



**The Federal Democratic Republic of
Ethiopia Ministry of Agriculture and
Rural Developments / MoARD**

**Disaster Management and Food
Security Sector / DMFSS**

Ato Mitku Kassa / STATE MINISTER

**Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

First of all, please allow me to welcome you all, on behalf of the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and on that of my own, to this gathering where we will be exchanging valuable information regarding humanitarian situations in the country requiring due attention and the measures which need to be taken.

Before passing to note on humanitarian requirements and challenges in 2009, I would like to take a few minutes to revise what was going on in the areas of humanitarian intervention since we met on a similar forum last October 2008.

DMFSS / Disaster Management and Food Security Sector

As you all know, toward the end of 2008, the number of population in need of emergency assistance was revised from 4.6 million in June to 6.4 million in September mainly due to failure of seasonal rains in many parts of the country compounded by the global price increase of food items.

In order to address emergency needs during the year, the Humanitarian Agencies contributed about 508,657 MT which accounts for 60% of the total requirement. With the use of some carry over stocks from 2007, the amount of the food dispatched by the Government and Humanitarian Agencies through out the year stood at 523,096 MT, covering 62% of the national requirement. Thus, as the result of the shortage of resources, the standard ration rates were reduced by one third from July onwards. The available resources were allocated to the neediest Woredas on priority basis.

To reinforce the food delivery system in Somali region a special Joint WFP/Government logistics arrangement was put in place. The system has contributed much in enhancing delivery and regional capacity.

With regard to targeted supplementary feeding program, it was able to distribute 69 percent of the food requirements initially projected in the Humanitarian requirement plan due to resource shortages during the Year.

**Excellencies,
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The emergency response in the non food support for, health and nutrition, water and environmental sanitation and Agriculture and Livestock were better as compared to responses in the food sector. More than USD 133 million was contributed by Humanitarian Partners and the Ethiopian Government.

Thus, as the result of the concerted actions undertaken and relentless efforts made by the Government and Humanitarian Partners against the common challenges, we were able to save the Lives and Livelihoods of the needy Population.

At this juncture, I would like to thank you all for the generous contributions you made so far to withstand Humanitarian problems prevailed in the country.

**Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,**

Parallel to providing assistance to the already identified needy population, close monitoring of the Humanitarian and Food Security situation has been going on since the Humanitarian requirement was revised and set in October 2008.

According to the findings of the Government - led Multi Agency seasonal assessment conducted in November/December 2008, the performance of the main rainy season (Meher) especially in the western parts of the country was favorable for crop production and Livestock sector. The finding has also indicated that food security situation in eastern, southern and south -eastern zones of Tigray, the low lands of north Shewa, south Wello, north Wello and Waghimira zones of Amhara, the low lands of eastern Hararghe, Bale, west Arsi and north Shewa of Oromiya, coffee producing and south Omo zones of SNNPR, non irrigable areas of Afar and Dire Dawa has deteriorated due to the poor performance of the Belg and Meher seasons. The Pastoralists and Agro – pastoralists of the north east, the south and the south east are also expected to face food and income deficits in the year.

Water and Pasture shortage will continue to be serious challenges in many parts of Shinille and Jijiga and some pocket areas of Korahe and Warder Zones in Somali Region.

As per the November/December 2008 needs assessment 4,945,425 People will need food assistance in 2009 out of which 68% are from Somali, SNNP and Amhara regions. The total food aid requirement for the year is estimated at 591,503 MT. The carry over stock is estimated to be about 16,892 MT and carry over contribution from 2008 arriving in 2009 estimated to be 124,000 MT bring the net requirement to 450,611 MT, valued at USD 389,327,904.

In addition, provision of supplementary food for children under five and pregnant/lactating women will continue as cases of mal nutrition are being reported from various regions. Hence, an estimated 1.2 million beneficiaries will be reached with a net 30,327 MT of supplementary food that amounts USD 26,202,528.

The total net food and non – food requirement to address the needs of the estimated beneficiaries amounts to USD 454,396,769.

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I have no doubt that you all will agree with the idea that any humanitarian intervention will be incomplete unless the support in the non – food sector is given equal attention too.

A total of USD 38,866,337 is requested to respond to non – food needs have identified beneficiaries in the health and nutrition, water and sanitation and Agriculture and Livestock sectors.

**Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Before concluding my statement, please allow me to take a few more minutes to high light on the coordination mechanism to be implemented.

As usual the Government will continue to shoulder the overall leadership for Humanitarian responses. Thus, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development through its Disaster Management and Food Security Sector will be responsible for leading and coordinating all organs involved in humanitarian operations.

A special committee composed of concerned Government bodies, Donors, UN agencies and NGOs will be revitalized to facilitate enhanced co-ordination of humanitarian operations in Somali Region. The Joint Government and WFP hubs and spokes system will be strengthened in the region in order to ensure effective and efficient food delivery.

The sectoral task forces led by the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Water resources and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development will be responsible for the co-ordination, monitoring and reporting on emergency response interventions in their respective sectors in partnership with relevant UN agencies, NGO's and Donors.

Effective co-ordination among Government, UN agencies, NGO's and Donors is crucial in addressing humanitarian needs and effectively managing risks to avert disasters.

Finally I would like to extend my appreciation and heart felt gratitude to all our partners for their continued response and participation in the recent assessment. I know well that if our partners' financial, manpower and transport support had not been available, this assessment would not have been realized.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank sectoral emergency task forces, assessment team members and the editorial committee who worked extremely hard to compile the report and finalize the appeal document with in tight schedule.

In conclusion, your usual support and generosity has had a crucial role in the achievements registered so far and as humanitarian actors, in saving the lives and livelihoods of our compatriots. I am confident that the sprit of collaboration and good partnership, we have experienced in the past will continue with more determination and unity of purpose for even enhanced achievements of our common humanitarian endeavors this year.

I Thank You!