



Early Warning and
Response Directorate
DRMFSS, MoA

Early Warning and Response Analysis April 2013

This bulletin is prepared by the Early Warning and Response Directorate to coordinate and disseminate early warning and food security information.

For any comments, questions or suggestions and/or to receive the bulletin on your email please write to info@dppc.gov.et

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ACRONYMS:

CPI: Consumer Price Index

CSA: Central Statistical Agency

DRMFSS: Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector:

EGTE: Ethiopian Grain Trade Enterprise

EHNRI: Ethiopian Health and Nutrition Research Institute

ENCU: Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit

FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization

FMOH: Federal Ministry of Health

GAM: Global Acute Malnutrition

HRF: Humanitarian Response Fund

IMC: International Medical Corps

MAM: Moderate Acute Malnutrition

NMA: National Meteorological Agency

OTP: Outpatient Therapeutic Program

PLW: Pregnant and Lactating Women

SAM: Severe Acute Malnutrition

TFU: Therapeutic Feeding Unit

TSF: Targeted Supplementary Food

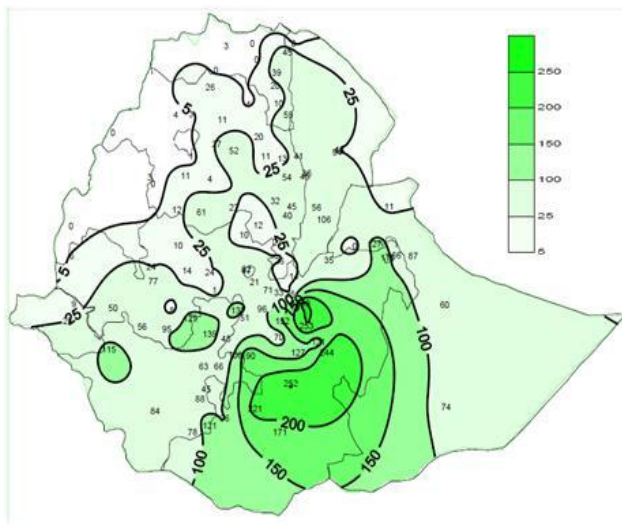
TSFP: Targeted Supplementary Feeding Program

WFP: World Food Programme

EARLY WARNING AND RESPONSE SUMMARY

- In relation to the strengthening of rain bearing systems flash floods are likely in some flood prone areas of the country.
- The anticipated better performance of Belg rainfall during the coming April 2013 would favor sowing and land preparation activities for long cycle crops like sorghum and maize. Therefore, farmers are advised to take appropriate measures and water harvesting techniques ahead of time in order to exploit the expected moisture.
- Attention should be given in areas (Afar, Benishangul Gumuz and western Amhara) where deficient rain is expected in order to mitigate the effects of water stress.
- The Cereal and Bread CPI continued to stabilize between February and March 2013. This is in contrast with seasonal expectations as represented by the 5 year average which predicts a moderate increase over the same period. In terms of magnitude, prices remain at elevated levels.
- The general trend for cereal CPI amongst the regions is either increasing or stabilizing between February 2013 and March 2013. However, an unusually sharp increase in cereal CPI was observed in Tigray region over the same period. Further in contrast to the general trend amongst regions, a sharp decrease in cereal CPI was observed in Benishangul Gumuz over the same period.
- TFP admissions trend at national level for February could not be determined due to low reporting rates. Increases in TFP admissions in SNNPR across the zones varied significantly.
- Admissions are projected to start increasing in February and March.
- Timely comprehensive (good coverage) and combination nutrition responses is critical for preventing and avoiding an unusual increase in acute malnutrition in hotspot woredas between March and May.
- Nutrition cluster partners are commitment to strengthening nutrition response in hotspot woredas filling gaps, building and integrating within the existing government lead nutrition programmes.
- The First relief food dispatch status stood at (76%) as of the 16th April 2013.

