



Ethiopian Early Warning System

Monthly Report : March 2006

18 April 2006

H I G H L I G H T S

A R E A S O F P R I O R I T Y A C T I O N

Assessment Team Dispatched to Mareka and Tocha

A team of experts has been dispatched to assess the overall food security situation in Mareka and Tocha woredas of Dawro Zone in the SNNP Region in response to request made by the regional Food Security Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Office. In a related mission the team is expected to conduct nutrition survey in order to assess the level of malnutrition with children under 5. The two woredas are understood to be the badly affected ones with respect to food security situation among the five woredas of the zone.

Rapid Assessment Conducted on IDPs

A rapid assessment was conducted in order to look into the overall situation of IDPs located in Meisso and Doba woredas of West Hararghe and Gorogutu Woreda of East Hararghe zones of Oromiya Region. According to the preliminary findings of the team the situation of these IDPs is reported to be very poor. They lack shelter and food. Cases of malnutrition were observed on their children. Therefore, unless some forms of rehabilitation program is undertaken, the problem of the IDPs would likely get worse.

Localities in Affar Region Engulfed by Flood

Four localities identified as Beyahile, Ayirolefa and Gebelayitu, Debel Halabele and Detbahiri in Dubti Woreda of Zone 1 of Affar Region were engulfed by Awash River flood on April 7, 2006, the Regional Early Warning Department reported. In this flood occurrence caused by heavy rain upland, flood protection dyke was broken at two spots; a school, flour mill and a clinic including its drugs were damaged. Food items kept by WFP for school feeding program was also damaged as indicated by the Department.

In response to the request, a team of experts were dispatched to the affected area to make rapid assessment. Accordingly, the team visited localities identified to be worst affected and made assessment beside the information it gathered from the area. As per the information it got, overall 9,000 people were affected. In order to assist them the DPPA urgently dispatched 60 cartons of supplementary food and 4 cartons of plastic sheets and the Regional DPPAs well as Food Security in collaboration with UNICEF and WFP supplied various household utensils, mosquito nets, biscuits etc. Generally, the supply by the DPPA and Regional government has helped effectively control the situation.

Situation in Borena Zone

Rapid assessment was conducted in Borena Zone during 16 - 25 March 2006 mainly to look into the overall food security situation; evaluate the on going relief activities; verify the assessment made by different agencies; identify need gaps, problems and propose mitigation action in each woredas under review.

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Weather Performance

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Agricultural Activities in Progress

Land preparation for Belg season was almost complete in the SNNP Region and sowing of Belg crops was in progress. Belg crops were at different phenological stages while maize was at early vegetative growth in Wolayita Zone. In Derashe and Burji special woredas farmers were sowing and some crops were at seedling stage.

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Early Warning System Monthly Report is prepared by the Early Warning



Department of the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency (DPPA) to coordinate and disseminate early warning and food security information.



Disaster Occurrence

Rapid Assessment Conducted on Situation in Borena Zone

Based on request made by Oromiya Region rapid assessment was conducted in Borena Zone during 16 - 25 March 2006 mainly to look into the overall food security situation; evaluate the on going relief activities; verify the assessment made by different agencies; identify need gaps, problems and propose mitigation action in each woreda under review. To this effect, woredas visited were Moyale, Yabello, Miyo, Dugda Dawa, Dire, Bule Hora, Teltele, Gelana, Arero and Abaya. There were field visits to at least three most affected kebeles in each woreda except Teltele and Abaya where only desk reviews were made with woreda officials. Findings of the assessment show critical situation in the zone under different issues.

Pasture, Water and Livestock Condition

The recurrent drought and failure of recent Hagaya rain (September-November) resulted in serious pasture and water shortages in the zone. At present, the situation is very critical in Moyale, Miyo, Dire and partly Arero, Yabello and Teltele woredas where the current Ganna rain (Mid-March-May) was also late, uneven in distribution and in some parts totally absent. A relatively better performance of the rain was observed in Bule Hora, Gelana, Abaya, partially Yabello and Teltele woredas even though contribution of the Genna rain is very minimal to replenish pasture and water.

Physical condition of livestock especially cattle was very weak. There had been massive migration of animals especially from the most affected woredas to relatively better areas. Influx of animals and competing over the scarce resources was not limited from a woreda to the other but also from Kenya, Somalia and neighboring woredas of Somali Region. Considerable livestock death mainly cattle was observed. Death of the animals was expected to increase since the animals were too weak to resist the coming cold weather. The people were also expressing their concern about the increasing incidence of different diseases like Trypanosomiasis, CCPP, Foot and Mouth disease.

