



World Health
Organization

EMERGENCY AND HUMANITARIAN ACTION (EHA)

WEEKLY UPDATE –WHO COUNTRY OFFICE ETHIOPIA: (Week 52, 22 – 28 December 2008)

HIGH LIGHTS:

- Amid growing demands for food aid in the predominantly eastern parts of the country, Relief, Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) and Targeted Supplementary Feeding (TSF) resources remain short by 588,500 MT at the value of US\$ 508.5 million for 2009.
- According to official reports from the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH), there are 58 new cases of AWD reported from Humbo woredas of Wolaita zone in Southern Nations Nationality and Peoples' Region (SNNPR)

I. GENERAL SITUATION:

a) Political, social, security overview for the week

- The overall security situation in the country remained stable during this week. No major security incidents involving humanitarian staff members have been reported.

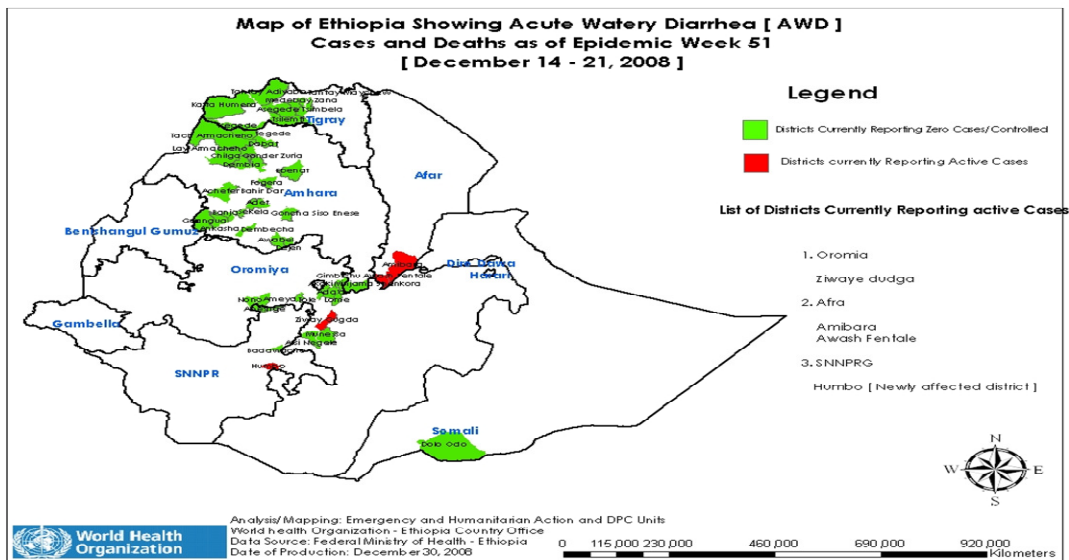
b) Main events of interest/ concern for health (displacements, conflicts, disease outbreaks, etc.)

Food insecurity and malnutrition situation.

