

**Minutes of the 20th Technical Information Management Exchange Forum (TIME) Meeting
August 14 10:00 hrs.
DPPC conference room**

Chairperson: Ato Getachew Tesfaye

Agenda

- Health Task Force
- Agriculture Task Force, Ato Hussine Kebede
- Food Task Force, Ato Belete Tilahun
- EFSR, Ato Getachew Tesfaye
- AOB

Health Task Force

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

Activities done by the FMOH concerning the drought (August 1-14, 2003)

Health task force meeting

The fortnightly Health Response Task Force meeting held at the FMOH on August 13 discussed the following issues;

- The current malaria situation in the country and the preparation by the FMOH and the concerned regions.
- Methods of distributing Emergency Health Kits (EHK) and other supplies to the targeted areas on time and in sufficient amounts;
- Ways of strengthening the regions' documentation skills and reporting systems; and
- Activities being carried out in the Supplementary and Therapeutic Feeding Centers.

Malaria

In the Crisis Management Committee meeting held at the FDPPC, the MoH reported its activities concerning drought related health/nutrition problems. The Ministry also reported that outbreak of malaria in Bako Tibe, Jeldu and Midako Kagne woredas of West Showa was under control with support from the Regional Health Bureau.

Appeal

The 2003 Appeal Update (for the period of August-December 30, 2003) is currently being prepared by FMOH, WHO and UNICEF, with inputs from stakeholders. The draft will be finalized by the end of this week. The shortfalls were identified in the following areas;

- a. Emergency Health Kits
- b. Drug distribution, monitoring and supervision
- c. Epidemic investigation, control and surveillance
- d. Malaria epidemic prevention and control
- e. Rapid assessment for 2004 appeal
- f. Technical support and capacity building

Delegation

WHO high level delegation led by Dr. David Numboro visited the FMOH and met with the Dr Kebede Tadesse, Ministry of MoH, and other high ranking officials. Dr. Kebede briefed the team on activities related to drought, including;

- Responses for requests of medical supplies, especially Emergency Health Kits.
- Malaria prevention and control
- Supplementary and therapeutic feeding programmes
- The FMOH's support to regions, particularly with regards to sending physicians.

- Integrated diseases surveillance and response
- HIV/AIDS

Donation

OFDA - Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance has donated USD 1.6 million, out of which USD 700,000 is earmarked for the purchase of anti-malaria drugs. The drugs will be bought through UNICEF and are expected to arrive in the country on 18 August 2003. The Irish Government is also in the process of donating 2.5 million Birr to be used by the MoH for anti-malaria medicine to be distributed to drought hit areas.

TFCs in SNNPR

MoH reported that malnourished children are being treated in a number of Therapeutic Feeding Centers (TFC) in SNNPR supported by UNICEF and other agencies.

Admissions to date	2360
Treated and discharged	1506
Transferred	86
Defaulted	87
Presently being treated	681

Agriculture Task Force

Ato Hussien Kebede

Weather and agriculture update

Sufficient and normal distribution of rainfall was reported in most Kiremt benefiting areas of the country during the last two weeks. However heavy rainfalls caused erosion and hail caused damage to crops in the highland areas of North and South Gondar, Awi, East Gojam/Enarj Enawga/, in Oromiya region- North Shoa, in SNNPR- Shashigo, Duna and Soro woredas in Hadiya zone, Angacha woreda in Kembata Tembaro zone and Sodo woreda in Gurage zone. On the other hand dry spell continued in the Southeastern and Southern low lying areas, favoring harvesting activities of Belg crops in areas such as Konso special Woreda.

Reports from different regions indicate that the overall weather conditions in most Kiremt benefiting areas of the country has been favoring the on going agricultural activities. Farmers are being encouraged to finalize land preparation and planting of short-cycle crops on time. Furthermore, the good precipitation received during the past two weeks has created more favorable conditions for normal growth and development of crops at different growth stages.

Even though there are no reports of critical rain shortage, particularly in Kiremt benefiting areas of the country, some areas of Eastern Tigray (lowland areas of Raya Azebo, Gulo Mekeda, some parts of Wukro and Erob), lowland woredas of East Hararghe (Gola Oda, Babile and Kurfa Chele) and in Amhara lowland areas of Beyeda and Lay Gayint woredas in North and South Gondar zones have received small rains for two to three days with uneven distribution throughout.

