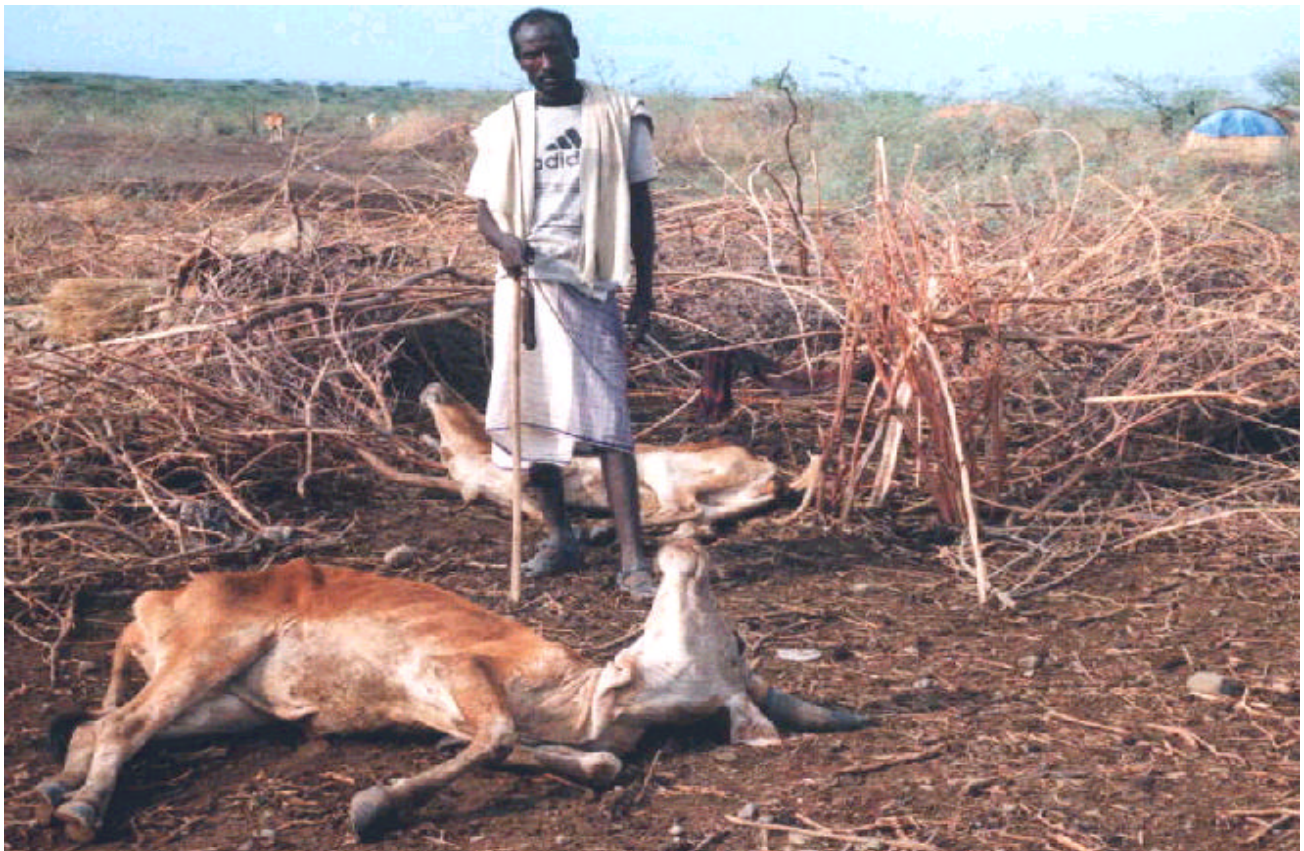


**REPORT ON:
A RAPID FIELD ASSESSMENT IN AFAR REGION
(25 – 29 July 2002)**

By:
Eshetu Abate and Kifle Lemma



**Addis Ababa
2 August 2002**

Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
Acronyms	i
1. INTRODUCTION	1
2. BACKGROUND TO AFAR REGION	2
3. OBJECTIVES	3
4. METHODOLOGY	3
5. MAJOR FINDINGS	3
5.1 Zone 1	3
5.1.1 Human situation	4
a. Food situation	
b. Water situation	
c. Health situation	
5.1.2 Livestock situation	8
a. Pasture situation	
b. Water situation	
c. Diseases situation	
5.2 Zone 3	10
5.2.1 Human situation	11
a. Food situation	
b. Water situation	
c. Health situation	
5.2.2 Livestock situation	14
a. Pasture situation	
b. Water situation	
c. Diseases situation	
5.3 Zone 4	15
5.3.1 Human situation	16
d. Food situation	
e. Water situation	
f. Health situation	
5.3.2 Livestock situation	18
c. Pasture situation	
d. Water situation	
c. Diseases situation	

5.4 Zone 5	20
5.4.1 Human situation	20
g. Food situation	
h. Water situation	
i. Health situation	
5.4.2 Livestock situation	24
e. Pasture situation	
f. Water situation	
c. Diseases situation	
6. OTHER ISSUES	26
6.1 Co-ordination	26
6.2 Conflict	27
6.3 Market situation	27
6.4 Intervention by other agencies	28
7. CONCLUSSIONS	28
8. RECOMMENDATIONS	30
Annex:	
1: TOR	32
2: Itinerary	35
3: Agencies/persons contacted	37

ACRONYMS

ACF	Action Contre la Faim
APDA	Afar Pastoralist Development Association
BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
DCG	Dry land Co-ordination Group
DPPC	Disaster Prevention and Preparedness
DPPB	Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Bureau (at Regional level)
DPPD	Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Department (at Zonal level)
ETB	Ethiopian Birr
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organisation
GTF	Gudina Tumsa Foundation
IRIN	Integrated Regional Information Network
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
ToR	Terms of Reference
UN-EUE	United Nations Emergencies Unit for Ethiopia
UNICEF	United Nation Children Fund
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organisation
WV	World Vision

1. INTRODUCTION

Towards the end of June 2002 reports started to come out from different sources¹ on a building up emergency situation in Afar and the bordering East Shewa zone (Fentale Woreda) of Oromiya Region. According to the reports, due to shortage of water and pasture as well as diseases, significant number of livestock have died, abnormal migration pattern and high concentration of livestock near water and pasture sources observed. There were also reports of conflict over resources between the different tribal groups (Afar, Issa, Kereyu and Itu) that aggravated the situation.

On 5 July 2002, the UN-EUE called a meeting of UN agencies, Donors, NGOs and DPPC to share their field assessment results carried out in Afar and East Shewa. Consequently, the Oxfam country team in Ethiopia² held a meeting on 10 July 2002 to review the reported emergency situation and plan for possible actions.

Following the DPPC led field assessment by a multi-agency team of UN, Donors, NGOs and Government during June 2002 in the pastoral and *belg* producing areas, the federal DPPC issued an appeal on 12 July for additional relief assistance. According to the report released by the DPPC, the complete failure of the year 2002 *sugum* rain and poor performance of the preceding *dadaa* and *karma* rains resulted in serious drought and shortage of water and pasture in most parts of Afar Region. The report also revealed low water levels in perennial rivers (Awash, Borkena, Mille and Logiya), death of livestock, abnormal migration and serious livestock diseases in the Region. According to DPPC among the five zones in Afar Region, Zone 3 was the most affected followed by zone 2, 5, 1 and 4. According to special alert report of DPPC (12 July), 448,500 people in Afar Region would require relief assistance of 40,365 MT of food during July to December 2002.

During the meeting on 10 July, the Oxfam country team decided to take a two step approach to address the issue, (i) to meet and discuss with NGOs and other relevant organizations that have field presence in Afar Region and Fentale Woreda of East Shewa zone, Oromiya Region on the current situation and (ii) to consider field assessment and explore avenues for Oxfam to be involved in the response. Accordingly, information was gathered from 7 NGOs³ on situation in Afar Region and from 3 NGOs on situation in Fentale Woreda during 11 – 17 July 2001. The major recommendations of the assessment exercise were the following;

☞☞The effort by Oxfam's in Ethiopia need to focus to contribute to the response in Afar Region.

☞☞A team from Oxfam's in Ethiopia carry out a rapid situation assessment in selected (three or less out of five) zones of Afar Region.

¹ IRIN, 27 June; Reuters, 29 June; BBC, 2 July and IRIN, 2 July.

² Oxfam America, Oxfam Canada, Oxfam CAA, Oxfam Intermon, Oxfam GB and NOVIB

³ Afar Region: ACF, AMCCO, APDA, FARM Africa, WV, LWF and CARE; Fentale Woreda: CARE, GOAL and Gudina Tumsa Foundation.

✍✍The co-ordination of assessments, planning and response in Afar Region was found to be very crucial. It was suggested to the country team to discuss and agree on a co-ordination strategy with other potential actors (Regional/federal DPPB/C, donors, UN and NGOs).

Based on the recommendations of the assessment exercise, the Oxfam country team decided to carry out a joint rapid field assessment in Afar Region. Information regarding zone 2 was anticipated, as indicated in the TOR, to be gathered from the Mekele University by the Oxfam Canada team that was in Mekelle on another mission during 18 – 22 July 2002. Unfortunately, the team was not able to get information as anticipated.

