

BULLETIN

FORTNIGHT



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DPPA Making Efforts to Contain Drought in Pastoral Areas

The Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency (DPPA) disclosed that the government is making efforts to contain the drought that is now affecting the pastoral areas.

According to a statement made by Simon Michelle, Director General of the DPPA, in a press conference held on 17 February 2006 at DPPA Auditorium, the government is making efforts to ameliorate the effects of the drought in the pastoral areas. He said East African countries including Ethiopia are facing shortages of rains due to erratic weather conditions that is resulting in pasture, water and food shortages. Consequently Liben, Afder, Gode and Jijiga zones of Somali Region and Borena zone of Oromia Region are facing drought.

Ato Simon noted that the drought has exposed humans and animals to dangerous health related hazards, milk giving cows and their calves are in critical conditions. In response to the drought situations he said a National Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Committee chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (MoARD) has been reconvened by all concerned government offices and efforts are being made to tackle the problem.

FOOD Aid Status

More than 35,000 MT of Food Aid Allocated for January Distribution



A total of 35092.84 MT of emergency food has been allocated to Oromia and Somali regions for January 2006 distribution.

According to Aid Programme Coordination and Monitoring Department, Relief Coordination department 29055.14 MT was set aside for Somali and 6,037.7 MT for Oromia. So far 98% to Oromiya and 74.5% to Somali has been dispatched while the remaining is being transported. The department disclosed that transportation problem and bad roads had hindered food aid dispatch to Somali region.



The National Committee meets every week and assesses the implementation of decisions made and follows up on new developments. Ato Simon also said in response to the situation a crisis management committee chaired by DPPA DDG and sectoral offices task forces meetings are also

being convened.

On 9 January 2006, four teams drawn from MoH, MoW, MoARD and DPPA were dispatched to and are positioned in Liben, Afder, Gode and Jijiga zones to monitor and coordinate the health, water, agriculture and food aid inter-

This Fortnight Bulletin updates readers on what DPPA and its partners are doing regarding disaster prevention, preparedness and related issues.



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To ensure the arrival of food aid to the beneficiaries and prevent possible diversion of relief items, the Ministry of Defence has started escorting food trucks, to particular "hotspots" in Somali region.

ventions. Accordingly the teams have been reporting on situation on the ground regularly.

Ato Simon said in accordance to the teams' report a large quantity of water containers, tankers, generators have been dispatched. In addition the regional governments have contributed from 17 to 20 water tankers. Moreover the Federal Ministry of Health has dispatched health personnel to the drought affected areas along with medicines and medical equipment.

In some places in Somali region transportation constraint is becoming

a challenge and efforts are underway to resolve the problem. However, to ensure the arrival of food aid to the beneficiaries and prevent possible diversion of relief items, the Ministry of Defence has started escorting food trucks, to particular "hotspots". And to obviate the problem of distribution efforts are being made. The food that is being sent to each wereda is being notified in Somali language through the media.

Ato Simon said although over 230,000 MT food is available until June from carry-over stocks and pledges of last year there is critical shortage of non-food items.

More than 400 Personnel Given Training During the Past Budget Year

The Federal DPPA has organized and conducted various training and familiarizing courses to 452 personnel drawn from the regions and federal bodies during the 2004 - 2005 budget year.

According to the Agency's 2004 - 2005 budget year Plan of Action Implementation report, 162 people from regions and from the center were given training on nutritional survey, early warning data interpretation and analysis, information gathering and compiling. The training focused on strengthening the early warning system across the country.

In addition, to improve information exchange within the Agency, 110 staffs drawn from various departments had been given course on basic computer skills including the internet. Furthermore, giving due attention to gender issues, 54 female and 81 male workers had participated on gender and reproduction awareness' creation seminars. The report indicated that 45 mid and senior management members of the Agency had taken part in workshops organized on different government policies and strategies, concepts of organization and management, modern or result based method and plan implementation directive.

Twenty Two Nutritional Surveys Conducted

22 nutritional studies were conducted by different NGOs and DPPA. The studies have played vital role in addressing the needs of children and mothers during food shortages due to drought or other related disasters.

According to the DPPA's Early Warning Department Disaster Areas Studies Team, from June 2006 to October 2006 the Agency and nine NGOs have conducted 22 nutritional surveys in 19 Weredas of SNNP,

Oromia, Amhara and Afar regions.

In SNNPR the studies were conducted in Awasa Zuria, siltie, Kucha, Boloso Sorie, Damot Gallie and Dalie Weredas; in Oromia Region in Darolebu, Dodota Sorie, Ziwy Dugda, Kuni, Kurfachelie, Bedeno and Girawa weredas; in Amhara Region in Kalu, Dessie Zuria, Dehana and Sekota weredas; and in Afar Region in Abela and Berahlie weredas. The studies were mainly carried out by



The DPPA and nine NGOs have conducted 22 nutritional surveys in 19 Weredas of SNNP, Oromia, Amhara and Afar regions from June 2006 to October 2006.

NGOs including Goal Ethiopia, save the Children USA, SC/UK, Concern Ethiopia, Merlin, Care Ethiopia and DPPA in collaboration with these or separately as the case might be.

Disaster Areas Studies Team has accomplished many activities since its establishment by coordinating, compiling and verifying the nutritional surveys undertaken by NGOs and UN

agencies. The compiled nutritional survey findings had helped pertinent bodies to take appropriate measures to address malnourished children and lactating mothers exposed to food shortages. According to the team the training and the different capacity building endeavors are encouraging and had enabled emergency nutrition survey to be carried out and compiled at regional and wereda levels.

