

TIME

Minutes of the 47th Technical Information Management Exchange (TIME) Forum Meeting 30 March 2006, 10:00 hrs

DPPC Conference Room

Chairperson: Getachew Tesfaye

Agenda

- Situation report, AtoTeshome (EWD)
- Food aid allocation/distribution, Ato Tsegaye (APCMD)
- Transportation, Ato Taddress (Logistics)
- Food aid pipeline (WFP)
- Health and Nutrition, Dr. Abdulselam
- Water and Sanitation, Ato Tamene
- Agriculture, Ato Mathewos
- EFSRA Stock Status, Ato Getachew

Situation report

Ato Teshome Erknhu (EWD)

Teshome said the March Early Warning Report has information on the current situation and can be found at the DPPA website, www.dppc.gov.et/pages/earlywarning.

January and February was dry throughout the country except for 2 to 3 days of rains reported in some areas which was followed by extended dry spell till mid March (erratic rains were reported from Somali Region starting mid March). Forecast from the National Meteorological Service Agency (NMSA) shows a high probability of late, erratic and insufficient *Belg* rains. In the northern part of the country (Tigray and Amhara) some shower rain was observed.

Teshome noted that failure of *Belg* rains will have an impact on the overall *Belg* production in the country. Moreover NMSA forecast of weak rain during April and May, if correct, will create a critical situation particularly in Somali Region.

In the major *Belg* growing areas the most important *Belg* rains are received in February and March while in the pastoral areas small *Belg* rains are received in March.

Malnutrition is reported in East and West Hararghe and very poor food security situation is reported from Borena. Health situation in these areas is aggravated due to the limited capacity of health service.

He stressed that the Early Warning Working Group (EWWG) identified problems of water and health (particularly malnutrition), which are not getting sufficient response from partners and donors. He said all stakeholders should advocate to all concerned in to responding to these sectors.

Re-assessment mission

EWWG sent three teams to Oromia, Afar and Somali Regions to assess the current situation and subsequent needs. The team that left to Borena is attended by UNICEF, USAID, WFP, OCHA and CARE and is expected to report soon. In Somali, Liben Afder and Gode assessment team composed of WFP, OCHA, SC/US, SC/UK, Ethiopian Red Cross is expected to complete assessment in 10 days.

Agriculture Task Force

Ato Mahtiwos Hundie

He said that according to information collected and compiled by the Agricultural Task Force for this year, a number of agencies seem to have different agriculture related emergency and recovery interventions including planned, ongoing, and implemented ones. Almost all the interventions are or were targeting drought affected areas of Somali and Oromia (Borena) Regions. The interventions include mainly livestock vaccination and treatment, animal feed supply, and de-stocking.

Agencies that have reported to the Task Force so far about their planned, ongoing, and implemented interventions are the followings:

1. Animal health

Somali Region: FAO, ICRC, SC-UK, SC-USA, ACF, IRC, LVIA, RCS, IRC, CDSE, Somali Livestock Crop and Natural Resources Development Bureau, and MoARD. **Oromia Region:** FAO, CARE, SC-USA, AFD, LVIA, QPADC. **Afar Region:** F AO, GAA, MoARD

2. De-stocking

Somali Region: AICD/VOCA/IRC and SC-USA. **Oromia Region:** CARE, OP ADC

3. Animal feed supply

Somali Region: IRC and SC-USA. **Oromia Region:** CARE, GAA, LVIA, OPADC and SC-USA.

4. Emergency Seed

SNNPR: FAO. **Tigray:** FAO/REST. **Oromia:** RCS

The Agricultural Task Force also made attempts to confirm particularly the reported ongoing and implemented interventions by collecting relevant information from DPPA led mobile teams and Regional, zonal, woreda agricultural bureaus (in the case of Oromia Region also from OPADC). Accordingly, of the above listed planned, ongoing, and implemented interventions, so far, the following have been confirmed:

1. Animal health intervention

Somali Region: FAO, SC-USA, RCS, SC-UK, ICRC, LVIA, Somali Livestock Crop and Natural Resources Development Bureau, and MoARD. **Oromia Region:** FAO, SC-USA, LVIA, CARE, Gumigayo, OPADC, MoARD. **Afar Region:** MoARD

2. Animal feed supply

Oromia Region: CARE, AFD, Gumigayo, Christian Aid and L VIA. **Somali Region:** Not yet confirmed

3. De-stocking

Somali Region: Not yet confirmed. **Oromia Region:** OPADC in collaboration with other agencies.

4. Seed intervention

So far, F AO/REST's intervention in Southern zone of Tigray Region has been confirmed.