Two teams were organized for the rapid field assessment carried out during 25 – 29 July 2002. Team one covered zone 1 and 3 while team two covered zone 4 and 5. The team that carried out the assessment in zone 1 and 3 was accompanied in the field by APDA staff (please see the attached TOR, Annex 1). This report, therefore, will only focus on the field assessment carried out in zone 1, 3, 4 and 5.

This report provides a brief background information on Afar Region, objective and methodology of the assessment, major observations/findings of the team and recommendations.

2. BACKGROUND TO AFAR REGION

Afar Region is located in the north-eastern part of Ethiopia bordering with Eritrea in the north and North-east; Djibouti in the East; Tigray Region in the North-west; Amhara Region in the West; Oromiya Region in the South and Somali Region in the South-east. Administratively, the Region is divided into 5 zones and 29 woredas. The regional capital, Assaita is located in zone 1 some 650 Kms North-east of Addis Ababa. A new Regional capital is being developed at Semera (located at 600 km from Addis Ababa on the main Addis – Assab/Djibouti tarmac road. The Regional Government council is expected to move to the new capital before September 2002. The total population of the region is estimated at 1.1 Million, of which over 90% are primarily pastoralist that depend on livestock while the remaining 10% (agro-pastoralist) depend on crop and livestock. The total livestock population of the region is estimated at 4 Million (UN, July 2002). Afars keep mixed types of livestock including cattle, sheep, goats, equines and camel. For the great majority of the population, livestock are major sources of income, food, security and insurance.

The region receives three rainy seasons. The main rain, locally known as *karma* is from mid-July to mid-September, which is followed by rainy showers in late October/early November called *dadaa* and the minor rainy season during March – May is called *sugum*. Disruptions on the performance of any of the rainy seasons will have an impact on the availability of pasture and water as well as the over all food security situation of the pastoral communities.

Afars have a traditional system that is used to manage their resources, i.e the livestock and the rangeland resources. There are two types of institutions functioning together, *Medaa* and *Adaa*. *Medaa* has a hierarchical structure starting from a head of a household to clan leaders at the top level and it is the highest decision making body. *Adaa* is a cultural mechanism where they manage the system by applying various rules and regulations such as resource management, marriage arrangements, conflict management, external relations, etc. The rules govern every day's life situations; for example, if some families do not have enough food they have the right to get food from the others who do have enough (DCG, 2001)⁴.

3. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the rapid field assessment, as provided in the TOR (attached) was to have better understanding of the current emergency situation in Afar Region which would enable Oxfam's in Ethiopia to make informed decisions for any possible response.

4. METHODOLOGY

The field assessment was carried out in zone 1, 3, 4 and 5 during 25 – 29 July 2002. Information was gathered from the Afar Regional DPPB, zonal DPPDs, woreda DPP committees, health institutions, water, mines and energy department of zone 3, NGOs (ACF, APDA and FARM Africa), elders, affected communities and women. The team also made field observation by visiting affected communities, areas with high concentration of livestock, water and pasture sources.

5. MAJOR FINDINGS

5.1 Zone 1

Zone 1 has six woredas (Assayita, Afambo, Chifra, Dubti, Elidar and Mille) with a total population of 329,268 people (DPPB, July 2002). The assessment in zone 1 was carried out during 25 – 27 July 2002 and the team visited 4 woredas; Assayita, Afambo, Dubti and Mille. In addition to information gathered from the Regional DPPB, zonal DPPD and woreda DPP committee members, discussions were held with affected communities and elders of communities in Glubleafa and Guyah (Dubti Woreda); Wahle Fenta (Assayita woreda) and Ala Sebri (Afabmo woreda).

⁴ Traditional Coping strategies of the Afar and Borana Pastoralists in Response to Drought, Dry Landa Coordination Group (DCG), Report No. 17, November 2001.

5.1.1 Human situation in zone 1

a. Food situation

Purchased cereal (mainly maize and sorghum) using income from sale of livestock (mainly sheep and goats), milk and meat are major sources of food. Some of the communities in Assayita, Afambo and Dubti woredas, who have access to land along side Awash river practice crop (maize) production, which contributes to the household food. In the agro-pastoral areas of Assayita and Afambo woredas that the team visited, communities reported that due to major course change of Awash river around the Tendaho commercial cotton farm they were not able to continue with their farming activities during the last two years. According to the communities of the area, during the last two years the issue has been reported upto the highest Regional Government authorities and the issue was not resolved. According to one of the Afambo woreda council member, recently more than 200 community members from Afambo woreda were mobilized to clear the diversion canal that was filled by sediment. The team also observed around Ala Sebro (Afambo woreda) and Wahle Fenta (Assayita woreda) the canals with water from the diverted Awash river. On 27 July as the team was discussing with communities of Wahle Fenta (Assayita woreda), it was informed about the arrival of the water to the area. The team also observed water flowing in the canals.

For zone 1 in general, contribution of crop from own farm for household food is insignificant. As observed by the team and reported by people contacted, pastoralists in the area have lost significant number of their livestock. The remaining livestock are very weak, and can not be marketed. According to mothers interviewed, milk production in the area dried since April. Children are provided with a thin mixture of maize flour and water. Around April/May, some of the households reported that they were adding sugar to the mixture. As their purchasing power declined they are no more adding sugar to the mix. The mix is used as a substitute to milk. Most households the team talked to reported that they have already exhausted their food stock. Some of the households started borrowing food and asking for support from relatives and friends living in Dubti, Assayita and other towns. The team witnessed when one APDA staff from Dubti, who accompanied the team to the field donating 50 kg of rice to community groups at Glubleafa village.

According to the Regional DPPB, relief food is being distributed in all woredas of the region. However, the team was told by communities visited in Assayita and Afambo woredas that no relief food was distributed in their area. In Dubti Woreda, 150 MT of wheat grain was delivered from the federal DPPC for the month of July ration. Based on the estimated beneficiary figure of Dubti Woreda (41,136 people) by the regional DPPB, each beneficiary will receive only 3.6 kgs for the month. According to communities of Glubleafa (located at 135 km north of Dubti town) no relief food was distributed. On the other hand, for communities of Guyah (located at 120 km north of Dubti town) 5 MT of wheat grain was distributed on 25 July. The quantity of the food was not adequate, as reported by the communities. One bago (50 kgs) of wheat was distributed to 3 families. The distribution did not cover all families in the area. Based on the information gathered from the communities the ration rate distributed was about 2 kgs/person/month. This

amount will further be shared with those families who were not included in the distribution.



Pic. 1: Children at Glubleafa, Dubti Woreda (Photo: 26 July 2002)

Communities of Guyah and Glubleafa reported that, because of lack of milk children are getting weaker and some already suffering from diarrhea. At Guyah, communities also reported death of 3 adults due to lack of water. The assessment team, however, has not observed any signs of malnutrition among children (Pic. 1).

As the situation stands now, the nutritional status of people in the area could deteriorate quickly

unless adequate general food ration and protine rich supplementary food for children, pregnant and lactating mothers as well as the elderly (a substitute for milk) is provided.

According to the Regional DPPB, based on their recent assessment the number of people requiring relief food assistance has increased. Number of needy population estimated by the DPPC, the Regional DPPB and zone 1 DPPD is presented in the following table.

Table 1: Needy population of zone 1 as estimated by DPPC, DPPB and DPPD

Woreda	Needy population (July – December 2002)		
	DPPD (June 02)*	DPPB (25/07)	DPPC (12/07)
Assayita	31,908	30,421	13,040
Afambo	8,040	10,884	4,660
Chiffra	43,899	57,690	20,600
Dubti	40,488	41,136	17,630
Ellidar	30,088	36,729	26,240
Mille	42,250	53,628	19,150
Total (Zone 1)	196,673	230,488	101,320

Source: DPPC, 12 July 2002; DPPB, 25 July 2002; DPPD, June 2002.

b. Water situation

For Assayita, Afambo and Dubti Woredas, Awash river and its tributaries, Mille and Logiya rivers are important sources of water. There are also few ponds, birkads, Elas

and shallow wells as additional source. Due to poor performance and in some cases complete failure of the rainy seasons during the last three consecutive years, the available sources were not able to provide sufficient water. Furthermore, as a result of sedimentation problem Awash river changed its course during the last two years that has significantly reduced availability of water.

During the field assessment, some rain was observed in Dubti and Afambo woredas. Around Guyah along side the main road, the team observed people fetching water from a very small natural pond that had some water from the rainfall of the previous night. The team also observed two empty ponds, that were constructed by APDA with a capacity of 10,000 m³ each, and two Birkas constructed adjacent to the ponds at Guyah and Glubleafa. Picture 2 below shows one of the dry ponds at Glubleafa.

According to UN-EUE, during their field assessment of early June 2002, they have observed ponds around Guyah being used by livestock and people who have come from the neighbouring Woredas of Elidar (zone 1) and Terru (zone 4). The following observation was also documented by the UN-EUE mission. '... In Guyah, women are carrying water on donkeys or camels upto 10 kms and beyond. The guyah water pond is expected to dry up soon...' (UN-EUE, 4 July 2002).



