

TIME

Minutes of the 39th Technical Information Management Exchange (TIME) Forum Meeting May 12, 2005, 10:00hrs

DPPC Conference Room

Chairperson: Ato Getachew Tesfaye

Agenda

- Food Aid Task Force, Ato Mesfin Shferaw
- Ministry of Health, Ato Million Wendabeku
- Ministry of Water Resources, Ato Tamene
- Report on Agriculture, Early Warning Department (DPPC)
- Food Aid Pipeline, Deborah Hicks (WFP)
- EFSRA Stock Status, Ato Getachew Tesfaye
- AOB

Food Aid Task Force

Ato Mesfin Shiferaw

Total food dispatched for the month of April so far stands at 33,567 MT

Afar	95,720	60%
Gambella	96,720	95 %
Oromiya	67, 170	35%
SNNPR	6,210	50%
Tigray	72,130	30%

Mesfin reported that Amahara Region and Dire Dawa City Council did not request food assistance for the month of April.

The total food allocated to safety net *woredas* for the month of April stands at 11, 606 MT ,of which 2,251 MT is allocated to Tigray, 3,940 MT to Oromia, 3,083 MT to SNNP and 2,766 MT to Amhara Regions. Mesfin reported that deliveries in these Regions are under way. In Tigray Region there were 6 safety net *woredas*. However, a letter from the Food Security Bureau reduced them to three.

Number of beneficiary for the month of May stands at 3.8 million including the new figure stated in the Flash Update. 94% of the need will be allocated by DPPC and WFP while the remaining 6% will be covered by NGOs, particularly SC/US and SC/UK. These two NGOs will cover 10 *woredas* in Oromia Region. Catholic Church of Dire Dawa has also made proposal to cover three *woredas* in East Hararghe.

In Somali Region, only 60% of food was delivered in the month of February covering only Shinille and Jijiga due to the flood and security problems. Allocation has not yet started in Gode Region because of security reasons. Plans are under way to send food to the areas with military escort. It was noted by meeting participants that the process of sending an escort might create delay in food delivery. Mesfin promised to take up this issue with Ato Tadesse, Logistic head.

Health

Ministry of Health, Ato Million Wendabeku Tel 519798

Flood and its Health related consequences in Somali Region

MoH reported that the Regional authorities sent proposal requesting for:

- a. Capacity building including orientation and training program for zonal coordinators, availing different operational formats.
- b. Supervision activities organizing Zonal and Regional Teams
- c. Vehicles (renting cars)
- d. Drug, Medical Supplies and Trucks in kind:
 1. Emergency Drug kits 57kits
 2. ORS 1900 of 1000 sachet
 3. I.V infusions: R/Lactate 1000 ml 1400
 - N/S 1000 ml 1400
 - 5% OW 10000ml 700
 - 50% Dextrose 50ml 2800
- e. ORT corner set equipment and materials 19 sets
- f. Tents for temporary shelters 38Pcs
- g. Plastic sheet rolls 38pcs
- h. Different supplies(?)
- i. Medical Supplies 19
- j. Trucks 7

In responses to the request the FMoH distributed 19 EHK, 792 bags of DW, 660 bags of R/R, 8000 sachet of ORS, and manuals. The FMoH also held a meeting with the Health and Nutrition Task Force in which it reported material support made. Following discussions on the general condition, Health Task Force formed a sub committee. The sub committee held the meeting and debriefed, exchange information, discussed on the out comes of an assessment made by MSF-B and on the suggestions made to process support to the Region which is sent to the major members for endorsement and proceeding of the support.

FMoH is organizing a technical team to send to the Region and is following health related conditions on daily basis through e-mail and telephone:

Water

Ministry of Water Resources, Ato Tamene

Somali Flood Problems

Ministry of Water Resources reported that as per the Regional report, the situation in Somali Region calls for immediate response to avert the water-sanitation related problems that arise due to the flood and the subsequent problems of contaminated drinking water. The Water Task Force members then discussed the urgent intervention measures, proposed by the Regional Water Bureau.

The following are the proposed interventions:

- Maintenance of motorized wells,
- Reconstruction of hand dug wells,
- Repairing of pipelines
- Maintenance of scheme structures
- Supply family water kits and purification chemicals as well as Jerricans,
- Install emergency water purification units (Em -Wat Kits),
- Financial support of Birr 675,790 to undertake the above interventions.

