

**ETHIOPIAN CATHOLIC SECRETARIAT (ECS)  
SOCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (SADCO).**

**FOOD SECURITY AND EMERGENCY COORDINATION UNIT**

**Bimonthly Food Security/Insecurity Situation Update:  
May-June, 2007**



*Flood hazard in Humbob wereda of Southern Regional State, within Soddo Hossana Catholic Secretariat.*

## Glossary:

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>Belg-</b>    | Short rains/season from March to May (National)   |
| <b>Azmera -</b> | Rains from early March to early June (Tigrai)   |
| <b>Tsedia -</b> | Rains from mid June to end of September (Tigrai)  |
| <b>Dega -</b>   | Highlands (altitude >2500meter)   |
| <b>Meher -</b>  | Long and heavy rain season usually from June to September   |
| <b>Woreda -</b> | District, consisting of kebeles or peasant associations, which are the lowest Administrative unit of the government |
| <b>Kebele-</b>  | The smallest administrative unit  |
| <b>Zone -</b>   | Administrative unit (consisting of several woredas)   |
| <b>ECC-</b>     | Ethiopian Catholic Church.  |
| <b>ECS-</b>     | Ethiopian Catholic Secretariat.   |
| <b>ADCS</b>     | Adigrat Catholic Secretariat  |
| <b>ADCS-M</b>   | Adigrat Catholic Secretariats-Mekelle Branch.   |
| <b>HCS</b>      | Harar Catholic secretariat  |
| <b>ACS</b>      | Addis Abeba Catholic Secretariat.   |
| <b>GCS</b>      | Gambella Catholic Secretariat   |
| <b>SHCS</b>     | Soddo Hossana Catholic Secretariat  |
| <b>MCS</b>      | Meki Catholic Secretariat   |
| <b>DCSs</b>     | Diocesan Catholic Secretariats  |
| <b>PSNP</b>     | Productive safety net program   |
| <b>SNNP</b>     | Southern Nations and Nationalities  |
| <b>REST</b>     | Relief Society of Tigray  |
| <b>NGO</b>      | Non-governmental organizations.   |
| <b>GOs</b>      | Governmental organizations  |
| <b>EW</b>       | Early Warning   |
| <b>PA</b>       | Peasant Association (Lowest administrative level)   |

## Introduction

After experiencing different progressive steps jointly with DCSs on issues regarding strategies and approaches for establishment of “Effective Early Warning System and Disaster Response Mechanism of ECC”, ECS Food Security and Emergency Coordination Unit has now managed to establish a mechanism of early warning system (EWS) within the Ethiopian Catholic Church (ECC) and started to produce a regular bimonthly situation update.

Recently (May, 2007) a four days consultative meeting was organized to discuss on how to strengthen the disaster response mechanism of ECC, by ECS Food Security and Emergency Coordination Unit for participants came from HCS, ADCS (Adigrat main office), ADCS-(Mekelle branch), SHCS, GCS, ACS and MCS . At this moment, the above mentioned DCSs are closely working in harmony with ECS and have already started sending relevant information regarding food security and emergency regularly from what they have observed in their intervention areas and by sharing from the local government organizations (GOs) and NGOs working in their respective areas.

During the consultation meeting, it was mentioned that ECS food security and emergency unit is handling the leading role in coordinating, facilitating and compiling final summarized situation update based on the information collected by each DCSs and other agencies. The update primarily focuses on food security and emergency situation with in each DCSs. As a general overview this update is also trying to review the food security/insecurity situation in the country.

As a result of the establishment of the system, now ECS is in a position to produce and disseminate bimonthly update of DCSs situation to be shared among both local and international donor partners and different stakeholders of the church. This is the first update since the establishment of the system. Apart from the bimonthly update, in the meantime, if there are new fast onset hazards like flood and fire, it will be shared on time to keep our partners updated right away.

Taking this opportunity, ECS would like to pass its appreciation to all partners who are supporting and sharing us information for this update. ECS believes that it is through a collective effort that such initiation can be maintained in the church. Regular situation update is useful tool to facilitate and get prepared for effective emergency interventions on time.

In the next update (July-August) which is planned to be disseminated in September 2007, we will include findings of the ‘Belg’ (small rainy season) and pastoral area assessment. We hope, the planned situation report of September could indicate the overall food security/insecurity situation of the country until December 2007.

