



HUMANITARIAN UPDATE

Food Security

WFP's latest external Weekly Situation report indicates that a multi-agency nutrition survey started on 16 April in Aysha, Degehabur, Hamaro, Bokh, and on 26 April in Barey and Kelafo woredas of Somali Region. The Regional Health Bureau (RHB) has been supporting the coordination process with technical and logistical support from UNICEF, Save the Children UK, Merlin, ADRA, Samaritans Purse, Islamic Relief, Mercy Corps, Save the Children USA, MSF-Belgium, MSF-Holland, ACF. The preliminary reports are expected in mid-May. Pasture and browse conditions continue to improve in most parts of Jijiga, Shinile and Fik zones, following the generally well distributed *gu* rains during late March and April 2009. The rains have alleviated shortage of water as water points are recharging in most areas. In Amhara Region, *belg* plantation is at 59% in South Wollo, 72% in North Wollo, 60% in North Shoa and 32% in Oromiya zones. Livestock body condition is good in most parts of the region and access to pasture and water is stable. In Tigray Region, an improvement in the nutritional situation has been reported due to timely arrival and distribution of Relief, Productive Safety Net Programme and Targeted Supplementary Food to targeted beneficiaries. UNICEF is supporting with technical assistance and training of health workers to the treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition cases in the 14 newly RHB-opened Therapeutic Feeding Programme sites. The availability of water for human consumption is normal in most woredas except in some areas of Ganta Afeshum, Medebay Zana and Wajirat. UNICEF has supported water tankering, rehabilitation and construction of new wells benefiting more than 10,000 people in Eastern and Southern zones of Tigray. Although *sugum* rains have reduced the shortage of water in some areas of Afar Region, water tankering continues with financial support from UNICEF in Elidaar, Korrie, Bidu and Erebtu woredas. Livestock conditions at present in many parts of Afar are satisfactory. In Gambella, the *meher* rain continues and normal agricultural activities including land preparation and planting are in progress. The physical condition of livestock is good as adequate water and pasture is available.

The late start of *belg* rains is expected to impact the food security situation in some benefiting parts of the country. This is of particular concern in some woredas of SNNP and Oromiya Regions that are approaching the lean season. In SNNPR, the nutritional status in some woredas of Welayita, Gedeo, Gamo Gofa, Sidama, Hadiya and Kembata Tembaro is of concern. UNICEF has been providing technical support, RUTF and drugs for the treatment of SAM cases. In addition, increased prevalence of malaria has been reported in mid and lowland areas of Gamo Gofa, Welayita, Kembata and Hadiya zones. In Oromiya, the food security and nutrition situation has declined in Siraro, Shalla, Shashemene and Arsi Negele woredas of West Arsi. Timely intervention is required to stop further deterioration of the situation. For more information contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

Food Assistance

WFP inputs to the national Relief program (80 percent of the overall requirement) for 2009 have a shortfall of 175,623 mt valued at US\$ 146.3 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 30,565 mt amounting to US\$ 26.5 million. Total WFP in-country stock at present amounts to 29,213 mt, including 9,790 mt in hubs in Somali Region. Disaster Management and Food Security Sector (DMFSS) in-country emergency food stock stands at 64,526 mt, including 59,472 mt for PSNP and 5,054 mt for relief. The Ethiopian Food Security Reserve Administration (EFSRA) stocks amounts to 203,347 mt. DMFSS reports that approximately 78 percent (38,356 mt) out of the 49,175 mt of March allocation has been dispatched nationwide. For more information contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org & mulunehw@dppc.gov.et

HEALTH UPDATE

AWD

According to official assessment reports from the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH), 87 cases of Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) have been reported from Konso Special woreda in SNNPR last week. A total of 559 cases of AWD and 17 deaths with 3.0% Case Fatality Rate have been reported from Somali, Oromiya and SNNP Regions from 9th March to 16th April 2009. Two hundred cases and 12 deaths from Moyale and Geladi woredas of Somali Region, 229 cases and four deaths from Moyale and Dire woredas of Oromiya Region and 130 cases and one death from Konso special woreda of SNNPR. The needs of affected people are drugs, water treatment chemicals, awareness creation and trained health staff to support proper case management. Government and partners are responding and mobilising resources to support response. UNICEF continues to support the RHBs with technical and coordination support and provides water treatment chemicals, CTC materials and drugs. UNICEF is also re-printing key messages on sanitation and hygiene, and is supporting the broadcast on short radio messages on hygiene and sanitation.

Influenza A (H1N1)

According to official assessment reports from the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH), no cases of Influenza A (H1N1) have been reported in Ethiopia. WHO is coordinating the revision of the UN Country Team pandemic preparedness plan considering the current pandemic alert phase and all necessary requirements. Technical support is also given to the national Government for preparedness and response. As of 1 May 2009, a total of 257 confirmed cases and 8 deaths of Influenza A (H1N1) infection were reported to WHO from 11 countries. The Director General of WHO has raised the level of influenza pandemic alert from phase 4 to phase 5 globally. Phase 5 is characterized by human-to-human spread of the virus into at least two countries in one WHO region. For more information contact: who-wro@et.afro.who.int