

**Minutes of the 18th Technical Information Management Exchange Forum (TIME) Meeting
July 17 10:00 hrs.
DPPC conference room**

Chairperson: Ato Getachew Tesfaye

Agenda

- Ministry of Health, Dr Solomon
- Agriculture Task Force, Ato Mathewos Hundie
- Food Task Force, Ato Belete Tilahun
- EFSR, Ato Getachew Tesfaye
- AOB

Health Task Force

Ato Solomon

Following discussions held at different meetings and seminars, the Ministry of Health (MoH), pointed out that nutrition problems should not only be seen as an emergency activity but also as a standard activity that needs to be performed regularly. To this end the Ministry has made the following four points that need to be considered;

- A. Distribution of sufficient supplementary food
- B. Establishment of Therapeutic Feeding Centers (TFC) where necessary.
- C. Establishment of day care and supplementary feeding programmes as a continuation phase of the TFCs.
- D. Equipping health facilities with basic nutrition materials including weigh scales and charts.

Rapid assessments planned

With the aim of fulfilling major activities that were not considered during the 2003 appeal process, plans are underway to conduct rapid assessments in four regions and eight selected woredas. To this end methods are developed to facilitate the collection of basic information. Additional information is also planned for collection from health bureaus, DPPB and NGO reports.

Health Kits to SNNPR

Ministry of Health (MoH) dispatched 21 Emergency Health Kits (EHK) to SNNPR in addition to the 32 kits already sent. Following a request from the region for anti malaria drugs, the Ministry informed the region to collect the drugs from PHARMID warehouse in Awassa.

Measles campaign

A measles campaign has been ongoing in Kembata Tembaro zone and Alaba special woreda of SNNPR since 11 June 2003. A total of 407,050 children are targeted for vaccination at a total cost of 465,000 birr.

Hadiya and Dawuro zones of SNNPR and Fik zone of Somali region were under preparation for the next round of measles vaccination.

Malaria

The Netherlands Embassy has agreed to purchase Quinine injections and to airlift them to affected areas to meet the injection shortage conveyed by the MoH. WHO and PASS of the MoH will organize the purchase order for injection, worth US\$ 37,000.

Agriculture Task Force

Ato Mathewos Hunde

Weather and agriculture update

Regular and widespread rains were reported in most Kiremt benefiting areas of the country during the last two weeks. Although localized, heavy rainfall that caused flash flooding were also reported from different parts of the country. However, the southeastern and southern low lying areas remained dry.

Weather conditions are reported to have encouraged farmers to finalize input provision and land preparation and to sow *Meher* crops without delay. Moreover, precipitation received during the two weeks has helped previously stressed crops to recover and the healthy crops water requirement to be fully met. As a result, the overall *Meher* crops performance are reported to be promising thus far. Moreover the rains in the last two weeks have helped in improving pasture and water conditions over most parts of the country.

Pest situation

Migratory pest outbreak

Outbreak of Armyworm was reported to have infested crops as well as grazing lands in central, northwestern and western zones of Tigray region and also Kuara and Tatch Armacheho woredas of North Gonder in Amhara region in the last two weeks. Control measures being taken are reported as efficient.

Non-migratory pest outbreak

Non-migratory pest outbreak was also reported from sorghum chaffer in East Amhara, Afar (Amibara and Argoba), and Doba woreda of West Hararghe zone of Oromiya region in the last two weeks. Traditional and modern control measures are underway.

No reports of livestock disease outbreaks were received in the last two weeks.

Update on emergency seed interventions:

Following the June 4, 2003 MoA's appeal for seeds for the current *Meher* planting season, an agreement was signed on June 12, 2003 between USAID and the government of Ethiopia for US\$ 4 million. USAID has advised the MoA to start the procurement and distribution of seeds as soon as possible using funds from the Ministry's own budget until USAID funds are made available.

The following table shows the beneficiary regions and the amount of money allocated for each region.

NO.	Beneficiary Region	Allocated amount, ETB
1	Amhara	14,107,586.3
2	Tigray	10,689,420.7
3	Oromiya	6,667,488.2
4	SNNP	1,976,599.3
5	Somali	468,776.0
6	Dire Dawa	40,129.6
Total		33,950,000

Moreover, following the June appeal, USAID/OFDA provided US\$ 3.3 million in emergency funding for *Meher* seeds for distribution by its NGOs partners including CRS, Save the Children-UK, CISP/REST, Oxfam GB and German Agro Action.

The MoA has also transferred 50 percent of each region's fund allocation to the regional agricultural bureau as an advance budget, following requests from beneficiary regions. Funds were borrowed from the National Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Fund.

In relation the MoA stated that as long as the planting window over most Kiremt rain benefiting area extends through October, the regional Agricultural Bureau and NGOs partners will likely finalize distribution of seeds to the beneficiaries on time.

Information received from beneficiary regions indicate that seed purchase and distribution is well underway.

Water Task Force

Ato Tamene Gossa

(Sent the following note to be included in the minutes)

Major Activities and Performance

Afar

Ministry of Water Resource (MoWR) reported that tankering operations are continuing in Elidar and Dubti woredas of zone one; Teru woreda of zone four and Semu Robi Wored of zone five.