## **General food security/insecurity situation of the country:**

Usually, Ethiopia is known for shortage of food which is mainly occurred by drought. The famine occurred in this country during the years 1973/74, 1987/88, 1991/92 and the year 2003 were the result of shortage of rains in most parts of country. Since the last few years, flood is becoming another cause of disaster in this country. Much of the flood disasters in Ethiopia are related to rivers that overflow and burst their banks and inundate the lowland plains. The 2006 flooding that have occurred in Southern Omo Zone of SNNPRS, Gode and Afder zones of Somali Regional State, and most parts of Gambella region and some parts of Afar Regional State are the best examples of river flooding. Over flow of rivers during rainy season is normally expected in localized areas of Western Tigray Zone (Humera), around Lake Tana of Amhara Regional State and some parts of Oromiya. Apart from these, flash flooding is common in most parts of lowland area of the country including Dire Dawa.

Currently, flooding has already taken place in South Omo, Gamo Gofa and Wolayita Zones of SNNPRS. In Humbo woreda of Wolayita, recent floods have affected a total of 6,768 people. Similarly, floods that occurred late June, 2007 displace 601 people in Abaya and 890 in Boke woredas of Gamo Gofa Zone of SNNPRS. Crops and residential houses are inundated in both woredas. These occurrences are considered abnormal for this time of the year and are earlier than last year when flooding commenced in August.

Incidences of malaria and water borne disease such as Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) are also likely to increase after such heavy rainfall and will be further exacerbated by floods. Hence, preparedness is essential to intervene on time.

According to Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency (DPPA) and National Metrological Agency, the likelihood of getting normal to above normal rainfall in most parts of the country is 70 - 80%. This occurrence is anticipated to increase the risk of flooding in flood prone areas and the scale is expected to be worse than 'kiremt' of 2006 where nearly 700,000 people were affected, and over 200,000 were displaced and more than 600 people lost their lives.

The overall current situation within the country is indicted below through the information collected by DCSs and ECS as well as other agencies. This is the first product in line with the establishment of the ECC 'Strong Disaster response Mechanism', and we promise to continue in producing such reports regularly every two months through the network we have established with DCSs.

### **General information:**

Tigray is one of the regions that are adversely hit by recurrent drought. *Kiremti* is the main rainy season which covers from June to August. Farmers depend mainly on this rainy season for crop cultivation. Among the different zones of the region, eastern zone is the most drought affected area of the region. In order to assess emergency situation in the three woredas of Eastern Tigray, namely Irob, Sassie Tsada Emba and Gulomekada Woredas, the focal person has been collecting information from respective woreda administration, woreda office of food security, woreda office of agriculture and rural development, and disaster prevention and preparedness agency and input from day-to-day observation of ADCS field workers and development agents.

In Eastern Tigray Zone, there are two main rainy seasons that covers most places; these are *kiremti* (*main rainy season*) and 'Azmera' (*small rain season*). Shortage of rainfall both in amount and distribution in any one of the two rainy seasons can cause food shortage in this zone exposing many people to be dependent on external food support for survival. Insufficient rainfall in the rainy season has become a common phenomenon in the region especially in eastern zone.

Drought prevails itself in most places from two to three years interval. Even at seasons of sufficient rainfall coverage, there are always certain pocket areas experiencing insufficient crop production. Hence, shortage of food is common for most of the year in this zone.

ADCS is located in the warfront border areas; it has managed to confront the complex situation which claimed huge and devastating losses of life and socio-economic problems in the area during the bloody war between Ethiopia and Eritrea. The cease-fire agreement entered between the two countries has created some hopes both for the people of Ethiopia and Eritrea. However, it is very desperate to see the tension still exists. In the meantime, ADCS has indispensable time to build up the capacity for effective response to disasters.

Below, the overall current situation of the Eastern Tigray Zone for the last two months (Early June to Early July) is indicated.

### **Current situation of the diocese:**

#### **Rainfall condition:**

Usually the onset of azmera rain occurs in March/April and June under normal conditions in Saesie, Irob, Gulomukada and Gantafeshume Woredas. However, this year there is no adequate azmera rain so far. This situation may force the farmers to plant short season crops like wheat and barley in place of the high yielding long season crops like maize and sorghum.

#### **Crop conditions:**

In general, the insufficient and erratic nature of the main rain will have significant influence in the crop yield and livestock productivity. The rainfall condition is less in amount and distribution

which is affecting the pasture condition and availability of water for livestock. As a result of this, it is observed that some ponds and streams are starting to dry.

**Livestock condition:**

Livestock production is an important component of food and income source for the farming community in these woredas. In this particular season, there is shortage of animal feed to keep them the whole year; another problem with respect to livestock is reduction in their number as the owners are forced to sell their livestock for fear that their animals might deteriorate their physical condition and lost the actual value.

