HIGHLIGHTS

♦ The number of flood affected population in Gambella has increased to 91,764 people, 35,861 displaced, and 5 deaths in 10 out of 11 districts of Gambella Region.

♦ Reduced food ration and global crisis contribute to maintain the food crisis situation in drought affected areas.

I. FLOODS IN GAMBELLA REGION / ETHIOPIA

Situation
⇒ According to Gambella DPPB* 10 out of 11 districts of the Region are currently affected by floods. Affected districts are Itang, Akobo, Abobo Gambella, Lare, Gorge, Dimma, Jor, Jikawo and Wanthoa districts. A total of 91,764 people are affected, 35,861 displaced and 5 deaths. Floods affected 71 out of 224 Kebeles.
⇒ Records from Regional health Bureau and health facilities show that, for the moment there is no diseases epidemic reported from affected areas. However the RHB team mentioned increase cases of malaria (Plasmium falciparum) in Abobo and Itang districts.
⇒ The main health treats remain diarrheal diseases and malaria epidemics.
⇒ The needs of the population are food, shelter, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health care services, and education.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Districts</th>
<th>Affected Kebeles</th>
<th>Affected Population</th>
<th>Displaced Population</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gambella Town</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>988</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gamb. surround. Keb</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2,728</td>
<td>264</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lare</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>20,090</td>
<td>11,879</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Akobo</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>17,245</td>
<td>7,714</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Itang</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>15,105</td>
<td>7,558</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abobo</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>16,020</td>
<td>761</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gorge</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4,179</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dimma</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1,464</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jor</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4,240</td>
<td>1,872</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jikawo</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5,645</td>
<td>3,040</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wanthoa</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4,060</td>
<td>1,805</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>71</strong></td>
<td><strong>91,764</strong></td>
<td><strong>35,861</strong></td>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*DPPB: Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Bureau
Response

Government of Ethiopia

⇒ Assessment led by DPPB was conducted in five districts. Requirements broadly estimated were sent to central level for support.
⇒ The Regional Council has organized 2 multi-sectoral coordination meetings. Participants were sectoral bureaus and humanitarian partners in Gambella Region.
⇒ The Gambella Regional Health Bureau (RHB) has estimated health needs and forwarded to FMoH*, WHO & UNICEF.
⇒ Regional Education Bureau evaluated the education needs. According to the Education Bureau schools that serve 52,000 school children are currently occupied by IDPs.
⇒ FMoH with the support of WHO has allocated emergency drugs and medical supplies valued US$16,000 to Gambella.
⇒ FMoH and Gambella RHB with the support of WHO have developed health action plan in response to Gambella flood. The health needs are estimated to be US$218,680 and the present gap is US$136,680. The strategic objectives of the health action plan are:
  * Strengthening coordination
  * Re-enforcement of diseases surveillance activities
  * Establishment of basic health services
  * Improvement of measles vaccination coverage
  * Intensification of awareness raising on hygiene
  * Strengthening of malaria control programme and
  * Enhancement of emergency prevention and preparedness targeting mainly water borne diseases such as diarrheal diseases and malaria.

Humanitarian Partners

⇒ WFP has allocated food to sites, but the distribution by DPPB is still delaying.
⇒ Samaritan Purse (SP) is currently distributing ITNs, and water purification products (water guard and PUR sachet) in Lare district. In addition, SP conduct awareness raising campaign focused on hygiene in Lare district.
⇒ Malaria team has distributed 10,500 ITNs provided by UNICEF in Lare, Akobo, Abobo, Itang and Gambella town.
⇒ RHB with the support from WHO has allocated emergency drugs and medical supplies to health facilities in flood affected areas.
⇒ WHO support per-diem for 12 teams of 3 health staff each deployed by the RHB in the displaced sites to provide basic health care services.
⇒ WHO field teams (3 surveillance officers) assist the RHB in coordinating the health sector interventions, strengthening the disease surveillance and ensuring the provision of basic health services to affected population in Gambella Region.
⇒ WHO actively participated in the development of health action plan in response to Gambella Flood.
⇒ The main constraints remain the accessibility due to cut off roads. Other challenge is the urgent need of IDP site identification and provision of shelters in order to free schools occupied by IDPs, as schools are scheduled to start in 2 weeks time in Ethiopia.

