



## HUMANITARIAN SITUATION UPDATE

### **Food Security and Water**

Overall, food security is improving in crop producing parts of the country following the *meher* harvest between October and January. Prices of staple food, as a result, continue to decline. Reports indicate that crop production in the eastern *meher* producing parts of the country, however, is below average due to poor performance of the rain. Famine and Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET) report indicates that, this year, high yielding long-cycle crops, typically planted during the *meher* season in the lowland areas of the country, were replaced by lower yielding short cycle varieties following the poor performance of the *belg* rains. Nonetheless, the performance of these short cycle crops is also below-average due to late onset of *kiremt* rains and repeated dry spells. Further, the concern for water and pasture in arid areas of Somali, Afar, Tigray and Oromiya Regions continue, notes WFP. Afar Pastoralist Development Association (APDA) further reports that shortage of water continues to affect Elidar, Kori, Bidu, Teru and Erebtu woredas in Afar Region. *Karma/karan* (July to September) rains are the main rains in Afar and in the northern zones of Somali Regions. No rains have been received in Afar Region following the unexpected three to four days of rain in late October. As a result, water sources and pastures are drying fast. Poor performance of the *Karma/karan* and *belg* (March-May) rains are resulting in poor availability of water and pasture, low livestock productivity and poor livestock/cereal terms of trade in the areas, FEWSNET reports. For more information contact: [afarpastoral@ethionet.et](mailto:afarpastoral@ethionet.et) & [ethiopia@few.net](mailto:ethiopia@few.net)

### **Nutrition and Food Aid**

WFP reports that in Gambella Region, Enhanced Outreach Strategy (EOS) screening campaign was carried out for 64,394 under five children in all 12 woredas including Gambella town. The results indicate that 2,837 children (4.4 percent) are moderately malnourished and 785 children (1.2 percent) are severely malnourished. Further, 16,254 pregnant and lactating mothers were screened of which 1,378 (8.5 percent) were with lower MUAC levels.

Currently relief food dispatches are on-going to regions including Afder and Liben zones of Somali Region (covered by Disaster Management and Food Security Sector - DMFSS) and Amhara, Oromiya, Somali and Tigray, according to WFP. November allocations as of 08 January 2009 indicate 4,041 MT of food have been allocated to Tigray Region and 3,962 MT dispatched (98 percent); 9,855 MT allocated to Amhara and 8,244 dispatched (84 percent); 12,766 MT allocated to Oromiya Region and 12,037 dispatched (94 percent); 14,257 MT allocated to SNNP and 11,483 dispatched (81 percent); 37 MT allocated to Harari and 37 MT dispatched (100 percent); and 22,224 MT allocated to Somali Region and 39,138 MT (61 percent) have been dispatched.

Under Targeted Supplementary Feeding (TSF) program, 359 MT of blended food and oil was provided to 25,791 beneficiaries in Amhara and Oromiya Regions during the period 30 December 2008 to 5 January 2009. A total of 22,913 MT of food was also distributed under TSF for the period July to December 2008 for 983,545 beneficiaries in Afar, Amhara, Gambella, Oromiya, SNNP, Somali and Tigray Regions. With the exception of Somali Region that receives full rations, beneficiaries in other regions are receiving half rations for their second round food delivery in response to the screening in May/June due to resource constraints.

Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) food dispatches during January to September 2008 include 95 percent for Afar, 100 percent for Amhara, 101 percent for SNNP, 100 percent for Oromiya and 99 percent for Tigray Regions.

Meanwhile, with growing requirements, WFP continues to face an overall resource shortfalls of 465,081MT valued at US\$ 399.1 million for comprising Relief (366,380MT or US\$ 308.5 million), TSF (43,946 MT or US\$ 43.4 million) and PSNP interventions (54,755 MT or US\$ 47.3 million). WFP expects shipments of mixed commodities totaling 171,029MT (130,279 MT of cereals; 5,000 MT of pulses; 27,750 MT of blended food and 8,000 MT of oil) from December 2008 to March 2009. Available in country free/committed stock currently stands at 25,095 MT while current Ethiopian Food Security Reserve Administration (EFSRA) stands at 83,289 MT as of 02 January 2009. Requirements will further be adjusted based on the findings of the multi-agency national needs assessments. For more information contact: [wfp.addisababa@wfp.org](mailto:wfp.addisababa@wfp.org)