**Market situation:**

Like any other areas of the country, Eastern Tigray is also experiencing price hike in major food grains and livestock. Such trend seems to continue.

 **The worsening situation of Zalambesa town of Eastern Tigray:**

After the war between Ethiopia and Eritrea, Zalambesa town was completely ruined and the residents have been displaced. Currently, the town is physically being rehabilitated unlike the socio-economic improvement. Previously, residents of Zalambesa were depending on the strong trade relationship they had with Eritrea. Right after the border dispute, it becomes difficult for the community to survive with out it as they have limited options for alternative income generation. Except few government employees, the people are now finding themselves difficult to survive with in the town. Even in the rural areas around Zalambessa town, there is serious shortage of food for most of the communities. Some of the residents of the town are coping up the food shortage by selling their assets and private properties. Since the coping mechanism has counted some years, significant number of residents has already depleted their resources.

The assessment made by ADCS and the observation made by ECS emergency unit can witness the severe food shoratge in the town of Zalambesa and its environs. In this regard, four different villages (Mbraktshay, Adisalem , Aratkilllo Araguro) have been assessed and the findings are indicated below

***1. Mbraktshay :***

This zone has a total number of 793 households. According to the chairperson and residents of the town who have participated during the focus group discussion in the assessment; out of the total households 682 of them are affected by food shortage and are in a serous situation. The numbers of people who are starved are 1800. Even if it was impossible to walk door to door to observe the situation, we have managed to visit sample houses to confirm that the situation is there. Most of the houses are empty and in the remaining houses we found the family members are stressed with the situation.

*The following points were summarized by chairperson, residents and zone administration during the discussion, to see the magnitude of the problem in Zalambesa.*

**Table 1: Asset depletion as a coping mechanism.**

| Number of people | Items sold to cope up the condition        |
|------------------|--|
| 108              | Gold (Jewelry)                             |
| 45               | Radio and tape player                      |
| 101              | Bed, Jeri- can and utensils                |
| 70               | Blankets and clothes                       |
| 52               | Wooden boxes and barrels                   |
| 17               | Doors                                      |
| 2                | Abandoned their children and left the town |
| 107              | Displaced families                         |
| 94               | Dependents                                 |
| 50               | Unable to repay their debt                 |

The above table revealed that 108 people are forced to sale and exchange their jewelry. According to traditional context of this people, such experience is shame and loosing dignity for them. This kind of decision is taken as the last step.

The unusual practices of the people as coping mechanism like pooling out doors and exchange with other necessities is observed in Zalanbesa. According to past experiences, this is the last step before migration if the people get starved.

According to the focal person in Adigrat, except for the slight difference in figure, they found their personal observation is similar to what has been told by the affected group.

## **2. Adisalem zone:**

**Table 2: Asset depletion as a coping mechanism**

| Number of affected people | Items sold to cope up the condition |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 180                       | Gold (jewelry)                      |
| 50                        | Doors                               |
| 60                        | Displaced to other places           |
| 20                        | Barrels                             |
| 80                        | Beds and mattresses                 |
| 20                        | Wooden boxes                        |
| 5                         | Tape-player and radio               |
| 15                        | Jeri-cans                           |
| 10                        | Blankets                            |
| 20                        | Unable to repay their debt          |

### 3. Aratkilllo zone:

Table-3.

| Number of affected people | Items sold to cope up the condition |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 23                        | Gold (jewelry)                      |
| 100                       | Tape-player and radio               |
| 31                        | Barrels and beds                    |
| 69                        | Blankets and tables                 |
| 28                        | Displaced to other places           |
| 11                        | Abandoned their family              |
| 27                        | Displaced from Eritrea              |
| 6                         | School drop-out                     |
| 30                        | Unable to pay their debt            |

### 4. Araguro zone

Table - 4

| Number of people | Items sold to cope up       |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| 265              | Gold(jewelry)               |
| 200              | Beds, barrels, tape-player  |
| 16               | Sheep and goats             |
| 2                | Doors                       |
| 78               | Unable to repay their debts |
| 38               | Displaced                   |
| 120              | Displaced to other place    |
| 10               | Sick due to food shortage   |

## Current situation of Ganta Afeshum Woreda of Eastern Tigray

According to the report obtained in May 2007 from Ganta Afeshum Woreda DPPA; the erratic and insufficient rainfall experienced in this woreda has greatly affected the agricultural production which is the major livelihood of the community. Hence, some crops like Maize, Teff, Sorghum are started to wilt.

