



# Ethiopian Early Warning System

Monthly Report: December 2004

24 JANUARY 2005

## AREAS OF PRIORITY ACTION

### Death of Livestock and Critical Water Shortage in Afar

The food security situation in most parts of Afar Region has already become worrisome. It is indeed alarming in some of these areas, where deaths of livestock and critical water shortage have been reported. The problem could get worse as the long dry season progresses.

The next rain is expected in April /May 2005. Thus until then and even after depending on condition of the rain, in addition to the on-going relief food distribution and water tankering (in some water deficit areas), provision of emergency water and feed support may be required in most affected areas. Strict follow-up of the worst affected areas is highly required.

### Sporadic Adverse Weather Condition Experienced

Adverse weather condition involving frost, heavy winds and cold air were reportedly experienced in some woredas of Arsi and Alemaya and Kombolcha woredas of East Hararghe zones of Oromiya. The NMSA bulletin also supports this occurrence of bad weather. The report indicates that high lands of western, eastern and central Oromiya, southern and north eastern Amhara and southern Tigray showed extreme minimum air temperature that was below 5 degree celcius during the month. This event has negatively affected growth of perennial and some other crops.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Some Woredas in Fik and Warder Zones are the Most Affected

Duhun, Garbo and Segeg woredas in Fik Zone and Geladin woreda in warder zone are reported to be the most affected areas in terms of water and pasture availability and livestock production in Somali Region. [More](#)

### Untimely Rains Damaged Crop

Untimely rains experienced in Amhara, Oromiya, SNNPR, and Tigray (Endamehoni woreda) regions had damaging impacts on ripe crops in the field. [More](#).

### NMSA Outlook Indicates Normal to Above Normal Rainfall.

The monthly agro-meteorological bulletin of NMSA indicated that normal to above normal rainfall is probable over eastern Tigray, eastern Amhara, Afar, central and eastern Oromiya, northern Somali and eastern SNNPR in January. [More](#)

Early Warning System Monthly Report is prepared by the Early Warning Department of the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC) to coordinate and disseminate early warning and food security information.





## Malnutrition

Reports circulating during the month of December point out signs of malnutrition and food shortage in few woredas of East Hararghe zone, Oromiya Region . As a result a number of people were forced to migrate to towns and neighboring woredas in search of food and daily labor. Shortage of supplementary food and relief distribution in some resettlement areas of West Wellega and Jima zones in Oromiya region, Malgano and surrounding areas in Sidama Zone of SNNPR was reported at the end of November 2004.

Based on the request from the Oromiya DPPC seven nutrition surveys were conducted during October and November in four woredas of West Hararghe and three woredas of East Hararghe zones of Oromiya region by the Federal and Oromiya DPPC in collaboration with CARE-Ethiopia. In addition, nutrition surveys were conducted in Daro Lebu woreda of West Hararghe Zone of Oromiya by GOAL-Ethiopia and by SC-UK, in Cherati, Dollo-Bay, and Dollo-Ado and West-Emey woredas of Liban zones, of Somali Region. The results of each survey was indicated in table 1 below

Table 1: Nutrition Survey Result.

| Zone           | W oredas   | GAM (%) | SAM (%) | Mortality Rate |          | Date of Survey |
|----------------|--|---------|---------|----------------|----------|----------------|
|                |  |         |         | CMR (%)        | U5MR (%) |                |
| West Hararghe  | Chio   | 7.2     | 0.4     | 0.11           | 0.3      | Oct04-Nov.2004 |
|                | Mieso  | 9.6     | 1.4     | 0.26           | 0.6      | Oct04-Nov.2004 |
|                | Kuni   | 7.9     | 0.6     | 0.29           | 0.5      | Oct04-Nov.2004 |
|                | Guba Kortha  | 7.1     | 0.9     | 0.34           | 0.6      | Oct04-Nov.2004 |
|                | Daro Lebu  | 8.30    | 0.80    | 0.55           | 1.29     | Oct04-Nov.2004 |
| East Hararghe  | Kurfa Cheb   | 4.7     | 0.5     | 0.12           | 0.2      | Oct04-Nov.2004 |
|                | Gawa   | 5.9     | 0.6     | 0.15           | 0.5      | Oct04-Nov.2004 |
|                | Bedeno   | 8.5     | 0.5     | 0.3            | 0.6      | Oct04-Nov.2004 |
| Afdier & Liben | Agro-Pastoral areas of Cherati, Dollo-Ado, Dollo-Bay & W/Emi | 17.7    | 1.3     | 0.57           | 2.07     | October 2004   |
|                | Pastoral areas of Cherati, Dollo-Ado, Dollo-Bay & W-Emey     | 17.6    | 1.7     | 0.65           | 3.22     | October 2004   |