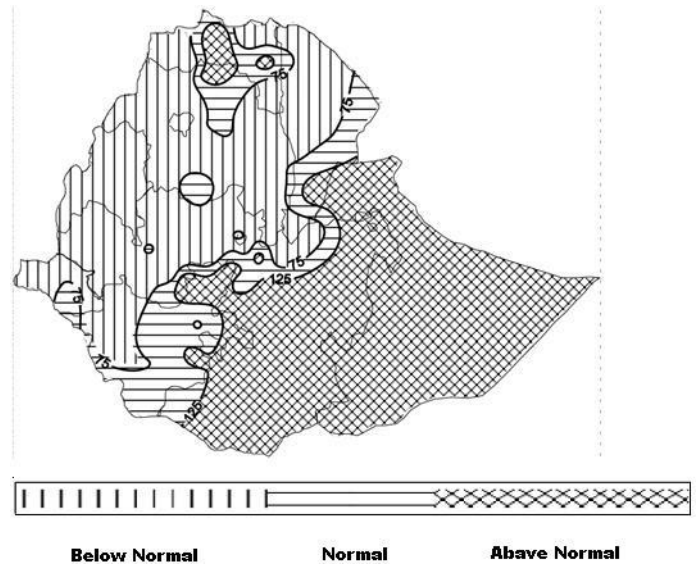
WEATHER CONDITIONS

March 2013 weather conditions

Map 1: Rainfall distribution in mm for the month of March 2013

Source: NMA

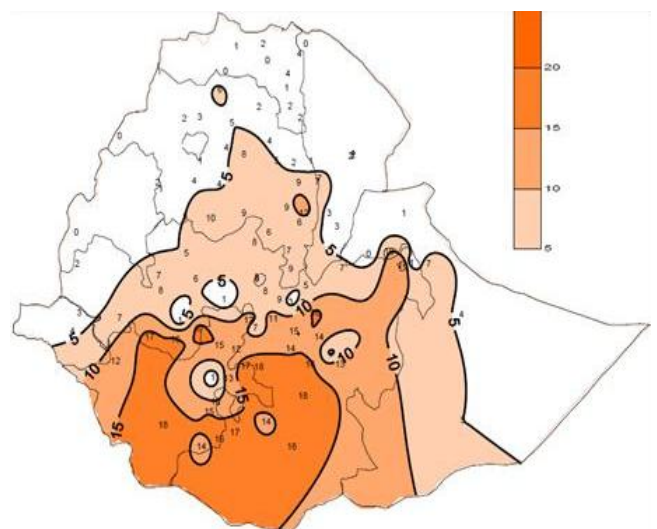
During the month of March 2013, the highlands of southern Oromiya and pocket areas of eastern Oromiya experienced rainfall amount greater than 200 mm. Parts of southeastern and eastern Oromiya including southwestern parts of Somali received falls ranging from 150 - 200 mm. Western parts of southern Oromiya, parts of southwestern Somali and pocket areas of northern SNNPR exhibited falls ranging from 100 – 150 mm. Most parts of Somali, Afar, eastern and central Amhara, parts of central and western Oromiya, most parts of SNNPR, the eastern half of Gambella, parts of eastern Tigray and parts of South Tigray experienced falls between 25 – 100 mm. The Western half of Gambela, parts of western and central Oromiya, parts of central and northern Amhara, northeastern Afar, the northeastern tip of Somali, parts of eastern Tigray and parts of South Tigray received falls ranging from 5 – 25 mm of rainfall. Little or no rain was observed in the rest of the country.



Map 2: Percent of normal rainfall distribution for March 2013

Source: NMA

As indicated in map 2, Somali, southern, parts of central and eastern Oromiya, the western half of SNNPR, parts of eastern and most parts of the southern half of Afar, parts of northern Amhara, central and parts of eastern Tigray including parts of eastern Gambella experienced normal to above normal rainfall. The rest of the country exhibited below normal rainfall.



Map 3: Number of Rainy day days for the month March 2013

Source: NMA

Southern Oromiya and most parts of SNNPR received rainfall in 15 – 20 rainy days. Northeastern and western SNNPR, parts of central and eastern Oromiya and southwestern Somali received rainfall in 10 -15 days. The observed distribution of rainfall could have a positive impact on normal growth and development of crops. Moreover, this situation could favor land preparation and sowing activities of long cycle crops over some areas. Central and parts of southern Somali, central, parts of eastern and western Oromiya, the eastern half of Gambella and the southern half of Amhara received rainfall in 5- 10 rainy days, however the amount was below normal in some cases. Thus, this condition could have a negative impact on the ongoing agricultural activities.

