



Commemoration of World Humanitarian Day

The inaugural commemoration of World Humanitarian Day (WHD) will be held on 19 August 2009, the sixth anniversary of the bombing of the UN Office in Iraq in which 22 humanitarian workers were killed. The focus for this first annual marking of the WHD will primarily be to honour those whose lives have been lost while engaged in humanitarian operations, but will also put emphasis on current humanitarian needs and challenges. In Ethiopia, the day will be marked at a commemoration in the ECA compound in the presence of Government and humanitarian partners. For more information contact: ocha-eth@un.org

Nutrition Update

The Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (ENCU) reports that rapid assessments conducted by CONCERN in Agarefa and Dello Mena woredas in Bale zone (Oromiya) indicate that the nutrition situation requires close monitoring. Existing nutrition interventions require strengthening, including maximizing the decentralization of the national Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition. In addition, preliminary reports from standard assessments conducted in Ziquala (Amhara) by Save the Children UK, and in Boke, Hawi Gudina and Buka Dintu (Oromiya) by GOAL were submitted to ENCU for review and quality assurance. The final results will be shared with partners after endorsement by the Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector (DRMFSS).

The ENCU, meanwhile, reports that the latest nutrition matrix of Who's-doing-What-Where (3W) indicates that coverage of nutrition interventions in the 182 priority 1 hotspot woredas with either one or combination of Therapeutic Feeding Programme (TFP) and Targeted Supplementary Feeding (TSF) increased from 80 per cent in the first quarter to 86.3 per cent by mid July 2009. About 74 per cent of the 307 woredas in need of humanitarian assistance for the period January to June 2009 were covered with similar interventions. The increase in coverage is partly attributed to the implementation and roll out of the government led Outpatient Therapeutic Programme (OTP).

As part of the emergency nutrition response, UNICEF reports that a pilot monitoring of the response is being conducted in Oromiya and SNNP regions. In SNNPR, a multi agency team including the Regional Health Bureau (RHB), Regional Food Security Bureau, Save the Children-US and GOAL is monitoring Hawassa Zuria and Halaba woredas. Another team comprised of the RHB, zonal health department, UNICEF and GOAL is visiting Kuni woreda in West Hararghe zone in Oromiya Region. Inputs from these visits are expected to be used in the joint monitoring of the current emergency nutrition response. In addition, in support of the planned TFP roll out, training on management of severe acute malnutrition is ongoing in Oromiya, Amhara and SNNP regions. UNICEF, GOAL, CONCERN, WHO, ACF, Samaritan's Purse, IMC, Save the Children-US, World Vision and CARE are supporting the training. For more information contact: orlao@dppc.gov.et & kmcdonald@unicef.org

Fifth Round Food Allocation in Somali Region

The fifth round relief food allocations for the Somali Region hubs-and-spokes areas have been made, albeit at reduced rations (10 kg/person, rather than the standard 15 kg/person). In response to a request by the regional government, WFP incorporated a blanket supplementary food ration totalling 820 metric tons (MT) of fortified blended food for approximately 111,000 pregnant and lactating women and children under five years in Degehabur, Degehamedo, Gunagode, Bokh, Geladin and Warder. This implies that the blended food has been taken out of the general relief ration and will be distributed separately to all targeted beneficiaries in the indicated woredas. The ration to be distributed is 4.5 kg per person/month. Bokh and Geladin woredas in Warder zone will receive a one-month ration, as it is expected that TSF screening will take place shortly and that regular TSF can be implemented accordingly. The remaining four woredas, however, will receive double rations. This approach will ensure proper targeting of those in utmost need of additional nutritional support. Meanwhile, the food aid prioritization committee met on 13 August to discuss fifth round allocations to the rest of the regions in line with the limited resources available. For more information contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

AWD Outbreak Continues to Spread

New cases of Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) continue to be reported, with an additional 585 cases and 13 deaths (CFR of 2.2%) reported from 27 woredas in Addis Ababa, Afar, Amhara, Somali, Oromiya and SNNPR between 27 July and 2 August 2009, according to the Federal Ministry of Health. The situation requires enhanced preventative measures at community level and strengthened multi-sectoral coordination and response. Meanwhile, in an effort to strengthen cross regional coordination to control the AWD outbreak and expansion, Oxfam GB organized a meeting on 13 August in Awash (Afar). The meeting brought together agencies operating in Somali, Oromiya and Afar regions, including OCHA, UNICEF, WFP, CARE, IRC, Mercy Corps, APDA, Samaritan's Purse and Oxfam GB. The Vice President of the host Afar region and regional representatives from health and water bureaus also attended the meeting, at which partners discussed the current situation, gaps and constraints, and evaluated the ongoing response strategy. There was also agreement to develop a comprehensive 3W to improve management and planning of responses. For more information contact: who-wro@et.afro.who.int & kmcdonald@unicef.org

Market Update

WFP's July Market Watch reports that the supply rates of cereals to markets has started to decline slowly in most areas, attributed to a decrease in supply, increasing demand in the lean season and infrastructural constraints due to the rainy season. The local price of major staple foods, particularly wheat and sorghum, continued to decrease with the market stabilization program by government and food aid interventions. Meanwhile, general inflation based on the monthly moving average stood at 36.4 per cent in June 2009, with food inflation at 44.2 per cent, and non-food inflation at 23.7 per cent, reflecting a 2.7 per cent decrease compared to June 2008. For more information contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org.