

**Minutes of the 32<sup>th</sup> Technical Information Management Exchange (TIME) Forum Meeting**  
**April 29, 2004 ;10:00 hrs.**  
**DPPC Conference Room**

**Chairperson: Ato Getachew Tesfaye**

**Agenda**

- Agriculture Task Force Report, Ato Mathewos Hunde
- Health Task Force Report, Dr. Solomon Worku
- Food Task Force Report, presented by Ato Getachew Tesfaye
- EFSR, Ato Getachew Tesfaye
- AOB

**Agriculture Task Force**

*Ato Mathewos Hunde*

**Updates on weather and agricultural activities**

The TF chairperson reported improved rainfall activities in most areas of the country in April. Regular and widespread rains fell over much of *Belg* rain benefiting areas of the country, including some pastoral and agro-pastoral areas. However, the rainfall pattern has been deteriorating beginning the third decade of the current month.

In general, it was reported that the rains have created favorable conditions particularly for long cycle crops. Moreover the April rains are found to be beneficial for: (i) growth and development of *Belg* long cycle crops; (ii) land preparation and sowing; and (iii) pasture and water availability and improvement, including in pastoral areas.

Planting window for long-cycle crops, which account for more than 35% of the annual crop production, is April and May.

**Crop pest and animal disease outbreaks situation**

According to field reports and results of surveys conducted in different suspected areas, the crop pest situation has been calm during April. Similarly, no animal disease outbreaks were reported during the month.

**Information exchange**

MoA noted that strengthening information exchange among organizations directly or indirectly involved in agriculture related emergency intervention is crucial for the smooth coordination of programs and effective utilization of limited resources. To this end, the Agriculture TF has been making efforts by establishing contacts with different organizations to collect information on planned and/or on-going emergency interventions, which are essential for updating and planning requirements, as well as to monitor progresses in responses/program implementation and evaluate effectiveness of interventions. The TF has developed data collection formats and distributed them to different agencies.

The Ministry stated that arrangement was made with NGOs coordination team of the DPPC to send the same formats to NGOs. However, as of yesterday, only two organizations namely REST and CRS have formally responded. It was stressed that as further delay may result in poor coordination and overlapping of resource all agencies currently engaged in agriculture related interventions are encouraged to send the required information to TF chairman as soon as possible.

## **Health Task Force**

*Dr. Solomon Worku (MD ,MPH)*

The Health TF chairperson reported on activities implemented in the past one month as follows;

### Measles campaign:

A total of nine million children are planned to be vaccinated by the end of the fiscal year in most parts of Oromiya. Activities are reported to have already started.

### Meningitis situation

A total of 2,777 meningitis cases and 147 deaths were registered till 28 April with case fatality < 4%. A total of 3 million people were vaccinated using a bivalent vaccine at a total cost of about 7 million Birr. Reports on cases of meningitis were received from Amhara, Tigray, Benishangul, Oromiya, SNNP and Somali regions.

### Emergency Health Kits (EHK)

Ten EHK were provided to areas in Oromiya region where severe humanitarian problems were identified. Additional supplies are available if the situation goes worse.

### Manpower

Oromiya region has deployed doctors and nurses to the newly established TFC located in the resettlement sites and no additional request in this aspect is forwarded.

### Support

The Netherlands Government pledged one million USD to refill the national strategic stock of meningitis vaccines used during the current epidemic season.

### Malaria

Areas where severe humanitarian problems observed did not yet report cases of malaria. However, based on MoH forecast, potential epidemics are anticipated.

## **Health situation in resettlement areas**

### Malaria

UNICEF reported that although malaria is not a major concern in resettlement areas, mosquito nets have been distributed to settlers who completed building their new homes. MoH reported that left over money from last year, donated by UNICEF, are being used against malaria.

The Ministry also reported that it is planning to import anti-malaria drugs, SAT and Quantum as studies reveal that malaria is 30% resistant to the previously used drug, Fansidar. The Ministry noted that studies are underway in order to identify how the drug can be used in Ethiopia, which will probably take one or two month to finalize and start acting.

### Supplementary food

MoH noted that currently supplementary feeding does not cover the entire population and only children under 5 are getting 2.5 kg per month excluding nursing and lactating mothers.

### Tsetse fly

Most of the resettlement areas are reported as tsetse endemic, which will result in the loss of draught animals thus affecting agricultural production.

### Nutrition

UNICEF reported that currently 40-50 children are admitted in Chewaka TFC that was opened on 5 April. The woreda and zonal health bureaus opened the TFC with equipment borrowed from Metu hospital. It was noted that 51 children were referred from Chewka to Metu hospital in March

It was also reported that 35 children severely malnourished were referred from Chate in Gechi woreda and about 50 were referred from Haro Tittessa to a TFC in Bedele health center opened on 24 April by woreda and zonal health bureaus.

