



Ethiopian Early Warning System

April Monthly Report

27, MAY 2003

AREAS OF PRIORITY ACTION

HIGHLIGHTS

Nutritional Survey Results Indicate Alarming Situation

The food security situation in April was reported to be worst than the previous time in some part of the country, particularly, in Damot Gale, Damot Woyide and Sodo Zuria woredas of Wolayit Zone; kedida Gamela and Omo Sheleko woredas of Kenbata Timbaro Zone; Badawocho Woreda of Hadiya Zone of SNNP; Fik Zone of Somali and Mereb Leh, Raya Azebo and Genta Afeshume woredas of Tigray regions.

Nutritional surveys conducted in the month of April in some of the drought affected and food deficit areas, revealed an alarming and critical nutritional status (see table 1 on page 2). Thus, urgent improvements of general ration as well as a blanket supplementary and targeted feeding programs were required in many areas. Especially in Fik Zone, an emergency situation was indicated and in response DPPC and WFP have allocated supplementary food through SC UK.

Emergency Seed Requirements Remains very High .

The emergency seed requirement remains very high in many parts of the country.

[More](#)

Critical Pasture Condition.

Pasture and water remain critical in most woredas of Shinile Zone of Somali Region and in Diredawa Administrative Concil.

[More](#)

Belg Crops Left un Planted or Dried up After Planted,

Due to frequent dry spell in East Hararghe, West Hararghe and Arsi zones of Oromiya region, Belg crops were either not planted or dried up after planted.

[More](#)

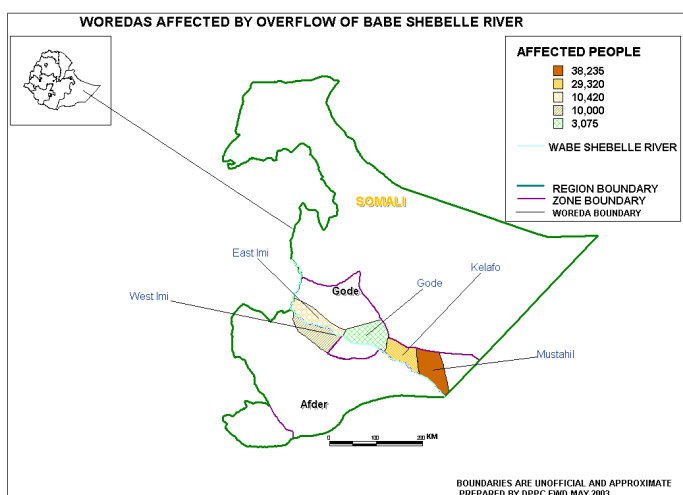
Wabbe Shebelle River Flood Claimed Lives and Damaged Properties

Due to excessive rainfall in Bale highlands, the Wabe Shebelle River had swollen in the lower course and flooded most parts of Kelafo , Mustahil, East Emi and Gode woredas of Gode Zone and West Emi Woreda of Afder Zone in Somali Region. The flood has claimed lives of human being and animals and damaged properties. The damage has called for an emergency relief assistance for the most severely affected of the 91,050 people in the flooded area.

Out Look for Kiremet 2003

According to National Meteorological Service Agency (NMSA) , normal to slight below normal rainfall over some places of eastern Tigray, eastern Amhara, Afar, eastern Oromiya, Dire-Dawa, Northern Somali and Harari Regions and normal to above normal over western half of the country is anticipated.

[More](#)



Early Warning System Monthly Report is prepared by the Early Warning Department of the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC) to coordinate and disseminate early warning and food security information.





