



United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

# Situation Report: Drought/Food Crisis in Ethiopia

11<sup>th</sup> August 2008

## Highlights:

- Humanitarian crisis shows little sign of stabilisation and continuing shortfalls in resources and supplies persist
- Special Committee on the Somali Region prepares action plan for strengthened delivery of humanitarian assistance in the region.

## Humanitarian Overview

### Current Context

The humanitarian crisis in Ethiopia shows little sign of stabilisation despite the concerted efforts of government and humanitarian partners to address the needs of people hit hardest by drought and acute food insecurity. People are struggling to ensure that their families have enough to eat but the failure of seasonal crops, loss of livestock and spiraling cost of food in local markets have left many with no other option but to rely upon assistance from the humanitarian community. The capacity of the humanitarian community to reach all of those in need of assistance has been undermined by considerable shortfalls in resources and supplies required to respond comprehensively to the current crisis. Government and humanitarian partners require immediate additional assistance from the international community to avert further deterioration of the situation.

The devastating impact of the crisis can be observed in drought-affected regions across the country including the Somali Region where the long dry season is setting in following the successive failure of rains. In addition to the delivery of humanitarian assistance to existing hotspot regions, the government and humanitarian partners are seeking to rapidly strengthen the delivery of humanitarian assistance during the critical period that lies ahead. The establishment of the Special Committee on the Somali Committee is one vital component of the overall strategy to scale-up humanitarian operations in response to drought and food crisis in the Somali Region. The Special Committee has developed an action plan for the coordinated delivery of emergency humanitarian relief on the basis of plans devised by the health and nutrition,

## United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

emergency water and sanitation and agriculture and livestock Task Forces. The priority is now to translate these plans into tangible action on the ground and to support all humanitarian actors to deliver much-needed assistance to vulnerable groups as soon as possible.

### Sectoral Updates

#### **Health and Nutrition**

##### **Key Issues**

As emergency response programmes expand on the ground, the number of children accessing treatment for Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) continues to rise in Oromiya and SNNP Regions. According to the Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (ENCU), the prevalence rate of moderate malnutrition is rising in Afar, Amhara and Tigray however high SAM caseloads have not been reported to date. Extreme drought, livestock death and food insecurity have contributed to a deteriorating nutritional situation in Afar and Somali Regions however the lack of assessment data has frustrated efforts to estimate the full scale of the crisis in these regions.

##### **Response**

***Training of Health Extension Workers:*** The training of Health Extension Workers (HEWs) to facilitate the decentralisation of OTP care continues with the support of UNICEF, WHO and NGO partners. The training of HEWs has been completed in Sidama, Gedeo, Gurage and Hadya zones and Alaba, Derashe, Konso and Burji special districts in SNNPR. Reports collected from 31 hot spot woredas indicate that 176 health post supervisors and 1,552 health extension workers were trained in the management of SAM to roll-out Out-Patient Treatment (OTP) to the health post level. Training for all health extension workers in the remaining 21 OTP roll-out woredas was completed between the 29<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> July. In Oromiya Region, the training of 98 trainers is completed. The trainers delivered training sessions to 181 health extension workers and the training of an additional 700 HEWs will be completed in the first week of August.

***Emergency Relief Supplies:*** Emergency relief supplies to support nutrition interventions have arrived in-country and will be dispatched by UNICEF to the affected regions. The table overleaf indicates the commodity, quantity and customs status of each delivery.

## United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Date of Arrival	Commodity and Qty	Customs Status
22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2008	16.8 mt of F75 therapeutic milk	Cleared
23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2008	19.5 mt of F100 therapeutic milk 33.6 mt of F75 therapeutic milk	Awaiting clearance
24 <sup>th</sup> July 2008	168.2 mt of Plumpy'nut	Cleared
30 <sup>th</sup> July 2008	75.4 mt of BP100	Awaiting clearance
31 <sup>st</sup> July 2008	6.6 mt Plumpy'nut	Cleared
4 <sup>th</sup> August 2008	75.1 mt of BP100	Awaiting clearance

**Dispatch of Emergency Relief Supplies:** Emergency Drug Kits (EDK) have been dispatched by UNICEF to regions affected by health and nutrition emergencies and will support response to the needs of approximately 62,500 people over a three month period. The following regions received EDKs: SNNPR (21 kits), Oromiya (20 kits) and Afar (4 kits). In addition to EDKs, the following emergency relief supplies have been dispatched by UNICEF to Afar, Oromiya, SNNP and Somali Regions between the 28<sup>th</sup> July and 1<sup>st</sup> August 2008.