The Ministry reported that, there is very little response to the Region, UNICEF supplied purification chemicals, jerricans, family water kits, etc. could not be transported to the affected areas.

On what can be done immediately the following decisions were made by the Task Force Members.

- To urgently respond to the problem with what is at hand. However it was agreed that reassessments are necessary.
- The supply of pumps and generators will be made once the Regional Bureau identifies the gaps and MoWR on its part checks if the requested amount correspond with the items that are available in stock,
- The MoWR and UNICEF should immediately contact the Regional Water Bureau and through it the DPPB, to request if the Regional Water and Health Bureaus could start the proposed interventions immediately if funds are made available. If the bureau agrees to take the responsibility, UNICEF agrees to make financial contributions for the proposed operations (per diem, fuel, loading and unloading costs).
- The supplies that are provided by UNICEF include 10,000 Jerricans (5,000 in Dire Dawa, 5,000 in Jijiga); 85,000 water purification chemicals (each containing 5 gms and capable of treating 20 liters of dirty water); Five pillow tanks of 5,000 liters capacity; calcium hypochlorite and other supplies for emergency water treatment unit that is now in Gode. In this regard, the Task Force recommended that the Federal DPPC give the approval to the Regional Water Bureau to collect them from Jijiga and Dire Dawa DPPC/DPPB stores in order for the bureau to distribute them to the affected areas. The MoWR was tasked to take up the issue with the DPPC and get the approval.
- The only contribution secured so far is obtained from UNICEF. The Task Force requests the contribution of other donors for additional requirement that may be needed.

The next meeting will be held on June 7, 2005 at the Ministry's conference room at 10:00 a.m.

Assessment Teams

A team from Gode Health department visited East Emy and a WFP team went West Emy. In Degahabur MSF/B has already conducted assessment while ICRC has sent a team to the area. In Harshin, Aware, Gashamo and Kebribeyah Oxfam has completed an assessment.

Outbreak of diarrhea in Dolo Ado *woredas* was reported however the magnitude of the outbreak is not yet confirmed by an assessment team sent with medical supplies. Diarrhea outbreak in west and east Emy is also reported however due to land transportation difficulties to reach these areas caused as a result of the Region is calling for air lifting of supplies.

MoH reported that it is in the process of clearly identifying the general picture of the situation in the Region.

Suggestion

The MoH called for the collection and analysis of all assessments done by different humanitarian partners to make an immediate decision and take action.

Meningitis

Meningitis epidemic has so far affected 21 *woredas* of 6 regions and 5 sub cities of Addis since it was first reported in November 2004. The total cases reported from the start of the epidemic are 608 of which 58 died. In response to the epidemic health education, case identification, case treatment and vaccination were conducted. Except in three sites all the affected areas have received vaccination. The FMoH has at stock 7,098 vials of vaccine and 14,950 vials of CAF in oil.

While no new case of Meningitis is reported last week, plans are underway to perform evaluation /assessment to get the general picture by next month.

Polio

Polio is included in the Flash Update. According to seven new cases of wild polio are reported and the next vaccination program is planned after 2 weeks.

Measles

Measles vaccination was conducted in Gambella Region and is in the process launching in West and East Hararge.

Agriculture

As reported by Early Warning Department of the DPPC

Weather and agriculture

The shower rains that start mid of April are currently (third decad) reported to be good in most parts of the country, except in Wellega and lowland Arsi where the rains are reported to be poor.

Early Warning reported that due to delayed Belg rains in Oromiya, Bale and Arsi planting was delayed. In Amhara and Tigray crops were replanted because of long dry spells in February that damaged planted crops.

Production prospect

Early warning Department reported that it is too early to make a production prospect as rains are expected to continue till the end of May. It was reported that production prospects will be made following assessment planned to be made mid - June.

However it was reported that South Tigray, and some areas in Ormiya and Amhara Regions might face reduced production due to the February dry spell and low rain fall received following.

Pest

No major outbreak of pest was reported except for few cases of desert locust.

Pastoral Areas

Good rains received in Borena and South Omo improved water and pasture availability. However poor performance of Sugum rain (mid March till April) was very poor in Afar Region particularly in Zone 2, 4 and 1 which reduced the regeneration of pasture but it was reported that the little rains received have improved browser. Early Warning stated that unless the next rain Karma rains are good the situation in these areas will deteriorate.

