



United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

# Situation Report: Drought/Food Crisis in Ethiopia

## 14<sup>th</sup> October 2008

### Highlights:

- Revised Humanitarian Requirements Document Launch this week.
- AWD continued to spread to new areas.
- Efforts are now ongoing to increase responses in Afar, Amhara and Somali Regions where the capacity for appropriate response needs to be augmented.

## Humanitarian Overview

### Current Context

Humanitarian actors continue to respond to critical needs in drought and food crisis affected areas throughout Ethiopia. Government and humanitarian partners continue to respond to the range of health, nutrition and livelihood needs generated by the crisis.

In Oromiya and SNNPR, children 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. At the same time AWD continues to spread to new areas. Food security conditions in the eastern part of Ethiopia remain problematic.

## Sectoral Updates

### Health and Nutrition

#### Key Issues

**Health:** AWD continues to spread to new areas. Currently 31 woredas in five regions report active cases: 2 districts in Afar, 14 in Amhara, 5 in Oromiya, 1 in SNNPR and 9 in Tigray. The three newly affected districts of epidemic week 40 are W/Amacho in North Gondar Zone

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of Amhara Region, Dukem district of East Shoa Zone of Oromiya Region and Tsegede district in NW Tigray. WHO, PSI, UNICEF and other partners are supporting regional authorities to respond to the epidemic. WHO, PSI, UNICEF and the Regional Health Bureau organised a training on AWD outbreak Preparedness and Response for health workers between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> October in SNNPR.

***Nutrition:*** Government and humanitarian partners continue to provide therapeutic feeding to children suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and Therapeutic Feeding Programmes have been established in all the 54 hot spot woredas in SNNP Region. Efforts are now ongoing to increase responses in Afar, Amhara and Somali Regions where the capacity for appropriate response needs to be augmented.

**In SNNPR** 1,507 new admissions of children with severe acute malnutrition were reported from the region between 26 September and 2 October with reports received from 365 out of 398 Outpatient Treatment Programme sites (92%) and 47 out of 48 Inpatient Therapeutic Feeding Units (98%). The new admissions have decreased 27% compared to the previous week and 50% compared to the weekly admission numbers in August despite the increase in number of OTP sites and consistent high reporting rate. Bona and Bursa woredas in Sidama Zone reports the highest numbers of new admissions in the region. A total of 37,000 children with severe acute malnutrition in SNNPR have received treatment from 25 June to 2 October according to submitted reports to the Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (ENCU).

**In Oromiya**, 1,053 new admissions of children with severe acute malnutrition were reported from the region between 24 September and 1 October with reports received from 180 out of 294 Outpatient Treatment Programme sites (61%) and 25 out of 55 Inpatient Therapeutic Feeding Units (45%). Shashamene woreda in West Arsi Zone reports the highest numbers of new admissions in the region. A total of 24,000 children in Oromiya with severe acute malnutrition have received treatment from 23 July to 1 October according to submitted reports to the Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (ENCU).

**In Amhara Region** there are now 22 hotspot woredas endorsed by the Regional DPP. Efratana Gidem woreda in North Shewa Zone is the latest addition to the list of vulnerable woredas. Eight-out-of-22 hotspot woredas in Amhara Region have neither therapeutic nor targeted supplementary feeding programmes to address severe and moderate acute malnutrition. The coverage for therapeutic feeding is very low with 16 out of the 22 hotspot woredas without this life saving treatment programme for children with severe acute malnutrition. Reporting from the 49 Outpatient Therapeutic Programme sites and the 13

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inpatient therapeutic feeding units remains weak. No reports have been received from inpatient therapeutic feeding units.

**In Afar Region,** efforts are currently ongoing to increase the coverage of therapeutic and targeted supplementary feeding programmes to address severe and moderate acute malnutrition in the 12 hotspot woredas in Afar Region. 7 out of the 12 hotspot woredas are not yet covered by therapeutic feeding programmes, and 5 woredas are without treatment programmes for either children with severe or moderate acute malnutrition as well as moderately malnourished pregnant and lactating mothers.

Reports are now coming in from 8 out of 23 outpatient treatment programme sites and the Therapeutic Feeding Unit in the in priority woredas. The reported admissions figures of 1,176 children with severe acute malnutrition between 4-28 September might therefore not reflect the total number of children receiving treatment or the actual number of children in need of this life saving intervention.