* FMoH: Federal Ministry of Health
In order to ensure adequate and full support to flood victims in Gambella Region, WHO assessment mission to Gambella Region has proposed action points that include:

* High advocate for using all ways of transport (helicopters) to try to locate possible trapped population (UNCT);
* Effective Presence of UNOCHA in the Region to assist coordinating humanitarian interventions;
* WFP and DPPA at Federal level should intervene in order to ensure food distribution to affected population;
* UNICEF to support NGOs in water purification product distribution;
* Close monitoring of nutrition situation in the region (UNICEF);
* WHO to ensure effective surveillance system and share health data and information with partners for decision making and planning purpose;
* UNFPA to ensure basic safe motherhood and infant care services to mothers and children are available;
* All partners (Donors, UN agencies and NGOs) to ensure the accessibility of humanitarian assistance to all affected population without exception

The Regional Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (RENCU) and Concern Worldwide have completed a nutrition survey in Soro district in SNNP Region and the findings are expected soon.

In Oromiya Region, Save the Children UK has conducted two rapid assessments in Girja and Waderea districts in Guji Zone and MSF-Belgium recently completed assessments in Borena Zone.

GOAL is carrying out a nutrition survey in Kuni district in SNNP Region and results are expected shortly.

Concern Worldwide has completed a rapid assessment in Ambasedl district of South Wollo Zone in Amhara Region.

In Afar, Save The Children UK has carried out rapid assessments in Erebti and Gulina districts and a nutrition survey in Teru districts.

CCM has carried out a rapid assessment in Mlakasora in Somali Region and the results are pending.

Rapid assessments are ongoing in Fik and Hambro woredas in Fik Zone in the Somali Region by Save the Children UK.

Save The Children carried out rapid nutrition assessment in 4 districts (Bugna, Sayint, Gidan and Legambo) in Amhara Region.

For most of the assessments, the results are yet to be endorsed at the federal level, but in general show very high global malnutrition rates ranging from 17 to 50%.

**Situation**

⇒ Despite the efforts from Government of Ethiopia and humanitarian agencies in responding to food crisis in drought affected regions in Ethiopia, new admissions of severe malnourished children is still high. In fact the food crisis in drought affected regions in Ethiopia is exacerbated by global crisis: high oil price, high food prices and financial crisis.

⇒ In SNNP Region alone, 2,901 children with severe acute malnutrition were admitted between 22nd and 28th August into therapeutic feeding centers bringing the total number of new admissions reported between 27 June and 28th August to 31, 236.

⇒ In Afar, the Regional Health Bureau and DPPA has identified 12 additional hotspot districts.

⇒ Currently WFP is estimating the total food shortfalls to be 107,493 metric tones (mt) valued at US$ 86.7 million; shortfalls for the Productive Safety Net Programme amount to 36,148 mt of mixed commodities valued at US$28.7 million; and the Targeted Supplementary Food Programme shortfall of 4,983 mt, equivalent to US$ 4.4 million.

**Response**

⇒ Due to shortage of food, the general food distribution to target households has been reduced by 30% since July 2008.

⇒ The main consequences of the reduction of the ration are:
  * increased of malnutrition case especially amongst children under five years old;
  * High population migration;
  * Reduction in the number/quantity of meals by families;
  * Consumption of wild fruits/plants and immature trees/crops such as insects and haricot beans;
  * Selling productive assets;

⇒ Renting plots and sharing harvests in exchange for agricultural inputs especially seeds; and

⇒ School drop outs.

⇒ The RENCU in Tigray has finalized a rapid assessment in Hintalo-Wajirat and Raya Azebo districts.

⇒ Concern Worldwide has completed a rapid assessment in Ambasedl district of South Wollo Zone in Amhara Region.

