



Drought Update

Rains received during the past two weeks have eased the humanitarian situation in the drought affected areas of Somali, Oromia and SNNP regions. As a result, ongoing water trucking in Somali and Oromia regions has been reduced. Weather forecasts indicate that rains will continue in the coming weeks. Increased rainfall, however, also increases the risk of flash flooding and the outbreaks of acute watery diarrhea (AWD) as populations might be drinking surface / unsafe water. While the situation in previously affected areas is gradually improving, Afar Region has emerged as one of the main drought affected areas, as the *sugum* rainy season (March-April) has failed in the northern parts of the region. In response, the regional authorities supported by UNICEF, WHO, WFP, OCHA, PCI, SSD, AIDA, APDA, BFW, SC UK and CARE have prepared a drought response plan. According to the plan, some 44,600 people are currently facing critical water shortage. The response to the situation includes water trucking, rehabilitation of water supply schemes and training, and pre-positioning WASH and emergency drugs as part of prevention and preparedness activities against severe acute malnutrition, AWD, malaria, measles and meningitis. The regional DPPB supported by the local NGO the Afar Pastoralist Development Association has deployed three water trucks in Elidar and Dubti. UNICEF has released funding to support water trucking for three additional woredas, including Kurri, Bidu and Erebti. In Amhara Region, an estimated 6,212 households are in need of emergency water supply in East Belesa, Lay Armacho and Quara woredas of North Gonder zone and Minjar Shenkora of North Shewa Zone. UNICEF has released funding for water trucking in East Belesa of North Gonder. In Somali Region, around 40 per cent of water trucks have been suspended following the rains while in Oromia 39 water trucks stopped trucking in Borena and Guji, and few trucks in Bale are relocated to higher priority areas. The Somali Region Water Bureau dispatched household water treatment chemicals and jerry cans to 35,082 people in Liben and Adfer zones. In light of the changing situation, partners are advised to focus more on provision of water treatments chemicals and maintenance of water schemes. WASH partners including GOAL, Menschen Fur Menschen, CARE, AFD, SC USA and UK, CONCERN, IRC, LWF, Agri-Service Ethiopia, and UNICEF continue to support water trucking and rehabilitation of water supply schemes in remaining drought affected areas. For more information, contact: kmcdonald@unicef.org

Health Update

The Ethiopian Health and Nutrition Research Institute (EHNRI) reported 283 new cases of measles during the week from 25 April to 1 May 2011. In total, cases were reported from four regions including 146 cases (52%) from SNNPR (Segen, Gamo Gofa, Halaba and South Omo zones); 101 cases (36%) from Tigray (Northwest, Central and West zones); 37 cases (13%) from Amhara (North Wollo zone) and 7 cases (3%) in Somali (Korahe zone). Case management and health education activities continue in affected areas, as do case detection and routine immunization. Meanwhile, during the same reporting week, it was reported that the malaria caseload in the previously affected woredas of Bolosa Bombe and Bolso Sore, Wolayita zone (SNNPR) has significantly declined, while environmental management, treatment and enhanced surveillance continues to be ongoing. In Gambella Region, WHO in collaboration with the Regional Health Bureau and partners is strengthening disease surveillance and monitoring in measles affected woredas. In view of the threat of a potential outbreak of AWD in drought affected areas and as part of its preparedness and prevention activity, UNICEF sent nine case treatment center kits (CTC) with AWD drugs to Somali Region in addition to 29 kits that had been pre-positioned. In Oromia, there are 36 CTC kits (22 from last year and 14 from this year) pre-positioned. A total of 36 emergency drug kits (24 to health centers and six to hospitals) will also be sent to the Somali Region to maintain the minimum level of pre-positioning. With UNICEF financial and technical support, training on AWD case management, communication, prevention and control, and on infant and young feeding in emergencies was conducted from 11 to 14 May for 41 health staff from 14 woredas in Shinile, Gode, Liben, Jijiga and Korahe zones of Somali Region. For more information, contact: who-wro@et.who.int & kmcdonald@unicef.org

Nutrition Update

The monthly Therapeutic Feeding Programme (TFP) reports show an increasing admission trend in most of the La Niña affected woredas: 42% increase between February and March 2011 in SNNPR; 22% in Oromia and 4% in Somali region. However, in eight woredas of Oromia, nine in Somali and three in SNNPR the number of admission has increased by more than 50%. Reports from the field also indicate continued increases for the month of April in these areas. TFP admissions in Amhara and Tigray are generally stable. Partners, such as Concern, Islamic Relief, ADRA, Mercy Corps, MSF-Spain, MSF-Holland, MSF-Belgium, ACF, Goal, Save the Children-US, World Vision, IMC, Save the Children-UK, CARE, Merlin, UNICEF and WFP are scaling-up their nutrition response in drought affected areas. Currently, 80 of the 90 drought affected woredas of Oromia, Amhara, Tigray and SNNP regions are benefiting from the expanded nutrition response with either outpatient therapeutic feeding programmes and/or therapeutic feeding units. To support the TFP, UNICEF sent, during the months of April, 286 MT of ready-to-use therapeutic food to Somali, Oromia and SNNP regions, which enables the treatment of an estimated 28,600 children for one month. For more information, contact: ocha-eth@un.org, kmcdonald@unicef.org & isaackmanyama@yahoo.co.uk