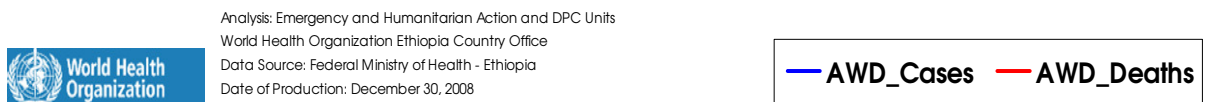
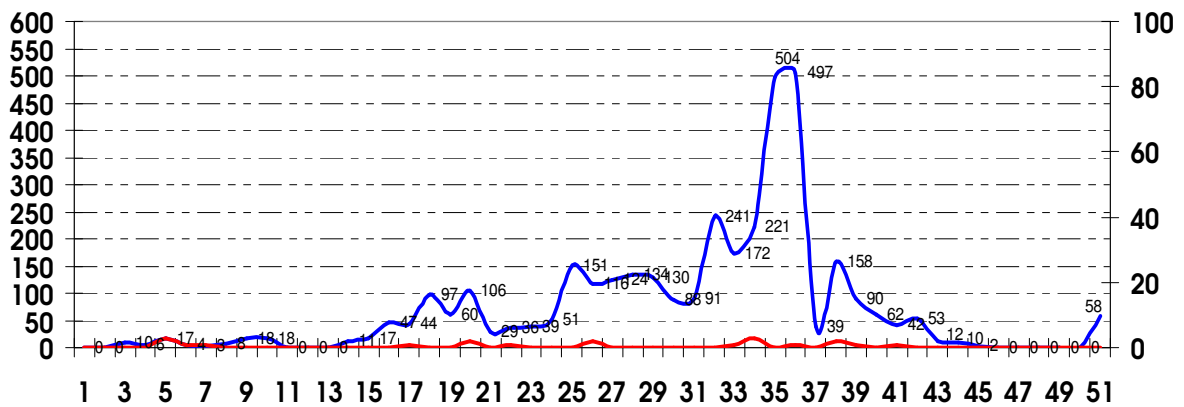
- FAO has completed the 1st and the 3rd phase of the WFP/FAO crop assessment; and the Meher needs is expected in mid January 2009. The 1st part of the FAO mission indicated that crop performance is good and harvest could be average especially for the main crop growing areas in the western parts of the country. However, teff production is likely to be below average due to the effect of the unseasonal rains received during October/early November. Harvest prospects are below average in the eastern half of the country.
- Cereal prices continue to show slight decline in parts of Amhara, Benishangul Gumiz and Gambella, Tigray, Oromiya, Somali and SNNP Regions, following the *meher* harvest. Livestock prices however, slightly increased in Liben and Degehabur zones of Somali Region due to higher demand while in most other regions have either remained unchanged or decreased. Prices of maize and small ruminants have slightly increased in some woreda (districts) of Sidama and Dawuro zones in SNNPR. In Tigray prices of cereals have slightly increased in urban markets, while the food aid intervention prices have stabilized in some markets.
- The concern for water and adequate pasture in arid areas of Somali, Afar, Tigray and Oromiya regions continue to be of concern to humanitarian partners. The water trucking for the chronic water shortage areas of Elidaar, Korrie, Bidu and Erebtu woredas in Afar region continues this week as well. Availability of water and pasture has deteriorated in East and West Hararghie zone of Oromia Region.
- In Somali Region water rationing has started in three kebeles in Chinaksen woreda. Serious water shortage was reported in Harshin woreda of Jijiga Zone and Aisha woreda of Shinile zone. In Borana of Oromia Region, there is fear that the available water in damaged ponds may meet the water needs for about one month only.
- Rapid Assessments conducted by GOAL in Sayint woredas, Amhara Region were reviewed by the Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (ENCU). The result indicated a need for close monitoring and strengthening of existing nutrition interventions in Sayint. An assessment conducted by SNNPR Food Security / Disaster prevention and Preparedness Bureau and ENCU in collaboration with zonal and woredas authorities in Gediyo zone (Dilla Zuria, Wanago and Kochere) indicated high levels of proxy Severe Acute Malnutrition and Global Acute Malnutrition.

Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) Situation:

According to official reports from the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH), AWD has affected a new district called Humbo woredas of Wolaita zone in SNNPR. There are 58 new cases of AWD reported from this district. There are no new cases of Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) reported in the past six weeks from other districts and regions. The national cumulative cases of the epidemic reported during 1st January to From 1st January to 21st December 2008 amounts to 3,862 cases and 23 deaths from 55 districts of six regions and Addis Ababa Municipality. Out of these woredas 25 are in Amhara, 14 in Oromiya, eight in Tigray, two in Afar, four in SNNP, one in Somali Regions and one in Addis Ababa municipality. The epidemic has been controlled in 51 woredas. Below are graphs comparing the AWD trend from 2006 since the epidemic to December 2008.

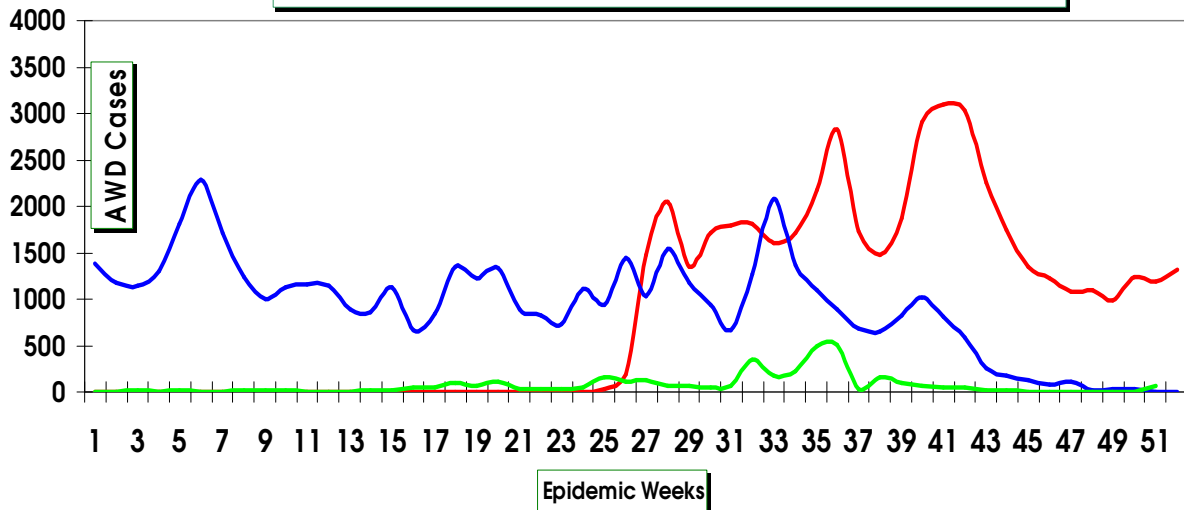


**National Trend analysis Shows Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) Cases and
Deaths as of 21 December 2008
Ethiopia, 2008**



The graph above shows the AWD epidemic trend from January to december 2008. Since 2006 the peak period is during the rainy season. This is the period when contaminated water sources are accessible by most communities.see graph below.

