



United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Situation Report: Drought/Food Crisis in Ethiopia

8th September 2008

Highlights:

- UN Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Sir John Holmes, concludes three-day mission to Ethiopia
- Total shortfall for relief, Productive Safety Net Programme and Targeted Supplementary Feeding programme is 166,700 mt valued at US\$136 million.

Humanitarian Overview

Current Context

The UN Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC), Sir John Holmes, conducted a three-day mission to Ethiopia between 1st and 3rd of September. Sir Holmes travelled to Ethiopia to witness first-hand the impact of the drought and food crisis upon the affected community and to review the ongoing response to the humanitarian situation. During the course of the three-day mission the ERC met with government, UN Agencies and NGOs and travelled to SNNPR and Somali Region. The ERC underscored the severity of the humanitarian situation and urged the international community and government to scale-up resources to respond to the crisis. In the Somali Region, the ERC praised the work of the humanitarian community and highlighted the need to expand the presence of humanitarian actors in the region and the importance of independent assessments to identify needs and target response.

Sir John Holmes, acting in his capacity as the Coordinator of the High-Level Task-Force on the Global Food Crisis, met with the Head of the Ethiopia Commodity Exchange, World Bank representatives, UN agencies and NGOs to discuss the impact of rising food prices in Ethiopia. In addition, the ERC met with representatives of the NGO community to discuss issues relating to humanitarian principles and ongoing operations.

Sectoral Updates

Health and Nutrition

Key Issues

Nutrition:

- **Afar:** A number of humanitarian partners report that high food insecurity is affecting many households and leading to an increase in the prevalence of malnutrition of children under the age of five in Teru, Kori, Elidar, Erepti, Bidu and Gulina woredas. The food security situation in Elidar has been exacerbated by the influx of refugees from neighbouring Eritrea, many of whom are suffering from malnutrition, who are now dependent upon host communities for assistance. MSF-Greece and MSF-Holland are providing treatment for children suffering from severe acute malnutrition at one TFU and four OTP sites in Teru woreda. The total admission in OTP and TFU is 250 and 15 children respectively. The nutrition intervention is now expanding to respond to needs in Elidar, Gulina and Kori. ENCU is reviewing the preliminary findings of a nutrition survey conducted by Save the Children UK. The capacity of humanitarian partners to access vulnerable members of the affected population is subject to considerable logistical challenges due to the terrain and climate. No hotspot woredas has been formally identified by the region.
- **Oromiya:** 2,019 children with severe acute malnutrition were admitted between the 20th and 25th August to the Therapeutic Feeding Programme¹. NGOs registered an increase in new admissions in West Arsi Zone and a significant increase in Habro woreda in West Hararghe Zone. New admissions during the reporting week bring the number of new admissions to 10,973 between 23 July and 25 August.
- **SNNPR:** 3,608 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition were admitted to Therapeutic Feeding Programmes between 15th and 21st August². As the number of OTP

¹ This figure is based upon analysis by the Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (ENCU). The ENCU received reports from 206 out of 261 outpatient treatments programme (OTPs) sites and 44 out of 55 inpatient therapeutic feeding units (TFUs).

² This figure is based upon analysis by the Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (ENCU). The ENCU received reports from 295 out of 332 Out-patient Treatment Programmes (OTPS) and 44 out of 45 In-Patient Therapeutic Feeding Units (TFUs).

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and TFU sites increases so too does coverage and opportunity to access vital treatment services. The increase in new OTP admissions is due to an actual increase in admission in Wolyata, Sidama and KT Zone and the opening of 14 additional sites in Hulla, Sidama Zone whilst the increase in admissions to TFUs can be attributed to the opening of new sites in Dune woreda, Hadiya Zone. New admissions bring the total number of admissions to 28,335 children between 27th June and 21st August indicating that a high number of children in need of life-saving therapeutic care as a direct result of the drought and food crisis.

Health: Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) continues to pose a serious threat to the health of people living in affected woredas in Amhara and Oromiya Region. Suspected cases of AWD in Shenkora and Menza woredas in North Showa, Amhara Region are being investigated by WHO and government partners. Active cases of AWD are reported from six woredas in Amhara Region (Jawi, Goncha, Dejen, Dembia, Takusa and Ebinet) and three woredas in Oromiya Region (Ada'a, Gibichu and Lume).

Response

Coordination: A regional Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (RENCU) is being established under the DPPB and the FSB in the Somali Region to facilitate information sharing and enhanced coordination of nutrition response by humanitarian partners. The RENCU will play a key role in wider efforts to scale-up humanitarian interventions in response to the food and drought crisis in the Somali Region.