Food Security

Nutritional Status

Nutritional surveys were carried out in highly drought affected and food deficit areas during the month of April 2003 (see table 1). The survey conducted by Federal and Regional DPPC in Borecha and Awassa Zuria woredas of Sidama Zone covered all the rural lowland PAs of the two woredas. The result indicated critical nutritional situation among the under five children with aggravating factors including incidence of malarial attack, poor household food availability, unusual high market prices of cereals, low vaccination coverage and low Vitamin A supplementation and inadequate water supply and poor health facilities in many parts of the survey areas. Similarly, In Damote Gale Woreda of Wolaita Zone of SNNPR and in Dessie Zuria Woreda of South Wollo Zone, survey result indicated the presence of critical situations among the under five population. The presence of aggravating factor was also indicated in Dessie Zuria.

Furthermore, the surveys conducted by SC-UK in Segeg, Dihun and Gerbo (survey -1) and Fik and Hamero (see survey -2) woredas of Fik Zone of Somali Region by SC/UK revealed GAM of 31.0% and 33.9 % and SAM of 3.8 % and 6.4%, respectively. The results also show a significant deterioration and critical nutritional status situation among the under five children with mortality rates at 4 and 4.8 deaths/10000/day in the two survey areas, respectively.

Unusual food stress responses have been reported from many parts of the country during the month of April. For instance, 2,487 cases of school dropout due to food shortages were reported from Gololcha and Merti woredas of Arsi Zone.

Signs of malnutrition on children were also reported in many areas of the country including Eastern and Southern Zones of Tigray; West and East Hararghe, Arsi, East and West Shewa, the lowland parts of Bale and North Shewa of Oromiya and kedida Gamela and Omo Sheleko woredas of Kenbata Timbaro Zone of SNNPR.



School Drop out due to Food Shortage Reported.

2,487 cases of school dropouts reported due to food shortages from Gololcha and Merti woredas of Arsi Zone

Table 1. survey result of the month April 2003.

Zone	Woreda/ s	AUS	GAM	SAM	Mortality/10000/Day	CMR	U5MR
Wolaita	Damot Gale	MSF	27.5%	8.2%	1.1	2.8	
Sidama	Borecha & Awassa Zuria	DPPC/DPPB	18.7%	2.2%	0.9	2.96	
S. Wello	Dessie Zuria	CONCERN	15.8%	1.1%	0.71	1.48	
Fik	Segeg, Dihun & Gerbo	SC(UK)	31.0%	3.8%	1.08	4.0	
	Fik & Hamero		33.9%	6.4%	1.3	4.8	

NOTE :AUS=AGENCY UNDER TOOK THE SURVEY
CMR=CRUDE MORTALITY RATE
U5MR=UNDR FIVE MORTALITY RATE

Worest Food Security Situation Reported.

The food security situation reported to be searious in kedida Gamela and Omo Sheleko woredas of Kenbata Timbaro Zone of SNNPR and Merab Leh, Raya Azebo and Genta Afeshume woredas of Tigray Region.