In this wereda animal disease 'Anthrax' was observed. The disease killed 2 Cattle, 6 donkeys and 15 goats as the woreda DPPA report indicates. In addition to this, one woman and 4 men were sick because they eat the affected animals' meat. After treatment, they have recovered. Fortunately, at this moment the disease is under control. In this woreda like other woredas there is high increase of grain prices in the market compared to the pervious years.

**General:**

The Ethiopian Catholic Church-Social and Development Coordinating Office of Adigrat - Mekelle Branch office's intervention area covers the southern and some parts of central zones of Tigray Regional State. Therefore this update is based on the information obtained from the indicated areas.

In these two zones, relatively better rainfall and better harvest than the past two or three years have been observed. As a result, this year there was no official emergency appeal. However; there are some pocket areas which did not have enough rainfall and produced less. According to the regional government, the people living in such areas are getting the assistance under the productive safety net programs.

**Water and Livestock Feed (Pasture):**

The water source of the people include rivers, ponds, springs, hand dug well, and bore holes but rivers and ponds are the only sources of water for livestock. Currently, the central zone and some parts of the southern zone *woredas* are in a very serious water shortage. Both sources are in a decreasing trend and the community has started walking long distances to find drinking water and pasture for their livestock.

**Weather condition:**

In most of ADCS-Mekelle's operational areas, the small rainy season (azmera) rain fall performance was not as good as normal years. But relatively better performance is observed during May 2007 in the southern zone *woredas* such as Alamamata, Hintalo Wajirat, Korem, Endamokoni and some parts of Enderta *woredas*.

**Crop Conditions:**

In Tigray region 'belg' harvest is practiced in some *woredas* of southern zone. When we see the performance of crops planted in Raya Azebo, Alamata and Emba Alaje *woredas*, it is completely damaged and no harvest is expected. On the other side, in the two *woredas* namely Endamokoni and Ofla the crop is already harvested. The amount of harvest is expected to be declared after the belg assessment.

**Live stock condition:**

There were no livestock disease outbreak but decline in livestock fodder and water supply was observed in almost all *woreda* in the southern zone.

**Health condition both for human and livestock:**

During this period, no epidemic or any kind of general disease of both human and livestock is observed.

**Migration:**

There is no report regarding migration.

**Market condition:**

Inflation problem is very critical in these areas like any other part of the region and the country.

### SODDO HOSANA CATHOLIC SECRETARIAT (SHCS)

There was a heavy rain incidence on June 11, 12, 19, 21 and 23 at Humbo werda of Wolayita Zone. The rain causes damage on four PAs namely Abaya Guricho, Abaya Chokare, Abaya Biare and Abala Maraka. The main cause for the damage is the overflowing of river 'Blate' on the bridge connecting Abaya Chokare and Abaya Gujrchio PAs. The flood over flown at the bridge has swamped and logged most of the agricultural coverage and grazing lands located at down stream. Most people in the area moved to mountainous area and some to their nearby relatives. According to the elders of the villages, similar heavy damage due to flood was occurred in the area before twenty years.

Technical team from Soddo Hossana have tried to get information and made physical observation. As the sample area observation indicates there are houses (pastoral house) that are affected by the flood. According to the rapid assessment report of the woreda rural development office, there are 1190 households affected by the flood. There is no any reported death in human and animal life except chickens.

Table 1. Damage caused in private houses and government institutions

| Types of fixed assets       | Amount in ET. Birr | Estimated unit price | Estimated total price |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Hatch roofs                 | 955                | 2,000                | 1,910,000             |
| Corrugated iron sheet roofs | 125                | 10,000               | 1,250,000             |
| Schools                     | 2                  |                      |                       |
| Animal health centre        | 1                  |                      |                       |
| Government offices          | 1                  |                      |                       |
| <b>Total</b>                |                    |                      | <b>3,160,00</b>       |

*N.B. Two schools, one animal health center and one government office are closed and the damage is not yet estimated*

If there is no timely intervention, there can be high probability of malaria epidemic and food shortage at least for the coming three months. If the situation is improved, the farmers need seed assistance to replant their land. Other wise, the situation will be getting worse and worsen. As the coping mechanism some people have started construction of temporarily shelter at the sides of the mountains until the logged and swamped flood is dried. Statistical Information collected from woreda and zonal offices is shown below:

