

**Minutes of the 23rd Technical Information Management Exchange Forum (TIME) Meeting
September 25 10:00 hrs.
DPPC conference room**

Chairperson: Ato Getachew Tesfaye

Agenda

- Water Task Force, Ato Tamene Gossa
- Agriculture Task Force
- Food Task Force, Ato Mesfin Shiferaw
- EFSR, Ato Getachew Tesfaye
- AOB

Water Task Force

Ato Tamene Gossa

Status of Emergency Water Programme in Drought Affected Regions

The Ministry of Water Resource (MoWR) reported that due to the good performance of the rains water tankering activities in many parts of the country has reduced while in some areas tankering activities have stopped. However, rehabilitation and construction activities have continued in drought affected Regions.

The Ministry also reported that along with food and non-food task force members the Water Task Force (WTF) has participated in the joint Humanitarian Partners Contingency Planning Workshop, conducted on September 19, 2003. The workshop focused on identifying steps that could help develop future contingency planning by each Task Force.

It was also reported that the regular WTF meeting conducted on September 13 discussed various issues including follow up action points of the previous WTF meetings and future contingency planning process and ways of involving humanitarian stakeholders including the major Regions in the development process.

Agriculture Task Force

**Brief Report Prepared For the Technical Information Management Exchange /TIME/ Forum,
14/8/03**

Sent by Hussein Kebede, MoA to be presented at the meeting.

Weather and agriculture update

The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) reported that during the last two weeks, the overall rainfall situation in its amount and distribution had a normal pattern in most Kiremt rain benefiting areas of the country. However, over the northern and northeastern parts of Tigray and Amhara Regions reports had stated that the rainfall situation particularly during the last week was reduced in its amount and distribution. However towards the end of the second week an improved rainfall has been observed over these areas. On the other hand heavy rainfalls that caused erosion and hail damage was reported in some parts of the country.

In general western Tigray, much of Amhara, Benshangul- Gumuz, western and eastern Oromiya, most parts of SNNPR, Gambella, and Central parts of the country are reported to have received sufficient rainfall.

MoA also reported that the Kiremt rain is starting its withdrawal from the north and northeastern parts of the country and continued over most parts of western and a gradual increase over most parts of the southern parts of the country.

MoA, indicating that the overall weather condition is favorable for normal agricultural activities, reported that farmers are being encouraged to finalize land preparation and to start planting late planted crops such as chickpeas. In addition it was noted that the good precipitation received during the last two weeks has created a more favorable conditions for normal growth and development and fruit setting of different crops. Overall the crop performance is in good condition and crops are at seedling, development and fruit setting stages, in some areas at harvesting stages.

Pest situation

Migratory pest outbreak

There are no reports of migratory pest outbreak in the country. Nevertheless, regular pest survey is still underway over most pest- prone areas of the country.

Non- migratory pest

The Ministry of Agriculture reported that regular pests such as stalk borer, Wollo Bush Cricket, shootfly and aphids have been observed in some parts of the country. Traditional and Modern control measures are underway.

There are no reports received on outbreaks of livestock disease.

Update on emergency seed interventions

MoA reported that the current status of seed procurement and distribution assisted by USAID through the Government is currently being finalizing particularly in Tigray, Amhara, SNNP and Oromiya Regions. A total of 24, 635 quintals of different crop seeds is procured and distributed In Tigray Region, 22,808, 12,014, 8,350 quintals of different crop seeds and 1.5 quintals of vegetable seeds have also been procured and distributed in Amhara, Oromiya, SNNP Regions and Dire Dawa administrative council respectively. It was reported that procurement in Somali Region is not yet finalized.

Update on the status of food aid movement

Reported by Ato Mesfine Merso

DPPC reported that the total food allocation by DPPC and NGOs for the month of September stands at 167,454.8 MT, of which 85,830.8 MT is allocated by DPPC's while 81,624 MT by NGOs. It was noted that the 16,133.79 MT difference between what was reported as September allocation in the last TIME meeting and what is reported in this meeting is because EU's partnering NGO's could not secure the relief aid planned for the month.

