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**OCHA Situation Report No. 3
Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) – Ethiopia**

This report is based on information received from OCHA Ethiopia.

Situation

1. Despite concerted efforts by government and humanitarian actors Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) continued to spread throughout Ethiopia with new confirmed cases in Amhara and Tigray Regions. AWD is now reported in four regions (Oromiya, SNNPR, Amhara & Tigray) and one administrative council – the capital Addis Ababa. The full scale of the outbreak is not yet known as figures are changing on a daily basis. Fears of further spread of the disease are aggravated by the continued flooding.
2. As of 4 September, the total confirmed cases of AWD and deaths reported by the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) are 16,250 and 123 respectively. The total case fatality rate (CFR) is 0.8%. This shows a decline from the Ministry of Health figures released on 22 August, which confirmed 16,555 cases and 196 deaths related to AWD. Other sources indicate an increase in cases and severity of the disease (mortality) especially in Amhara and Tigray. The latest Ministry of Health figures include 92 cases in Metema and Tach Armacho woredas, North Gonder zone, Amhara Region and 34 cases and 1 fatality in Kafta Humera woreda, Tigray Region. As of 31 August, however, OCHA received reports of 115 cases and 21 deaths in Metema and Tach Armacho woredas, Amhara Region and 99 cases and 20 deaths in Tigray Region respectively.

National and International Response

3. The Federal Ministry of Health on 1 September established an ad hoc multi-sectoral national coordination committee that will meet on a weekly basis and address the issue at high level.
4. The Humanitarian Response Fund (HRF) has spent US\$800,000 to support AWD response activities including US\$250,000 for UNICEF. Merlin, PSI and ACF are among the NGO partners that have received HRF funding for their AWD related activities, which are part of the joint Oromiya regional response plan launched by government. Project activities include: case treatment, water and environmental sanitation rehabilitation schemes, community awareness drives and water treatment activities.
5. UNICEF released a funding request on 29 August for donor financial assistance for the coming weeks in order to effectively respond to the current flooding crisis as part of the Joint Flash Appeal issued by DPPA on Friday, 25 August. The total amount requested is US\$18.3 million among which US\$5 million is needed to avert the spread of AWD. To date, UNICEF has dispatched supplies amounting to approximately US\$1.1 million.

Gaps in the Humanitarian Response

6. UNICEF has stated that the most urgent requirements are the supply of basic medicines along with mass communication campaigns. Mass communication providing awareness raising on the importance of keeping safe drinking water, and hygiene promotion, including good hand-washing practices and being aware of the risk of funerals, in both Oromifa and Amharic, is crucial if communities are to protect themselves and prevent further outbreaks. Awareness raising campaigns are also required nationally so that people travelling to affected areas are aware of precautions they have to take.
7. Despite strong collaborative efforts by UN agencies, regional health bureaus and NGO partners, containment of the disease has not been achieved.
8. Coordination in Oromiya Region has been particularly strong resulting in the Joint Emergency Response Plan for Oromiya. Similar coordination is needed in other effected regions.
9. The current flooding crisis is an aggravating factor for the spread of AWD and AWD must be considered in the wider flood response.
10. AWD is a regional problem affecting Ethiopia's neighbouring countries, in particular Sudan and Kenya. In order to effectively stem the epidemic it is important to have a comprehensive regional response plan.
11. This situation report, together with further information on other ongoing emergencies is also available on the OCHA Internet Website at <http://www.reliefweb.int>.

Telephone: +41-22-917 12 34	Fax: +41-22-917 00 23	E-mail: ochagva@un.org
In case of emergency only:	Tel. +41-22-917 20 10	
Desk Officer:	Mr. Ousmane Watt Direct Tel. +41-22-917 22 40	E-mail: watto@un.org
	Mr. Jean Charles Dougrou Direct Tel. +41-22-917 27 91	E-mail: dougrou@un.org
Press contact: (GVA) (N.Y.)	Ms. Elizabeth Byrs Ms. Stephanie Bunker	direct Tel. +41-22-917 26 53 direct Tel. +1-917-367 51 26
OCHA Ethiopia	Mr. Bjorn Ljvngquist, Acting Humanitarian Coordinator Mr. Paul Hebert Head of Office	direct Tel: +251-11-5517648 E-mail: hebert@un.org direct Tel: +251-11-5513725