



CONTINUED FOOD SECURITY CONCERN IN BORENA AND GUJI ZONES, OROMIYA

The food security situation in Borena and Guji zones is deteriorating with the delay of the main (*ganna*) rains. According to recent rapid assessments conducted by the zonal DPP committees, the affected population has increased in the two zones. Livestock deaths and school drop-out rates have escalated. The terms of trade remains to be against pastoralists due to continued price increase in food commodities and decline in livestock value in most markets. In Borena zone, two months relief food (February and March) was distributed to 88,000 beneficiaries; while April's ration is reaching most affected areas. The food package however, is not a complete basket as it does not include oil and pulses. A total of 38.6 MT CSB was also distributed as targeted feeding to the same beneficiaries in Borena zone. In addition, 22 water rationing trucks are serving eight affected woredas of Borena. In Guji zone, two water rationing trucks are serving five kebeles. Furthermore, animal feed provision has to date benefited 3,679 households in Dire, Moyale, Miyo and Dhas woredas in Borena. Agricultural seeds and veterinary drugs are among the most pressing requirements in the zones. Furthermore, suspected cases of meningitis were reported in Miyo, Bule Hora and Dugda Dawa woredas in Borena. Measles cases were also reported in Galana, Bule Hora and Abaya woredas of Borena zone and Hambala, Odo Shakiso, Bore and Qarcha woredas of Guji zone. Restocking of health facilities with essential drugs and medical supplies as well as monitoring of human and animal health are also among priority requirements. Meanwhile, drugs and medical supplies provided to the Oromiya Regional Health Bureau in December 2007 by WHO are being allocated to Borena zone. In addition, WHO has assigned one national consultant to Borena zone to assist the zonal health administration. For more information contact: ocha-eth@un.org

SOMALI REGION FOOD SECURITY UPDATE

The food security situation in Somali Region continues to be of concern as water shortages reach critical levels and cattle and shoats are dying in significant numbers. Recent WFP reports indicate that the purchasing power and availability of food is declining, further affecting the food security of pastoralists and agro-pastoralists. Although water interventions have been identified as priority requirements, responses provided thus far are not adequate. Food aid dispatch is progressing and to date approximately 24,688 MT has been dispatched to the five priority zones under military operation. There are also reports of delay in food aid distributions and additional reports are being received that some food is still being off-loaded at woreda capitals/towns and not at FDPs as agreed previously. The Regional Health Bureau (RHB) supported by UNICEF and WHO have completed a massive measles campaign in all 52 woredas of the region targeting 783,000 under five children. Preliminary results indicated 91 percent coverage. For more information contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org & kmcdonald@unicef.org

VERIFICATION TEAMS TO DEPART TO THE REGIONS

DPPA led multi-agency teams will depart to Tigray, Amhara, Oromiya and SNNP regions to undertake rapid food security verification assessment in selected hotspot woredas on 24 March. The assessment was initiated following reports of deteriorating food security situations in agro-pastoral lowland woredas of Oromiya, SNNP and most *belg* producing areas of the country. The recent National Meteorological Agency forecast also indicates poor performance of the rains emphasizing the need for better preparedness. For more information contact: dppaewd@dppc.gov.et

MENINGITIS UPDATE

Following reports of meningitis cases in many woredas across the country, the Oromiya and SNNP Regional Health Bureaus plan to undertake case containment vaccination. In Oromiya, the RHB is finalizing plans to conduct vaccination in Bore and Adola woredas. The region has 100,000 doses of vaccines in stock and expects to receive additional 70,000 doses from federal level to undertake vaccination in the two woredas. This year, a total of 172 meningitis cases and nine deaths are recorded nationally with 5.2 percent case fatality rate. The reports are from 4 out of 11 regions: Afar, 3 cases and 1 death; Oromiya, 39 cases and 3 deaths; SNNPR, 129 cases and 5 deaths and Addis Ababa city administration 1 case. Sidama zone in SNNPR is the most affected zone, reporting 107 cases and 2 deaths from seven woredas. Meanwhile, negotiation is progressing with various donors to secure funding to respond to the Governments preparedness and response plan that seeks US\$ 28 million. Contact: who-wro@et.afro.who.int

TSF UPDATE

The Targeted Supplementary Feeding (TSF) in support of the Enhanced Outreach Strategy for Child Survival Initiative (EOS/CSI) is currently distributing food for beneficiaries identified during last screening. In Afar distributions for the first round are expected to be completed during the first week of April; while in Dire Dawa and Harar distributions for the first round have been finalized. In Gambella and Beneshangul Gumuz food for the first and second round has been dispatched to the regions and the first round of distributions has started. In SNNPR, the first round of distributions has been completed and the second round is currently ongoing. In Oromiya, due to a break in the TSF pipeline, food has been allocated only to priority woredas which represent 48 percent of the beneficiaries identified in the last screening. In Somali Region, a hybrid TSF/relief blanket supplementary feeding approach has been developed in collaboration with the region and supplementary food for approximately 50,000 beneficiaries has been allocated from available TSF resources. For more information contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org