



SITUATION REPORT: DROUGHT IN ETHIOPIA – 16TH MAY 2008

Highlights:

- WFP estimated number of those in need of emergency food relief: 3.4 million people from July to September and likely to increase.
- Estimated population at risk from AWD is 3,045,095 in Arsi and West Arsi and 2,077,655 in West Showa.
- UNICEF estimates that in 98 woredas in SNNPR and Oromiya the number of children under five years of age in need of immediate therapeutic care is in excess of 61,000. Of those, 33,000 children living in 55 woredas covered by NGO activity are in need of treatment for Severe Acute Malnutrition. And as many as 28,000 living in 43 woredas not covered by NGO activity are also in need of treatment for Severe Acute Malnutrition.
- UNICEF additionally estimates that due to the drought as many as 6 million children under five are currently at risk of acute malnutrition.
- Current population in therapeutic feeding centres in SNNPR and Oromiya: 7000 and rising.
- Malnutrition in SNNPR and Oromiya continue to increase at alarming rates. Kwashiorkor and other malnutrition-related diseases are prevalent in hotspot areas.
- UNICEF and WFP resources to address both severe malnutrition and moderate malnutrition in affected areas are severely strained. Both blended food and Plumpy'Nut are in demand yet stocks are very limited. WFP facing immediate pipeline break of 40,000 MT of Cory-Soya Blend (CSB) for relief and targeted supplementary feeding.
- Government, UN Agencies and NGOs including: ACF, ADRA, AFD, CONCERN, GOAL, IMC, MERLIN, MSF, OXFAM INTERNATIONAL, SAVE-US, SAMARITAN'S PURSE and WORLD VISION, are providing response to the crisis.

Situation Update

The humanitarian situation in Oromiya, SNNPR and Somali Region continues to deteriorate as a result of the interaction of a number of factors including; drought, food insecurity, shortage of required medical provisions and gaps in the response mechanisms of government, UN Agencies and NGO partners. Humanitarian partners are closely monitoring the situation in Amhara Region following the failure of the *belg* rains. According to UN agencies, ENCU and NGOs, the immediate impact of the situation upon health and livelihoods are evident in the growing numbers of people suffering from malnutrition, morbidity of livestock and use of extreme coping mechanisms by communities in SNNPR, Somali, Oromiya and Amhara Regions. The failure of seasonal rains, loss of significant number of livestock and very limited plantation of crops is expected to generate medium-term implications for food security.

According to the National Meteorological Agency (NMA), some rainfall has been received in

drought affected areas of the country. Humanitarian actors note, however, that the quantity and coverage is not sufficient to alleviate the humanitarian crisis unfolding in particular areas of SNNPR, Oromiya and Somali Region. In Somali Region, rain has been received in some areas however the distribution pattern has been erratic and acute water shortages continue to pose a serious threat to human and livestock health. Rainfall in some areas of southern Oromiya has temporarily alleviated the scarcity of water. In SNNPR, the failure of seasonal rains has disrupted planting of crops in agro-pastoralist areas thereby significantly reducing the yield of the June harvest.

1. WFP reports that the **food security** situation is critical in SNNPR, Oromiya and Somali Region. WFP has further identified Amhara, Afar and Tigray as emerging hotspot areas.
2. The 2008 Humanitarian Relief Requirement identified 2.18 million people who will require relief food assistance in the period between April and June 2008 in SNNPR, Somali Region and parts of Oromiya. Humanitarian actors believe that the number of beneficiaries requiring food assistance has been underestimated and place the figure of those in need closer to **3.44 million beneficiaries** who require food assistance.
3. WFP estimate total relief requirements for 3.44 million beneficiaries between July and September amount to 395,000 MT of mixed commodities. The **total relief shortfall amounts to 183,000 MT of food** (148,000 MT of cereals, 15,800 MT of pulses, 3,000 MT of vegetable oil and over 16,000 MT of blended food) valued at US\$147 million. **Shortfalls for Targeted Supplementary Feeding amounts to 28,000 MT** (24,000 MT of blended food and 4,000 MT of vegetable oil) valued at US\$ 29 million.
4. WFP is facing **immediate pipeline break** of 40,000 MT of CSB for relief and targeted supplementary feeding.
5. WFP is faced with challenges in relation to delivery of food due to funding shortfalls. The pipeline for supply of blended food will break this month with direct knock-on effects on the capacity of health and nutrition partners to treat cases of moderate malnutrition. WFP are working closely with partners in the international donor community and Government to ensure that the required food supplies are available for distribution to population at risk of malnutrition.
6. The current food security situation is exacerbated by **global and national market factors** as well as limitations upon existing response capacity. The increase in the price of commodities and fluctuations in the US dollar exchange rate has led to a rapid inflation of food prices as well as transport costs though this has not affected WFPs' stock per se. The impact of changes in the global market upon food security in Ethiopia can be observed in steep increase in prices of food as well as a limited supply to local markets. WFP Market Price Monitoring estimates that the price of maize has increased by 83%, sorghum by 88.94% and wheat by 54.38% in the period between September 2007 and February 2008.
7. There has been a rapid increase in cases of **Severe Acute Malnutrition** and **Kwashiorkor** in SNNPR and Oromiya Region with alarmingly high admission rates for

