

**Minutes of the 19th Technical Information Management Exchange Forum (TIME) Meeting
July 31 10:00 hrs.
DPPC conference room**

Chairperson: Ato Getachew Tesfaye

Agenda

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

Health Task Force

Ato Zegeaye Haile

**Activities undertaken by the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) concerning the Drought
(July 18-31, 2003)**

Malaria in SNNPR

The FMoH reported that it has sent drugs, medical/laboratory supplies and malaria control spray materials to SNNP Regional Health Bureau on July 27. In response to proposal submitted by the region. To date 53 emergency health kits containing anti-malaria drugs (fansidar, chloroquine, and quinine) were dispatched to the region.

The Ministry also reported that 1.2 million birr worth of drugs from the regular budget are at the FMoH stores and are expected to be collected by Regional Health Bureau soon. Plans are also underway to buy 107,000 USD worth of anti-malaria drugs in the near future.

Nutrition problems in SNNPR

The fortnightly Health Response Task Force (HRTF) meeting held at the FMoH discussed ways to strengthen the SNNP Regional Health Bureau's efforts to fight the multitude of health/nutrition problems in the region. The consensus reached in the meeting was that:

- Concerned Federal Government Officials discuss the overall drought situation with the Regional State representatives.
- A team of experts be established to assess the situation and determine ways to address and tackle problems.
- Representatives of the HRTF hold talks directly with the regional authorities regarding technical issues as far as drought related health/nutrition problems are concerned.

Activities to fight malaria

Activities carried out by the FMoH in SNNP and other regions concerning malaria were explained in the monthly Emergency Task Force meeting. In the meeting it was noted that chemicals (insecticides) bought by the FMoH with financial resources allocated by region were distributed to the concerned regions on time along with anti-malaria drugs, lab supplies and reagents. Additionally, insecticide treated nets (ITN's) were also disseminated according to the regular programme.

MoH reported that due to a lack of funds, residual chemical spraying that should have been carried out in SNNPR, was not yet undertaken. Therefore, the Ministry stated that the government

and the humanitarian community are expected to prevent negative consequences due to the delay.

HPN donor groups meeting

In the monthly Health Population and Nutrition (HPN) donor group meeting major achievements of the MoH during the last month were discussed. It was reported that 40 EHK's bought with funding from the Swedish government have arrived at MoH stores and are ready for dispatch. The meeting indicated that 21 EHK's and additional anti-malaria drugs were dispatched to SNNPR. It was also reported that the Measles campaign and Vitamin A distribution in Hadya, Kembatta, Tinbaro and Dawro Zones and Alaba Special Woreda were undertaken successfully. 1,131,565 children under 15 years of age were vaccinated and 1,141,335 birr was sent to the region for the campaign.

The next campaign covering more than 10 million children will be undertaken from October to December, 2003 in Tigray, Amhara, Oromia, Somali and SNNP Regions.

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 and the regional Health Bureaus is expected to collect them from the MoH.

TFCs in SNNPR

Reports from health officers in the field indicate plans to establish a therapeutic feeding centre (TFC) in Alaba Special woreda in SNNPR. On the other hand, it was reported that the number of children in the TFCs in SNNPR is generally decreasing.

Sidama

The numbers of children in TFCs are reported to be decreasing and no major health problems in children were reported from Sidama Zone, Awasa Zuria, Dara, Aleta wondo and Dale woredas.

Boricha

In Boricha woreda 327 children are being treated in three TFC's (Yirba, Belila and Derara) The members however is decreasing.

	Yirba	Belila	Derara
So far admitted	503	223	36
Treated and discharged	286	110	-
Defaulters (Discontinued)	11	1	-
Now present (being treated)	189	102	36

Wolayta Zone

IMC - International Medical Corps has been actively involved in therapeutic feeding since April, 2003 in Boloso Sore woreda

So for admitted	470
Treated and discharged	171
Transferred	10
Defaulted (Discontinued)	1
Now present (being treated)	274

In other zones and woredas like Gomagofa Zone (Kemba and Bonke woredas) and Dawro zone (Mareka, Genabosa and Loma Woredas), the general nutrition and health status of children are reported to be good.

Agriculture Task Force

Ato Mathewos Hunde

Weather and agriculture update

Regular and widespread rains were reported in most *Meher* benefiting areas of the country during the last two weeks. However shortage of rainfall was reported from Erob woreda, some parts of Wukro and Golomekeda woredas in Eastern Tigray, Raya Azbo and some of the dry parts of Alamata in Southern zone of the region.

Due to favorable rains in most *Kirmet* benefiting areas in the past two weeks most farmers have prepared their land, planted *Meher* crops and the already planted crops are reported to have been in good shape. However, in areas where the rains have not improved it is reported that shortage of precipitation have caused moisture stress on different crops and disrupted planting.

Pest situation

Quela Quela bird

An outbreak of Quela Quela birds was reported in Konso special woreda of SNNPR. Successful control measures were taken against the pest. Follow-up will continue with assistance from Federal MoA and Awassa plant health clinic.

Sorghum Chaffer

Sorghum Chaffer infestation was reported in eastern Amhara (North Shoa, Oromia, South and North Wollo zones). Control measures are ongoing.