NOTE:  
 GAM=GLOBAL ACUTE MALNUTRITION  
 SAM = SEVERE ACUTE MALNUTRITION  
 CMR= CRUDE MORTALITY RATE  
 U5MR=UNDR FIVE MORTALITY RATE



## Food Security

According to DPPC emergency nutrition assessment guide line the GAM result for four woredas in West Hararghe and three woredas in East Hararghe are below 10% based on -2 Z score weight for height and / or oedema. However, considering some aggravating factors reported in these woredas, the food security situation was classified as poor.

On the other hand, results of nutrition surveys conducted in agro-pastoral and pastoral areas of Chereti, Dolo-Ado, Dolobai and West-Emi woredas of Afder and Liben Zones of Somali Region indicates high prevalence of GAM, which is 17.7 and 17.6 for agro-pastoral and pastoral areas respectively. The Under 5 Mortality rate are also considered as serious (2-4 deaths/10 thousand/ day in emergency situation). The situation has been reportedly exacerbated by some aggravating factors in both areas. According to DPPC classification of malnutrition based on weight for height Z-Score, GAM results obtained in the above areas of Somali Region are considered to be critical.

Therefore, to address the effects of malnutrition, it requires timely distribution of general ration (including supplementary food) as per the needy population indicated in 2005 appeal.

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# Disaster Occurrence

## Human Health

Except minor incidences of diseases in some parts of the country, human health situation is reported to be stable. In Bedele woreda of Illubabor zone, Oromiya region occurrence of malaria outbreak was reported in November 2004. However, it was possible to arrest the outbreak due to control measure taken by concerned bodies. There was also a report from the lowland areas of South Omo zone in SNNPR showing malaria outbreak.

There were reported cases of contagious diseases in Grar Jarso and Este woredas of North Showa and South Gondar zone in Amhara region, respectively.

Incidence of malaria was also reported in the lowland areas of South Omo of SNNPR.

Other than the above, measure problems with regard to health has not been reported.

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# Weather Conditions

## Weather Performance

Usually, in the month of December most parts of the country remain cold and dry, except southwestern parts, lowland of South Omo, southern strips of Borena and southern half of Somali region. As per the field reports of different regions, areas that received shower and moderate rainfall during the month were highland areas of South Omo, most areas of Keffa, Gedeo zones and Amaro, Derashe and Burji special woredas of SNNPR; Arsi, Bale, East and West Wellega, some areas of Jimma, East and West Hararghe zones of Oromiya, East Gojam, South and North wollo, and South Gonder of Amhara. The remaining parts of the country had no or little rainfall during the month.

Complementing the regional telephone reports, the monthly agro-meteorological bulletin of NMSA indicated that, during the first dekad of December 2004, eastern parts of southern and pocket areas of central and western Oromiya, parts of southern Amhara, pocket areas of eastern Benishangul-Gumuz, pocket areas of northern Somali, western half of SNNPR as well as southeastern Gambela received normal to above normal rainfall while most parts of the country experienced below normal rainfall. On the other hand, during the second dekad of December 2004 dry weather condition prevailed all over the country. During the third dekad of December 2004, most parts of SNNPR, parts of eastern, western and southeastern Oromiya, eastern Amhara as well as parts of southwestern Somali experienced normal to above normal rainfall while the rest portions of the country were under below normal rainfall.