treatment in Community-Based Therapeutic Care programmes (CTCs (SC/OPT)).¹ Official data from nutrition assessment conducted in Wolyata Zone, SNNPR between 6th-12th April registered GAM rates of 12.4% and SAM rates of 3.2%. GAM and SAM rates for June 2007 were 2.2% and 0.2% respectively. Unofficial reports suggest that SAM rates are in the rise.

8. The shortage of blended food to implement blanket supplementary and targeted supplementary feeding programmes is contributing to a spike in the number of SAM and Kwashiorkor cases observed in recent weeks. Nutritionists do not have the resources to treat moderate cases of malnutrition and prevent deterioration to SAM status (see figures below). UNICEF requires 1800 MT of RUTF for the coming 3 month period for Oromiya and SNNPR alone. It currently has only 6 MT in stock. UNICEF will receive 90 MT of Plumpy'Nut this weekend – approximately 2 weeks' supply.
9. Pastoralist communities living in drought-affected areas in SNNPR, Somali and Oromiya regions have incurred **heavy loss of livestock** and many of the remaining animals are in poor physical condition. The poor condition of livestock has had a direct impact upon nutritional status of children. This is particularly due to reduced milk productivity. Markets for livestock have contracted and this in turn has further reduced the purchasing power of pastoralists at local markets.

OROMIYA REGION

1. Drought conditions in lowland areas of Borena, Guji, Bale, East and West Hararghe zones of Oromiya region have generated acute water shortages, food insecurity and livestock morbidity. Some rainfall has been recorded however the preparation and planting of next season's crops has been severely disrupted by the delayed arrival of the rains. DPPA reports that several woredas in Bale Zone including: Rayitu, Seweyna, Dawe Sera, Meda Welabu and Dawe Kechen, are affected by acute water shortages.
2. According to ENCU, admission rates to CTCs (SC/OPT) in Bale, West Arsi, East Hararghe and Borena are rising with new cases emerging in West Hararghe. Approximately 2000 cases of SAM were reported from Seraro, West Arsi, requiring urgent stabilization centre and/or outpatient treatment. Fifty-five deaths have been reported to date in Seraro alone. An MSF-Greece rapid assessment using MUAC in 3 kebeles in Seraro woreda, West Arsi found that 10.3% of those measured had MUAC<11 cm and 21.9% presented MUAC 11<12.5cm. GOAL report serious nutrition crisis in Shashemene woreda where 248 children have already been admitted for treatment of SAM with additional 100 cases admitted on 14th May 2008. CARE reports 179 new admissions in Haromaya, East Hararghe bringing total number of admissions up to 644. Deder woreda reports 658 admissions with 78 new cases in April.

¹ Community-Based Therapeutic Care (CTC) response to malnutrition encompasses three components as follows: Stabilisation Centres, Out-Patient Treatment Programme and Targeted-Supplementary Feeding.

3. WFP reports that the distribution of Emergency Outreach Strategy (EOS)-Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme (TSFP) based on October/November 2007 screening will be completed this month in Oromiya. Coverage of woredas in the next round of TSFP will be reduced from 105 to 28 due to funding constraints.