In reaction to this concerns were raised on what is going to happen with EU beneficiaries because EU could not with letter of guarantee to EFSRA for them to borrow food. It was reported that the DPPC and if allocated food that could be used till the EU pledge is secured.

Transportation status;

DPPC reported that only 45% and 6% of the transportation of September allocation by DPPC and NGOs respectively has taken place.

Following queries on why food delivery is late, Mesfine stated that August delivery was finalized only recently therefore dispatches of September allocation began three to four days ago. Mesfine commented that Logistic Department of the DPPC might have more information on the matter.

From the NGOs side CRS reported that it has received reports from Shinille that stated that problems between the police and the personnel working at CRS stores have hindered dispatches

of aid. WFP also reported that private transportation agencies are keener to transport food from the port to warehouses than from warehouses to beneficiaries. Ato Getachew asked meeting participants including the DPPC and NGOs to come with more information on the reasons of the delay to help find solution to the problem.

Supplementary food allocated

DPPC, Mesfine reported that allocation of supplementary food has taken place to priority number one Woredas, covered by DPPC and to priority Woredas in SNNPR covered by NGO's. Relief aid of wheat flour and clothing was also provided to 3,319 flood affected people in Dita, Chencha and Arbaminch Woredas of Gamugofa Zone.

EFSR

Ato Getachew

Stock at hand	167,350 MT
Outstanding loan	138,568 MT
Under withdrawal	99,086 MT

Ato Getachew reporting that 108,189 MT will be repaid by end of October, encouraged request for loan as the reserve is in a better condition. Moreover it was stated that repayment for loans are not going to be asked till the month of November.

AOB

GAA

GAA- German Agro Action reported that water tankering has been actively going on in Elidar, Dubti of Afar Region in collaboration with APDA. GAA also reported that it is revising the allocated budget for the project.

Early Warning Systems

Teshome Erkinch, Early Warning Department head reported that rain in most areas of the country is in a good condition. However, in East Wollega and Arsi shortages of rains have resulted in 11,100 new beneficiaries that will need food assistances for the coming months.

Ato Teshome also reported that extension of rain might be necessary for late planted crops in some areas. He also noted that good performance of short cycle crops are expected in most parts of the country while long cycle crops might have reduced performance.

Malaria

UNICEF reported that outbreaks of malaria are being reported in many malaria prone areas of the country. UNICEF also reported that even though the pattern of the rain might decide the seriousness of malaria MoH has reported that malaria might be high this year.

TFCs to close

UNICEF reported that TFCs are in a rush to close down as situation in most parts of drought affected areas is stabilizing and admittance to the center goes down. However, UNICEF indicated that before the TFCs are closed the nearest health center should take over management of different level nutrition problems.

Nutrition survey.

ICRC reported that preliminary findings of a nutrition survey conducted in early August in Boke woreda of West Hararghe and Gursum woreda of East Hararghe indicated that cases of persisting malnutrition are secondary to disease as access to health facility is the reason than food security.

The results of the survey will be submitted by mid October.

Crop performance in SNNPR

In response to rumors that indicated high level of crop damage due to problem with ICRC distributed seed, ICRC stated that according to comprehensive crop performance survey conducted in July and August the seed has performed well in areas where there is good quality of soil and good performance of rain. However ICRC reported that in areas where there was insufficient rain and poor quality of soil the seed has had poor performance. In such cases, ICRC stated that it has re-supplied seed. ICRC also reported that insufficient Meher rains and non-existence of the belg rains in Gursum woreda has affected crop performance, surveys indicated that up to 70% crop failures are expected.

ICRC reported that it has been actively supplying seed in some woredas of West and East Hararghe and Tigray Regions.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:40.

Next TIME meeting will take place on October 9, 2003 at 10:00 a.m.

Attendance by more partners is expected.