Weather outlook and possible impact for the coming month/April 1-30, 2013

Under normal circumstances during the first half of the month of April, most parts of Belg rain benefiting areas receive widespread rainfall. Therefore, Belg producing areas including south and southeastern parts of the country will have better rainfall. In relation to the strengthening of rain bearing systems, flash floods are likely in some flood prone areas of the country.

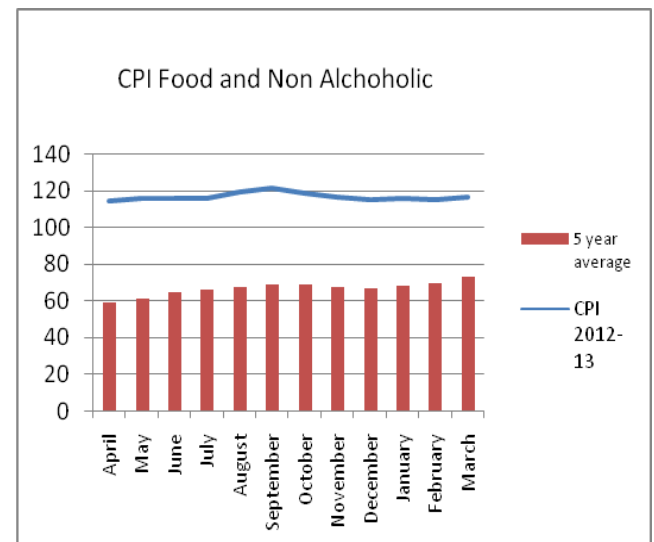
Pursuant to the NMA's forecast, most parts of Belg producing areas will have better rainfall due to the strength of Belg rain producing systems. Thus above normal rainfall is expected over Gambella, most parts of Oromiya, SNNPR and lowlands of Somali. Near normal rainfall is anticipated over eastern Tigray and Amhara. This situation would favor sowing and land preparation activities for long cycle crops like sorghum and maize. Therefore, farmers are advised to take appropriate measures and water harvesting techniques ahead of time in order to exploit the expected moisture. On the contrary, Afar, Benishangul Gumuz and western Amhara will have below normal rainfall. Little or no rainfall is expected in the rest of the country. Accordingly, attention should be given in

areas where deficient rain is expected in order to mitigate the effect of water stress.

FOOD MARKETS

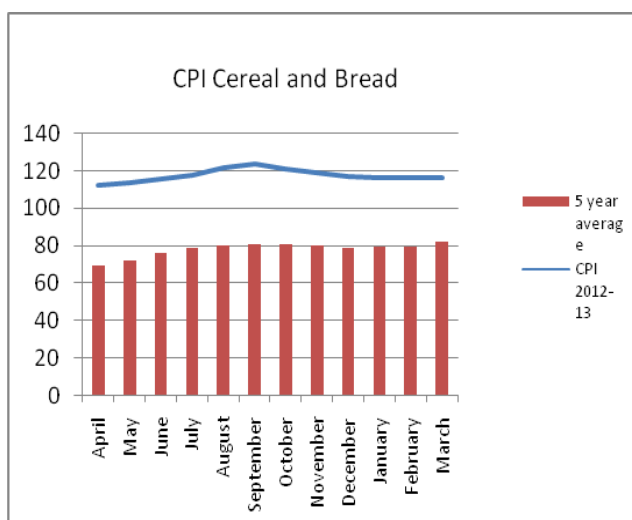
National Prices:

The Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages CPI showed a mild increase between February 2013 and March 2013 following a period of stability. This is in line with the direction of change expected seasonally as represented by the 5 year average-which in fact predicts a sharper increase over the same period. In terms of magnitude, prices remain at elevated levels.



Source: CSA, analysis by DRMFS.