**Table:-2 List of damages caused by the flood hazard in welayta zone, woreda-Humbo**

| Types of crops | Total area covered by crops in Ha | Expected production/ Ha | Expected production /Quintal | Loss/Ha       | Extent of damage |                |                              |                     |                            |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
|                |                                   |                         |                              |               | By %             | By Quintal.    | Extent of damage in ET. Birr | Household affected. | Total population affected. |
| Maize          | 426.5                             | 21                      | 8956.5                       | 426.5         | 45               | 4212.6         | 595,261                      |                     |                            |
| Sweet potato   | 57.75                             | 100                     | 57775                        | 57.75         | 62.5             | 3887.5         | 192,687.50                   |                     |                            |
| Onion          | 16                                | 204                     | 3264                         | 16            | 75               | 2448           | 734,400                      |                     |                            |
| Tomato         | 8                                 | 231                     | 1848                         | 8             | 75               | 1386           | 554,400                      |                     |                            |
| Pepper         | 6                                 | 8                       | 48                           | 6             | 60               | 28.8           | 4320                         |                     |                            |
| Haricot bean   | 2.5                               | 10                      | 25                           | 2.5           | 50               | 12.5           | 2875                         |                     |                            |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>516.75</b>                     | <b>574</b>              | <b>71916.5</b>               | <b>516.75</b> | <b>-</b>         | <b>11975.4</b> | <b>2083944</b>               | <b>1190</b>         | <b>6,768</b>               |

**Table:-3 No. of Goats and Hens washed out by the flood.**

| Types of animals | No. of affected animals | Average estimated price per head in ET. Birr. | Total estimated price |
|------------------|-------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Goat             | 1                       | 180   | 180                   |
| Hens             | 420                     | 32.50   | 14,600                |
| <b>Total</b>     |                         |   | <b>14,780</b>         |

### **MEKI CATHOLIC SECRETARIAT (MCS)**

In this update it is tried to highlight the update of Bale zone of Oromia Regional Sate, which is one of the operational areas of Meki Vicariate. Bale zone is one of the largest zones in Oromiya Region and has an area of 67329.59 km<sup>2</sup>. Agro ecologically most parts of Bale zone leys in lowland, which covers about 63%. Out of 18 total woredas 13 are under lowland. The main crops grown are barley, wheat, oats, maize, sorghum, teff, peas, beans, pepper. The livestock is comprised of cattle, sheep, goats, poultry, horses, mules, donkeys & camel.

The Belg/Arfassa rainy season in Bale Zone contribute about 40% for crop production in the highland and 60% for pasture and water availability improvement lowland. Belge/Arfassa rainy season plays important role in the livelihood of pastoralists and agro pastoralists in the lowland.

The main objective of this assessment is first, to estimate the overall out come of the Belg/Arfassa rainfall in the Bale zone in the year 2007 and to evaluate the crop, livestock and food security situation of the zone.

## Summary:

### 1. Belg/Arfassa Rain Performance and Food Security Situation

The amount, distribution and timeliness of this year Arfassa rain were very erratic. Uneven and late onset rains partially in highland areas of the zone was observed, while in midland and in lowland woredas the performance was poor as compared to the last year *belg* rain. Similarly availability of water has below normal in highland partially, in midland and lowland woredas. Moreover, Dawi Serere and Dawi Qachene woredas in Bale zone have critical water shortages both for human and livestock consumption. Reportedly, due to critical shortage of water and pasture pastoralists from the aforementioned woredas unusually migrated to Webe river and its surrounding. Moreover, Somali-Oromo ethnic conflict in Dawi Serere woreda was observed due to critical shortage of water & pasture. Such weather condition favored for the outbreak of locust infestation since April 2007 which further aggravated the situation to be worst.

In most parts of the zone, livestock condition was not worsened except where the amount of belg rain precipitation is very far below the normal year. Among those water and pasture stress areas, Dawi Serer and Dawi Qachene are the majore ones. Due to these critical stress pastoralists unusually migrated to Webe river and its surrounding. When it comes to livestock diseases, an outbreak of unidentified camel disease reportedly killed 1200 camels and prophylaxis treatment is given for 2500 camel in Sewiena woreda.

With regard to human health situation, Acute Watery Diarrhea/AWD / occurred in Meda Welabu, Sinana, Goro, Berebera, and Agarfa wereds. According to zonal officials, sever malnutrition on children and mother is seen as a critical problem at Asheneka settlers village of Agarfa woredas. Reportedly supplementary feeding program has been conducted by Missionary of Charity, (Goba Missionary of Charuty Office) for 662 severely malnourished children under 5 years for the last two months.