National Trend analysis Shows Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) Cases from June 2006 - December 30, 2008

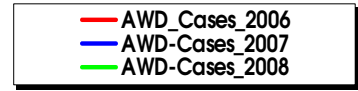


Analysis: Emergency and Humanitarian Action and DPC Units

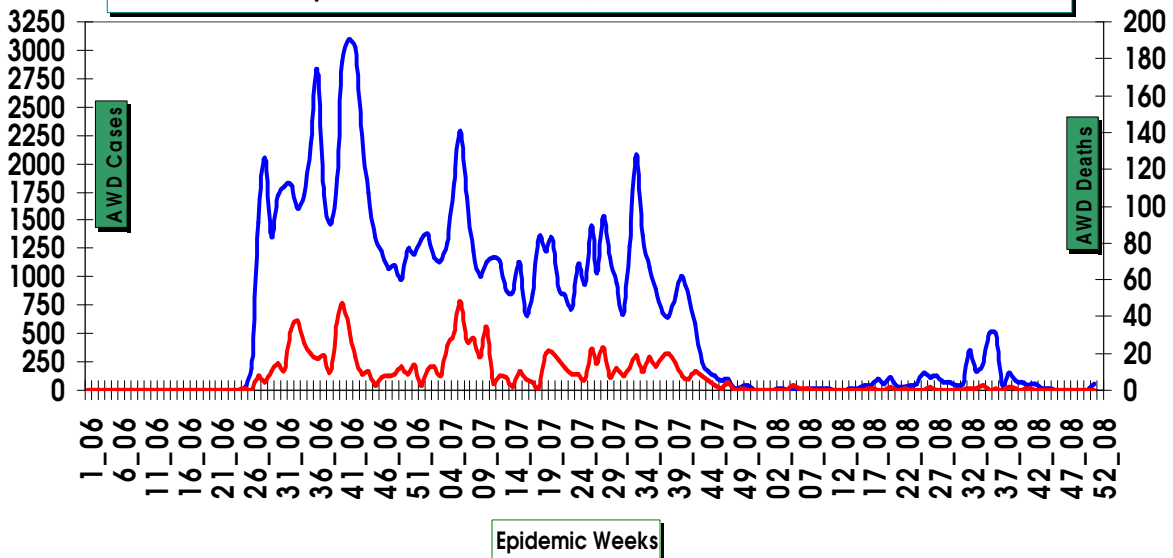
World Health Organization - Ethiopia Country Office

Data Source: Federal Ministry of Health - Ethiopia

Date of Production: December 30, 2008



National Trend analysis shows Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) Cases and Deaths as of Epidemic weeks 1 - 52 (June 2006 - December 2008)

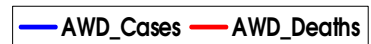


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II. ANALYSIS & HEALTH CONSEQUENCES: Health problems & Needs of affected populations.

Food insecurity and malnutrition

- Shortage of resources has resulted in reduced food rations, applied since July 2008 and exclusion of pulses and oil from November 2008 food rations.

Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD)

- SNNP, Somali and Afar Regions continue to be vulnerable to AWD outbreak. The affected population needs portable water supply, proper sanitation facilities, high hygiene practices and community awareness.

III. ACTIONS (in relation or response to the issues mentioned above):

- a) **WHO activities** (field trips, assessments, gap filling, coordination, information sharing, training, etc.) & **needs** (Human resources, material, infrastructure)

Food insecurity and malnutrition

- This week WHO has continued its technical support to regions in responding to food and nutrition crisis in Ethiopia. WHO is working closely with the FMOH to prepare the 2009 multi agency emergency needs assessment report and 2009 health and nutrition requirement document.

Acute watery Diarrhoea (AWD)

- This week WHO purchased water quality control testing reagents for 12 zones of Oromiya region. WHO continues to provide technical support for regions to strengthen surveillance, early warning system, assessment of AWD response, and on job training of health workers to improve the quality of AWD management.

Coordination:

This week, WHO actively participated in the technical officers/UNOCHA, WASH cluster/MoWR, Nutrition cluster and Ethiopian Humanitarian Country Team (EHCT)/UNDP meetings held in Addis Ababa.

VI. COMMENTS:

- The health and nutrition situation of the eastern parts of the country need to be closely monitored.