Similarly, the 10 daily RFE imageries show that most parts of SNNPR and some parts of central Oromiya and southern Amhara had rainfall that ranged from 5-50mm in each dekad. The remaining parts were under dry condition as usual (see the maps across).

## Adverse Weather Condition

Frost, heavy winds and cold air were reportedly experienced in some woredas of Arsi, Alemaya and Kombolcha woredas of East Hararghe zones of Oromiya. The NMSA bulletin also supports this report. It indicates that, highlands of western, eastern and central Oromiya, Southern and North eastern Amhara and Southern Tigray showed extreme minimum air temperature (below 5 Degree centigrade) during the month. This situation had a negative impact on growth of perennial and some other crops. There were also heavy falls accompanied with hailstorm over west Wellega (Shambu, Dembi Dolo) zone of Oromiya region and some areas of North Gonder (Chilga) zone of Amhara region.

## Weather Outlook for the Month of January

The monthly agro-meteorological bulletin of NMSA also indicates that normal to above normal rainfall is probable over eastern Tigray, eastern Amhara, Afar, central and eastern Oromiya, northern Somali and eastern SNNPR in January. On the contrary, normal dry weather condition would be dominant for the rest of the country.

## 10 daily Current RFE Images for the Month of December 2004



Dec 1-10



Dec 11-20



Dec 21-31

### RFE Legend



~ Zone Boundary



# Crop Performance

## Agricultural Activities and Crop Performance

Most farmers in the country are normally engaged in harvesting and threshing their Meher crops during the month of December. As usual, these activities were underway in most parts of the country except in Tigray region (excluding southern zone) where harvesting was already accomplished.

Some crops like teff and pulses were in ripening stages mainly in West Wellega, highlands of Arsi and Bale zones of Oromiya; Gedeo, South Omo Sidama Zones and Konso and Burji special woredas of SNNPR; Awi zone of Amhara. Most parts of Eastern Amhara and Oromiya regions and some low-lying areas of SNNPR have reported that some crop types like sorghum are being threshed.

Moreover, construction of cultural and modern types of irrigation schemes were reported from North Showa zone of Amhara. According to the report, a total of 21,098 hectares of land was planned to be irrigated. Out of this, 5338.7 hectares were prepared of which 1080.2 hectares of land has already been planted.

In North Showa, North and South Wollo zones of Amhara region and Wolayita zone of SNNPR land preparation for Belg crops is also underway. Particularly in North Showa, the total coverage of prepared land has been raised to 63.5% of their plan. In addition, planting of Belg crops and sweet potato has already been started in Oromiya Zone of Amhara and Wolayita zone of SNNPR, respectively.

### Incidence of Crop Damage

The untimely rains experienced in Amhara, Oromiya, SNNPR, and in Endamehoni woreda of Tigray regional states had damaging impacts on ripe crops in the field. However, there were no reports of quantitative crop losses.

### Crop Disease and Pest Situation

- African Bollworm and unidentified worm as yet have created damage to crops mainly pulses in Derashe and Burji special woredas of SNNPR.
- Quella Quella bird in Kallu woreda of South Wello Zone of Amhara damaged 75% of crops on 45 hectares.
- The monthly locust report of FAO indicated that no survey was undertaken and no locusts were reported during the month of December. No significant developments of locust breeding are likely in January 2005.

### Crop Performance and Production Prospect

According to NMSA bulletin, during the first dekad of December, the observed normal to above normal rainfall over western Oromiya, Eastern and Western Hararghe, parts of southern Amhara negatively affected the on going harvest and post harvest activities of seasonal crops. The hailstorm in west Wellega zone of Oromiya region and some areas of North Gonder zone of Amhara region resulted in crop damage on mature crops. The frost and cold air condition had also negative impact on growth of perennial crops and some other seasonal crops, which are not yet harvested.