Commodity	Region
71 mt of Plumpy'nut	SNNPR
3 mt of Plumpy'nut	Afar Region
205 kg of F57 therapeutic milk	Somali Region
50 kg of F75 therapeutic milk	Afar Region
26 kg of F75 therapeutic milk	Oromiya Region

### Gaps and Requirements

The shortage of resources to support supplementary feeding programmes in each and every hotspot woreda continues to remain a critical challenge in the overall response to the nutrition crisis. Humanitarian partners are managing existing caseloads of SAM but children who return home where there is not enough food face a significant risk of relapse.

## United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

ENCU continues to stress the need to conduct nutrition surveys and assessments in Afar Region to confirm and estimate the scale of the nutrition crisis. To date little is still known regarding the nutritional situation in Somali Region.

### **Food Aid**

#### **Key Issues**

Pipeline breaks for all relief and PSNP commodities are immediate. WFP continues to seek ways to fill its current resource shortfalls.

#### **Response**

As part of the joint UNICEF/WFP Emergency Nutrition Response Plan, ad hoc screening and subsequent TSF response in 11 woredas in Oromiya are being negotiated with government counterparts. UNICEF and WFP are pushing for ad hoc screening in 24 woredas in SNNPR. The dispatch of TSF for 11 woredas in Amhara and Oromiya regions following ad-hoc screenings by the Ministry of Health and clearance by UNICEF and ENCU is about to commence.

**Relief:** in the Somali Region 1,025,030 beneficiaries have been allocated 43,029 mt, out of which 30,446 mt have been dispatched since January 2008. In SNNPR from January 2008 to date, 1,332,010 beneficiaries have been allocated 74,261 mt, out of which 57,464 mt have been dispatched. In Oromiya region, from January 2008 to date, 1,088,537 beneficiaries have been allocated 35,034 mt, out of which 19,647 mt have been dispatched. Afar, Amhara, Benshangul Gumuz, Gambella and Tigray regions: from January 2008 to date, 970,021 beneficiaries have been allocated 27,359 mt, out of which 12,313 mt have been dispatched.

**PSNP:** The dispatch of the July 2008 allocation of mixed food commodities is still pending due to transport arrangements. During the reporting week, transport arrangements for Afar were completed.

**Targeted Supplementary Feeding:** Between the 16<sup>th</sup> and the 31<sup>st</sup> of July 2008, an amount of 3,096 mt of blended food and oil has been dispatched to 111,138 beneficiaries under the TSF programme in Amhara, Oromiya and SNNPR.

#### **Gaps and Requirements**

The total 2008 shortfall for relief, PSNP and TSF programmes amounts to 230,300 mt (including US\$ Working Capital Fund 40.6 million).

## United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

**Relief:** Total annual requirements for 4.6 million beneficiaries amount to 591,333 mt of mixed commodities. The food shortfall comes to 109,000 mt, however the funding shortfall, due to extensive borrowing, comes to the equivalent of some 145,500 mt valued at USD 117.5 million.

**Productive Safety Net Programme:** WFP shortfalls for the PSNP amount to 68,000 mt of cereals valued at US\$54 million.

**Targeted Supplementary Feeding** has a current shortfall of physical commodities of 11,000 mt until the end of 2008. In addition, some USD 4.6 million equivalent to 5,200 mt of food needs to be repaid. The total shortfall therefore amounts to some 16,800 mt valued at US\$17.4 million. On the 4th August, Germany confirmed a contribution of US\$ 7.7 million which will be programmed for procurement of blended food, oil and supplementary Plumpy. This will significantly reduce the TSF shortfall.

### **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene**

#### **Key Issues**

Acute water shortages and Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) continue to pose major threats to the health of communities living in drought-affected regions. WHO continue to receive reports of Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) cases in Amhara and Oromiya Regions. Health and WASH partners are working to manage existing AWD caseload and prevent further outbreaks in areas where the health and nutrition status of communities has already been compromised by the food security crisis.

