



## SOMALI REGION RESPONSE PLANNING PROGRESS

The Government has agreed to the establishment of two new joint UN support offices in Kebridehar and Degehabur towns in order to strengthen monitoring and humanitarian assistance to affected zones in Somali Region. DPPA and OCHA on behalf of the UN Humanitarian Coordinator are coordinating the effort. Operational plans for sectoral responses are currently under preparation by UN agencies and federal ministries. In order to ensure that logistics requirements are in place for the timely delivery of relief food and non-food items, a logistics coordination committee has been established at federal level, comprised of the DPPA, the Road Transport Authority, the Ministry of Defense and other ministries. The Government's Emergency Transport Fleet will be deployed to less accessible areas, and pre-positioning of food will be considered in view of the current *deyr* rainy season from October to December. Meanwhile, the transportation of June's relief food allocation continues with a total of 1,000 tonnes of food remaining to be transported to the five zones under the military operation. WFP and DPPA are currently working on a new allocation plan for affected areas. For more information contact: [ocha-eth@un.org](mailto:ocha-eth@un.org) & [wfp.addisababa@wfp.org](mailto:wfp.addisababa@wfp.org)

## AWD UPDATE

Recent reports indicate an AWD outbreak in Dangur and Mandura woredas of Metekel zone, Benishangul Gumuz Region, which had previously been unaffected. Increased numbers of cases are also reported from Arsi zone in Oromiya Region, where 21 of the 25 woredas are reporting cases. Three new woredas – Menasha, Lokia Abaya and Dale were also newly affected in Sidama zone, SNNPR. AWD is currently reported from Amhara, Afar, Oromiya, SNNP, Somali and Benishangul Gumuz Regions. WHO has deployed a consultant to Benishangul Gumuz to provide technical assistance and assess the situation. Meanwhile, WHO Surveillance officers in collaboration with UNICEF are supporting Arsi Zonal Health Bureau, Oromiya Region in the provision of AWD prevention and control training to woreda health office heads and health professionals. For further information contact: [who-wro@et.afro.int](mailto:who-wro@et.afro.int)

## OCHA CONDUCTS HRF AND CERF AWARENESS RAISING WORKSHOP

A half day awareness raising workshop on the operations of the Humanitarian Response Fund (HRF) and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) took place on 18 October. The workshop, facilitated by OCHA, aimed to increase awareness among humanitarian partners on the principle objective of the funds, their main areas of intervention, availability of resources and guidelines and criteria for eligibility of funding. The workshop also addressed key issues of monitoring and evaluation as well as financial and audit requirements. Extending the scope the HRF to address protection, rapid assessment, and possible direct funding for local NGOs were among other major issues addressed. Participants included NGOs, UN and government representatives to ensure equitable access to all humanitarian partners. Since 2006, the HRF and CERF have allocated approximately US\$ 18 million and US\$ 20 million respectively, towards emergency needs in Ethiopia. For more information contact: [ocha-eth@un.org](mailto:ocha-eth@un.org)

## VERIFICATION ASSESSMENT IN BORENA AND GUJI ZONES

A DPPA-led joint verification assessment conducted in the lowland woredas of Borena and Guji zones from 29 September to 16 October 2007 indicates a deteriorating food security situation due to the poor performance of *ganna* and *hagaya* seasons. The physical condition of livestock in Moyale, Dirre, Dillo, Dhas woredas, and parts of Arero woredas in Borena zone have been severely affected. Crop production has also significantly failed and increased cases of malnutrition, particularly in Moyale woreda, Borena Zone was observed. Pastoralist livelihoods are also of concern due to unfavorable market conditions. Prices of livestock have decreased and accessibility of markets is constrained by long distances to reach the market points. Local coping mechanisms in Borena have reportedly weakened. Prices of food grain, on the other hand, have shown signs of increase. Preliminary findings of the assessment indicate that approximately 91,000 people in the five woredas in Borena zone need emergency relief assistance including food aid and water interventions for the coming three months. For more information contact: [ocha-eth@un.org](mailto:ocha-eth@un.org)

## VAM UPDATE

A recent field monitoring report by a WFP Dire Dawa Sub Office indicates increased relief food needs in all seven highland kebeles of Grawa woreda in East Hararghe zone. These needs have not been addressed thus far. Reports indicate that the residents in these kebeles are migrating to neighbouring towns in search of employment as daily labourers. For more information contact: [wfp.addisababa@wfp.org](mailto:wfp.addisababa@wfp.org)

## EOS/TSF UPDATE

Screening for the Enhanced Outreach Strategy (EOS) for Child Survival is expected to commence in most regions in November. Critical funding shortages, however, continue to be a challenge for the availability of therapeutic supplementary feeding (TSF) which is an important component of the strategy. In Somali Region, screening has not taken place in areas outside of Kebribeyah woreda since December 2006 due to the security situation. In such other regions as Tigray and Oromiya, TSF distribution is ongoing and has been completed in Konso and Gurage zones of SNNPR. In Afar Region, approximately 80 percent of the allocated TSF has been distributed. Dispatch is also commencing in Gambella and Beneshangul Gumuz regions. For more information contact: [wfp.addisababa@wfp.org](mailto:wfp.addisababa@wfp.org)