



CURRENT RAINFALL SITUATION

Conditions continue to deteriorate in drought-hit Somali Region with the situation in some districts considered a near-emergency as detailed in the latest DPPB/SCUK Early Warning Project Report. This situation has been compounded by the fact that some areas have not received food for three months such as in Degehabur, due to a number of factors. DPPC/WFP food interventions have now stepped up and as of 21 September, about 25 percent of food allocated in August had been sent to the very seriously affected Dagahbur zone, with the rest expected to be sent in the immediate future. Relief food is also being sent to other zones based on the mid-year assessment. Brief rains in Liben zone are seen as precursors to the "deyr" rains expected in October, but any delay in the rains will have very serious consequences for the entire region. Elsewhere, main season rains are continuing in the parts of the south and east of the country that normally receive "Meher" or "Kiremt" rains, but appear to have ceased in the north of the country. In Tigray region areas of concern are Alamata and Raya Azebo districts in Southern zone, most areas of Eastern zone and the eastern part of Central zone. Eastern low-lying districts of Amhara Region, in North and South Wollo zones bordering Afar region, have not received sufficient rain and thus crop conditions are poor, but crops in most of highland and mid-land Amhara Region are reported to be doing well. In the south of the country, rains continue in parts of Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR), with good rain reported in Hadiya, Gurage, Kambata-Tembaro zones, although no recent rain has been received in Konso zone. In Oromiya region, some recent rain has also reported in the pastoral zones of Borena and Guji. Though it is too early to determine whether serious drought conditions in these areas will be affected. Rain has recently shown improvement in the highlands of East and West Hararghe. Food aid distributions continue in these zones but the malnutrition rate is increasing in several parts of West Hararghe, where there are still problems providing supplementary food and properly targeting pregnant and nursing women and malnourished children.

NGO REPORTS RECEIVED ON DETERIORATING SITUATION IN SOMALI REGION

Hope for Horn (HFH) which has been providing emergency water and fodder in the Warder, Degehabur, and Boh Zones since 2 August reports the situation is alarming and further action needs to be taken. HFH is calling for the supplementary feeding programs, provisions for water tankering and fodder, and school feeding programs. hfh2000@telecom.net.et. The NGO Ogaden Welfare Development Association (OWDA) which is working in the Degehabur Zone, reports that because of the drought around 115,000 people are in a critical situation. Many people are depending on famine and bush foods. A further 190,000 will be at risk by the end of December if sufficient rains are not received in October/November. Of particular concern are the 11,500 IDPs who reside in Gunagado and Aware towns from the previous years crisis, who are without food or livelihood due to the drought. owda@telecom.net.et

DPPB PREPARES EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN TO COVER SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2004

The Somali Region's Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Bureau (DPPB) is working on a **Emergency Multi-Sectoral Response Plan** for September to December 2004. The plan will offer a summary of the situation, humanitarian activities, resources presently available, and gaps that need to be filled in order to mount an effective response and planning in the region.

EAST WELLEGA ZONE: RESETTLEMENT

There are concerns for the humanitarian and relief operations in resettlement sites in East Wellega which have been inaccessible for several months due to rain. Though food is badly needed, the East Wellega DPPD says it does not know if the distribution of supplementary foods will be continued beyond September. WFP will be discussing this issue with DPPC and Oromiya regional authorities. More than 9,500 resettlers in Daba in Wama Bonaya Woreda, Meta and Badhassa in Jimma Arjo Woreda and Sonkora and Rifenti in Limu Woreda are of concern. These sites are 20-45 km off road and remain totally inaccessible. Furthermore, the sites in Jimma Arjo Woreda are extremely swampy areas and the resettlers will have to be moved. The DPPD also reports that some people in Horro Woreda were washed away in a flood last week following heavy rain. ocha-eth@un.org