



Critical Water Shortage Prevails in Somali Region

Critical water shortage in Warder, Gode, Afder, Shinille and Degehabur zones continues to be reported and is expected to persist until the next rainy season in mid-October. Communities in areas affected by water shortages are resorting to the use of abandoned ponds and wells as a source of drinking water and this may increase the risk factor for outbreak and transmission of water-borne diseases. Regional authorities and humanitarian partners are appealing for a resumption of emergency water tankering interventions to avert a further deterioration of the situation. A joint response plan is being developed, in collaboration with the regional president's office, Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Bureau (DPPB), respective zonal administration and humanitarian actors, to facilitate and coordinate response. Meanwhile, water trucking is ongoing in some parts of Adfem, Erer and Mieso woredas of Shinille zone supported by Oxfam, Samaritan's Purse, and IRC. The Ogaden Welfare Development Association also started water trucking in Gode and Afder zones with financial support from UNICEF. For more information contact: ocha-eth@un.org & kmcdonald@unicef.org

AWD Continues to Spread

Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) continues to spread to new areas, with an additional 617 cases and eight deaths reported in 35 woredas in Addis Ababa, Afar, Amhara, Somali, Oromiya and SNNPR between the 3rd and 9th of August, according to the Emergency Health and Nutrition Research Institute (EHNRI). The absence of adequate water and sanitation practices, particularly in holy water sites and state farms, as well as poor case management in some areas continue to hinder the containment of the disease. The situation is anticipated to exacerbate due to increased migrations and cross-regional movements, as the holiday season approaches. In Afar, poor sanitation and hygiene facilities at private farms are among the factors leading to the continued existence of the disease in the region. In addition, there are concerns that the migration of daily laborers may contribute to increased transmission of the disease to other areas. Meanwhile, interventions to manage and treat existing cases and curb the further transmission of AWD are ongoing. MSF Greece continues to run a CTC in Asyaita woreda and is planning to extend the intervention to Dupti woreda. Save the Children UK is also planning to start response activities in Teru which has been identified as one of the worst affected woredas. The situation in Amhara Region, where large numbers of people have congregated due to religious festivities, is also of particular concern following reports that holy water sites have been infected with AWD. The Amhara Regional Health Bureau, UNICEF and WHO have been providing on-the-job training to health officials in Debre Birhan hospital, Tsadkane holy water site and Ataye town in North Shewa zone on CTC and AWD case management. Meanwhile, UNICEF dispatched six CTC kits, 300,000 water guard and 30,000 PUR of water purifying chemicals to Amhara Region. For more information contact: who-wro@et.afro.who.int & kmcdonald@unicef.org

Livestock migration into Somali Region

According to FAO, the impact of the prolonged drought in Fik, Warder, Koraha and Afder zones of Somali Region on local livestock is compounded by the migration of an unusually large number of animals from Somalia and Kenya. Herds of cattle, camels, goats and sheep are moving from Bay and Bokol region of Somalia to Afder zone; from Hiran region of Somalia to Gode zone; from North east Kenya to Moyale Ethiopia and (reportedly) from Puntland to Warder of Ethiopia. An outbreak of PPR and CCPP is already being reported in Moyale and Shinille woredas. The Somali Region Livestock Crop and Rural Development Board (LCRDB) have begun a mass vaccination in Moyale woreda, Liben zone in response to the outbreak of livestock disease. FAO and LCRDB are also vaccinating 1 million sheep and goats against PPR in Shinille zone as a preparedness strategy. FAO is concerned that if the upcoming *deyr* rain (October – December 2009) fails the rangelands will be further depleted and animal body condition and health could further deteriorate. For more information contact: sophie.gordon@fao.org

Nutrition Response Update

UNICEF reports a concern that the Out-patient Therapeutic Programme (OTP) intervention in areas affected by AWD has been placed under strain due to the need for Health Extension Workers to assume additional tasks as part of wider efforts to facilitate case management and treatment of AWD. Closer collaboration among WASH, health and nutrition actors is required to improve joint response. Meanwhile, UNICEF and NGOs continue to support regional health bureaus to roll out the Targeted Feeding Programme through the provision of technical assistance and supplies. During the last weeks, UNICEF dispatched 47 MT of Ready-to-Use-Therapeutic-Feeding to health bureaus that can enable the treatment of 4,447 children for one month. For more information contact: kmcdonald@unicef.org

World Humanitarian Day Commemoration

The first World Humanitarian Day was commemorated 19 August 2009, honoring humanitarian workers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. In Ethiopia, the day was marked in the presence of Government officials, humanitarian partners including UN agencies, NGOs and the donor community. The State Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr. Abera Deressa acknowledged the importance of marking the day and appreciated the generous contribution of humanitarian workers exerted in Ethiopia through assisting government's effort in addressing different humanitarian challenges. The Acting Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. Ted Chaiban emphasized the importance of joint collaboration to achieve sustainable progress as we respond to humanitarian need and highlighted the importance of enhancing existing national capacity for risk management, prevention and response. For more information contact: ocha-eth@un.org