

**Minutes of the 21<sup>th</sup> Technical Information Management Exchange Forum (TIME) Meeting  
August 28 10:00 hrs.  
DPPC conference room**

**Chairperson: Ato Sisay Tadesse**

**Agenda**

- Health Task Force
- Agriculture Task Force, Ato Mathiows Hunde
- Food Task Force, Ato Mesfine Merso
- EFSR, Ato Sisay
- AOB

**Health Task Force**

*Ato Zegeye Haile*

**Activities undertaken by FMOH concerning the emergency**

In preparation for any malaria epidemic in the future, 20,000 boxes of quinine injections bought by OFDA (Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance) through UNICEF are planned to be sent to Amhara Regional Health Bureau and other malaria prone areas.

Meanwhile, 34 out of the 100 Emergency Health Kits, purchased by USAID through UNICEF are awaiting customs clearance and are scheduled to be sent to the concerned Regions. Oromiya and SNNP Regional Health Bureaus will be beneficiaries of 33 kits each. The remaining anti-malaria drug kits that include Fansidar, Quinine and Chloroquine tabs, besides Quinine injections, will be distributed shortly according to the need.

**Afar Region**

Although children's nutritional status in Berhale, Eribta, Abaala, Dalol and Keneba woredas were reported to be satisfactory, outbreaks of malaria, whooping cough, respiratory tract infections and water-borne diseases were observed. However, according to a mobile team in the area the Zonal Health Desk states that the outbreak is under control.

**SNNPR**

MoH reported that Concern distributed supplementary food at a ration rate of 7 Kg's/person/month for 26,664 children under five, 2,594 lactating mothers and 1,916 pregnant women in Wolayta zone of Ufa Woreda.

**Silte zone**

Status of Therapeutic Feeding Centers in Dalocha Woreda.

<b>6-59 Months</b>		<b>60 month-10 yrs</b>	
Treated and discharged	14	Treated and discharged	16
Defaulted	1	Defaulted	1
Transferred	2	Transferred	2
Under treatment	15	Under treatment	15

**Sidama Zone**

Status of three Therapeutic Feeding Centers in Boricha Woreda

	<b>Yirba</b>	<b>Belila</b>	<b>Derara</b>	<b>Total</b>
Admitted so far	591	370	179	1140
Transferred to hospital	614	173	102	889
Under treatment	145	105	93	343

## **Agriculture Task Force**

*Ato Mathiows Hunde*

### **Weather and Agriculture update**

The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) reported that most Kremt rain benefiting areas have received normal to above normal rains over the last two weeks. Abundant and continuous rains were particularly reported over some highland areas of North and South Wollo zones as well as in Enese Sarmidir and Hulet Ejuenese woredas of Eastern Gojam zone.

Hailstorms and flush flooding were also recorded in some areas of Worebabo and Tehuledere woredas of South Wollo zone, pocket areas of Oromiya zone in Amhara region and some areas of Yubdo woreda of west Wolega zone in Oromiya region. Moreover, reports indicate that the overflow of Awash River have caused flooding in Gewane woreda of Afar region.

Limited rains or dry weather were reported from low laying areas of Central Zone of Tigray and in Gurusum and Golooda woredas of East Hararghe zone.

However, the Ministry reported that overall favorable weather condition over most areas of the country has helped to a large extent the development and growth of earlier planted crops and has encouraged farmers to sow some crops timely.

### **Pest situation**

MoA reported that although the pest situation during the past two weeks has been calm, daily crop surveillance has continued in the northern part of the country where outbreaks of Armyworm is likely. It was also reported that successful control measures have been taken against Quelaie, Quelaie birds in Arbaminch Zuria woreda, Konso and Derashe special woredas of SNNPR and in Teltele woreda of Borena zone in Oromiya region. However, regular follow up is still underway in the Rift Valley areas and in the eastern parts of the country.

### **Update on emergency seeds interventions:**

Reports stated that UNSAID funded government emergency seeds interventions have been going on. It was also reported that in selected seed deficit woredas of Amhara and Tigray regions the implementation of Canadian government funded seed intervention have been actively going on. MoA stated that the current emergency seed supply programs have been focusing in seed deficit woredas of Amhara and Tigray regions and has been supplying seed of short cycle crops. Several NGOs have also continued supplying seeds in different drought affected parts of the country.

### **Update on the status of food aid movement**

*Reported by Ato Mesfine*

DPPC reported that the total food allocation by DPPC and NGOs for the month of August stands at 194,424 MT, of which 97,032 MT is allocated by DPPC's while 97,392 MT by NGOs.