Update on emergency seed interventions:

USAID and other agencies funded emergency seed interventions that are underway in drought affected areas. Moreover, FAO has reported that it has secured USD 973,000 for the supply of seeds of late planted crops in drought affected area.

Relief food dispatch and distribution status

Ato Belete Tilahun

June Status

In most drought affected areas, the relief food allocation for June has been dispatched and distributed. However, dispatch by JEOP member NGOs is not finalized yet. As of July 29, on the average 96% of cereals and 85% of supplementary food has been uplifted.

Among the JEOP members, CARE is still far behind. The uplifting to Oromia Region (one of its relief intervention areas) is 73% of cereals and only 16% of supplementary food. The delay has concerned regional authorities and Federal DPPC.

Performance in July

Dispatch and distribution performance in July was generally much better than that of June; however, close follow-up is needed to further minimize delays. DPPC reported that as of yesterday it has accomplished 80% of its share of dispatches. In SNNPR and Afar over 95% of the dispatch was undertaken.

Except for SC-UK's delivery to Amhara Region, agencies have finalized uplifting and distributions.

As of July, JEOP member NGOs have accomplished an average of 61% dispatch, CRS and SC-USA 77% and 73% respectively, CARE 31% and FHI has completed the dispatch to its operational areas.

DPPC reported that CARE attributes problems of transportation and accessibility in some areas to the delay of its uplifting activities. DPPC has promised to assist CARE on the uplift if requested CARE.

EFSR

Ato Getachew Tesfaye

Stock at hand	123,088 MT
Under withdrawal	85,301 MT
Outstanding loan	196,644 MT

Ato Getachew also reported that 76,663 MT of food from the Port of Djibouti, Sudan and local purchase is expected to be delivered to the Food Reserve warehouse.

AOB

Admission in TFCs reported to be decreasing

Following reports of considerable decreases in the number of admissions in TFCs, UNICEF commented that nutrition surveys should be carried out before considering closing down the centers. UNICEF pointed out that there are still high numbers of malnourished children in SNNPR; however, TFCs in the region are limited to specific areas. Therefore, expansion of the TFCs was recommended by UNICEF instead of closing down at this stage of the crisis.

Before opening new TFCs a nutrition survey and availability of TFCs with capacity nearby was also recommended for areas in SNNPR where the malnutrition rate is reported to be still high. MoH also stressed the need for having a nutrition survey before opening a TFC as TFCs are medical treatment and can be dangerous.

World Vision and MSF- Switzerland reported a considerable decrease in the number of admissions to their TFC. Yves Gunand (UN-EUE) reported that even though MSF-S had informed the DPPB in SNNPR to include the discharged children from the TFCs in the general food ration to prevent similar malnutrition problem, nothing has yet been done. The problem according to Yves is administrative rather than the shortage of food.

In response to inquiries on TFCs in Konso woreda, UNICEF reported that there are two TFCs opened by SC-US and Mekaneyessue. MoH has stated that it will collect information on feeding centers and the general nutrition status in Konso woreda for the upcoming TIME meeting.

Guideline for seed distribution

Lack of clear guidelines and standards in the distribution of seed assistance was reported to have created confusion in monitoring activities. NGOs are reported to distribute seeds differently. For instance OXFAM reported that it distributed seed as one of its emergency interventions with fertilizer, free of charge. The agency reported that it reached the decision to include fertilizer following discussions with woreda agriculture bureaus and the beneficiaries. On the other hand, World Vision distributed free seed without fertilizers.

Therefore, it was agreed by meeting participants that clear guidelines is needed on whether seed should be distributed free of charge, as a loan or if it should include fertilizer.

MoA promised to respond to these questions at the next TIME meeting.

GAA supplied improved seed in South Gonder

GAA - German Agro Action reported that it has distributed 33 quintals of improved seed in southern Gonder. The seed, reported to have a better yield, is distributed through co-financing of USAID/OFDA to assure better local food production.

Malaria

Following reports indicating that cases of malaria are already bad and will get worse in September, the MoH was urged to start taking early action to prepare and carry out anti-malaria actions. In response the Ministry stated that work towards an early start is in progress and that regional health bureaus have been picking up supplies from the FMOH. Some of the kits are reported to have already reached the field.

Arsi livestock deaths

Following reports indicating livestock deaths in Arsi zone, the MoA has promised to check on the matter and provide a response in the next TIME meeting.

Hot spots

Updated information on the outcomes of the *belg* assessment with regards to additional hotspots was requested. It is noted that the assessment reports are underway.

Water

A new regional water assessment that aims at combining emergency water needs with long-term solutions are underway in all regions. The team is composed of the MoWR and regional water resource bureaus.

Logistic Update

DPPC logistic Department Head, Ato Tadesse Bekele, reported that as a result of smooth transportation from the vessels to warehouses at the Port of Djibouti, congestion problems at the port has been tackled. The next challenge he said is transporting the deliveries from the warehouses in Djibouti to destination in Ethiopia.

Possible flood

Ato Getachew pointed out that there needs to be preparation for a possible flood disaster that could possibly affect a relatively large number of the population.

The next TIME meeting will take place on August 14, 2003.

Attendance by more partners is expected.