Shortage of water and water tankering needs are also reported from monitoring centers in Guden Kebele of Berhale woreda and in Yalo woreda of Afar region.

Tigray

Rehabilitation of 18 shallow wells is completed in Tsegede, Atsbi Wenberta and Wukro woredas, with funds received from UNICEF.

SNNP

WHO funded rehabilitation and maintenance of 175 deep wells, and 122 shallow wells are completed and are made functional. In addition, preparation work is finalized to rehabilitate 43 springs in drought-affected areas.

World Vision is engaged in tankering operations in Boricha/Sidama zone.

Harari

Detailed survey and assessment work on rehabilitating water schemes on sites in Harari region is underway. The schemes are supported by WHO. Moreover in support of emergency drilling activities in Harari, transfer of budget is expected to be finalized by UNICEF.

Dire Dawa

Rehabilitation of non-functional water schemes have started in Dire Dawa with financial support obtained from WHO.

Budget Proposal for Resettlement Areas

Amhara and Oromiya National Regional States have submitted proposals for Emergency Water Requirements in their resettlement areas. Consequently, selection of priority areas is currently being carried out by the regions to be submitted to the Government for financial support.

The resettlement zones in the region are North Gondar zone in Amhara Region and Bale, Jimma, Illubabour, East Wellega and West Wellega zones in Oromiya region.

Relief food Dispatch Status

Ato Belete

Dispatch for June distribution

DPPC reported that 99% of its share for June distribution is delivered and 98% of prepositioning is accomplished. They also reported that except for JEOP members who have accomplished 85% on the average, other partnering agencies have fully accomplished their deliveries.

CARE is reported to be behind schedule with only 50% uplift accomplished; consequently beneficiaries in CARE's operational woredas have faced food shortages.

Allocation for July

About 167,000 MT of cereals were allocated for July distribution at 15 Kg ration rate. Of the total allocation, 53% is by the DPPC and the balance by partnering agencies.

The Commission has already dispatched 30%, 28% and 29% of the requirements for SNNP, Afar and Tigray regions respectively.

DPPC reminded meeting participants that July and August are among the most critical months and requested its partners to accelerate delivery of both cereals and supplementary food allocated for June and also for July.

EFSR

Ato Getachew

Stock at hand	31,158 MT
Under withdrawal	158,455 MT
Outstanding loan	215,431 MT

Ato Getachew reported that stock to be repaid before end of July stands at 134,300 MT, and food at the Port of Djibouti expected to be sent to the Reserve in July and August stands at 185,000 MT and 107,000 MT respectively.

Reporting that delivery status for September is not available, Ato Getachew urged donors and humanitarian agencies to provide information to the DPPC and EFSRA on their delivery status.

AOB

Logistic Update

DPPC logistic Department head Ato Tadesse Bekele reported that due to congestion at the Port of Djibouti, the government has sub-contracted 100 defense trucks with the capacity of 4,000 MT, facilitating the uplifting of 6,000 to 9,000 MT of deliveries daily. Moreover warehouses in Djibouti are rented to store deliveries uplifted from the vessels.

A meeting held between the private agencies and the Government had decided that the uplift should be done by more than one private company as one company may not have the capacity to uplift and transport such a high amount of deliveries. He said it is to this end that the Government sub-contracted its defense trucks. On secondary level uplifts i.e. from warehouses to the destination sites, Ato Tadesse reported that private agencies working on the uplift are performing smoothly.

In response to a request on the update of EU deliveries, the department stated that EU vessels stuck at the Port of Djibouti would probably remain there for about a month because EU unlifting arrangements had some problems.

Current situation

It was reported that assessment teams that came back from various regions would give a debriefing on July 18 at DPPC.

Seed Provision

In line with the government seed supply program, Arsi zone of Oromiya region are receiving seed support in spite of a report received by DPPC regarding critical shortage of seed in Dikisis wereda. FAO is reported to be one of the major partners that have allocated a good amount of seed for distribution for *Meher* planting.

UNMIX

It was commented that UNMIX sent by UNICEF to various zones to be distributed by NGOs is not yet distributed to the beneficiaries. It was stated that it is meaningless if it is not distributed to the needy on time.

WFP

WFP reported that 99% of food needs are fulfilled from the total appeal and a nearly 150,000 MT possible carry over, could be available if the *Belg* assessment does not suggest higher beneficiary figures.

Following remarks that the potential carry over and delivery accomplishment might be due to delay in deliveries and exaggerated affected population figures in the appeal, WFP responded by saying that the numbers were not exaggerated and it was due rather to the reduced ration rate from 15 Kg to 12.5 Kg as well as delays at the beginning of the year in some places and that retroactive aid cannot be received.

TFC Update

WFP congratulated UNICEF for informative and updated TFC updates. WFP also stated that in its emergency coordinating activities in SNNPR the EUE should distribute the SNNPR charts (calendar of events that includes workshops, seminars, missions etc.) to enable humanitarian agencies, donors and NGOs to identify and fill gaps.

WFP reported that it is planning to open a sub-office in Awassa to work closely with UNICEF and other NGOs in feeding programs and other emergencies activities that may arise.

The next TIME meeting will take place on July 31, 2003.

Attendance by more partners is expected.