



United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Situation Report: Drought/Food Crisis in Ethiopia

4th November 2008

Highlights:

- **Government and humanitarian partners prepare to conduct the multi-sectoral Emergency Needs Assessment**
- **2,883 new admissions to Therapeutic Feeding Programme sites**
- **Slight decrease in the number of cases of Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD).**

Humanitarian Overview

Current Context

Given the food security situation, particularly in the east of the country, it is expected that vulnerable people will continue to be in need of assistance well into 2009. Government and humanitarian partners are gearing up to begin the Emergency Needs Assessment that will identify needs and project required resources for food and non-food needs. Multi-stakeholder teams are being put together and it is expected that the first regional assessment will take place in Tigray Region on the 7th November whilst other assessment missions will commence on the 17th November in all other regions of the country with the exception of Somali Region which is likely to commence during the first week of December. The findings of the upcoming assessment will clarify the exact scale and extent of the projected needs in the coming months and will guide resource mobilization strategies as well as the targeting of aid to households in need of emergency assistance.

Sectoral Updates

Health and Nutrition

Nutrition:

Admissions: During the course of the reporting week, a total of 2,883 new admissions to therapeutic feeding programme (TFP) sites were reported from TFP sites in SNNPR, Tigray,

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Amhara, Afar, Somali and Oromiya Regions¹. According to the Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (ENCU), the number of new admissions to TFP sites in SNNPR has been decreasing² based on comparative analysis with reports received during previous weeks.

ENCU are facing some challenges with regard to conducting trend analysis on admission rates in other regions due to low reporting rate from TFP sites, however, in some reporting rate trend is gradually increasing. ENCU is intensifying efforts to ensure that all reports are submitted in a timely manner.

Assessments: MSF-Holland conducted a rapid assessment in Elidar woreda in Afar Region and plan to conduct a similar assessment in Belhere. Samaritan's Purse is preparing to conduct a rapid assessment in Semulobi woreda, Afar Region in order to guide future emergency nutrition intervention.

Health:

There is a slight decrease in the number of cases of Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) reported nationally. According to WHO, the decrease in the number of cases can be attributed to the reduction in rainfall in many parts of the country. During the course of the reporting week no new woredas reported cases of AWD. Currently there are eighteen woredas reporting and/or expected to report active cases; eight in Amhara region (Amhara (Awabel, Takusa, Gondar Zuria, W. Armacho, Tegede, Fogera, Yilma Densa and Shenkora), three in Oromiya (Gibichu, Zway Dugda and Dukem), 2 in SNNPR (E. Badawasho and Dugna Fango) and five in Tigray (A. Tesmbila, T. Koraro, Tsegede, Kafta Humera and M. Zana). Current hotspot woredas are Awabel and Tegede woredas in Amhara Region, Zway Dugda woreda in Oromiya region and Kafta Humera woreda in Tigray region.

WHO has procured emergency health kits, including diarrheal kits with funding from ECHO and the Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF). In addition, WHO has allocated some US\$ 8000 to Afar Regional Health Bureau to support community education for health workers and community leaders on AWD prevention and response.

Gaps and Requirements

According to analysis by the ENCU, the overall coverage of life-saving emergency nutrition interventions in hotspot woredas is still low. ENCU continued discussing with partners to expand the interventions to other hotspot woredas as well as increasing coverage of existing

¹ This figure is based on reports received by ENCU from 60.2 % of 1178 TFP sites.

² Based on over 95% reporting rate of 436 TFP sites

interventions.

Water, Hygiene and Sanitation

Key Issues:

The drought has generated acute water shortages in Afar Region and it is expected that the situation will continue to deteriorate even further due to the onset of the dry season. No rainfall has been received in Kori and Elidar woredas in Zone 1 and Erepti and Bidu in Zone 2 and rainfall in other areas of the region has not been sufficient. Government and humanitarian partners are undertaking a range of interventions aimed at alleviating some of the pressure on communities and livelihoods. Water trucking interventions continue in Bidu, Elidar, Erepti and Kori woredas by DPPB with assistance from UNICEF. OXFAM GB is planning to carry out additional water trucking operations in Bidu, Elidar and Kori woredas. Water harvesting schemes are planned for Elider, Kori and Bidu woredas. Water treatment chemicals have been dispatched to Amibara woreda in response to reported cases of Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) in Sheloko kebele.

In Oromiya Region, reports indicate that pasture and water availability remains poor in Borena Zone despite some rainfall during the week.

Gaps and Requirements:

There is a need for additional partners to support existing emergency interventions and scale-up responses in the affected regions.