The Cereal and Bread CPI continued to stabilize between February and March 2013. This is in contrast with seasonal expectations as represented by the 5 year average which predicts a moderate increase over the same period. In terms of magnitude, prices remain at elevated levels.



Source: CSA, analysis by DRMFS.

Regional Prices:

The general trend for cereal CPI amongst the regions is either increasing or stabilizing between February 2013 and March 2013. However, an unusually sharp increase in cereal CPI was observed in Tigray region over the same period. Further in contrast to the general trend amongst regions, a sharp decrease in cereal CPI was observed in Benishangul Gumuz over the same period. Please see graph in the appendix.

NUTRITION

1: Nutrition situation: The emergency nutrition situation in the country monitored through regular collection and analysis of monthly admissions in therapeutic feeding programme (TFP), TSF monthly reports submitted by WFP and NGOs, bi-annual/adhoc surveys conducted by partners in hotspot woredas and periodic revision of hotspot woredas. The February/March nutrition situation and responses in hotspot woredas is briefly described below.

TFP admissions trends: At the time of preparing this update only 73.0 percent of the February 11,399 expected TFP reports across the country had been collected with a total of 16,047 new TFP admissions. As a result, TFP admissions trend for the month February at national level cannot be

determined due to low reporting rates¹. Of the 8 regions that report regularly, only two regions, SNNPR and Tigray had achieved over 80 percent reporting rate with 96.9 and 82.3 percent respectively. The rest of the regions reporting rates were still below 80 percent making it difficult to make meaningful comparison in TFP admissions between January and February. Overall, a total of 36,380 severely malnourished children were admitted in coverage of 9267 TFP sites in the country with an 81.5 percent reporting rate. Performance of the TFP services for January and February months continued to exceed National and Sphere standards² with respect to cure, death and defaulter rates with 86.3, 0.3 and 4.2 percent respectively.

In the two regions that had over 80 percent reporting rates, TFP admissions increased in SNNPR by about 9% from 4,437 in January to 4,835 in February. However, increase in TFP admissions in SNNPR varied significantly across the zones. While in other zones the admissions were stable or had decreased, admission increased considerably in zones such as Hadiya by 19.2 %, Gedio 32%, Hadiya 31.8% and Wolayita 74.8% during the reporting period. In Tigray, TFP admissions continued to fluctuate downward in February associated with CHD screening in January, otherwise the nutrition situation in the region was described as stable. Follow up of the remaining TFP admissions reports in the regions with below 80% reporting rate is still going on.

On the other hand, in updates from partners during the MANTF meeting on 27th March, nutrition cluster partners strengthening nutrition responses in Somali region described the nutrition situation in their operational woredas as stable. In Amhara, a slight increase in TFP admissions were reported in Gidan and Tenta woredas of North and South Wollo zones respectively. In Oromiya, in addition to the 31 percent increase reported in East Hararge zone in the March bulletin, a slight increase in TFP admissions were also reported by

¹ The threshold reporting rate needed for monthly reports to be comparable is 80% and above.

² Cure rate >75%; death rate <10% (national rate is <5%) and defaulter rate <15%

partners in Odabultum and Anchar woredas in West Hararghe zone.

Rapid assessment of food security, wash and nutrition situation that was conducted by the DRMFSS in collaboration with partners 1-10th April in three zones of Oromiya (East and West Hararghe and Bale) will provide latest update in TFP admissions trends and overall evolving nutrition situation in the three zones in the region. However, there are reports of concerning nutrition situation following CHD screening done recently in Bale zone especially in four priority 2 woredas (Delo Mena, Meda Warabu, D/Serer and Halena Buruk) prompting the zonal/regional request for TSF to be implemented. The DRMFSS has requested WFP to implement the TSF in the above mentioned four woredas.

TSF admissions: WFP and NGOs continued to implement TSF in priority 1 and 2 woredas in the country. However, the WFP TSF implementation update was not yet submitted to the ENCU by the time of preparation of this monthly bulletin. Only three³ NGOs implemented TSF in February reaching a total of 10,103 of which 34.6 percent of the beneficiaries were under-five children in 34 woredas in four regions (Oromia, Somali, Afar and Amhara). By the end of February NGOs had reached a total of 28,197 in 40 woredas while WFP had enrolled a total of 56,502 of which 55.6 percent were under-five children and the remainder were pregnant and lactating women. Overall, both WFP and NGOs managed a total of 84,699 moderately malnourished under-five, pregnant and lactating women between January and February, WFP alone reached 66.7 percent of the total TSF beneficiaries.

