



Drought Update

The latest FEWS NET Weather Hazard Impact Assessment reports an increase in rain in southern and south-eastern parts of the country over the past week. Moderate rainfall was reported in western and northern regions and heavy rainfall across parts of southern Ethiopia. While the rains have improved livestock and pasture conditions, the report cautions that the effects of the late onset of the *belg/sugum* and *gu* rains, including continuing poor cropping and pasture conditions in the south and south-eastern parts of the country prevail. However, increase in moisture associated with the rains is expected to help sustain pastoral areas in the coming months. Moderate to heavy rains are predicted to continue in the southern and central parts of the country over the coming week, which, apart from increasing moisture, also heightens the risk of flash floods. Following reportedly good *gu* rains in some zones of Somali Region, including Fik, Degehabur, and parts of Jijiga, the regional Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Bureau (DPPB) is currently revising the regional operational plan for water trucking to reflect remaining needs. Requirements for water-trucking are expected to be reduced, but not ceased. Other emerging priorities include hygiene surveillance and promotion activities to mitigate the risk of outbreaks of water borne diseases and acute watery diarrhea (AWD), distribution of water purification chemicals, and monitoring of the health and nutrition situation of the population. In anticipation of above average *kiremt* rainfall in the northern highlands as the *La Niña* withdraws, the DRM Technical Working Group has reactivated the Flood Task Force last April 27. The Agricultural Task Force will soon organize an Agriculture Sector Flood Discussion Forum to further prepare the sector for the possibility of serious flooding. For more information, contact: info@fews.net & dorelyn.jose@fao.org

Multi-Agency Needs Assessment

The 2011 *belg* assessment started on 4 May with the deployment of 13 multi-agency teams to all nine zones of Somali; Arsi and West Arsi, Bale, Borena, Guji, East and West Hararghe zones of Oromia; Amaro, Burji, Derashe, Gamo Gofa, Gedio, Hadiya, Kembata Tembaro, Konso, Sidama, South Omo and Wolayita zones of SNNPR; all five zones of Afar, North Shewa, North Wello, Oromia and South Wello zones of Amhara; and Southern zone of Tigray. The assessment, which aims to determine food and non-food requirements, is taking place earlier than normal this year, due to the fact that slow onset of the *belg/sugum* and *gu* rains has impacted on crop production in the north and north-eastern and south and south-eastern parts of the country. The assessment period has been reduced from 21 to 15 days. The Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector (DRMFSS) decided that in the drought-affected areas in the south and south-eastern parts of the country an in-depth assessments will be carried out and requirements for the period from June to December 2011 be published in form of a revised Humanitarian Requirements Document (HRD) in June, with the possibility of follow-up assessments to be conducted later in the year. In the *belg/sugum* receiving areas in the north and north eastern parts of the country, on the other hand, a rapid assessment will be carried out to better understand the evolving situation and identify critical gaps, with the regular end of season assessment to be conducted in these areas in June. For more information, contact: ocha-eth@un.org.

Food Update

The second round of relief food dispatch by DRMFSS, WFP and the NGO consortium Joint Emergency Operation (JEOP) is ongoing, with 67 per cent reported dispatched by the end of April. Meanwhile, the third round allocations have been authorized by DRMFSS. Dispatch of the second round of food dispatch under the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) is also ongoing. The second meeting of the Food Management Taskforce was held on 27 April and discussed, *inter alia*, the continuing funding shortages for the relief and PSNP pipelines. In this context, DRMFSS informed that the Government has loaned 235,400 MT of food from the Emergency Food Security Reserve Administration (EFSRA), including 99,400 MT that are currently being distributed. Procurement of 30,000 MT of cereal from the international market to repay this loan is underway. For more information, contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

Nutrition Update

As reported in the revised HRD the number of children at risk of severe acute malnutrition is estimated to be approximately 30,108 in the drought affected *woredas* from March to August 2011. The rapid decline in food availability in SNNPR has also started to cause increases in malnutrition in some areas, with rising admission rates to Outpatient Therapeutic Programmes (OTPs) and Stabilization Centres (SCs) reported in Hadiya, Kembata Tembaro, Gurage, Wolayita, Sidama, zones (Konso, Derashe, Amaro and Burji Special *woredas*) as well as Alaba Special *woreda*. Partners are scaling-up their nutrition response in drought affected areas, with a total of 84 of the 92 drought affected *woredas* of Somali, Oromia and SNNP regions benefiting from the expanded nutrition response with either outpatient therapeutic feeding programmes and/or therapeutic feeding units, and a further 54 *woredas* benefiting from targeted supplementary feeding. For more information, contact: kmcdonald@unicef.org