Food Aid

Key Issues

Reports from WFP field offices indicate that the prospects for the *meher* harvest are promising in the western half of the country. However, sufficient rainfall in early November will be required to guard against loss of crop yield in some areas. Crop production prospects for the eastern part of the country, are very poor in light of the poor performance of the *belg* and *kiremt* rains. According to WFP, communities in Tigray, Amhara, Oromiya, Dire Dawa, Harar and northern Somali Regions have incurred near total loss of crop yields. Whilst rainfall in the coming weeks may temporarily relieve the water shortages there is little to no possibility of an improvement in the food security prospects as crops will not have sufficient time to recover.

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WFP is working closely with government partners to ensure that humanitarian cargo arriving at Djibouti port is transported as quickly as possible.

Response

Relief³ : as of 31 October, 27,844 mt have been dispatched against 81,206 mt allocated to 6.5 million people for the month of October. Dispatches by region are as follows: in the Somali Region, some 23,950 mt have been allocated to 1,881,495 beneficiaries and 3,356 mt have been dispatched. In SNNPR, 1,569,700 beneficiaries have been allocated 19,347 mt, of which 7,397 mt been dispatched. In Oromiya Region, 1,536,871 beneficiaries have been allocated 19,332 mt, of which 11,606 mt have been dispatched. Some 1,521,865 beneficiaries in Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, Dire Dawa, Gambella, Harar and Tigray regions have been allocated 18,877 mt, of which 5,486 mt have been dispatched.

Productive Safety Net Programme: (as at 22 October 08). In the period between January and August 2008, 140,727 mt of mixed commodities have been allocated by WFP to 4,006,712 PSNP beneficiaries in Afar, Amhara, Harar, Oromiya, SNNPR and Tigray, and some 122,027 mt have been dispatched⁴.

Targeted Supplementary Feeding (TSF): (As at 28th October). The cumulative distribution over the period July-October consisted in 15,340 mt of blended food provided to 545,801 people in Afar, Amhara, Oromiya, SNNPR and Tigray regions following May-August 2008 screenings. While PSNP and TSF requirements have been computed based on the original PRRO 10665.0 budget, Relief requirements have been calculated assuming a 5.7 million relief caseload for the first quarter of 2009 and 2.5 million for the second. These figures are estimates and will be adjusted following the result of government's multi stakeholder seasonal food security assessment to be carried out in November.

Gaps and Requirements

The total shortfalls for the period October 08 – December 08 stands at 86,169 mt valued at US\$75.2 million, of which 78,384 mt, valued at US\$68.4 million, is for Relief and 7,785 mt for TSF. 2008 requirements under PSNP are met. For 2009, the foreseen shortfalls for the first quarter sum up to 341,000 mt valued at US\$ 295 million for Relief, TSF and PSNP. For the second quarter, they amount to 178,000 mt valued at US\$154 million. While PSNP and

³ Allocations/dispatches refer to mixed commodities of cereals, pulses, oil and blended food during the period January to October 2008 (as at 28th October 2008).

⁴ The above figures do not capture food resources provided to PSNP beneficiaries by government and NGOs.

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Humanitarian Response Fund Update

Funding Status

- **Overall funds since January 2008: US\$ 49.9 million** (see list below)
- **Pledges in Pipeline: US\$ 22.4 million**
(Switzerland, Spain, DFID, Ireland, Netherlands)

- **Funding In Hand: US\$ 9.8 million**

II) Allocations

- Since January 2008: **US\$ 38.3 million**
- Applications under review: **US\$ 8.4 million**

III) Donor Update

- **Contributions since January 2008: US\$ 48.5 million**
Donors

Ireland –	US\$ 1,392,758
Norway –	US\$ 1,939,834
Netherlands –	US\$ 14,864,834
DFID –	US\$ 19,812,058
Italy –	US\$ 857,233
Sweden –	US\$ 1,919,948
Balance from last year -	US\$ 8,918,448
Misc –	US\$ 261,149

Humanitarian Meeting Schedule

Date	Meeting	Location and Time
Monday 3 rd November		
Tuesday 4 th November	WASH ETF meeting	Ministry of Water Resources, Conference Hall, 10.00.
Wednesday 5 th November		
Thursday 6 th November	UN/NGO Humanitarian Coordination Meeting	UNDP Conference Room 7 th Floor, Old ECA Building, 10.00.
Friday 7 th November	UN/NGO Security Meeting	UN Department of Safety and Security, 09.30.

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Editorial Note: The information in this document is based on reports and field information from a variety of sources including UN agencies, NGOs and government partners as well as the different coordination forums.