



SOMALI REGION UPDATE

Impacts of the poor performance of *deyr rains* are observed in *deyr* and *karen* receiving zones with reports of early migration of livestock from Warder, Degehabur, Fik, Afder, Liben and Shinele zones in search of water and pasture. Meanwhile, sectoral responses are ongoing. Emergency drug kits, medical supplies, nutrition products and water treatment chemicals have been provided to ten hospitals and health centers and 36 satellite health facilities - out of planned 41 facilities – as part of UNICEF's restocking programme. UNICEF has also provided 15 health post kits to Korahe zone for assistance in opening of non-functioning health posts. To date, three health posts have received the kits, seven additional kits will be distributed by MDM. In addition, four Health Extension Workers (HEW) have been deployed. UNICEF is also preparing a WASH contingency plan for the region to be further discussed with the Regional Water Bureau. The regional Livestock Crop Natural Resource Bureau (LCNRB) and FAO reported that a campaign has been launched to contain an outbreak of Peste des petites ruminants (PPR) in Shinile zone. To date DPPA has allocated approximately 26,580 tons of relief food for identified beneficiaries in Gode, Fik, Degehabur, Warder and Korahe zones. Approximately 19,396 tons of food, has been dispatched to 133 Food Distribution Points (FDP) out of the total 186. According to the WFP offices in the region, 11,052 tons of the dispatched food has been delivered to final distribution centers, of which 8,531 tons has been distributed to beneficiaries. A more comprehensive picture of the actual distribution is expected to be obtained as WFP monitoring teams are able to access more areas. Some food is currently in storage at woreda capitals for forthcoming food distributions. Relief food has also been allocated for 314,100 beneficiaries in Afder, Shinile and Liben zones. Dispatch to these zones has not yet commenced as priority is being given to the five zones under military operations. Meanwhile, Enhanced Outreach Strategy (EOS) screening has resumed in 13 out of the 30 project woredas in the region. The Regional DPPB in support of WFP is ready to dispatch Targeted Supplementary Food to approximately 49,300 identified beneficiaries in 13 woredas. Screening is due to commence in the remaining 17 woredas at the end January. For more information contact: ocha-eth@un.org, wfp.addisababa@wfp.org, & kmcdonald@unicef.org

CONFIRMED MEASLES CASES

Out of fifty suspected measles cases, four have so far been confirmed in Kelafo woreda, Gode zone. Most of the cases are reported among children under five, who were not vaccinated. Limited vaccination coverage and poor surveillance systems have reportedly contributed to the outbreak. The emergency mobile health team have been briefed and provided with measles outbreak investigation and management guidelines to treat and trace additional cases. Discussions are underway with health authorities regarding the implementation of a region wide measles vaccination campaign for which funding will be sought from interested donors. For more information contact: who-wro@et.afro.who.int & kmcdonald@unicef.org

LOCUST OUTBREAK

Reports indicate that desert locust swarms are now leaving Somali Region of Ethiopia and have begun to affect Bale, Borena and East Harerghe zones in Oromiya Region and Konso and South Omo zones in SNNPR. The largest swarm observed was in Gasera woreda, Bale zone, where the swarm size measured 20 square kms. The current locust situation in Ethiopia is the worst the country has experienced for over 45 years, according to regional FAO experts. While many of the affected areas are thought to be too dry for locust breeding and development, pasture and crops are still vulnerable. Of particular concern, are crop producing areas of South Omo zone where recent rains could be conducive to locust development. The Desert Locust Control Organisation for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) has aircraft on standby in Moyale for pesticide spraying in affected areas. One aircraft has begun aerial campaigns using the Konso airstrip. The DLCO team is joined by ground control carried out by MoARD teams in the Konso zone. MoARD have a shortage of appropriate vehicles to carry out locust survey and control operations. The MoARD recently received 5 ULVA mast vehicle mounted sprayers from FAO in addition to the existing ones in the regional states. At woreda level, locust control knowledge is also a major gap affecting the national locust control capacity. For more information please contact: Alberto.Pasini@fao.org & Jan.Breithaupt@fao.org

AWD UPDATE

The number of reported AWD cases has significantly decreased. Cases are currently being reported from eight woredas in three regions compared to more than 200 woredas previously reporting cases. The woredas currently affected are Hamaya and Weliso in Oromiya Region; Chifra and Awash in Afar Region and Jijiga, Awbere, Erer and Shinile woredas in Somali Region. Last week Chifra woreda in Afar region was the only woreda to report active cases. The significant reduction in the number of reported cases is attributed to ongoing interventions by the Government and partners, increased community AWD awareness, and the end of the rainy season. For more information contact: who-wro@et.afro.who.int