

Executive Summary

Field Mission to West Guji zone, OCHA Southern Hub 18 - 29 August 2021

1. Background

West Guji zone has three agro-climatic zones where, 8% highland, 54.2 % mid–highland and 37.8% lowland. Of the nine rural woredas, three woredas namely Melkasoda, Dugda Dawa and Surro Berguda are primarily pastoralist whereas Gelana and Abaya are semi pastoralists. Like Borena, the zone has two rainfall seasons (Hagaya and Gena). This year, in general, the amount of Ganna rain was erratic rated as below normal negatively impacting on agriculture, livestock, water, pasture. There is a continuous security problem due to the conflict between UAGs and government forces, mainly this year.

2. Objectives

The key objective of the mission was to understand the general humanitarian situations, responses and gaps mainly in relation to the failure of recent Genna/Belg rain and conflict induced displacement.

3. Methodology

During the mission, discussions and meetings were undertaken with concerned government sectoral offices, UN and International NGOs currently working in the zone. In addition, the recent assessment reports were collected from the concerned offices and used as an input.

4. Key Findings

Additional 170, 406 relief beneficiaries identified in relation the recent Genna season rain failure. There are also additional 72,719 people displaced in August 2021 due to the conflict between the UAGs and government forces. Flooding in Abaya woreda also displaced 15, 000 people in July 2021. Water bodies specially community ponds in pastoral areas are getting deteriorated due to insufficient rain. Pasture and fodder availability currently seem normal; however, the availability could be worsened if the Hagaya rain onset is delayed. There is also a great risk that the present livestock body conditions could deteriorate if the onset of the Hagayya rain is late. Moreover, 56 % agricultural production loss was reported. In some woredas like Suro Berguda, Dugda Dawa and Gelana 100% production loss was also reported. There is no report of disease outbreak on animals currently, though there is a risk if the Hagayya rain fails. Cases of malaria and malnutrition are increasing, no disease outbreak reported.

Responses

- Oromia regional government supported 1,000 bales of animal feed in February for M/Soda and D/Dawa woredas.
- AFD provided water for livestock in Dugda Dawa. CARITAS made a support for feed of animals for Surro Berguda and Melka Soda woredas. 600 quintals of maize were also supported by NDRMC (Melka Soda woreda).
- WVI plans to start a one-year health project in Melka Soda. Plan International to start a nutrition project in B/Kojowa woreda. It has also planned to start a one-year water project in Melka Soda.
- UNDP has made cash support for emergency seed for three woredas

Key needs and gaps

- Urgent food and ESNFI support for the new IDPs as well new relief beneficiaries
- Emergency seed (Suro Berguda, Melka Soda, Dugda Dawa and Abaya).
- Preparedness measures are required in terms of providing animal feed, veterinary medicine, water rationing (if the onset of Hageya rain is late)
- Timely and adequate nutrition support for PLWs and children
- Water treatment chemicals are highly needed are highly required in all woreda
- Monitoring the performance of the coming Hagaya rain and activating coordination platform