EOS Screening in Somali Region: The Regional Health Bureau plans to conduct Enhanced Outreach Strategy (EOS) for child survival in 35 woredas. The first round started in 13 districts. UNICEF health officers are providing technical support and supervision to the RHB teams in Degehabur, Warder and Gode zones. The second round, which is at the planning stage, will be held in 22 woredas.

Health Extension Programme: WHO allocated funds for to the Regional Health Bureau (RHB) to support the training of health workers as part of the roll-out of the health extension program in Afar Region.

Mobile Health Teams: The 15 RHB mobile health and nutrition teams, supported by UNICEF, were redeployed in Somali Region after a delay of one month. 13 teams returned to their original area of deployment and will be relocated to other critical areas when NGO mobile teams expand operations. One mobile team was relocated to Mieso whilst another was deployed to Ferfer.

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UNICEF dispatched drugs, medical supplies and Plumpy'nut to cover needs for a three month period to each of the 15 woredas where mobile teams are operational.

New Therapeutic Feeding Programmes: World Vision Ethiopia has started Therapeutic Feeding Programmes in Tanta/Ajibar on the basis of findings of a recent rapid assessment.

Polio vaccination campaign: The Regional Health Bureau, with support from WHO and UNICEF, launched a polio vaccination campaign targeting 678,000 children under the age of five in 52 woredas in Somali Region.

Gaps and Requirements

Reduced access to sufficient quantities of nutritious food will continue to translate into increased admission rates to CTC (OTP/SC) without a rapid scale-up of both food relief and targeted supplementary feeding programmes. Children who are successfully treated for malnutrition face a considerable risk of relapse if there is not a sufficient quantity of food available at home. Full nutrition surveys are required to establish the scale and severity of the crisis and identify areas requiring immediate nutrition interventions.

The RENCU in Oromiya reports that all OTPs running health facilities in Bale and North Showa zones have no routine drugs in store.

Food Aid

Key Issues

Considerable shortfalls of supplies persist for relief, Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) and Targeted Supplementary Feeding programme.

Response³

Relief: In the Somali Region, an amount of 48,166 mt has been allocated to 1,025,030 beneficiaries of which 40,404 mt have been dispatched. In SNNPR, 1,332,010 beneficiaries have been allocated 74,894 mt, of which 72,530 mt have been dispatched. In Oromiya Region, 1,088,537 beneficiaries have been allocated 40,513 mt, of which 36,066 mt have been dispatched. Some 1,332,835 beneficiaries in Afar, Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, Gambella and

³ Relief allocations/dispatches refer to mixed commodities of cereals, pulses, oil and blended food allocated/dispatched during January-July 2008.

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Tigray Regions beneficiaries have been allocated 37,380 mt, of which 30,375 mt have been dispatched.

Productive Safety Net Programme: During January to August 2008, an amount of 138,923 mt of mixed commodities has been allocated to 4,006,712 PSNP beneficiaries in Afar, Amhara, Harar, Oromiya, SNNPR and Tigray, and some 82,254 mt have been dispatched.

Targeted Supplementary Feeding: During 16-31 August 2008, an amount of 1,166 mt of blended food and oil has been dispatched to 41,855 beneficiaries under the TSF programme in Afar, Amhara, Oromiya, SNNPR and Tigray.

Gaps and Requirements

The total 2008 shortfall for relief, PSNP and TSF programmes amounts to 166,700 mt valued at US\$136 million.

Relief: Total annual requirements for the current 4.6 million beneficiaries amount to 591,333 mt of mixed commodities. The funding shortfall amounts to some 116,752 mt of mixed commodities (valued at US\$94.2 million), which includes advances totaling US\$51.3 million from the immediate response account (IRA) and working-capital financing (WCF)

Productive Safety Net Programme: WFP shortfalls for the PSNP amount to 41,037 mt of mixed commodities valued at US\$32.6 million.

Targeted Supplementary Feeding has a current commodity shortfall of 3,700 mt. In addition, some US\$4.6 million needs to be repaid to the Immediate Response Account (IRA). The total shortfall therefore amounts to 9,000 mt valued at US\$9.2 million.

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Humanitarian Meeting Schedule

Date	Meeting	Location and Time
Monday 8 th September 2008		
Tuesday 9 th September 2008		
Wednesday 10 th September 2008	MANTF Meeting	DPPA, 14.00.
Thursday 11 th September 2008		
Friday 12 th September 2008	Safety and Security Meeting	UNDSS Office, 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.