production. As a result, emergency assistance for 95,468 people was recommended from the 15 percent PSNP contingency fund as well as an additional 690 metric tonnes of emergency food aid. Emergency food assistance was also recommended to for 10,154 beneficiaries.

Moreover, over 3500 metric tonnes of targeted supplementary food has also been distributed to 126,806 children under five and lactating women identified as malnourished during the recent Enhanced Outreach Strategy (EOS) screening.

#### SNNP

Heavy rainfall in the western and central highlands of SNNPR resulted in flooding and landslides which affected 53,170 people and displaced 12,634.

The overflow of the Omo River affected 25 villages – 1,515 households - in Dasenech woreda. According to the DPPA-led verification assessment team, approximately 4,445 people have been displaced to Delemnore relocation site and the remaining have moved to higher grounds. According to the Regional Disaster Prevention and Food Security Office, the water level of the Omo River is currently decreasing. In other areas, 4,000 people have been reportedly displaced by flooding from the Weytu River in Hamer zone. A flash flood from the Bilate River has also affected 9,075 people in Humbo woreda in Wolayita zone and 3,130 people in Loka Abaya in Sidama Zone.

Emergency response is underway. The existing safety net resources in Dasenech woreda were utilized to meet the immediate food needs of the flood affected population. So far the federal DPPA has allocated approximately 566 tonnes of food for 31,533 beneficiaries in the region including South Omo zone. Distribution has commenced. Three boats have been used to move the displaced to



higher ground and provisional shelters. The Dasenech Woreda Health Office is providing emergency health services for the displaced. In order to ensure access to drinking water, three shallow wells have been constructed in the woreda. An additional two wells will be constructed shortly.

Most parts of Gedeo, Silte, Gamo Gofa, Wolayta, Hadiya, Gurage and Derashe Special Woredas received normal rainfall. Heavy rainfall during mid-August in Bensa of Sidama zone, however, damaged crop fields and resulted in landslides in Aleta wondo woredas of Sidama zone and in Kindo Koysha, Kindo Didaye and Offa woredas of Wolayita zone. Sixteen people were reported to have been killed and more than 200 households were displaced in Kindo Didaye woreda.



The majority of *belg* crops in the region are at harvesting stage. Land preparations for the *meher* season are ongoing in Sheka, Gedeo zones and in Burji and Alaba special woredas while most parts of the region have completed planting for the *meher* season.

Although, AWD cases in Gedeo and Gurage zones have declined, AWD cases continue to be of concern in Chuko and Dara woredas of Sidama zone. Cases also reappeared in Hadiya and Kambata Tembaro zones as well as Alaba Special Woreda during the month. A Regional Assessment team to affected woredas reported poor management of CTCs and inadequate water supply. In response to AWD, UNICEF has provided 1.17 million ETB to the RHB for case management and control as well as preventive activities. It also supplied five CTC kits to the worst affected areas. WHO has allocated 356,366 ETB to SNNPR RHB for response and has assigned a consultant to the region.

According to a SC-US report, a total of 11 cases of malnutrition in Therapeutic Feeding Units (TFU) and 379 in Outreach Therapeutic Programmes (OTPs) were reported as of end of July. While, SC-US continues to manage the CTC in Bona wereda of Sidama zone, GOAL has phased out its CTC capacity building programme in Derashe special woreda and handed over to the Woreda Health Office. In Awaye Keraro woreda, accessibility to the

OTP site and shortage of supplementary food are continuing challenges for response.

Meanwhile, the Targeted Supplementary Feeding (TSF) Programme provided over 7,500 metric tonnes of Corn Soya Blend and fortified vegetable oil to 269,887 beneficiaries.

Although there are no reports of violent conflict in Burji and Amaro woredas, increased tensions have reportedly affected *meher* and *belg* crop production in these areas. People in border areas have cultivated less than 50 percent of their land.

Due to favourable weather conditions, there is no shortage of water and pasture availability. As a result, the performance of livestock in most parts of the region is normal to above normal. Incidences of foot and mouth and black leg disease, however, were reported in Konso Special Woreda and in three kebeles of Bensa woreda of Sidama zone. In Bensa woreda, 1,150 cattle were vaccinated to prevent the spread of black leg disease to the area. A Tryps outbreak was also reported in Loka Abaya woreda of Sidama zone.

