



## ***Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) continues to spread, Addis Ababa affected***

AWD has spread to nine out of ten sub-cities in Addis Ababa and cases continue to increase in each region currently affected by the outbreak (Afar, Amhara, Oromiya, SNNPR and Somali). Humanitarian partners, including UNICEF and WHO, are particularly concerned by the increase in the number of woredas affected in a short period of time and are extremely worried that some people, particularly children, living in areas affected by the ongoing food crisis may be especially vulnerable to infection due to malnutrition.

As a result of the growing seriousness of the situation, the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) has reportedly revised the projected requirements included in the forthcoming Humanitarian Requirements Document, which projects needs per sector for the period August to December, for the prevention, management and treatment of AWD cases.

At the federal level, government and humanitarian partners have set up a central command centre to scale up efforts to contain the outbreak and ensure that resources are in place so that cases are treated as quickly as possible. Partners meet twice daily and the Minister for Health receives regular updates on the situation and provides guidance on the response. UNICEF has seconded consultants to the Emergency Preparedness and Response Unit at the Ministry of Water Resources and the EHNRI to support government counterparts in their efforts to plan and respond to the outbreak. At the regional level, Health Bureaus in Addis Ababa, Afar, Amhara, Oromiya, Somali, SNNPR and Tigray have prepared contingency plans, with the support of UNICEF and WHO. A similar contingency planning process is underway in Gambella, a region of the country that is frequently affected by floods. The regional contingency plans include strategies to prevent and control the outbreak, including enhanced surveillance, proper case management, training of health workers, information education and communication, coordination, supervision and monitoring, as well as the resources, including financial, logistics, human resource and supplies, required to halt the further spread of the disease. UNICEF is also drawing up plans to establish preparedness and response teams at the woreda level in all woredas affected by AWD and will work closely with EHNRI and NGO partners in the coming days to estimate the resources required.

UNICEF has provided financial assistance to regional authorities in Afar and Somali regions as well as the municipal authorities in Addis Ababa. In addition to financial support, UNICEF dispatched three CTCs and 2,000 bottles of water guard to Addis Ababa and three CTCs to the Regional Health Bureau in Oromiya. These six CTCs can provide treatment for a minimum of 60 in-patients and 120 outpatients on a daily basis. UNICEF has also dispatched drugs for the treatment of more than 1,500 severe and 600 mild cases of AWD and 120 kg of calcium hypochlorite for purification of water for some 22,000 people for the coming month. UNICEF teams on the ground have provided emergency water supply equipment to the CTC at Kality (Addis Ababa) and the holy water site at Shinkuru Michael. MSF-Belgium, MSF-Greece and UNICEF are providing support to EHNRI to coordinate the response and case management in Addis Ababa. WASH partners are concerned that the shortage of Oral Rehydration Sachets (ORS) in Addis Ababa may impact on case management; UNICEF is working for the immediate transportation of some 500,000 sachets of ORS that recently arrived at Djibouti.

Following reports that AWD has spread to Addis Ababa, residents are advised to take precautionary measures to prevent the further spread of the disease including; frequent hand-washing, avoid raw food and ensure that drinking water is boiled, filtered and cooled before consumption. For more information please contact: [who-wro@et.afro.who.int](mailto:who-wro@et.afro.who.int) & [kmcdonald@unicef.org](mailto:kmcdonald@unicef.org)

## ***Donors and humanitarian partners meet with the Somali Region President***

On 25<sup>th</sup> August, a delegation including donors, the Humanitarian Coordinator a.i., UN staff and NGOs, travelled to Jijiga to meet with the Regional President and a number of key people in the regional government. The regional authorities briefed partners on the latest developments in the humanitarian situation in the region and highlighted the urgency of water tankering interventions to counter the threat posed by severe water shortages to health and livelihoods. Donors and humanitarian partners signalled their commitment to provide continued support to the region and urged regional authorities to work closely with their counterparts at the federal level to resolve outstanding issues relating to access clearance. In addition to the high-level meeting, operational partners on the ground met in Jijiga to develop a multi-sectoral response plan on the basis of the findings of the seven standard nutrition surveys, conducted between June and July 2009. For more information contact: [ocha-eth@un.org](mailto:ocha-eth@un.org).