WEEKLY HUMANITARIAN HIGHLIGHTS IN ETHIOPIA

29 July 2013

WASH Update

National water trucking needs further decreased following good *kiremt* rains received during the past week. The decrease was recorded in Tigray region where 10 trucks are requested – down from 14 trucks requested one week ago. Conversely, in Afar, demand increased by one truck, as weather conditions in the region remain hot and dry. The Government and WASH partners are supporting the operation of 18 trucks in Afar (all 12 trucks requested) and Tigray (six of the 10 trucks requested) regions. The trucking needs in Edaga Arbi *woreda* (two trucks) and Shire town (two trucks) have yet to be met.

In Somali region, a multi-agency rapid needs assessment is scheduled for this week following reports of shrinking water sources in Dollo Ado *woreda*, Liben zone. Meanwhile in Oromia region, the Government, with UNICEF support, rehabilitated four water supply schemes, benefiting more than 12,000 people in the drought-prone Habiro, Boke and Mieso *woredas*, West Hararge zone. For more information, contact awesterbeek@unicef.org

Flood Update

With the onset of the *kiremt* rains, localized floods were reported in Amhara, Oromia, SNNP and Somali regions. On 1 and 12 July, flooding in Wolenchiti town and neighbouring villages, Oromia region affected some 7,700 people. More than 5,200 people, including 600 children under-5 years and 133 pregnant and lactating mothers, required immediate assistance. The floods also damaged 110 houses and 94 hectares of *belg* crop. Similarly in SNNPR, floods reported in Sankura *woreda*, Silte zone on 15 and 16 July, affected more than 4,300 people and damaged 452 hectares of *belg* crop. The Government and WASH partners distributed relief food and non-food supplies to the affected population, last week. In Somali region, flash floods were reported on 15 July in Erer *woreda* of Siti zone. A multi-agency assessment team was deployed to the area to identify response needs. Similarly, flooding was reported in Fogera and Libokemkem *woredas* of South Gondar zone, Amhara region.

The National Meteorological Agency (NMA) forecast the high risk of flooding in flood-prone areas in the country during this *kiremt* season, especially along river banks and lowland areas. July and August are the peak months of the season. Timely and appropriate flood mitigation and response activities are recommended to minimize the impact of the floods on the lives and livelihoods of affected population. For more information, contact awesterbeek@unicef.org

Relief Food Update

As of 24 July, the first round of relief food distribution stood at 95 per cent, while the second round distribution reached 57 per cent. The third round of relief food dispatch is also progressing, with 82 per cent of the total allocation dispatched, while distribution is on-going in Amhara (22 per cent), Oromia (37 per cent), Tigray (43 per cent) and Somali (11 per cent) regions. The distribution has yet to start in Afar, Beneshangul Gumuz, Gambella and Harari regions and the city of Dire Dawa. Preparations for the dispatch and distribution of the fourth round are on-going. Due to supply shortages, DRMFSS-covered areas receive a reduced food basket (no oil) and reduced ration of the Corn Soya Blend (CSB) under the second round. Similarly, under the third round, DRMFSS-covered areas will receive a reduced food basket (no oil) and full ration for all other commodities, while JEOP and WFP-covered areas will receive a full food basket and full ration of all commodities.

As of the same date, the dispatch of the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) food allocation for April reached 97 per cent; while the PSNP food allocation for May stood at 63 per cent and that of June at 60 per cent. For more information, contract wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

Refugee Update

From 16 to 19 July, a mission to Raad in Dimma *woreda* of Agnewak zone, Gambella region confirmed the reported presence of some 5,000 new refugees from Pibor County of Jonglei State, South Sudan. The mission, comprising of the Government refugee agency, ARRA, UNHCR, ECHO, BPRM and NRC, reported that the new arrivals are mainly women and children from the Murle (3,208 people) and Anuak (1,354 people) communities. Food ration and non-food items (NFI) were provided. Health and nutrition interventions are also on-going.

Given the proximity of Raad to the South Sudanese border and given the high risk of flooding during this *kiremt* season – Raad is located on a river bank – the Government and partners are expediting the relocation of the refugees to a safer location. Merkez, located nine kilometres from Dimma, was officially selected as the new settlement site. Shortage of shelter materials and lack of education facilities are a concern. For more information, contact: gegziabk@unhcr.org

No information received for Education, Agriculture, Nutrition and Health this week