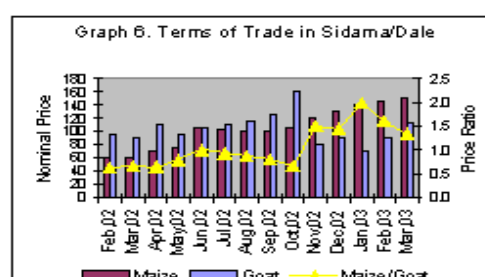
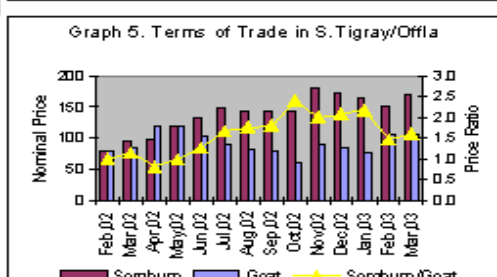
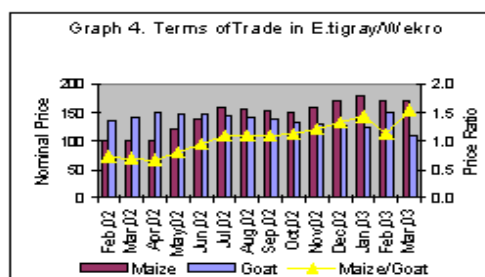
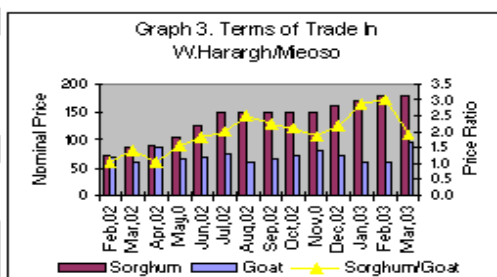
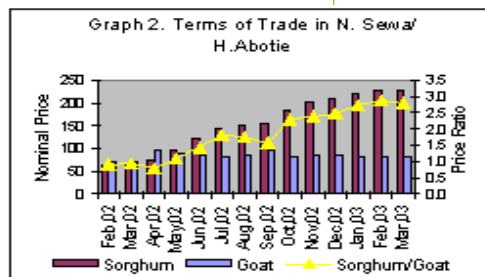
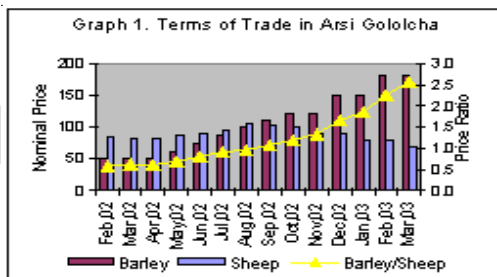


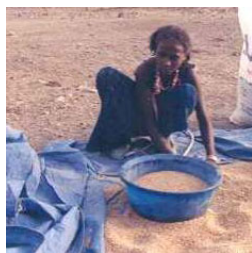
Food Security

Prices of Grain Remained High

The price of grains was rising in most areas. Recent reports from different woredas depict that the grain price remained high from same time last year and high but stable during the last two - three months. This could be attributed to the continuous provision of relief food aid and good performance of Belg rain in most Belg growing areas. Grain price, like Barley in Gollocha Woreda of Arsi Zone was at an increasing rate as of December 2002 and remained constant as of February-March 2003. On the contrary price of sheep was at a decreasing rate as of September 2002. Grain price increment at a constant rate has also been shown in Hidebu Abote of N. Shewa and Meiso Woreda of West Hararghe, which has also stabilized after it gained sour price as of February-March 2003 (see the graph / below).

The increase in grain price was substantial in some woredas as compared to some time last five years' average. Slight to significant declines in livestock prices have also been illustrated in Table 2. On the other hand, price rise for ox was observed in March 2003 as compared to February 2003 in Babile Woreda of Eastern Hararghe and other crop producing areas, which could be attributed to the requirement of ox for land preparation and the festivals. The price escalation may have negative impact on the amount of hectare that was to be ploughed. Cereals also maintained very high price gain in the last months, which could not be affordable by the resource poor farmers.





Food Security

Table .2 Price in Birr and Price Change of Commodities of March in % in Some Selected Markets Against the Price of Feb.2003, Mar. 2002 and March Average (1998-2002)