Human Health Condition

Diarrhoea and other water-borne diseases were reported to be the major concerns in all visited woredas. There was a great fear of an outbreak of malaria in Moyale, Miyo, Dire, Arero, and part of Teltele and the lowland kebeles of Yabello, Gelana and Abaya woredas. Besides, the capacity of the sector officers at woreda and zone to provide treatment and take control measures for endemic and epidemic diseases was very weak both in terms of manpower and logistics. Nutrition surveys conducted recently (Jan./ February 2006) indicate serious level of malnutrition in Dire and Moyale and poor in Teltele woredas in accordance with the National Nutrition Guideline.

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Disaster Occurrence

Representatives from International Medical Corps (IMC) and CARE Borena field office, however, indicated that they identified about 650 cases of moderately malnourished people and 65 severely malnourished children from Dire and Miyo woredas. In response, IMC started Community-based Therapeutic Care (CTC) programs in Miyo and Dire woredas. The assessment team, however, did not observe or receive reports about signs of malnutrition with children and other vulnerable groups of the society. Moderately and severely malnourished people identified in the EOS/CSI program did not receive any kind of assistance during the assessment period.

Current Interventions (in food, water, seed veterinary service)

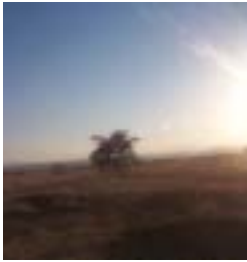
A total of 124,171 needy people (155,000 emergency and 124,171 taken under the safety net programme) have been under assistance. The first and second round allocation of relief food had been distributed as of January 2006 and recently the March allocation was arriving at most distribution sites. The response in addressing the food and water need was indicated to be far better than previous times of similar crisis such as that of 1984.

The team observed that people travel long distances to get relief food and in some of the woredas the beneficiaries reported that they were forced to pay transport fee. There were problems in selection of appropriate distribution sites, closely monitoring the activity and find solutions timely. The assessment team realized from its observation in all the visited woredas and from the discussion with concerned zonal officials that weak coordination and management affected appropriate implementation of relief operation.

With respect to water supply, ponds, shallow wells and other traditional water sources almost dried up and led to severe scarcity of water. Apparently, water rationing was in progress in Miyo, Moyale, Dire, Teltele, Arero and Yabello woredas using 2, 4, 4, 1, 2 and 1 water tankering trucks respectively at least during the assessment period. Some water supply schemes developed were not functional and needed maintenance. The water rationing somehow addressed the drinking water problem for human consumption. Most of the trucks travel long distances to deliver water from water points. A total of 13 rotos were supplied in Moyale and Miyo woredas. As per the report from the zone officials Pastoral Community Development Project covered the fuel expenses for water rationing programme. There were interruptions of the programmes because of budget constraint and other technical matters.

CARE had been providing feed (grass and straw) and other related interventions which benefit the community like establishing slaughter slab and dry meat preparation, training on animal product, cleaning of carcass, recovering animal skin and in commercial de-stocking. FAO provided essential veterinary drugs to five woredas (Miyo, Moyale, Dire, Teltele and Arero) with the help of which about 20% cattle population within each woreda could be treated. The programme is

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Disaster Occurrence

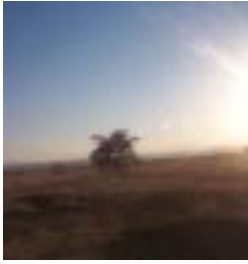
implemented in collaboration with CARE and Oromiya Pasroral Development Community (OPaDC). Ethiopian Red Cross Society also provided seeds of maize and haricot bean as well as hand tools for about 1,555 households in Moyale Woreda. LVIA provided wheat reject and molasses adequate for 700 cattle in 3 kebeles of Moyale Woreda. In Dire Woreda, PCDP and UNICEF provided 1,800 sachet of veterinary medicines and 5 water tankers, respectively. In Dire Woreda, PCDP and UNICEF provided 1,800 sachet of veterinary medicines and 5 water tankers, respectively.

