



Preliminary Belg Assessment Findings

Preliminary findings of the *belg* assessment teams indicate poor harvests in many *belg* crop-producing areas due to poor performance of the February to May rains. Major *belg* crop failure is reported in East and West Hararghe zones, while serious shortages of water and pasture are reported in the lowland areas of Oromiya Region. In SNNPR, poor performance of root crops is contributing to worsening food security, particularly in Kembata Tembaro, Sidama and Wolayita zones. In the six *belg*-dependent woredas of Southern Zone in Tigray Region, poorly performing rains have significantly impacted *belg* harvest. Moreover, near to total failure of the *sugum* rains in Afar has reportedly resulted in serious shortages of water and pasture in Zone 2 and Zone 5. Meanwhile, the *gu* assessment commenced in Somali Region on 22 June. For more information contact: ocha-eth@un.org & wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

2009 Kiremt Season Outlook

According to the National Meteorological Agency (NMA) *kiremt* season climate outlook, the rains' performance is expected to be normal to above normal in the central-western and southwestern crop-producing parts of the country, but normal to below normal in northwestern, eastern, and central crop-producing areas, as well as the northeastern pastoral parts of the country. If the forecast holds, the latest FEWSNET/WFP food security update indicates that the result would be a second consecutive season of below-normal production in the eastern crop-producing areas. Consequently, there is a need to closely monitor the performance of the June to September rains in these areas. The *kiremt* rains contribute about 90 to 95 per cent of total annual crop production in Ethiopia and are critical for the regeneration of pasture and water in northern pastoral areas. For more information contact: ethiopia@fews.et

Continued Break in Relief Food Pipeline

WFP reports that breaks in its relief food pipeline continue. The stakeholder food prioritization committee is regularly meeting to decide on rations for upcoming distributions. According to WFP, only three months' relief food allocations were distributed in the first half of the year. Meanwhile, WFP and the NGO Joint Emergency Operation Programme (JEOP) resources could jointly address the needs of 4.1 million beneficiaries in a fourth round of allocations, while WFP has planned to reach approximately 3 million people in the fifth round. However, WFP reports that the planned food allocations will not reach beneficiaries before August unless transport congestion in Djibouti is immediately resolved. Disaster Risk Management Food Security Sector (DRMFSS) is working continues with partners on the availability of trucks and facilitation of port operation. Moreover, despite the availability of food in the refugee pipeline, physical stocks are inadequate to achieve full ration distributions in July and August. WFP is discussing with UNHCR and the Administration for Refugees and Returnees Affairs (ARRA) on the possibility of reducing rations for July to ensure food for August distributions. A final decision will be announced next week. For more information contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

Influenza A H1N1 Cases in Ethiopia

The Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) officially confirmed two cases of Influenza A H1N1 in Ethiopia on 19 June 2009. The cases were spotted at the airport where inspection points have been set up for detection and referral to selected hospitals. FMoH is pre-positioning antiviral drugs in 31 selected hospitals and at the Regional Health Bureaus. An additional isolation unit has been identified at St Paul's Hospital in Addis Ababa, with a capacity of close to 65 beds. Diagnostic laboratories have been strengthened and are now functioning 24 hours a day. Moreover, additional health staff are being identified. An interim treatment protocol and use of face mask and respirators has been developed and communicated to the regions. The national technical working group is updating the National Influenza Pandemic Preparedness and Response Plan in view of the current pandemic phase. Meanwhile, daily coordination meetings chaired by the Minister of Health are being held at the FMoH. For more information contact: who-wro@et.afro.who.int

AWD Update

According to official reports from the Somali Regional Health Bureau, 95 new cases of Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) and 12 deaths have been reported in Afdem and Miesso woredas (Shinile Zone, Somali Region) in the last week. In Oromiya Region, five woredas are newly affected in West Arsi zone, two woredas in East Shoa and four in East Hararghe, while Konso woreda in SNNPR continues to report new cases. In Afar Region, Gawane, Buremudiaytu, Amebara, Elidaar and Assayita woredas have been affected. WHO and UNICEF continue to provide technical support to the affected regions through provision of emergency drug kits and technical support. In Afdem and Miesso, UNICEF is sending two CTC kits and 2,000 jerry cans of 20 litre capacity, in addition to the materials sent last week. Moreover, UNICEF pre-positioned eight CTC kits in Afar, to be used in the event that the current outbreak expands. To support the response to the AWD outbreak in Afar and based on the recently developed AWD preparedness and response plan, UNICEF also dispatched communication materials on AWD prevention and treatment measures. Meanwhile, with technical assistance from UNICEF and WHO, the Amhara RHB prepared an AWD preparedness plan. For more information contact: kmcdonald@unicef.org & who-wro@et.afro.who.int