



## **SITUATION REPORT: EXTENDED DRY SEASON IN AFAR, AMHARA, OROMIYA, TIGRAY, SNNP AND SOMALI REGIONS – 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2008**

**Situation Update: Acute water shortages in Oromiya, SNNP and Somali Regions and severe water shortages in Afar, Amhara and Tigray Regions due to extended dry season conditions. Failure of food crops and severe food shortages in Oromiya, SNNP and Somali Regions. Outbreaks of dry-season associated diseases including; AWD, measles, meningitis, bloody diarrhea and malnutrition. Poor livestock health and reports of increased deaths of cattle, goats and sheep in affected woredas. Risk to future food security prospects due to shortage of seeds to plant crops for next season.**

**Oromiya Region:** Severe water shortages continue to be reported across ten affected woredas in lowland areas of Bale zone, Borena, Guji, East and West Hararghe zones of Oromiya region. Some reports of rainfall in pockets areas of Borena zone. Regional authorities have distributed food assistance to beneficiaries under the safety net programme. Water related health problems, including watery diarrhea, are increasing in Dillo, Miyo and Moyale woredas.

**SNNPR:** Water shortages reported across the region. Failure of root crops, mainly sweet potato and enset, is reported. WHO have confirmed cases of meningitis in Sidama zone.

**Somali Region:** Acute water shortages continue across the region. UN agencies and NGOs continue to face challenges in relation to access and provision of necessary assistance to affected communities living in areas of military operations. Changes in coping mechanisms indicate that the situation is reaching critical level. Families are sending children to stay with relatives outside of the region while others are borrowing money from neighbours to purchase basic food supplies. Pastoralists are moving livestock to areas with better pasture and water conditions. WHO have confirmed reports of AWD in Dolo Ado woreda of Liben zone, Somali Region.

**Afar, Amhara and Tigray Regions:** Reports from UN agencies and NGOs indicate that the extended dry season conditions experienced in Oromiya, SNNP and Somali Regions are spreading to Afar, Amhara and Tigray Regions. A DPPA led multi-agency assessment team is deployed to the regions to verify the food security situation.

**Priority Areas:** Water provision to affected communities, food distribution, animal health interventions, distribution of seeds ahead of planting season and support for mass vaccination campaigns are among the identified priority interventions.

### **Afar Region**

1. The Regional Water Bureau, working with **ICRC**, has begun water tankering activities in Manda and Bure kebeles in Afar region.

### **Oromiya Region**

2. The **Oromiya Regional Water Bureau (RWB)**, working with **UNICEF**, has deployed two trucks to Bale zone and is working in Dawi Serere and Raytu woredas to deliver water to affected communities. Fifty-six motorized water schemes, 28 hand pumps and three solar pumps have been rehabilitated by joint operation by UNICEF and RWB in Borena zone. Eleven trucks have been sent to East Hararghe to support water rationing interventions.
3. **Action For Development (AFD)** is engaged in a number of initiatives to address water shortages in affected woredas of Borena zone. AFD is carrying out water rationing activities in Dhas, Dire, Dillo and Miyo woredas, distributing plastic Roto with 10,000-litre capacity in Dhas woreda and working on rehabilitation of a pond in Yabello. In addition to responses to the problem of water shortages in affected woredas, AFD is providing veterinary drugs to communities in Dhas and Dillo woredas.
4. **CARE** is involved in efforts to mitigate impact of water shortages, animal feeding programmes to support livestock health and supplementary feeding programmes to combat malnutrition. CARE continues to implement water rationing interventions in Dillo, Dire and Yabello and has distributed plastic rotos in Dillo, Dire and Moyale woredas. CARE is providing feed for livestock at nine feeding centres across Dhas, Dire and Miyo woredas. Approximately 1230 households in Moyale have been assisted by the supplementary feeding intervention.
5. **CISP** is rehabilitating water points in Dire, Teltele and Yabello woredas.
6. **Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI)** is addressing water shortages in Dhugo, Alge, Bokkola, Gofiyambo, Wato, Dhakagalla and Garsamale woredas in Guji zone through water trucking activities. COOPI is carrying out animal feed activities targeting approximately 1000 cattle in Genale Madhadunun, Chanamansa, Garo Dhugo, Alge, Balambal, Bitata, Wato and Gofiyambo woredas in Guji zone.