Land preparation for Belg crops is underway in North Showa, North and South Wollo zones of Amhara region and Wolayita zone of SNNPR

Observed normal to above normal rainfall affected the on going harvest and post harvest activities of seasonal crops in some areas.

No significant developments of locust breeding are likely in January 2005.



# Livestock Condition

## Livestock Condition in Cropping Areas

The overall livestock condition in most parts of the country is favorable due to the improved pasture and water availability. Except for some areas, the 2004 meher rains were generally good in many parts of the country. However, some places experienced inadequate rainfall during the season. This situation resulted in poor water and pasture availability and weak condition of livestock. The areas affected include lowlands of East and West Hararghe and East Shoa zones of Oromiya; and Eastern, Southern and Central zones of Tigray Regions. The lowlands of these areas received inadequate rains during last meher season, which was the major cause for serious shortages of pasture and water in many of these areas.

The most affected woredas include Raya Azebo, Hintalo Wajirat, Enderta and Kola Samre in Southern Tigray, Kurfachelle, Grawa, Meyu and Babile woredas in East Hararghe and Jida, Adamitulu, kombolcha, Fentale and Boset woredas in East shoa zones. The problem was reported to be very critical in Southern Tigray where livestock from 5 kebeles of Hintalo Wajirat woreda have started moving to bordering mountainous areas of Zone 2 in Afar Region seeking for pasture and water. However, current situation in most areas of zone 2 itself is reported to be poor due to the failure of 2004 Sugum and Karema rains. Thus, close follow-up of the situation is very essential.



Pasture and water condition is reported to be very critical in Southern Tigray where livestock from 5 kebeles of Hintalo Wajirat woreda have started moving to bordering mountainous areas of Zone 2 in Afar Region

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# Situation in Pastoral Areas

## Afar Region

According to the recent seasonal assessment findings, except for zone 3 and parts of zone 5, "Sugum" and "Karema" rains in 2004 were generally poor in most parts of the Region. The short rains locally known as "Dedea" (3-5 days of showers expected between November and December) were also reported to have been total failure. Because of this, the availability of water in many parts of the Region have become worrisome. The problem is said to be very critical in Dallol, parts of Erebti and Berhale woredas of zone 2, Yallo and Teru woredas of zone 4, parts of Erebti and Dubti woredas of zone 1 and Semurobi wereda (Kummame town) of zone 5.

In zone 4, it was reported that the food security situation in Ewa, Awura and Teru weredas has become critical. Livestock physical condition was said to be very weak and emaciated in many areas of the zone and death of cattle has already started in Golina, Awura and Ewa weredas. According to recent regional reports, herders from Ewa and Awura weredas have started moving their cattle to cheffa areas in Kemise zone of Amhara Region in search of pasture and water. The route of migration this time is reported to be very unusual. A number of livestock from different parts of the zone reported to have moved to bordering areas of Amhara Region (Kobo and Hara areas) abnormally earlier than normal (May/2004).

The situation in zone 2 is more or less similar to that of zone 4. Livestock physical condition remains poor in most parts of the zone and a number of goats were reported to have died in Koneba, Berhale and Dalol weredas during the time of report (December 2004) due to drought and drought related diseases such as CCPP. Cattle death was also reported in Megale and Abaala weredas.

The most affected weredas in zone 1 are Chifera, Mille, Dubti and Elidar weredas where critical water shortage and death of cattle was reported. Like zone 4, livestock from these weredas have also unusually migrated to cheffa areas.

In general, the food security situation in the above noted 3 zones have already become worrisome and alarming in some areas, where deaths of livestock and critical water shortage have been reported. The problem is feared to get worse as the long dry season progresses. The next rainy season is expected in April /May 2005. Thus, in addition to the on-going relief food distribution and water tankering (in some water deficit areas), provision of emergency water and feed support may be required in most affected areas. Strict follow-up of the most affected areas is highly required..