Pic. 2: One of the ponds with a capacity of 10,000 m³ constructed by APDA at Glubleafa, Dubti Woreda (Photo: 26 July 2002)

According to elders of Glubleaf community, this year the Ela on the hill (some 2 hrs walking distance from Glubleaf) has dried. Normally, the Ela was used as a last resort for water in the area during previous years of critical water shortage. Since May, as the Ela dried up they had to collect water from Medbiele Ela which is three days walking distance for round trip. The team was informed by the woreda council that after two years, as the problem of water became more critical, Afambo woreda

mobilized more than 200 men and cleaned the diversion canal of Awash river around the Tendaho commercial farm that was filled by sediment. The team also observed around Ala Sebbo (Afambo woreda) and Wahle Fenta (Assayita woreda) canals with water from the diverted Awash river.

ACF, based on their assessment that was carried out during early July in Afambo and Assayita Woredas, have started water tankering operation using four trucks with a capacity of 12 – 15,000 lts. each. The team observed one of the trucks distributing water in Afambo woreda. According to the truck driver, they cover 15 - 25 kms from Assayita distributing water for communities along side the road. Community members come to the truck with their available containers and get water directly from the tanker. Due to this system of the water distribution, the truck is only able to make one trip a day. If distribution points such as birkas or empty barrrels were prepared, the truck could have made at least two trips a day doubling the amount of water distributed, the truck driver commented.

The assessment team discussed with the ACF team in Dubti about the water situation observed in Afambo woreda and Guyah areas of Dubti Woreda. Based on our observation, the water situation was more critical in Guyah than Afambo area. Following our discussion with ACF, the next day (27 July) the team observed two of the ACF trucks heading to Guyah area to distribute water.

c. Health situation

Communities visited reported prevalence of malaria, respiratoty tsue infection, diarrhea and other diseases. The health institutions contacted have limited capacity in terms of medical supplies and technical staff to provide adequate health services even under their regular programme. They expressed concerns that if the current drought situation continues, the health situation of communities, particularly of children, mothers (pregnant and lactating) and the elderly will be affected significantly. With their current capacity, they indicated that it will be very difficult to address emergency situation.

The team observed dead animals and decaying carcas dumped every where i.e around homes, along road sides, in and around water canals (particularly in Afambo) and in open fields (Pic. 3)



Pic. 3: Dead cow , Afambo (Photo: 26 July 2002)

As the rain in some areas has started and people are collecting rain water from where ever available around their area, there is a high risk of water contamination. Communities also reported this as a major threat to their health situation. The health institutions in the area, as well as local authorities expressed their concerns about a potential human disease epidemic as a result of contamination of water by the dead livestock. All of the dead livestock observed were were not skinned, because communitis suspect transmigration of disease from the dead livestock to people.

5.1.2 Livestock situation in zone 1

a. Pasture situation

According to communities and local authorities contacted, the pasture in the zone used to be adequate for the livestock population. At times, when there is long dry season some of the livestock used to migrate to the neighboring zone 4. This year, because of the rainfall situation and diversion of Awash river as described under section 5.1., most of the pasture resources in the zone was exhausted. The livestock which used to migrate to the neighboring zone 4 were unable to do so because of similar situation in zone 4. As a result, the livestock were restricted within the zone for pasture. Livestock that had moved to some areas of zone 1 from the neighboring zone 4 have also put pressure on the scarce pasture resource.

Several weak cattle, sheep and goats were observed around villages and standing over dried grazing land. Small number of cammel with a relatively better condition were observed stragling to browse from the dry acacia trees and *Prosopis juliflora* tree that has envaded many grazing land. The *Prosopis juliflora*, commonly known as 'woyane tree' in the area is the only green plant observed in the area that survived the drought. The plant with a very strong thorn has a toxic effect on other plants and do not allow under growth of any other plant. It forms a very dense canopy making passing through of people and livestock impossible. The plant is not palatable for livestock and it is expanding very fast competing with grazing and farm land in the area. Along side river canals and marshlands, it has become a 'green desert', as described by a livestock specialist from the UN-EUE.

Livestock owners in Dubti town reported that, as the pasture in the area is exhausted they are feeding their livestock (mainly cows and calves) oil cake bought from Modjo town. The Tendaho cotton farm in Dubti sends the cotton seeds to the Modjo edible oil factory and the oil cake is brought back to Dubti by local traders.

b. Water situation

The water sources available in the zone are used both for human and livestock consumption (please see section 5.1.1.b above).

In Afambo woreda, weak cattle, goats and cammels were observed drinking water from the canals. As the diversion canal of Awash was cleared by people mobilized from the woreda few days back, communities reported that the canals only started to fill up on 24 July. According to the communities, the rainfall in the highlands has contributed for the increase in the water volume of Awash river and quick fill up of the canals after the clearing operation was carried out.

Communities at Glubleafa (Dubti Woreda) reported that since May, as the water resource in the area exhausted, they were forced to water their livestock at a place called Medbile.

The water point is located at one day walking distance on the direction of Lake Afdera (zone 2). Communities interviewed described the water source at Medbile as a small natural depression formed between two hills that holds good amount of water.

There is an agreed schedule for watering the goats, cattle and camels which is every 2, 4 and 7 days respectively. According to observation of the community, camels used to stay for more than 10 days without water, which is not the case any more.



Pic. 4: Camels drinking water from canals, Afambo (Photo: 27 July 2002)

The water in the canal would attract more livestock to the area, reported one elder. He was also concerned about the potential environmental pollution.

The camels observed in Afambo area were in a relatively better condition compared to the cattle, sheep or goats (Pic. 4).

If the water from the source at Medbile is exhausted, the other alternative they have is to walk to Lake Afdera, which is about 200 kms north. During the discussion with the communities on the option of traveling to Lake Afdera, one community member said, 'I hope *Alah* will not allow this to happen' expressing how difficult it would be to walk 200 kms with livestock.

c. Livestock diseases

There were no reports of livestock epidemic by communities visited. However, when asked about the reasons for the death of the livestock, many expressed that the weak condition of the livestock due to lack of feed and water is considered as disease. Communities in Afambo reported that many livestock died while drinking water after walking for long distances.

In all areas visited the dead livestock were observed with their skins. According to the communities they fear a disease that could be transmitted from the dead livestock, however, there was no report of human disease transmitted from dead livestock.

According to the Regional DPPB, due to capacity limitation the veterinary service in the areas even during what is considered to be 'normal' period is far below requirements. The Regional DPPB expressed their fear of potential outbreak of livestock disease/epidemic in the whole Afar region. If this happen, the acting DPPB head expressed, the region will have no capacity to deal with and it would be a major catastrophe.

As a result of shortage of pasture and water livestock have become weak and susceptible to infectious diseases. According to communities visited, the combined effect of shortage of water and pasture as well as diseases has resulted in the death of significant number of livestock. It was also reported that, the most affected livestock, according to order of importance are sheep, cattle, goats and camels.

Most of the affected communities interviewed were reluctant to discuss on the magnitude of livestock loss. They preferred to say; 'we have lost all, what we see now will only have few days to survive'. According to the crude information gathered from households interviewed in Afambo woreda, the livestock loss in their area is estimated at 50 - 70%. Communities of Guyah area in Dubti woreda estimated 50% loss. It was not possible for the assessment team to confirm the estimates provided by the communities.

5.2 Zone 3

There are six woredas (Amibara, Argoba, Awash-Fentale, Bire-Modaitu, Dulecha and Gewane) in the zone with a total population of 130,718 people (DPPB, July 2002). The field assessment in the zone was carried out during 28 – 29 July 2002. Three of the woredas, Amibara, Awash-Fentale and Gewane were covered. The assessment team held discussions with communities of Adaitu and Endufo (Gewane woreda); Andido and Kurkura (Amibara Woreda) and Dudub (Awash-Fentale woreda). Due to the rain, areas out of the main roads were not accessible, hence the visit of the team was limited to communities along side the main road.

The team had discussions with zone 3 DPPD and water, mines and energy office at Melka Sedi and the Woreda DPP committee members at Gewane. The team also gathered information from CARE based in Gewane.

5.2.1 Human situation in zone 3

a. Food situation

Similar to zone 1, the major food source in the area is purchased food by generating income from sale of livestock, mainly goats and sheep, milk and limited crop production. According to the zonal DPPD, communities in few agro-pastoral PAs of Amibara, Awash-Fentale and Argoba woredas practice crop production with supplementary irrigation, mainly from Awash river. The amount and distribution of the main and small rains during the last two years in the area was reported to be insufficient. Complete failure of the last two years rain in some woredas (Bure-Modayitu, Amibara and Gewane) was also reported by the zonal DPPD. This has significantly affected availability of food in the area. One of the households visited at Kurkura PA in Amibara Woreda reported about their food situation as follows; '.. The family is totally dependent on livestock for food. Around mid-June was the last time we sold two goats at cheap price (mainly because of the weak condition of the goats, income generated was not reported) to buy food. Milk production dried up in April. During April and May a mixture of milk powder, sugar and water was provided to children as a substitute to milk. Today we are left with very little food that can not take the family (of 12 members) for one week. Our remaining three cattle and one goat can not be sold as they are very weak. ..' Other community members contacted at Andido (Amibara), Dudub (Awash Fentale) and Endufo (Gewane) reported similar food situation. Communities expressed their concerns about the deteriorating food situation and requested for an immediate food distribution. In all these areas the team did not observe any sign of malnutrition among children.

