

21 August 2017

Key Issues

- Round 5 relief food distribution kicks off, targeting 3.3 million Relief and PSNP food beneficiaries in Somali region.
- OCHA Ethiopia and OCHA AULO Commemorate World Humanitarian Day
- The AWD outbreak continues to spread in Amhara region.

While Ethiopia continues its recovery from the devastating 2016 El Niño induced drought, poor performance of the spring rains this year in the southern and eastern parts of the country, compounded by disease outbreaks, large scale loss of livelihood assets and displacement, has exacerbated drought conditions. At least 8.5 million people will require relief food assistance in the second half of 2017, up from 5.6 million in January. The revised net requirements to address identified food and non-food needs for the remainder of the year is US\$487.6 million.

Fifth round food distribution kicks off in Somali region

The distribution of a full basket of relief food (cereals, pulses and oil) for Round 5 kicks off, targeting 3.3 million Relief and PSNP food beneficiaries in Somali region. The Government of Ethiopia, with consent and knowledge of the regional Government, passed this decision amidst growing concerns about the deteriorating food security and nutrition situation in the region largely due to delays in food transfers. The emergency response plan by the regional Government for the second half of the year was to distribute food to 47 *woredas* and transfer cash to 45 *woredas* for Round 5. From Round 6 onwards, there would be a gradual shift to more cash transfers with the ultimate result of supporting *woredas* with food and with cash and with WFP providing top-ups of pulses and oil to these cash receiving *woredas* on case by case basis.

OCHA Ethiopia and OCHA AULO Commemorate World Humanitarian Day

OCHA Ethiopia and the OCHA African Union Liaison Office (OCHA-AULO) commemorated the 2017 World Humanitarian Day. While AULO held a panel discussion on the Protection of Civilians on 18 August as part of the African Humanitarian Week, OCHA Ethiopia brought together Government and humanitarian operators to



recognize humanitarian aid workers and first line responders." As a Government and as a nation, we will continue to work tirelessly to address critical humanitarian needs of fellow Ethiopians affected by natural and man-made disasters," said Mr. Ayderus Hassen, Acting Commissioner of the National Disaster Risk Management Commission. The Humanitarian Coordinator, Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa-Onochie, encouraged partners to continue supporting the Government in its commendable leadership and response to the current drought.

The AWD outbreak continues to spread in Amhara region

New cases of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) continue to be reported in new areas of Amhara region, bringing the total number of cases reported since February 2017 to 2,519 as of 20 August 2017. Holly Sites and large scale commercial farms registered the largest number of cases. North Gondar and South Wollo zones account for the majority of the caseload. The AWD outbreak response is ongoing in most affected areas, with the strong leadership of the regional government supported by partners, including UNICEF and WHO. Recently, the Regional Disaster Prevention and Food Security Coordination Office (RDPFSCO) allocated ETB 50,000 (US\$2,140) for water rationing for Andasa Holly Site. The Regional Health Bureau calls on the support of the international community to expand coordination at zonal and *woreda* levels.

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