Impact of Cross Border Migration

There is no accurate data on the number of migrant people and livestock in the zone that migrated from Kenya and Somalia. Reports indicate that the influx of livestock (predominantly cattle) is from Somali Region (Hudet woreda), Northern Kenya and Somalia. Reports from Arero Woreda alone indicate that about 90,000 animals (mainly cattle) had come to the area from within the zone or otherwise and exerted massive competition on the existing pasture and water resources. In order to cope with the existing shortage of feed, pastoralists are forced to penetrate protected forest areas and collect live tree branches with leaves. It was reported that for the first time there was conflict among the Borena people themselves on water sources indicating the severity of the problem. The influx of animals also brought livestock diseases such as Lumpy Skin Disease and Babesiosis (protozoan disease).

Estimates of Emergency Needs from April - June 2006

Oromiya Region requested to include additional 297,000 needy people as of April 2006 on top of the existing identified 279,171 beneficiaries. Evaluation and verification of food and non-food needs was made considering the situation into two scenarios. Scenario one is if the Genna (main rain) performs well and is on time; and scenario 2 is if the Genna rain is not on time, generally poor in performance and the situation worsens. As per the assessment finding, out of the requested additional beneficiaries only 64,436 people are found to be eligible.



Weather Conditions

Weather Performance

There was shortage of moisture over most parts of Belg growing areas of the country during the first ten days (dekad) of March 2006 while central Tigray, northeastern SNNP and parts of southeastern Oromya received normal to above normal rainfall as per the NMA Agromet Bulletin. And yet there were areas in northern Somali, Southern Afar, Eastern Amhara and some localities in central Oromiya and SNNP that had below normal rainfall during the first dekad of the month. (See the maps for the details). With regard to extreme maximum temperature during this period, Meiso, Dire Dawa, Metehara, Semera, Limu Genet, Assayta, Gode, Dubti, Mankush, Metema and Gambela recorded extreme maximum temperature ranging from 35.2 up to 42.30C.

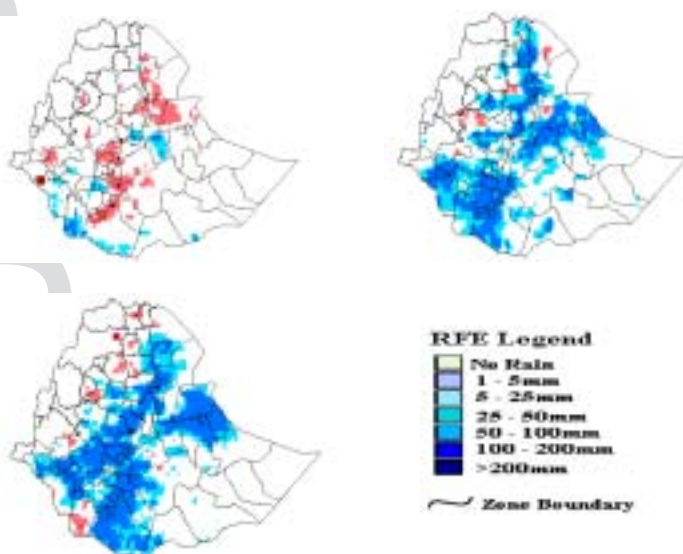
During the second dekad of the month there was above normal rainfall over most parts of the country with heavy fall ranging from 32-53 mm in some areas such as Sodo, Sawula, Debre Zeyit, Combolcha, Gelemso, Negelle, Nazret, Abomsa and Jinka. In general terms most parts of the country received falls in 5-7 rainy days. Areas such as Metema, Pawe, Assayta, Gode and Semera were reported having extreme maximum air temperature ranging from 38.5 up to 42°C during the second dekad of the month.

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Current RFE images for the month of March 2006

RFE Difference images for the month of March 2006



Weather performance in the regions is presented below based on reports received from each region.



Weather Conditions

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A. Amhara Region

Most parts of Amahara Region had no rain during the first week of March, according to the regional weekly report. The condition improved during second week of the month in that most parts of the region received better rainfall. For instance, South Gonder (Farta, Simada and Lay Gaint woredas), North Gonder (Janamor woreda), East Gojjam (Machakel, Debay Tilat Gen, Awabel, Gozamen and Debre Elyase woredas), Agew Awi Zone (Dega areas of Banja, Ankaash and Fageta Lokoma woredas) South Wello and Wag Hemra (Kalu, Ambasel, Tenta, Debre Sina, Worebabu, Albuko, Dessie Zuria and Kelala, Sayint, Leg Ambo, Woreillu and Mekedela woredas) zones received rain during the week. Generally, most parts of the region received better rain during the second week.

The rainfall condition further improved in most parts of the region during the third week of the month similar to the previous week. South Gonder, East Gojam and Dega areas of North Shewa zones received better rain while kola areas of the zone had little shower. All woredas of North Wello Zone received medium to poor amount of rain during the week. In Wag Hemra Zone little shower of rain was observed.