According to the zonal DPPD, 150 MT of cereal, 14 MT of supplementary food (fafa) and 2.9 MT of vegetable oil is allocated by the federal DPPC to Amibara woreda for July ration. The vegetable oil is not yet delivered to the woreda and the DPPD could not confirm distribution of the delivered cereal and supplementary food. The zonal DPPD, according to their recent assessment reported significant increase in number of people requiring relief food assistance compared to what was estimated by the federal DPPC as well as the Regional DPPB. The following table shows estimated needy population by the zonal DPPD, Regional DPPB and the federal DPPC.

Table 2: Needy population of zone 3 as estimated by DPPC, DPPB and DPPD

Woreda	Needy population (July – December 2002)		
	DPPD (29/07)*	DPPB (25/07)	DPPC (12/07)
Amibara	54,528	16,811	12,010
Awash Fentale	25,245	7,995	5,710
Argoba	15,785	8,389	7,790
Bire Modayitu	54,390	30,631	18,890
Dulecha	22,370	11,894	6,800
Gewane	39,477	15,784	11,207
Total (Zone 3)	211,795	91,504	62,470

Source: DPPC, 12 July 2002; DPPB, 25 July 2002; DPPD, 29 July 2002.

*Note: The estimated beneficiaries include IDPs who have come from zone 5.

23% of the beneficiaries are children.

Since June 2002 relief food has been distributed in the zone. During the month of June food was distributed to three woredas (Argoba 150 MT, Bire Modayitu 163.7 MT and Dulecha 65 MT). As reported by the zonal DPPD, the following month (July) relief food was allocated for all of the six woredas in the zone.

Table 3: Relief food allocated/distributed (June – July 2002) in zone 3

Woreda	Distributed in June (MT)	Amount of food allocated for July (MT)			
		Cereal	Supp. food	Veg. Oil	Total
Amibara	-	150.0	14.0	2.9	166.9
Awash Fentale	-	71.3	3.2	1.4	75.9
Argoba	150.0	97.4	-	1.7	99.1
Bire Modayitu	163.7	71.8	-	4.5	76.3
Dulecha	65.0	85.0	-	1.6	86.6
Gewane	-	141.3	-	2.7	144.0
Total	378.7	616.8	17.2	14.8	648.8

Source: Zone 3 DPPD.

According to the zonal DPPD, the amount of food allocated is not adequate compared to the need and it is not arriving on time for distribution. As of 29 July, only 187.5 MT of cereal and 20.8 MT of supplementary food was delivered to Awash Fentale and Amibara Woredas. The DPPD had no information on the delivery schedule for the remaining food allocated for July distribution.

The request for more food allocation including supplementary food (as a substitute for milk) was strongly expressed by the zonal DPPD, DPP committee of Gewane woreda as well as communities visited.

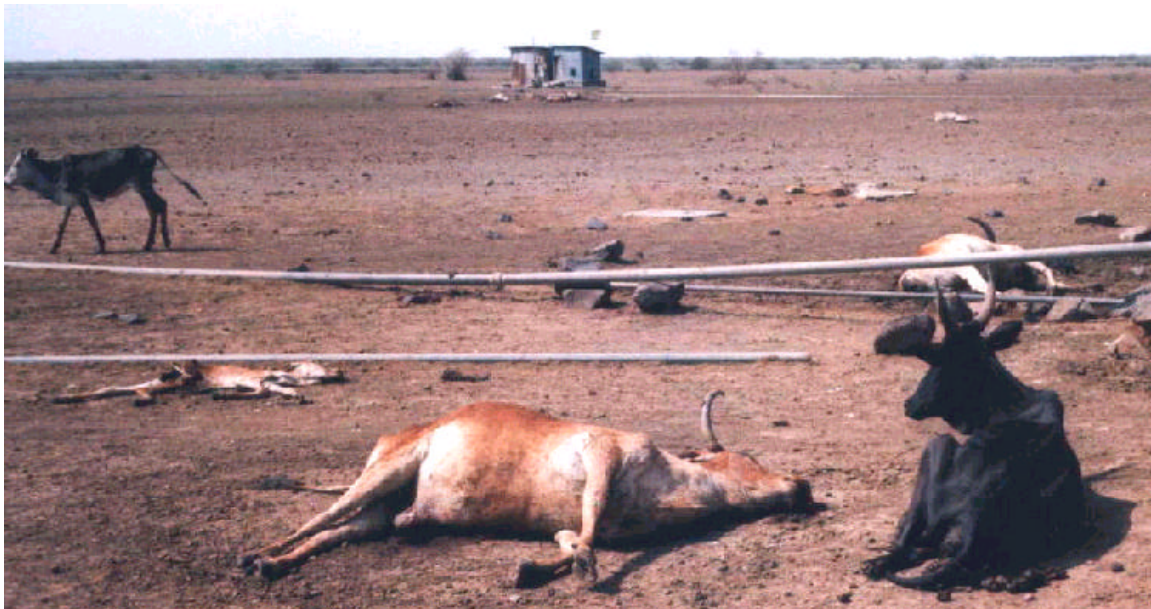
b. Water situation

According to the zonal water, mines and energy department, the water supply schemes form deep wells located in small towns and some villages are major sources of water in the area. During rainy seasons, people collect water from small natural ponds around villages. Awash river is also used as source of water, mainly when there is shortage. Most of the community managed water supply systems (from deep wells operated using generator and submersible pump) are no more functional. This is mainly due to lack of fund to cover running costs (fuel, lubricant, operators and minor maintenance costs) as a result of very low income of the pastoral communities. Based on the assessment of the zonal department, eight of the community managed water supply schemes require minor maintenance and covering running costs. The zonal water department has submitted its assessment results and the fund required for running the water supply systems for the next three months.

The assessment team observed at Kurkura PA (Amibara Woreda) women fetching water from rain water collected at a natural water way (small ditch) around their homes (the

area was observed receiving good amount of rain on the day of the visit). Some 200 mts down the village, the team observed a water supply scheme which was not functioning. According to the communities of the area, they would prefer to drink water from the system than the dirty water collected from open field. Unfortunately, due to the crisis on their livestock (source of income) they do not have any income to cover the running cost.

The assessment carried out by the zonal water department has also identified three more water supply systems that are not currently functioning. Two of them at Midertu (Dulecha woreda) and Duho (Awash Fentale woreda) require major maintenance work. Cleaning of the well, installation of new pumps and some maintenance work on the generator is required. The zonal department has secured two new submersible pumps from the Regional Water Department. According to the zonal department, they could not bring the two water supply schemes back to operation due to lack of water equipments (drilling rig, crane, etc) for fishing out the old pumps and cleaning operation of the wells. The third scheme, which was visited by the team, is located at Andido (Amibara Woreda) on the main tarmac road between Gewane and Awash towns. According to the zonal department, lack of proper management (by the communities) was the reason for the break down of the water supply system. Communities of the area indicated to the team that, even during normal rainfall seasons the water supply system is a very important source of water both for human and livestock consumption. The team observed a very sad situation at this site (picture 5 below). More than 35 dead and few abandoned very weak livestock were counted at the site. The abandoned cattle could not stand up. According to people around the site, they will not survive more than few hours.



Pic. 5: Andidi (Amibara): One of the major water supply schemes in the area which was not functioning (Photo: 28 July).

At this site, most of the dead livestock were brought from long distances hoping to get water from the system considered to be one of the major water sources in the area. Unfortunately, when the livestock arrived, there was no water to save life.

c. Health situation

There was no reports of unusual human diseases in the area. The children in the villages visited show no signs of malnutrition. Communities visited expressed their concerns about an out break of malaria epidemic. The current rains creat a condusive enviroment for mosquitos to breed quickly, on the other hand because of lack of milk and food people in the area are weak and can easily be susceptible to malaria. Children, lactating and pregnanat mothers as well as the elderly will be affected more. The bodies of dead livestock observed around homes are now becoming major health threates. Water collected from rain (collected in small natural ponds around villages) for home consumption can easily be contaminated. The concern of malaria epidemics and other diseases was also expressed by the zonal DPPD as well as the zonal water department.

5.2.2 Livestock situation in zone 3

a. Pasture situation

Usually, if there is no shortage of rain the pasture resource in the zone was reported to be adequate for the livestock population. There are large plain grazing areas such as the Hali Dege plain in Amibara woreda with good pasture. This pasture resource was observed by the team completely dry with no green grass on it. It was also one of the conflict areas. Large concentration of livestock from the area and zone 5 was reported allong side awash river where there was some pasture. The roads to the areas where livestock concentration was reported were damaged by the rainfall, as a result the team was not able to visit the sites. According to the Gewane woreda DPP committee, the livestock from zone 5 has put pressure on the limited pasture reserve in the zone. Around Dudub PA (Amibara woreda) some (about 30) goats with a relatively good condition were observed browsing from the accacia bushes. As reported by a woman who was attending the goats, the rains that has started in the area has improved availability of fodder, at leaset for the goats. Grasses will take some time to regenerate for the remaining cattle and sheep, said the woman.

b. Water situation

According to the zonal DPPD, Awash river and the few ponds in the area are major source of water for livestock. There are also water supply systems from deep boreholes with cattle trough used for livestock. Because of the drought all of the ponds have dried up. In addition to this, most of the water supply sytems are not properly functioning or totally failed (see 5.2.1 (b) above). This situation has forced most of the livestock to travel long distance to Awash river for water.

c. Livestock disease

There was a report from the zonal DPPD about unidentified livestock disease that killed many livestock in the area. As described by the zonal DPPD, the disease mostly affects cattle they show a sign of weakness and blood from the nose and die in one or two days

time. Specialists from the Debre Zeit and Sebeta veterinary institutes were called in to investigate the reported case. As the the specialists are still working on the samples they took to their laboratories no treatment is provided. Many more livestock are dying from the disease, according to the DPPD report.