**In Tigray Region,** Therapeutic and Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programmes have been established in 13 out of the 15 hotspot woredas. There are currently 2 hotspot woredas without treatment programmes for children with severe acute malnutrition beyond Targeted Supplementary Food for moderate acute malnutrition.

**In Somali Region,** eight of 14 hotspot woredas have no therapeutic feeding programmes for management of severe acute malnutrition (Aware, Gunagedo, Est Emi, Shilabo, Bohk, Danot, Geladi and Ferfer). Reports have started to come in to the recently established Regional Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit. So far the report rate is about 19% with reports received from 26 out of 139 outpatient treatment programme sites. Improvements in the report rate and a more coordinated response are expected the coming months to address the nutrition situation of women and children in the region.

### Gaps and Requirements

**General:** In Oromiya, the overall coverage for Therapeutic and Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programmes remains low. There is also a greater need to increase coverage and reporting in Afar, Amhara and Somali Regions. In SNNPR, 18 of the 54 hot spot woredas have no Targeted Supplementary Food Programme for management of moderate acute malnutrition and prevention of relapses of children treated for severe acute malnutrition.

## Water and Sanitation

### Key Issues

An emergency water and sanitation requirement document was circulated to Emergency Task Force members for comments. Feedback has been forwarded to Ato Abebe (focal point-MoWR).

**In Somali Region**, despite some rains, the drought situation is still continuing, creating a gap with regard to water supply. Coordination, which is taking place in Jijiga will be linked with efforts at the zonal level.

**In Afar region**, some rains have been received though with little impact on the current drought situation. Some hot-spot woredas have been reported as in-accessible due to poor or lack of access roads. With UNICEF support, the water supply main line from Digdiga to Alelu (Teru) has been maintained. Rehabilitation of four water supply schemes in Elidar Wereda has been undertaken and the schemes are now functioning. Additional schemes are under maintenance as well. One 10,000 and one 5,000 liters capacity tanks were delivered to Elidar Woreda in response to the emergency. Kori and Bidu woredas have also received one 10,000liters capacity tanks each. Access constraints remain in Mebay kebele of Teru woreda due to bad road conditions.

**In Tigray**, few NGOs are engaged in emergency WASH response. The Tigray Water Bureau has mobilized one water truck for Raya-azebo Woreda that needs more than three water trucks. In addition to this, the bureau has rehabilitated four water schemes. It is reported that more than 64, 099 people are affected in this Woreda.

**In Amhara**, a regional emergency assessment team (led by regional DDPA & UNICEF) has been established to assess WASH requirements in all zones. Water guards and PUR are being distributed to all kebeles. According to the Woreda health office they have 15,000 bottles of water guard and 43,580 sachets of PUR in stock.

**In Gambella**, emergency interventions to the flood affected population are ongoing. The interventions include distribution of water treatment chemicals (PUR and water guard), WASH supplies (jerry cans and cups) and provision of hygiene education. The activities are jointly implemented by Government and partners including UNICEF, IOM, Samaritan Purse, Ethiopian Red Cross and ZOA.

## Gaps and Requirements

In Afar Region, overall humanitarian coordination still takes place on adhoc basis. Oxfam GB has initiated informal coordination at Addis Ababa level to share information and see how to strengthen the capacity of the region in emergency response. Better coordination in the region is now essential.

### Food Aid

#### Key Issues

Food security conditions in the eastern half of the country (Somali Region, southern parts of SNNP, eastern parts of Oromiya, Amhara and Tigray regions) remain problematic and food aid interventions continue in most of these areas. In some areas, staple food prices have more than doubled while livestock prices are on the decline, depriving pastoralists from income to manage their basic food needs. In Somali Region, food insecurity has been further aggravated by ethnic conflicts between Oromos and Somalis. A direct consequent is the rise in malnutrition cases (highland and lowland woredas in Oromiya, Somali Region). In some areas in SNNPR, the improvement in the nutritional status of children under five over the period August-September is attributed to the green harvest, distribution of relief food, enhanced nutritional surveillance and timely provision of targeted supplementary food. Erratic rains continue to prevail in the country, particularly affecting Somali region where the Deyr rains expected in early September has now delayed for more than three weeks in most areas. Poor pasture availability and drought related endemic diseases are resulting in increased emaciated and death of livestock in most areas in the Somali region with local reports estimating that some households have lost up to 80% of their cattle and shoats.

