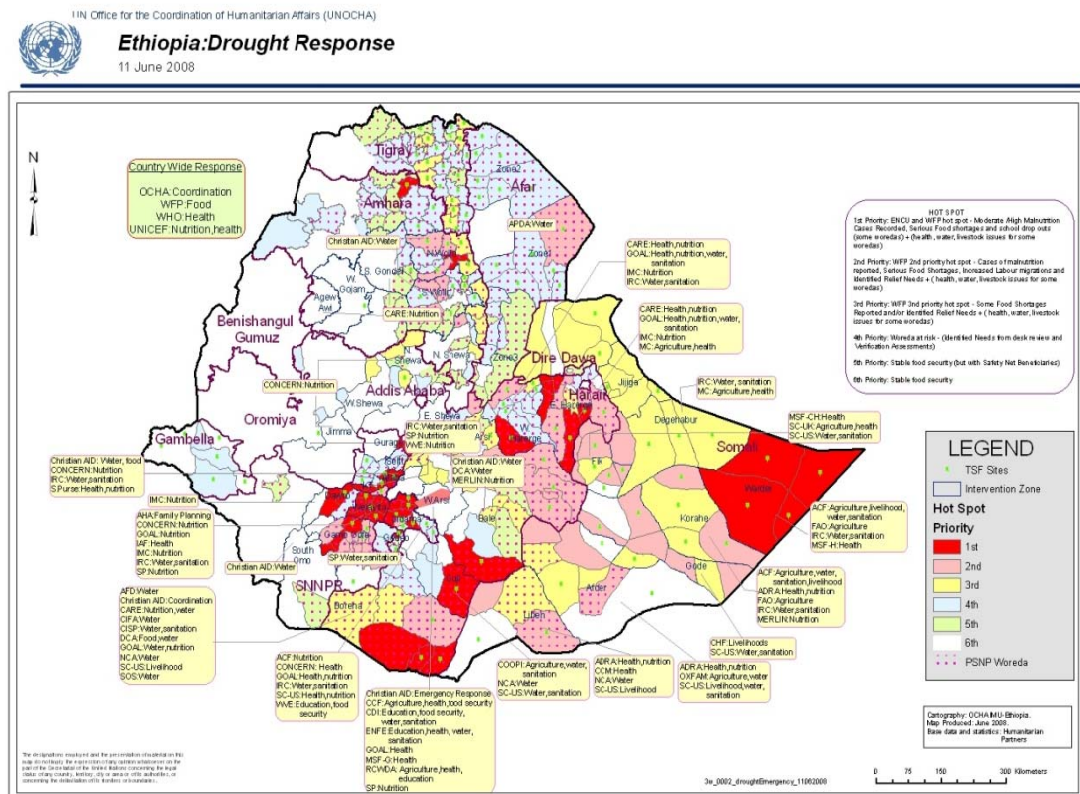




SITUATION REPORT: DROUGHT/FOOD CRISIS IN ETHIOPIA – 13th JUNE 2008

Highlights:

- Government launches revised 2008 Humanitarian Requirements document in response to the deterioration of the humanitarian situation.
- According to Government estimates, the net requirements for food and non-food resources amount to some US\$325 million.
- WFP, in collaboration with UNICEF and the Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (ENCU) for the nutrition information, has developed a matrix profiling the situation in affected woredas to guide prioritization and implementation of response.
- UNICEF continuing airlift operation of Ready-to-Use-Therapeutic Food (RUTF).
- Government, UN and NGO partners continue to respond to the needs of children suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM).



Situation Update

The Government, in recognition of the urgent need to respond to the deteriorating humanitarian situation, launched an updated Humanitarian Requirements 2008 document on 12th June 2008. The process of revising requirements for each sector follows the Government's decision to raise the number of beneficiaries in urgent need of emergency food assistance from 2.2 million to 4.6 million. Government expects to begin a three week assessment in *belg* producing and pastoral areas of the country on the 28th June.

According to Government estimates, the net requirements for food and non-food resources amount to some US\$325 million of that the net requirement for food and supplementary food is US\$ 286.6 million. The Government estimates that non-food sectors (Health and Nutrition, Water and Sanitation and Agriculture) require US\$ 38 million to respond to the needs generated by the current humanitarian crisis.