The team counted 8 dead sheep at one spot as documented in picture 6, and observed many more dead shep around Endufo (Gewane woreda). According to the communities, the sheep died because of the rain the previous night.



Pic. 6: Endufo (Gewane woreda): Dead sheep from cold and disease (Photo:28 July)

According to a livestock specialist from FAO, the sheep might have died from a disease. He also explaind, as the sheep were already weak from shortage of fodder and water, the rain could also cause cold that can easly kill the sheep.

According to the zonal DPPD, the current drought situation has agravated the livestock disease situation in the area resulting in high mortality rate. On the other hand, the veterinary service being provided by the veterinary department is what was planned for their regular program and can not cope with the demand. Based on information gathered from the zonal DPPD, out of the total livestock population in the zone some 100,000 are estimated to be affected by the current crisis. The daily mortality rate calculated for the affected livestock population is estimated at 0.65%, which means 646 livestock are dying every day. The following table show estimated number of livestock in the zone.

Table 4: Estimated total and affected livestock in zone 3

Woreda	Total Livestock (no)	Affected livestock (no)	Estimated livestock death/day	
			(no)	(% of affected)
Amibara	58,276	23,000	174	0.76
Awash Fentale	36,713	14,000	98	0.70
Argoba	15,300	5,000	13	0.26
Bire Modayitu	67,017	30,000	168	0.56
Dulecha	36,500	10,000	73	0.73
Gewane	55,362	18,000	120	0.67
Total	269,168	100,000	646	0.65

Source: Zone 3 DPPD.

5.3 Zone 4

Zone 4 has five Woredas (Awra, Ewa, Golina, Teru and Yalo). A total of 143,731 people live in this zone. Awra, Ewa and Golina Woredas had been visited by the assessment

team. Information was gathered from Zone 4 DPPD, woreda DPP committee members, health centre, elders and women. In addition to site observation, discussions were held with elders and women of Awra, Golina and Fokisa Kebeles

5.3.1 Human situation in zone 4

a. Food situation

The main food source of the pastoralists under normal conditions in the Zone is mainly milk of cattle, camel, sheep and goats. The major milk production is from cattle. In addition to milk, the pastoralists buy grains (sorgum, wheat and maize) as an additional food source after selling of their sheep and goats. They rarely sell their cattle and camels to buy grains unless otherwise they are forced to do it in times of special occasions like weddings, religious holydays etc. Cereal production is not practised in the zone according to DPPD committee members.

According to elders, zonal & woredas' authorities, and women, the availability of milk has now been deteriorated as their cattle are dying. Children, women and elderly were left behind with some cows, goats and sheep.

The men in Zone 4 from all Woredas were migrated with their cattle towards the western parts of the Zone that border with Amhara and Tigray Regions. During normal times it was common that every family member could migrated together within the respective Zone where there is water and pasture. As the result of this drought, however, family members have been separated as the men with their cattle do not know where to settle and also were not sure of the availability of enough pasture and water. This situation has seriously affected the food availability for the migrated men as well as for the remaining family members. Women in Fokisa Kebele informed the team that they are feeding their kids with *mufe*, traditional baked bread with out milk and oil as their remaining livestock are dying (Picture 7) .



Picture 7: Some of the left behind cows became dead at Fokisa Kebele, in Golina Woreda, that were supposed to feed the remained family members (children, mothers and elders) [Photo: 28 July 2002]

According to Zone 4 DPPD head, relief food for the month of July is being transported to all woredas in the zone. The quantity, however, when it is compared to the number of beneficiaries, is not enough as per the head of DPPD. For instance for 13,341 needy communities in Golina woreda, only 595 quintals of relief food was allocated. The assessment team observed the transportation of relief food to Teru, Awra and Golina woredas. No supplementary food was included in the relief food and distribution of the food was not started yet. Access to the sites is the major problem. The assessment team was forced to travel additional 243 kms to reach to Kalwan (the zonal town) because of the inaccessibility of Kalwan river due to flood. The trucks that were loading the relief food to Teru woreda also faced similar problem. The relief food for Golina woreda was unloaded at Fokisa school compound which is 20kms before Kalwan on the way from Kobo to Kalwan.

a. Water situation

The source of water for human consumption is mainly from rivers like Mille and Logiya, nearby streams, naturally created small ponds along the river beds and *elas* (traditional hand dug wells along the river beds). In semi-urban settlements, there are improved water sources from boreholes.

Due to the failure of the successive rains (since last year's *karma*) according to contacted elders and zonal authorities, the water in the river beds became dry and the depth of the water column in the *elas* drastically decreased. In addition, intensive use of the water from the rivers for small irrigation by up-stream users of the farmers in the neighbouring Tigray and Amhara Regions contributed to the drying of the waters of Mille and Logiya rivers. As a result women are forced to travel long distances to fetch water for human consumption as well as for watering of small and weak animals. The team had observed

wet lands in Chifra (in zone 1) and southern part of Ewa Woredas on the way to Awra Woreda as a result of a rain just a day before the team's visit. No rain was observed in other woredas. If the rain fails again or discontinues, the shortage of water and pasture will be further exacerbated. The rivers of Awra, Mille and Golina were flooding due to the rain in the highlands of neighbouring Amhara Woredas. Access across the river beds of Awra and Golina as a result was disrupted at the time of the team's visit.

b. Health situation

The most prevalent diseases in the zone, according to the head of the health centre at Kalwan were malaria, RTI, diarrhoea, anemia, water borne diseases and eye diseases. Because of the current situation, the prevalence of RTI, diarrhoea and eye diseases is increased more on children, anemia on women, and malaria on both men and women. This is only for those who visited the health centre and the health posts in the zone. There are 5 clinics, 6 health posts and 1 health centre in the zone. The health status of the other pastoralists in the zone is not known as there is no any outreach service outside of these health institutions. The head of the health centre informed us that as some malnourished children from out side of the semi-urban areas had been observed. Elders at Awra and the nurse at Awra health post confirmed the same. Measel vaccination campaign had been undertaken in February. Elders of Awra reported death of about eight people at one Kebele because of famine however this was not confirmed whether the death was because of sickness or directly lack of food.

The team also observed that there are a number of carcasses near settlement areas that could cause any epidemic to endanger the public health.

5.3.2 Livestock situation in Zone 4

a. Pasture situation

Pastoralists of this zone find pasture during normal seasons within the zone. The western part of the zone is better of the other part. Cattle from the northern part of zone 5 and from all over zone 4 are concentrating to this western part.

Under the current situation, the availability of pasture is diminishing (Picture 8) and pastoralists are cutting the leaves of some trees to feed their cattle (Picture 9) as a coping mechanism. Cattle and sheep are highly affected as a result. The death of cattle and sheep is high as compared to other types of the livestock population.



Picture 8. Situation of dry season grazing land in Ewa Woreda. No pasture is currently available at this place. [Photo: 27 July 2002]



Picture 9. Coping mechanism of pastoralists during scarcity of pasture for their cattle at Fokisa Kebele. [Photo: 27 July 2002].

b. Water situation

The availability of water to livestock population is similar to that of human population. The only thing is that if this *karma's* rain fails again, the pasture situation will deteriorate further and the remaining cattle will drastically diminish.

c. Diseases situation

The common livestock diseases as reported by the DPPD committee and the pastoralists are anthrax, black leg, pastrolosis and CBPP. According to the animal health technician at

Awra, the incidence of pastrolosis increased on the livestock population that remained in the area. No data is available on the livestock's disease status that moved out of the normal grazing areas. The only information available about the number of dead livestock population is at every individual household level. For instance the deputy administrator of Awra woreda had been informed that he already lost 60 heads of cattle and he was not present during the team's discussion with the woreda DPP committee as he left to the area where his remaining cattle are currently grazing. The chair person of Fokisa Kebele on the other hand lost 20 heads. It is not easy to get information about the number of livestock every household owns. It is a cultural taboo to tell the number.

5.4 Zone 5

This zone has also five Woredas (Arthuma, Dewoy, Fursi, Semurobi and Telalak. About 326,124 people live in the zone. Arthuma, Dewoy and Telalak Woredas were visited by the assessment team. Discussions were held with affected communities (elders, men and women) at Gewis Kebele in Telalak woreda, Dalifagi Kebele in Arthuma woreda & migrated communities at Cheffa in Oromiya zone of Amhara Region , zonal & woreda DPP comittees, and NGO (Farm Africa at Gewis Kebele). The assessment team additionally observed the situation at all visited sites. Information was also gathered from staff of the health centre at Dalifagi.

5.4.1 Human situation in zone 5

a. Food situation

The main food source of the pastoralists is similar to that of Zone 4 and cereal production is not practised too.

The men with their livestock population from zone 5 migrated to different direction leaving their family members behind. Pastoralists from Telalak and Semurobi Woredas moved to Zone 4 and 3 of Afar Region respectively while those from Arthuma, Dewoy and Fursi Woredas migrated to Cheffa area of Oromiya Zone in Amhara Region. Cheffa is the grazing area where high number of cattle concentrated during the team's visit.. During normal times the seasonal migration was within the zone.

