



World Health Organization

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# TENACHIN

05 June 2009

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ETHIOPIA

## Health and Nutrition Emergency Need Assessment

The Ethiopian Federal Ministry of Health (MOH) in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF conducted a half day workshop that oriented regional need assessment supervisors and trainers about the need assessment procedure, methodology and tools for health and nutrition. The workshop that took place on 30 May 2009 at the Ethiopian Health and Nutrition Research Institute (EHNRI) Conference Room was open with



a welcome remark from Dr. Dadi Jima, Deputy Director General of the Institute. According to his message needs assessment is important to identify requirements and gap for emergency response. Particularly in a country like Ethiopia with limited resources and infrastructure, surveillance is the cornerstone to ensure proper planning and effective respond to emergency health and nutrition needs.

This workshop was the first of its kind that brought together all non-food actors together. According to the WHO representative at the training the assessment has always been directed by the food sub component. This assessment, Dr. Anwar said, is planned to be carried out jointly in a cost effective manner and come up with quality data.

Ethiopia faces a number of emergencies which affect lives and livelihoods. These include cycles of drought, famine, flooding and conflicts. It is to be recalled that such was the case in the recent drought of 2007/8 and the recent AWD outbreaks. Disasters may result in food insecurity, malnutrition,

lack of water supply, and increased morbidity or mortality. However, disaster prevention, preparedness and response have largely been focused on the institutions and activities related to emergency food management.

In line with this general focus, over the past few years multi agency food security assessments have been undertaken to evaluate the impact of the *Belg* and *Meher* rains on food security in the crop-

ping areas and hence to plan where food assistance may be needed for the following few months.

The federal MoH/BoH, MoWR/BoWR, MoE/BoE will take the lead with support from the UN Cluster Lead organization, WHO with MoH(Health Cluster), UNICEF with MOH (Nutrition Cluster) and UNICEF with MoWR (WASH Cluster). On the occasion it was noted that active NGOs should also be encouraged to take part in the planning of the assessment wherever possible. Since 2004, there have been increasing efforts to broaden the understanding of the nature of humanitarian crises in Ethiopia to also include the impacts of non-food issues, such as health and nutrition, water, sanitation, hygiene and agriculture,.

The workshop was attended by 26 participants drawn from regions. At the end of the workshop, participants expressed satisfaction for the coordinated and strategic joint effort that minimizes cost as well as avoid duplication of efforts.





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08 June 2009

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EAL Cabin Crew briefed about Influenza A H1N1



The Ethiopian Federal Ministry of Health (MoH) in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) provided an orientation to the Ethiopian Airlines (EAL) Cabin Crew members on the procedures of managing cases of Influenza A H1N1 entering the country via Air transport and on the notification procedure of such cases to the quarantine port health officer. The human strain of influenza A H1N1 so far, has claimed 115 lives in Mexico, US, Canada and Costa Rica has been reported in number of countries. Fears are growing that it may anytime cross to Ethiopia via air transport. The very fact that Ethiopian airlines travel to number of countries that are reported to have been infected by the virus poses risk of bringing the virus into the country. Thus it is found to be imperative to highlight concerned personnel on how to be proactive and report in accordance to the International Health Regulations that emphasizes strengthening of surveillance activities at ports of entry.

The cabin crew members were briefed about the signs and symptoms of the influenza A H1N1, and prevention mechanism.. A one page procedure that helps the cabin crew members how to handle an infected passenger was also prepared and distributed to all for ease of reference. At the end of their orientation some members of the cabin crew told Tenachin that they feel confident to keep an eye on

people with flu symptoms entering the country and will be able to identify them. The briefing took place for four consecutive days at the Bole International Airport before departure of all flights. An estimated 300 crew members have gone through the briefing and will be in position to share this important information with their colleagues who didn't attend.

It is to be recalled that the International Health Regulations (2005) as adopted by the World Health Assembly and came into effect on the 15th of June 2007 and currently regulates the importation of dis-



eases into countries and provide a means for immediate notification of all disease outbreaks of international importance. Travel is a potential force in spreading communicable diseases of international concern.. Although infrequently reported and very difficult to assess accurately, there is a risk of disease transmission during air travel and this risk has become the focus of heightened attention and an important public health issue. Government and international laws provide legal authority to control the movement of passengers with communicable diseases.