There is no significant change in the prices and supplies of both food crops and livestock in most parts of the region. The price of *teff*, however, increased by 30-40 birr per quintal in Hadiya and Gurage zones and the price of pepper significantly increased in most parts of the region. Grain prices usually start to decline in August with availability of green maize from the *belg* harvest; however, this year cereal prices displayed an unusually increasing trend during the month due to inflation.

#### GAMBELLA

According to Gambella Disaster Prevention and Food Security Bureau (DPFSB), flooding of the Baro, Akobo and Gilo Rivers was widespread in August affecting over 55,800 people further increasing food insecurity in the region. Moreover, returnees in Akobo remain in urgent need of food while peace remains.

Seasonal flooding along the banks of the Baro, Akobo and Gilo Rivers reportedly affected 55,850 people including over 24,500 that have been displaced. Affected areas include Itang, Jor, Dimma, Godere, Jikaw, Wanthua, Lare and Gambella Zuria. The Federal DPPA has made a two month allocation for nearly 12,000 people in Lare, 7,400 in Itang and 1750 in Gambella Zuria that have been affected by flooding. Distribution has commenced in Lare and Itang woredas. Flood waters in some areas have begun to recede enabling 3,000 people to return to their homes.

Floods have also inundated grazing lands limiting access to pasture for livestock and increased fears that water borne diseases could emerge. So far, however, livestock remain in good physical condition and no disease outbreaks have occurred.



WFP have reported that over 2,500 hectares of farmland has been damaged by flood waters. Moreover, in Godere woreda, heavy rainfall and hailstorms have reportedly destroyed some crops. In Abobo woreda, deficient moisture at the beginning of the growing season has also reportedly damaged crop production in six kebeles.

Accessibility continues to challenge the response for regular relief beneficiaries and returnees in the west of the region. While peace remains, there are reports of tensions between the Nuer communities. Food allocated for Akobo, Jikaw and Wantua woredas remains stranded in Gambella town, Itang and Puchalla. The Regional Disaster Prevention and Preparedness and Food Security Bureau (RDPPFSB) has requested financial assistance from the Federal DPPA for boat rental in order to transport over 200 tonnes of food to those in need. ZOA Refugee Care has begun distribution of NFIs. ICRC has provided fishing kits and MSF-Switzerland is providing medical support. IOM has also commenced distribution of non-food items, seeds and farming tools to those displaced in Jor, Lare, Jikaw and Wantua woredas.

During a recent mission MSF-CH and ICRC observed moderately malnourished cases in Akobo exacerbated by food insecurity. Suspected cases of AWD were also observed but not confirmed. The returnees are expected to be in need of food assistance for 12 months as they have been unable to cultivate the land since their return. Coping mechanisms observed included selling livestock and the purchase of maize from the Lou Nuer.

While there have no official reports of AWD, in addition to unconfirmed reports from Akobo, there were suspected cases among migrant workers from neighboring SNNPR in Dimma woreda.

Inaccessibility due to heavy rains has also affected the TSF programme. As a result, the quality of EOS screening has been affected. Despite the challenges, EOS screening has identified 2,500 beneficiaries.

#### AFAR

Seasonal flooding has occurred in areas along the middle and lower Awash particularly affecting Bure Mudaytu, Gewane and Awash Fentale woredas. Moreover, volcanic activities reportedly displaced over 2,000 people in Teru woreda. While AWD cases in general show a decreasing trend, new cases continue to be reported amid fears that flooding could aggravate the already fragile situation. Food security, however, has improved with the good performance of the *karma* rains.

Volcanic activities in Teru woreda, Zone 4, displaced residents of Dayulu and Gomayta villages. Regional reports indicate that five people and approximately 1,500 animals have been killed. DPPA has dispatched relief supplies and a regional assessment team recommended for food and supplementary food for a total of 2,160 people for six months. Plastic sheeting was also recommended for those displaced around Digiga kebele.

Flooding from the Awash, Kebena and Bulga Rivers has affected an estimated 26,420 people, of whom 6,100 are reportedly displaced in Gewane, Bure Mudaytu and Awash Fentale woredas. Moreover, five villages in Abaala woreda and one village in Dallol woreda have also been affected by flash floods from the neighbouring highlands of Tigray.