Generally, the assistances provided so far are reported to have been inadequate to fully address needs.

Updating emergency needs for drought affected areas in Somali and Oromia Regions:

Considering the responses so far and the prevailing situations on the ground, the MoARD, has recently updated emergency animal health and seed needs for drought affected areas in Oromia

and Somali Regions focusing on most affected areas.

Gaps

Mathewos said only 7% of the total emergency seed requirement and 15% of animal health intervention is so far covered. He said Animal feed and de-stocking are also receiving very low response. Therefore he stressed the need to urged donors to respond to the needs.

FOOD Aid

Ato Tesgaye

For the month of **January** requirement stood at 36,390 MT of which 35,000 MT is allocated. Of the allocated 97% to Somali Region, 100 % to Borena and 100% to Afar Region is dispatched. For **February** of the required 38,895 MT, 36,200 MT is allocated and 100% to Borena, 28% to Somali and 95% to Afar Region is dispatched.

For the month of **March** of the required 48,560 MT, 45,125MT is allocated and 35% to Borena zone, 31% to Afar Region is dispatched while for Somali Region dispatch is not yet made due to transportation problem. He said although there are improvement of transportation it has delayed delivery process in the Region.

UNICEF reported that Somali DPPB sent a fax message to DPPA (Aid Program Dept) and made copy to UNICEF Addis requesting for BP5 biscuit however no action is so far taken by DPPA. In response DPPA promised to take action.

Transportation

Ato Taddess, head Logistic and Transportation, DPPA

To address the shortages of trucks to transport relief items, created due to competing transportation of coffee, fertilizer etc, the DPPA has started working with the Road Transportation Authority and shortages are easing. He reported that relief commodities from warehouses in Dire Dawa and Nazareth are being transported to Somali Region with the help of the Defense trucks. Fifteen defense trucks have already started transporting relief items from Dire Dawa warehouse to Jijigga and Dekhabour.

Taddesse noted that there are plenty trucks in Somali Region however they do not have registration and and can not participate in tenders in order to operate legally Therefore the DPPA is encouraging the truck owners to acquired the necessary paper work.

World Vision reported secondary transportation problems, from woreda to distribution site and stated that in Teletele relief commodity was transported from warehouse to the town. However, there is no capacity to transport from the town to the five distribution sites.

Health and Nutrition

Dr. Abdulselam

EMERGENCY RESPONSE (by FMOH and its partners) on Health for the drought affected areas of Somali Region and Borena zone of Oromia Region

Improve the human resource capacity in the Regions for the current response

- 4 zonal coordinators have been assigned by FMOH in Jijiga, Gode, Liben and Afder zones;
- 49 health professionals have been sent to Somali Region, 3 per woreda for 11 woredas and 16 for Jijiga zone and are providing health services in health facilities;
- WHO and UNICEF are to recruit 3 Regional coordinators, 2 for Somali Region and 1 for Borena zone
- 2 Health professionals are sent to Liben and Afder zones of Somali Region to join the re-assessment team.
- UNICEF has opened a new office in Gode assigning 2 international and 2 national staffs;
- 16 mobile health teams were planned to be sent to 16 worst affected woredas by UNICEF; so far training has been given for 12 teams with the remaining 4 teams following soon. MoH said the difficulties faced are identifying health personnel to staff the team, even with the new resources; there is still shortage of staff since they are deployed to fixed facilities, mobile teams and many of them to immunization campaigns;
- Consensus is reached on the need to deploy health professionals to seven most affected woredas in Borena zone with the representative of the RHB during finalization of the POA, and will be managed by the Oromia RHB;
- UNICEF plans to deploy 7 mobile health teams to 7 most affected woredas in Borena zone of Oromia Region. Training is planned to start in April;

Essential Drugs Supply

- FMOH sent anti-malarial drugs, antibiotics and EHKs worth 4.4 million Birr to Somali Region;
- The Somali RHB purchased drugs worth ETB 2.4 million from the total allocated budget of ETB 4.8 million by the Regional Government, and the remaining ETB 2.4 million have just been received and will be used for the same purpose;
- UNICEF distributed 16 EDKs for the 16 mobile health teams and 16 EDKs for 8 health facilities in Somali Region. And an additional 90 EDKs are stocked at central level by UNICEF;
- UNICEF delivered 14 EDKs to Borena zone for the 7 mobile health teams and additional 15 EDKs will be sent to the Region (Oromia) to be distributed to the most needy facilities of Borena' zone;
- UNICEF sent 55,000 ITNs and 2,100 packs of RDT to cover a total of 185,000 beneficiaries to Somali Region;
- ICRC provided essential drugs and medical items to health facilities in 10 woredas;