Hotspot revision

Due to delayed Belg rains in Belg dependant areas in the country, the food security situation was reported to have deteriorated, water shortage was reported in several regions and animals were migrating in search of pasture and water. The Nutrition situation in those areas was also reported to have deteriorated resulting in

increased admissions in TFP sites. As the situation continued to deteriorate, woredas hotspot statuses were also changing. Regional early warning bureaus and humanitarian partners at federal level called for revision of the hotspot status as soon as possible. In view of this, the DRMFSS requested all the regions to revise its respective woreda hotspot status and submit to the DRMFSS for federal technical team review by 1st April. However, only four regions (Somali, Afar, Tigray and Oromiya) had completed the revision by first week of April and the rest were expected to complete the revision process by second week of April. Federal level hotspot status review that was planned to be done in the first week of April was pushed to the beginning of the 3rd week of April.

Emergency nutrition surveys

During the March period, ENCU of the DRMFSS reviewed and approved four standard survey proposals and the surveys were conducted by nutrition cluster partners. The surveys were conducted in Ginner woreda in Oromiya region (by Merlin), Kebridahar in Somali region (by Merlin), Odabultu woreda in Oromiya region and Koneba woreda in Afar region by GOAL. The first three surveys are end line surveys for response monitoring and the last one is an emergency survey. By the end of March, these surveys were still being conducted.

Six ad hoc surveys were completed by the end of March in the following woredas: Damote Pullsa by IMC; Dilla Zuria by Child Fund in SNNPR; Adadley in Somali region by Merlin; Bulehora in Oromiya region by GOAL and Arero by Merlin and Gidan in Amhara region by GOAL. Preliminary reports from respective partners were expected to be submitted to the ENCU by mid April.

2: Strengthening nutrition responses in hotspot woredas

In March the nutrition cluster concentrated more on strengthening nutrition responses in Afar region. Meetings were held at federal and regional level with partners planning or implementing nutrition responses in the region. Partners agreed:

³ Merlin, Islamic Relief and Mercy Corps

i) to implement emergency nutrition responses in a timely manner, ii) ensuring that nutrition responses are integrated within the existing government systems/infrastructure and not undermining them to ensure sustainability, iii) ensuring coverage for the entire woreda with nutrition responses including use of mobile health and nutrition teams iv) supporting logistics and ensuring adequate supplies in their respective operational woredas, iv) strengthening monitoring and supportive supervision, v) Filling gaps in capacity building and improving quality of CMAM services provided and vi) strengthening coordination at regional and woreda levels. In that regard, partners⁴ were mobilized to strengthen nutrition responses in 17 woredas that were identified by the Afar regional early warning bureaus as of most concern. Of the 17 woredas partners committed to strengthen nutrition response in 16 of them. By the end of March, SCI had started strengthening nutrition responses in Eldaar one of the 6 woredas in the region supported by SCI funded by HRF. Similarly, MSF Spain had started nutrition responses (TFP) in Teru woreda and would support TSF implemented by WFP. GOAL was still in preparatory stage and was expected to commence nutrition responses during the 2nd week of April funded by OFDA and HRF.

CARE had submitted HRF application for funding while AMREF and IR were still preparing proposals. Since it might take a month or two to secure resources from donors, ENCU organized a quartette meeting (ENCU, GOAL, CARE and AMREF). During the meeting GOAL agreed to fill gaps in nutrition responses in CARE and AMREF woredas for at least two months while CARE/AMREF were still in the process of securing funds from donors. WFP would support TSF implementation in all 6 priority 1 and 4 priority 2 woredas following a request from the DRMFSS to implement TSF in the four priority two woredas. Mass screening for nutrition responses in the 17 woredas was planned by the RHB to commence on the 15th April.

