

TIME

Minutes of the 52th Technical Information Management Exchange (TIME) Forum Meeting September 28, 2006, 10:00 hrs

Venue: DPPA conference Hall

Chair-person: Ato Getachew Tesfaye

Agenda

- Water Task Force
- Health & Nutrition Task force
- Food Task force
- Stock status

The meeting was started with the chair-person suggesting to begin the report with Water Task Force.

Water Task Force

Ato Abebe Gulma

Ato Abebe said that above Birr 500,000 and later on Birr 450,000 worth of pipes and fittings had been sent to Dire Dawa. He said that the Amhara Region requested for water treatment chemicals, pipes and generators worth Birr 4 million in response to which Jenrrycans pipes and the like has been sent. They are in touch with the region, according to him. He also said that they had sent 150 water pumps (manual) to south Omo. They have also sent a team to SNNPR to study AWD.

This team has also been sent to Amhara, according to him. A question was asked about AWD being an urgent matter and what is being done now apart from sending study teams to affected areas. Another question was asked concerning NGOs working in the water sector: what is being done to coordinate the activities of the government with them?

Ato Abebe replied that there have so far been 1115 cases of diarrhea and 55 deaths. A task force had been set up and efforts were being made to control the spread of the disease. They feel Ministry of health, Ministry of Water Resources and DPPA together must appeal to the international community.

It was learned that WES Task Force had begun meeting every week because of the worrisome condition in the country.

They said that several committees had been set up to fight the disease. The supply of clean water is essential. The disease could continue to attack people in the dry weather now through lack of water. They said that there must be a contingency plan to contain the situation otherwise the disease would grow strong.

The outbreak of the disease in Tach Armachoho has made intervention difficult, but they need to get whatever supplies we can give them, they said.

Ato Abebe said that MoWR was now taking part in emergency activities. Participants said that AWD is a hazard and DPPA should take part in the fight. As the problem has become challenging, a co-ordinated approach is important, they said.

They said that we had been able to sort of slow down the spread of the disease but not able to contain it. We are kind of lucky, they said.

A question was asked: Has MoWR an action plan?

Ato Abebe said that MoWR had no action plan but they had been giving the necessary response. They would have an action plan when the teams return from the field.

Water treatment plants are advised to use more chlorine now, Ato Abebe said.

The number of cases has declined in West Arsi. The zone has become the best example of results gained through concerted efforts.

Ato Getachew said that needs have to be identified for the donor community to respond accordingly. This afternoon (28th september 2006) there will be a meeting of Crisis Management and we need to articulate our needs well, he said.

Health Task force

Dr Asnake Tesfahum

There are 5 task forces established to tackle diarrhea and vomiting he said. A directive has been issued to prevent and control the disease and it has been distributed, he added. The co-ordination committee has subcommittees.

He said that the disease had attacked 6 regions: Oromia, SNNPR, Amhara, Tigray, Addis Ababa and Somali (Filtu) Amhara is most severely affected, according to Dr Asnake.

He said that there was shortage of medicines. Factories must begin to produce medicines necessary to treat this disease.

He said that the problem concerning the disease in Addis Ababa was not to be dismissed easily. 87 cases had been reported. It would require the concerted effort of all. Timely action should be taken.

He said that programmes of awareness creation through the radio were being proposed so as to control the spread of the disease.

He said what made the disease dangerous was its spread in the environment where only 26% get clean water and where 18% of the country could be called in a sanitary condition.

He said that the supply of the necessary materials to fight the disease was worrisome. He added the monitoring of activities by DPPA would be important.

Some said that the Amhara Region is not open and holds back information related to AWD. For example, while officials say 2 people have died, the people say 16 and also give the precise time. The information must be precise. The DPPA must work with MoH and MoWR. Co-ordination is necessary and monitoring mechanism is needed on the proper utilization of resources.

Food Task Force

Ato Tsegaye Kelkilie

Ato tsegaye said that all food and non-food has been transported to regions.

Allocation of food for flood emergency in August and September/MT/

No	Region	Cereals	Oil	Supp.food	pulses
1	Oromia	57.2	1.90	17.4	2.6
2	Dire Dawa	50	6.00	24.6	0
3	Affar	211.5	6.5	19.00	3.3
4	Tigray	26.4	0.9	2.80	2.7
5	Gambella	24.4	0.80	2.6	0
6	SNNPR	281.20	8.40	44.17	27.60
7	Somali	619.50	18.50	64.90	62.10
8	Amhara	721.9	23.6	87.4	78.3

Question were asked: Why are some figures not correct?

Why haven't you included NGO contributions?

Ato Tsegaye said that these were documented items and had been distributed by DPPA. He said that he received no information on the contributions of NGOs. He is in touch with WFP only, he added.

It was suggested by some that information had to be complete. The concerned department must do that: we need consolidated information. It was however remarked that the information by the Food Task Force is incomplete. But it is a good beginning that has to be improved.

Stock Status

Ato Getachew Tesfaye

Stock at hand	108,530.31
Under withdrawal	53,620.00
Outstanding loans	296,474.00

The meeting was concluded at 12:30 hrs

The next meeting will be on November 30, 2006.