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UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY TEAM ETHIOPIA



Government and Humanitarian Partners Launch 2004 Humanitarian Appeal for Ethiopia

The Ethiopian Government, the United Nations and humanitarian partners appealed for 841,910 tonnes of food and US\$ 85 million of non-food assistance on 10 December 2003 to meet humanitarian needs in 2004. ►

Humanitarian Situation in Somali Region



Photo: UN OCHA- Eth

In our last November 2003 issue of FOCUS ON ETHIOPIA, it was reported that the 2003 Deyr rains might fail in the Somali region causing yet another episode of humanitarian crises. In response a joint rapid assessment mission involving the regional government, UNICEF, WHO and OCHA Ethiopia and local NGOs was undertaken between 27 November and 3 December 2003. The assessment was conducted pending the deployment of the regular federal DPPC-led post Deyr assessment for detailed study.

Major findings of the rapid assessment team were discussed in a Government/NGO/UN consultative meeting held in Jijiga on 5 December 2003. A set of action points was defined for intervention, monitoring and follow up.

Rainfall

Insufficient to Regenerate Pasture, Elevate Retreating Water Table and Recharge Drying Shallow Wells

Although it has rained in some parts of Deyr receiving areas of the Somali region, its distribution and intensity were far below normal. In its emergency session of 30 December 2003, the House of Representatives in Addis Ababa discussed the humanitarian situation in the Somali region, agreed with the findings of both the rapid assessment mission and the DPPC led post-Deyr assessment mission. Following de-briefings at the Federal DPPC, 1.1 million people, around one-third of the population in the region will need emergency assistance in 2004. This is close to the middle – case scenario developed in early November 2003 by the regional working group on contingency planning and is particularly appropriate for Fik, Degehbour, Korahe and Warder Zones.

Water Supply

Critical Situation Seems Imminent in Early 2004

The problem of water will be critical in many parts of the region particularly during the forthcoming Jilaal season. Although some

NEWS ►

Update on the Situation in Gambella

Following the ambush and death of eight "highlanders" near Gambella town on 13 December 2003, Anuak homes in Gambella were burned by highlanders in retaliation for the attack and a number of people were killed. ►

FAO/MOA/BOA Assessment of Crop Situation in SNNPR

FAO in collaboration with federal Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) and the regional BOA have made a field mission to SNNPR to assess the agricultural emergency needs for year 2004 and to identify rehabilitation and recovery needs. ►

UNDAF Conducted a Workshop on School Feeding Program

UNDAF's Access to Basic Social Services Thematic Working Group, conducted a workshop to discuss the findings and to prepare a plan of action for future interventions by humanitarian partners. ►

Resettlement in SNNPR

OCHA field officer reports that the three phase resettlement program in SNNPR has achieved resettlement of nearly 15% of its planned 100,000 household targeted for this Ethiopian fiscal year. ►

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underground water storage facilities (Birkas) have captured running surface water during the brief Deyr rain in December 2003, the amount was insufficient to elevate the water table to have a significant impact on increasing the yield of shallow wells and boreholes.

Because of the alarming situation, the Jijiga consultative meeting urged the regional Bureau for Water Resources Development (RBWRD) and UNICEF to draw up a detailed emergency intervention in the water sector. It was also suggested that the possibility of utilizing UNHCR water tankering equipment in Jijiga be explored to augment needs without affecting the ongoing refugee programme in eastern Ethiopia.

UNICEF has approved 1.6 million Birr for local procurement of generators, water pumps and accessories for motorized water schemes in the affected areas to ensure continued operations. In addition, UNICEF has made available 634,055 Birr for rehabilitation of Gode town water supply system, construction of water supply systems for 11 schools benefiting from WFP/UNICEF assisted school feeding programme, construction of additional shallow hand dug wells in Gode Zone and provide fuel for Gode town and 11 motorized water schemes located in different areas to sustain operations and staff training. Funds have also been released to DPPB to tanker water for selected areas and UNICEF has appealed for additional funds to support this effort up until the next rainy season in Somali region. UNICEF supported activities are carried out through the Water Bureau, DPPB and various local NGOs from the region.

In the field of sanitation, UNICEF has released funds to the regional Health Bureau to carry out various sanitation activities. In addition UNICEF through Education Bureau is assisting construction of school latrine in 10 existing schools in Jijiga and Shinille zones.