**In Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR)** it has been reported from Kembata Tambaro zone that farmers have shifted from root crops such as Irish and sweet potatoes into cereal crops such as teff and wheat due to the late Belg rains. However, teff and wheat are reportedly less productive in terms of yield. Coffee production has also been affected by the failure of belg rains such that berries are normally ripened at this time of the year but are still green. Maize crop is being harvested in some areas whilst wheat and other crops are at flowering stage. Overall, availability of water and pasture for livestock reported sufficient in all visited woredas and the animal body condition is further improving as well as productivity.

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**In Oromiya**, massive death of livestock within pastoralist communities in Bale and Borena due to protracted drought continues to be reported. Hagaya rain has started in Borena and part of Guji, but are however below normal hence would not refill the water ponds. In East and West hararghe zones, the cumulative effect of moisture stress, delay of Meher rain and decline in income sources combined with high grain and livestock prices have resulted in increased food insecurity in all woredas. Reduced harvests are expected in these zones as well as in Dire Dawa and Harar.

**In Somali Region**, food security continues to be negatively affected by current drought conditions. In some areas, stress migration from smaller villages to larger towns has been observed. Pasture and water shortages have prolonged into October when the Deyr rains should be expected. Poor livestock condition and production continue to be observed. In and around Jijiga, drought and worm infestation have contributed to a poor performance of maize and sorghum crops. Livestock, cattle and shoats are still dying in Afder, Gode, Liban, Warder and Korahe due to the effects of pasture and water shortages. In Degehabur and Fik zones, poor livestock condition and production, crop failure and reduced income from livestock due to lack of external trade are among factors contributing to the ongoing food insecurity. Movement of pastoralists towards areas closer to water and food distribution is ongoing. Several Alternative basic education (ABE) and formal schools in the two zones are still closed due to the increased number of drop outs, as children are engaged in labour as daily bread winners to sustain their families by collecting fire wood and selling water in urban and semi urban areas.

**In Amhara Region** more than 15,600 people in five of the six woredas of Wag Hamra Zone have been affected by hailstorm and flood which have devastated almost 3,400 hectares of cultivated land. Long cycle crops that were planted late (by one month) in eastern lowlands of Amhara are likely to fail as the rainfall stopped in early September. Areas affected are four kebeles of Argoba woreda of S.Wollo, Minjar (two kebeles), Ankober (five kebeles) Kewot (four kebeles), Jilitimuga, Arthumafursi, Dewie Harewa and Bati woredas. Normally green harvest starts in September but currently the crops are at flowering stage.

**In Afar Region**, water remains as a critical problems particularly in Bidu, Erebti and Elidaar woredas. Several cases of malnutrition are visible particularly in Bidu. Inadequate food aid has exacerbated the food insecurity situation in the affected woredas.

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In **Tigray Region** a critical shortage of pasture and water for livestock continues to be reported from Raya Azebo, Tanque Aberglle, Alaje and Sease Tseada Emba (South Tigray).

### Response<sup>1</sup>

- **Relief<sup>2</sup>:** <sup>3</sup> The following constitute food allocations/dispatches between January and August 2008. In **Somali Region** some 58,545 mt have been allocated to 1,025,030 beneficiaries of which 46,856 mt have been dispatched. In **SNNPR**, 1,332,010 beneficiaries have been allocated 93,995 mt of which 89,852 mt have been dispatched. In **Oromiya Region**, 1,088,537 beneficiaries have been allocated 51,964 mt, of which 49,652 mt have been dispatched. In **Afar, Amhara, Benshangul Gumuz, Gambella and Tigray regions**: some 1,332,835 beneficiaries have been allocated 49,456 mt, of which 39,479 mt have been dispatched.
- **Productive Safety Net Programme<sup>4</sup>:** (as at 29 September 08) – From January to August 2008, 138,923 mt of mixed commodities have been allocated to 4,006,712 PSNP beneficiaries in Afar, Amhara, Harar, Oromiya, SNNPR and Tigray, and some 112,616 mt have been dispatched.
- **Targeted Supplementary Feeding:** As at 6 October, cumulative distribution over the period July-October consisted in 13,139 mt of blended food provided to 471,662 people in Afar, Amhara, Oromiya, SNNPR and Tigray regions following May-August 2008 screenings.