The vaccination for animals was provided in Afar and Somali Regions. FAO is processing purchase of vet drugs and seeds.

Somali Flood

Agriculture

Early Warning Department of the DPPC reported that Regional Agriculture Bureau's stated requirements in response to the flood are within the figures stated in the flash Update. It was noted that response from donors for the flash update will also address the flood affected population.

Health and Nutrition

Due to the flood the nutrition of the population in Somali Region has deteriorated. UNICEF reported that even before the flood the nutrition situation was reported to have been very poor. A rapid assessment performed in the Region after the flood show that the situation in the Region is aggravated by the flood. However Ms. Hicks noted that the nutrition situation in Somali Region will not deteriorate in areas where pasture has improved due to the rains, she said in these areas milk will be available.

Ministry of Health reported that UNICEF is sending emergency drug kits and other materials to flood affected people of Somali Region.

Water

UNICEF reported that large numbers of people in Somali Region will require assistance to fight the risk of disease that will possibly occur as a result of contaminated water, which was brought about when the water system was disrupted as a result of the flood. UNICEF noted that of the total population needing assistance 23,000 will need immediate assistance while the rest of the affected population can be addressed by treating the contaminated water and distribute jerry cans.

Ato Getachew commented that Somali Region's capacity is the least in the country. Therefore, sending requested assistance of material alone will not be sufficient; the capacity of the Region should be kept in a regular check.

Information sharing

It was suggested that water, agriculture and health come up with a figure that could be used as a starting point in the absence of a joint assessment.

UNICEF reported that items that are still in the stores can be used in response to the flood, if mobilized. It was pointed out that when asked to make contributions donors are asking on the status of the items that are already donated. Moreover already distributed items are being sold in the market, such situations were asked to be fixed.

Donor response

The Government and some of its partners have been exerting efforts to prove some of the required relief items.

GAA stated that 100,000 Euro has been pledged by the German Government for water. Ireland Aid a pledge of 50,000 Euro and sector is reported to be open. Ministry of Health reported that WHO has allocated 80, 000 Birr for the health sector for supervision and training purposes.

Gaps

DPPC plans to send an assessment team to identify the gaps then act together with NGOs. Zewdu said the food gap for the 23,000 people identified, following the assessment, is with in the figure indicated in the Flash Update.

Food Aid Pipeline (WFP)

WFP, Deborah Hicks

Ms. Hicks reported that food in the pipeline covers needs till November; however, she noted that Belg performance can affect the availability of food. She said 81% of the revised need of the Flash Update is so far covered. Ms. Hicks reported that there are some delays with local purchase of pulse however she stated that it will not be a problem as stock status of the EFSR is in a good condition.

Stock Status of EFSRA

DPPC, Ato Getachew Tesfaye

As at 12 May 2005

Stock at hand	126,711 MT
Outstanding loan	183,385 MT
Under withdrawal	94,900 MT

Repayment at Djibouti port stands at 51,000 MT

Any Other Business (AOB)

Fire accident

The DPPC responded to a fire accident in Metema *Woreda* of Amhara Region and Dima *Woreda* of Gambella Region by sending grain, plates, cups, cooking pots and the like. UNICEF noted that in Gambella Region response should be made before the arrival of the rainy season.

Afar Water Problems

GOAL complimenting the DPPC on its water tankering activities in Afar Region requested information on activities or studies under way to bring a long lasting solution to the water problems in the Region. In response the Ministry of Water Resource stated that because water wells are not easily found, contractors are not interested in digging water in Afar Region.

However, it was reported that development activities are on going. In highly drought affected areas of the Region where water is available drilling of shallow water is being carried out. The Ministry also stated that an ambitious plan aiming to provide 100% of the water needs in Afar Region in seven years called a Universal Access Program plans is under way.

GAA, German Agro Action also reported it has water activities in the Region. It stated that together with a local NGO in Afar, ABDAR, activities including water harvesting and water retention have been successfully implemented and are operational currently. Meanwhile GAA asked the MoWR to give it topographical information for its next water activities. MoWR promised to help.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:30 noon.

The next TIME meeting will be held on 2 June, 2005 at the DPPC meeting hall at 10:00 AM.