In a similar development, ACF is planning to undertake water tankering operations for vulnerable groups in Warder and Shekosh districts in collaboration with the regional government. UNHCR Regional Liaison Office in Addis Ababa has expressed its readiness to make available eight used water tanker lorries to UNICEF to augment needs in water tankering equipment if maintenance and operational costs are absorbed by UNICEF. This is an example of the extensive cooperation between members of UNCT in Ethiopia, aid agencies and the regional government in responding to humanitarian crises in a collaborative manner.

Pasture/Livestock

Immense Pressure on Pasture and Water Points. Veterinary Support far too short

The availability of pasture in Deyr receiving areas is isolated to the few areas that have had some rains in December 2003. The pasture in these areas has acted as a magnet to pastoralist families from nearby areas and far away distances including northeast Somalia (Puntland) and northwest Somalia (Somaliland). The problem facing pastoralist families is complicated by the import ban imposed by Gulf States on livestock from the Horn of Africa region. The import restriction has become the major cause for the accumulation of livestock assets in the region as a whole. In addition, overpopulation by livestock has compounded the problem of the already poorly resourced veterinary services of the region. This issue is most keenly felt in the regions currently hosting the influx of livestock in search of water, but is a broader development issue, which needs to be jointly addressed by the government and aid agencies.

The problem of water will be critical in many parts of the region particularly during the forthcoming Jilaal season.

As an emergency intervention, ICRC is planning to extend veterinary support services and initiate a de-stocking programme in the most affected areas of the region. ICRC is presently procuring veterinary drugs from Nairobi for vaccination and treatment of some 240,000 livestock against endo- and ectoparasites, bacterial disease and trypanosomiasis. With regard to the de-stocking programme, the pilot project aims to purchase weak animals from pastoralists in Gode and Degehbour areas for slaughtering and distribution of meat to the affected population as supplementary food.

ACF will also take part in the emergency intervention in livestock health. ACF is planning to extend veterinary support services to the most vulnerable groups in Korahe and Warder Zones who have no access to veterinary services. Some 350,000 head of cattle and sheep will be vaccinated and treated through the ACF network in the region with the engagement of 52 community based animal health workers trained for this purpose. The programme will be launched in January 2004. On its part, FAO has prepared a project proposal on emergency livestock intervention with government for Warder, Korahe and Degehbour and will present it to donors for funding. Further humanitarian assistance is expected from other sources, with FAO taking the lead in advocacy for increased donor support in the current emergency in the livestock sector and sensitizing international developmental institutions for partnership in creating linkages between relief and development.

Education

Schools Closed Because of the Drought

Education The rapid assessment mission found that many school age children in Warder Zone have abandoned their schooling because of the drought. UNICEF has donated 40 MT of BP-5 to the regional Bureau of Education for distribution to needy schools.

Presently, almost 6,700 students in 20 schools in Shinile and Jigiga zones of Somali region are benefiting from a joint WFP-UNICEF school-feeding programme, while a further 5,000 students in 13 additional schools in these zones are receiving school meals and basic educational materials through a USAID funded programme. Some of the UNICEF supported emergency education activities being carried out include training of teachers and educational personnel on educational and psychosocial needs of affected children; monitoring the trends of the impacts of drought on the regional education system; and construction of temporary learning centers at food distribution points. UNICEF has also recruited and deployed an Assistant Emergency Education Field Officer to Somali Region so as to strengthen the local emergency response capacities of the region.

Health/Nutrition

Poor Health Services with Signs of Malnutrition

The rapid assessment mission reported that general health services need to be strengthened in all areas visited. This will entail additional staffing, supply of emergency drugs and provision of IT facilities for data processing, information sharing and reporting. The consultative meeting in Jijiga recommended that an emergency intervention project be jointly prepared by UNICEF and the Regional Health Bureau for UNICEF funding.

UNICEF has responded by providing funds and supplies for the implementation of emergency health care in the first quarter of 2004. The programme includes the deployment of mobile health teams to the affected areas for services with preventive measures in public health. In addition, UNICEF has delivered 48 emergency drug kits

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and 20 medical supply kits. In addition, insecticide-treated nets (ITN) have been distributed as follows: 19,125 to Gode, 16,125 to Shinile, 16,125 to Jijiga and 14,625 to Korahe zone. Staff training has been completed on ITNs and it has been agreed that free nets be provided to drought-affected populations in Fafan as well as Hartishiek IDPs. Through MCDO and SCF-UK, populations in Fik are also included in this free distribution. The Regional Health Bureau has responsibility to monitor this distribution, both of emergency procurements and routine supplies.