Regarding market price, it is observed that the market price of cereals is increasing from month to month. It is also observed that incompatible demand to existing supply for livestock in the international market also raise the price of livestock in the zone.

Therefore after assessing all food security prospects a total of 58588 people in Bale zone are proposed to be relief food beneficiaries for the next six months starting from July 2007. However, this figure has to be endorsed by the Federal Disaster Prevention and Preparedness agency, before any emergency intervention is officially started.

## II. Assessment of Arfassa rain performance and food security situation:

### 1.1 Rainfall condition:

Belg rainy season have 60% contribution for pasture and water availability improvement in almost all agro pastoral and pastoral woredas and 40% for cereal crop producing highland woredas. Usually on set of Belg/Arfassa rainfall in the zone is at the mid of February and ceased around the last week of May. This year's Arfasa rain was late in its onset for two weeks (from February to March), inturn delayed the crop sowing time by two weeks from the normal sowing time. This weather condition favored for the outbreak of locust infestation. Reportedly the cessation was normal in almost all midland and lowland woredas, unlikely before cessation it was interrupted for

two weeks in all woredas. The late on set by two weeks, uneven distribution and interruption before normal cessation had significantly affected the Dawi Serer, Dawi Qachene, Sewiena, partially Agarfa and Gasera woredas of Bale zone.

### **1.2 water and pasture conditions:**

Perennial and seasonal Rivers, Ponds, Hand dug wells and boreholes are the main water sources of the zone. Belg rainy season have 60% contribution for pasture and water availability improvement in almost all agro-pastoral and pastoral woredas. Belg/Arfassa rainy season plays pivotal role in the livelihood of pastoralists and agro-pastoralists in this zone. Availability of water has below normal compared to the same time last year in most of the woredas. Moreover, shortage of drinking water both for human and livestock consumption is critical problem in low land woredas where the amount of belg rain precipitation is very poor in the year 2007. Among those water and pasture stress areas, Dawi Serer and Dawi Qachene are the major ones. According to woreda ARDO official, these conditions forced the pastoralists in the aforementioned Woreda to unusual migration to Webe River. Moreover, this critical stress caused Somali-Oromo conflict since April 2007 at Dawi area. In addition, tree locust infestation including some other woredas since April 2007 further aggravated the situation to be worst.

### **1.3 crop performance and production:**

The Arfassa rain normally contributes about 40% for crop producing high land woredas. Reportedly, among 18 woredas of the zone, 5 were under cereal crop production system. The rest 13 woredas were directly or indirectly categorized in moist lowland. The late on set by two weeks, erratic nature and uneven distribution of arfassa rain had significantly delayed sowing time from the normal period by 15 days (February and March 2007) almost in all woredas of the zone. Reportedly out of 231561ha and 4424975 quintals planned to cultivate and produce, respectively, 239125ha was cultivated and 237203ha was covered/planted with barely, wheat, pea, maize and sorghum in the zone. According to, zonal ARDO, the late onset, erratic nature of arfassa rain and occurrence of locust infestation are the major causes for 25% of production loss in all highland woredas. In low land woredas (Dawi Qachene, Rayitu, Sewiena), in midland woreda of Meda Welabu and in lowland parts of Gessera woreda; it was expected to be very higher loss compared to highland woredas. In Dawi Serer woreda of the lowland, it was almost totally failed. In addition, critical frost stress from October to December unable settlers at Agarfa woreda to harvest enough production for home consumption and supplying to the market is impossible.

### **1.4 current livestock condition:**

Belg/Arfassa rainy season plays pivotal role in the livelihood of pastoralists and agropastoralists, due to its contribution for pasture and water availability improvement is about 60% in this zone. In most parts of the zone livestock condition was not worsened except where the amount of belg rain precipitation is very poor in the year 2007. Among those water and pasture stress areas, Dawi Serer and Dawi Qachene are the majore ones. Reportedly, in Dawi Serere Woreda milk production is almost nil in cattle and very far below the average in shoats and camels. In these woredas where the year 2007 arfassa rain season was very poor, physically weak of livestock especially cattle is weak and thus unless the upcoming meher rain commences on time and performs better, the livestock condition will be further deteriorated. Reportedly, due to critical shortage of water and pasture pastoralists from the aforementioned woredas unusually migrated to Webe River and its surrounding. When it comes to livestock diseases, endemic diseases such as

trypanosomiasis, CCPP and diarrhea are prevailing in Dawi Serer and Dawi Qachene woredas that caused a number of livestock death particularly on goats. Moreover, an outbreak of unidentified camel disease reportedly killed 1200 camels and prophylaxis treatment is given for 2500 camel in Sewiena woreda. Death rate of camel is now reduced compared to the previous months. This condition needs especial attention and takes appropriate action to reverse the situation before pastoralists totally loose these valuable animals in Sewiena, Dawi Serer and Dawi Qachene woredas.