SNNPR

1. The situation with regard to food security, nutrition and health is critical in SNNPR with current hotspots in Wolyata, Sidama, Hadiya and Aleba Special woredas and emerging hotspots in Gurage and Selt. The failure of seasonal rains has prevented planting of crops and people are relying upon *enset*² as a primary source of food. Increased morbidity of livestock has reduced cash resources. Acute water shortages continue to be reported by humanitarian partners in areas across the region.
2. According to figures released by the ENCU, admission rates to CTCs (SC/OPT) have increased with alarming speed since February. High case loads of Kwashiorkor in children, adolescents and adults have been reported by NGOs including: ACF, CONCERN, GOAL, IMC, MSF-G, Samaritan's Purse, SCUS and WORLD VISION in hotspot woredas.
3. The current figure for total intake of patients into CTCs (SC/OPT) in SNNPR is 6,206 people. Admission rates based on current information collected by UN agencies, NGOs and ENCU are as follows: 714 admissions in Damot Pullasa, 193 in Damot Woyde, 531 in Dugna Fango and 55 in Offa in Wolayta Zone, 1,340 admissions in Boricha, Sidama Zone, 1,008 cases in Misrek and Mirab Dedawacho and 230 in Shashago in Hadiya Zone, 160 in Merako, Gurage Zone, 162 in Alaba Special, 157 in Esera in Dawro Zone, 468 in Shankura, Selti Zone, 164 in Dilla Zuria and 294 in Wenago, Gedeo Zone.
4. WHO reports an increase in unconfirmed cases of malaria in Damot Gale and Bolo Sare woredas in Wolyata Zone.

Somali Region

1. Underlying factors contributing to the current humanitarian situation in Somali Region include: drought conditions and poor performance of the *gu* seasonal rains to date and limited availability of medical and veterinary services and supplies.
2. Pastoralist communities in drought affected areas of Somali Region have lost significant percentage of livestock herds and remaining shoats, cattle and camels are in visibly poor

² A tuber otherwise known as "false banana."

physical condition. Communities are resorting to extreme coping mechanisms in response to drought including: sharing existing food supplies, reduction in meals and water consumption, slaughtering livestock for meat, migration and sending children to relatives in different areas.

3. DPPB report that Warder woreda, Warder Zone has received three sets of rain on 01/04, 01/05 and 10/05. In other parts of Warder Zone however acute water shortages, particularly in berkad-dependent areas, continue to pose a threat to human and livestock health. Water trucking interventions continue to areas where rainfall has been poor and serve as a lifeline to communities.
4. Human health status remains an issue of concern for humanitarian partners who report increased cases of malnutrition, measles and meningitis.

Emerging Hotspot Region: Amhara Region

1. The failure of the *belg* rains in Amhara Region is expected to result in no harvest yield in June 2008 as farmers have not been able to prepare land for plantation of crops. According to recent assessment conducted by SAVE-UK in South Wollo Zone, of 112,520 hectares of land only 7,780 hectares have been planted to date. The population in Amhara Region rely heavily upon the *belg* season for estimated 20-50% of annual food income.
2. The most affected woredas are: Beyeda woreda in North Gonder zone; Guba Lafto, Bugna, Delanta, Dawnt woredas in North Wollo zone; Sayint, Legabmo and Tenta woredas in South Wollo zone; Dewe Harawa and Bati woredas in Oromiya zone; and Geshe Rabel woreda in North Shewa zone.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

Food Aid

- Distribution of food allocated on the basis of previous assessment continues in SNNPR, Somali and Oromiya Regions. Food allocated for 500,000 beneficiaries for the month of March has been distributed in SNNPR and a new allocation for 1 million beneficiaries for the month of May is under dispatch. In Oromiya Region, 540,000 beneficiaries have received food allocated for months of February, March and April. In Somali Region, 3000 MT of 12,000 MT of food dispatched has been distributed to 956,000 beneficiaries to date. Blanket supplementary feeding is underway in SNNPR, Oromiya and Somali Regions.

- DPPA and WFP are distributing one-month blanket supplementary feeding programme targeting 1 million beneficiaries in SNNPR in response to malnutrition crisis.
- Save the Children Norway continue programme of storehouse construction in 13 woredas in SNNPR.

