



## HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

### **Food Security**

In 2009, an estimated 12 million people, 20 percent of the rural population will continue to require humanitarian assistance. This is derived from the Humanitarian Requirements Document issued on 30 January 2008 which indicates that a total of 4.9 million people will require emergency food assistance in addition to the 7 million chronically food insecure people that continue to be assisted through Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP). The document requests a net total of USD 454.3 million to address food needs for the year and non-food needs for the first six months of 2009. The net food requirement stands at 450,611 MT, valued at USD 389.3 million. In addition, the Targeted Supplementary Food (TSF) Programme requires 30,327 MT amounting to USD 26.2 million to respond to needs of estimated 1.2 million beneficiaries. The net requirement for the non-food sectors (health and nutrition, water and sanitation and agriculture and livestock) amounts to USD 38.8 million. The findings of the multi-agency, sectoral emergency needs assessment conducted during November/December 2008 formed the basis for the above identified needs.

Meanwhile, concerns are high over continuing food insecurity in the coming months, in parts of the country. In Somali Region, malnutrition and food insecurity will likely exacerbate during the coming *jilaa*, dry season from January to mid April, reports the latest DPPB/Save the Children UK Food Security Update. Degehabur, Korahe, Fik, Warder, Gode and parts of Shinile zones are among identified hotspots. The unexpected rains received in pockets of Afar Region in January and February, most parts of northern Elidaar, Erebti, Berhale, Kori and Bidu continue to face critical water shortages, Afar Pastoralist Development Association reports. Livestock production, therefore, continues to deteriorate in the affected areas. The report also calls for scaling up of the existing water trucking interventions in the areas. Moreover, CARE reports that unseasonal heavy rains followed by dry weather conditions in lowland woredas of Borena zone of Oromiya Region, disrupted agricultural activities and contributed to poor performance of crops. In SNNPR, although the general nutritional status is stable, high admission rates were reported into Outpatient Therapeutic Programmes and Stabilization Centers from Aleta-Wondo woreda of Sidama zone; Dilla zuria of Gedo zone; and Tula sub-city of Awassa. For more information contact: [srs.earlywarningdepartment@yahoo.com](mailto:srs.earlywarningdepartment@yahoo.com), [getachewm@care.org.et](mailto:getachewm@care.org.et), [afarpastoral@ethionet.et](mailto:afarpastoral@ethionet.et) & [wfp.addisababa@wfp.org](mailto:wfp.addisababa@wfp.org)

### **Food Assistance**

WFP reports that 89 percent of the November allocations (64,256MT) have been dispatched countrywide as of 9 February. Food dispatches for December allocations (54,605MT) are also on-going in all the regions. Shortages of resources, however, continue to result in reduction of rations. For more information contact: [wfp.addisababa@wfp.org](mailto:wfp.addisababa@wfp.org)

### **Asylum Seekers**

Increased numbers of Somalia asylum seekers continue to enter into Somali Region. Thus far an estimated 10,000 asylum seekers have arrived at the border town of Dolo Ado, fleeing insecurity in neighboring Somalia mainly in 2009, UNHCR reports. An estimated 150 people are currently crossing the border daily; the number of new arrivals is likely to further increase in the coming weeks. The Refugee Agency reports that preliminary registration conducted during the previous week indicated that most of the refugees are women and children. Preparations to commence formal registration and status determination interviews are underway. UNHCR and other humanitarian partners have started deploying staff and essential relief items including mosquito nets, blankets, mats, jerry cans, water tankers/water pumps and generators in response to needs of asylum seekers. The agency has appealed for the support of all humanitarian partners for an immediate response to mitigate further suffering of the asylum seekers. For more information contact: [gegziabk@unhcr.org](mailto:gegziabk@unhcr.org)

## HEALTH UPDATE

Reports from the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) indicate that there are no new cases of Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) reported nationally for the past six weeks in 2009, notes WHO. Presence of risk factors including poor water quality, inadequate health services, low level of sanitation and hygiene, however, continue to threaten relapse of AWD outbreak in some parts of the country. The needs of at-risk population remain improved access to health care, provision of adequate sanitation and potable water, good hygiene practices, and strengthened surveillance and case management systems, WHO reports. Regional and woreda levels are closely monitoring the situation in the regions. WHO continues to provide technical support to strengthen surveillance, early warning systems, assessment of AWD response and on the job training of health workers. Meanwhile, the joint multi-agency assessment conducted in November/December 2008 requests for US\$ 709,641 for the management of AWD to 142,705 beneficiaries.

Seven suspected cases of meningitis have been reported in Oromiya zone of Amhara Region from 12 to 18 January 2009. Samples have been sent for laboratory investigation to confirm cases. Medical supplies, vaccines, laboratory reagents and drugs have been pre-positioned in high-risk areas of Oromiya, SNNP, Tigray, Amhara Regions and Addis Ababa City Administration by WHO with financial support from CIDA and DFID. For more information contact: [who-wro@et.afro.who.int](mailto:who-wro@et.afro.who.int)