



United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Situation Report: Drought/Food Crisis in Ethiopia

28th October 2008

Highlights:

- **Total shortfall for the period October to December 2008 stands at 93,386 mt valued at US\$82 million**
- **Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) continues to spread to new woredas.**

Humanitarian Overview

Current Context

Government and humanitarian partners continue to respond to the humanitarian consequences of the drought and food crisis in Ethiopia. In addition to mounting ongoing interventions to the crisis, partners are rapidly trying to locate the resources required to respond over the coming months as outlined in the revised Humanitarian Requirements document launched last week.

Sectoral Updates

Health and Nutrition

Nutrition:

New Admission Rates: 3,567 children have been admitted to therapeutic feeding programmes in Amhara, Oromiya, SNNPR, Somali and Tigray during the course of the reporting week¹. Information on new admission rates is based on reports received from 628 Therapeutic Feeding Programmes sites (TFP) out of total 1154 TFP sites. SNNPR accounted for 64.4 % of the total admissions reflecting its higher reporting rate of 82%. The rest of the regions had lower reporting rates.

¹ Analysis compiled by the Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (ENCU) on the basis of reports submitted by government and humanitarian partners.

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Assessments: GOAL will begin rapid nutrition assessments in Mekedela and Goba woredas in North and South Wollo zones in Amhara Region in collaboration with the regional ENCU on the 27th October. World Vision Ethiopia will conduct similar assessments in Alamata and Samre Sharti woredas in Tigray Region in collaboration with the regional authorities and the regional ENCU.

Health:

Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) continues to spread to new woredas. During the course of the week four woredas reported new outbreak of AWD; Awabel and Tgede woredas in Amhara Region and Bursa and Dugna Fango in SNNPR. According to WHO, 31 woredas in five regions are reporting active AWD cases; two woredas in Afar, 15 in Amhara, three in Oromiya, three in SNNPR and eight in Tigray. The following woredas have been classified as hotspot woredas; Awabel, E. Gojjam Zone and Tegede in North Gondar Zone, Amhara Region and Bursa, Sidama Zone in SNNPR.

WHO has allocated US\$ 44,560 to the Regional Health Bureau (RHB) in Amhara to support surveillance and case investigations, management of case treatment centres and training of staff health staff on AWD preparedness and response.

Gaps and Requirements

ENCU continue to underscore the importance of ensuring that vulnerable children in all hotspot woredas have access to both Targeted Feeding Programmes and Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programmes. ENCU requests partners to ensure that weekly and monthly reports from all TFP sites are submitted on a regular basis so as to have a complete picture of new admission rates across all regions. In relation to the case management of AWD, delayed reporting of cases and insufficient monitoring of the epidemic is contributing to slow response to the outbreak.

Water, Hygiene and Sanitation

Key Issues:

Afar Region: Drought affected woredas in Afar Region include; Kori and Elidaar (Zone 1), Erbebti, Berhale and Bidu (Zone 2), Gewane and Buremudaytu (Zone 3), Teru and Gulina (Zone 4) and Dalifage (Zone 5). UNICEF has deployed a team to assess the current situation in drought-affected woredas with a view to identification of gaps in existing interventions. UNICEF is supporting the rehabilitation of existing water services. The main water supply

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line from Digdiga to Alelu (Teru) has been maintained and four water supply schemes in Elidar woreda have been rehabilitated.

Amhara Region: Three teams, composed of UNICEF, WFP, DPPA and ORDA staff, have been dispatched to all zones in Amhara Region to assess the current scale of the emergency. In addition, UNICEF has provided technical support to ongoing efforts to respond to the outbreak of AWD in the region.

Somali Region: Rainfall has been received in some areas leading to a decision by DPPB to halt water tankering operations. The Regional Water Bureau (RWB) and Regional Health Bureau (RHB) are undertaking a joint assessment of schools and health centres in Gode and Afder Zones to identify facilities for support with CERF funds. The RHB, with technical assistance from UNICEF, conducted training on AWD in Awbarre woreda in Jijiga Zone. Participants in the training included community elders, representatives from a number of women's groups and kebele leaders. The training focused on issues relating to AWD prevention and containment and water treatment chemicals were distributed to participants. UNICEF has completed borehole drilling in Diinta village, Jijiga and the intervention is ongoing in Cunduftu village in Afdem woreda.

Tigray Region: Representatives of the federal and regional DPP, WFP and UNICEF staff carried out a joint assessment of the impact of the drought upon communities in Erob,G/Mekeda. Ahferom. M/kele, L/Adio and T/Adiabo woredas in Tigray Region.

Gaps and Requirements:

Water treatment chemicals remain a critical requirement to ensure comprehensive response to the AWD epidemic.

Food Aid

Key Issues

Meher crops performance is reportedly good and promising in SNNPR, however, the yield level will depend on the occurrence and persistence of rains during the ongoing maturity stage. Also, price of newly harvested maize and ginger has been decreasing in line with the increasing supplies on the markets. Improvement in the nutritional status of children under five and lactating/nursing women has been reported in SNNPR. The same applies to lowland woredas of West Arsi zone in Oromiya. At the opposite, high prevalence of malnutrition has been reported in midland and highland areas of Dodala and Gedeb Asasa(Oromiya). Still in Oromiya, farmers in West Shewa zone expect below to average harvest as they planted their

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crops late due to abnormally elongated dry season, unavailability of fast growing improved seeds and high cost of fertilizers.

