



## HUMANITARIAN UPDATE

### **Food Security**

*Belg* rains began in a number of areas in the country this week, almost three weeks to a month later than normal in most *belg*-producing areas. WFP reports that scattered to heavy rainfall has been received in late March in Awassa Zuria, Yirgachefe, Dilla Zuria, Hammer, Benatsemay, Male, Konso, Derashe, North and South Ari in SNNP; Dire Dawa town; parts of Gambella, high and mid lands of western Oromiya, Arsi highlands, most of Borena zone; parts of Central and Eastern Tigray; Argoba and Dalocha woredas in zone 3 of Afar; Sayint, Legambo, Tenta, and Mekdela, Bugna, Gidan, Kobo, Farta and Lay Gayint woredas in Amhara Regions. In Somali Region, showers of *gu* rains have started in parts of Jijiga, Shinnile, Fik and Deghabur zones, relieving the pressure of the long dry season. Reports indicate that most farmers in *belg*-producing areas have completed land preparation for planting of *belg* crops and are waiting for adequate rains to start planting. Humanitarian actors are anxious that the late onset of rains and subsequent late planting of *belg* crops may affect food security in *belg*-dependent areas. In addition, continued water shortages due to delay and inadequacy of the rains in parts of the country including lowlands of Bale and Guji in Oromiya; Alagie, Tselemtie, Tanqua Abergelle, Atsbi Wonberta, Hintalo Wajirat, Raya Azebo and Sease Tseada Emba in Tigray, parts of Afar and several woredas in different zones of Somali Region continue to be causes for concern, notes WFP. For more information contact: [wfp.addisababa@wfp.org](mailto:wfp.addisababa@wfp.org)

### **Nutrition**

#### **Somali Region Nutrition Survey**

Preparations for the up-coming Somali Region nutrition survey are being completed. The assessment is currently funded with technical and financial support from the humanitarian community and the Government. The assessment is led by the Ethiopian Health and Nutrition Research Institute (EHNRI) with field coordination from the DMFSS to be conducted by Government led Multi-agency survey teams, reports Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (ENCU). The multi-agency federal technical team will travel to Jijiga in the coming week to brief regional authorities on the progress of the preparation and funding levels and review of earlier timeline proposed for the implementation of the survey. For more information contact: [orlao@dppc.gov.et](mailto:orlao@dppc.gov.et)

### **Food Assistance**

WFP currently faces a total shortfall of 372,867mt of food resources amounting to US\$ 314 million. WFP inputs to the national Relief program (80 percent of the overall requirement) for 2009 stand at a shortfall of 278,000 mt valued at US\$ 232 million; WFP inputs to the Productive Safety Net Programme is short of 53,329 mt valued at US\$ 46.1 million; and Targeted Supplementary Food is short of 34,209 mt amounting to US\$ 29.6 million. Total WFP in-country stock at present amounts to 16,813mt, including 10,000 mt in hubs in Somali Region. DMFSS in-country emergency food stock as at 02 April 2009 stands at 72,355 mt, including 7,370 mt non-allocated stock, whereas the free stock for Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) amounts to 64,985 mt. The Ethiopian Food Security Reserve Administration (EFSRA) stocks amount to 198,850 mt.

As at 29 March 2009, 86 percent of 29,356 mt of food has been dispatched by DMFSS out of the February 2009 relief allocation amounting to 33,212 mt. For more information contact: [wfp.addisababa@wfp.org](mailto:wfp.addisababa@wfp.org) & [mulunehw@dppc.gov.et](mailto:mulunehw@dppc.gov.et)

## HEALTH UPDATE

Official assessments conducted by the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) from 19<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> March 2009 in Oromiya and Somali Regions reported 337 cases of Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD), notes WHO. A total of 61 cases were reported from Moyale woreda of Borena zone in Oromiya while 276 cases were reported from Moyale woreda of Liben zone in Somali Region. In addition, the spread of AWD has reportedly continued to new woredas in the two regions, according to information from the technical committee of the Emergency Health and Nutrition Task Force meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> March. The major risk factors are inadequate access to safe drinking water and sanitation in the affected areas. Meanwhile, humanitarian partners are undertaking efforts to develop an action plan to support case management, capacity building, prevention and control of the epidemic. Identified gaps include poor case management, inadequate Case Treatment Center (CTC) materials and drugs, poor water supply and inadequate human resources.

Meanwhile, official reports from the FMoH indicate that no cases of meningitis have been reported this week nationally. For more information contact: [who-wro@et.afro.who.int](mailto:who-wro@et.afro.who.int)