Pest situation

Migratory pest outbreak

It is reported that outbreak of armyworm in different parts of the country during the last two months is successfully controlled. In addition, outbreak of Quelea Quelea bird has been reported from SNNPR (Konso, Derashe) and Oromiya region (Teltele). About 11.5 million of Quelea Quelea population has been reported in 500 ha of roosting sites. Control measures are underway.

The Ministry reported that currently it is focusing on assessment and control of regular pests.

Non- migratory pest

Sorghum chaffer in Amhara, Tigray, Oromiya, Dire Dawa, Afar and Somali regions has so far infested 43645 ha. Although at this time the pest is not critical for crop damage, control measures are underway to reduce the pest population that could become hazardous for September. Accordingly, in Amhara, Dire Dawa and Oromiya regions about 240 kg of Sevin 85% W.P has been utilized to disinfect an area of 13,329 ha. Out of the 102,530 traps set during the control operation, approximately 561 quintals of pest were collected. Effective control measure is underway using traditional and modern control methods.

No reports are received during the past two weeks on the outbreak of livestock disease.

Update on emergency seed interventions

Reports from the field indicate that the current seed procurement and distribution, assisted by USAID, has been actively going on particularly in Tigray, Amhara, SNNP and Oromiya regions.

A total of 715 Mt of seeds is procured and distributed to a total of 17,294 beneficiaries in Endamehoni, Wukiro, Dega Tenben, Raya Azebo, Tankua Abergele, Werelehe, Samre Saharti, Adewa and Gante Afeshum woredas of Tigray region. In SNNPR and Oromiya regions 2815 and 881.8 MT. of seeds have been procured and distributed respectively. While in Amhara region only 39.6 Mt. is so far procured and distributed.

Agricultural Bureau of the Dire Dawa Administrative Council reported that it is on the process of purchasing seeds, whereas in Somali region seed procurement is at the planning and preparation stage.

Update on seed distribution in SNNPR

- Kale Hiwot Church in Gibe woreda of Hadiya zone has distributed 573.5 qt of Teff and 180 qt. of wheat for about 4,095 farmers.
- World Vision has distributed 986 qt. of wheat and 551 qt. of tef for about 6, 463 beneficiary farmers in Badiwacho, Duna and Soro woredas.
- SOS- SAHEL has distributed 1, 900 qt. of wheat in Gurage zone in Meskan and Mareko woredas.
- Self Help Development International has distributed 430 qt. of wheat for 609 farmers in Sodo woreda.
- In six zones and two special Woredas of SNNPR, FAO has delivery 2, 330 qt of teff, 6, 713 qt of wheat and 832 qt of haricot bean. Out of the total delivery 1, 970 qt. of tef and 6, 713 qt. of wheat are already distributed to beneficiaries, whereas 360 qt. of teff and 832 qt. of haricot bean delivered to Konso special Woreda is not distributed yet because planting time starts in early September.

MoA reported that the seed requirement for the current Meher season with regard to the Appeal made for the Meher planting is being fulfilled. The Ministry reported that shortfalls are planned to be met with USD 973, 000 emergency seed intervention assistance recently received from the Canadian Government.

Awash River Flooding

Gafram Kebele in Buremedaytu woreda of Afar region was reported to have been flooded. There are no reports of displaced people, but the threat of malaria exists in the area. Anti-malaria drugs

and laboratory supplies earmarked for flood victims are in stock at the FMoH and the regional Health Bureau is expected to collect them.

Relief food dispatch and distribution status

Ato Belete Tilahun

Dispatch for July Distribution

- DPPC reported that it has dispatched 100% of the food allocated for the month of July.
- From the total food allocations made by JEOP member NGOs for the month of July, about 7.5% of cereals and 46% of supplementary food has not been dispatched yet.
- Unlike previous months, CARE has accomplished improved uplift during the month. It has uplifted all of the cereals allocations and 59% of the supplementary food.

Allocation for August

- The total requirement for the month of August stands at about 184,000 MT of cereals at 15 Kg ration rate. DPPC has already started dispatching its share for the month. Accordingly, 56% to Afar, 30% to SNNPR, 23% to Tigray, 19% to Oromiya and 10% to Somali region have been uplifted.
- Uplift by JEOP members has not begun yet.
- DPPC reported that EU partnering NGOs have not started delivery to their operational areas, except for two NGOs. OSHO, SOS Sahel, REST and Plan International have not yet finalized loan agreement with EFSRA.
- Save the Children- US reported that it has finalized July distribution and distribution for the month of August has started today.
- World Vision (WV) reported that delivery of EU allocated food aid to southern Wollo is finalized. And activities for the distribution of JEOP allocations has started, 50% to Tigray region is already finalized. WV reported that almost all cereal distributions for July are delivered.