The regional Health Bureau has also prepared a proposal for conducting measles and Vitamin A supplementation campaign in Degehbour, Korahe and Warder Zones in close cooperation with the federal Ministry of Health, WHO and UNICEF. It is expected that the campaign will be launched in January 2004 taking into account lessons learnt from previous programme activities undertaken in other parts of the region.

In the field of nutrition, there are indications of growing malnutrition in the affected areas because of repeated episodes of drought resulting in food insecurity, loss of livestock assets, diminished purchasing power and destitution. The problem has been increasing year after year due to the lack of basic health services and the absence of responsive recovery/rehabilitation programme in the region. However, detailed nutritional surveys need to be undertaken for emergency interventions to be planned. In particular nutritional surveys are needed for Degehbour, Fik, Gode, Korahe and Warder. The need for launching measles and Vitamin A supplementation campaign in the above zones will be considered in the survey process.

Because of the deteriorating situation, UNICEF has reached an agreement with the regional government to support the establishment of a supplementary feeding programme (SFP) in Warder, Geladin and Boh areas of Warder Zone in cooperation with the regional DPPB, the Bureau for Health and NGOs with possible extension to Fik and Degehbour Zones.

Food

Distributions

Recent food distributions have been to around 1.05 million people per month in Somali Region: October 15,000 tonnes (9,000 tonnes DPPC/WFP & 6,000 tonnes NGOs); November 18,000 tonnes (12,000 tonnes DPPC/WFP & 6,000 tonnes NGOs); and December 18,000 tonnes (DPPC/WFP 12,000 tonnes & NGOs 6,000 tonnes). 89 percent was cereals and 11 percent was fortified blended food. The middle-case scenario for 2004 means that there is no immediate crisis in terms of food supply for the region. WFP report that sufficient food is potentially available for January distributions at the national level.

Need for Harmonization of Ration Scale

There is concern about the appropriateness of the rations being provided to beneficiaries in the region. The consultative meeting recommended that urgent action be taken by the Federal DPPC, the regional government and major partners to ensure that allocations and distributions are at the current full ration rate, i.e. 15 kg of cereals, 1.5 kg pulses and 0.45 kg oil per person per month. Most districts have only been receiving cereals so far. In addition, supplementary food should be provided to districts where malnutrition rates are high.

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Possible Refugee Influxes

Given rising tensions between Somaliland and Puntland, there is concern growing of a possible refugee influx into Boh and Geladin districts of Warder zone in Ethiopia. United Nations agencies are closely monitoring events. The UN is also currently attempting to check reports of the presence of deportees from Somaliland in Geladin district of Warder zone.

Field Coordination

Structure, Mechanism and Tools - More Capacity Building Needed

The need for strengthening field coordination at regional and zonal levels was stressed during the Jijiga consultative meeting. In this connection, UNICEF Country Representative in Ethiopia and Head of Office of OCHA Ethiopia assured the Regional President of the Somali region that the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Ethiopia is ready to assist the regional government in capacity building in information management, dissemination, documentation and staff development with the provision of the required IT facilities for this purpose. The approach shall be discussed with the regional DPPB similar to the strategy pursued by the UNCT in Ethiopia to support the regional government of the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region for the current emergency in that region.

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UN Security/Staff Safety

Need for Increased Access to the Affected Areas and Beneficiaries

An updated security assessment of the areas in Somali region is planned prior to deployment of any UN staff to support further assessments, implementation and monitoring of proposed interventions. An assessment is expected in the third week of January 2004.

Your comments are welcome: ocha-eth@un.org



Photo: UN OCHA- Eth

Ethiopian Government and Humanitarian Partners Launch 2004 Humanitarian Appeal for Ethiopia

A total of 7.2 million people are expected to benefit from joint Government, UN and NGO efforts to address their humanitarian needs in 2004. The 2004 Humanitarian Appeal launched on 10

December 2003 is based on comprehensive countrywide assessments of food, health and nutrition and water and sanitation situations. The Appeal also considers special humanitarian needs related to education and HIV/AIDS, including specific requirements related to gender issues and child protection.

