

Relief Food Needs to Increase Substantially--Food Appeal to be Launched

WFP reports that relief food needs from September to December will increase substantially from the levels forecast in July. The number of people requiring food assistance will remain relatively high even during the harvest period. In addition to cereals, supplementary food, mainly fortified blended food, is urgently needed. Requirements will be updated in the DPPC/UN Joint Flash Food Appeal that is currently being prepared and expected for issue by end next week and soon after officially launched.

West Hararghe: Assessment Team Dispatched and ENCU to Conduct Nutritional Survey

An assessment team that consists of members from DPPC, WFP, UNICEF, WHO and CARE is to be dispatched Saturday, 14 September, to West Hararghe to conduct a general assessment of the situation on the ground and to plan operational interventions. Additionally, the Emergency Nutritional Coordination Unit (ENCU) at the DPPC announced that a team would also be traveling to West Hararghe early next week to conduct a nutritional survey.

CARE Ready to Support Expansion of Activities in East and West Hararghe

CARE is active in many woredas of East and West Hararghe. In response to the deteriorating malnutrition situation in the two zones, CARE is ready to support an expansion of their activities to meet increasing requirements. Although CARE secured US\$50,000 for the local purchase of Famix for the zones, the needs are obviously much greater for cereals and supplementary food than what is currently available. However, CARE requires additional funding to support these interventions.

Malnutrition Worrying in North Gonder Zone, Amhara

This week SC-UK published nutrition survey findings in West Belessa wereda of North Gonder zone that was undertaken in July 2002. Accordingly, a prevalence of global acute malnutrition of 13.0% indicates a serious situation according to internationally recommended norms (WHO 2000). The overall nutritional situation related to health, food security and other aggravating factors also indicate that the current situation is very serious and that there is a need for immediate intervention. WFP/DPPC is dispatching around 270mts of sorghum to this wereda.

Number of Livestock Deaths being reported in Afar, Somali and Oromiya

Cattle continue dying in Afar and parts of Somali and Oromiya regions. So far, livestock deaths in Afar reported by the zonal veterinary experts and the Bureau of Agriculture (BoA) are estimated to be about 492,435 (14%), while cattle deaths specifically are estimated to be as high as 44.4%. Particularly affected are Zone 3 (25% livestock deaths) and 5 (20% livestock deaths) in Afar Region, Fentale Woreda in Oromiya Region (20% livestock deaths), and Shinille and Fik Zones in Somali Region (no estimates available). In the eastern part of Tigray and in the lowlands of Amhara, cattle deaths are also taking on serious nature, which, in addition to the livestock production loss, heavily constrains crop production.

Gaps in Livestock Interventions

In the livestock emergency coordination meeting in Assaita, regional and zonal officials as well as NGO/UN staff clearly identified crucial gaps in current interventions (also supported by the Technical Task Force on Agriculture and Livestock at federal level). There is a need for veterinary field equipment to support the MoA animal health campaign in Afar and Somali, and for livestock feed. Up till now, livestock feed interventions have not taken place, although the need is extremely high. Water trucking is also essential and although NGOs as well as MoA are working in this area, it is not meeting all needs in these regions. Also required is a de-stocking program in areas where natural resources are overstretched.

Brewery Waste Possible Source of Immediate Fodder

FAO reports that there is feed available in Mojo at a reasonable cost that would be available immediately to address the current need for fodder. Additionally, brewery waste is a possible source of inexpensive animal feed which was used effectively in previous emergency situations in the country. Unfortunately, donors are not responding to livestock and agriculture proposals despite the direct linkage between human and animal health. FAO urges the involvement of donors in these initiatives.

UNICEF Funds Support Drought Affected

UNICEF announced that it has received US\$ 314,918 from the Hong Kong National Committee as a response to the DPPC/UN Joint Flash Appeal for health activities in Afar and Somali regions. In addition, previous funds amounting to US\$ 1 million from the Government of Japan will be channeled to the Ministry of Water Resources to support drought-affected areas.