UNICEF supplied Bedela woreda, Illubabor zone, therapeutic feeding supplies and equipment for 200 malnourished children for a period of 3 months.

It was also reported that while 25 TFC are still run as a separate unit, 14 TF units have been integrated into the existing health service centers.

## **Water**

UNICEF reported that there were two meetings held in the past one month; a special emergency meeting and the regular Water TF meeting held on April 6. The regular meeting discussed water scarcity in Somali and Harar Regions.

The special emergency meeting of the Water TF was held in late April with representatives from Oromiya regional health and water bureaus. The meeting discussed water and sanitation problems in the resettlement areas. Particularly on how to list the critical spot mainly Chewaka, Haro Tittessa and Chate, on the possible support from the regional water bureau to the Bedele woreda, on preparation of request to UNICEF by the region for emergency support and coordination of health and water bureaus.

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

*Report presented by Ato Getachew Tesfaye*

### **Dispatch Status**

Food aid for March distribution has been delivered to the distribution sites by the Commission and NGOs. The Commission has dispatched 94%, as of 26 April, while NGOs accomplished 81 % on the average. Among the NGO partners, REST and FHI have fully achieved their targets.

### **Allocation for April and Prepositioning**

DPPC reported that the requirement for April stands at 100,940 MT of cereals. Of the total, through JEOP member NGOs (CRS, CARE, SC-USA, WV, FHI, REST) and SC-UK and Society of International Missionaries (SIM), 34,490 MT of cereals have been allocated for distribution during the month. However it was indicated that the gap is very significant. The DPPC has very limited stock which is not adequate to cover all the need for the month of April.

Furthermore, about 30,000MT of food grain is required for prepositioning to areas inaccessible during the upcoming rainy season. It was noted that this operation should be completed at least before the first half of June. This is also one of the major humanitarian concerns in front of us all.

### **Flood Emergency**

An effort had been made by The DPPC made a quick assessment of the flood situation in Afar Region (Dubti and Assayta areas) by a helicopter. The Commission has delivered 15 MT of supplementary food to reach the victims. It was reported that the situation has become normal. MoA reported that the flooding did not have a significant negative impact on the agricultural activities of the region. WFP also noted that the flooding is normal and is good for agricultural activity.

It has also been reported that over flooding of Wabi Shabelle River has taken place in Gode Zone, Kelaffo and Mustahil woredas. Regional DPPB is expected to send detailed information.

## **EFSR**

Ato Getachew

<b>Stock at hand</b>	<b>289,969 MT</b>
<b>Outstanding loan</b>	<b>36, 810 MT</b>
<b>Under withdrawal</b>	<b>78, 225 MT</b>

19,000MT repayment through the port of Djibouti and 16,000 MT through local purchase is expected in May. It was pointed out that the EFSR is in good situation to give loans.

## **AOB**

### **Belg Performance**

MoA stated that improved rains in most *Belg* producing areas including Southern Tigray have positively affected agricultural activities. Nevertheless in the low laying areas of Southern Tigray due to the delayed rain farmers were forced to replant, in addition the current rainfall favors long cycle crops resulting in reduced harvest in the area. Similarly CRS reported that the poor *Belg* performance has negatively affected *Belg* producing areas in Southern Tigray. Ato Zelleke Shibeshi CRS Relief Coordinator said in some areas *Belg* crops have totally failed. He said hope is on long cycle crops.

It was noted that *Belg* assessment team are sent out to assess the situation and will return and report on their finding in three weeks time.

### **Shortfalls**

In response to inquires on what is planned to cover the 25% shortfall of aid for the month of April, Ato Getachew stated that a guarantee letter from EU to borrow from the Food Security Reserve will help solve some of the problems. Deborah, WFP, suggested to consult with Georgia Shaver, WFP Country Director and Representative, to send a guarantee letter to borrow food from EFSR.

CRS reported that 77,000 MT of additional resources, pledged from USAID, are waiting for official grant document from headquarters and will cover their portion of allocation up to end of July.

### **OCHA**

OCHA reported that it is putting together a 10 page mid year review to meet 10<sup>th</sup> May dead line. The review will provide an update to the humanitarian community on the CAP. It will show changes and progress since the original Appeal was issued, and will supply information on current humanitarian needs, budget revisions and the consequences of current funding levels on project implementation. Lyle Bastin, OCHA said that the mid year review will help the quest for funding. Ato Getachew suggested that after the document is done it should be submitted to the DPPC for comment.

### **IDP report by OCHA**

It was reported that following a field mission to the Somali region, OCHA has published a report on the situation of IDPs in the Region. Deborah recommended the report for agencies working in Region and also for a general reading particularly on situations of IDPs. Find the report at <http://www.uneue.org/Reports/downloadable/ASSESSMENTREPORTIDPs.pdf>

**Meeting was adjourned at 11:35.**

**Next TIME meeting will take place on May 27, 2003, at 10:00 a.m.**

**Attendance by more participants is expected.**