



## SOMALI REGION UPDATE

The DPPB/SC-UK Food Security Update for the month of February indicates continuing decline of the food security situation in the region with the progress of the dry season. Severe water shortage and poor pasture will remain critical concerns particularly in light of poor climate forecast for the upcoming rains. The report anticipates that delay or failure of *gu* rains (mid April) is likely to exacerbate the current livelihood situation. According to the Food Security Update, increased food shortages are reported in most parts of the *deyr* receiving zones, which is indicated by reduction in daily meals. The situation is more serious in Korahe, Warder, Degehabur, Fik, Gode and more recently in parts of Afder and Liben zone. Furthermore, the report indicates up to four times price increase on basic food prices in some of the zones including Fik, Warder and Korahe. On the other hand, livestock prices have reportedly declined by half the normal price, further deteriorating the terms of trade for pastoralists. Ongoing relief food distributions have, however, stabilized the situation in some parts of the region.

Although water scarcity is common when *deyr* rains fail, the situation this year has been worsened by limited commercial tankering operations and damaged boreholes particularly in Korahe, Degehabur and Warder zones, according to the food security update. In most affected areas, the report indicates significant increase in price of water. Resource mobilization efforts by the DPPB to undertake interventions in the worst affected areas are ongoing. The Federal WASH Taskforce also convened an extra-ordinary meeting on 28 February and 4 March to mobilize resources. Some interventions are underway in parts of Filtu and Hudet woredas in Liben zone and Denan woreda in Gode zone. Concentration of livestock in few areas in search of water and pasture has led to further depletion of feed. The report indicates that, increased migration and concentration of livestock is also feared to ignite resource based conflicts. Immediate feed intervention is, therefore, crucial. Meanwhile, DPPA has to date dispatched 24,045 MT of food aid to the five priority zones in the Somali Region under military operations, of which more than 16,837 MT has reached the destination. For more information contact: [ocha-eth@un.org](mailto:ocha-eth@un.org) & [wfp.addisababa@wfp.org](mailto:wfp.addisababa@wfp.org)

## EXTENDED DRY SEASON IN LOWLAND AGRO-PASTORAL AREAS OF OROMIYA REGION

The deteriorating situation with regard to human health, livelihoods, food security and livestock health initially reported in the Borena zone of Oromiya region has spread to Bale, Guji and East Harareghe zones. The situation in the lowland agro-pastoral areas of Oromiya Region is feared to further escalate in light of poor forecast for the upcoming rainy season. Results of recent rapid assessments in Bale and Guji zones identified the need for a multi-sectoral emergency intervention. Critical water shortages in the affected lowland areas have left communities extremely vulnerable to deterioration of health and loss of livestock. In addition to the deteriorating food security situation, sporadic incidences of bush fires are reported in some areas. Preparation of a Regional Response plan is underway by the regional bureau. Meanwhile, UNICEF has sent five essential medical supply kits to Borena zone to treat approximately 12,500 people in the coming two months. It also provided basic non-food items to the Regional Health Bureau to be distributed to affected communities. For more information contact: [ocha-eth@un.org](mailto:ocha-eth@un.org)

## CONCERNING FOOD SECURITY SITUATION IN SOME AREAS OF SNNPR

Adverse impacts of delay in the start of the current *belg* rains in SNNPR, which reportedly contributes 40 percent (an average) to the annual food production, have been observed affecting water and livestock feed availability. Early migration of people and livestock is reported from South Omo zone. Hamer and Bena Tsemay woredas are among the most severely affected in the zone. Failure of sweet potato, main staple food in some parts of the region, is also of particular concern. The Regional Government has commenced water tankering in Boricha woreda; while nutrition intervention is underway by GOAL. Additionally, World Vision is conducting nutritional survey in six woredas. WFP is also conducting assessments in the affected areas. For more information contact: [ocha-eth@un.org](mailto:ocha-eth@un.org)

## HEALTH HAZARDS

Sporadic cases of Meningitis continued to be reported from 16 woredas in Oromiya, SNNP and Afar regions. The Federal Ministry of Health, in collaboration with WHO, is seeking financial assistance from donors to ensure enhanced preparedness and timely response. Efforts are underway to strengthen the surveillance system in identified high risk woredas. Meanwhile, measles cases continue to be reported from Guji and Borena woredas, although there is a slight decrease in the number of cases. The Regional Health Bureau supported by MSF Belguim conducted measles vaccination campaign in Hambela Wamena and Kercha woredas in Guji zone. The campaign will extend to additional 24 woredas in the two zones, once funding is secured. For more information contact: [who-wro@et.afro.who.int](mailto:who-wro@et.afro.who.int)