



SECURITY SITUATION IN SOMALI REGION

The situation in Somali Region continues to be of concern. NGOs and humanitarian partners operating there face increasing challenges in their interventions due to the security situation. This week, the International Committee of the Red Cross was asked to leave the region and was scheduled to have closed its offices by Monday, 30 July. Fears that the humanitarian situation could deteriorate remain and the humanitarian community are particularly concerned about issues pertaining to protection, availability of food, Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) and other health related matters. Humanitarian partners continue to express their strong desire for more humanitarian access. The Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator and Head of OCHA Ethiopia undertook a field mission to Jijiga last week to consult with regional government, the UN, international and local NGOs in order to better understand how the UN can support humanitarian actions and improve humanitarian access in Somali Region. Emergency food aid was reported by DPPA to begin to be delivered to the five zones of the region under military operations. For more information contact: ocha-eth@un.org

WORRYING FOOD SECURITY SITUATION IN OROMIYA REGION

Worsening food security situations have been reported in West Arsi and West Hararghe zones, Oromiya Region. In West Arsi zone, the findings of the recent *belg* assessment mission state that the food situation in Gedeb Asasa, Dodola and Arsi Negele woredas is worrying and immediate relief assistance for 38,000 people has been recommended. The food problem in lowland areas of Arsi Negele woreda is chronic caused mainly by recurrent drought. In West Hararghe zone, reports from WFP field monitoring visits indicate a deteriorating food security situation in Kuni, Habru, Guba koricha and Doba woredas. Enhanced Outreach Strategy (EOS) screening results also point to increased levels of acute malnutrition in Doba, Gub Koricha and Habro woredas. The Regional Food Security and Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Bureau transferred targeted supplementary food to help address the malnutrition cases. In the other woredas, the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) Contingency Fund has been tasked to address relief food requirements. There are concerns, however, that the contingency fund allowance is insufficient to cover the current need and more critically, has not, with the exception of Habro, been received by the affected woredas. In response, Oromiya Region has requested the FDPPA to include an additional case load in the current relief operation. For more information contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

ACUTE WATERY DIARRHOEA UPDATE

A total of 64 woredas from the six AWD-affected regions continue to report cases. Wollessa woreda, South West Shoa zone in Oromiya Region and Kabena woreda, SNNPR were newly affected. Other areas where the epidemic had previously been controlled such as Sidama zone, SNNPR and North Gojam zone, Amhara Region have also resumed reporting. The majority of cases have been reported, however, from Zone 1, Afar Region, Afar, Guji and Borena zones, Oromiya Region and Jijiga zone, Somali Region. Inaccessibility caused by the ongoing military operation in other areas of Somali Region has resulted in no reports being received from these areas. Informal reports indicate, however, that the situation there could be deteriorating. NGOs operating in the region continue to face difficulties with response and are now mainly based in Jijiga and Gode. Meanwhile, in other parts of the country response is ongoing. In Addis Ababa, the City Administration Council has allocated funds for preparedness. In Afar Region, ICRC is supporting CTC establishment and case management in Bure Madaytu woreda. UNICEF and the Regional Government have facilitated the resumption of emergency coordination taskforce meetings which recommenced at the beginning of July. The Taskforce has agreed to meet on a bi-monthly basis in response to the continued reporting of new cases of AWD. The next meeting, chaired by the Regional Health Bureau will be held on 8 August. For more information contact: who-wro@et.afro.who.int & kmcdonald@unicef.org

FOOD DISPATCH UPDATE

Based on the recent *sugum/belg* assessment results, DPPA dispatched approximately 641 tonnes of relief food (wheat grain, blended food, Pulses and Vegetable oil) for 35,000 beneficiaries in Ewa, Aura and Golina woredas, zone four, Afar Region. This was in addition to 36 tonnes of supplementary food transported to Chifra woreda in zone one. DPPA also allocated approximately 1,276 tonnes of relief food to assist 70,000 food insecure people in East Hararghe and West Wollega, Oromiya Region. All of these allocations are for the month of July. In addition, approximately 572 tonnes of emergency food has been dispatched as part of the second round of relief for 31,000 beneficiaries in ten woredas of Gambella Region. For more information contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

REVIEW OF HRF FUNDED AWD INTERVENTION PROJECTS

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and OCHA Ethiopia undertook an evaluation of OCHA's Humanitarian Response Fund's WASH interventions targeting the AWD epidemic, between 2-23 July. Preliminary findings indicate that the establishment of taskforces was timely and that coordination helped to prevent duplication during the response. Moreover, improvement in water quality contributed greatly towards minimizing the transmission of cases. The lack of commercial availability of water purification agents in rural areas was, however, cited as a major limitation. While water source construction and rehabilitation was seen as a vital intervention, the need to link such interventions with long-term development programs for prevention was also observed. Long-term investment of this kind, however, is beyond the scope of the HRF. The evaluation team's report with their findings and detailed analysis will be disseminated to all key WASH actors upon completion. For more information contact: ocha-eth@un.org