EFSR

Ato Getachew Tesfaye

Stock at hand	57, 622 MT
Under withdrawal	186,255 MT
Outstanding loan	161,127 MT

Emergency Food Security Reserve Administration is expecting 138,012 MT to be delivered by the end of August and 121,000 MT in September.

AOB

Update on the Belg assessment:

Ato Teshome

DPPC Early Warning Department head, Ato Teshome reported that significant and increased rains have been favoring crops and livestock in most parts of the country during the Meher season. However he reported that due to low rainfall performance, close follow up is required in North Eastern highlands and Eastern parts of the country including East Haraghe, West Hararghe and lowlands of Arsi.

He also reported that due to shortages of rain in April, May and June some places have started planting a month late and in some places planting has not started yet, thus needing serious consideration.

Malaria

The good rains reported from most parts of the country are said to aggravate the prevalence of malaria, which has negatively affected the availability of labor to perform agricultural activities.

In response to the increasing cases of malaria UNICEF is planning to put more fund for anti-malaria drugs and over 400 Health kits are on the pipe line.

Added beneficiary numbers

Ato Teshome also reported that Belg harvest assessment shows that the Belg rain has not resulted in much of a positive impacted in most Belg benefiting areas. The assessment confirmed that additional 2.4 million people need food assistance until December.

Nutrition survey show serious malnutrition

Results of nutrition surveys indicate serious malnutrition prevalence in Western parts particularly Jimma and Bako Tibe, Nida, Mida Kegne weradas of West Shoa. Thus these areas are reported to need supplementary food.

Drop in beneficiary numbers

In response to inquiry on why the figures of needy population drops from two million for the month in August to December to 0 in the month of January, Ato Teshome said that because farmers harvest in January, it is likely that the harvest could sustain them for at least one to two months. In due process, however, a mid-season assessment will be carried out to get new beneficiary numbers.

Guideline for seed distribution

With regards to request in the last TIME meeting for a clear guidelines on whether seed should be distributed free of charge, as a loan or if it should include fertilizer, the Ministry of Agriculture stated that in general Emergency Seed Intervention are done on a free of charge bases. However it has a different meaning in different areas. The Ministry has promised to come up with more information in the next TIME meeting.

ICRC on Health Kits sent for flooding victims.

ICRC pointed out that reports from Afar region indicate that Emergency Health Kits reported to have been sent to the region have not arrived. In response it is promised to check with the MoH on the matter and respond in the next TIME meeting.

Logistic Update

DPPC logistic Department Head, Ato Tadesse Bekele, reported that three USAID and EU vessels with 102,000 MT are discharging at the Port of Djibouti. However, he reported that the turn around time of truck is affected as a result of the rains that are delaying the movement of trucks.

SNNPR office report

As a result of insufficient supplementary food, situation in Sidama and Woliyta are reported to remain critical.

Malaria

Out of the 4,500 people tested for malaria from May to June, 50% have tested positive. In response anti-malaria drugs and spray materials are being distributed.

TFCs

Due to high number of malnutrition children, more TFCs are reported to be needed. It was also reported that there are shortages of drugs in the centers.

Free Health care

Free health care system established are not performing to their full potential partly due to low stock of medicine and partly due to little understanding of free health care service in medical centers.

Measles campaign

The first phase of the emergency Measles and Vitamin A campaign coordinated jointly by the Ministry of Health, WHO and UNICEF in SNNPR and Oromia region is finalized. The campaign has so far covered 95.7 percent of the targeted population and is expected to reach nearly 22.3 million children by the end of 2003.

Water

Water availability assessment was carried out in 64 woredas and drillings of boreholes are going on. Even though water is not a big problem at the moment as the rains are reported to be good, clean water is still needed especially for TFCs. World Vision working with UNICEF on the delivering of water for TFCs is reported to be unclean water.

Task force meetings

On 18 August the first water task force meeting will be held.
Health and Agricultural task force meetings have already started.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:20.

Next TIME meeting will take place on August 28, 2003 at 10:00 a.m .

Attendance by more partners is expected.