



HUMANITARIAN SITUATION UPDATE

Water Shortages

Reports indicate that critical water shortages continue in parts of the country. According to UNICEF water shortage continues to be a concern in Gulo Mekeda, Tseada Emba, Atsbi Womberta, Hintalo Wajirat and Raya Azebo woredas in Tigray. The January Somali Region Food Security Update indicates that, although the *deyr* rains have helped in availing water and pasture, they did little in reducing the overall food insecurity in the region. Water shortages are expected to deteriorate in the *karan* receiving areas including Aysha'a, northern parts of Erer, Shinile and Dembel woredas of Shinile zone, Kebribeyah woreda and southern parts of Harshin and Babile in Jijiga zone. According to the report, failure of previous rains in 2007 and 2008 significantly contributed to poor livestock reproduction, high mortality and miscarriages, reduced milk production and poor physical conditions. Crop production has also been affected by early cessation of the rains and unanticipated flooding. The food security situation in the *deyr* receiving areas is anticipated to further exacerbate in parts of Fik, Warder, Liben and Gode zones in the coming *Jilal*, long dry season (January–March). For more information contact: kmcdonald@unicef.org & info@dppc.gov.et

Nutrition

Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (ENCU) reports a total of 971 new admissions to Therapeutic Feeding Programs (TFPs) in SNNP, Somali and Tigray Regions with an overall reporting rate of 84.6 percent. The highest TFP admissions were reported from Dilla Zuria and Damot Pullasa woredas in SNNPR accounting for 59.3 percent of the total admissions with 94 percent reporting rate. Of the total admissions, Somali Region (two weeks report) accounts for more than 37.4 percent of which 68 percent was reported from Degehabur. Reports from Amhara, Oromia and Afar Regions were not provided due to the on-going ENCU/UNICEF capacity strengthening exercise in the regions.

In response to reports from Benishangul Gumuz Regional authorities of deteriorating nutrition situations in Kurmuk woreda, Save the Children UK, funded by UNICEF, is conducting a standard nutrition assessment to determine the nutrition situation in the woreda. The assessment was recommended by the Early Warning and Response Directorate/Disaster Management and Food Security Sector (EWRD/DMFSS) in consultation with the Federal Ministry of Health under ENCU coordination. Meanwhile, a rapid nutrition assessment conducted by Samaritan's Purse in Yirgachefe woreda of Gedio zone in SNNPR indicate high levels of proxies GAM and SAM requiring an emergency nutrition intervention, ENCU reports. The findings also show increasing trends of new admissions in the woreda. ENCU with Samaritan's Purse and other humanitarian partners are discussing the possibility of facilitating a standard nutrition assessment for an emergency nutrition intervention in the woreda. ENCU further reports that efforts to increase emergency intervention coverage in hotspot woredas in the country are on-going. The nutrition cluster is currently reviewing proposals submitted to OCHA Humanitarian Response Fund (HRF) by Save the Children UK, Save the Children US and Islamic Relief to start nutrition interventions in hotspot woredas of Afar and Somali Regions. For more information contact: orlao@dppc.gov.et

Food Aid

WFP reports that current resource shortfalls, considering carryover stocks, stand at 446,500 MT valued at US\$ 378 million for Relief, Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) and Targeted Supplementary Feeding (TSF) programs. Meanwhile, under the Relief Program, 96 percent of October and 74 percent of November allocations have been dispatched countrywide including Afder and Liben zones in Somali Region, Amhara, Oromiya, Somali, and Tigray Regions. A total of 3,056 MT of blended food and oil was distributed under TSF program to 187,800 beneficiaries in Afar, Oromiya, Somali and Tigray Regions during July to December 2008. January to December 2008 PSNP food dispatches amount to 95 percent to Afar, 100 percent to Amhara, 101 percent to SNNP, 100 percent to Oromiya and 99 percent to Tigray Regions. For more information contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

Education

The first regional education sector forum in Somali Region was conducted earlier this year in Jijiga. The forum focused on addressing drought-induced school dropouts in the region, based on the findings of UNICEF/Save the Children UK assessments in July-August 2008. In Afar Region, the Regional Education Bureau, UNICEF and Save the Children UK conducted a rapid assessment to identify the effects of drought on education, reports UNICEF. The findings indicate that school dropout rate in the sampled woredas ranged from 20 percent to 43 percent in formal primary schools. Factors contributing to increased school dropouts include malnutrition, migration in search of food, water and pasture and children's engagement in household activities. Girls between the ages of 10 to 15 are reportedly the most affected. Meanwhile, the Regional Education Bureau with technical support from UNICEF conducted training to woreda officials and school principals on Minimum Standards in Education during Emergency (MSEE) during the end of December, notes UNICEF. For more information contact: kmcdonald@unicef.org

HEALTH UPDATE

Suspected measles outbreak was reported in Bidu woreda in Afar Region during end of December, UNICEF reports. The Regional Health Bureau has deployed a team for laboratory sampling to confirm the case. Meanwhile, UNICEF continues supporting the Regional Health Bureau to deploy mobile health teams in Kori, Bidu and Teru woredas. In Somali Region, as part of the measles mop-up campaign, the Regional Health Bureau with support from UNICEF has conducted a vaccination campaign in Degehabur town for 1,110 children under five. For more information contact: kmcdonald@unicef.org