

# TIME

## **Minutes of the 39th Technical Information Management Exchange (TIME) Forum Meeting March 31, 2005, 10:00hrs**

### **DPPC Conference Room**

**Chairperson : Ato Getachew Tesfaye**

### **Agenda**

- Ministry of Agriculture, Ato Mathewos Hunde
- Report on Health and Water, Mr. Stephano Pizzi (UNICEF)
- Food Aid Pipeline, Deborah Hicks (WFP)
- EFSRA Stock Status, Ato Getachew Tesfaye
- AOB

### **Agriculture**

*Agriculture Task Force Chairman Ato Mathewos Hunde*

#### **Weather and Agriculture**

Ato Mathewos reported that February was dry in most parts of the country. Consequently most Belg producing areas were negatively affected and water and pasture availability was reduced significantly. In Tigray Region, February rains failed totally, particularly in Raya Azebo and Alamata. Therefore these areas have become 'hot spots'.

The dry weather of February significantly improved in most areas in the first and second dekad of March. The improved rains enabled farmers to plant Belg crops. Following the rains in the pastoral areas water and pasture regenerated to some level, particularly in zones 3, 4 and 5 of Afar Region.

However it was reported by Dr Muktar from FAO that the currently available pasture and water is not sufficient to sustain livestock that are in the zones and those returning.

Therefore it was stated by the Agriculture Task Force that the situation in Afar Region is alarming due to the late onset of rains (mid March) i.e. Segum rains. And if the rain should cease early, situations will further deteriorate. However it was noted that if the rains should fall longer than usual the problem of the Region is likely to ease.

#### **Donor Response**

The Task Force Chair reported that out of the total emergency appealed for agriculture, only 3% (for livestock related needs) and 11% (for emergency seed requirement) are covered so far. FAO noted that the majority of the resources at hand are carried over from 2004. Ato Mathewos stressed that unless allocation of resource is speeded up emergency needs will not be met in time. Therefore donors should be reminded to respond. OCHA reported that its head office in New York is writing a general letter to donors to put pressure on to respond to the appeal.

On DPPC side Ato Getachew reported that a meeting had taken place on February 21 with donors and NGOs to discuss the low donor responses to the emergency appeal and way forward. The next meeting is scheduled for April 7.

#### **Information flow**

It was noted that some NGOs are not reporting on resources pledged and received to the Task Forces claiming that they report to the DPPC's NGO Coordination Unit. Therefore interested parties should contact the Unit for information. Ato Mathewos noted that as the Task Forces are coordinating bodies NGOs and other agencies should cooperate in providing information.

Ato Getachew said he will talk to concerned parties in exploring better ways of sharing donors' contribution updates.

## **Health**

*UNCIEF, Stephano Pizzi*

### **Polio**

It was reported that WHO and UNICEF have arranged to vaccinate over 14.7 million children in three rounds. First around that already took place in the first week and third week of March targeted over 4 million children, second and third rounds will start first week of April and continue until May.

UNICEF reported that over USD 4.5 million shortfall exists to complete the three rounds.

ERC reported that it has pledged USD 500,000 in support of polio vaccination. OCHA also reported that a press release from USAID has confirmed a pledge of USD 300,000.

In addition to Polio vaccination, UNICEF has started measles vaccination in Afar Region. Malaria is also a concern in the Region. Moreover, cases of diarrhea are increasingly being reported as a result of the first dekad of March rains that dumped wastages into ponds that are used for drinking water. Hence, due attention was called for clearing water ponds and providing clean water through water tankering activities. Respiratory track infection is also another concern in the Region.

It was reported that transportation capacity in Afar Region remains a problem in responding to the health problems in the Region.

### **Gashamo / Degehabour**

A supplementary feeding center is opened for four weeks as situation in the area is reported critical. DPPC agreed to send supplementary feed.

### **Water in Afar**

UNICEF reported that water tankering activities are being undertaken in Afar and Somali Regions. However, in order to find a lasting solution to the existing water problems in the Regions UNICEF has dispatched technical teams to explore other ways to solve water shortages. The technical persons have noted that the ground level water is going down. Even though it was reported too early to make a final analysis on the reasons behind the low ground water, it was said that it might be attributed to deforestation that is resulting in lack of water retaining capacity of the soil. It was also presumed that it might be due to the low amount of rainfall received in the past years.

### **Donor response to water needs**

So far UNICEF reported only USD 1.4 million is secured in respond to water and sanitation needs. It was reported that resources at hand will only cover water tankering needs of Afar Region for just a month. If the rains do not extend, water problem in the Region will be critical.

### **Camel health critical**

In Afar Region it was reported that animal health needs attention particularly with regards to the new disease that is affecting camels.

### **Appeal**

Paul Herbert, OCHA head of office, asked if donors should use the 2.2 million needy population figure in need of assistance or 3 million including the 900,000 people of Afar and Somali Regions that were initially planned to be covered by Productive Safety Net Programme. Ato Getachew promised to take up the issue with Early Warning Department.

## **Food Aid Pipeline (WFP)**

*WFP, Deborah Hicks*

### **Pipeline and shipping status**

The food at hand is reported to be sufficient to cover the March distribution. However, the following months' needs will not be covered unless donor respond in time.

Ms. Deborah Hicks reported that the total pledge to-date against requirement stands at 69% while Ato Getachew said DPPC information shows only 53 % pledge. He said further checking of data together is necessary.

WFP reported that in the next few months Djibouti port will be busy as a significant amount of aid is coming through.

### **Safety Net Areas**

Reports indicate that areas covered by Safety Net Program have so far not yet received sufficient food or cash support. Therefore, some critical humanitarian situations have been observed in some of the Safety Net Program areas. Ms. Hicks noted that information on humanitarian situation, also in Safety Net Program areas should be shared with humanitarian communities.

## **Stock Status of EFSRA**

*DPPC, Ato Getachew Tesfaye*

As at 30 March 2005

Stock at hand	165,614 MT
Outstanding loan	155,307 MT
Under withdrawal	87,082 MT

Of the 87,082 MT of food under withdrawal, 20,000 is for Food Security Program. Repayment under process are 44,853 from local purchase and 12,235 from import.

## **Any Other Business (AOB)**

### **OCHA NGO meeting to take place at the DPPC**

OCHA reported that its regular monthly NGO meeting with NGOs will be held at the DPPC on April 8, 2005. The meeting will be attended by major NGOs, the DPPC and UN agencies.

**Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.**

**The next TIME meeting will be held on 5 May, 2005 at the DPPC meeting hall at 10:00 AM.**