



# Humanitarian Bulletin

UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

WEEKLY HUMANITARIAN HIGHLIGHTS IN ETHIOPIA

1 April 2013

## **Rainfall Update**

According to the National Meteorological Agency (NMA), the performance of the *belg* (mid-February to May) rains has gradually improved – both in amount and distribution – starting from the second *dekad* of March. While the rains were limited to the western, south western and southern parts of the country and were mostly below-normal in performance during the first *dekad* of March, the rainfall coverage expanded to the central, eastern and south eastern parts and strengthened in performance from 10 March onwards. Accordingly, most of the *belg* rain-receiving parts of the country received normal to above-normal rainfall in the past two weeks. In pocket areas, heavy rains caused flooding, including in Mile, Galafi and Bidu *woredas* of Afar; some areas of Fafan and Jarar zones of Somali, including Jijiga and Degehabur Towns; Loka Abaya *woreda* of Sidama zone and Humbo *woreda* of Wolayita zone of SNNP; and Tulo *woreda* of West Hararge zone of Oromia Regions. According to NMA, the rainfall performance is expected to further improve during the remainder of the *belg* rainy season. The *kiremt* (June to September) rain-receiving parts of northern, north western and western parts of the country will likely start to receive rainfall in mid-April, favouring planting of long-cycle crops in these areas. For more information, contact: [dadimoswon@yahoo.com](mailto:dadimoswon@yahoo.com)

## **Health Update**

In recent weeks, reported cases of meningococcal meningitis decreased in SNNP and Oromia Regions. Regional Health Bureaus and Woreda Health Offices in both regions, in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Health/Ethiopian Health and Nutrition Research Institute and health partners, continue to vaccinate high-risk groups, including people between the ages of 2 and 30 years, and those living in crowded settings like prisons and universities. As of 24 March, some 1,138,575 people were vaccinated, including 387,868 people across West Arsi, East Shewa and Jimma zones of Oromia and 750,707 people across Sidama, Wolayita, Gamo Gofa zones and the city of Hawassa of SNNP Regions. Sporadic cases might continue to be reported up to May – when the peak meningitis transmission season ends - from the affected 85 *woredas*, one city and 10 Town Administrations across 14 zones of SNNP, Oromia and Tigray Regions. For more information, contact: [who-wro@et.efro.who.int](mailto:who-wro@et.efro.who.int)

## **Relief Food Update**

As of 27 March, relief food dispatch for the first round of 2013, targeting 2.48 million people nationwide, reached 22 per cent, including 34 per cent dispatched to areas covered by the Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector (DRMFSS), 5 per cent to areas covered by the NGO consortium Joint Emergency Operation (JEOP), and 22 per cent to WFP-covered areas in the Somali Region. Under this round, beneficiaries in areas covered by DRMFSS (962,077 people), JEOP (635, 346 people) and WFP (890,925 people) will receive a full food basket and full rations of relief food. Meanwhile, dispatch of the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) food allocation for February is ongoing, with 82 per cent of total allocations dispatched to Amhara, Afar, Oromia, Tigray and Somali Regions, as of 27 March. For more information, contact [wfp.addisababa@wfp.org](mailto:wfp.addisababa@wfp.org)

## **WASH Update**

The total number of water trucks requested nationwide decreased over the past week, as a result of the onset of the seasonal rains and the resultant improvement in water availability in chronically water-insecure parts of the country. In Oromia Region, the onset of the *ganna* seasonal rains - the main rainy season in the lowlands of the region – improved water availability in areas that had been reporting looming water shortages in the past weeks, including 29 *kebeles* across seven *woredas* of Borena zone. Similarly, normal to above-normal rains received in Afar improved the water situation in the region. In Somali, all 16 water trucks operating in Afder, Siti, Liben, Shabelle and Nogob zones (of 26 trucks requested) ceased operation, as a result of good rains received in the area. Meanwhile, the water shortage affecting some 25,035 drought-affected people in Minjar Shenkora *woreda* (North Shewa zone) and East Belesa *woreda* (North Gonder zone) of Amhara Region remains critical. As of 29 March, 78 water trucks - down from 109 two weeks ago – were requested in Afar (27), Oromia (35), Tigray (13) and Amhara (3) Regions, of which 48 were operational. The overall number of drought-affected people and required water trucks in the country will be revised in the coming weeks. For more information, contact [awesterbeek@unicef.org](mailto:awesterbeek@unicef.org)