7. **GAYO-PDI** is supporting efforts to improve livestock health through animal feed programme in Dilo. GAYO-PDI is working to rehabilitate pond in Dillo woreda.
8. **GOAL** is carrying out water rationing activities and distributing water rotos to respond to the water requirements of communities in Dhas, Teltele and Yabello woredas. GOAL has carried out a nutrition survey and implementing a supplementary feeding programme in Dhas woreda.
9. **MSF-Belgium** is supporting the Regional Health Bureau of Oromiya to respond to the measles outbreak in Hambella and Qarcha woredas of Guji zone. MSF-Belgium has immunized 93,000 children under the age of fifteen years and treated 1,000 patients.
10. **Save the Children US** is providing animal feed to approximately 2000 animals in Borena zone. SCUS are working in Guji zone to support animal health through animal feed interventions targeting 3000 cows. SCUS currently distributed animal feed at four sites at Melka Guba, Bulbul, Nura Humaba and Miessa Pas in Guji zone. SCUS are supporting community managed cereal banks to purchase emergency supplies of cereal in Melka Guba, Bulbul, Gorati, Hadhessa, Arda Bururi, Koba Adi, Chanamansa, Alge, Dhugo, Bura Humaba and Miessa.
11. **SOS Sahel** is addressing water shortages in Yabello through a water rationing programme reaching 20,120 beneficiaries. In Guji zone, SOS Sahel are assisting communities in Mucho Dhakaqalla, Gorati, Hadhessa, Boba and Bulbul by providing water rotos.

## **SNNPR**

12. The **SNNP Regional Health Bureau**, with support from WHO, has carried out mass meningitis vaccination campaign in Bore and Adola woredas targeting people between the ages of two and 30 years.

## **Somali Region**

12. The **Somali Regional State President** has committed 1.4 million Birr (US \$150,000) for water trucking activities in affected woredas.
13. The Regional Water Bureau has undertaken rehabilitation of boreholes in Korahe zone (Dawa'ale, Aleen, Laso'anod) and Warder zone (Sgoyska, Walwal BH2 and Balymidgan).
14. **UNICEF** has sent 10 trucks to serve communities in the worst affected areas in Somali Region. Trucks have been deployed to Dhagahbour, Gunagado, Aware, Garbo, Galadi, Warder, Gurabakaksa and Danot.

15. **Action Contre la Faim (ACF)** is conducting water trucking in 11 sites (Dhure, Gabogabo, Eyle, Maracaato, Marsin, Nusdariq and Skudonle of Kebridehar woredas, Fadiqaradhle, Shilabo and Qamudo of Shilablo district and Higloeyx and Nagadweyne, Doboweyn) in Somali Region.
16. **Comitato Collaborazione Medica (CCM)** is carrying out water tankering activities in Filtu town.
17. COOPI is trucking water to communities in Dola Ado, Filtu and Hudet woredas.

### GAPS IN THE RESPONSE

1. WHO require financial support to fund measles vaccination campaigns targeting vulnerable communities in Oromiya and SNNP Regions.
2. Seed interventions are urgently required to support farmers in affected regions to begin planting new crops to guard against future food insecurity.
3. De-worming and other animal health interventions, including the provision of adequate veterinary supplies, are required to promote resiliency of livestock to opportunistic infections.
4. Generators and motorized pumps are required to support water tankering activities.
5. Mapping and response to food, health, protection and water requirements of groups displaced by extended dry season.
6. Specific evaluation of the nutritional status of elderly population and targeted response to safeguard health of elderly members of affected communities.
7. Priority to early recovery responses that contribute to development of affected regions including rehabilitation of existing boreholes and construction of new boreholes and water sources to guard against future water crises.

Fidele Sarasso Humanitarian Coordinator	<a href="mailto:fidele.sarassoro@undp.org">fidele.sarassoro@undp.org</a> Tel.: 251-11-5444483
Vincent Lelei Head of Office, OCHA	<a href="mailto:lelei@un.org">lelei@un.org</a> Tel.: 251-11-5444248
Gregory Beals Senior Information Officer, OCHA	<a href="mailto:beals@un.org">beals@un.org</a> Tel.: 251-11-5444162