As the result of the current drought, family members in this Zone have been separated too as most of the men migrated very far from their original places (4-7 days traveling distances according to the information of pastoralists at Cheffa). This has additionally contributed to the scarcity of the normal food source to each household on top of the death of livestock (Pictures 10,11,12 & 13).



Picture 10. Dead sheep and goats immediately after the rain of July 25th 2002 at Dalifagi Kebele. They belonged to only one family. [Photo: 26 July 2002]



Picture 11. Dead sheep, goats and calves near Dalifagi. [Photo: 26 July 2002]



Picture 12. Freshly dead cow at Cheffa grazing area. [Photo: 29 July]



Picture 13. High number of dead cattle at Cheffa (Cheffa is called the grave yard of Afars' livestock by Afars themselves) [Photo: 29 July 2002]

According to head of zonal DPPD, relief food for June was distributed and July's ration is being transported. The quantity as compared to the affected population is not enough according to DPP committee. About 1000 quintals of supplementary food (FAFA) was distributed in June. Elders were complaining about its quality when it was tasted.

b. Water situation

The source of water for human consumption is similar to that of Zone 4. The only difference from that of Zone 4 is that the number of perennial rivers is less in number. The major river that cross the Zone is Borkena and its tributaries.

The rain situation is also similar to that of zone 4. Last year's *karma* and successive short rains had failed. At the time of the team's visit, wet areas in all visited woredas were

observed as a result of rainfall a day before the visit. It is not sure whether the rain will continue or not.

c. Health situation

The most prevalent diseases in the zone, according to the head of the health centre at Dalifagi were malaria, RTI, diarrhoea, anemia, raumatic diseases, eye diseases and mamps. Because of the current situation, the prvelance of RTI, diarrhoea and eye diseases is more on children, anemia on women, and malaria, raumatic diseases and mamps on both men and women. This is only for those who visited the health centre and the health posts in the zone. The health status of the other pastoralists in the zone and those who have migrated to other areas is not known as there is no any outreach services. However the assessment team had observed sick mothers and children at Cheffa grazing area (Picture 14). Mothers were describing the cause of the sickness as to be from the dead cattle in the temporary settlement. Any sign of malnutrition on children is not observed, but according to the head of the health centre, he fears that it may happen in the near future as the main source of food (milk) has serously been affected.



Picture 14. Sick mother and her child in the temporary settlment at Cheffa grazing area. [Photo: 29 July 2002]

The team has tried whether any kind of diseases prevailed from livestock to human or not. The animal health officer of Farm Africa at Gewis and head of the health centre at Dalifagi suspected of some cases of anthrax particularly during skinning of dead cattle. Measel vaccination was conducted in this zone at the same time of that of zone 4.

The team also observed in this zone that there are a number of carcasses (fresh and old) near settlement areas that could cause any epidemic to endanger the public health.

5.4.2 Livestock situation in Zone 5

a. Pasture situation

The pasture situation in this zone started to deteriorate after the failure of last *karma* rain. Migration of men with their cattle from the western woredas of the zone to Cheffa area started since January 2002 while from northern and southern woredas to zone 4 and zone 3 of Afar Region respectively . The intensity of the migration got the peak point in April/May 2002. As a result the Afars that moved to Cheffa and their neighbouring Oromo pastoralists were forced to buy the grazing area of ELFORA plc on contractual basis for a period from June upto the 15th of July. A total of Birr 102,000 (Birr 51,000 for the grass and another Birr 51,000 deposited as a guarantee in case they remain after July 15th) was paid. Birr 800 was paid for evry 100 heads of cattle. About 12,000 heads of livestock, predominantly cattle, concentrated in the area (Picture 15) at the initial stage according to the elders of Afar at Cheffa.



Picture 15. Cattle from Zone 5 of Afar Region at Cheffa ELFORA's grazing land. [29 July 2002]

At the time of the team's visit to Cheffa, some of the pastoralists already started to go back to their areas (Picture 16). According to the information gathered from the pastoralists, the followings are the reasons for their going back.

- ?? The final date of the contract agreement (15th of July) had expired and ELFORA requested the pastoralists to leave the grazing area as per the agreement.
- ?? The water table in the grazing area has risen and some of the settlements became under water as a result of Borken river.



Picture 17. Pastoralists leaving Cheffa grazing area and going back to their areas. [Photo: 29 July 2002]

The team had observed a number of weak and dead cattle along the road sides (Picture 18). Pastoralists informed us that they are not sure how many of their cattle survive until they reach their homes.



Picture 18. Dead and weak cattle along the road sides that pastoralists left behind when they were going back home from Cheffa grazing area. [Photo: 29 July 2002]

b. Water situation

The availability of water to livestock population is similar to that of human population. The only thing is that if this *karma*'s rain fails again, the pasture situation will deteriorate further and the remaining cattle will drastically diminish like in zone 4.

c. Diseases situation

The common livestock diseases as reported by the DPPD committee and confirmed by the pastoralists & staff of Farm Africa at Gewis are anthrax, black leg, pastrolosis and CBPP. Under the current situation, livestock that are migrated to Cheffa have been additionally infected by liver fluke. The trained paravets by Farm Africa had migrated with other pastoralists. The regional government (through its zonal and woreda departments) and Farm Africa vaccinated the livestock at Cheffa. However another rounds of vaccination are required according to the staff of Farm Africa. There is lack of vet-drugs and they are supplied by the regional government. Farm Africa is ready to support the vaccination activity by covering the costs of fuel, lubricants and staff per diem once the vet drugs are available.

The pastoralists at Cheffa informed the team that, the death of their cattle at Cheffa, is mainly because of the livestock diseases not because of pasture and water. They have a feeling that if the remaining cattle are not treated or vaccinated they will transmit diseases to other cattle population when they go back to their home. In addition they are not sure of how many heads of cattle may survive until they arrive at their own localities. The team had observed a number of dead sheep and goats after the rain just a day before the team's visit at Dalifagi, Dewoy and Gewis areas.

6. OTHER ISSUES

6.1 Co-ordination

At the Regional DPPB has been trying to co-ordinate the limited response interventions in the region. According to the DPPB, a regional crisis management committee was to be formed that will be led by the regional Government council on 26 July. After the return of the team, the federal DPPC confirmed the establishment of a regional crisis management committee. The responsibilities of the committee and the role of the NGOs and other agencies responding to the crisis is not yet clarified. However, those NGOs already operational in the region expressed concerns about the limited capacity and experience the government structure in the region has to co-ordinate the response operation.

In zone 3, the Government institutions have formed a committee to manage the crisis. The committee is chaired by head of the Agricultural Research Institute. Zonal departments of health, agriculture, water, mines and energy, and DPPD are also members of the committee. According to the zonal DPPD team leader, the committee has estimated required resource (food and non-food) to address the needs. Funding is a major problem, according to the zonal DPPD, to implement what is planned as a response. The Government offices in the zone also suffer from lack of budget as this years' (started in July) budget is not released from the Regional Government. This has limited the already weak capacity of the zone to carry out proper assessment and monitoring of the relief food distribution.

6.2 Conflict

The conflict over pasture and water between Afar and the other tribes in the area (Issa from the bordering Shinille zone of Somali Region, Kereyu and Itu from East Shewa zone of the bordering Oromiya Region) has been going on for long time. The issue becomes more critical during periods of shortage of pasture and water in the area. The areas most affected by the conflict include, Amibara, Awash Fentale and Bire Modayitu woredas. During the conflict livestock are looted and casualties from both sides of the conflicting tribes were also reported. According to DPPD, those pastoralists who moved from zone 5 have lost many livestock because of the conflict. Some of the IDPs were reportedly looted all of their livestock they came with.

There were sporadic conflicts of Afars and their neighbours (Amharas and Oromos) in both zone 4 and 5. The causes of the conflicts are not however over resources. They are rather on cultural practices (a person to get fame among his ethnic group if he kills a person that is from another ethnic group) as it was reported by the elders. Resolution of such type of conflict is managed by the elders of both contesting groups.

6.3 Market

In all areas visited, increased grain price was reported. For example, at Dubti the price of a quintal (100 kg) of maize grain has increased from Birr 70 (4 months ago) to Birr 180. On the other hand, there are no livestock coming to market in most of the small towns visited that are considered to be local market. Even at the main markets, such as Awash small number of livestock are traded. The conflict has also impacted on the access to some of the markets.

The nearby market places for the pastoralists of zone 4 are Hara, Yelo and Gugubdu. The price of sorghum at Hara during normal times was Birr 100 per quintal, but now it is more than Birr 200. The average prices of livestock in the markets of Yelo and Gugubdu during normal times were Birr 2000, 900 and 100 per each head of camel, cattle, and goat/sheep respectively. But the current prices are Birr 1000, 100 and 35 respectively.

The nearby market places for the pastoralists of zone 5, however, are Kemisse, Bora, Bati, Shewa Robit and Cheffa Robit (all situated in the nearby woredas of Amhara Region). The price of sorghum in these markets during normal times was Birr 90 per quintal, but now it is more than Birr 180. The average prices of livestock during normal times were Birr 1500, 800 and 125 per each head of camel, cattle, and goat/or sheep respectively. But the current prices are Birr 1000, less than 150 and 25 respectively. In addition, the interest to buy livestock has fallen down as per the elders contacted by the team.