Nutrition

- ACF is supporting CTCs (SC/OPT) and implementing supplementary feeding programme targeting 6,800 children in Aleta, Wencho and Dale woredas in Sidama Zone, SNNPR. ACF is also carrying out nutritional surveys in the above woredas.
- ADRA, operating in Kalafu woreda, Afder Zone in Somali Region, are supporting CTCs (SC/OPT) with a supplementary feeding programme and mobile health units in Mustahill.
- CONCERN is working in Damot Woyde and Dugna Fango woreda in Wolyata Zone, Butajira, Meska, Sodo and Mareko woredas in Gurage Zone, Shashago, Duna, Gombora, Soro, Gire woredas in Hadiya Zone and Angecha woreda, Kenbata Tembaro Zone in SNNPR. CONCERN is supporting OTP in Mimma Town. Skea Chekorska, Kersa, Omo Nada, Manna, Agaro, Lemo Kossa, Dedo, Sekoro, Sigmo, Gamma, Turafeta, Lemuseka, Setema, Geura, Gomay woredas in Jimma Zone, Oromiya Region, Goro, Dawie Kecha, Ginir, Agarfa and Bale town, Bale Zone and Fiche town, Degem, Yaya Gulele, Wechale, Abote, Kuyu woredas in North Showa in Oromiya Region.
- CARE is supporting treatment of cases of malnourishment in thirteen OTPs and one SC in Haramaya, East Hararghe and is providing CTC services in Moyale woreda. CARE and IMC are supporting CTC in Chiro, Doba and Gemechis woredas in West Hararghe, Oromiya Region.
- GOAL is operating in Boricha, Sidama Zone and has supported the MoH to manage nine OTPs and two SCs and are distributing Famix and oil to patients discharged following treatment for SAM. GOAL is supporting MoH in Damot Pulassa, Wolyata Zone in SNNPR. In Dhas woreda, Borena Zone in Oromiya Region, GOAL is providing CTC services and started a 3 month blanket supplementary feeding programme on 15th April. Irish Aid has provided 1 million Euro in additional funding to GOAL to support interventions to respond to malnutrition crisis in hotspot areas.
- IMC are carrying out nutrition interventions in Tocha, Mareka and Esero woredas, Dawaro Zone and Boloso Sore and Damot Sore woredas in Wolyata Zone in SNNPR. In Oromiya Region, IMC are providing OTP care in Boke, Gemechis, Gobakoricha, Meiso, Chiro, Doba woredas in West Hararghe, Meta, Gutu. Deder, M.Belo, Meyu, Midega, Jarso, Chenakson and Fedis woredas in East Haraghe.

- Islamic Relief is treating cases of malnutrition (SFP+OTP) in Hargele and Elkere districts, Afder Zone in Somali Region and are targeting 1712 beneficiaries.
- MERLIN is ready to support full nutritional assessment in Dawe Serer, Dawe Ketchen and Legihida in Oromiya and continues to support health intervention in Seweyna and Rayitu woredas, Bale Zone.
- MSF-G and Samaritan's Purse are finalizing a proposal to coordinate the delivery of in-patient and out-patient services in Seraro, West Arsi in SNNPR.
- MSF-B is carrying out a rpaid health and nutrition assessment in Alaba woreda, Alaba Zone, Cambat, Tambaro, Kachabira woredas in Cambata Zone and Bedewacha woreda, Hadya Zone in SNNPR. In Oromiya Region, MSF-B is carrying out rapid health and nutrition assessment with the Regional Health Bureau in Shasemene and Shalla woredas in West Arsi Zone.
- MSF-G, MSF-CH and MSF-H will shortly commence a rapid assessment of nutrition status in hotspot areas of SNNPR and Oromiya Region.
- Samaritan's Purse is supporting the Ministry of Health (MoH) to manage SAM cases in Alaba Special woreda, SNNPR.
- SAVE-US is supporting CTC in Sidama and Gurage Zones, SNNPR.

Health

- WHO is carrying out immunization campaigns in SNNPR and Oromiya region for meningitis – 140,900 have been vaccinated to date.
- UNICEF, WHO, Government and humanitarian partners are responding to reported cases of AWD in Oromiya Region.