Com.	Zone/Woreda.	Mar 2003	Feb 2003.	Mar 2002	Mar.ave. 98-02	Mar 03/ Feb 03	Mar 03/ Mar 02	Mar 03/ Mar Ave.
Sheep	Dire dawa town	62	51	67	79	22	-7	-22
Sheep	E.Harar/G. Guto	73	89	91	76	-18	-20	-4
Sheep	E.Tig/A.Wenberta	95	95	95	85	0	0	12
Sheep	S.Tig/Offla	123	135	90	127	-9	37	-3
Sheep	Gurage/Sodo	90	90	97	99	0	-7	-9
Ox	E.Harar/G. Guto	740	740	875	834	0	-15	-11
Ox	E.Harar/Babile	800	750	850	688	7	-6	16
Ox	E.showa/Boset	700	550	800	800	27	-13	-13
Ox	Hadiya/B.wacho	610	550	600	579	11	2	5
Ox	E.tig/A.Wenberta	650	550	650	613	18	0	6
Ox	Gurage/Cheha	980	900	980	945	9	0	4
Ox	Gurage/Silti	680	650	756	759	5	-10	-10
Ox	Arsi/Jeju	760	760	700	941	0	9	-19
Ox	Arsi/Gedeb	800	750	650	563	7	23	42
Goat	W.Harar/D.lebu	75	65	70	86	15	7	-13
Goat	E.tig/A.Wenberta	100	110	95	96	-9	5	4
Goat	Arsi/Jeju	75	75	95	81	0	-21	-7
Goat	Arsi/Z.dugda	70	74	85	87	-5	-18	-19
Goat	Arsi/Tiyo	160	160	70	81	0	129	97
Sorghum	Dire dawa town	240	250	162	187	-4	48	28
Sorghum	E.Harar/G. Guto	239	233	120	132	3	99	81
Sorghum	W.Harar/D.lebu	150	150	90	123	0	67	22
Maize	E.Harar/Babile	125	130	95	111	-4	32	12
Maize	E.showa/Boset	145	140	55	96	4	164	52
Maize	Hadiya/B.wacho	120	110	48	68	9	153	77
Maize	S.Tig/Offla	150	136	88	119	10	70	26
Maize	Gurage/Sodo	120	130	55	68	-8	118	78
Maize	Gurage/Cheha	150	138	60	83	9	150	82
Maize	Gurage/Silti	117	136	52	81	-14	125	44
Barley	Arsi/Aseko	110	90	85	21	22	29	-9
Barley	Arsi/Gololcha	180	180	50	93	0	260	95
Barley	Arsi/Dod.sirie	135	140	50	77	-4	170	76
Wheat	Arsi/Aseko	120	120	95	139	0	26	-14
Wheat	Arsi/Kofelie	160	150	65	102	7	146	57



Disaster Occurrences

Heavy Rainfall and Flash Flood

As a result of excessive rainfall in Bale highlands, the Wabe Shebelle River had swollen in the lower course and flooded most parts of Kelafo, Mustahil, East Emi and Gode Woredas of Gode Zone and West Emi Woredas of Afdar Zone in Somali region in April. The flood has claimed the lives of human beings, animals and destroyed two primary schools, five clinics, four water-pumping machines, roads and bridges. From the 91,050 affected people (29,320 in Kelafo, 38,235 in Mustahil, 10,420 in east Emi and 3,075 in Gode Woredas of Gode Zone and 10,000 in West Emi of Afdar Zone) emergency relief assistance have been provided for the most severely affected.

Heavy rains associated with hailstorm and flash flood damaged planted crops in Burjie and killed 44 animals in Shashego and Burjie woredas of SNNPR. The report also indicated that flash flood damaged a bridge between Konso and Amaro woredas disrupting communication between the two woredas. In Awasa Woreda the flood has killed three people and destroyed property. Similar incidents occurred in Arero, Yabello and Gelana Abaya woredas of Borena Zone in Oromiya and in Tiyo Woreda of Arsi Zone in Oromiya where it destroyed planted crops, claimed the lives of three people and 63 domestic animals and destroyed 10 residential houses. Three people were also killed and 318 households were displaced in Gelana Abaya woredas.

Fire

Fire completely burnt 14 residential houses, 18 quintals of grains and killed seven domestic animals in Degeme Woreda of North Shoa Zone. Eight households and 16 families lost all their assets worth 116,160 Birr. Moreover, in Alele town of Teru Woreda of Zone 4 of Afar region, 65 animals were killed, 81 shops damaged, residential houses and other asset worth 204,068 Birr destroyed.

Human Health Condition

Meningitis outbreak was reported in Dire Dawa Zuria Woreda and in Babile Woreda of East Hararghe Zone. Malarial epidemics was also reported in Hadiya and Gamogofa zones of SNNPR and East and West Hararghe, Borena, Jimma and lowland areas of East Shewa Zones of Oromia Region. In Babile Woreda of East Hararghe and Ziwaye Dugda Woredas of Arsi Zone and Harshine Woreda of Somali Region serious Diarrhoea was reported. Whooping cough in Harshine woreda was also reported. In response to the outbreaks measures were taken to Control the outbreak.