In Gewane, a health centre, two schools and over 580 hectares of cultivated vegetable and maize crops and 320 hectares of cotton have been destroyed. Livestock and other infrastructure were also washed away in Awash Fentale. In Bure Mudaytu, two health clinics, two primary schools and a food grain store have been damaged and approximately 4,500 people have been displaced. The Pastoralist's Livelihood Initiative (PLI) has stated that there is an urgent need for food, construction of latrines, provision of clean drinking water and shelter. CARE, ICRC and Oxfam GB have been helping the woreda with coordination. ICRC in conjunction with the Ethiopian Red Cross will distribute blankets and plastic sheeting for 1,000 households. Oxfam and CARE are distributing soap and jerrycans to 2,000 households. Logistics remains the major challenge for response. Villages are inundated with crocodile infested flood waters, but boats are not available in the area. CARE and UNICEF are working together to provide safe potable water. AWD cases already reported in Bure Mudaytu could amplify under current conditions.

The federal DPPA allocated 72.5 metric tonnes of emergency food for more than 4,400 flood affected people in Bure Mudaytu woreda and allocated 119.7 metric tonnes for 12,000 flood affected people in Gewane woreda.

Meanwhile, the TSF programme distributed 1124 metric tonnes of Corn Soya Blend and vegetable oil for 40,362 malnourished mothers and children identified by EOS screening.

While there has been a significant decrease in reported cases from Afar during the last four weeks, AWD continues to be reported in Zones 1, 3, 4 and 5 with the majority of cases in Aysaita woreda.



In addition, to AWD caseloads in Assayita, Chifra, Afambo, Bure Mudaytu, Gewane, and Mille woredas, Yalo woreda in zone 4 has reported cases for the first time during the month. WHO facilitated a one day sensitization meeting on AWD in Aysaita woreda for religious and clan leaders, woreda council members, kebele chairmen and other community members. WHO Consultant is currently assisting the RHB in controlling the AWD epidemic. WHO has also allocated 267,277 ETB to the RHB in support of AWD response. In zone 3, CARE organized training for health workers. Communal latrines have also been constructed in Dubti woreda. Local media has been valuable in transmitting social mobilization messages on AWD awareness. Danish Red Cross is providing water trucking for 21,000 beneficiaries in Dupiti and Elidar woredas with ECHO funding. CONCERN, CARE, IRC, Support for Sustainable Development (SSD), APDA, AMREF, Oxfam GB, SC-UK and the Red Cross movement are responding.

With the start of the *karma* (July to September) rains, there is increased availability of water and pasture, allowing for improvements in the physical condition and productivity of livestock contributing to an overall improvement of food security. At household levels, milk and other livestock products such as butter are available. The performance of the rains has so far been normal to above normal in most parts of the region. In Aysaita, Dubti and Semera woredas, however, rains have been less than in August 2006.

FAO's distribution of animal feed and veterinary drugs to Chiffra, Ewa, Aura and Telelak woredas has contributed towards the improvement of livestock health. The project was implemented by SC-UK, CARE and Afar Regional Agriculture Bureau during July and August.

Livestock health, however, has deteriorated among livestock returning from Chaffa Valley, Amhara Region. There are reports of River Fluke among livestock returning from Chaffa Valley. In Zone 5, Contagious Caprine Pulmonary Pneumonia (CCPP) has been reported. Vaccination of animals has been organized by COOPI and the Ministry of Agriculture.

## OROMIYA

The food security situation in the lowland woredas of Borena, Guji, East and West Hararghe zones is deteriorating due to the poor performance of the two consecutive rainy seasons – *meher* 2006 and *belg* 2007. The recent *belg* assessment identified approximately 131,500 beneficiaries that require emergency assistance for the second half of the year in non-safety net woredas. In addition, WFP reports that an estimated 3,678 people displaced due to conflict in Rayitu woreda require relief food assistance. Meanwhile, a one month food ration has been sent to 3,000 Kenyan refugees in Borena zone.

Most *meher* growing areas received normal to above normal rains during the month. Adverse weather conditions including moisture stress, heavy rains and hailstorms, however, were reported in some woredas of Arsi, North Shoa, Bale, and East Hararghe zones. In West

Shoa zone, as a result of extended heavy rains, Teji and Awash Rivers, overflowed and affected planted areas. The extent of the damaged has not yet been assessed.

