



United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

# Situation Report: Drought/Food Crisis in Ethiopia

1<sup>st</sup> October 2008

## Highlights:

- **9.6 million people in drought-affected regions targeted for assistance under emergency relief, Productive Safety Net Programmes and Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programmes.**
- **39,000 children admitted for treatment for SAM in SNNPR alone since 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2008**
- **5 new woredas in Amhara and Tigray Regions report outbreak of Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD).**
- **Increasing security concerns in Somali Region.**

## Humanitarian Overview

### Current Context

Government and humanitarian partners continue to respond to the range of health, nutrition and livelihood needs generated by the combined effects of the drought and food crisis in Ethiopia. In Oromiya and SNNPR, children continue to access treatment at therapeutic feeding programmes whilst concern grows about the impact of food insecurity on nutrition status of vulnerable groups in Afar and Somali Regions. The government has recently announced a revision of the estimated number of people in need of humanitarian assistance from 4.6 million to 6.4 million. The revision of the figures will necessitate additional resources in order to ensure that those in need receive appropriate level of assistance. The government and humanitarian partners are jointly working to revise the 2008 humanitarian partners requirements document to reflect the increased resource requirements.

Humanitarian Response in Somali Region has been made more challenging after a series of security events that have taken place in the region. On Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September two expatriate staff of Medicins du Monde (MDM) were abducted by members of an armed group in the Ogaden and taken across the border to central Somalia. MDM are working with key partners in Ethiopia and Somalia to advocate for and ensure the safe return of the two aid workers. On Sunday 28 a bomb blast in front of a hotel in Somali Region killed four and wounded 22 others.

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The incidents have had an effect on humanitarian operations as government has recommended that humanitarian partners not travel east or southeast of Kebridehar.

## Sectoral Updates

### **Health and Nutrition**

#### **Key Issues**

**Nutrition:** Government and humanitarian partners continue to provide therapeutic feeding to children suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and are struggling to locate resources to scale-up response in Afar Region. In SNNPR, 2,384 children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were admitted to Therapeutic Feeding Programmes between 12<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> September<sup>1</sup>. The new data on admission rates during the reporting week brings the total number of admissions since 27<sup>th</sup> June to 39,000 children. In Oromiya Region, 1,114 children with SAM were admitted to TFPs between 11<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> September bringing the total number of new admissions since 23<sup>rd</sup> July to 17,569 children<sup>2</sup>. NGOs operating in West Arsi Zone and Adama woreda in East Shoa Zone recorded the highest admission rates in Oromiya this week indicating that the food security situation continues to undermine nutrition status in these areas. The Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (ENCU) predicts that admission rates to TFPs in Afar Region will increase in the coming weeks as reporting rates are currently low and new treatment facilities are established.

**Health:** Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) remains one of the core threats to human health in Afar, Amhara, Oromiya and Tigray Regions. According to WHO, outbreak of AWD has been confirmed in Yilma Densa woreda in West Gojam Zone and Shenkora woreda in North Shewa in Amhara Region and Tselemty and Shere town in North-Western Tigray and Tach Machew in Central Tigray.

#### **Response**

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<sup>1</sup> Information based on analysis compiled by the Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (ENCU) from reports submitted by NGOs.

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**Assessments:** CONCERN worldwide is preparing to carry out a rapid assessment in Worebabu woreda in Amhara Region. Rapid assessments are ongoing in Fik and Hambro woredas in Fik Zone, Somali Region by Save the Children UK and additional rapid assessments will be carried out in Dehun, Gerbo and Segeg woredas in the coming weeks.

### Gaps and Requirements

**Afar Region:** ENCU reports that seven out of the 12 hotspot woredas are currently without TFPs to support the treatment of children suffering from SAM. There is an urgent need to scale-up response in the region and to improve access to therapeutic feeding services to prevent a further deterioration of the situation.

**Reporting:** Partners operating in Tigray Region are requested to provide information to the ENCU on new admissions to ensure that there is comprehensive understanding of the scale and severity of situation in the region.

### Food Aid

#### Key Issues

A total of 9.6 million people are targeted for assistance under relief, Productive Safety Net Programme and Targeted Supplementary Feeding programmes between September and December 2008. The government's decision to revise the number of beneficiaries requiring emergency food relief from 4.6 million to 6.4 million has prompted WFP to revise the total shortfall figure and to seek additional resources.

A WFP team is in Somali Region to begin preparations for the implementation of the hubs and spokes system which will enhance food distributions to beneficiaries in the region.

#### Response<sup>3</sup>

**Relief<sup>4</sup>:** The latest information available on relief allocations and dispatches is dated 10<sup>th</sup> September 2008. In the Somali Region, an amount of 58,545 mt has been allocated to 1,025,030 beneficiaries and 41,310 mt have been dispatched. In SNNPR, 1,332,010 beneficiaries have been allocated 93,995 which 76,692 mt been dispatched. In Oromiya Region, 1,088,537 beneficiaries have been allocated 51,964 mt, of which 40,217 mt have been dispatched. Some 1,332,835 beneficiaries in Afar, Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, Gambell and Tigray Regions have been allocated 49,448 mt, of which 39,410 mt have been dispatched.

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<sup>3</sup> Relief allocations/dispatches refer to mixed commodities of cereals, pulses, oil and blended food allocated/dispatched during January-August 2008.

<sup>4</sup> Latest information available on relief is dated 10<sup>th</sup> September 2008.

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***Productive Safety Net Programme***<sup>5</sup>: Latest available information on PSNP dispatches is dated 10<sup>th</sup> September 2008. During January to August 2008 an amount of 138,923 mt of mixed commodities has been allocated to 4,006,712 PSNP beneficiaries in Afar, Amhara, Harar, Oromiya, SNNPR and Tigray, and some 106,685 mt have been dispatched.

***Targeted Supplementary Feeding***: Dispatches for the TSF programme are reported every two weeks thus an update will be provided in next week's situation report.

### Gaps and Requirements

The shortfall for 9.5 million people targeted for assistance under relief, PSNP and TSF programmes for the period September to December 2008 amounts to some 275,000 mt valued at US\$223 million.

## Humanitarian Meeting Schedule

Date	Meeting	Location and Time
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2008	UN/NGO Humanitarian Coordination Meeting  Water Task Force Meeting	UNDP Conference Room, 10 AM  10 a.m Ministry of Water Resources
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2008	UN Department of Safety and Security for UN and NGOs	9:30 a.m. UNDSS

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<sup>5</sup> Latest information available on PSNP response is dated 10<sup>th</sup> September 2008.

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**Editorial Note:** The information in this document is based on reports and field information from a variety of sources including UN agencies, NGOs and government partners as well as the different coordination forums.