Shortage of Water Reported

Due to prolonged drought, shortage of water for human consumption continued to be major problem in Burea surrounding areas and Elidar Woreda of Afar region.

There was also a report of water shortage in Deksis, Sude, and Robe woredas of Arsi Zone and lowland parts of East and West Hararghe zones of Oromiya Region. Efforts were made to provide emergency water ration for Sude and Merti woredas while water tankering continued in Boke and Meiso woredas of the region.



Weather Related Adversity and Fire Hazard Reported

Heavy rains associated with hailstorm and flash flood in SNNPR and Oromiya and fire in North Shoa of Oromiya and Afar region reported to have claimed life of human being and damaged properties.



Water Shortage is Still a Problem in Some Areas.

IDPs living in Burea surrounding areas and Elidar Woreda in Afar and Deksis, Sude, and Robe woredas of Arsi zone and lowland parts of East and West Hararghe zones of Oromiya Region said to be suffering from water shortage.



Weather Conditions

Weather Performances

Field reports for the month of April indicated that apart from moderate rains in West Wellega of Oromiya and good rain in Zones 2 and 4 of Afar Region, there were no or little rains in the country during the first dekad of April. This was a continuation of the poor rainfall performance in March. However, during the second and third dekads of April, there was moderate to extended rainfall over most parts of the country including eastern half of Amhara, most parts of Afar, most parts of Oromiya, SNNPR, Diredawa, Harari, and northern, western and southern Somali. On the contrary, the rains in some parts of Afar, western Amhara, central and eastern Somali Regions were much lower than the usual during the second and third dekads of the month.

According to the National Meteorological Service Agency's monthly agro-met bulletin, most parts of Afar, eastern half of Amhara, parts of southern Tigray, central, eastern and parts of southern Oromiya, northern SNNPR and northern Somali received normal to above normal rainfall while the rest of the country experienced below to much below normal rainfall.

On the other hand, the 10 daily satellite rainfall imageries (at the right) indicated that western Oromiya, Gambella, B/Gumuz, and most parts of Tigray received normal rainfall during the first dekad of April while the remaining parts of the country received below to much below normal rainfall. However, apart from western Oromiya, Gambella and central and western Amhara, the rest of the country had above to much above normal during the second and third dekads of the month.

Adverse Weather Condition

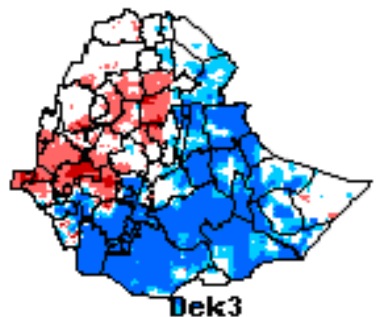
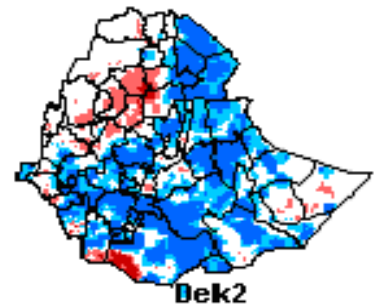
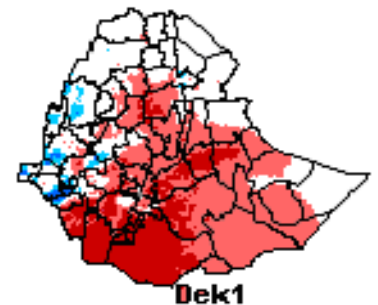
Heavy rainfall was observed in Gorogutu, Alemaya, Kersa, Melkabello, Fedis, and Deder woredas of East Hararghe Zone in Oromiya region during the second dekad of the month. Besides, according to NMSA agromet report, Alege, Kibre Mengist, Bedele, Konso, Ambo, Nazareth, Gelemso, Maychew, Arba Minch and Bati recorded 31.5, 33.8, 34.4, 39.3, 39.7, 40.6, 41.5, 44.9, 46.8 and 55.4 mm of heavy rainfall in a day respectively.

