



SOMALI REGION UPDATE

The regional DPPB/SC-UK January Food Security update indicates that the overall food security situation in the region is below normal particularly in the seven *deyr* receiving zones – Korahe, Fik, Gode, Warder, Degehabur, Liben and Shinile. Since the onset of the dry season, *Jilaal*, water shortage has been a serious problem, particularly in the *berkad* dependant areas of Korahe, Warder and Degehabur zones and in chronically water insecure areas of Gode, Afder, Liben, Fik and parts of Shinile zones. Urgent water interventions including water tankering and repairing of boreholes is of highest priority. In order to respond to immediate water trucking needs, UNICEF has secured US\$ 45,000. The regional DPPB also started to mobilize resources. Additionally, UNICEF is finalizing a WASH intervention proposal. Continued internal and cross border livestock migration in search of pasture and water is putting pressure on limited available resources in Kebridehar and Debeweyin in Korahe zone; Gode in Gode zone; Danot in Warder zone; Gashamo and Aware in Degehabur, Hargele and Chereti in Afder zone; Babile woreda in Jijiga and areas around the Genale and Dawa rivers in Liben zone. Concerns over feed depletion in highly concentrated areas are combined with risks of animal disease outbreak. Meanwhile prices of imported food items continue to rise, increasingly weakening the purchasing power of both urban and rural consumers. Livestock prices on the other hand have continually declined as *Jilaal* progresses.

Out of the 53,000MT emergency food allocated for three months for eight zones in the region, approximately 22,810 MT has been dispatched to the five zones under military operation. To date, approximately 14,055 MT of relief food commodities have reached the FDPs, of which 76 percent has been distributed to beneficiaries. WFP monitoring teams have thus far visited 87 out of 186 FDPs – 47 percent. An agreement to include cost of offloading food aid within the transporters' contracts has been reached between DPPA and transporters. Delay in the transfer of offloading money has in the past hampered food aid delivery. The food security situation in Afder and Liben zones, where food has not yet been dispatched thus far, is of concern. Meanwhile, Targeted Supplementary Food (TSF) screening has been completed in 13 out of the 30 project woredas, and food distributions were undertaken in seven woredas. In the remaining five woredas in Afder and Liben zone, where screening has taken place, supplementary food dispatch will commence next week. WHO has assigned eight staff in the region to provide technical support to regional, zonal and woreda health authorities in responding to health emergencies. For more information: ocha-eth@un.org & wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

DETERIORATING FOOD SECURITY SITUATION IN BORENA ZONE, OROMIYA REGION

The cumulative effects of recurrent droughts combined with the failure of *hagaya* and *ganna* rains in 2007 have stretched coping mechanisms of pastoralist communities resulting in concerning food security situation in Borena zone, Oromiya region. Dire, Moyale, Miyo Dillo, Dhas, Arero, Yabello and Teltele are the worst affected woredas. There are reports of serious water shortage for both human and livestock consumption. Most water sources including water cisterns in schools have dried. Consequently, four schools were closed and school dropout rates have reportedly increased by 14 percent. Most grazing lands have been depleted and the physical condition of livestock has deteriorated. There are also reports of animal deaths including milking cows, raising child nutrition concerns. The situation is feared to further deteriorate with poor forecast for the upcoming short rainy season. A recent WHO rapid assessment indicated suspected measles cases in Abaya, Gelana, Bule Hora and Dugda Dawa woredas. Additionally a slight increase in incidences malaria has also been reported. Lack of essential drugs and medical supplies in the health facilities are among the major identified gaps. Water supply, animal feed and health interventions are priorities that require immediate intervention. Water tankering, rehabilitation of water points, animal feeding and health interventions are underway by government and humanitarian partners including FAO, CARE, SC-US, UNICEF and GOAL. The Regional Water Bureau in collaboration with UNICEF and CARE undertook water trucking interventions that addressed approximately 56,000 people in 24 villages. The UN OCHA Humanitarian Response Fund (HRF) is also reviewing emergency proposals for funding. On the regional coordination forum on 18 February, the need for immediate enhanced interventions was underscored to avert humanitarian crises. For more information: ocha-eth@un.org

BELG SEASON PROSPECT

Although land preparation and planting of *belg* crops has commenced in some of the *belg* producing areas, the progress to date is below normal due to inadequate rainfall. Climate forecast from National Meteorological Association (NMA) indicate poor/below normal *belg/gu* performance (February to May 2008), which is the main rainy season for most of Somali Region, Borena zone in Oromiya Region and South Omo zones in SNNPR. This year's *belg* crop production and pasture recovery from *gu* rains are, therefore, not promising. For more information: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

HEALTH HAZARDS

Reports from the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) indicate that AWD is under control in most places. There are, however, recent reports of suspected cases in Filltu woreda in Somali Region that needs to be further investigated. Sporadic Meningitis cases are reported from Oromiya and Afar regions. In addition, cases of Measles are reported in four woredas in Borena zone, and in Hambela and Kercha woredas in Guji zone. Efforts are underway to enhance surveillance in the affected woredas and their vicinities. Humanitarian partners, including WHO, are supporting case management. The FMoH, in collaboration with WHO and UNICEF, is mobilizing resources to conduct vaccination campaigns in SNNP and Oromiya Regions in April 2008. Meanwhile, vaccination campaign including measles and polio as well as vitamin A and de-worming for children from 6 months to 59 months is underway in 32 woredas in Somali Region. For more information contact: who-wro@et.afro.who.int