Agricultural activities including, planting, cultivation and harvesting of *belg* crops have commenced in all cropping areas. Flooding and hailstorm have, however, damaged 10,228 hectares of cropped land in some woredas of North Shoa, Illbabur, East Hararghe, West Hararghe zones. There is a further risk of flooding near the Koka dam in Wonji woreda, as the amount of water currently being released from the dam (300 ccm) has previously caused serious flooding. Ongoing mitigation has ensured that the impact has been minimal so far.



As a result of the ongoing *kiremt* rains, availability of pasture and water has improved in most parts particularly in East Shoa, North Shoa, Arsi, Bale and West Hararghe zones. Pockets of Guji and Borena zones, however, experienced shortage of pasture and water due to the poor performance of last season's *ganna* rains.

Apart from some woredas in Borena and Guji zones that were affected by unidentified camel disease, the livestock physical condition is normal in most parts of the region. Incidences of Black-leg, Pastrolisis, Lumpy Skin disease and African Horse sickness were reported in 12 peasant associations of Amigna woreda in Arsi zone. Moreover, Anthrax killed 40 animals in Aseko woreda of Arsi zone. Vaccinations are ongoing by woredas' health authorities.

During the month, AWD has stabilized in the region. Nevertheless, new cases were reported in Abaya and Gelana woredas of Borena; Sude, Diksis, Hitosa, Merti, Aseko, Jeju, Sire and Chole woredas of Arsi; Wonji woreda in East Shoa; and Amaya and Wonchi woredas of South West Shoa zones. Taskforces for the control and prevention of the disease were established in East and West Hararghe zone, contributing towards significant decreases. CARE and GOAL are operating in both zones. WHO has assigned two consultants to the region and has allocated 712,000 ETB to the RHB.

A significant increase in livestock and grain price is reported in most markets. Bale zone, however, reported a slight decrease in grain prices, following the *belg* harvest.



Moreover, Arsi, West Hararghe and Guji zones reported minor decrease in livestock price.

Distribution of TSF for beneficiaries identified by EOS is underway in East and West Hararghe zones as well as some woredas in Arsi and Bale zones. To date, approximately 85 percent of the 141,316 beneficiaries identified have received assistance.

### SOMALI

The humanitarian and security situation in Somali Region continues to be of concern particularly in the five zones under military operations – Warder, Korahe, Gode, Fik and Degehabur. The United Nations Country Team has completed a one week mission assessing humanitarian needs including food, water and health. The team will share their findings with government upon completion of their report.

Although the *gu* assessment was not fully conducted in most zones, the food security situation has reportedly deteriorated in the region with trade limitations and below average performance of the *gu* rains. The *gu* season assessment was conducted in Jijiga, Shinile, Afder, Liban and parts of Gode, Fik and Degehabur zones, where movement was not restricted. After a two to three week delay, assessments were also conducted in Warder and Gode zones, where there are restrictions of movement and trade. Korahe and most of Fik zones have not yet been assessed. Results of the assessment in the restricted areas are still not available due to the delay.

Preliminary results from non-restricted areas show that the overall performance of the *gu* rains is below average, and food and cash income is lower than last year. FEWSNET in its August update indicates, however, that in most livelihood zones the decline in income is not to the level where emergency intervention is required. The report also states that in areas where movement is restricted, with the current trend in prices of cereals and an absence of or very limited market for livestock, the level of deficit could be as high as 70 to 75 percent.

Reports indicate that there is very little or no food including local cereals and imported food such as rice and pasta in the markets of restricted zones. According to the Pastoralist Livelihood Initiative's monthly food security updates, the price of 50 kg of sorghum in Degehabur town, which was 65 birr in May, doubled during July and August. Similarly, the price of 50 kg of rice in Gode town has shown an 80 percent increase.

The DPPA is finalizing the dispatch of 9,632 metric tonnes of food allocated in June for 530,000 beneficiaries in Shinile, Afder, Liben, Warder, Gode, Korahe, Fik and Degehabur zones. To date, all of the allocation for Afder, Liben and Shinile has been dispatched. In other zones, approximately 60 percent of the allocation has been dispatched so far.

Due to inaccessibility and security challenges, EOS screening was only conducted in Kebribeyah woreda, Jijiga zone. The screening identified 4,280 beneficiaries in need of TSF. Efforts are ongoing to cover the 13 woredas that are still accessible.