Livelihood Interventions

- FAO is delivering animal feed in Teletele woreda, Oromiya and providing veterinary drugs in Arero, Dire, Dhas and Moyale woredas in Oromiya Region.
- COOPI is providing support to animal health services and supplying veterinary drugs to communities in Liben woreda, Oromiya Region and Dolo-Oddo, Filut and Hudet woredas in Liben Zone, Somali Region.
- OXFAM INTERNATIONAL is providing veterinary drugs and emergency seed supply to communities in Dillo, Moyale, Yabello, Dire and Liben woredas in Oromiya. In Afder Zone, Somali Region, OXFAM continues to support to animal health services, provide veterinary drugs and rehabilitate water schemes (wells, berkads and boreholes).

- SAVE-US is supporting livelihoods through a range of interventions including: livestock feeding, water point rehabilitation, support to cereal bank, restocking and destocking of herds in Liben and Afder zones of Somali Region and Borena and Guji Zone of Oromiya Region.

WASH

- Regional Water Bureau and UNICEF continue to support water tankering interventions in Somali Region (180 trucks in total).
- COOPI is carrying out water tankering interventions and rehabilitation of water schemes in Liben woreda, Oromiya Region and Dolo-Oddo, Filut and Hudet woredas in Liben Zone, Somali Region.
- Islamic Relief carried out emergency water tankering and provided 661,000 litres of water to 50,798 beneficiaries in Hargele, Cherrati, Gorobaqqa and Elker woredas in Afder zone in April 2008.
- OXFAM INTERNATIONAL is carrying out water tankering intervention in Kori and Bidu woredas, Zone 2 in Afar reaching 80,000 beneficiaries.
- Save the Children Norway is continuing construction of water wells in Zone 4, Afar in conjunction with SAVE-US.
- SAVE-US carried out emergency water tankering intervention in Liben and Gode zones, Somali Region.
- NGOs (AFD, GOAL, CARE, SOS, NCA and CIFA), UNICEF and the Regional Water Bureau have delivered 7,335 m³ of water (2,697m³ by UNICEF and RWB and 4,638m³ by NGOs) and 72 ROTO tankers to 185,418 people suffering from acute water shortages in eight lowland woredas of Borena zone, Oromiya Region.
- Water rationing intervention is ongoing in Boricha and Alaba woredas of SNNPR. GOAL provided 4 trucks and RWB dispatched one truck to deliver water to affected communities in Boricha woreda. UNICEF supported the RWB to deliver water to 15 kebeles in Alaba Special woreda.

Coordination

- OCHA has moved to weekly coordination meetings on the drought crisis conferring both with NGOs, donors and other UN Agencies. The current primary emphasis is on partnering NGOs who provide supplementary feeding with those who provide therapeutic care.

- OCHA Humanitarian Response Fund (HRF) has funded twelve projects at cost of US\$5.5 million to respond to drought in Oromiya and Somali Regions. The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) approved US\$9.6 million to UN agencies from Under Funded Window in March 2008.

PRIORITY ISSUES FOR RESPONSE

- Blanket feeding programme to ‘cap’ moderate levels and reduce number of cases of SAM
- Ensure that each child treated for SAM receives recommended two months supply of food following discharge from treatment centre
- Rapid nutritional assessment in areas with limited presence of government, UN and NGO actors to build up comprehensive picture of the extent of malnutrition
- Provide technical and logistical support to national authorities to manage the situation
- Continue to advocate for resources and assistance to secure additional food supplies, including blended food, for distribution to hotspot woredas and emerging areas of concern
- Monitor pattern of AWD and mobilise resources to carry out early response interventions to prevent high fatality rates, particularly among children
- Continue to advocate for resourcing of meningitis vaccination campaign
- Continue water trucking to areas facing acute water shortages while prioritising interventions that promote better preparedness in the future for example: construction of new boreholes with priority to berkad-dependant areas
- Rapid dispatch of seed and tubers to crop-producing areas where stores have been depleted within 2-3 week timeframe. FAO estimate that 28,000 households in SNNPR require seeds in order to safeguard future harvest yields.
- Non-food items, particularly shelters and blankets, are required to ensure that patients receiving treatment for malnutrition have sufficient protection from external hazards.

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