Climate Out Look for Kiremet 2003

According to National Meteorological Service Agency (NMSA) **Climate Outlook for Kiremt 2003**, near neutral to slight colder than normal Sea Surface Temperature (SST) over the Tropic and Equatorial Pacific Ocean is anticipated within the coming season. The anticipated global oceanic and atmospheric systems are highly likely to favor for the occurrence of better rains during the upcoming July and August with some dry spell in some area. However, the kiremt-rain-producing systems do not attain their strength during June. As a result, the following climatic conditions are highly likely to prevail in the upcoming season in different parts of Ethiopia.

- A slightly late onset of Kiremt Season, particularly, over western half of Oromiya, western SNNPR, Gambella, Benishangul-Gumuz and western Amhara
- Normal cessation of Kiremt rain .
- Normal to above normal rainfall over western half of the country.

10 daily RFE Difference Images from Average for the Month of April 2003.



RFE Difference Legend

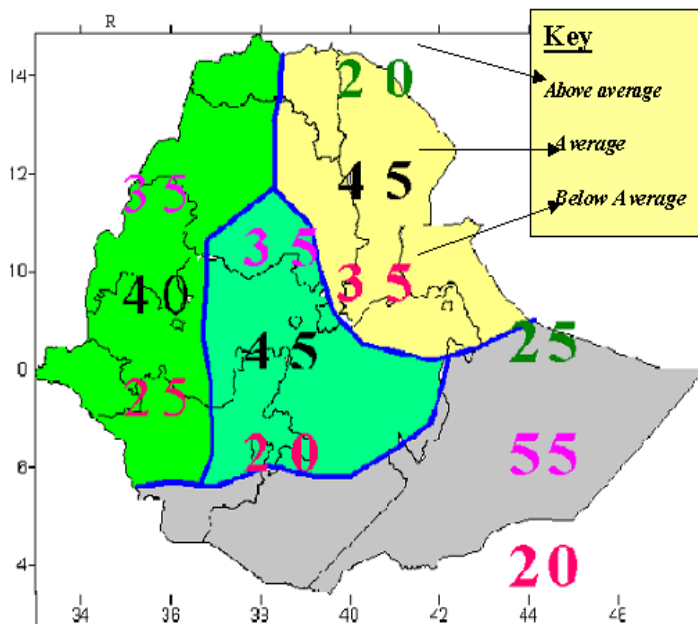
- Much Below Normal
- Below Normal
- Normal
- Above Normal
- Much Above Normal

~ Zone Boundary

Weather Conditions

- Normal to slightly below normal over some places of eastern Tigray, eastern Amhara, Afar, eastern Oromiya, Dire-Dawa, northern Somali and Harari Region
- Normal Kiremt rainfall over central Oromiya, southern Amhara, northern and eastern SNNPR
- Southern half of Ethiopia, where dry weather condition normally prevail, are highly likely to receive normal rains with a possibility of having unusual heavy falls at places
- Erratic and deficient rainfall over some places of western half and, parts of central, northern and eastern Ethiopia
- Some dry spells over eastern half as well as western lowlands.
- Sporadic heavy showers as well as hailstorms over northwest, northeast, central and southwestern highlands of Ethiopia

Rainfall Probabilities for Kiremt 2003



DPPC



Crop Performance

Agricultural Activities

According to field reports from SNNPR, late onset and and poor performance of *Belg* rain in most parts of the region have seriously affected the over all agricultural activities. In East Hararghe, West Hararghe, and Arsi zones of Oromiya Region *Belg* crops were either not planted or dried up after planted due to frequent dry spell between early February and first dekad of April 2003. On the other hand, weeding and other necessary activities for *Belg* crops were underway during the month in most *Belg* growing areas of southern Tigray and eastern Amhara. The land preparation and planting of Meher crops have continued in the country extensively. Planting of long cycle crops (Sorghum and maize) were undertaken in some areas like Jimma, *Arsi*, highland of North and East Showa, mid and highland of East Hararghe zones of Oromiya, Diredawa, and Harari Regional states. Emergency seed requirement remains very high in most parts.