### 1.5 human health conditions:

With regard to human health, an outbreak of Acute Watery Diarrhea/AWD / occurred in Meda Welabu, Sinana, Goro, Berebera, and Agarfa reportedly killed 1 and 3 in Sinana and Berebera,



respectively, of the totally 237 patients. Reportedly severe malnutrition on children and lactating mother is a critical problem on which Missionary of Charity, Goba Catholic Mother Theresa Sisters' engaged on supplementary feeding for 662 severely malnourished children under 5 years at Asheneka settlers village of Agarfa woreda before 2 months. The problem of malnutrition and particularly AWD breakout are very serious in the aforementioned woredas neighboring all woredas that need especial attention to alleviate the problem.

Fig.1 Severe Children malnutrition at Asheneka Settlers Village of Agarfa Woreda.

### 1.6 market condition:

Market price of livestock (particularly calf & goats) and cereals show an increasing trend compared to last year the same period. The reason for the rise in price of livestock is the increased demand for export that is incompatible to the existing market supply. Regarding the rise in price of staple food (cereals) is due to high inflation rate (low exchange value of money) like other parts of the country.

### 1.7 sources of income

Sale of cereals, livestock and livestock products are the main stay and income sources of agro pastoralist and pastoralists in Bale zone. But death of livestock especially massive death of camel highly reduced herd size and income sources of pastoralists in Dawi Serer and Sewiena Woredas. Milk production is nil in cattle and little in case of goats and camels, which is not enough to satisfy household consumption, and supplying to the market is impossible. Lack of alternative income to subsist in Agarfa woreda reportedly, due to limited irrigation land holding size (0.3ha) per HH

coupled with critical frost stress from October to December, settlers at Asheneka village unable to harvest enough production for home consumption and supplying to the market is impossible. Moreover, due to the price of cereals is increasing at an increasing rate and the livelihood of the population has been eroded in Dawi Serer, Agarfa and Gasera Woredas. Moreover, people of the aforementioned woredas are now highly engaged in charcoal making and selling.

## **II. Food security prospects for the next six months in 2007(July - December 2007)**

Agro ecologically most parts of Bale zone leys in lowland, which covers 63% and comprising 13 woredas out of 18 total woredas. People of Bale zone are cereal crop producers, pastoralists and agro pastoralist, and the livelihood of the population mainly is depending on cereals, livestock and livestock products that in turn depend up on the performance of weather, pasture and water availability. Due to consecutive drought years in the past, almost all people in lowland woredas assisted by relief food distribution. Moreover, out of these drought prone 13 lowland woredas 10 were under productive safety net program except Dawi Serer, Agarfa and Gesera woredas. According to zonal DPPPO report, in these three woredas peoples were selling their assets including a few left animals and fuel charcoal for survival due to lack alternative income for means of subsistence. In lowland woredas where the year 2007 arfassa rain season was very poor, physically weak of livestock especially cattle is weak and thus unless the upcoming meher rain commences on time and performs better, the livestock condition will be further deteriorated. Reportedly, due to critical shortage of water and pasture a pastoralist from particularly Dawi Serer and Dawi Qachene woreda unusually migrated to Webe River and its surrounding.

The future food security prospect is therefore totally dependent on the coming meher rain, which is expected to commence at June 2007 and at July 2007 relief food assistance in the zone. Finally after assessing all food security prospects in the zone, a total of 58,588 people from Dawi Serer, Agarfa and Gesera woredas in Bale Zone will need relief food assistance for the next six months starting from July 2007.

### **Annex One: Estimated Needy population for relief food Assistance (July - December 2007) in Bale Zone**

| No | Name of the woreda | Population needing assistance (chronic +acute) |       |        | Duration of assistance In month | Start month | Severity of the problem | Population needing close monitoring |
|----|--------------------|--|-------|--------|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|    |                    | Chronic  | Acute | Total  |                                 |             |                         |                                     |
| 1  | Dawi Serer         | 45,000   | 0     | 45,000 | Six months                      | July        | Severe                  | 0                                   |
| 2  | Agarfa             | 7500   | 300   | 78000  | Six months                      | July        | Severe                  | 0                                   |
| 3  | Gasera             | 5800   | 0     | 5800   | Six months                      | July        | Moderate                | 0                                   |
|    | Grand Total        | 58288  | 300   | 58588  | Six months                      | July        | Severe                  | 0                                   |

## GAMBELA CATHOLIC SECRETARIAT (GCS)

**Weather condition:** All words have obtained rain for the last two weeks. The rain has well in amount and distribution so it is proper for agricultural activities. Although, there was a storm occurred in Godere woreda at Bguiti, Fujij, Dopi and Baya kebelles that resulted in a total damage of annual and permanent crop such as Maize, Coffee, Chat, Mango, Banana, Sugarcane and Avocado according to woreda reports estimated about 12.69ha.

