



Flooding Update

The likelihood of further flooding is decreasing in most parts of the country with the end of the *kiremt* (June to October) rains, according to the Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector (DRMFSS), and no new incidents of flooding have been reported in the past two weeks. The latest National Meteorological Agency forecast predicts below-normal rainfall in the eastern half of the country in the coming months, including the pastoral areas of Borena zone (Oromia), South Omo zone (SNNPR) and the southern zones of Somali Region, despite the potential for further flooding during the forthcoming short rainy seasons. Similarly, FEWSNET reports that the formation of a La Niña phenomenon in the central Pacific Ocean is associated with drier-than-normal conditions across the eastern Horn of Africa, although above-average rains may still be seen in the western Horn, which covers western parts of Ethiopia (Gambella and Benishangul Gumuz regions). The Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) reports that the water levels in dams and rivers around the country are being closely monitored. Controlled water discharge has started from Koka and Gilgel-Gibe dams with all precautionary measures undertaken, including construction of reservoirs and gorges to channel the water released from the dams to prevent destruction of property and infrastructure in downstream areas. DRMFSS has dispatched teams to assess the situation and analyze associated risks in the areas surrounding the dams. DRMFSS also deployed multi-disciplinary incident management teams to Somali (Gode), Gambella and Afar regions to monitor the development of flood situations there. Preparations are underway to send similar teams to South Omo zone (SNNPR).

Meanwhile, the findings of a joint assessment in Gambella Region indicate that flash and river flooding temporarily displaced some 26,000 people and damaged 1,280 hectare of cropland in Lare, Itang, Gambella Zuria and Gog woredas and Gambella town. According to the report, the emergency requirements of the affected population have been addressed in timely fashion, with food aid distributions conducted in August and early September, and non-food items, including plastic sheets, blanket and jerry cans, provided. Water guard and oral-rehydration solutions (ORS) have also been dispatched to the affected population. The report recommends continued emergency food aid distributions to the 26,048 people displaced and provision of corn-soya blend (CSB) for 35 per cent of the affected population. Additional plastic sheeting, mosquito nets and water treatment chemicals are among the prioritized needs. Provision of early-maturing seeds is recommended ahead of the upcoming recession farming period. Veterinary interventions, including livestock treatment and vaccination valued at two million birr, have also been included in the report. For more information contact:

ocha-eth@un.org

Health Update

According to UNICEF, the current outbreak of Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) has expanded in geographic scope, with cases now reported from Uruga (Guji zone), Chiro (West Hararghe) and Kurfa Chele (East Hararghe) in Oromia, and Wonago (Gedeo) and Dilla town of SNNPR. New cases also continue to be reported in the previously-affected woredas of Adola, Goro Dolla and Shakisso in Guji zone (Oromia), Yirgacheffe and Dilla Zuria in Gedeo zone (SNNPR), and in Dire Dawa. The Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) confirmed 89 new cases of AWD with one death from the affected woredas between 20 and 26 September 2010.

In response to the outbreak, and as part of wider preparedness efforts, the Ethiopian Health and Nutrition Research Institute (EHNRI), the Regional Health Bureau (RHB) and WHO provided joint in-service training on water quality monitoring and sanitary surveys for AWD control and prevention to 52 health and water sector professionals in Gedeo zone (SNNPR), between 21 and 24 September 2010. IRC, with funding from UNICEF, also gave a three-day training on water, sanitation and hygiene planning and response for 33 staff from Dilla Zuri, Yirgacheffe and Kochore woredas of Gedeo zone. UNICEF provided household water treatment chemicals for 60,666 households in the zone, enough for clean water for one month, as well as three additional case treatment centre (CTC) kits, drugs and medical supplies to support the Dire Dawa Administration health bureau with AWD case management. WHO also provided technical support to train 90 health workers on AWD case management in Oromia. Emergency preparedness for the 1st October Gishen Mariam religious gathering continued in Amhara Region: UNICEF sent a mobile van with 90,000 AWD fliers distributed to raise community and pilgrims' awareness. The Regional Water Bureau (RWB) deployed a technical team to establish Emergency Water Treatment kits to allow the population access clean water.

With preparations to conduct the nationwide measles vaccination campaign in October ongoing, the FMoH confirmed 459 new cases of measles from Sidama (112 cases), South Omo (234 cases) and Gamo Gofa (56 cases) zones of SNNPR, as well as North Gondar zone (39 cases) of Amhara and Addis Ababa Administration (one case) between 20 and 26 September. WHO continues strengthening routine immunization activities in all woredas. For more information contact:

who-wro@et.afro.who.int & kmcdonald@unicef.org

Livestock Situation Update

The Somali Region Livestock, Crop and Rural Development Bureau (LCRDB) reported on 20 September that some 94 sheep and goats had died from *Peste des Petits Ruminants* (PPR), while 17 camels died due to an unidentified pneumonic disease in areas around Babile woreda in Jijiga and Fik zones. The regional veterinary laboratory is closely following the situation in the affected areas. FAO has been working with the regional LCRDB in strengthening veterinary services in disease surveillance, diagnosis and reporting. For more information contact: dorelyn.jose@fao.org