



Seasonal Outlook

The latest National Meteorology Agency (NMA) seasonal performance projection for the bega season (October to January) forecasts favourable conditions for *meher* harvest and post-harvest agricultural activities. The outlook for the *bega* season anticipates normal to above-normal rains across western, northwestern and southwestern parts of the country, including the western part of Tigray, western half of Amhara, some parts of SNNP, and Gambella, which should be conducive for perennial crops. However, the normal to below-normal rains expected to fall over eastern, northeastern and parts of southwestern areas of country, including in central and eastern parts of Amhara, Afar, eastern Tigray and eastern parts of SNNP, are likely to have a negative impact on *meher* agricultural activities and the availability of pasture and water. Moreover, the forecast for below-normal rains in the majority of southern and southeastern parts of the country, including most of Somali and southern parts of Oromia, means that pasture and water availabilities are likely to be affected. This last prognosis is further supported by the latest update from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), which indicates that the *La Niña* phenomenon reported last month has strengthened and is expected to extend into 2011. A *La Niña* normally leads to below-normal rainfall in the eastern Horn of Africa, including the pastoralist lowlands of Ethiopia.

Meanwhile, early planted *meher* crops are performing well in most parts of the country. The impact of the yellow wheat rust epidemic reported to have affected some 34 woredas in Oromia (Shewa, Horogudru, Welega, Arsi and Bale zones), Amhara (North Shewa and South Gondar zones) and SNNP (Wolayita and Kembata Tembaro zones) has yet to be assessed. The national *meher* seasonal assessment, now scheduled to start on 21 November, will capture the impact of the disease on the overall production. For more information, contact: diadimoswon@yahoo.com, DRMFSS-dppc@gov.et & ocha-eth@un.org

Floods Update

Response efforts are ongoing in earlier flood-affected areas. The regional Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Bureau (DPPB) has deployed a team in Afambo woreda, in Zone 1 of Afar Region, to assess the impact of the floods due to the overflow of the Awash river. In Afar, partners have been asked to support rehabilitation of basic services, including infrastructure in Teru and Ewa in Zone 4, and Telalak, Dawe and Dalifage woredas in Zone 5. In Somali, a command post system including representatives from Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector (DRMFSS), Ministry of Water and Energy (MoWE), Ministry of Health (MoH), UN and NGOs, has been established to coordinate response activities. The MoH and WHO are consolidating existing drug stocks to identify outstanding needs in the zone. While decreased significantly with the cessation of the *kiremt* rains, the potential for new flooding remains in areas benefitting from October to December pastoral rains, including parts of Somali, Afar and Oromia regions. For more information, contact: kmcdonald@unicef.org

Health Update

New cases of Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) continued to be reported in Oromia and SNNPR between 4 and 10 October 2010. The Ethiopian Health and Nutrition Research Institute (EHNRI) reported a total of 78 cases of AWD from Oromia (Shakiso woreda, Guji zone and Kurfa Chefe woreda, East Hararghe zone) and SNNPR (Dilla town, Dilla Zuria and Yirgachefe woreda in Gedeo zone and Dera woreda and Bona Zuria woreda in Sidama zone). WHO has supported the training of 16 health workers on AWD prevention, case management and control in Dara woreda (SNNPR). UNICEF dispatched four case treatment centre (CTC) kits to Derra and two kits to Bonna woreda to support the isolation and treatment of AWD patients. Based on the Regional Health Bureau (RHB) request, six additional kits have been sent for pre-positioning. UNICEF has deployed an audio-visual van to disseminate AWD prevention and mitigation messages and provides financial support to Oromia, Amhara and SNNPR regions.

During the same week, a total of 802 new cases of measles with one death were reported from Aroresa and Bensa woredas (Sidama zone) and Male, Benatsemay, South Ari, North Ari and Nynangatom woredas (South Omo zone) in SNNPR. In the past week, UNICEF sent emergency drug kits to North Ari (South Omo) and Uba Debretsehay (Gamo Gofa). Each kit will support the medical needs of 2,500 people for three months. WHO supported the training of trainers on measles supplementary immunization activities as part of the pre-vaccination campaign in Gedeo zone and Dara woreda of Sidama zone. WHO plans to extend the support to Amaro special woreda (SNNPR) and neighbouring Guji zone (Oromia).

Malaria cases are also on increase in North Gondar and Awi zones in Amhara Region. Hot spot woredas include Tsegede, Mirab Armacheho, Gondar Zuria and Alefa in North Gondar zone and Dangila, Jawi, Ankesha and Guangua in Awi zone. Critical shortages of operational cost have limited spraying efforts in affected areas. For more information, contact: who-wro@et.afro.who.int & kmcdonald@unicef.org