Feeding program

- 4 TFC are opened in Jijiga, Gode, and Degehabur hospitals and also in Dolo ado HC by the RHB;
- MSF Belgium opened a TFC + SFC in Chereti woreda and plans to open in Bare woreda;
- SC-UK is running an OTP in 4 woredas of Fik zone (Fik, Hamero, Segeg and Duhun);
- IMC has started an OTP in Dire woreda of Borena zone, and has plans to expand the OTP service to additional 5 woredas;
- The mobile health teams organized by UNICEF will be providing an out reach therapeutic program for the severely malnourished children in the most affected 16 woredas of Somali Region and Borena; however only 11 teams are going due to shortages of health officers.
- Goal Ethiopia plans to open an OTP in Denan woreda in collaboration with OWDA (local NGO);
- SC-US also has a plan to open an OTP in Dolo ado Dolo bey woredas of Somali Region.

Measles Immunization

As part of EOS programme supported by UNICEF measles vaccination was given for 158,936 children (6-59 months) for 20 EOS woredas in Somali Region. However because the coverage is insufficient (77%) it is planned to be repeated in the same woredas together with other 30 woredas where the campaign was not done targeting a total of 853,431 <5 children;

Similarly a measles campaign will be conducted with UNICEF support in Sorena, Guji and Sale zones of Oromia Region targeting 690,723 <5 children, and except in Guji, the campaign has been launched in Sorena and Sale zones as of March 24. Measles campaign in Sorena includes Vitamin A supplementation, Deworming and polio immunization (MOPV) with support from WHO.

Water and Sanitation

Ato Tamene

WES Situation and Response interventions in drought affected Regions Somali Region

Four monitoring team members deployed in Afder, Gode, Jijiga and Liben stations are monitoring and reporting on water supply situations. Water tankering operations are on going in almost all zones of the Region. From among the 9 zones facing water shortages, Afder, Gode and Liben zones are considered as being very serious. The water rationing distribution matrix prepared and continuously revised by the Task Force indicates that currently, 54 water rationing trucks are under operation in Afder (38), Gode (4) and Liben (12) zones. In addition, the same matrix indicates 45 distribution of water tankers in the rest of the zones, 4 in Degahbour, 8 in Fiq, 9 in Jijiga, 20 in Qorahey, and 1 in Shinile and 3 in Warder zones.

The WES Matrix, prepared and distributed to all members, consists of information on water tankers by woreda and by implementing agency in all zones. Moreover, to help monitor water tankers a matrix with information on plate no., truck capacity, trip per day, etc, is prepared and distributed to be filled by the Regional WES Task force. The distribution matrix changes as new information is fed in to it therefore it is not complete yet. While the WES task force repeatedly requested its member agencies to confirm the data, the validity of this distribution matrix is yet under verification by the monitoring teams that are closely monitoring the drought situation and subsequent interventions in the above indicated four monitoring zones.

However looking at the existing matrix, it indicates that there is uneven distribution of water tankers from one zone to the other. As a result the issue of redistribution of trucks has been discussed both at the federal and Regional WES Taskforce meetings. An agreement has been reached at the Regional level by the DPPB to review the situation and decide as appropriate. In order to improve the matrix, suggestions are given to include the updated number of beneficiaries.

Regarding the water supply systems that are out of order in the Region, there is no well developed data available at the moment. The MoWR has sent one team to the Region to conduct inventory of non-functional water schemes including the type of maintenance required. A similar matrix will then be prepared with respect to functionality of water schemes in the affected areas of the Region.

In order to address the repeated non functionality problem of water schemes particularly in Afder, Gode and Liben zones a suggestion of setting up a "**Zonal Mobile Maintenance Team**" was discussed at the Federal WES Task Force meeting held on 28 March 2006. As per the suggestion, each mobile team will be composed of technicians drawn from the Regional water bureau and NGOs who are willing to contribute such technicians and other required resources. The teams will be responsible for regular monitoring and maintenance of non functional schemes in each zone. UNICEF supported the suggestion and offered to support financially if such teams become operational. However Tamene said there seems to be reluctance to participate in the joint mobile maintenance team.

Based on the Regional proposal submitted to UNICEF for the support of rehabilitation and maintenance of non-functional water schemes through acquisition of equipment and spare parts, UNICEF is finalizing the procurement of spares and equipment worth USD 250,000 to be airlifted.