Incidence of Crop Damages

In addition to the dried up Belg crops in East and West Hararghe zones of Oromiya region due to frequent dry spell in the first dekad of April and the preceding months, heavy rains associated with hailstorm and flash flood have destroyed planted crops, 653 hectares in Burjie and 360 hectares in Shashago Woredas of SNNPR Region and 241 hectares in Tiyo woreda of Arsi zone. In Kelafo and Mustahil Woredas of Gode Zone in Somali Region, flood destroyed about 80 quintals of grains and 75 hectares of planted crops

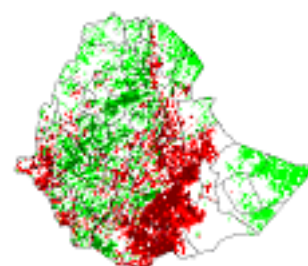
Crop Disease and Pest Situation

The DLCO_EA monthly report indicated that no locusts were reported in the usual breeding area of eastern parts of the country. No significant development of locust is likely to occur during the month of May 2003.

Crop Performances and Production Prospects

Very poor Belg production performance, near to total loss is expected in East Hararghe, West Hararghe, and Arsi zone of Oromiya region due to the recurrent dry spells between early February and first dekad of April 2003. In SNNPR the crops at different stages, some at flowering and others at growth stages due to the poor performance of Belg rains. The early-planted crops in this region have started wilting due to moisture stress while there wassome hope for late planted ones to survive, provided that the weather condition improved. Reports from the lowland areas of Alamata and Raya Azebo woredas in Tigray Region indicated that the poor rains disfavored crop growth and as a result 7,758 hectare of planted crop re-plowed. However, *Belg* crops in *Belg* growing areas of Amhara and the highland of Tigray regions had good performance this year than the previous years due to the favorable rainfall during April and the preceding months for crops cultivation. Most Belg crops in these areas were found at flowering stages. The impacts of moisture deficiency during the first dekad of the month and the previous dekads have worsened the vegetation status mainly in the eastern parts of the country as shown in the map .

10 Daily Difference in Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) Satellite Images for the Month of April.



Dek 1



Dek 2



Dek 3

NDVI Difference legend

- ☐ Clouds
- ☐ Worse
- ☐ Slightly Worse
- ☐ Same
- ☐ Slightly Better
- ☐ Better



Livestock Condition

Livestock Condition in Cropping Areas

The Belg rains were reported to have improved the pasture and water condition in most Belg dependant areas. Some Meher dependant areas also received rains in April, which contributed to the improvement of pasture and water. However, some low-laying areas including Alamata and Raya Azebo woredas in Southern Tigray, and some woredas in Central, Eastern and North west Tigray and the low lands of West Hararghe faced critical shortage of water and pasture.