⁴ SCI supported 6 woredas, GOAL 5, CARE 3, MSF Spain 1, AMREF 1 and Islamic Relief 2 woredas

Meanwhile, the nutrition cluster under the ENCU coordination reviewed four HRF applications for strengthening nutrition responses in 3 woredas in SNNPR and 7 woredas in Oromiya by IMC; 3 woredas in Amhara by SCI and 2 in SNNPR by CONCERN.

3: Nutrition situation outlook for March to May 2013

March to May is a period characterized with rapid increase in TFP admissions reaching its peak in May for the last three years in a row (2010-2012). ENCU is projecting that the same pattern is likely to happen in 2013 in view of the late onset of belg rains, implying delayed planting and harvest and therefore continued increase in malnutrition beyond May. The rate of increase will depend very much of the timeliness of the nutrition responses to be implemented by partners. Late responses i.e. starting in April/May may lead to a sharp increase in malnutrition among under-fives, something that is undesirable.

While increase in severe and moderate acute malnutrition during the March to May period is expected coinciding with the seasonal hunger gap, the ENCU calls upon all humanitarian actors to act swiftly and respond in a timely manner with a combination of nutrition related responses (GFD, TSF, TFP and nutrition resilience related responses) to prevent an unusual increase in severally malnourished children in hotspot woredas similar to that observed in 2011 and 2012. The above combination of nutrition responses should be implemented in a comprehensive manner i.e. covering all vulnerable populations in need of humanitarian assistance in all hotspot woredas in the country including all emerging vulnerable populations such as those affected by floods in different parts of Somali, Afar, Oromiya and SNNPR.

RESPONSE

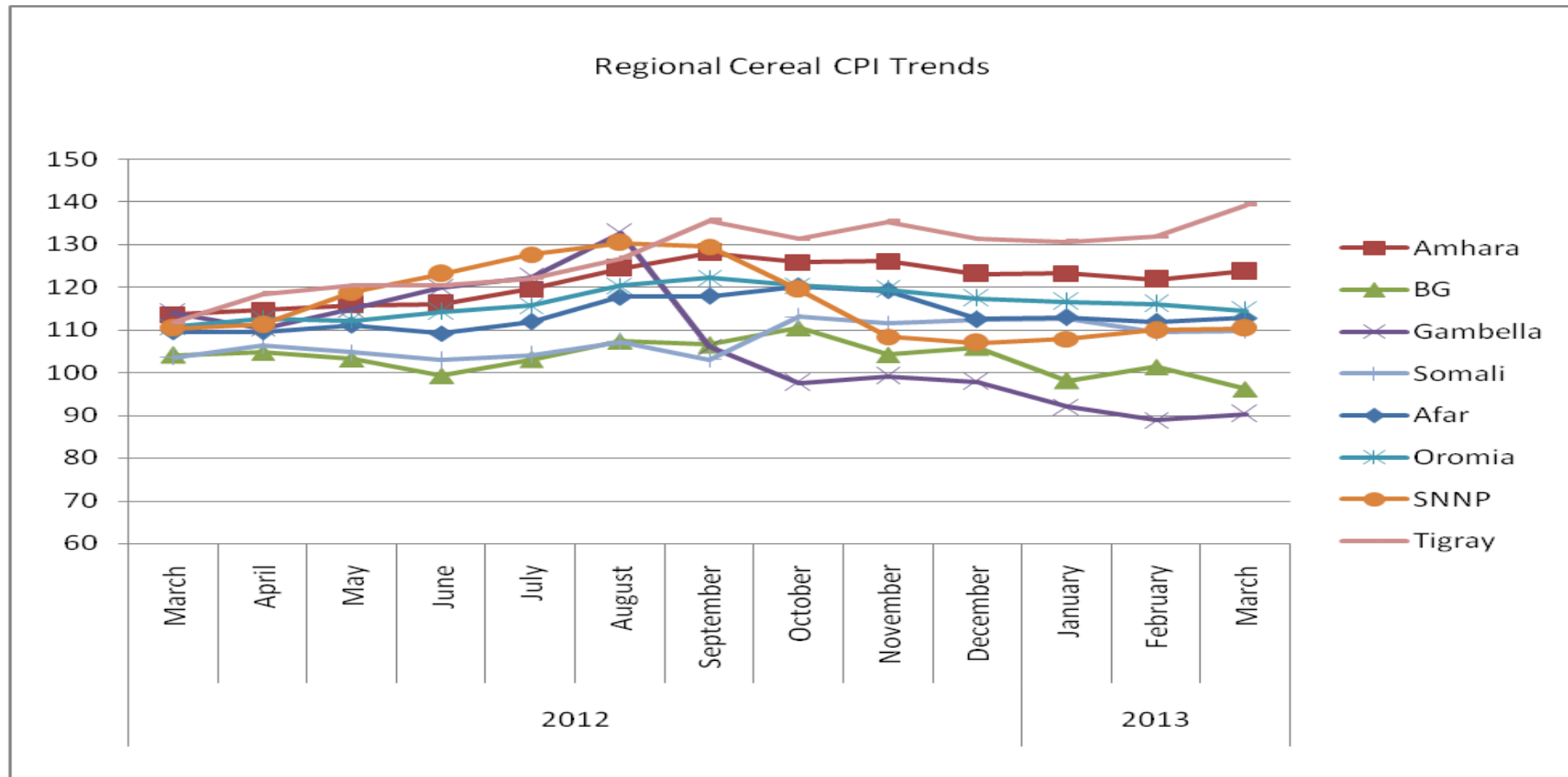
The First relief food dispatch status stood at (76%) as of the 16th April 2013. Dispatch stood complete in Gambella and Harari and at (99%) complete in Afar and SNNPR. Majority of the remaining food to be dispatched was in Oromia (77%) complete, Somali (70%) complete and Tigray (61%) complete.

