



Nutrition Update

The low reporting rate on admissions to Therapeutic Feeding Programmes (TFPs) for the month of June is limiting comprehensive understanding of the evolving situation. However, as in previous years, TFP admissions are expected to stabilize at higher levels during the lean season that extends from June to August. The reporting rate in Tigray Region improved, mainly due to community mobilization conducted during Enhanced Outreach Strategy (EOS) screening, which includes identification and referral of severely malnourished children to TFPs. Consequently, TFP new admission significantly increased from 514 in May to 1,248 in June in the region, with a reporting rate of about 63 per cent. Meanwhile, following a rapid assessment conducted in Legehida woreda (Amhara), MSF Greece, has started emergency nutrition interventions. Standard assessments have also been completed in Ziquala and Lasta hotspot woredas (Amhara) and the preliminary report is expected to be submitted to the federal-level Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (ENCU) next week. GOAL is currently conducting standard assessments in Boke, Hawi Gudina and Bukadintu woredas in West Hararghe zone (Oromiya), while ACF is undertaking impact monitoring of its interventions in Chuko Enset livelihood zone (SNNPR). The Humanitarian Response Fund (HRF) is currently reviewing proposals from Merlin, Save the Children UK, Save the Children US, IMC, and CARE, submitted under its call for nutrition proposals, for interventions in priority one hotspot woredas in Amhara and Oromiya regions.

In SNNPR, the Regional Health Bureau (RHB) has established administrative and technical task forces at zonal and woreda levels to follow up on food security, nutrition and health issues. Nurses or public health inspectors will supervise five health posts each. The RHB has also finalized the Out-patient Therapeutic Programme (OTP) rollout plan and protocol for management of severe acute malnutrition cases and held a training of trainers between 27 and 31 July in all 85 hotspot woredas of the region. The RHB invited CONCERN, ACF, Save the Children-US, World Vision, GOAL, Samaritan Purse and IMC to take active part in the rollout and establishment of a monitoring system for TFPs. Six monitoring teams, led by RHB, and including team members from UNICEF, NGOs and the regional Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Food Security Bureau (DPPFSB), have been formed. Partners will be involved in resource mobilization, capacity building, supportive supervision and quality monitoring. For more information contact: orlao@dppc.gov.et & kmcdonald@unicef.org

Desert Locusts in Amhara and Tigray

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MoARD) has received new reports of a desert locust swarm in the North Shewa zone (Amhara) and Alamata woreda (Southern Tigray). The maturing swarm in North Shewa is estimated to cover more than 100 hectares. The Ministry is clearing two airports at Kombolcha and Shewa Robit for aerial spraying and preparing for ground control measures. Federal and regional experts are continuing surveillance in the areas reported to be infested. MoARD and FAO are closely monitoring the situation. For more information contact: sophie.gordon@fao.org

PPR Outbreak in Somali Region

FAO has received reports of an outbreak of *peste de petits ruminants* (PPR) in major sheep-rearing areas of Warder and Geladin woredas in Warder zone (Somali Region). The regional agricultural bureau and National Animal Health Diagnostic Investigation Centre have deployed a surveillance team. FAO and partners, meanwhile, will start a major PPR vaccination campaign in Shinile zone in the coming weeks, which will contribute to strengthening resilience across the region. The effort will be adapted to other zones should the reports be confirmed. During the last drought, PPR reportedly contributed to the death of higher number of sheep and goats than the drought. For more information contact: sophie.gordon@fao.org

Health Update

The illness that caused the death of 18 people and infected 81 others in Kelela woreda in South Wollo zone, Amhara Region has been confirmed as cerebrospinal meningitis through laboratory diagnosis. The outbreak has been contained and no new cases were reported during the week. A team comprising WHO and both federal and regional health experts is providing technical assistance through assessment and investigation, capacity building and supporting coordination of response activities. The team supervised a mass vaccination conducted in the affected areas, undertook an epidemiological investigation with active case search, and supported community awareness rising on prevention and control activities.

According to official reports from the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH), 629 additional acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) cases and 5 deaths (CFR of 0.8%) were reported in 22 woredas in Afar, Somali, Oromiya, Harari and SNNPR from 13 to 19 July. The CFR during the week ranged from 1.5 per cent in Afar to 0 per cent in SNNPR and Harari regions. The major risk factors contributing to the recurrent outbreak are poor water supply and sanitation, and massive encampments of migrant labourers at farms with no/poor health services, water supply and sanitation facilities.

The Ethiopian Health and Nutrition Research Institute (EHNRI) distributed more than 2 million sachets of Oral-Rehydration Salts (ORS) to all regions, to which UNICEF contributed 100,000 sachets of ORS and 20,000 bags of Ringer Lactate. UNICEF dispatched one CTC kit to North Shewa zone of Oromiya Region, and 4,500 AWD student brochures, 1,000 school posters and 400 CTC flowcharts to North Shewa zone of Amhara Region. Coordination is ongoing between UNICEF, the RHBs and other agencies to assess the level of preparedness and identify further needs. who-wro@et.afro.who.int & kmcdonald@unicef.org