

**Minutes of the 25th Technical Information Management Exchange Forum (TIME)
Meeting October 23, 2003 10:00 hrs.
DPPC conference room**

Chairperson: Ato Getachew Tesfaye

Agenda

- MoA, Hussein Kebede
- EFSR, Ato Getachew Tesfaye
- AOB

Agriculture Task Force

Ato Hussein Kebede

Weather and agriculture update

The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) reported that during the last two weeks the overall rainfall particularly in the northern and northeastern parts of the country has almost ceased and is gradually shifting towards western, southern and southeastern parts of the country. It was reported that these latter parts received isolated to scattered rains and eastern Oromiya, western Tigray and Amhara had isolated rain showers in a few places. However, the remaining parts of the country were experiencing dry weather conditions.

Reports from different parts of the country have stated that the overall weather condition in most Kiremt rain benefiting areas of the country is more or less favorable for current agricultural activities. However, some areas of eastern and southern Tigray, lowland woredas of eastern parts of North and South Wollo zones and lowland woredas of East Hararghe have experienced early withdrawal of rain. Moreover, rain in these areas started late and planting of crops were delayed somewhat. Therefore, the MoA reported that these areas might have a decreased production.

Migratory pest outbreak

MoA reported that an incidence of armyworm was observed in some parts of western Amhara during the last two weeks. It was reported that controlling measures are underway in some parts of the region. In addition, outbreaks of Quela Quela bird have been reported from SNNP and Oromiya regions. The Ministry reported that controlling measures taken in eastern Oromiya have been successful. However, measures are still underway in SNNPR and central Rift Valley of Oromiya.

Non- migratory pest

Among the non-migratory and regular pests, sorghum chaffer has been reported in Amhara, Tigray, Oromiya, Dire Dawa, and Afar regions in a sporadic nature. Even though no significant damage on crops was reported, controlling measures are still underway in Amhara and Tigray Regions.

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

Update on emergency seed interventions

Reports from regions indicated that seed procurement and distribution is being finalized.

2004 appeal tentative

Action plan for the preparation of 2004 Appeal has been prepared and submitted to DPPC. Accordingly, the seed need assessment for 2004 will be conducted together with the need assessment for food items. The format for data collection is prepared and was approved by members of the Agricultural Task Force. Guidelines were also developed.

Update on the status of food aid movements

Reported by Ato Mesfine

DPPC reported that the total food allocation by DPPC and NGOs for the month of October stands at 72,000 MT; of which 40,664.3 MT by DPPC and 36,740.8 MT by NGOs were allocated.

Transportation status for September allocation;

DPPC reported that September allocations are fully distributed to all regions except for 20% of allocations for Somali Region. Additionally, NGOs have transported 91% of the September allocation. Mesfin reported that according to CRS report issued on October 19, Food for the Hungry International (FHI) has showed the best performance with regards to September allocation while REST has recorded the poorest performance.

It was noted that EU allocation for the month of September and October was not yet received. As a result, benefiting regions particularly Oromiya have complained to the DPPC.

Transportation status for October allocation;

DPPC reported that 26% of allocations to Afar Region and 36% of allocations to Amhara Region are so far distributed. Mesfin reported that information on NGOs allocation is not yet available.

Ration rate

ICRC requested information on what the ration rate is for the month of October and whether it includes the 2.5 kgs of pulses previously planned. In response, Mesfin stated that the general ration rate for the month of October is 15 kg of grain and 4.5 kg of supplementary food per person per month. He said supplementary food is only distributed for 35% of the needy population. He reported that currently the DPPC is not distributing pulses as they are not available. On the other hand, CRS reported that pulses were sent to SNNPR using loans received from WFP through CARE and World Vision. WFP also noted that it has recently signed tripartite agreements with the government and several NGOs (CRS, CARE and World Vision) to make 340 tons of locally procured pulses available to the NGOs to cover priority needs in SNNPR.

EFSR

Ato Getachew

Stock at hand	232,435 MT
Outstanding loan	101,016 MT
Under withdrawal	70,193 MT

Ato Getachew reported that over 65,000 MT of loan repayments are expected to arrive by end of October. He reported 1,360 MT are expected from local sources while 64,000 MT are expected from abroad.