Table 1: Summary of the 2008 Humanitarian Assistance Requirement (in USD)

Sector	Total Requirement	Available Resources	Net Requirement
General Ration: gross: 509,916 MT; available 118,265 MT; and net 391,651 MT (cereal 319,943 MT, oil 8,749 MT, pulse 33,303 MT, CSB 29,400 MT)	351,361,595	82,930,937	268,430,658
Supplementary food for EOS/TSF: gross 32,800 MT; net 17,750 MT	31,179,247	13,030,492	18,148,755
Food sub-total	382,540,842	95,961,429	286,579,413
Health and Nutrition	25,193,850	-	25,193,850
Water and Sanitation	6,558,306	-	6,558,306
Agriculture	6,920,679	-	6,920,679
Non-food sub-total	38,672,835	-	38,672,835
GRAND TOTAL	421,213,677	95,961,429	325,252,248

WFP, in collaboration with UNICEF and the Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (ENCU) of the Disaster Preparedness and Preparation Agency (DPPA) has developed a matrix tracking responses to date in affected woredas in relation to allocation and distribution of emergency food relief, targeted supplementary feeding and nutrition interventions as well as support under the auspices of the Productive Safety Net Programme. The colour-coded matrix identifies hotspot woredas for government and humanitarian partners.

UNICEF expects two planes loaded with 160 mt of RUTF to arrive in-country this weekend.

Health and Nutrition

Humanitarian partners are reporting increasing numbers of children requiring emergency nutrition interventions and high incidence of cases presenting with SAM and alarming levels of oedema. According to Government estimates, there are 75,000 children currently suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition. NGO partners are stretched to capacity to respond to the situation and require continued support from donor agencies to implement life-saving interventions. UN Agencies are working with Government to ensure that NGO partners can move quickly into hotspot woredas to respond to the needs of children suffering from SAM. In addition to the impact upon the nutrition status of the affected population, the food security and drought crisis is generating longer-term implications for the community. Humanitarian partners report cases of family separation as one parent is charged with bringing one or more children to treatment centres and one remains behind, migration of some groups to urban centres as well as increasing levels of school dropouts.

According to WHO, AWD cases are being reported from regions where caseloads of children requiring treatment for malnutrition are high. Humanitarian partners are advocating for the immediate implementation of interventions to prevent the potentially deadly combination of malnutrition and AWD in hotspot areas.

ENCU has noted that all NGOs conducting nutritional operations should have appropriate resources including staffing, RUTF as well as such NFIs as tents, mattresses etc. Operational gaps should be filled by NGOS with the capacity to do so.

UNICEF requests that NGOs seeking to secure RUTF from the UNICEF pipeline advise UNICEF of the requirement for interventions in advance. MSF-B recently succeeded in getting tax on Plumpy'nut waived following authorisation from Ministry of Health and it is advised that NGOs should explore this option so as to create an additional pipeline.

Food Aid

Food Aid: Some 10.4 million people are affected by the drought and will require cash/food assistance for the next few months. Food assistance requirements for 2008 include some 509,916 mt of mixed food commodities for 4.6 million relief beneficiaries who will be assisted for six months through the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency (DPPA). About 5.8 million Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP)¹ beneficiaries are also affected by the drought are expected to receive an additional two to three months² of food and/or cash transfers.

The Food Security Coordination Bureau (FSCB) and donors are discussing how best to support drought-affected PSNP beneficiaries given available resources. Up to 3.1 million PSNP beneficiaries may require some food assistance. The remaining drought-affected PSNP beneficiaries will receive cash transfers.

The total shortfall for WFP's relief, PSNP and TSF programmes (under protracted relief and recovery operation - PRRO 10665.0) amounts to 365,000 mt or some US\$314 million.

WFP response to far (for relief): Somali region - to date, an amount of 29,670 mt has been allocated to 956,070 beneficiaries during January to June 2008. Some 23,142 mt has been dispatched from this allocation, and 7,951 mt distributed to beneficiaries (out of the 10,907 mt which was reported delivered to the FDPs). To date, during January to June 2008, in SNNPR, a total of 30,524 mt has been allocated to 1,060,770 beneficiaries. Some 29,612 mt has been dispatched from the warehouse. In Oromiya, a total of 12,022 mt has been allocated to 435,369 beneficiaries; some 9,660 mt has been dispatched. To date, during January to June 2008, a total of 4,986 mt has been allocated to some 175,712 beneficiaries in the regions of Afar, Amhara, Benshangul Gumuz, Gambella and Tigray, and a total of 2,965 mt has been dispatched to these areas.

Agriculture and Livestock

FAO and development partners continue to advocate for the mainstreaming of early recovery responses into the overall humanitarian response to the crisis. FAO is fully engaged in the coordination of emergency agricultural interventions in affected regions. FAO in collaboration with World Vision and GOAL, is due to begin distribution of grain seeds and cuttings (haricot bean, teff, wheat and seed potato) to approximately 10,000 households in 25 woredas in SNNPR.

¹ The PSNP is a development-oriented programme, which provides some 7.5 million chronically food-insecure people with cash or food transfers to enhance their ability to participate in the development process. Beneficiary households mainly participate in community public works, although a limited number of households (disabled, elderly, etc) receive direct transfers.

² Normal assistance period is for three to six months of the year and nine months of the year in the Afar region

FAO and partners are distributing seeds in order to support the future food security and livelihoods of farmers in the region.

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