The overall objective of the interventions in 2004 is to address the humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable populations and to reduce suffering in the aftermath of the drought and acute crisis in 2003, as well as to respond to any likely emergency situations in 2004.

Needs for 2004 have reduced from those of 2003 as a consequence of better rains and harvest prospects. Domestic food supply prospects for 2004 are good due to a near-normal meher season (June-September) in most parts of the country. Although the overall humanitarian needs appear to be reduced significantly, underlying structural problems coupled with localized shocks (e.g. climate, pests, malaria epidemic and other disease outbreaks), and the continuing impact of unfavourable terms of trade in coffee result in persistent vulnerability for many people in Ethiopia.

The beneficiary population of 7.2 million in 2004 is a 45% reduction from the 13.2 million assisted in 2003. This translates into a food requirement (net of carryover) of 841,910 tonnes, equivalent to approximately US\$295 million and around half the tonnage generously provided in 2003. The Appeal also seeks a total of US\$ 85 million in non-food assistance. Nevertheless, the magnitude of the problem faced in 2003 and the concomitant destitution that accompanies the process of severe food insecurity constitute a considerable challenge in 2004.

Pastoral areas of the country remain comparatively more vulnerable in general, with some areas, particularly in the Somali Region pointing toward crisis. Water and fodder requirements in the mainly pastoral areas where successive seasons of drought have eroded pastoralists' assets remain significant.

In the agricultural sector seed shortages remain critical. Around 450,000 households are estimated to require seed distributions to recover from the effects of last year's shocks and resume production in 2004.

Food insecurity, combined with poor health infrastructure and service delivery, continues to manifest itself in growing epidemics. The current wide spread malaria outbreak, mainly in the mid and lowland areas, continues to exacerbate food shortages and raise mortality – making recovery from the crisis of 2003 slow, if not impossible, for some households due to loss of labour. The loss of labour to a household is as critical in household food insecurity as rain failure.

HIV/AIDS has the potential to become another key cause of food insecurity, by depleting essential assets – both capital and human. Assistance activities to address the pandemic have been considered in the overall humanitarian efforts in 2004.

In general, good main rains in 2003 resulted in the discontinuation of water-tankering operations in water deficit areas. While efforts of the last year in water and sanitation have generally improved the water availability situations of drought-affected populations, it is imperative that the humanitarian response for 2004 addresses the remaining critical gaps.

Meeting the needs of the expected beneficiary population is not without challenges. Collective action and an unprecedented donor

The beneficiary population of 7.2 million in 2004 is a 45% reduction from the 13.2 million assisted in 2003. This translates into a food requirement (net of carryover) of 841,910 tonnes, equivalent to approximately US\$295 million and around half the tonnage generously provided in 2003.

and public response throughout 2003 prevented widespread famine-related mortality. In total, donors contributed over 1.7 million tonnes of cereals, pulses, oil and blended food in 2003 – 94% of requirements. A similarly significant response was recorded against non-food requirements.

Despite the overwhelming response, delays in resource delivery affected the emergency response particularly for the first half of 2003, demonstrating again that timely delivery is as important as the overall quantity of resources delivered in an emergency.

The major challenge likely to be faced by the humanitarian efforts in 2004 will be to link medium and longer-term initiatives that address food and livelihood insecurity. Initiatives under the New Coalition for Food Security to improve availability and access to food, to promote preventative and curative health services and to provide safety nets for about 5 million persons, will begin implementation in 2004.

The humanitarian assistance requirements for both food and non-food for 2004 are summarized below.

Table 1: Summary of humanitarian assistance requirements for 2004

Food or Cash Equivalent (tonnes)	841,910 tonnes
Health and Nutrition (US\$)	17,930,339
Water and Sanitation (US\$)	24,830,081
Agriculture (US\$)	13,150,200
HIV/AIDS, Child Protection, (US\$)	2,699,500
Education (US\$)	10,449,330
Disaster Response Capacity Strengthening (US\$)	14,672,293
Overall Coordination ¹	1,333,000
Total (US\$)	US\$ 85,064,743