Although reports indicate that AWD cases have reduced in Jijiga zone, unconfirmed cases are being reported from Sagag and Salahad woredas of Fik zone; Degehamedo woreda of Degehabur zone; and Shekosh woreda of Kebridehar zone.

WFP reported that flooding occurred along the Wabishebelle River basin affecting crop lands and pasture in Mustahil. There are no reports of displacement.

### TIGRAY

During the month the region experienced flooding in some woredas and AWD re-appeared posing a serious health threat.

Heavy rainfall caused flooding in some areas affecting over 25,000 people and killing several hundred livestock. A team composed of Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Development, DPPA, Relief Society of Tigray (REST), Catholic Relief Services, and WFP has been deployed to Atsbi Wonberta, Werie Lehe, Mereb Lehe woredas to assess the impact of the flooding.

There was also a dry spell in Erob, Ganta Afeshum, Gulomaheda, Saesi Tsaedaemba and Atsbi Wenberta woredas in East Tigray zone. The performance of crops, however, is good in most woredas, apart from 17,532 hectares of planted land that has been damaged by flooding. All Azmera crops such as maize, sorghum, and finger millet, are at growth stage.

Acute Water Diarrhoea (AWD) cases have reemerged in the region. A total of 2,130 AWD cases with 24 deaths have been reported in Kafta Humera, Tahtay Adiabo, Laelay Adiabo, Medebay Zana, Shire, Tsegede, and Naeder Adet woredas. The majority of the cases are among daily labourers in Kafta Humera woreda.





As part of the emergency response, the regional government has deployed 80 health workers to AWD affected areas. Twenty operational CTCs have also been established in the worst affected woreda - Kafta Humera while one CTC has been established in Tsegedie woreda. WHO has assigned a consultant to provide technical assistance in the newly affected areas. Medical and WATSAN supplies have been supplied by UNICEF, while the Ministry of Health has dispatched Ringer Lactate to Humera woreda. WFP has also provided some maize for affected areas.

Meanwhile, DPPA has provided 1.2 tonnes of wheat, 0.12 tonnes of pulses, and 0.037 tonnes of oil acute malnourished people in Alamata woreda.

Supply of cereals and livestock is normal in all markets; although price of cereals and livestock has increased compared to the same period last year. Good harvest, decline in the amount of imported food, and shift in cropping pattern are among the factors that contributed to the price increase. The availability of water and pasture has also improved and as a result the physical condition of livestock is normal in all woredas.

## UPCOMING AND ONGOING MEETINGS

### In Addis Ababa

September 14, 21, 28	UN Department of Safety and Security Meeting, DSS office, 09:30a.m (Open to all)
September 20, 27	Information sharing meeting on the Humanitarian Situation in Somali Region, UNDP (TBC), 03:00p.m (Invitations only)
September 18	WASH Emergency Taskforce Meeting, MoWR, 10:00a.m (Open to all)
September 18	MANTF (Multi-Agency Nutrition Taskforce Meeting), DPPA, 02:00p.m (Open to all)
September 26	Food Aid Task Force Meeting, DPPA, 09:00a.m (Open to all)

### In the Regions

September 17	Amhara Coordination Meeting, Bahir Dar, FSDPO, 10:00a.m (Open to all)
--------------	---

## REVIEW OF EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS IN PASTORAL AREAS

During the month, DPPA facilitated a consultation workshop on the achievements and challenges of early warnings (EW) systems in pastoral areas. Save the Children UK (SC-UK) and the Regional Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Bureaus have been working together to strengthen food security and EW systems since 2001 in Somali Region and 2005 in Afar Region. Although various government and non-governmental organizations have been involved in the development implementation of EW systems in these pastoral areas, minimal development has been observed due to limited coordination among implementing partners, lack of capacity within the regions and insufficient linkages between federal and regional levels. As a way forward in the workshop participants agreed to establish national and regional steering committees to better co-ordinate, monitor and strategize EW mechanisms. At federal level, membership will include DPPA, Pastoral Community Development Programme (PCDP), Pastoral Livelihoods Initiative (PLI), SC-UK, UNICEF, OCHA, WFP and representatives from the region. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 7 November.

For further information contact: [geraud.l@scuk.org.et](mailto:geraud.l@scuk.org.et)