

Minutes

Technical Information Management Exchange (Time) Forum 12th Meeting Thursday April 3, 2003 10:00 hrs DPPC

Briefing on the Current Situation by EW

Ato Teshome Erkineh, Early Warning Department Head, Tel. 15 82 36

The Early Warning Department gave brief update on the current Belg season's likely indications and condition of the drought in different parts of the country. Mixed outcome of recent rains, that is, the advantages in land preparation during December-January and the fear of undesirable tendency expected because of interruption of the rains was reported.

In Belg producing areas of southern Tigray, particularly in Alamata and Offla Woredas, the farmers used the rains even for planting crops. If the rains continue as expected there would be the likelihood of good produce in these woredas. But in some of the Belg producing areas of the region there are indications of interruptions of the rains implying dismal prospect. In Amhara Region, too, except Oromiya zone, Belg production prospect has optimistic picture. Oromiya zone of Amhara Region have planted well during the recent rains.

Oromiya Region also has some major Belg producing areas. However, in many areas such as North Shoa and Bale the rains have been low. On the other hand, if the current rainfall situation continues in Arsi as well as East and West Hararghe zones, planting will not be very late.

In the Southern Region there is a mixed picture. Farmers carried out planting in December but the rains discontinued resulting in the disruption of the entire process of cultivation. In some lowland areas of Wolayta earlier planted crops were lost due to moisture shortage while lately planted crops

are at early stage of development. The rainfall in the highland part of the region has been late.

Generally, Belg performance should not be wrongly understood as performing well because circumstances might be unfavorable if rains discontinue.

Health Task Force

Ato Zegeye Haile, Tel. 15 99 78

Ato Zegeye presented reports of activities of the Task Force during the last 2 weeks. He noted, among other things, the prevalence of meningitis in Afar for which vaccines and medicines were sent. He also said that 10 million capsules of vitamin A were sent to the region. Unfortunately, the full report has not been incorporated into this minutes because Ato Zegeye was away from office and could not provide detailed information

Agriculture Task Force

Dr. Temesgen Alemu, Tel. 51 03 05 or Ato Mathewos Hunde Tel. 62 69 72

Report on livestock sub-sector and crop sub-sector was presented as follows. Under livestock sub-sector, issues on animal health, disease outbreak and pasture and water was treated while under the latter, crop pest occurrence and emergency support requirement was presented.

Livestock sub-sector

Regarding animal health, although shortages of veterinary drugs and vaccines was reported from some regions, provision of the service has continued in drought-affected areas. Purchase of antibiotic using the Government allocated budget is underway. And since award has already been given to the identified potential supplier, it is hoped that it shall be delivered to the concerned districts through the regional MoA offices within 3-4 weeks.

As to the disease outbreak, there was no report of any from drought affected areas in the last weeks. In relation to pasture and water, the situation in Afar and Shinile has deteriorated during which no significant rainfall was recorded. In other parts of the country slight improvement has been seen particularly in water availability and shrubs to small ruminants and camels following short rains. But it has been hardly sufficient for cattle during the period.

Crop sub-Sector

The short rain seems relatively promising and necessary for agricultural activities particularly in the north, northeastern and central parts of the country. The crop status is good in areas that planted earlier and where the rain is still available.

Regarding crop pest occurrence, although nothing of it was recorded during the last 2 weeks, intensive surveillance work has been underway particularly in the southern part of the country following reports of army worm incident in Tanzania.

With respect to emergency support requirement, emergency seed purchase and supply has been underway in most parts of the country with over Birr 5 million Government allocated funds and the left over resources from the long rainy season. The non-Governmental organizations, too, obviously support in emergency seed supply. The following are some of those strongly involved in the sector.

- World vision supplied 6,447 quintals to Oromiya
- World Vision supplied 3,666 quintals to SNNPR
- Save the children UK provided 10,310 quintals to Eastern Hararghe zone of Oromiya and South Wollo Zone of Amhara Regions.
- Norwegian Church Aid provided 5,274 quintals to SNNPR
- " " " " 650 " to Oromiya
- " " " allocated huge resource to Amhara Region.

During the discussion a question was raised about details of purchase of seeds by regions including points like which region has exactly purchased so far. Dr. Temesgen responded that although purchase is underway by regions, there was no available data on details. So, it was suggested to be an assignment for him to come up with the information next time.

CARE said they are involved in seed purchase but they are not in the list presented by Agriculture Task Force. They added that CARE provided 400 MT of seed to be distributed to East and West Hararghe zones.

It was also indicated by the WFP that FAO is engaged with seed distribution in Oromiya and Amhara Regions under emergency seed distribution programme. The organization is preparing to distribute seed to Tigray, it was added.

Water Task Force

*Ato Tamene Gossa, Programme Coordinator, MoWR
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The chairperson of the Task Force, Ato Tamene Gossa, couldn't present the report to the meeting because of poor health and the report he sent arrived after the meeting was over. The report is presented as follows in order to keep the information flow uninterrupted. The report is composed of status of ongoing activities and response to the Appeal as indicated below.