During the fourth week most areas of Dega and Woina Dega parts North Shewa Zone received good rain with the exception of Berehet Woreda while in Kola areas the distribution was uneven and the amount was below normal. In Oromiya Zone all woredas received good rain in the same period. Particularly, Tenta, Albuko, Dessie Zuria, Legambo, Jama, Tehuledere and Wereillu woredas had good rain whereas Kalu, Ambasel, Debre Sina, Worebabo, Albuko, Kelela, Sayint, Kutaber, Wegdi and Mekedela woredas had good rains with sufficient amount. In North Wello Zone Delanta and Gubalafto woredas received good rain although Wadla, Meket, Kobo, Gidan, Habru and Bugna woredas had partial rainfall. Wag hemra Zone had erratic rain during the week.

B. Oromiya

Most parts Oromiya Region had no rain during the first week of March with exception of some pocket areas of West Shewa and Jimma zones, which received some shower. Unusual high temperature was observed in most kola areas of Moyale, Imi, and Teltele of Borena Zone. During the second week of the month Dega and Woina Dega areas of the region received rainfall for one to three days. East Shewa, Arsi, Illubabor, North Shewa and South West Shewa zones had received erratic and unevenly distributed rain during the third week of the month; other parts of the region had no rain. Better rainfall was received during forth week in all woredas of Jimma, South West Shewa and East Wellega and North Shewa zones while Arsi, East Hararghe and West Shewa zones had some shower but there was no rain during the week in Guji and West Hararghe zones.

RFE images for March 2006



March 1-10, 2006



March 11-20, 2006



March 21-31, 2006

RFE Difference Legend





Weather Conditions

C. SNNP Region

In Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Region Gedeo, Gamugofa (Dega and Woina Dega areas) Sidama (Arbegona), South Omo zones received some shower for one to two days during the first week of March 2006 but other parts of the region had no rain. Dega and Woina Dega areas of South Omo, Kembata Timbaro, Gedeo, Gamogofa, Wolayita, Silte, Hadiya and Gurage zones and Burji and Derashe special woredas received good rain during the second week. Good rainfall was received during the third week of the month in all woredas of Konso special woreda and Sidama Zone. Particularly, heavy rain accompanied with hailstorm was reported from Shebedino Woreda. Similarly, all woredas of Gurage Zone received good rain.

During the fourth week Alaba special woreda, Sidama and Silte zones had received rain while in Burji special woreda and Wolayita Zone the rainfall was erratic and unevenly distributed. There was no rain during the week in Kembata Tembaro and Konso special woredas.

D. Tigray

In Tigray Region South, East, Central and Northwestern zones received below normal rainfall during second and third week of the month.

E. Afar

In Afar Region Zone One (Awra and Asayita Woredas), Zone Four, Zone Five (Dalefagi) and Zone 3 (Amibara and Awash Fentale woredas) received some shower for two days during the third week of the month.



Agricultural Activities

A. Amhara

Some farmers started dry planting during the first week of March in Belg growing areas of Amhara Region. And then better rainfall started during second week of the month that created favorable condition to the farmers to continue the seasonal agricultural activities that had been interrupted due to shortage of rain. In the region 108,433 ha of land was covered with different Belg crops in Oromiya, South Wello, North Wello and North Shewa zones. This is 27%, 32%, 64% and 60% of the plan in the zones respectively.

In general, area coverage of crops was less than the normal and common planting time. Most crops were also delayed by almost one month in most areas due to poor performance of Belg rain. Besides, some farmers exercised dry planting as the result of which crops faced moisture stress and seedlings were weak implying poor performance. Moreover, most of Belg crops were at early vegetative, seedling and sowing stages in the region. In some areas where crops were planted early the crops had reached vegetative stage. Meher season land preparation was also in progress in some areas of the region.

