

**Minutes of 35th Technical Information Management Exchange (TIME) Forum Meeting
September 2, 2004
DPPC Conference Room**

Chairperson: Ato Getachew Tesfaye

Agenda: Food Aid Task Force Report, Ato Mesfin Shiferaw

- Agriculture Task Force Report, Ato Mathewos Hunde
- Health and Nutrition report, Mr Stephano (UNICEF)
- Early Warning Report, Ato Zewdu Abera
- Pipeline Report by Deborah Hicks (WFP)
- Stock Status of EFSRA, Ato Getachew Tesfaye
- AOB

Food Aid Task Force Report

The DPPC dispatched an average of 50% food aid allocated for August 2004. The dispatch was done to different parts of the country with prior requests made by the regions. Request from Somali region was late as the result of which dispatch was also delayed. Some of the reasons for low performance were identified as poor roads, bridges broken and late request by regions.

All European union(EU) NGOs fully dispatched to their areas of operation. JEOP member NGOs dispatched 55% of allocation on average while REST did 87%, CARE and FHI 72% each, WV 47%, CRS 40% and SC-USA 15%.

Points Discussed

After presentation of the report, an issue concerning prevalence of malnutrition in Hagere Selam (Hula), raised by USAID was discussed. In response, the Early Warning Department of the DPPC explained that 17 children were identified with oedema during the recent assessment and that it was already controlled. A plan to conduct a full survey has also been considered, according to EW information.

Health and Nutrition report

Mr Stephano (UNICEF)

Measles vaccination and provision of vitamin A as supplement was conducted for 7.2 million children (89.2% of the target) aged six months to 14 years during March-June 2004. The campaign was conducted by the Ministry of Health with the support of UNICEF, WHO and donors covering 21 zones, 8 special woredas in 6 regions and 10 districts in Addis Ababa.

Last year too, 20.6 million (90.6%) children were vaccinated and 20.1 million (92%) were provided with vitamin A in 41 zones of six regions. All together nearly 28 million children were vaccinated against measles in 20 months. As the result of the campaign there was no major outbreak of measles during 2003-2004 even with increased vulnerability due to drought. UNICEF supported project, Enhanced Outreach Strategy for Child Survival (EOS/CS) is currently under implementation by SNNPR Health Bureau. Under the project vaccination is provided including to children below 6 months and project is planned to be extended to other regions.

Besides measles vaccination provided to children, effective vaccination against meningitis was also conducted in different parts of the country.

With respect to supplementary feeding, there were still some feeding centers open in July 2004 in different parts of the country. In the centers, supplementary feeding is often provided as part of general food distribution..

Another issue raised during discussion was the status of fight against malaria, especially preventive measures. UNICEF provided information as saying that the Ministry of Health acquired adequate quantities of insecticide. Mosquito nets have been distributed to areas critically in need. But the nets have not been distributed to other areas because of cost incurred, according to statement by UNICEF. It was finally recommended that the issue be raised at the Health Task Force meeting.

During the discussion shortage of water in Borena zone was reported inquiring whether UNICEF was prepared to intervene. UNICEF responded as saying that attempt for water tankering was limited because of high cost. It was also noted that tankering is the last resort and it should be noted whether the situation on the ground demands this intervention or not.

Updates on Weather and Agricultural Activities

Ato Mathewos Hunde

Meher performance is reported to be generally favorable for agricultural activities although there are areas experiencing unfavorable situation. Southern Tigray (Alamata and Raya Azebo), some lowland areas of North Wallo, and areas in the rift valley, in the east of the country low lands and dry mid lands, East and West Hararghe, and Dire Dawa are cited as affected parts of the country. In areas like Alamata and Raya Azebo, replanting is not found to be advisable even if the rains improve.

No crop pest infestation or disease outbreak has been reported.

Issues of Seeds

It was reported that local varieties (land race) seeds are preferred to improved seeds, due to high cost incurred for the improved seed and also because improved seeds require high amount of fertilizer. Moreover, improved seeds are in short supply. It was suggested that areas where local seeds perform well and where they are available for purchase should be identified.

Seed bank

Following reports that seed is dispatched to farmers often late, the need to establish a seed bank was suggested. Meeting participants pointed out that this idea was also raised in the preparation of the National D.P.P. Policy. It was commented that the issue is very important and it requires the necessary preparation.

Desert Locust

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (Ato Mathewos) confirmed that the widespread of locust in different countries of west Africa and western Sudan does not pose threat to Ethiopia. The Ministry noted that in case there be a tendency of the locust coming closer, a steering committee from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development will deal with it and the necessary preparation is already in place.

Early Warning Report

Ato Zewdu Abera

Mid-meher Assessment teams were dispatched to different parts of the country and are expected to return the following week. They are expected to develop best case, mid case and worst case scenarios.

There are some indicative reports on the current rain. Either shortage or no rains is reported in low lands of Bale, Arsi, Borena, Dire Dawa. There is report of some people needing emergency relief in Dire Dawa. There is also report of signs of malnutrition in Gurage and Silte. Condition in East and West Hararghe shows signs of deteriorating condition out of which 11 Kebeles are facing malnutrition.

Pipeline Information

The food requirement from January through December 2004 is 1,195,587 MT. Out of this 907,222 MT (76%) was available including the amount already utilized. Confirmed pledges is 42,379 MT. There is 25,281 MT of shortfall of pulses.

Stock Status of EFSRA

By Ato Getachew Tesfaye

Stock at hand	262,278 MT
Outstanding loan	95,905 MT
Under withdrawal	44,822 MT

Expected loan repayments in September include 84,900 MT (58,900 MT imported and 26,000 local purchase) by WFP and 21,000MT by EURON AID.

Next TIME meeting will take place on September 30, 2004 at the DPPC Conference hall at 10:00 AM