### Gaps and Requirements

- Total assessed caseload for relief (national): 6.4 million
- Total national requirements for relief (national): 689,687 mt<sup>5</sup>
- Total amount of WFP food allocated (relief): 254,647 mt
- Total WFP food dispatched (relief): 226,527 mt (no update available since last week)
- Total (WFP) PSNP<sup>6</sup> food beneficiaries: 4 million<sup>7</sup>
- Total TSF beneficiaries: 737,017

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<sup>1</sup> Relief allocations/dispatches refer to mixed commodities of cereals, pulses, oil and blended food allocated/dispatched during January-August 2008.

<sup>2</sup> Latest information available on relief is dated 10<sup>th</sup> September 2008.

<sup>3</sup> Allocations/dispatches refer to mixed commodities of cereals, pulses, oil and blended food.

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

<sup>5</sup> WFP plans to resource 473,066 mt of the annual relief requirements (i.e. 69%).

<sup>6</sup> The Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) is a development-oriented programme, which targets chronically food-insecure people with cash (provided by the Government) or food (WFP, NGOs) transfers. Beneficiary households mainly participate in community public works, although a limited number of households (disabled, elderly) receive direct transfers.

<sup>7</sup> Total PSNP beneficiaries in drought-affected areas are 5.7 million who require assistance for up to an additional three months until September 2008 (beneficiary figure includes cash and food transfers). WFP PSNP planning figure is 2.4 million. However actual number assisted with WFP food is 4 million, which includes 2.8 drought-affected (out of 5.7 million drought-affected) and 1.2 million non-drought affected.

## Humanitarian Response Fund Update

### Funding Status

- **Overall funds since 2008:** US\$ 48.5 million (see list below)
- **Pledges in Pipeline:** US\$ 12.4 million (Switzerland, Spain, Ireland, DfID)
- **Funding In Hand:** US\$ 9.2 million

### II) Allocations

- Since 2008: US\$ 37.7 million
- Applications on approval process: US\$ 2.6 million (see table 1 for detail)
- Applications under review: US\$ 208,000 (see table 2 for detail)

### III) Donor Update

- **Contributions since 2008: US\$ 48.5 million**

#### Donors

Norway –	US\$ 1,939,834
Netherlands –	US\$ 14,864,834
DFID –	US\$ 19,812,058
Italy –	US\$ 857,233
Sweden -	US\$ 1,919,948
Balance from last year -	US\$ 8,918,448
Misc –	US\$ 261,149

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**IV) Applications on Approval Process**

**Table 1**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Sector</b>	<b>Amount US \$</b>	<b>Location</b>
Oxfam GB	WASH	420,354	Afar Region, Kori, Biru, and Eli Daar Woreda
Trocaire	WASH, CFW	596,697	Tigray Region, Eastern Zone, Irob, Saesie Taeda-emba and Golomekada Woredas
Concern	Nutrition	389,627	Amhara region, South Wollo, Ambasel
Samaritan Purse	Health and Nutrition	694,380	Somali Region, Warder Zone, Geladin and Bohk woredas
COOPI	WASH/AG	578,121	Somali Region, Liben Zone, Hudet, Filtu, Dolo Odo Woredas Oromiya Region, Guji zone, Liben woreda

**V) Applications under Review**

**Table 2**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Sector</b>	<b>Amount US \$</b>	<b>Location</b>
NCA	WASH	208,000	Somali Region, Afder Zone, West Ime and Elkere Woredas

## Humanitarian Meeting Schedule

Date	Meeting	Location and Time
14 October	Water Task Force	MoWr 10 A.M.
14 October	Launch of Revised Humanitarian Requirements Document	DPPA Conference Room 10 A.M.
15 October	MANTF	DPPA Conference Room 2 P.M.
16 October	Humanitarian Coordination Meeting	UNDP Conference Room 7 <sup>th</sup> Floor Old ECA Building 10 A.M.
17 October	UN/NGO Security Meeting	UN Department of Safety and Security 9:30 AM

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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.