- **Afar:** Critical water shortage has been reported in Teru woreda. The arrival of the rains in some parts of the region has prompted the Regional Water Bureau (RWB) to halt water tankering in Kori, Bedu and Elidar woredas and redirect supply to Teru.
- **Somali:** Prolonged drought conditions have generated acute water needs for communities in Somali Region. Partners working on the ground report that many of the traditional water sources have dried up leaving communities dependant on pumped supplies and water tankering interventions. The price of fuel continues to rise and is in short supply in many woredas leaving people unable to purchase fuel required to operate pumps and boreholes. The WASH sector has identified 46 hotspot woredas that require water tankering interventions and estimates that approximately 140 trucks are required for three months (August to October) period. 15 of the total number of hotspot woredas are not covered by existing and proposed interventions.

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- **Oromiya:** Lowland areas of Bale and Borena zones continue to report severe water shortages. The RWB, with support from UNICEF, is providing water tankering to communities in Dawe Serer, Dawe Kechen, Meda Welabo and Rayitu woredas of Bale zone. The RWB has a team to undertake deep water well drilling in Borena. Water tankering interventions have yet to begin in Borena zone.

### **Response**

The WASH task force is programming funds allocated by the Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) to deliver water and sanitation services to CTC (OTP/SC) to support nutrition interventions. Government and humanitarian partners continue water tankering interventions to areas suffering from acute water shortages. A joint Federal Ministry of Health, Federal Ministry of Water Resources, WHO and UNICEF team traveled to the affected zones of Amhara and Oromiya Regions to assess the AWD outbreak.

### **Gaps and Requirements**

The shortage of clean water, poor sanitation practices and lack of drugs and treatment supplies are contributing to the spread of AWD. Chemicals for water purification and treatment remain a critical gap hindering efforts to contain the further spread of AWD. WASH partners report that rising fuel prices and shortages are posing significant challenges for water tankering interventions and operation of pumps and boreholes in the drought-affected woredas of Somali Region.

### **Agriculture and Livestock**

#### **Key Issues**

Good rains have been received in many of the regions affected by the drought however communities living in drought-affected regions continue to struggle with food insecurity. Livestock loss continues to be reported and the outbreak of armyworm has yielded significant damage to crops in affected regions.

#### **Response**

**Assessments:** FAO conducted an assessment of livestock and crops in the Ogaden area and observed lack of pasture, severe emaciation of cattle and camel are in weak condition. No animal disease outbreak has been reported to date but widespread animal death reported in Shinile. FAO predicts the failure of sorghum crops in the Ogaden and observed that immature crop is being used as fodder for animals. Serious drought and high food security reported in Biru, Elidar, Kori

## **United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs**

and Teru woredas of the region. FAO report chronic food insecurity among pastoralists in Gewane, Burimoditu and some parts of Ambiara woredas in Zone 3.

***Emergency Seed Distribution:*** The distribution of seeds and sweet potato cuttings by GOAL and World Vision is close to completion in SNNPR. FAO has distributed all emergency seeds, except from wheat seed which is being cleaned, to beneficiaries in SNNPR. In Oromiya Region, CARE, Christian Aid and CRS have distributed seeds to beneficiaries. FAO, with support from OFDA and the Royal Norwegian Government, has placed an order for seeds for joint distribution with World Vision. The order for seeds has been placed and distribution will commence shortly.

***Training:*** FAO conducted a workshop on Emergency Seed Guidelines for a range of stakeholders. 39 Community Animal Health Workers (CAHW) have received refresher training in Lare district, Gambella with the support of ACCORD.

***Coordination:*** In addition to continued coordination support to operational partners on the ground in drought-affected regions, FAO and partners are establishing an Agriculture Task Force in Gambella.

### **Gaps and Requirements**

Commercial and slaughter destocking interventions are required to preserve core breeding stock. FAO and partners continue to advocate for the incorporation of early recovery interventions into the overall humanitarian response to the crisis.

**United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs**

**Humanitarian Meeting Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Location and Time</b>
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> August 2008	Oromiya Regional Emergency Nutrition, Health and Food Security Task Force meeting	Oromiya Regional Health Bureau, 10.00.
	Special Committee on the Somali Region	DPPA, 15.00 (Invitation Only).
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> August 2008		
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> August 2008	Health Partners Forum	WHO Conference Room, 14.30.
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> August 2008	Humanitarian Coordination Meeting	UNDP Conference Hall, E.C.A. 10.00.
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> August 2008	Safety and Security Meeting	UNDSS Office, 09.30.
	AWD WASH Working Group	Ministry of Health, 10.00 TBC.

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

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**Editorial Note:** The information in this document is based on reports and field information from a variety of sources including UN agencies, NGOs and government partners as well as the different coordination forums.