Due to the current drought situation in both zones, the prices of livestock have fallen and the purchasing prices for grains increased. This had resulted in decreasing the purchasing power of the pastoralists to buy cereals.

6.4 Intervention by other agencies

According to the ACF team at Dubti, they have planned for a one month water tankering and environmental sanitation project in zone 1. The water tankering operation with 4 trucks started on 26 July by distributing water to Assayita and Afambo Woredas. They are also distributing water in Dubti woreda for communities around Guyah. They have also planned for animal health intervention in zone 4, implementation is expected to start soon.

World Vision has deployed one truck with water tanker to Assayita on 27 July to start water distribution in Assayita woreda. The plan is for three months.

The regional DPPB has deployed one water tanker to Elidar woreda. They were expecting one truck with tanker from the federal DPPC to arrive Assayita on 28 July.

Except these, there are no agencies that have started any kind of response to the crisis in the region.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- ?? The main rain, *karma* which was expected around the second week of July has started during the assessment period. The initial rain was reported to be good in its coverage, particularly in zone 3 and 5. The rain in zone 4 was reported to be little covering limited areas.
- ?? The major rivers and streams that flow from the highlands to Afar region are expected to improve availability of water. If the rain in Afar continues with good coverage and amount, the water sources (Elas, ponds and shallow wells) will be replenished. The amount of rain both in the highlands and Afar region will have a significant impact on availability of water both for human and livestock consumption.
- ?? Some of the water supply systems from deep wells that used to be important source of water both for human and livestock are not functional, particularly as observed in zone 3. There is a need for an immediate rehabilitation work and support in running and maintaining the systems.
- ?? Livestock concentrated in Cheffa area are now moving back to zone 5 because of, (i) the contract with ELFORA commercial farm for use of grazing expired, (ii) reported rains in zone 5 and (iii) increased water level in the Cheffa valley that has made the area very wet/marshy for the people and the livestock. There is a fear of livestock disease transmission from those possibly infected livestock in the Cheffa valley to the livestock that were left behind in zone 5. If the reported rain in zone 5 is not sufficient enough to replenish the pasture, the problem of shortage of pasture would remain unsolved.

?? Livestock death, mainly of cattle and sheep was reportedly started around mid-June in most parts of the Region. During the assessment period an increased rate of livestock death was observed. The livestock death situation was aggravated by the rains that has started during the assessment period. Based on the information gathered, cattle, sheep, goats and camels are the most affected, in order of importance. The magnitude of loss was rated by the team the highest in zone 3, followed by zone 5, 1 and 4. As reported by communities interviewed, the loss of livestock at household level ranged from 25 - 100%.

The livestock mortality in cheffa (Oromiya zone of Amhara Region) of the livestock that moved from zone 5, was aggravated by the serious infestation by internal parasites (mainly liver fluke) and other diseases.

?? Milk (from livestock) and purchased food from sale of livestock (mainly sheep and goats) constitute major source of household food. Milk production in most areas dried up since May. As the situation stands now, the livestock are very weak and can not be traded. This would mean most households have limited or no food stock available.

On the other hand, the remaining livestock would require recovery time to come to heat. If the pasture and water is sufficient and there is no major livestock health problem, cows are expected to start breeding (giving birth) around September next year. Re-building of stocks of small animals (sheep and goats) would also require some time. Therefore, there will not be milk and small animals for sale to buy food in the immediate future. This would require continued relief food provision for at least, twelve months from now.

?? Relief food is being delivered and distributed to some of the woredas in small quantities. The food being distributed is mainly cereal grain (maize and wheat). There are also problems of storage and road access in most of the woredas. There are communities who are very far from the woreda capitals that are used as food distribution centres, for example, Glubleafa is 135 Km away from Dubty, the woreda capital. Therefore, there is a need to deliver the allocated food to the woredas as quickly and as close to the beneficiaries as possible.

?? According to the recent (24 July) estimate by the Regional DPPB the needy population is put at 766,905, which is 70% higher than what was estimated by the DPPC (448,500) around mid July. There is also a need to increase the quantity of food as well as considering supplementary food which could be used as a substitute to milk.

?? Decaying and dead livestock are observed every where, i.e around homes, along side and in water canals, on grazing fields, etc. Environmental pollution that could result in epidemic is a big concern.

- ?? Expansion of *Prosopis juliflora* ('woyane tree') is competing with grazing land. Unless appropriate measures are taken by the concerned bodies, it will be a major problem affecting the long-term availability of pasture in the area.
- ?? Conflict between Afar and other neighboring tribes (Issa, Kereyu and Itu) has limited movement in some areas of zone 3. The conflict in the area is chronic and has been going for long time. There was no report of intervention by anyone to address the issue. The conflict is aggravated during such periods where the shortage of pasture and water is more critical as the usual migration pattern will be disrupted. Any intervention planning and implementation in this area should be sensitive to the conflict situation. Efforts should also be made to use any intervention as an opportunity to explore avenue for possible engage in conflict resolution related activities.
- ?? The capacity of the Government structure in the region is inadequate to coordinate and manage the current crisis. There is a need, where ever possible, to closely work with the Government structure and provide technical and other supports to improve the capacity.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Lobby the federal DPPC and WFP; (a) to deliver the amount of food already allocated to the intended woredas as quickly as possible, (b) to increase the amount of food allocated to the region, (c) to allocate more supplementary food or other food that can be a substitute to milk, (d) to consider allocation of adequate food for the period beyond December 2002, and (e) to deploy technical staff that will work together with the regional government structure in co-ordinating the relief operation.

Issuing a joint statement with a message around issues indicated above could be considered as one of the strategies.

8.2 Improve availability of water in zone 3 and possibly zone 5, by rehabilitating the already existing (non functional) water supply systems and supporting the smooth running of the community managed water supply systems. Training of operators and water management committee members as well as covering fuel, lubricant and maintenance costs in the short-term could be considered. It will be important to integrate sanitation intervention.

8.3 Support environmental sanitation interventions in zone 3 and zone 5 as well as Cheffa area of Oromiya zone in Amhara Region.

8.4 Support the veterinary service programme in the region. The support could be provided through the Government structure or through other NGOs with adequate implementation capacity who are already operational in the area. There is a plan

by FAO to implement Veterinary and other livestock support projects in Afar Region. It will be useful to consult with them before launching on intervention.

- 8.5 Any intervention in the conflict zone should be sensitive to the situation. There is a need to explore further and see if there could be a possibility for involvement in conflict resolution related activities. The experience of similar activities in Borena (e.g. partners of Oxfam America) can be useful.
- 8.6 There is a need to further explore the support required to improve the capacity in Afar Region to co-ordinate and manage response to the current crisis. It is important that the support focuses on Government institutions and NGOs that are actively involved in the current emergency response operations.

Annex 1: Terms of Reference

For a rapid field assessment of emergency situation in Afar Region

1. BACKGROUND

Afar is a semi-arid region with an estimated 1.11 million people⁵ whose life is heavily dependent on livestock⁶, nomadic pastoral livelihood. The Region is located in the north-eastern part of Ethiopia bordering with Eritrea in the north and north-east; Djibouti in the east; Tigray Region in the north-west; Amhara Region in the west; Oromiya Region in the south and Somali Region in the south-east. Administratively, the Region is divided into 5 zones and 29 woredas. The main all weather road that extends from Addis Ababa to the Red sea coast (Assab and Djibouti port) passes through zone 1 and zone 3 which provides easy access to most of the woredas in these two zones. The road network in the remaining three zones (2, 4 & 5) is not developed that makes access to most woredas very difficult. The regional capital, Assaita is located some 50 Kms off the main road in zone 1. The Regional capital will be moving in few months time to Semera that is located on the main road to the red sea coast.

The region has three rainy seasons that provides rain only for few days even during what is considered to be 'normal' year. The main rain, locally known as *karma* is from mid-July to mid-September, which is followed by rainy showers in late October/early November called *dadaa* and the minor rainy season during March – May is called *sugum*. Disruptions on the performance of any of the rainy seasons will have an impact on the availability of pasture and water as well as the over all food security situation of the pastoral communities.

There are large-scale commercial/state farms established on the plains of the Awash river basin as well as wild life reserve and parks. These areas that are now under commercial farm and park used to be an important source of pasture and water for the nomadic pastoral communities.

According to the January 2002 appeal for relief assistance by the DPPC, 225,400 people in Afar Region required relief food assistance amounting 14,379 MT for the period of five months (February – June 2002). Following the DPPC led multi-agency assessment carried out during June 2002 in the pastoral and *belg* producing areas, DPPC issued an appeal on 12 July for additional relief assistance. According to the report released by the DPPC, the complete failure of the year 2002 *sugum* rain and poor performance of the preceding *dadaa* and *karma* rains resulted in serious drought and shortage of water and pasture in most parts of the Region. The report also revealed low water levels in perennial rivers (Awash, Borkena, Mille and Logia), death of livestock, abnormal migration of people and livestock and serious livestock diseases in the Region. According to DPPC, Zone 3 is most affected followed by zone 2, 5, 1 and 4. Based on the recent assessment, DPPC estimated that 448,500 people in Afar Region would require relief assistance of 40,365 MT of food during the remaining period of the year, July to December 2002.