**Livestock husbandry:**

No out break of livestock diseases has been reported so far, although, due to shortage of veterinary medicines we fearing that endemic diseases it might be changed to epidemic. There is no shortage of pasture for the animals at this moment.

**Marketing condition:**

Shows a decreasing trend in cereals availability and an increase in the price level. Livestock supply it shows normal but market price increase. On the other hand livestock productivity generally decreased because of prolonged dry spell that resulted from shortage of water and pasture.

**Human health:**

There have been no unusual disease outbreak occurred during the last month. However, prevalence of malaria in some areas as high due to the current rain. No any symptoms of malnutrition.

**Food security situation:**

Usually this time is critical time for food shortage and some indicator have seen and reported from different woredas such as:

- Market condition: Supply of food grains decrease and the price increase and supply of livestock and their product increase and the price decrease.
- Job opportunity: Wedge rate in the labour market decreases leaving more idle people.
- Collecting of wild fruit, fishing, and hunting are widely being practiced.
- The community has started to appeal the government for food assistance.

## ADDIS ABEBA CATHOLIC SECRETARIAT (ACS)

According to ACS- Combolcha regional coordination office, there is no reported emergency situation in the north and southern part of Wollo and partly Afar which are under ACS regional office coordination. On the other hand, the rainfall situation compared to last year is less on average and it is observed that the crop performance for the 'Belg' is not satisfactory in general with the exception of some woredas with better performance. Hence; minimum production is expected compared to last year. According to the coordinator, due to less production, there might be food shortage this year in some pocket areas. So, it needs close monitoring. Similarly, no human and animal disease out break is reported. In this area similar to other parts of Ethiopia, there is both grain and livestock price hike which is challenging the livelihood of the community as they have limited income sources. The detail assessment out put regarding the 'Belg' crop performance will be included after the national assessment.

**Rainfall Condition:**

The rainfall condition in Dire Dawa is erratic and low in amount and coverage. On the other hand, there was excessive rainfall and foggy weather in most parts of East Harerghe and caused late blight diseases on Irish potato in the highland areas of the zone. In this particular zone, Desert locust has occurred in dry midland and low land areas of the zone at the beginning of June in Meta and Jarso woredas on long cycle 'meher' crops.

**Crop condition:**

The crops are planted on time almost everywhere. At the initial growing stage, poor vegetation of crops was observed in Dire Dawa due to erratic rainfall. Whereas in East Harerghe zone good performance is observed. But in lowland areas of East Harerghe particularly, Meta and Fedis woredas crops were wilting.

**Pasture and water condition:**

Relatively, availability water and pasture is still in a good situation.

**Human and livestock situation:**

No unusual livestock epidemic was reported. The body condition of the livestock has been good. In East Harerghe malnutrition and acute watery diarrhoea was observed in some areas and treatments is underway.

**Food gap and distribution:**

PSNP food has been distributed in both East Hararghe and as planned. But still food gaps are observed in some parts of Dire Dawa and East Hararghe as a result of this woreda officials are requesting for contingency food.

**General food security situation:**

Generally the food security situation is near normal but it is somehow delicate which needs close monitoring. In some areas, there exists food gap. Detail summary regarding the current food security situation including the other areas of HCS will be included in the next update after the national assessment.

**Gima Bonga Catholic Secretariat**

Reportedly, the rain condition in this area is heavy and strong compared to last year same season. Besides this, it has been showering almost through out the year. The soil bed is almost saturated and wet. As a result of this, recently a land slide hazard is experiencing in Bonga area. Similar hazard was reported last year. Due to this hazard a road from Bonja to Barta Catholic Mission center is closed with out a means to pass any kind of motor vehicles but no casualty reported.

The secretariat has reported this particular hazard as an early warning as the heavy rain is coming up in July and August and more serious risk might happen. So, it needs a close monitoring and timely information sharing as apart of preparedness.