The Newly Appointed DPPA's Deputy Director General Visited Different Departments of the Agency



Ato Gebremedhin Belay has rendered service to the government in different positions for the past 28 years, before he was appointed DPPA's Deputy Director General.

Ato Gebremedhin Belay was appointed by the Prime Minister as Deputy General for the FDPPA since December 26, 2005

Since his appointment Ato Gebremedhin visited and held discussion with different heads of departments and senior staffs. He also visited the Emergency Food security Reserve Administration (EFSRA), the National Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Fund Office (NDPPFO) and the Dire Dawa and Kombolcha Central Warehouses. During his visit he was given briefings on how the EFSRA and NDPPFO is organized, their duties and responsibilities, their internal and external relations. He noted that the main objective of his visit is to gain general knowledge of the activities performed by these offices. Ato Gebremedhin, also said the visit will help create a close working relationship with EFSRA and DPPA.

The Deputy director General underscored what he was able to witness from close quarters. He appreciated the encouraging combined efforts of

the Agency's manpower and the use of modern information technology, which he said is the basis for the Agency's successful effort in saving lives and livelihoods of victims of natural and man-made disasters.

Ato Gebremedhin Belay has rendered service to the government in different positions for the past 28 years. Before he was appointed DPPA's Deputy Director General, he was Tourism Commission's Deputy Commissioner from March 2004 - 2005, Ministry of Agriculturer's Vice Minister from 2002 - 2004, Ministry of Agriculture's Plan and Programme Department Head from January 1994 - 2002.

Ato Gebremedhin Belay has obtained his MSc degree in Agriculture and Rural Development Studies from the Institute of Social Studies in the Hague, Netherlands in 1985 and Post Graduate Diploma in Project Plan and Analysis in 1983. He received his first degree in Agricultural Economics from the former Alemaya Agricultural College which is now Alemaya University in 1978.

Appeal launched for emergency Aid in 2006 by the Ethiopian Government, UN and Humanitarian Partners

The Ethiopian Government, the United Nations and humanitarian partners appealed for US\$ 166 million in emergency food and non-food aid on 23 January, 2006. At the appeal held at the DPPA it was

stated that 1.7 million people in the pastoral and agro-pastoral areas of the country are in critical situation and require an immediate US\$ 10 million in non-food aid to address this drought induced crisis.

The director general of the DPPA Ato Simon Mechale said, the 2006 emergency appeal involves a total of 2.6 million beneficiaries of which about 67 percent are in critically affected pastoral areas of the country. Somali Region alone accounts for about 59%, Borena zone of Oromiya 6% and Afar Region 2% while the remaining 33 percent comprises the cropping areas across the country, excluding Tigray and Harari regions.

According to Ato Simon Mechale appropriate and timely measures are being taken by federal and regional governments to assist the needy on the ground.

DPPA has fielded four mobile teams with radio-mounted vehicles to moni-

region. Similar actions were taken in Borena Zone by Oromia regional government.

The total food need for the 2.6 million beneficiaries is estimated to be above 339,000 MT. The net requirement for the year amounts to just over 101,000 MT taking in to account undelivered pledges of 124,500 MT and unutilized stock of 113,500 MT carried over from 2005.

The Productive Safety Net Program which takes care of the chronically food insecure populations will continue to expand in 2006 while beneficiaries covered through the emergency food system is being reduced. 2006 is generally positive in overall food security in most crop producing areas of the country because of the good



Ato Simon Mechale said timely measures are being taken by federal and regional governments to assist the needy on the ground.



tor the situation and report. Relief food distribution is also on-going. One water tanker has been sent to Borena Zone and another one is ready to be sent to Somali Region.

Ministry of Health (MoH) has dispatched teams of experts with the necessary drugs and medical equipment to assist their local counter parts. The Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development (MoRD) sent drugs for intervention in the livestock sector while the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) has sent spare parts and equipment to assist in emergency water supplies.

The Somali regional government has allocated a significant budget from its own account as well as deploying water tankers to different zones in the

performance of the Meher. According to the joint assessments findings the performance of 2005 Meher was promising in most parts of the country. Therefore, there is a significant reduction in the number of needy population that is covered through emergency food aid programme. This is due to better weather performance, effective development related food security and poverty reduction interventions as well as improved assessment methodology that enabled estimations of needs to be close to real, the Director General said.

The Director General urged the international donor community to respond generously and in a timely manner to avoid the tragedies and negative consequences that are associated with drought.



STOCK STATUS OF EFSRA AND LOAN REPAYMENT SCHEDULE (MT)

(February 28, 2006)

I. Stock Status of EFSRA

MT

1.	Stock at hand	234,205.43
2.	Outstanding loans.....	82,048.40
3.	Under withdrawal	88,751.00
4.	Total owned stock	405,004.83

II. Loan Repayment Schedule

No	Guarantor	Quantity provided on loan (MT)	Qty repaid (MT)	Borrower	Remark
1	WFP	0.00	2,226.38	WFP	
2	WFP	0.00	81.77	DPPC	
3	USAID	4,277.00	0.00	SCF	
4	USAID	0.00	407.64	CRS	
5	USAID	0.00	160.12	FHI	
6	CFGB	0.00	1,572.84	FHI	
7	MoFED	68,000	0.00	EGTE	
	Total	72,277.00	4,448.75,		

DPPA