



Weather Outlook

According to the National Meteorological Agency (NMA), western Amhara and parts of Gambella and Beneshangul Gumuz Regions, as well as the south-eastern lowlands of the country are expected to receive light rains this week, while most of SNNP and Oromia, and parts of eastern Tigray and Amhara Regions should receive near-normal rainfall in the third week of March. The remaining *belg*-receiving parts of the country are likely to remain dry this month. The *belg* (mid-February to May) rains are already one month late in Oromia and SNNP Regions, and over a month late in Amhara Region. The *belg* are the major rains for the southern and south-eastern lowlands of Ethiopia and important for the production of short-cycle crops and preparation for planting of long-cycle crops in central highland areas. For more information, contact dadimoswon@yahoo.com

WASH Update

Over the past weeks, increasing needs for water trucking were reported from chronically water-insecure parts of the country. The highest demand came from Oromia Region, with 43 trucks requested (up from 29 trucks two weeks ago) to address water needs of some 495,255 people across 23 *woredas* in East and West Harerge, Bale and West Arsi zones. At present, 16 trucks are deployed, leaving a critical gap of 27 trucks for the region. Elsewhere, a total of 13 trucks are operational out of 20 trucks requested for more than 37,625 people across zones 1, 2 and 4 (Afar Region); and five water trucks deployed out of 11 requested for some 168,000 people across 12 *woredas* in Eastern, Central, Western, South-Western and Southern zones (Tigray Region). In Amhara, some 19,635 people, nine health facilities and seven schools are reportedly facing water shortages in Minjar Shenkora *woreda* of North Shewa zone. Four trucks are to be deployed in the area. Over the past weeks, water trucking needs were identified in Somali Region, including in Barey, Dolobay, Kersadula, Raso, West Imy, Guradamole, Jararti, Elkare and parts of Hargele *woredas* of Afder zone; Afdem, Adigala, Ayisha, Meiso and Shinile *woredas* of Siti zone; Shekosh, Shilabo, Korah, Mersin and Debeweyn *woreda* of Korah zone; Dollo Ado, Hudet, Filtu, Moyale, Deka-Siftu and Mubamarak *woredas* of Liben zone; Danan, Adadle, Ferfer and East Imy *woredas* of Shebelle zone; Danod, Bokh, Galadin and Warder *woredas* of Doolo zone; Harshin *woreda* of Fafan zone; Degehabur and Yoalo *woredas* of Jarar zone; and all *woredas* of Nogob zone. Out of the 35 water trucks required in the region, 17 are currently operational in Nogob, Shebelle, Afder and Liben zones.

Meanwhile, the SNNP Regional Water Bureau and partners are closely monitoring water availability in Boricha and Loko *woredas* of Sidama zone; Mirab Abaya and Deramalo *woredas* of Gamo Gofa zone; Lanfaro and Wilbareg *woredas* of Silte zone; and drought prone *woredas* of Wolayita zone, following reports of water sources drying up. With the current *belg* rainy season failing – for the third consecutive year in some areas – timely deployment of requested water trucks and emergency water scheme rehabilitations are essential to prevent further deterioration of food and nutritional situations in affected areas. For more information, contact awesterbeek@unicef.org

Relief Food Update

As of 5 March, dispatch of the “bridging” round (funded with 2012 resources for distribution in January/February 2013), targeting 1.5 million people in Afar, Amhara, Oromia, Somali and Harari Regions, reached 99 per cent. Dispatch to areas covered by the Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector (DRMFSS) and the NGO consortium Joint Emergency Operation (JEOP) is completed, while dispatch to WFP-covered areas in the Somali Region stood at 95 per cent. Meanwhile, relief food allocation for the first round of 2013, targeting 2.48 million people nationwide has started. Under the first round, beneficiaries in areas covered by JEOP (635, 346 people) and WFP (890,925 people) will receive a full food basket and full rations. However, only beneficiaries in nutrition hotspot Priority 1 *woredas* in DRMFSS-covered areas will receive a full food basket and full ration. The remaining DRMFSS-covered areas will receive cereal, pulse and oil at full ration, but will not receive Corn Soya Blend (CSB). DRMFSS will cover the needs of some 962,077 people nationwide, for this round. Dispatch of the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) food allocation for January 2013 is nearing completion, with 96 per cent of total allocations dispatched to Afar, Amhara, Oromia, Tigray and Somali Regions. For more information, contact wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

Education Update

In Afar Region, 15 schools closed down due to lack of water during this dry season, affecting some 1,899 children (29 per cent girls). The Education in Emergencies Task Force members are preparing to intervene, in line with the regional Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP). In Somali Region, education authorities in Dollo Ado *woreda* started enrolling students in the newly constructed primary school in Melkadida. An estimated 800 children (40 per cent girls) will benefit from improved access to education. Meanwhile, UNICEF delivered 20 recreation kits and 38 school management kits to benefit more than 5,000 primary school students in communities in Dollo Ado affected by the influx of Somali refugees. Similarly, UNICEF provided student kits, teacher kits, hygiene kits and recreational kits to benefit some 8,700 children and 70 teachers in communities in Beneshangul Gumuz Region hosting Sudanese Refugees, in addition to the 32 school management kits delivered to schools in these areas.

In conflict-affected areas of Oromia's East Harerge zone, some 10,600 children (40 per cent girls) from 35 primary schools in Kumbi, Gursum, Meyumuluke and Chenasken *woredas* remain without schooling for over three months. UNICEF is currently procuring Education in Emergencies supplies to support the reopening of primary schools in the affected areas. For more information, contact eyerusalem.azmeraw@savethechildren.org