

**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: December 2006
Prepared for UN OCHA
2 January 2007**

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 Oromiya and SNNP regions, and to extend the intervention to cover newly affected areas in Amhara, Tigray, Somali and Afar. 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: Original program (Oromiya & SNNP)

- § 56 Kebeles were identified in collaboration with SNNP regional and zonal level government officials from Hadiya zone (Duna and Badowatcho woredas), Kembata zone (Omo Sheleko and Angatch woredas), Wolayta zone (Damot Gale and Bollososore woredas) and Sidama zone (Hulla woreda).
- § A total of 896 community agents (433 in Oromiya and 463 in SNNP) were trained on AWD messages, basic hygiene and use of water purification products from both regions. Preparations are being made to conduct the last training program in Hulla woreda of Sidama Zone.
- § A total of 206,760 bottles of WuhaAgar (106,080 in Oromiya and 100,680 in SNNP) were already dispatched to kebeles in both regions.
- § The mobile awareness campaign has successfully carried out its first tour in Oromiya. The audiences were educated on AWD messages through dramas, Q&As, poems and other interactive sessions. High-level community and local bureau officials' participation was evident during the campaign. An approximated number of 200,000 people from the targeted woredas were present during the performances. The road show team will set out to SNNPR after one week. *A DVD clip will be sent after the SNNP tour is completed. I have also attached support and thank you letters from woreda health bureaus for your review.*
- § Generic radio ads in Amharic and Oromiffa languages that were previously pre-tested and developed in collaboration with AWD partners were given to HEC to be aired free of charge on Radio Ethiopia. *I will send an audio CD that contains the ads for your review.*
- § PSI still awaiting media schedule and report for radio placement from HEC
- § Even though PSI has submitted the radio ads to HEC, we were informed that the ads were placed only twice in each language and that important messages have been cut out.
- § The first round of household survey conducted on two supervision areas in Oromiya is finalized; the second round is in progress.
- § PSI/Ethiopia is planning to air generic messages on safe hygiene and water treatment with the budget initially allocated for radio placement

Extension Program Update: (Extension program - Amhara, Tigray, Afar & Somali)

- § Implementing partner organizations comprising of the government offices, NGOs, UNICEF and WHO were identified. These organizations will basically recruit trainees, organize training of trainers (TOT) and free distribution of water purification products (WuhaAgar & PUR)
- § AWD affected woredas from the four regions namely Amhara, Tigray, Afar and Somali were preliminarily identified together with the partner organizations.
- § TOT was conducted in Amhara in four woredas namely Jabi, Bure, Banja and Sekela in collaboration with the regional and woreda health bureaus. 245 community agents were trained and provided with training tools (counselling cards). So far 91,320 bottles of WuhaAgar

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and 122,708 sachets of PUR were delivered to the woredas. UNICEF has played a great role in creating networks with the government officials.

- § The field coordinator paid a field visit to Tigray and drafted a tentative training plan together with regional officials for TOTs in South West Tigray zone - Enderta, Mekele zone - Mekele city, North West Tigray zone - T/Koraro, Asgede Tsimbla, Tahitay Adiabo and Tselemti Dima, West Tigray zone - Kafta Humera, Tsegede and Wolkait. PSI awaiting the officials' response on assignment of training dates in collaboration with woreda health bureaus.
- § Project coordinator is currently in Afar contacting partners and planning training and product allocation programs.
- § The following woredas are pre-selected as areas for intervention in Afar and Somlai; Afar (Zone 1 - Dubti, Mille and Chifra, Zone 2 - Afdera), Somali (Liben zone - West Emmi and Moyale, Afder zone - Dollo Ado). Final screening and prioritisation will be made during field visits.
- § Adaptation of previously developed AWD-specific messages into Tigrigna, Oromiffa and Somali is currently on hold as there is no guarantee that all messages will be properly aired and/or used.