The March PSNP dispatch status stood 30% complete. This was composed of 56% completion in Afar and 9% completion in Somali region.

For further details please refer to the table in the appendix of this report.

1st Round 2013 Relief food dispatch status made by DRMFSS, JEOP and WFP (H&Spokes), as of 16 Apr, 2013													
Region	Benef	Allocated amount (MT)				Dispatched amount (MT)				Dispatch status (%)			
		DRMFSS	JEOP	WFP	Total	DRMFSS	JEOP	WFP	Total	DRMFSS	JEOP	WFP	Total
Afar	109,423	3,424	0	0	3,424	3,395			3,395	99	0	0	99
Amhara	167,608	2,209	896	0	3,105	2,015	896		2,911	91	100	0	94
B.Gumuz	20,877	387	0	0	387	366			366	95	0	0	95
Dire-Dawa	26,963	0	500	0	500		454		454	0	0	0	91
Gambella	44,500	824	0	0	824	824			824	100	0	0	100
Harari	8,130	151	0	0	151	151			151	100	0	0	100
Oromia	846,416	8,386	6,458	0	14,844	5,829	5,625		11,454	70	87	0	77
SNNPR	17,230	323	0	0	323	321			321	99	0	0	99
Somali	963,841	0	1,638	16,217	17,855		1,432	10,998	12,430	0	87	68	70
Tigray	283,399	2,684	2,566	0	5,250	2,597	605		3,202	97	0	0	61
Total	2,488,387	18,387	12,059	16,217	46,662	15,497	9,012	10,998	35,507	84	75	68	76

PSNP Allocation and dispatched food as of 16 Apr, 2013									
Region	Jan allocation			Feb allocation			Mar allocation		
	Allocated (mt)	Dispatched (mt)	Dispatch status(%)	Allocated (mt)	Dispatched (mt)	Dispatch status(%)	Allocated (mt)	Dispatched (mt)	Dispatch status(%)
Oromia	7,278	7,272	100	7,278	6,681	92			
SNNP									
Tigray	320	320	100	320	320	100			
Afar	7,083	7,083	100	7,083	5,503	78	7,083	3,988	56
Amhara	606	606	100	1,253	1,037	83			
Somali	9,445	9,439	100	9,445	9,271	98	9,445	896	9
Harari									
Total	24,732	24,720	100	25,378	22,812	90	16,528	4,884	30



Source: CSA, DRMFSS analysis.