Reports from other sources (e.g. UN-EUE, USAID/FEWS and ACF) confirmed situation reported by the DPPC. According to reports from the UN-EUE⁷, conflict that was going on between Afar

⁵ The official figure used by DPPC from 2000 Afar Region census are the following: total Region 1,117,148 (zone 1: 326,146; zone 2: 234,645; zone 3: 129,464; zone 4: 142,352; zone 5: 343,541)

⁶ Livestock population of Afar Region is estimated at 4,000,000 (Source: UN Country team proposed intervention in Afar Region, 19 July).

⁷ UN-EUE, 'Afar: insecurity and delayed rains threaten livestock and people', 4 July 2002

and Issa as well as Afar and Kereyu pastoral communities has restricted movement and access to traditional grazing land and watering points exasperating the situation.

Oxfam's (Oxfam CAA, Oxfam Intermon and Oxfam GB) are supporting development programmes in Afar Region that are implemented by a local partner, Afar Pastoral Development Association (APDA) in zone 1.

On 10 July 2002 the Oxfam country team held a meeting to review the situation and plan for possible actions in response to the reported emergency situations. From the information presented to the meeting that was gathered from different sources, it was clear that there is a building up of emergency situation that affected people and livestock in Afar and other areas in the country. However, it was not possible to determine the magnitude of the problem, i.e causes of the problem, most affected areas, needs (type and quantity), level of current response as well as gaps. The country team decided to take a two step approach to address the issue, (i) to meet and discuss with NGOs and other relevant organizations that have field presence in on the magnitude of the problem and the response and (ii) If the information and response (based on i, above) is found to be inadequate, to consider field assessment and explore avenues for Oxfam to be involved in the response. Accordingly, information was gathered from 7 NGOs⁸ that are operational and/or supporting programme in Afar Region during 11 – 17 July 2001. The conclusion of the assessment exercise was that, information gathered from the NGOs was not adequate to determine the magnitude of the problem and the actual needs required in terms of most needy areas, and type, quantity as well as time frame of response. Hence, rapid field assessment was recommended.

2. OBJECTIVE

The objective of this exercise is to carry out a rapid field assessment to have better understanding of the current emergency situation in Afar Region which would enable Oxfam's in Ethiopia to make informed decisions for any possible response.

3. METHODOLOGY

The assessment exercise will involve the following major activities;

- i. review any relevant documents (e.g. assessment reports and proposals by other agencies) on the current situation.
- ii. meet and discuss with the Afar Regional authorities (advisable to meet with the Regional council and DPPB, at least).
- iii. meet and discuss with NGOs and other humanitarian agencies in the Region.
- iv. visit affected areas/zone and woreda (visiting affected villages, grazing areas, water sources, and discussion with DPP committee members at zone and woreda level, elders/clan leaders, other community members and women). The team, in consultation with the local authorities and partners would prioritize and focus on most affected areas.

⁸ ACF, AMCCO, APDA, FARM Africa, WV, LWF and CARE.

4. THE ASSESSMENT TEAM

The assessment exercise is planned to cover the five zones in the Region. Information regarding zone two is anticipated to be gathered from Mekele/Tigray by the Oxfam Canada team already on a mission in Tigray. The Mekele University has projects related to arid land management in zone two of Afar Region. The Oxfam Canada team will meet and discuss on the situation with the relevant staff of the University.

Further two teams will travel to Afar Region to carry out the field assessment in zones 1, 3, 4 and 5.

Team 1: will cover zone 1 and zone 3.

Kifle Lemma	Humanitarian Program Co-ordinator	Oxfam GB
-------------	-----------------------------------	----------

Team 2: will cover zone 4 and zone 5. The team members include the following;

Eshetu Abate	Water and sanitation Advisor	Oxfam GB
Kebede Molla	Ass./Program Manager	Oxfam GB

Partners such as community leaders, DPP committee member (at the Region, zone and woreda level), NGOs (e.g. APDA, FARM-Africa) will accompany the two teams in their respective assessment areas.

The team will be reporting to the Oxfam country team.

5. TIME FRAME

The assessment will be carried out during 25 – 29 July 2002.

6. LOGISTICS/RESOURCE:

The resources required for the field assessment is contributed by Oxfam's as follow;

- ?? Oxfam CAA allocated a field vehicle with fuel and driver.
- ?? Oxfam GB assigned three of its staff for the assessment mission and one field vehicle with driver only.
- ?? Oxfam Intermon will cover fuel cost for the vehicle assigned by Oxfam GB.
- ?? Oxfam Canada will cover per diem and accommodation expenses of staff from other organizations who will be taking part in the field assessment.

End:
24 July 2002

Annex 2: Iteinerary

Iteinerary (for the team that visited Zones 1 & 3)

- 25 July: Treveled from Addis Ababa to Assayita,
Discussion with APDA team in Assayita
Discussion with the Regional DPPB at Assayita
Visit to Afambo Woreda
- 26 July: Assayita – Dubti – Guyah
Vist to Glubleafa and Guyah community in Dubti woreda
Discussion with the woreda council
Discussion with ACF team at Dubti
- 27 July: Visit to Wahle Fenta communities in Assayita woreda
Vistist to Ala Sebro community in Dubti woreda
Discussion with the ACF team and truck drivers (water tanker) at Asayita
Discussion - Dubti
- 28 July: Dubti – Mille – Gewane – Awash
Visit communities at Adaitu, Endofo (Gewane woreda)
Discussion with Farm Africa team at Gewane
Discussion with the Gewane woreda head of economic development and social services office
Visit communities at Andido (Amibara woreda)
- 29 July: Awash – Melka Sedi – Awash – Addis Ababa
Visit to communities at Kurkura (Amibara woreda)
Discussion with the zonal DPPD
Discussion with the zonal water, mines and energy department
Visit to Dudub (Awash woreda)

Iteinerary (for the team that visited Zones 4 & 5)

25th of July 2002 – Trip from Addis to Bati

26th of July – Bati-Dalifagi-Bati: Visit to affeted areas in Telalak, Dewoy and Arthuma Woredas of zone 5. Conduct discussions with Farm Africa staff at Gewis, zonal and woreda DPP committees, elders and women.

27th of July - Bati-Awra-Woldya: Visit to affected areas in Ewa and Awra woredas of zone 4. Conduct discussions with woreda DPP committee at Awra and elders. Observation about the rain, pasture and livestock situations at Ewa and Chefre (in zone 1) woredas. Unable to reach Kalwan (the zonal capital) due to inaccessibility of Awra's river crossing and forced to use another route via Woldya.

28th of July - Woldya-Kalwan-Woldya: Visit to affected areas in Golina woreda (Fokisa Kebele). Conduct discussions with zonal and woreda DPP committees, elders and women.

29th July - Woldya-Cheffa-Addis: Visit Cheffa grazing area, conduct discussions with elders and women group of Afars that migrated from zone 5 and come back to Addis.

Annex 3: Agencies/Persons contacted

Farm Africa staff at Gewis: Nurit Yesuf, Women Development Worker, Asfaw Gebeyehu, Animal Health Assistant

Ato Deto: Chair person of Gewis Kebele (Golina woreda)

Zone 5 DPP committee members: Ato Aden Adahis, zonal Admin (coun.), Ato Hussein Assen, DPP department, Ato Girma Balcha, DoH

Affected pastoralist elders and women groups at Dalifagi Kebele.

Awra Woreda DPP committee members: Yasin Hule, woreda finance, Sheh Awol Bilal, wor. Council, Mesfin Getachew, Nurse; Abeba Awol, Anim.heal. tech.; Seid Umar, woreda council; Mohamed Hawino, wor. Council; Adem Agiru, woreda council

Zone 4 DPP committee members: Ato Dahai Afra Buti, deputy zonal Adm.; Ato Ahmed Hassen, head of DPPD; Ato Tilahun Bekele, Health center exp.; Ato Mohammed Bulko, ZDA; Ato Elu Harure, zonal council; Ato Mohammed Amin, DPPD; Ato Seyoum Mekonen, rep. health centre; Mohammed Mussa,

DPP committee member & secreta. of Golina woreda; Abdulkadir Wasaitu,

DPP committee member & dep. adm of Teru woreda

Elders and women groups of Fokisa Kebele (Golina woreda)

Migrated elders and women groups at Cheffa (Oromiya zone of Amhara region)

Adugna Kassaye	Regikonal DPPB	Acting head
Wase Sedika	APDA	Relief Coordinator, Dubti
Abdulkadir Hammado	APDA	Programme Co-ordinator, Assayita
Ahmed Mussa	APDA	Assayita
Halima	APDA	Women extension worker, Awash
Sabine Didierlaurant	ACF	Animal health expert, Dubti
Dr Bayu	ACF	Dubti
Habibi Haye	Woreda council	Dubti
Hassan Ibrahim Dr. Leulseged	Woreda DPP com. FARM Africa	Head, Econ. dev't and social services office Gewane

Hailegnaw Ferede	DPPD	Distribution monitor, zone 3
Ali Seid	DPPD	Team leader, zone 3, Melka Sedi
Adane Tadesse	DPPD	Planning & Programming, zone 3
Kedir Nasi	Water office	Team leader, operation and maintenance, zone 3, Melka Sedi