AOB

UNICEF

UNICEF reported that the MoWR had organized a workshop on October 20 and 21st. In the workshop the assessment teams that came back from Afar, Amhara, SNNP and Trgray regions presented their findings and discussed issues that will lay the groundwork for the 2004 Appeal document. UNICEF noted that additional inputs from humanitarian agencies should be directed to Ato Tamen at the MoWR.

Shortfalls of Anti- malaria drugs

UNICEF reported that together with WHO it will release a special alert on October 24 to appeal for an additional 5.8 million USD shortfall to supply anti-malaria drugs for 15 million people. It was noted that only 9.5 million children will receive anti-malaria drugs with the existing fund. UNICEF noted that so far it has procured 2 million USD for the purchase of anti-malaria drugs.

Measles and Vitamin A distribution

UNICEF reported that to date 11 million children (between 6 to 15 years) are vaccinated, nine million children are planned to be vaccinated from October to December and 9.5 million are targeted.

TFCs

UNICEF reported that 44 TFCs that fulfill WHO protocol are currently operational. It was indicated that with the exception of MSF and SC-UK supported TFCs all the others are supported by UNICEF. At present 1,800 children are admitted and so far 10,000 children have passed through the centers. UNICEF noted that data from certain NGOs have been missing for some months.

UNICEF also reported that currently 358 Supplementary Feeding Centers supported by UNICEF are operational in 35 woredas. It was stated that there are six supplementary feeding sites in Afar Region, one in Amhara Region, 10 in Oromiya Region, 10 in SNNP Region and eight in Somalia Region. UNICEF stated that to date 60,000 children, lactating and pregnant mothers have benefited from the centers. Reports indicate that more people have benefited from the center and will be reported as the information reaches UNICEF.

Preliminary findings of nutrition survey in West and East Haraghe .

ICRC reported that it had undertaken a nutrition survey in West and East Hararghe, to assess the nutrition status of the population and to project the food security situation for the coming months. According to the preliminary findings the main cause of poor nutritional status in these areas mainly lies on lack of health centers rather than food insecurity. It was reported that 50% of the children assessed were reported ill.

	GAM	SAM	children ill	cases of ocdewa
Boke	7.9 %	0.7%	58.1%	2
Highland Gursum	4.8 %	0.1 %	56.6 %	-
Lowland Gursum	5.3%	0.5%	54.8%	-

Food distribution less by 48%

It was noted that in Kune and Gubakoresha woredas CARE has been distributing food aid 48% less than the general ration rate. CRS and DPPC have promised to check on the matter and report in the next TIME meeting.

Other sectors to be included in the appeal

UNICEF noted that as 2004 appeal will be more of a recovery appeal than emergency, sectors such as school feeding, child protection, water and sanitation and HIV/AIDS should be considered. Moreover Paul, Head of Office, OCHA has inquired if it is appropriate to include the humanitarian side of demining actions in the appeal.

Additional affected population

In response to WFP inquiries on the appropriate time to announce the additional drought affected population, meeting Chairman Ato Getachew has said that the announcement should wait until the Early Warning Department approve.

Cereal requirements

WFP reported that food in the pipeline, including USAIDs, for the next JEOP proposal of 68,000 MT will cover most of the cereal needs of the tentatively revised figures to the end of the year. However, pledges will be urgently needed for a buffer stock for early 2004.

In reaction to the Early Warning report that indicated a late harvest in Tigray Region, WFP has suggested that in the future such envisaged late harvest and other similar information should be circulated as a formal part of Early Warning activities several months ahead of the mid season assessment.

Hot Spot: Rain situation

WFP requested an update on the previously reported statement that Konso did not receive rain in the month of September. MoA has promised to bring updated information to the next TIME meeting.

Coordination meeting

UNOCHA reported that along with other UN agencies it has invited NGOs for a meeting on 27 October 2003. The meeting will discuss the upcoming Joint Government-United Nations Appeal and the current situation in the country. The meeting will be held in the UNDP Conference room.

UNOCHA

Paul Hebert, UNOCHA Head of Office introduced meeting participants Lyle Bastin Deputy Head of Office / OCHA replacing Yves Guinand. Paul said Lyle will officially start his duties on 17 November. Ato Getachew took the opportunity to welcome Lyle and to thank Yves for his contribution for the accomplishment of the joint humanitarian tasks.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:20.

Next TIME meeting will take place on November 6, 2003 at 10:00 a.m.

Attendance by more participants is expected.