



FOOD SECURITY SITUATION IN AFAR REGION CONCERNING

The food security situation in Afar Region is of great concern. Chifra, Telelak, Dewe, and neighbouring areas of Awra and Uwa are the worst affected woredas. Poor performance of the rains coupled with the delay in transfer of safety net resources has exacerbated the situation. A rapid assessment by the regional Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Bureau (DPPB) in collaboration with humanitarian partners identified immediate requirements that include supplementary food. Federal Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Agency (FDPPA) has notified the Federal Food Security Bureau and line ministries including Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MoARD). Meanwhile, FDPPA is facilitating the transfer of supplementary food to the region. Senior experts from Save the Children UK will travel to the region to identify gaps and assist with the response. For more information contact: dppaewd@dppc.gov.et

ACUTE WATERY DIARRHOEA UPDATE

This week a total of 515 new cases and two deaths were reported from 23 woredas of Oromiya, SNNP, Afar, Amhara, Somali and Harari regions. Four woredas in Oromiya and Amhara regions also reported cases for the first time bringing the total affected woredas nationwide to 197 since April 2006. In Jijiga town, a team comprised of the Federal MoH, Regional Health Bureau (RHB), Jijiga hospital laboratory and WHO confirmed the presence of AWD in a Sister of Charity camp which hosts approximately 500 Somali refugees. To date, 16 cases with two deaths have been confirmed. Absence of clean drinking water, poor sanitation, and a lack of community education programs have exacerbated the outbreak. For more information contact: who-wro@et.afro.who.int

STANDARD NUTRITIONAL SURVEY UNDERWAY IN BONA WOREDA, SIDAMA ZONE, SNNPR

On the recommendation of the recent rapid nutritional survey's preliminary findings to Bona woreda, Sidama zone in SNNPR, a team comprised of GOAL, Save the Children US and regional Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (ENCU) departed on 15 May to conduct a standard nutritional survey. The preliminary results are expected by mid-June. The findings of the rapid survey conducted on 23 April indicate that 3.7 percent of children are severely malnourished and eligible for the Stabilisation Centre/Outpatient Therapeutic Programme (OTP). In addition, 13.3 percent of children are reported to be eligible for Therapeutic Supplementary Feeding Programme. For more information contact: rpcoordinator@goalethiopia.com

FOOD ALLOCATION TO RETURNEES IN ZELAMBESA TOWN, EAST TIGRAY ZONE, TIGRAY REGION

The Federal DPPA has allocated 324 tons of grain, 10.8 tons of oil, 32.4 tons of pulses and 34 tons of Corn Soya Blend (CSB) for 7,200 returnees in Zelambesa town in East Tigray zone for a period of three months. The returnees were displaced to Adigrat town during the Ethio-Eritrea border conflict and returned to their areas of origin following the cessation of hostilities. They continue to face food insecurity as their traditional livelihoods and coping mechanisms have been interrupted by the unresolved border situation. For more information contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

ENHANCED OUTREACH STRATEGY CAMPAIGNS ONGOING

UNICEF continues its support to the Enhanced Outreach Strategy/ Targeted Supplementary Food (EOS/ TSF) for Child Survival Interventions with six monthly campaigns in more than 300 drought prone districts. Afar has already finalised its third round while Benishangul Gumuz, Tigray, Oromiya and Amhara are currently at the implementation state. Campaigns are forthcoming in Somali, Harare, Dire Dawa and Gambella regions. With financial support from CIDA and the EC, UNICEF has distributed 130,000 ITNs and provided vitamin A supplementation, de-worming, nutrition screening and referral to TSF component of the EOS. In addition to the ongoing campaign in SNNPR, UNICEF commenced distribution of 291,600 ITNs on 22 May. A further distribution of 250,000 ITNs - donated by the Japanese government - will begin in Amhara Region on 31 May. Plans are underway to provide active fever care detection and treatment through EOS with anti-malaria drugs as part of the Millennium Anti-Malaria Campaign. For more information contact: aingabire@unicef.org

RIFT VALLEY FEVER TRAINING

Preparation is underway to conduct training for health workers on Rift Valley Fever (RVF) surveillance in identified high risk zones. Areas targeted for training include Afder and Liben zones in Somali Region, South Omo zone in SNNPR and Borena zone in Oromiya Region. RVF surveillance guidelines for health facility and community workers and Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for specimen collection, storage and transportation have now been developed. For more information contact: who-wro@et.afro.who.int