

TIME

Minutes of the 46th Technical Information Management Exchange (TIME) Meeting February 28,2006, 10:00 hrs

DPPC Conference Room

Chairperson: Ato Getachew Tesfaye

Agenda

- Situation report, with particular focus on Somali region and Borana (Ato Teshome, supplement by Ato Mathewos)
- Operational updates and food aid allocation/distribution (Ato Belete) and food aid pipeline (WFP)
- Health and Nutrition (Dr. Milliyon)
- Water and Sanitation (Ato Tamene)
- Agriculture - crop and livestock (Ato Mathewos)
- EFSRA Stock Status

Situation report

Ato TeshomeErknhu (EWD)

Ato Teshome reported that the Early Warning Department is closely following up the deteriorating situations in Somali Region and Borena zone. He said pasture and water for livestock is increasingly depleting and food situation particularly in Somali Region is getting very serious. A multi agency nutrition survey result shows 18 to 20 percent acute malnutrition which warrants the opening of a Therapeutic Feeding Center (TFC). Save the Children US reported that it is planning to open a TFC in Somali Region. Moreover he said a wide spread of measles and malaria are observed, school drop outs is increasing and migration of livestock from Kenya and Somali is burdening the limited resource available. He noted that the major concern is that the next rainy season (expected in March); it is forecasted to be below average.

He noted that intervention from humanitarian partners needs to be scaled up and warned that situation might get more serious if response continues at this rate.

Areas adjacent to Somali and Oromia particularly East and West Hararghe are also facing pasture shortages. In East Showa livestock death are reported and in zone 2 and 4 of Afar Region serious shortages of water is reported.

Operational updates and food aid allocation/distribution

(Ato Belete) and food aid pipeline (WFP)

Ato Belete reported that the total food requirement for the month of January is 36,390 MT for Oromia and Somali Region, out of which 15% to Somali and 25% to Oromia has been dispatched by the DPPA. He noted that due to shortages of track transportation has been slow.

He said requirements for February stands at 38,930 MT, out of which 3,400 MT are covered by NGOs.

In response to USAID's request for a more speedy uplifting of relief commodities that is created due to shortages of trucks Ato Getachew said the Road and Transportation Authority is prioritizing the up lifting of relief items improving the situation.

USAID noted that there may be a need to preposition aid to Somali region before the rains in March. However Ato Getachew noted that prepositions are usually made according to advice received from the regions, and the Somali Region has not so far asked for pre-positioning. However he said for Amhara, SNNP and Bale zone in Oromia pre-position could be necessary and there is enough time to do so.

FOOD aid Pipeline

Lisete (WFP)

Lisete reported there is enough cereals, blended food (until June), pulse and oil to cover needs to the end of the year; however she noted that the calculation does not include any increase in beneficiary figures following *Belg*.

She said imported blended food is expected to arrive in April and May and local factories are producing full capacity at the rate of 5,000 MT per week. Therefore she noted that WFP is giving DPPA the blended food for distribution on monthly basis as the factories produce. She said in case the factories production decreases for some reason there is a one year stock in EOS to borrow.

Lisete noted that more CSB is needed in case there is a need to do a blanket distribution but for now there is enough CSB in the country with distribution priorities given to Somali and Borena.

Health and Nutrition

Dr. Milliyon

Somali

FMoH sent teams to Somali Region to assess 12 weredas in Jijiga, Liben and Afeder zones. According to the findings they reported human and martial resources are highly depleted and there is critical shortage of medication. However there is moderately sufficient medication for malaria and 52,000 ITN, bed Nets.

The teams found diarrhea disease in some pocket areas, ARI problems and signs of malnutrition in Afder and Liben Zones, which is confirmed by different assessments.

In responses

- The FMoH sent medication estimated at USD 80,000 for nearly 100,000 people and was distributed by the Regional Health Bureau for 7 weredas.
- ICRC sent six Emergency Health Kits (EHK) to Gode zone and Bare wereda of Afder. ICRC has also been giving technical assistance in Gode zone.
- UNICEF is working on EOS and Measles campaign in 25 weredas.
- FMoH with other sectors sent a stationary team to Jijiga, Gode, Liben and Afder wereda and reports are coming.
- A Technical Response ad hock committee within the FMoH is organized.
- FMoH attends the Crisis Management Group meetings and follows the response.

Dr. Million reported that response to the 2006 appeal is very low.

Planned

UNICEF plans to supply 16 Emergency Health Kits (EHK), support 16 MHT, support 8 Health facilities, launch immunization campaign in 26 weredas and start therapeutic feeding programs. ICRC also plans to expand its service.

Oromia/Borena zone

- There are no reports of epidemic in Borena except outbreak of meningitis from Teltele wereda.
- Nutrition assessment show increasing signs of malnutrition calling for action.
- The FMoH plans to send evaluation team to the zone.
- UNICEF is planning to support the region with 15 MHT, EHK, IO MHT and therapeutic food supplies.

Meningitis

Dr. Million reported 792 Cases and 28 death of Meningites in 3 regions, 10 zones and 14 weredas. Total population within the affected wereda is 2,506,614. So far 2,973,950 doses of vaccine are secured of which 2,264,650 is distributed and 353,386 people are vaccinated. Vaccine stock at national level stands at 709,300 doses.

Vaccine gap for contingency is USD 2.1 million. It was reported that USAID is expected to provide 550,000 doses (USD 400,000), ADB USD 100,000 and WHO plans to provide USD 300,000. MSF- Switzerland is also importing medication for meningitis epidemic.

Water and Sanitation

Ato Tamene

Ato Tamene reported that due to the emergency situation in Somali and Borena the Water Task Force meeting takes place every two weeks as opposed to previous practice of having the meeting every month. He stressed the importance of participation to the meeting in light of the current emergency situation.

