



## **Critical Water Shortage in Somali Region**

Critical water shortages have been reported in parts of the Somali Region, particularly in Warder, Gode, and parts of Afder and Shinile zones, with the onset of the dry *hagga* season, following on the poor performance of the *gu* rains. Local communities are reporting that the situation is unusually bad as there is no water in the areas to which they usually migrate during the dry season, while water shortages are also occurring much earlier than usual. Haphazard internal and external migration has been reported, particularly from Kelafo, Mustahil, Dolobay and Cherati woredas, with individuals from the worst-hit areas migrating to the few areas receiving water tankering. In addition to the lack of adequate water and pasture regeneration, crops have been damaged by the worst dust storms in 20 years, leading residents of at least three villages in Adadle woreda to flee from their homes. Additionally, reports indicate that farmers are harvesting premature crops to use as fodder for animals. Humanitarian partners are increasingly of the view that water tankering operations, although expensive and unsustainable, are required in the driest areas, alongside more sustainable interventions, including rehabilitation of boreholes and *birkads*. A joint report on water situation in Gode zone has been drafted by humanitarian partners and is awaiting regional level endorsement. The report is intended for advocacy and response planning. For more information contact: [ocha-eth@un.org](mailto:ocha-eth@un.org)

## **Large Livestock Influx into Borena Zone, Oromiya Region**

FAO reports that over 200,000 livestock have been brought across the Ethiopian border into Borena zone by Kenyan pastoralists through Moyale, Miyo, Dilo and Dire woredas, since June 2009. Most of the pastoralists are Kenyan Boranas, who have abandoned their villages due to the current drought situation in northern Kenya. Although seasonal migration across the border is normal, this is the largest influx recorded in ten years. Some other ethnic Kenyan groups (Sakuye and Gabra) have also been moving camels across the border. This large influx may potentially result in the spread of livestock diseases, adversely impacting the cattle export market in Ethiopia. Available resources, particularly water, at Boqol and other grazing areas within the neighboring woredas may be depleted earlier than anticipated as the livestock are expected to stay in Ethiopia until the next rainy season in September. The Oromiya Pastoral Areas Development Commission, Yabello Veterinary Laboratory and FAO are closely monitoring the situation. For more information contact: [sophie.gordon@fao.org](mailto:sophie.gordon@fao.org)

## **Health Update**

WHO reports that the national average case fatality rate (CFR) for acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) continues to be above international threshold, i.e. 1.1 per cent, indicating the need for improved case management and prevention activities. The situation is very serious in Somali Region, where the CFR is above 2 per cent. The Somali Regional Health Bureau, UNICEF, Oxfam-GB, MSF-B and Hararghe Catholic Secretariat are currently responding to the AWD outbreak in Shinile zone. Samaritan's Purse, IRC and IMC are also finalizing preparations to start interventions in response to a request by the region. The regional CFRs in Addis Ababa, Oromiya, Harari and SNNPR in the past four weeks has been encouraging as they have remained below the WHO recommended standard of 1 per cent. WHO continues to provide formative supervision in the AWD affected woredas to further advance the case management. Meanwhile, major risk factors including poor water and sanitation facilities and poor hygiene practices remain unaddressed, contributing for the continued spread of the disease. According to official reports from the Public Health Emergency Management/Ethiopian Health and Nutrition Research Institute (PHEM/EHNRI), a total of 736 additional cases of AWD and eight deaths have been reported from 22 woredas in Afar, Somali, Oromiya, Amhara and SNNPR from 20 to 26 July 2009.

The meningitis outbreak remains contained with no new cases reported during the week, according to official reports from EHNRI. A team comprising of the federal, regional and WHO assisted in the vaccination of 19,393 people between the ages of 5 and 30 years in the affected communities in Amhara Region. The joint team also conducted epidemiological investigation with active case search and provided community awareness support on prevention and control activities. For more information contact: [who-wro@et.afro.who.int](mailto:who-wro@et.afro.who.int) & [kmcdonald@unicef.org](mailto:kmcdonald@unicef.org)

## **Emergency Resource Update**

As of 29 July, Disaster Risk Management Food Security Sector (DRMFSS) completed the allocation of a total of 25,368 MT food commodities for distribution to approximately 1.5 million beneficiaries in Afar, Tigray, Beneshangul-Gumuz, Gambella Amhara, SNNP, Oromiya (including the Arsi and West Hararghe zones addressed by Joint Emergency Operation Programme, (JEOP), and Somali regions (only for Afder and Liben zones). Allocation of the fourth round relief food for beneficiaries (fifth round for Somali Region) has been completed. However, due to resource shortfalls, only 10 kg of cereals (decreased from 15 kg normally) will be distributed, with full rations for the other food commodities in WFP/DRMFSS covered areas. Between August and December 2009, WFP is expecting the arrival of 251,878 MT of food, of which 143,000 MT will be used for loan repayments to the Ethiopian Food Security Reserve Administration (EFSRA), leaving a balance of about 109,000 MT available for all operations, including relief. Meanwhile, EFSRA free stocks stand at 84,239 MT of food, and total outstanding repayments to the Administration amounts to 320,761 MT. As of mid-June, DRMFSS in-country free stock stands at 17,088 MT, including 11,667 MT for productive safety net programme and 5,421 MT for relief. For more information contact: [wfp.addisababa@wfp.org](mailto:wfp.addisababa@wfp.org) & [mulunehw@dppc.gov.et](mailto:mulunehw@dppc.gov.et)