⇒ MSF-Belgium has completed assessments in Mekedela woreda in South Wollo Zone in Amhara Region.

⇒ In Afar, Save The Children UK has carried out rapid assessments in Erebti and Gulina districts and a nutrition survey in Teru districts.

⇒ CCM has carried out a rapid assessment in Mlakasora in Somali Region and the results are pending.

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⇒ For most of the assessments, the results are yet to be endorsed at the federal level, but in general show very high global malnutrition rates ranging from 17 to 50%.
III. DISEASE OUTBREAK SITUATIONS IN ETHIOPIA

More and more newly affected districts are reported from regions. During the epidemiologic week 37, Amhara has reported 2 newly affected districts: Yilma Densa district of W. Gojjam Zone and Shenkora district of N. Shewa. Tigrya Region has reported 3 newly affected districts: Tselemt and Shere town in N.W. Tigray and Tach machew of Central Tigray. The long rainy season explains the spread of the epidemic at this moment of the year.

Official reports from FMoH as of 14 September 2008 show 3,019 cases, and 18 deaths nationally (CFR*: 0.6%) from 6 regions (Afar, Amhara, Oromiya, SNNPR, Somali and Tigray) and Addis Ababa Municipality.

Total affected districts in 2008 (as of 14/09/08) is 42. The epidemic is controlled in 22 districts. Twenty districts continue or are expected to report active cases: 2 districts in Afar, 8 in Amhara, 3 in Oromiya and 6 in Tigray.

WHO continue to support FMoH and RHBs in staff training on nutrition issues. Trainings focus on surveillance, Case management and child and infant feeding. Currently training are on going in Oromiya and Afar Regions.

Acute Watery Diarrhea Cases and deaths per Regions as of 14 September 2008, Ethiopia, 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Affected Districts</th>
<th>Districts reporting Active Cases</th>
<th>Cases</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
<th>CFR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ad. Ababa</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afar</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amhara</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1,718</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oromiya</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1,043</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNNPR</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somali</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tigray</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>3,019</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*CFR: Case Fatality Rate
IV. COORDINATION

**Ethiopian Humanitarian Coordination Team meeting**

⇒ The meeting was held on Thursday 18th of September 2008 at UNDP Conference Room. The agenda included the review of outcomes of Sir. John Holmes, Emergency Relief Coordination visit to Ethiopia, early September; sectoral situation update and Gambella flood situation and response.

⇒ WHO briefed participants on acute watery diarrhea situation in Ethiopia. The report mentioned the increase in number of cases and newly affected districts specially in Amhara and Afar Regions; and the main causes of the spread of the epidemic which are the current long rainy season coupled with the persistence of risk factors such as poor safe drinking water supply, sanitation facilities and hygiene practices by the communities.

⇒ WHO conducted 15 minutes power point presentation on joint FMoH/WHO Gambella mission findings. The presentation focused on the situation, GoE and agencies responses, sectoral gaps and way forward.

**Special Committee on AWD Response meeting**

⇒ This week a special committee on AWD response comprised of IDSR/FMoH, Hygiene Department/FMoH, UNICEF, UNFPA and WHO met at WHO Conference room. The objective of the meeting was to review AWD response in Ethiopia, and plan for the Emergency health & Nutrition Task Force Technical Officers meeting. The forum recommened to call for the technical meeting on Monday next week to discuss AWD and Gambella flood situations and responses in Ethiopia.

**Coordination of Gambella flood response**

⇒ Gambella Regional council has organized multi-sectoral coordination meeting involving only the region sectoral bureaus on Wednesday 17th of September 2008.

**Coordination in Region**

⇒ The Regional EHNTF meeting was held on 19/09/08 in Bahir Dar chaired by the Deputy Head RHB.

V. COMMENTS

⇒ Reduced access to food will continue to increase family food sharing, reduce in number and quantity of daily ration and directly translate into increased number of new admissions and re-admission rates into feeding centers, and reduce recovery rate of severe malnourished children from feeding centers.