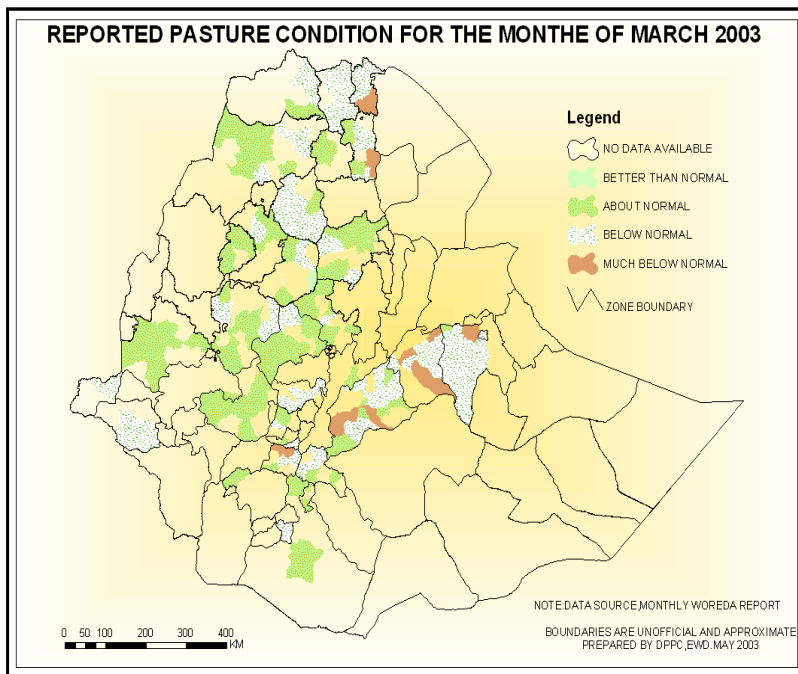
In general, the livestock physical condition has shown some improvements in areas where there were better rains. However, excessive rains and unknown diseases have reportedly caused significant deaths on goat in Seru woredas in Arsi zone.

There has been no report of unusual animal disease outbreak, except the endemic disease such as Anthrax, Blackleg, CCPP, CBPP and Pasteurellosis.



Water and Pasture Shortage

Critical shortage of water and pasture prevailed in the low-laying areas of Alamata and Raya Azebo woredas in Southern Tigray, and some woredas in central, Eastern and North western Tigray and the low lands of Western Hararghe.



DPPC

Situation in Pastoral Areas



Afar Region

The rains were seriously inadequate for pasture regeneration except for some browses and replenishing water supplies. The available pasture in Chifera Woreda of Zone 1 and in some areas of zone 4, reported to have depleted due to the high concentration of animal.

Water rationing continued in the selected water deficit woredas. Critical water shortage was also reported from most woredas of Zone 2.

Livestock were reported to be weak. Milk production was at its minimal level. On the other hand, there were no reports of unusual animal diseases outbreak except for the endemic diseases such as Lump skin disease, CBPP, Pasteurellosis & CCPP particularly in Zone 2. Treatments were underway to contain the problem.

Somali Region

According to field reports, pasture and water remained critical in most woredas of Shinile Zone and poor in most part of Warder, Korahe and Degahabour zones, however, in Meisso and Afdem woredas, the rains in April improved the water and pasture (browses) condition to some extent. Moreover, in Gode, Fik Afder, Jijiga and Liben zones and even in some part of chronic water deficit areas of Gode and Fik zones the water and pasture availability were said to have been improving. It was indicated also that, the overflow of Fafen River would help the agro-pastorals in some part of Degahabur and Warder Zones.

There were no significant changes in the livestock physical condition in Shinile zone. The availability of milk was also negligible during the month. However, in other zones slight improvement in livestock physical condition have been reported

There were no reports of unusual animal disease outbreak in most areas of the Region during April.

Borena Zone and Lowlands of Bale

In some low land areas including the lowlands of Rayitu & Dinsho weredas, pasture and water remains to be critical. There have been no reports of significant pasture and water shortage in the other parts of Borona Zone.

There was no report of unusual animal disease outbreak in the two zones.

South Omo

So far, there has been no report of significant water and pasture shortages in the zone.

Dire Dawa

The serious pasture shortage in Dire dawa was rampant. Due to the lack of feed some deaths of animals were reported. In order to save the life of calves and milking cows the administrative council allocates 127,000 birr budget to procure animal feed. Prophylactic and vaccination measure is underway for Contagious Caprine Pluro Pneumonia (CCPP) as observed in some part of the administrative council.



Rains in Afar were seriously inadequate for pasture regeneration



Death of animal reported due to pasture shortage in Dire Dawa.