



Food Security Update

WFP reports that the overall food security situation in the country has significantly improved following the good *belg* harvest in June/July, improved pastoral conditions, stable food prices and good prospects for the *meher* harvest. According to WFP, stable and declining cereal prices, particularly for maize, have significantly contributed to the improvements witnessed. In SNNPR, the food security situation continues to improve, even in areas that regularly report nutrition problems such as the lowland areas of Gurage, Siltie and Habala Special Woreda. Crops in *meher*-producing areas are performing well in Amhara, Tigray and Gambella regions, contributing to improved market conditions. Livestock body condition in Afar has improved as a result of considerable water, pasture and browse replenishment. The current short pastoral rains falling in Oromia (Borena, Bale and Guji zones) and parts of Somali (Korahe, Warder, Afder) have benefited continued pasture and water regeneration. However, the rains have been late in other *deyr*-benefiting zones, including Gode, Liben, Degehabur and Fik zones, leading to declining food security conditions, particularly in Fik. WFP recommends close monitoring in Fedis, Haromaya, Metta, Deder and Gurewa woredas (East Hararghe zone) and Mieso woreda (West Hararghe zone) in Oromia, Bensa and Aroresa woredas (Sidama zone) in SNNP and Kori, Dallol, Bidu, Aysaita and Dupti in Afar due to deteriorating food security situation. For more information, contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

Food Aid Update

The Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector (DRMFSS) and WFP report that dispatch for the seventh round of food distributions has begun, with 41,000 metric tons (MTs) of food allocated to beneficiaries across the country based on the results of the *belg* assessment conducted in June 2010. DRMFSS, WFP and the NGO consortium - Joint Emergency Operation Plan (JEOP) are jointly conducting distributions. DRMFSS reports that in-country relief stocks stand at 54,800 MTs and the Productive Safety Nets Programme (PSNP) at 19,500 MT. The Ethiopia Food Security Reserve Administration (EFSRA) is at full holding capacity with 202,600 MT of food available. Meanwhile, WFP is expecting 19,695 MT of mixed food commodities, including wheat, blended food, vegetable oil and pulses, through Djibouti port between October and December 2010. Moreover, a total of 60,965 MT of maize, blended food and pulses is under procurement and delivery from suppliers is scheduled between October and November 2010. For more information, contact: DRMFSS-dppc@gov.et & wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

Health Update

The Ethiopian Health and Nutrition Research Institute (EHNRI) reported a total of 77 new cases of Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) from Oromia (Shakiso and Adola woredas in Guji zone, and Hawigudina woreda in West Hararghe zone) and SNNPR (Dera and Bona Zuria woredas in Sidama zone) between 11 and 17 October. Hawigudina woreda in West Hararghe zone has been newly affected during the week. As part of continuing efforts to strengthen the response, WHO and UNICEF provided on-the-job training on AWD case management and case treatment centre (CTC) setup and management for 12 health professionals in SNNPR. The Regional Water Bureau provided non-food items, including jerry cans and water treatment chemicals sufficient for 2,560 households for one month, to Dera and Bona woredas. Additionally, the Regional Education Bureau is working to create awareness on AWD prevention in schools in Bona woreda, while UNICEF deployed an audio-visual van to disseminate AWD prevention messages in both Gedio and Sidama. Multi-sectoral coordination committees have been established in Dera, Bensa and Bona woredas to coordinate response and preparedness efforts; similar structures will be replicated in Aroresa and Hulla woredas. WHO donated diarrheal disease kits (DDK) to Merlin and GOAL to support ongoing AWD preparedness activities in Gololcha woreda in Oromia and Gambella respectively. CARE distributed 321,210 sachets of PUR to 5,350 households in Miyo, Moyale, Dire and Dillo woredas in Borena zone (also Oromia), to provide access to clean water for one month.

During the same week, EHNRI also reported a total of 354 new cases of measles (none fatal) from SNNP (Bensa and Dara woreda in Sidama zone and Male, Benatsemay, South Ari and North Ari woredas in South Omo zone), Benishangul Gumuz (Dangur woreda, Metekel zone) and Afar (Gewane woreda, Zone 3). Zonal and woreda health bureaus are conducting mass vaccination in Afar and are strengthening case management and prevention activities in SNNP and Benishangul Gumuz regions. WHO is supporting the measles supplementary immunization pre-campaign activities in SNNP and Amhara regions and assisted in outbreak investigation and analysis in Afar.

Meanwhile, in response to increased cases of malaria reported in North Gondar and Awi zones in Amhara Region, the Regional Health Bureau (RHB) deployed a team to strengthen indoor residual spraying and other malaria prevention and control activities. For more information, contact: who-wro@et.afro.who.int & kmcdonald@unicef.org