Zone 3 and parts of zone 5, on the other hand, are reported to be relatively better in terms of amount of rains received in the last season and availability of water and pasture.



Rains were generally poor in most parts of the Region. Zone 2, Zone 4 and parts of Zone 1 were severely affected.

Zone 3 and parts of zone 5 are reported to be relatively better in terms of amount of rains received in the last season and availability of water and pasture.



# Situation in Pastoral Areas

## Somali Region

According to regional DPPB report, the food security situation in some areas of the Region is still poor due to poor to below average rainfall condition in both seasons of Gu and Deyr rains in 2004. These include Duhun, Garbo and Segeg weredas in Fik zone, Gashamo and parts of Aware in Degahabur zone, Geladin in Warder Zone, Sheygosh in Korahe zone, Denan and East Emi and agro-pastoral and riverine areas of Kelafo, Ferfer and Mustahil in Gode zone, Hudet in Liban zone, West Imi in Afder zone and southern parts of Harshin in Jijiga zone and Dembel and Ayisha in Shinile zone. Due to poor performance of 2004 Gu rains and insufficient Deyr rains, shortage of pasture and water remain critical in most parts of the above noted weredas.

Crops in the agro-pastoral and riverine areas of Gode zone were reported to have largely failed due to inadequate rains in both seasons. Availability of water both for livestock and human consumption has become very critical in chronic water deficit areas like Gudis (East Imi), Todob (Adale) and Denan weredas. Similarly, West Imi of Afder zone also faced with poor food security condition.

West Imi and Gashamo weredas had very poor rainfall condition during last Gu season, which according to the regional report caused a number of deaths of cattle during last Hagaya season (the dry season from July–September/2004). Currently there are no reports of cattle death from Gashamo woreda, but the food security situation remains poor.

In Degahabur zone, Gashamo and Aware are most affected weredas. Pasture development and water supplies is poor. Livestock that migrated to Danot and other areas in search of pasture and water have not yet returned to their place of origin.

According to the regional report, Duhun, Garbo and Segeg weredas in Fik Zone and Geladin woreda in warder Zone are reported to be the most affected areas in terms of water and pasture availability and livestock production, due to consecutive years of below average rainfall, failure of 2004 Gu rains and inadequate rains during last Deyr season.

In addition to this, the situation in Geladin woreda is more exacerbated by huge influx of livestock into the woreda from Somalia in 2003 short dry season, which is putting additional pressure on the available little resources.

The availability of water and pasture in Ayisha and Dembel weredas in Shinile zone has also become worrying. Livestock from Ayisha woreda have already moved to Aware woreda of Jijiga zone unusually early (i.e. early November).



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# Situation in Pastoral Areas

The food security situation in many parts of the above noted woredas is, in general, could deteriorate considerably in the forthcoming long dry season. Some chronic water deficit areas are likely to require water tankering during dry season. Thus, close follow-up of the situation in the respective woredas is highly required.

## **Borena and Bale Lowlands (Oromiya Region)**

Shortage of water and pasture has been reported from most lowlands of Bale zone and Teltele and Dire woredas of Borena zone. Even then there have been no reports of unusual migration or animal disease outbreak during the reporting period, except for the endemic diseases such as blackleg in Seweina wereda of Bale zone. Crops are now at harvesting and ripening stages in the highlands and lowlands of both zones.

## **South Omo Zone ( SNNPR)**

Most areas in South Omo are reported to have received somewhat good rains between end of October and November. According to the regional report, the rains improved the availability of water and pasture in most woredas of the zone. Ponds have contained adequate water and pastures have started regenerating. Because of the improved condition, livestock have started returning into their respective woredas from the areas where they previously migrated.

With regard to animal disease outbreaks, there have been no reports at epidemic level, but the endemic diseases such as pastrolosis on cattle and goats were reported from 3 kebeles of Selamago woreda.

Shortage of water and pasture has been reported from most lowlands of Bale zone and Teltele and Dire woredas of Borena zone

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