



## HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

### **Food Security Prospects**

Delay in the onset of *belg* rains is becoming a cause for concern in some *belg* producing parts of the country. WFP report indicates the need for close monitoring of the food security situation in Gedeo zone, SNNPR where farmers are waiting for the rains to plant *belg* crops. In East and West Hararghe zones of Oromiya, land preparation has been completed for sowing of *belg* crops and is awaiting arrival of the rains. Meanwhile, impacts of poor performance of rains during the previous consecutive seasons continued to be witnessed in some lowlands of Bale and Guji zones of Oromiya; Jijiga, Gode, Afder and Liben zones of Somali, and Wag Hemra zone in Amhara, with reports of deteriorating water and pasture availability, notes WFP.

Prices of major cereals have shown an overall increase in some markets including South Omo and Konso Special Woredas in SNNP, parts of Oromiya and Tigray Regions. Prices of maize and wheat in Dire Dawa, Babile, Chinaksen, Goloda, Tullo and Doba markets in Oromiya Region have shown an increase by 8 percent and 3 percent respectively. For more information contact: [wfp.addisababa@wfp.org](mailto:wfp.addisababa@wfp.org)

### **Nutrition**

Nutrition conditions of concern are being reported in parts of the country necessitating nutritional assessments. Preliminary findings of a standard nutrition survey conducted in Kurmuk woreda of Beneshangul Gumuz by Save the Children UK indicates serious nutrition situation in the woreda, the Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (ENCU) reports. Meanwhile, emergency nutritional assessment preparations are underway for Itang woreda of Gambella Region. The Regional Government forwarded the request to the EWRD/DMFSS following regional recommendations from the Enhanced Outreach Strategy/Targeted Supplementary Food Working Group in early February 2009. Furthermore, World Vision Ethiopia and ACF France, in collaboration with the Regional ENCU, are undertaking preparations to conduct rapid nutrition assessments in Quach, Hadro Tendo and Tembaro woredas of SNNPR. The Amhara Child Survival Task Force Meeting also recommended a rapid assessment in Ziquala woreda of Waghimra zone, following reports of deteriorating nutrition situation reported to the federal ENCU by SC UK, notes ENCU. Seqota and Tselemt are among identified woredas of concern in the region.

Following a request by the Somali regional authorities, the Government in collaboration with stakeholders is planning to conduct standard nutrition assessments in the region under the coordination of the Ethiopia Health and Nutrition Research Institute (EHNRI). Preparations to conduct the assessment are well underway, reports ENCU. A technical team was formed on 26 February 2009. The team comprising EHNRI, FMOH, EWRD/DMFSS, UNICEF, ENCU, WHO and Save the Children UK is charged with providing technical support to the regional authorities on the planned survey.

Meanwhile, a hotspot classification exercise with participation from partners (EWRD, WFP, SC UK, CARE, ENCU and Oromia RENCU) has completed updating hotspot woredas for Gambella, Benishangul Gumuz, Tigray, Oromiya, Somali and Afar regions. Nutritional survey results, beneficiary populations identified in the 2008/2009 needs assessments and preliminary regional classifications and production information from FAO were among the criteria used for hotspot woreda classifications. For more information contact: [orlao@dppc.gov.et](mailto:orlao@dppc.gov.et)

### **Food Assistance**

WFP inputs to the national Relief program (80 percent of the overall requirement) for 2009 stand at a shortfall of 282,300 MT valued at US\$ 235.7 million; the Productive Safety Net Programme is short of 54,600 MT valued at US\$ 47.2 million; and Targeted Supplementary Food is short of 35,000 MT amounting to US\$ 30.3 million. Meanwhile, a total of 138,971 MT of mixed commodities comprising 106,774 MT of cereals; 4,926 MT of pulses; 21,021 MT of blended food and 6,249 MT of oil, are expected to arrive in country from March 2009 onwards. Total WFP in-country stock at present amounts to 17,340 MT, including 9,820 MT in hubs in Somali Region.

Food dispatch reports from WFP show that 85 percent of 54,623 MT of food allocated for relief for December 2008 has been dispatched, including 17,823 MT to Somali Region (75 percent); 3,498 MT of supplementary food commodities dispatched to 125,579 beneficiaries, comprising 68 percent under-five children and 32 percent pregnant and lactating women in SNNP, Somali and Oromiya regions. Dispatch for Afar Region's January 2009 PSNP allocation is on-going. To date 6,664 MT has been dispatched (83 percent), out of 8,028 MT allocated for 472,229 beneficiaries in the region. For more information contact: [wfp.addisababa@wfp.org](mailto:wfp.addisababa@wfp.org)

## HEALTH UPDATE

Federal Ministry of Health report indicates that no cases of Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) have been reported this week. Nevertheless, risks of AWD outbreak are high in parts of the country currently receiving rainfall. The situation is being closely monitored at the regional and woreda levels with support from WHO. Meanwhile, in response to the current meningitis epidemic, drugs, vaccines and medical supplies have been pre-positioned in all high risk areas. In addition, trainings continue to be provided to coordinators, laboratory technicians and health workers. For more information contact: [who-wro@et.afro.who.int](mailto:who-wro@et.afro.who.int)