### **Transportation status;**

Of the total 80% of food allocation by DPPC and 51.17% by NGOs is reported to have been dispatched so far. However, CRS reported that JEOP member NGOs have distributed 57.72% of CSB and oil allocation for the month of August.

The lowest performance (19.42%) is reported by World Vision while the highest performance (93.98%) is reported by Food for the Hungry International.

## **EFSR**

*Ato Sisay*

Stock status, august 27, 2003

<b>Stock at hand</b>	<b>150,435 MT</b>
<b>Under withdrawal</b>	<b>152,452 MT</b>
<b>Outstanding loan</b>	<b>102,170 MT</b>

## **AOB**

### **Disaster Occurrences,**

*Early Warning Department*

*Ato Zewdu*

DPPC Early Warning Department, noted that reports from the field stated that the over flow of Wabeshebelle River flooding has affected 30,000 people in Hargele and Chereti woredas of Afder zone. However, the department reported that a team dispatched to the area to assess the situation has indicated that the number could have been exaggerated. The team will release its finding shortly.

Moreover reports from Afar region stated that heavy rain followed by the over flow of Awash River has affected 16,000 people and has killed 20,000 cattle in Gewani woreda. The Region also reported that heavy rain followed by hailstorm has killed 3,100 cattle, sheep and goats in Dubti and Asayita woredas. However a team sent to the areas indicating that the figures are exaggerated stated that the overflow of the river only displaced about 210 households, and currently the displaced have resumed their normal life as the rivers have subsided.

The team also reported that they only saw about 418 cattle carcasses. Nevertheless the team reported that the flooding has caused critical pasture problem, as a result of which cattle affected by the previous drought season died.

On the other hand, due to the improvement of browse, camels and goats are reported to be in good condition.

### **Admission Trends in TFCs:**

MoH reported that compared to previous months, the number of children admitted to TFCs has been decreasing considerably in this month and stated that assistance to the TFCs should continue.

### **Eastern Welega**

Deschasa Lemessa, UN/OCHA field officer reported that there are signs of deteriorated physical condition and deaths of oxen in Eastern Wolega. Early Warning Department of the DPPC confirming the deaths and the general situation in the area reported that on August 25 a team composed of Federal and Regional DPPC/B was sent to asses the situation in the area.

### **Market strategies**

In response to inquiry on whether the government is planning to put in place a better market strategy to avoid market problems as witnessed two years ago, MoA reported that the government is working on plans and actions to put in place an attractive market situation to benefit farmers.

### **Fertilizers shortages**

Following statements that indicated insufficient importation of fertilizers, MoA stated that due to insufficient fertilizer importation many areas have reported shortages. A team selected from different Regional BoA and the Federal MoA has been sent to assess the situation.

The Ministry also stated that the government plans to take corrective measures for the next cropping season.

### **Overview of rainfall situation**

Deborah (WFP) requested the MoA to come up with an overview of rainfall situation in the pastoral areas in the next TIME meeting.

### **Replacing Faracida with other drugs,**

In response to inquiry on whether MoH has plans to replace the use of Faracidal with other drugs of lesser side effect, MoH indicated that currently Quinine is widely used than Faracidal and that the Ministry is further exploring ways to use drugs with lesser side effects.

### **Health Kits sent for flooding victims.**

MoH reported that although six Emergency Health Kits, to be used for flood victims in Afar region, have been authorized and the Regional authorities have been informed repeatedly to collect the kits from the Federal MoH, they have not yet acted upon the request yet. Therefore the Ministry reported its intentions to send the Kits tomorrow using its own transportation.

It was commented that as Afar and Somali regions lack coordination capacities in emergency situations more initiatives should come from the federal level.

### **Food status**

Reporting on the status of the food pipeline WFP pointed out that there is still enough food on the pipeline to cover the need for this year.

WFP also reported that 600,000 MT of shipment will arrive to the country from August to December. The biggest shipment with 225,000 MT is expected in October.

### **Damaged food at the Port of Djibouti**

100 MT supplementary food has been reported to have been damaged at the Port of Djibouti. Deborah Hicks reported that insurance is expected to pay for the damage. However there are fears that it might affect the overall food allocations and availability.

### **Visit**

High level delegation from American Congressional and International Affairs Committee visited SNNPR and will be reporting to their headquarters' on their findings and observations.

**Meeting was adjourned at 11:10.**

**Next TIME meeting will take place on September 11, 2003 at 10:00 a.m .**

**Attendance by more partners is expected.**