Response

Relief²: In the Somali Region, some 82,259 mt have been allocated to 1,881,495 beneficiaries and 47,520 mt have been dispatched. In SNNPR, 1,569,700 beneficiaries have been allocated 113,129 mt, of which 92,145 mt been dispatched. In Oromiya Region, 1,536,871 beneficiaries have been allocated 71,298 mt, of which 51,701 mt have been dispatched. Some 1,542,523 people in Afar, Amhara, Benshangul Gumuz, Gambella and Tigray regions have been allocated 67,864 mt, of which 42,349 mt have been dispatched.

Productive Safety Net Programme³: Between January and August 2008, 140,727 mt of mixed commodities have been allocated by WFP to 4,006,712 PSNP beneficiaries in Afar, Amhara, Harar, Oromiya, SNNPR and Tigray, and some 122,027 mt have been dispatched.

Targeted Supplementary Feeding: As of 14th October, the cumulative distribution over the period July-October stands at 13,295 mt of blended provided to 477,282 people in Afar, Amhara, Oromiya, SNNPR and Tigray regions following May-August 2008 screenings.

Food assistance to Internally Displaced People: Some 247 mt of food has been allocated for 20,000 IDPs in Warder woreda in the Somali Region and is being dispatched via the Hubs and Spokes logistics system. To date, an ad hoc allocation of 231 mt of cereals has been dispatched by the Early Warning Response Department to meet some of the requirements of 42,655 beneficiaries in Filtu. An assessment of the needs of some 17,600 IDPs in SNNPR and approximately 2,300 in West Arsi, Oromiya Region is ongoing. The DPPB has already provided 104 mt to people in SNNPR and 140 mt to IDPs in Oromiya.

Gaps and Requirements

The total shortfall for the period October to December 2008 stands at 93,386 mt valued at US\$82 million of which 85,601 is required for the relief programme.

WFP estimates that 341,000 mt valued at US\$295 million for relief, TSF and PSNP will be required to respond to needs in the first quarter of 2009. Needs for the second quarter of 2009 is estimated to stand at around 178,000 mt valued at US\$154 million. Relief requirements have been estimated on the basis of 5.7 million relief beneficiaries for the first quarter and 2.5 million for the second quarter of 2009. These projections are estimates and will be

² Allocations/dispatches refer to mixed commodities of cereals, pulses, oil and blended food during January to September 2008. Information current as of 21st October 2008.

³ As of 22nd October 2008.

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revised following the completion of the government's multi-stakeholder seasonal food security assessment scheduled to take place in November.

Agriculture and Livestock

Key Issues

The situation with regard to agriculture and livestock remains critical in parts of Tigray, Amhara, Afar, Oromiya and Somali Regions.

Amhara Region: A recent assessment conducted by FAO indicates that the performance of crops in eastern parts of the region will be below normal as a result of the poor performance of *meher* rains. In lowland woredas of Worebabu and Argoba in South Wollo Zone and Bati woreda in Oromiya Zone reports indicate poor rainfall will lead to either the total failure of crops or stunted growth of crops. Farmers in the lowland woredas of Waghemira Zone are facing below normal to zero performance of the *meher* crops. The supply of crops to local markets has decreased in Sahila, Abergele and Ziquala woredas whilst supply of livestock has increased leading to increase in the price of cereals and decrease in price of livestock.

Afar Region: The poor performance of the *sugum* and *kerma* rains performed has led to poor condition and reduced availability of pasture, critical water shortages and failure of crops in some parts of the region. APDA and GAA are carrying out a number of critical interventions in the agriculture and livestock sector, however, given the scale of the crisis it is necessary to scale-up interventions as soon as possible. FAO continues to carry out animal vaccination campaigns and building the capacity of Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs).

Gaps and Requirements

In the midst of ongoing interventions in the health and nutrition, food and WASH sector, there is an urgent need to scale up support to livelihoods.

Humanitarian Response Fund Update

Funding Status

- **Overall funds since January 2008: US\$ 49.9 million** (see list below)
- **Pledges in Pipeline:** US\$ 12.3 million (Switzerland, Spain, DFID, Ireland)
- **Funding In Hand:** US\$ 10.1 million

II) Allocations

- Since January 2008: **US\$ 38.1 million**
- Agencies signing MoU: **US\$ 208,000** (see table 1 for detail)
- Applications under review: **US\$ 7.7** (see table 2 for detail)

III) Donor Update

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

Ireland –	US\$ 1,392,758
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

Humanitarian Meeting Schedule

Date	Meeting	Location and Time
Monday 27 th October		
Tuesday 28 th October	WASH meeting	OCHA Conference Room, 10.00 (TBC).
Wednesday 29 th October	MANTF meeting	DPPA Director General's Conference Room, 14.00.
Thursday 30 th October	UN/NGO Humanitarian Coordination Meeting	UNDP Conference Room 7 th Floor, Old ECA Building, 10.00.
Friday 31 st October	UN/NGO Security Meeting	UN Department of Safety and Security, 09.30.

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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.