



Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) Response

Given the current situation of AWD outbreaks in Afar, Oromiya, Amhara, Somali, SNNP and Addis Ababa regions, response activities in support of the Regional Health Bureaus (RHBs) capacity for case management and prevention activities continue to be scaled up. A joint (Ministry of Health, UNICEF, WHO, and UNOCHA) mission is in Amhara Region to assess the situation and ensure adequate preparedness measures are in place to prevent infections during gathering places such as schools and religious and traditional festivals. Meanwhile, humanitarian partners are prepared to provide water supply and hygiene promotion activities in selected areas in the region. WHO reports that major gaps in the ongoing response include shortage of Case Treatment Center (CTC) materials, shortage of funds for operational activities, inadequate protection of water sources, and poor hygiene practices. Case detection and management in CTCs located in remote areas also remains a challenge. For more information contact: kmcdonald@unicef.org & who-wro@et.afro.who.int

Food Assistance

Critical resource shortfalls continue to affect food distribution. All food pipelines (relief, Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP), Targeted Supplementary Feeding (TSF) and HIV/AIDS) are threatened to break in September 2009. To date, only five distribution rounds have been programmed at reduced cereal rations. Meanwhile, beneficiaries that have been addressed through the NGO Joint Emergency Operation (JEOP) and the Hubs-and-Spokes system are to receive all food components at the full ration size. As of 16 September, 102,148 MT of food has been dispatched through the Hubs-and-Spokes programme in the Somali Region, in addition to the 157,626 MT dispatched to relief food beneficiaries in other regions. A total of 10,508 MT of food has been dispatched to refugees, while PSNP dispatches amount to 70,436 MT. Current resource shortfalls to cover planned relief food distributions between September and December 2009 stand at 56,789 MT (equivalent to US\$ 37.1 million). The PSNP shortfall stands at 53,329 MT and the TSF shortfall at 11,013 MT (US\$ 9.0m), including advance financing loans. For more information contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

Nutrition Response

As the roll out of Therapeutic Feeding Programmes (TFPs) in drought-affected regions proceeds, partners continue to support the Ministry of Health in establishing Out-patient Therapeutic Programmes (OTP) services at the *kebele* level in the most affected areas, reports UNICEF.

In SNNPR, a two day review of TFP response activities was facilitated by UNICEF with the RHB, Regional Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (RENCU) and NGO partners. The review process also covered planning and priority setting in the execution of joint assessments. In Oromiya, joint monitoring in Kuni, Darolebu and Boke woredas has been completed, with the findings of the monitoring exercise submitted to the RHB for endorsement. Meanwhile, in support of the TFP roll-out, in Arsi zone (Oromiya), 35 health extension workers have been trained on management of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). Additionally, 41 health workers from two hospitals and eight health centers in six woredas of Oromiya were trained on in-patient SAM management, while 68 health extension workers received the training in Delanta woreda in Amhara. The Oromiya RHB is prepared to establish ten stabilization centers.

Reporting on malnutrition remains a challenge, according to UNICEF, with less than 40 per cent reporting rate overall. In collaboration with the RHBs, UNICEF is working to improve reporting mechanisms from regional health posts and OTPs to the federal level. For more information contact: kmcdonald@unicef.org

Mid-meher Assessment

A mid-meher rapid seasonal assessment is scheduled to start on 28 September 2009 in Tigray, Afar, Amhara, Oromiya, SNNP, Gambella, Benishangul, Somali, Harari and Dire Dawa regions to assess the impact of *kiremt* rain performance. The findings of the assessment and seasonal forecasts will be used to update the projected food security situation in the first half of 2010 in order to ensure that timely preparedness measures are undertaken. For more information contact: ocha-eth@un.org