1. Status of Ongoing Activities

1.1 Water Tankering

Water tankering has been in progress in Afar, Somali (Shinile and Jijiga), Oromiya (West Hararghe, Bale and East Shoa), and SNNP Regions. The tankering has been undertaken by MSF Holland in Mena Angetu and Fentale of Bale and East Shoa zones respectively. In Sidama zone of SNNPR the tankering has been done by ICRC. Water tankering was planned for affected areas in Arsi zone but still not operational for lack of trucks. On the other hand, water shortage has been reported from 6 Woredas of East Hararghe, which includes Gollo Oda, Fedis, Babile, and Kersa.

1.2 Maintenance of Water schemes

Maintenance/rehabilitation of existing water schemes, which are not yet functional are in good progress in most parts of drought affected regions particularly in Amhara and Oromiya (West and East Hararghe zones).

1.3 New Schemes Development

Development of new water schemes has been underway mainly in the SNNPR. Besides, some progress has been reported from Tigray, Afar, Amhara and Harari Regions. On the other hand, one drilling rig which had been in operation in West Hararghe zone is out of use because of breakage. Problems identification attempt is being taken in order to repair it.

2. Response to the Appeal

In addition to the ongoing emergency interventions estimated at a cost of over 40 million Birr, an initial response was given by the Government and World Health Organization to support prioritized emergency maintenance interventions.

(Details are provided in the following table)

Financial Status of Emergency Water Supply Plans Submitted to National Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Committee

No.	Region	Maintenance/Rehabilitation		Tankering	Secured/Promised Budget (Birr)
		Planned Budget (Birr)	Secured/Promised Budget (Birr)		
1	Tigray	2,058,000	2,058,000	-	-
2	Afar	2,336,426	2,336,426	2,880,000	
3	Amhara	748,000	748,000	-	-

4	Oromiya	640,000	640,000	1,410,880	-
5	Somali	1,656,050	1,656,050	1,007,500	-
6	SNNP	2,240,000	2,240,000	-	-
7	Gambella	330,750	330,750	-	-
8	Harari	283,180	283,180	270,000	-
9	Dire Dawa	115,000	115,000	-	-
10	Total	10,407,406	10,407,406	5,568,380	15,975,786
Budget Source		Federal Government	8,468,255	Secured mainly for maintenance	
		World Health Org.	4,811,325	Under negotiation	
11	Total Secured + Promised		13,279,580		
12	Gap		2,696,206		
13	Ireland Embassy wishes to support emergency interventions in Tigray and SNNPR.				
14	UNICEF and Regional Water Bureaux are under negotiation to Reprogramme EFY 1995 Regular Resources to Emergency Projects.				

We would like to note that the gap indicated in the table is only reflective of the priority requirements but not that of overall requirement indicated in the appeal document, which is approximately USD 15 million for water sector alone.

Food Allocation and Delivery

Ato Mesfin Shiferaw, Relief Coordination Team Leader, Tel.15 23 95.

The Total March allocation was 128,544.05 MT (62,435 MT DPPC and 66,109.05 MT by NGOs). Out of the share of the DPPC, more than 95% has been transported. NGOs have transported 61% of their share. April requirement is 137,818 MT.

During the discussion it was indicated that the demand for increased emergency relief has been coming in from different areas of the SNNP, Tigray, Oromiya, Somali etc. In the SNNPR the situation around Awassa, Boricha, Humbo, Damot Woyde and Sodo Zuria is deteriorating demanding

Careful assessment and quick intervention. In spite of continued supply many regions have also requested for more.

Concerning the reported delay in aid food distribution with NGOs, CARE said they accomplished 100% distribution in East Hararghe and 88% in West Hararghe. But they noted that they had experienced some delay in getting letter of guarantee last month.

Regarding the issue of overlap in NGOs intervention, it was raised during the discussion that the Ethiopian Red Cross Society and Food for the Hungry International (FHI) are both operating in Ambassel Woreda of North Wollo zone. It was then suggested that the two should discuss it with Ato Mesfin later in the day.

Pledges and Deliveries

*Dr. Deborah Hicks, Emergency Officer, WFP
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Shipping for March was 116,600 MT while 158,800 MT and 32,000 MT is expected during April and May respectively. For June, 56,100 MT is confirmed.

The port is in a good operational capacity without congestion and delay to ships. Even if there could be a tendency of such inconvenience, there is storage facility in the area.

Regarding oil requirement, the next official document on requirement will be having statement on vegetable oil.

Stock Status of EFSRA (2 April 2003)

Stock at hand	86,841.88 MT
Under withdrawal	44,510.00 MT
Outstanding loan	273,652.00 MT

Out of the outstanding loan 41,900 is being repaid by WFP against UK contribution.

Any Other Business (AOB) of the Agenda Item

Members of the National Fund Raising Committee comprising the Government, religious leaders CRDA, CETU are reported to have gone to SNNPR to observe the current emergency situation in Sidama Zone.

The next TIME Meeting will be on 24 April 2003.