Zone	Area ploughed (ha)	Area covered by seed (ha)
Oromiya	19,815	5,525 (27%)
South Wello	99,820	32,419 (32%)
North Wello	43,789	27,962 (64%)
North Shewa	70,615	42,527 (60%)

A. Oromiya Region

In West Wellega Zone areas that benefited from Bonie (cultivation using some sort of irrigation during dry season and in some other irrigated areas) sowing of crops was in progress. In Bale, North Shewa and Arsi zones land preparation for Belg crops had been going on and in some pocket areas sowing of seasonal crops had started even though the area covered by seed was very less when compared with the normal time due to the scarcity of the rain. Similarly, land preparation for long cycle crops was in progress in West Shewa, South West Shewa, Illubabor, East and West Hararghe and East Wellega zones of the region. In Belg growing areas the interrupted agricultural activities had been resumed from second week of March. Planting of Belg crops was delayed in most parts of Belg growing areas and farmers planted crops lately as compared with normal times. Early-planted Belg crops wilted owing to high evapo-transpiration in some pocket areas of Borena Zone due to unusual high temperature. Moreover, in kola areas of Northwest Shewa farmers had started planting of sorghum and millet.

B. SNNPR

Land preparation for Belg season was almost complete in the SNNP Region and sowing of Belg crops was in progress. Belg crops were at different phenological stages while maize was at early vegetative growth in Wolayita Zone. In Derashe and Burji special woredas farmers were sowing and some crops were at seedling stage. In Konso maize, sorghum, haricot bean were at seedling stage and Teff crops were at sowing and germinating. In general, the monthly rainfall condition did favor for Belg season agricultural activities. Land preparation for long cycle crops and sowing of maize was

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Agricultural Activities

ongoing in Silte and Sidama. In Gurage land preparation for long cycle crops was in progress in some Dega areas where as potato plantation was completed.

C. Tigray

In South Tigray sowing of Belg crops was delayed for one month due to shortage of rainfall.

Livestock Condition in Cropping Areas

Most Belg producing areas reported to have received rains in the 2nd half of March 2006 in general. These include Southern Tigray in Tigray, most belg benefiting areas in SNNPR, Oromiya and Amhara regions. The rain was said to have contributed to the improvement of pasture and water supplies in the above noted areas, except for some lowlands including Merti woreda of Arsi Zone, most lowland areas in East Shoa Zone, **Sawena** woreda of Bale Zone, Kimbibit Woreda of North Shoa Zone and most lowland areas of east Hararghe and west Hararghe zones of Oromiya Region where some shortages were reported. The likely occurrence of shortages of pasture and water was also reported from Habru Woreda of North Wello Zone (Amhara Region) as the result of the additional pressure created by the livestock that moved into the woreda from Afar Region.

With regard to animal health condition, there have been no reports of epidemics. But the endemic diseases like sheep pox in one locality in Wuchale Woreda of North Shoa Zone in Oromiya Region and pasteurolosis in DebreSina Woreda of South Wello Zone of Amhara Region were reported.

Desert Locust Traced in the Sudan

Low number of desert locust identified as solitarious adults persisted in the Tokar Delta of the Sudan during February 2006, according to Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO - EA) report as quoted from FAO DL Bulletin. The March 2006 issue of the organization further indicated that there were no further adults seen elsewhere along the Red Sea coastal plains.

The likely occurrence of shortages of pasture and water was reported from Habru woreda of North Wello Zone (Amhara Region) as the result of the additional pressure created by the livestock that moved into the woreda from Afar Region.



Situation in Pastoral Areas

Somali Region

The main rainy season locally known as the “Gu” in the southern seven zones of Somali Region such as Gode, Degahabur, Fik, Warder, Afder, Liben and Korahye normally falls between mid-March and end of May. The other zones (Jijiga and Shinile) expect rains locally known as the “Dira” during same period.

This year the Gu rains arrived early in some parts of the region. Light to heavy showers of rains of 3-5 days were received in many areas including most parts of Jijiga and Shinile zones in the 2nd and 3rd weeks of March 2006. These rains are reported to bring about some relief in water supply in some areas of Shinile and Jijiga. Similarly, some showers were also reported in areas bordering East Imi in Fik Zone (Gerbo, Hamero and Dihun woredas), Guradamole (Kersa Dula area) Woreda of Afder Zone in the 2nd week of March. In Liben Zone, Odet, Moyale and Filtu woredas received rains in the 1st and 2nd week of March. Some areas in Warder, Korahye and Degahabur were also reported to have received some sporadic rains during the 2nd week of March.

The situation in the most affected areas such as Gode, Afder and Liben zones, however, remains very critical. Water rationing is currently underway in most parts of these zones and a total of 54 water trucks are engaged in emergency water operation. The trucks were provided by Federal and Regional Governments, UNICEF and NGOs. Out of the 54 water trucks, 38 were deployed in Afder Zone, 12 in Liben Zone and 4 in Gode Zone. It is hoped that the water problem would be eased, if the current rain (Gu rain) continues as expected in the remaining period of the season i.e. April/2006 to May/June2006.

