



Humanitarian Bulletin

UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

WEEKLY HUMANITARIAN HIGHLIGHTS IN ETHIOPIA

27 June 2011

La Niña Update – Seasonal Outlook

According to the National Meteorological Agency (NMA), most parts of western Ethiopia received widespread rainfall during the first ten days of the month due to the gradual improvement of the *kiremt* rain producing system. During the second half of the month (16 to 30 June 2011), the *kiremt*-producing weather systems are likely to strengthen bringing more rain, in terms of amount and distribution, to the western areas. Gambella, western and central Oromia, northern parts of SNNPR, Beneshangul Gumuz, central and western Amhara and the western half of Tigray are expected to receive normal to above-normal rainfall, with heavy rain likely in some areas. Seasonal rainfall is also likely to extend towards central and eastern parts of the country. Given this forecast, the Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector (DRMFSS) has issued a Flood Alert, which predicts that flooding is expected in all flood-prone areas of the country, particularly in western, northwestern and central parts. Consequently, appropriate mitigation and preparedness measures are recommended, particularly in low-lying areas and near riverbanks and areas in which soil has a low absorption capacity to minimize the effect of flooding.

In other parts of the country, near normal rains for the period are anticipated, including in eastern and southern Oromia, northern Somali region, eastern parts of Tigray and Amhara and the western margin of Afar, as well as southern SNNPR. Below normal rainfall is, however, likely in some locations. In the lowlands of Somali and southern Oromia, as well as eastern Afar, dry weather will prevail, as the next dry season has set in. Parts of the Somali region, including Moyale and Hudet in southern Somali and Shinile and Ayisha in northern Somali, received little to no rain this year. Requests to continue / resume water trucking operations in these areas have been received from the regional Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Bureau (DPPB). For more information contact: infodrmfss@dppc.gov.et & ocha-eth@un.org

Food Assistance Update

Due to shortfalls in the pipeline, the third round of food assistance is being dispatched and distributed at reduced rations, with some commodities missing from the food basket, in areas covered by DRMFSS (non-Somali). For the fourth round, food rations have been allocated without vegetable oil and with a reduced amount of corn-soya blend (CSB). WFP requires urgent donor contributions to avert a pipeline crisis particularly in the lean season between July and September when food needs are expected to peak. For more information, contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

Nutrition Update

Reports from the Multi Agency Nutrition Task Force (MANTF) meeting held on 9 June indicate increasing admissions to Therapeutic Feeding Programmes (TFPs) in May compared to April 2011. Increased admissions were reported in Babile, Dolooda, Gorodola, Kumbi Liben, Meyumuluk and Shashemene *woredas* of Oromia, as well as to Outpatient Therapeutic Programmes (OTPs) in five *woredas* of Borena zone (Arero, Dhas, Dillo, Dugda Dawa and Melka Soda). In SNNPR, increased admissions were reported in Boricha, East Badewacho, Hadero Tunto, Humbo, Kadida Gamela, Sodo Zuria and Soro *woredas*. In Somali, TFP admissions increased in Gode, Degehabur, Kebridehar and Warder zones. On the other hand, TFP admissions in Amhara, Beneshangul Gumuz, Dire Dawa, Gambella, and Tigray were reported as stable. Partners were encouraged to accelerate strengthening of emergency nutrition response, particularly in SNNPR, based on the regional priority areas circulated to all partners. In support of the nutrition response, UNICEF sent 977 MT of Ready-to-Use-Therapeutic Food (RUTF) to the regions in the second quarter, which is sufficient to treat an estimated 32,500 children with severe acute malnutrition for a period of three months. For more information, contact: aaye@unicef.org

Refugee Update

According to UNHCR, the total number of refugees in the country is now nearly 195,000, including 117,497 refugees from Somalia, 47,956 from Eritrea, and 25,861 from Sudan. In particular, the number of asylum-seekers from Somalia has accelerated this year, with 31,500 new arrivals in the past five months. Whereas construction of a third camp in the Dolo Ado area is ongoing, plans for a fourth – and even a fifth – camp are being discussed. The annual World Refugee Day was celebrated on 20 June at Shedder camp in Jijiga, Somali Region, which continues to host a long-term refugee population of 11,429 people. At the global level, the Day was marked by the launch of the **1 is too many** campaign, an effort aimed at raising global awareness on refugee issues and 'calling for tolerance, respect and compassion'. For more information, contact: gegziaba@unhcr.org