



## **Food and Nutritional Security**

Increased cases of malnutrition continue to be reported in many woredas of SNNPR and East and West Hararghe zones of Oromiya Region. The nutritional situation in parts of West Arsi, Arsi, Agarfa and Bale (Oromiya) and Dessie Zuria (Amhara) also remains of concern. Moreover, according to WFP, continued deterioration in the nutritional situation in parts of Wolayita, Hadiya, Kembata Tembaro, Gedeo, Dawro and Burji woredas in SNNPR has been exacerbated by the heightened incidence of malaria affecting most mid- and lowland areas of the region. Despite treatment and control measures, the disease's prevalence rate has reached 30 to 60 per cent in some areas of East and West Badowacho, Gombora and Konso Special Woredas. In response to the increase in malaria cases, UNICEF has dispatched 4,500 boxes, each containing 25 multi-species Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDT) kits (112,500 tests), to SNNPR that are sufficient to address identified needs. The dispatched RDTs are useful in differentiating between *vivax* and *falciparum* malaria cases, which require different kinds of treatments.

The inter-agency nutrition assessment team working in Somali Region presented the preliminary findings of its surveys in Ayesha, Filtu, Degehabur, Hamero, Bokh, Bare and Kelafo woredas to regional authorities on 20 May 2009. The team returned to Addis Ababa on 23 May and will present the survey findings to the Nutrition Steering Committee shortly thereafter for endorsement and dissemination. For more information contact: [ocha-eth@un.org](mailto:ocha-eth@un.org), [kmcdonald@unicef.org](mailto:kmcdonald@unicef.org) & [wfp.addisababa@wfp.org](mailto:wfp.addisababa@wfp.org)

## **Food Aid Distribution**

Early Warning and Response Directorate and Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector (EWRD/DRMFSS) reports that 99 per cent of February's 34,962 MT food allocation and 91 per cent of March's 45,836 MT allotment have been dispatched to Food Distribution Points (FDPs) in all regions except Somali. In Somali Region, 23 percent of March allocation has been dispatched to FDPs, while dispatch of February allocation stands at 45 percent and January's is at 93 percent. Meanwhile, under the Productive Safety Net Programme, of the 37,697 MT allocations for January through April 2009, to date 36,996 MT (98 percent) cereals have been dispatched in Somali, Oromiya, Afar and Tigray regions. For more information: [mulunehw@dppc.gov.et](mailto:mulunehw@dppc.gov.et)

## **RUTF Pipeline**

As of 15 May, UNICEF has 1,672 MT of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) available in stock in Addis Ababa for the treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). An additional 775 MT of RUTF in the pipeline is expected to arrive in the coming months. The total quantity (in stock and pipeline) is sufficient to treat nearly 35,000 children suffering from SAM for a period of seven months. For more information contact: [kmcdonald@unicef.org](mailto:kmcdonald@unicef.org)

## **Desert Locust Infestation**

A desert locust infestation was reported in Bokh (Warder), Gashamo (Jijiga) and Dembel (Shinille) woredas of Somali Region. The locusts reportedly migrated from neighbouring Somalia/Somaliland at the beginning of April. The Regional Agriculture Bureau, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Desert Locust Control Organization for East Africa (DLCO-EA) and FAO, took immediate measures by spraying 26 square km and the infestation is reportedly under control. For more information contact: [ocha-eth@un.org](mailto:ocha-eth@un.org) & [wfp.addisababa@wfp.org](mailto:wfp.addisababa@wfp.org)

## **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)**

Water shortages, meanwhile, continue to be reported in some woredas in Tigray, Afar, Somali and Oromiya regions. In Somali Region, critical shortages persist in chronically water insecure areas of Danot, Bokh and Southern Geladi woredas in Warder zone and Segeg woreda in Fik zone. Humanitarian partners including UNICEF, ACF, Samaritan's Purse, Ogaden Welfare and Development Association are supporting the Regional Water Bureau in the implementation of Water and Sanitation programmes. For more information contact: [kmcdonald@unicef.org](mailto:kmcdonald@unicef.org)

## **Acute Watery Diarrhoea**

According to the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH), a total of 649 cases and 20 deaths of Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) with 3.1 per cent case fatality rate (CFR) were reported in Somali, Oromiya, SNNP and Afar Regions between 13 April and 17 May 2009. Out of the cumulative cases, 222 are new cases reported in Oromiya, SNNP and Afar regions in 11 to 17 May, indicating an increase from previous reporting weeks. The report includes 148 cases and six deaths in Afar, 39 cases and no deaths in SNNP, 35 cases and one death in Oromiya.

WHO provided emergency drugs kits for Somali, Harari, East and West Hararghe in response to the situation, while UNICEF dispatched 450 kg of water treatment chemicals to woreda health offices in Amibara, Buremodaitu and Gewane woredas in Afar. The water treatments are enough to address the needs of approximately 85,000 people for one month, and 28,800 sachets of PUR water treatment chemicals to cover the needs of 650 people for one month. At federal level UNICEF is conducting an inventory of all available AWD Case Treatment Centre (CTC) supplies within the Health and WASH sections. Based on the inventory results, the number of kits that can be assembled and quantities of materials to be procured will be determined in order to meet the agreed capacity of 250 CTC kits under the pre-positioning strategy. For more information contact: [who-wro@et.afro.who.int](mailto:who-wro@et.afro.who.int) & [kmcdonald@unicef.org](mailto:kmcdonald@unicef.org)