Federal and Regional information sharing and flow has been discussed at both levels and there is an agreement to compile and share the minutes, matrixes, deliberations, etc, regularly. The Task Forces have given the responsibility of collecting, compiling and disseminating such information to UNICEF and UN OCHA. .

Oromia Region

Water tankering, rehabilitation of mal-functional systems as well as construction of new systems are on going by different implementing agencies particularly in Borena zone. Currently, water rationing is in progress with 15 water tankers in different woredas of Borena zone. The following indicates the zonal distribution by woreda.

- Moyale: 3 trucks (OPCADC, DPPA, Red Cross)
- Mio: 1 truck (CARE)
- Dire: 2 trucks (OPCADC, SORDU)
- Yabello: 2 trucks (CARE)
- Arero: 1 truck (SORDU)
- Teltele: 2 trucks (OPCADC)
- EECMY expressed that it has started water tinkering operation with 4 trucks in Dire, Mio and Moyale woredas.

Water rationing is also on going with 7 trucks in East Hararghe and with 2 water trucks in Arsi zones. (4 trucks are operated by OPCADC in East Hararghe and 5 by Regional WRB in East Hararghe and Arsi). A number of schemes are maintained and made functional in Borena zone (55 by WRB, 8 by CARE, and some by CISP). In addition, some new schemes constructions were done in Borena (7 by WRB, 7 by CISP, 2 by OSHO).

UNICEF has donated 70 collapsible water bladders to Oromia Region, 30 to Borena zone, 16 to East Hararghe zone, 14 to Arsi zone and 4 to East Shoa zone (Fentale woreda). CISP has also distributed 8 Roto Tanks to Moyale woreda.

Afar Region

Regional coordination meeting and de-briefing is scheduled for March 29, 2006. The outcome of the meeting is not yet known.

UNICEF and Regional DPPB have conducted a rapid assessment in zones 2 and 4 that indicated critical water shortages. The assessment showed that Abala, Berhale, Dallol and Erebtı woredas of zone 2 are seriously affected and water rationing is recommended for schools and communities in Berahle, Dallol and Erebtı woredas. Proposals for rehabilitation and new construction and water tankering are submitted to UNICEF by the Regional water bureau and DPPB respectively. The proposal is under review and is expected to be approved urgently.

Other Issues

The MoWR has contributed two team members that have recently left to Afder and Liben zones to take part in the EWWG re-assessment mission. Emergency water requirement for Afar, Oromia and Somali Regions is prepared and submitted to DPPA for the period April - June 2006.

FOOD aid Pipeline

Ms. Lisste

Lisste reported that there is enough food till mid year. However cereal pipeline will break in June. She said the calculation is based on current needs and if the performance of *Belg* season is poor

there will be shortages of food. She said when analyzing existing situation and past history there may be a need for an additional 200,000 MT of food aid following *Belg*.

Regarding CSB it was stated that it can cover immediate needs for emergency interventions however it is not enough to do 35% blanket feeding for all beneficiaries through out the country. Blanket coverage of CSB is being made to critically drought affected areas including Somali Region and Borena zone.

EOS pipeline is good and needs are covered until September. However there is blended food gap for the second half of the year.

WFP said new contribution of 45,000 MT of cereals is expected from EU, although it is not confirmed yet.

EFSR

Getachew

Stock at hand	232,849 MT
Outstanding loan	84, 520 MT
Under withdrawal	87,635 MT

AOB

Non-Food response very low

It was stated that response to non-food appeal is very low and food at stock is dwindling. Therefore it was stressed that donors should be encouraged. Getachew said that the DPPA Director General has sent letter to major donors asking for urgent response to the appeal. He said all stakeholders should advocate and support the letter.

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Vincent Lelei, OCHA deputy head emphasized that the meeting should be structured in away that the Task Force Chairpersons report on concrete funding, capacity and other gaps. He said clearly defined gaps, priorities and required actions make the meeting more strategic and action oriented which will help participants to focus on addressing gaps. The Chairperson requested the Task Force Chairs to take the suggestion into account and prepare their future reports accordingly.

Getachew said in the last TIME meeting it was agreed for the Task Force Chairpersons to send a summary of their reports to the Information Center before the meeting to be distributed to all participants. However, only the Health Task Force has acted accordingly. Therefore Getachew urged all the Task Force Chairs to send their summary in order to lessen the time the meeting takes. Regarding the frequency of the meeting it was agreed to continue once a month till situation demand for more meeting. However it was noted that attention should also be given to the Task Forces meetings which are more technical as opposed to the TIME meeting which is more general and strategic.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:45.

Next TIME meeting will take place on 27 April 2006 at 10:00 a.m.

Attendance by more participants is expected.