With regard to pasture, no significant improvements were reported, except for improvement of some browses (for camels and goats) in some areas where good rains were received. This includes areas in Shinile, Jijiga and some parts of Liben Zone. However, the availability of pasture for grazers (cattle and sheep) particularly in Afder, Liben and Gode zones remained very poor. The problem in some areas including Filtu and Odet woredas of Liben Zone was reported to have been more aggravated by large influx of livestock from Kenya. The condition in Filtu Woreda particularly in Melkahager, Welene and Lemun kebeles was reported to be very grave due to in-migrant livestock.

The condition of livestock in the region was still very weak particularly in Afder, Gode and Liben zones. Deaths of livestock had been reported from some parts of Afder, Liben and Gode zones due to shortages of water, pasture and diseases. Livestock diseases reported from the region include pasteurellosis, CCPP, CBPP, trypanosomosis, tick borne diseases and intrnal and external parasites. Provision of vaccines and treatments were underway in most affected areas.

With regard to human health, there were no reports at epidemic level. However, the endemic diseases such as diarrhea, malaria and pneumonia



Situation in Pastoral Areas

were reported in some pocket areas of the affected zones. Malnutrition with children was also reported from different parts of most affected zones. Provision of drugs and treatment was underway in most affected areas. Similarly, vaccination against measles was also provided to 20 most affected woredas during the reporting period.

Currently food distribution is underway in the affected areas. Even then the food security situation in the region is still below average and very poor in the most affected southern zones in particular. DPPA led multi-agency mission was reassessing the situation in Gode, Afder and Liben zones at the time this report was organized. Detailed report shall be released when the teams (3 teams) complete their assessments.

Note: Reports of light to heavy rains was received from different parts of Afder, Liben, Warder, Degahabur, Korahe, Jijiga and Shinile zones in the first week of April. These include Hargele, Chereti, Dolobay, Gorobokessa, Elkere and Bare woredas of Afder, Degahabur woreda of Degahabur zone Boh and Warder woredas of Warder Zone, Odet Woreda of Liben Zone.

Afar Region

The short rain in Afar Region locally known as the “Sugum” is normally expected between the months of April and May. Rains are not expected during March.

Water shortage is still critical in some parts of the region. These include Elidar and Dubti woredas in Zone 1, Berhale, Dalol and Erebiti woredas in Zone 2 and Teru and Yalo woredas in Zone 4. As per regional report, water tankering has not yet started in Berhale, Dalol, Erebiti and Teru woredas. Except Zone 3, movement of livestock due to shortage of pasture and water has been reported from different parts of the region. Livestock were reported to have moved to Cheffa areas of Oromiya Zone in Amhara Region from Mille and Chifra woredas of Zone 1, Ewa, Awura and Goilina woredas of Zone 4 and Dewe, Telalak and Dalifage woredas of Zone 5 in search of pasture and water. Similar movements have also been reported from the above noted woredas of Zone 5 and Zone 4 into Zone 3 and Alamata and Kobo woredas of North Wello Zone in Amhara Region respectively. Migration of livestock from Berhale, Dalol, Abaala and Megale woredas into bordering areas of Tigray Region have also been reported in March 2006. According to the regional report, shoats (sheep and goats) started dying in some areas in Berhale and Erebiti woredas of Zone 2 and Dewe and Telalak woredas of Zone 4 due to shortage of water and pasture. There were no reports of animal disease outbreaks (epidemics).

With regard to human, there were no reports of diseases at epidemic level. However, signs of mal-nutrition on children have been reported from some parts of Zone 2, Zone 4 and Dubti woreda of Zone1.

Food distribution was underway during the reporting period(under emergency relief and Safety net programs).



Situation in Pastoral Areas

Note: As per recent reports most parts of Zone 3, Mille, Dubti and Chifera woredas, partially in Zone 1, Berhale and Erebti woredas in Zone2, most woredas in Zone 4 and Zone 5 received 2-3 days of rains during the 1st week of April 2006 (2nd - 4th of April/2006).

Borena Lowlands (Oromiya Region)

The overall situation in Borena Zone of Oromiya Region has been treated under rapid assessment conducted during March as presented under Disaster Occurrence in this Monthly Report (Please refer to the report for details).

South Omo Zone (SNNPR)

There were no reports of water and pasture problem from South Omo Zone during the reporting period. Hamer, Kuraz and Selamago woredas were reported to have received continues rainfall during the 1st half of March.

DPPC