

**INCREASING THE USE OF *WaterGuard* AND SUPPORTING HYGIENIC BEHAVIOURS
AMONG VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY ACUTE WATERY DIARRHEA
IN OROMIYA AND SOUTHERN NATIONS, NATIONALITIES AND PEOPLE'S REGIONS**



**Monthly report: September 2006
Prepared for UN OCHA
4 October 2006**

Background

PSI/Ethiopia has received funding from the Humanitarian Response Fund administered by UN OCHA to significantly scale up its existing responses to the acute watery diarrhea (AWD) outbreak affecting West Arsi Zone in Southern Oromiya, and to extend the intervention to cover new sites in SNNPR that have recently been declared to be affected by AWD. The response focuses on the prevention of diarrhea through communication about hygiene and water purification; the provision of free water purification products; and includes a strong capacity building component through training of local health officials and community agents. There is also a built in exit strategy to leave the communities with access to water purification products through the commercial sector after the emergency is ended.

Program Update:

1. Activities achieved in September vs activities proposed in the work plan
 - Project planning, including recruitment of consultant to oversee implementation
 - Importation of bottle caps for production of *WaterGuard* bottles; 248,000 were imported in September.
 - Initial planning with Oromiya region to identify sites for implementation. SNNPR regional bureau will be contacted from 2 October for planning.
 - Liaising with the emergency nutrition task force, UNICEF, regional health bureaus and other partners to identify specific AWD messages and adapt existing materials
 - Requesting quotations from companies that can provide mobile awareness teams in the two regions.
 - Establishing framework for monitoring and evaluation of the project, including developing methodology and questionnaire for household survey, and methodology for water quality testing in implementation areas.

2. Revision to work plan (and justification or explanation)
 - The only revision to date is the request from the Oromiya Health Bureau that we focus efforts on Bale and Guji zones, rather than West Arsi, where PSI/Ethiopia has already trained X community agents and health officials and distributed Y number of bottles of *WaterGuard*.
 - This refocus of effort also appears logical to PSI/Ethiopia, as USAID has offered to supply 360,000 bottles of *WaterGuard* to the region, and will ensure that these additional USAID funded bottles go to areas that have already received training, and therefore UN OCHA activities will have highest impact by focussing on new areas.
 - PSI/Ethiopia wishes therefore to inform UN OCHA that its activities in Oromiya will focus more on Bale and Guji zones, rather than West Arsi, as indicated in the proposal. The overall targets of population to be served will not change.

3. Challenges encountered
 - None identified at this stage

4. New developments that impact the project
 - As described above, USAID has agreed to supply 360,000 bottles of *WaterGuard* to the Oromiya Region, and PSI/Ethiopia will ensure that UN OCHA activities are coordinated with this delivery to maximise effectiveness.

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5. Coordination with partners in the region (government and others)
 - PSI/Ethiopia has been coordinating strongly with Federal Ministry of Health and regional bureaus in both SNNPR and Oromiya, as well as with key partners such as UNICEF and NGOs including Merlin, Ethiopian Red Cross, Goal, Save the Children, IRC, MSF and others working in the region.

Financial Update:

PSI/Ethiopia financial reporting to our head office is on the 10th of each month, and September's financial report is not available as at 4 October 2006. Financial information will begin to be included in the next monthly report to UN OCHA.