



## SOMALI REGION UPDATE

The UN security review of potential field offices in Degehabur and Kebridehar towns has been completed and suitable buildings have been identified for the establishment of the UN presence. UN Agencies are preparing to deploy staff as early as next week. In addition, DPPA verbally conveyed to the Humanitarian Coordinator a list of NGOs that have thus far been accredited to work within areas of military operation in the five zones of Degehabur, Gode, Fik, Warder and Korahe. Meanwhile, OCHA's Pastoralist Communication Initiative facilitated a discussion on the humanitarian, development and livelihoods situation of the region on Thursday, 1 November. The forum brought together UN Agencies, donors and leaders of the region (the Vice President, Cabinet Members, Bureau Heads and community leaders) in order to gain a deeper understanding of the region as a whole.

WFP have reported poor pasture conditions in all zones of the region. While the *haga* dry season has now ended, there are fears that pasture replenished by the commencement of the *deyr* rains could be destroyed by the desert locust infestation. For more information contact: [ocha-eth@un.org](mailto:ocha-eth@un.org)

## UPDATE ON FLOOD RESPONSE

Flood waters have now receded in Gambella and Somali regions. In Mustahil and Kelafo woredas, Somali Region, more than 2,600 displaced persons have now been able to return home. Farmland and grazing areas were submerged by the floodwaters leading to temporary loss of livelihoods. While the current water level of the Wabishebele River is low, with the intensification of the current *deyr* rains, it is likely that the water level could increase creating potential for further flooding. In response, 300 MTs of emergency relief food has been allocated for those affected by the floods in Mustahil, Kelafo and Ferfer. The food, awaits transportation in Gode. UNICEF has provided NFI emergency kits including water guard, soap and essential drugs to Kelafo health centre. In Gambella, Region, flood waters have also receded enabling people to return home. A recent FAO assessment mission observed substantial impact of flooding in 2007 compared to previous years. In response, MSF-Switzerland completed a distribution of NFIs to an estimated 41,000 flood affected people along the Baro river between Gambella town and Lare. The NFI kits included jerry cans, mosquito nets (LLINs), blankets, plastic sheeting, and soap as well as water purification (water maker) to reduce risk of water related diseases. For more information contact: [MSFCH-Addis-HoM@geneva.msf.org](mailto:MSFCH-Addis-HoM@geneva.msf.org), [wfp.addisababa@wfp.org](mailto:wfp.addisababa@wfp.org) & [amare.mengiste@fao.org](mailto:amare.mengiste@fao.org)

## AWD UPDATE

Although, AWD cases continue to be reported from Oromiya, SNNPR, Tigray, Afar, Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz and Somali Regions as well as Dire Dawa Administration, there are significant decreases in the number of reported cases. Hotspot woredas, however, remain including Merti, Digalo and Tigo, Sewana and Shakiso, Oromiya Region; Kafta Humera, Anderta and Alamata in Tigray Region; Chifra and Dalol in Afar Region and Jijiga and Fik in Somali Region. In Afar, WHO visited a cotton farm in Bure Kebele where cases have been reported. Poor sanitation facilities and hygiene awareness as well as shortage of medical supplies in the cotton farms continue to aggravate the spread of the disease. In Beneshangul Gumuz, AWD coordination committees have been established at woreda levels. UNICEF is supporting community mobilization, health education and case management training. For more information: [who-wro@et.afro.who.int](mailto:who-wro@et.afro.who.int)

## INTERNATIONAL NETWORK TO PROMOTE HOUSEHOLD WATER TREATMENT AND SAFE STORAGE MEETING

WHO in collaboration with the Federal Ministries of Health, Water Resources and Education, UNICEF and PSI Ethiopia have organized a three day meeting on the International Network to Promote Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage, a global WHO initiative to reduce water borne diseases. The Network aims to build on and scale up existing household water management activities and harmonizing this with national WASH strategies. The meeting to be held between 29 and 31 October 2007 at the Hilton Hotel, Addis Ababa and further aims to raise awareness and increase commitment for scaling up household water treatment and water quality interventions in Ethiopia. Colleagues from Ghana, Kenya and UNICEF and PSI Agency headquarters in New York will share their experiences as well as international institutions such as the Centre for Disease Control and Medentek. For more information: [who-wro@et.afro.who.int](mailto:who-wro@et.afro.who.int)

## CRITICAL FOOD SHORTAGE HAMPERING TSF IMPLEMENTATION

The second round distribution of targeted supplementary food as part of the Enhanced Outreach Strategy (EOS) for Child Survival is ongoing in Oromiya and Afar Regions. In Oromiya, prioritisation has been given to East and West Hararge zones. Remaining dispatches, however, for other areas in Oromiya and Tigray Regions have been postponed due to immediate shortages of vegetable oil. Likewise in SNNPR, dispatch has been delayed due to ongoing screening and shortages in the pipeline. Elsewhere, the distribution of 1,125 MTs of fortified Corn Soya Blend and Oil will be completed this week for 40,362 beneficiaries in Afar Region and DPPB is finalizing the second round dispatch for Amhara Region. New screening will be conducted in most regions in November and December. For more information contact: [wfp.addisababa@wfp.org](mailto:wfp.addisababa@wfp.org)

## UPCOMING PASTORALIST GATHERING

More than 250 pastoralists from more than 17 different ethnic groups will be gathering in Nyangatom woreda, SNNPR between 8-to-12 November to talk about the rise of tourism, trade and economic diversification, the management and eradication of conflicts as well as social change and basic services. The gathering, hosted by Nyangatom Community in conjunction with Atoweksi Eksil Pastoralist Development Association, will also discuss opening of new transport, changes in land use, communication and market links, development of education and new opportunities for participation in national affairs. Inspired by visits to other pastoralist gatherings in Ethiopia and Kenya, members of South Omo's pastoralist groups welcome this unique opportunity to discuss how rapid changes are altering the face of South Omo zone in ways that are both appreciated and giving rise to concern. The event is supported financially and logistically by the UN OCHA Pastoralist Communication Initiative, a unique initiative that works exclusively on promoting knowledge and communication for pastoralists and pastoralism in Ethiopia and Africa. For more information contact: [info@unocha-pci.org](mailto:info@unocha-pci.org)