



Food and Nutritional Security

Nutrition response is ongoing in parts of SNNPR and Oromiya Region, including West Arsi, parts of Bale and East and West Hararghe zones. Within the framework of the national strategy of Out-patient Therapeutic Programme (OTP) roll-out in response to the growing number of acute malnutrition cases, the number of OTPs in West Arsi zone in Oromiya Region was increased from 82 to 110 during the last two weeks of May, with UNICEF providing supplies and technical support. In the past week, the national Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (ENCU) issued a revised list of hotspot woredas, increasing the number of priority one areas from 151 to 182. In the coming week, the Humanitarian Response Fund (HRF) will issue a call for nutrition proposals to facilitate a coordinated and timely response.

The food and nutritional security situation remains a source of concern in parts of Amhara, Oromiya, Afar, SNNP, Somali and Tigray regions in the wake of the poor performance of *belg* rains. In Amhara Region, initial reports indicate that the nutritional condition of children in North Wollo and Waghembra zones shows signs of decline. Standard nutrition surveys are needed in the affected areas to assess the scope of the situation. Meanwhile, Save the Children UK in Bugna and Delanta woredas in North Wollo zone, CONCERN in Werababo and Dessie Zuria woredas in South Wollo zone, and World Vision in Efrata and Geramider woredas in North Shoa zone are implementing Community-based Therapeutic Centres (CTC), with support from the Humanitarian Response Fund.

In Somali Region, the approaching close of the *gu* rains and their poor performance as well as early cessation in several areas raises the potential for water shortages affecting both livestock and humans in pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities, which could exacerbate food insecurity in the region. In Afar Region, Afar Pastoralist Development Association reports that a number of woredas, including Erebti, Kori and Bidu, Northern, Eli Dar, Afdera, Awra, Gawwaani, Dubti and parts of Mille are experiencing extreme dry conditions, indicating that continued water tankering will be needed.

According to the latest Ethiopia Market Watch issued by WFP, general inflation based on the monthly moving average stood at 44.3 per cent in April 2009, with food inflation at 57.2 per cent and non-food inflation at 24.6 per cent. This represents a slight decrease since March 2009 (when the general inflation rate stood at 45.2 per cent). While the April 2009 rate remains 24.4 per cent higher than in April 2008. The overall trend for the past year has been declining. For more information contact: ocha-eth@un.org & wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

Food Aid Pipeline

With WFP reporting that its relief food pipeline is facing shortages, the prioritization committee comprising government, donor, UN and NGO representatives working on delivery of relief food met to review the availability of relief food in country and recommend a course of action for further distributions given limited stocks. WFP reports that it has approximately 29,000 MT of cereals left in its relief pipeline, while the NGOs' Joint Emergency Operation Programme has about 70,000 MT arriving in July. The Targeted Supplementary Food pipeline dedicated for addressing moderate malnutrition cases will break in July 2009. For more information contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

National Needs Assessment

The mid-year joint *belg*/pastoral area national needs assessment began on 8 June in *belg*-cropping areas and is scheduled to begin on 22 June in pastoral areas. The finding of the assessment will be used to revise identified needs in the Humanitarian Requirements Document. For more information contact: ocha-eth@un.org

AWD Update

According to official reports from the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH), 90 new cases of Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) were reported in 14 woredas of Oromiya, SNNP and Harari regions between 18 to 24 May 2009. Risk factors including poor hygiene and sanitation practices impede complete containment of the disease. In response, the Oromiya Regional Health Bureau, with technical support from UNICEF and WHO, conducted training on AWD response for 48 health and water personnel from the 12 woredas of West Arsi zone at which a preparedness and response action plan was prepared and presented for discussion. UNICEF will provide a CTC kit to West Arsi in the coming days, in addition to the three CTC kits and drugs provided in the beginning of May. UNICEF has also provided five CTC kits to SNNPR and dispatched 21,400 bottles of Water-Guard water treatment chemicals, (enough to some 31,860 people for one month) to Konso special woreda. WHO, meanwhile, continues to provide technical support to affected regions, including Somali, through provision of emergency drug kits, support for assessments and strengthening of surveillance activities. For more information, contact: who-wro@et.afro.who.int & kmcdonald@unicef.org