



Situation Report: Humanitarian Crisis in Ethiopia

15th December 2008

Highlights:

- The government-led Emergency Needs Assessment is ongoing
- WFP projected shortfall for 2009 amounts to some US\$509 million and will be adjusted following the results of the Emergency Needs Assessment
- WHO reports no new cases of Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) this week.

Humanitarian Overview

Current Context

Government and humanitarian partners are jointly assessing the scale and extent of humanitarian needs for 2009. The government-led multi-stakeholder Emergency Needs Assessment (ENA) is drawing to a close and a number of assessment teams have already returned to Addis Ababa to finalise reports from the affected regions. Humanitarian partners expect the government to present the results of the ENA in due course and anticipate that early approval of the findings will speed up resource mobilization and subsequent interventions in early 2009.

Sectoral Updates

Health and Nutrition

Nutrition:

Assessments: Rapid assessments conducted by GOAL in Sayint woreda, Amhara Region were reviewed by the Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (ENCU). The results indicated a need for close monitoring and strengthening of existing nutrition interventions in Sayint. ENCU reviewed assessments carried out by the SNNPR FS/DPPB and the Regional ENCU in collaboration with zonal and woreda authorities in Gedio Zone (Dilla Zuria, Wanago and Kochere). The results of the assessment indicated high levels of proxy SAM and GAM.

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ENCU is currently reviewing two proposals submitted by Action Contra la Faim (ACF) to conduct standard nutrition surveys to monitor ongoing interventions in Dale Aleta Wonda and Dale Aleta Wenso livelihood zones.

Supplies: Between the 3rd November and 6th December, UNICEF has dispatched 1105 mt of Plumpy'nut, essential for the treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), to areas hit by the food and drought crisis of 2008. The Plumpy'nut supplies cover the treatment needs of an estimated 13,800 malnourished children over a one-month period. UNICEF has additional stocks for the treatment of malnutrition in Addis Ababa amounting to some 610 mt of Plumpy'nut and 440 mt of BP-100. In the coming weeks, UNICEF expects the arrival of nutrition stocks in-country including 507mt of Plumpy'nut and 265 mt of BP-100.

Health:

According to WHO, there have been no new cases of Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) reported during the course of the week, however, continued efforts by all partners are required to ensure that the disease is fully contained. In Afar Region, UNICEF has provided technical assistance to health officials in three woredas affected by the AWD outbreak (Amibara, Buremodaitu and Gewane) to support the treatment of existing cases and contain the disease in addition to the provision of five CTC kits.

In Shinile Zone in the Somali Region, WHO and representatives of the Regional Health Bureau (RHB) are investigating and responding to reports of a measles outbreak in Shinile and Meiso woredas.

Water, Hygiene and Sanitation

Afar Region: Water tankering interventions continue in order to mitigate the impact of acute water shortages on households in drought-affected parts of the region. An estimated 100,000 people living in Elidar, Kori, Bidu and Erepti woredas have access to safe, clean water as a result of ongoing interventions.

Oromiya Region: Acute water shortages persist as a result of poor rainfall in East and West Harerghe. Water tankering interventions, with the support of UNICEF, are reaching an estimated 35,000 people living in the drought-affected woredas.

Somali Region: Rainfall has temporarily improved the availability of water and browse for livestock but it is likely that water sources will be depleted by next February. Government and humanitarian partners continue to support interventions aimed at minimizing the threat of a potential outbreak of AWD in the aftermath of flooding in Gode Zone. UNICEF has provided water treatment chemicals to cover the needs of an estimated 100,000 people living in areas of Gode hit by recent flooding as part of wider efforts to combat the threat of AWD.

Food Assistance

Food security indicators in some parts of the country have improved with the onset of rains. However, the 2008 drought has had a devastating impact upon livelihoods of affected populations and it is expected that recovery time will take several months. WFP estimates that it requires close to US\$509 million in order to cover 2009 shortfalls for relief, targeted supplementary food and its' contribution to the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP). This figure will be adjusted based on results of the ongoing government-led multi-stakeholder food security assessment.

Response

Relief:

The status of food dispatch for October 2008 food allocations as of 9th December 2008 is as follows: Afar – 100%, Amhara – 98%, Beneshangul Gumuz – 0%, Dire Dawa – 100%, Gambella – 94%, Harari – 100%, Oromiya – 91%, SNNPR – 89%, Somali – 77%, and Tigray – 98%.

Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP): In Afar, the dispatch of July and August allocations is almost complete. The dispatch of the September allocation (final round) is ongoing.

Targeted Supplementary Feeding (TSF): During the reporting period, 2,183 mt of blended food and oil was provided to 136,374 beneficiaries in Afar, Amhara, SNNPR, Tigray and Somali regions. With the exception of Somali, beneficiaries in other regions receiving their second round of food delivery for the screening in May/June received half rations. Half rations are being provided due to resource constraints as agreed in the TSF prioritization meeting on 22-23rd September 2008.

Humanitarian Response Fund Update

Funding Status

- **Overall funds since Jan 2008:** US\$ 71.2 million
- **Pledges in Pipeline:** US\$ 2.3 million (Norway, Ireland)
- **Funding In Hand:** US\$ 23.5 million

II) Allocations

- Since January 2008: US\$ 45.6 million

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- Applications under Approval Process: **US\$ 995,287**
- Applications under review: **US\$ 2.2 million**

III) Donor Update

- **Contributions since January 2008: US\$ 71.1 million**
Donors

Balance from last year	US\$ 8,918,448
Netherlands	US\$25,675,614
DFID	US\$28,499,852
Ireland	US\$ 1,392,758
Norway	US\$ 1,939,834
Spain	US\$ 1,293,661
Sweden	US\$ 1,919,948
Switzerland	US\$ 438,596
Italy	US\$ 857,233
Misc	US\$ 261,149

Humanitarian Meeting Schedule

Date	Meeting	Location and Time
Monday 15 th December		
Tuesday 16 th December	Water Task Force meeting Ethiopia Humanitarian Country Team meeting	Ministry of Water Resources, 10.00. UNDP Conference Room, 7 th Floor, Old ECA Building, 10.00.
Wednesday 17 th December		
Thursday 18 th December		
Friday 19 th December	UN/NGO Security meeting	UN Department of Safety and Security, 09.30.

Contact Information

Fidele Sarasso Humanitarian Coordinator	fidele.sarassoro@undp.org Tel.: 251-11-5444483
Vincent Lelei Head of Office, OCHA	lelei@un.org Tel.: 251-11-5444248
Gregory Beals Information Officer, OCHA	beals@un.org Tel.: 251-11-5444162

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.