He reported that the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) has so far distributed emergency supplies including pumps, generator, tool kits, pipes and more at a total cost of USD 286,000 for Somali Region. And for Borena the Ministry has so far sent emergency supplies worth USD 118,000.

In response to the emergency situation the Somali Regional Government has allocated USD 245,000 and Oromia Regional Government has allocation USD 276,000 for water tankering, rehabilitation of water structures and for the construction of water schemes where it is needed. The regional governments are reprogramming some of their budgets to the emergency.

UNICEF has distributed 20 water bladders through Water Bureau. Field reports state that there are 40 to 60 water tankering tracks active in Somali region and 10 NGOs are reported to be active in Borena in water tankering. However Tamene said his office has sent a field monitoring unit to verify as NGOs active in the areas are not reporting to the Ministry.

Tamene said there are information gaps, he said the MoWR does not have full information on who is doing what and where except for UNICEF. Therefore he asked all stakeholders to report on their activities. Following, CARE promising to give information regularly on its activities reported that it is doing water tankering in Borena using four tracks and is working on creating awareness on health issues related to water points in areas with carcasses.

Enclosed find WES sector requirement in 2006 verses pledges and gaps as of Feb, 2006.

Agriculture - crop and livestock

Ato Mathewos

In good years farmers begin to plant Belg crops in February. However, this year in most areas farmers have not yet started planting as a result of late onset of Belg rain. If this continues it will have a considerable impact on crop production in the country. Moreover April rains are expected to be below normal which will also affect crop production.

Borena and Somali Region

Mathewos reported that donors and implementing agencies need to be further encouraged in implementing the proposed emergency and recovery intervention in a timely fashion. Emphasis should also be given to other affected and needy areas that equally require emergency and recovery interventions, particularly East and West Hararghe.

Even if rains improve in the affected pastoral and agro-pastoral areas, health intervention should continue as weakened animals are usually more exposed to different diseases soon after rains are received after a prolonged dry period

Regular information exchange between the Task Force and implementing partners is crucial to ensure effective and sustained coordination. Therefore, he said due attention should be given by all concerned to this particular issue. He also noted that an effective and sustained planning and implementation as well as coordination of disaster management activities require strong structure at the federal and regional levels. Therefore, the required support for the implementation of sectoral capacity building and coordination activities need to be provided timely.

Response

In response to the 2006 appeal USD 1.2 million is so far received for animal Health, USD 4.3 million for de-stocking, USD 46,000 for animal feed, 982 Tones of seed and USD 1.4 million for Avian Flue. The money is received through government and non-government organizations.

EFSR

Ato Getachew

Stock at hand	234,205 MT
Outstanding loan	69, 839 MT
Under withdrawal	100,960 MT

AOB

Custom office

Paul Herbert –UNOCHA head noted that plumpy nuts relief aid worth USD 1.5 million is stranded in Dubai awaiting a go ahead from customs. Among the items at the customs emphasis was given to health items that need to be made available to beneficiaries urgently.

It was stated that in the past the Federal MoH used to write a letter to the custom office that allows it to receive the items for the required amount of money to be paid on a latter stage; however the new law requires the Ministry to pay upfront for the items. The problem with the new arrangement is that the Ministry does not have enough money to pay upfront. Ato Teshome said that the fact here is that plumpy nuts is a new product for Ethiopia which needs to secure the approval of the Ministry of Health before using for relief. higher level attention (up to the Deputy Prime Ministers) is given to the issue even though decision is not yet reached.

Somali region -GAA

GAA- German Agro Action noted that in Digehabour a good standard health center is not being used to its maximum capacity due to lack of personnel.

Communication gaps

In the 2006 appeal the establishment of an emergency unit in the MoWR, MoA and MoH was indicated. Accordingly the MoH said they are working with partnering organization on how to structure the office and is planned to complete and be operational in a month or two. MoWR also said work is under way to start. MoARD in its part said nothing is so far done but discussion is underway with FAO.

Following reports by the Task Force chairpersons Ato Getachew suggested planning together to lessen information gap, to avoid overlap and missing out of important areas. Paul said OCHA is doing the Matrix (a report that covers information on aid and action needed, intervention areas, affected population and more) by contacting and attending meetings of all the task forces and UN agencies and other major NGOs. He, however, said the information on the matrix is not full because it does not cover all NGOs.

Tamene said there is under reporting of performance and to the contrary reporting on activities that have not materialized, he said most NGOs have not started intervention while their reports indicate otherwise, making it very difficult to rely on the NGOs. It was noted that such incidents can lead to suspicion that the NGOs are misusing funds. Therefore, to avoid misunderstanding, accurate exchange of information was noted as very important.

It was also stated that the establishment of sectoral Task Force in the regions and zones is improving the flow of information. However, there are a number of NGOs that do not report to these Task Forces. MoA said the Ministry had informed the DPPA to no effect. In response DPPA noted that it does not have the mandate to force NGOs to report however it strongly urged all concerned to cooperate in giving out information.

UNICEF noted that the main reason for communication gap is lack of internet and workload on the part of the taskforce chairpersons. Therefore Paul suggested hiring full time staff to work with each task force chairpersons. Fikre - UNICEF said EOS and WES task force are working in improving capacity. Ato Getachew said before the UN or other stakeholders start giving capacity assistance to the Task Forces they need to first consult the organizations on what and how they want to be supported.

Meeting

In response to suggestions to make the TIME meeting take place every two weeks, Ato Teshome said, because of various meeting taking place on the humanitarian response already, a bi-monthly TIME meetings will be difficult to have. Therefore it was agreed to meet on the 30th March and see how to continue the TIME meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:45.

Next TIME meeting will take place on March 30, 2003 at 10:00 a.m.

Attendance by more participants is expected.