NEWS

Update on the Situation in Gambella

Following the ambush and death of eight "highlanders" (Ethiopians originating from outside Gambella) near Gambella town on 13 December 2003, Anuak homes in Gambella were burned by highlanders in retaliation for the attack and a number of people were killed. Official sources put the number of dead at 58. Banks, shops, schools, government offices, and many other facilities were closed for several days. Ethiopian Airlines flight services were discontinued for a few days, but have resumed their normal schedule. Clashes between highlanders and Anuaks spread to other parts of Gambella Region, including Fugnido town which hosts about 32,000 Sudanese refugees. Nearly all of UN staff working in the Region were relocated. NGOs have also temporarily moved their staff out of Gambella. After the arrival of Federal Police and the army soon after clashes erupted, the situation in Gambella town and Fugnido came gradually under control although there were unconfirmed reports of fighting still going on in some pocket areas of the Region. Life in Gambella town was slowly returning to normal as closed facilities and services reopened in early January. Anuaks (mostly women and children) who fled Gambella town earlier had been returning gradually. In what appears to be a reconciliatory move, some members of the army and highlanders had started to rebuild burnt-out Anuak tukuls in Gambella town. However, tension increased again

¹ This covers UN coordination for 2004. Sectoral coordination included within overall requirements for each sector.

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from 9 January and the military patrols and checkpoints have increased sharply. WFP has completed the delivery of food to Fugnido and Bonga refugee camps for the month of January and distributions will start during the week from 12 to 17 January. The UN Field Security Coordination Officer (FSCO) informed that some of the Anuak males have crossed the border to south Sudan. Although there is heavy security presence in the region, most of the Anuak men are still in the bush. There is an initiative to recruit an international field security officer for the region but not confirmed. Meanwhile, no UN staff can visit the camps until the FSCO conducts another security assessment. There is also an ongoing federal investigation.

Joint FAO/MOA/BOA Assessment of Crop Situation in SNNPR

FAO in collaboration with federal Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) and the regional BOA have made a field mission to Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples region (SNNPR) from 25 December 2003 to 2 January 2004. The objective of the mission was to assess the agricultural emergency needs for year 2004 and to identify rehabilitation and recovery needs. The agricultural situation shows improvements as compared to that of the previous year because of gradual improvements of the climatic conditions. However, the gross production was lower than expected and production during normal years due to irregularity in belg/meher rains, dry spell, untimely rains, excess rains and early cessation of meher rains in certain zones and woredas. Food shortage was reported in 57 woredas including approximately 860,900 people who are seeking immediate food aid. A further approximately 400,000 people are under close monitoring. The assessment of the seed security status has shown improvement as the result of better harvests in 2003. However acute seed shortage is still reported in 7 zones and 5 special woredas, including more than 170,000 households. A total of 6,000 tonnes of seed is needed for the coming belg and meher cropping seasons. The major contributing factors to the current seed gap in the region are irregularity in rainfall conditions, pest damages, and low production due to absence or low use of external inputs. Therefore, FAO, in collaboration with MOA and BOA, has identified immediate and prompt interventions for 24,000 Belg and 40,000 Meher dependant farming households in SNNPR. Interventions will focus mainly on seed supply and distribution to destitute farming households but will also promote long term recovery through the development of home gardening and the diffusion of root crops.

UNDAF Conducted a Workshop on School Feeding Program

As a follow up to a Situation Analysis of schools participating in WFP's school feeding programme in Afar, Zone 5, UNDAF's Access to Basic Social Services Thematic Working Group, who commissioned the Situation Analysis, conducted a workshop to discuss the findings and to prepare a plan of action for future interventions by humanitarian partners. The workshop was conducted in collaboration with Afar education and health bureaux and zonal health and education departments on 5 and 6 January 2004 in Addis Ababa. It was attended by participants from Afar National Regional State, including school directors and elders, as well as government, NGOs and the UN. The Situation Analysis was undertaken in October 2003 in Afar National Regional State, Zone 5. The purpose of this study was to review the general conditions of the schools with a particular focus on water and sanitation; and to review access of school children to health facilities. Education and health services in Afar are particularly low, with 13% gross enrolment rate compared to a national average of over 60%; and 33% of the population with

access to health services compared to a national average of over 60%.

Resettlement in SNNPR

OCHA field officer reports that the three phase resettlement program in SNNPR has achieved resettlement of nearly 15% of its planned 100,000 household targeted for this Ethiopian fiscal year. A total of 14,268 households from Sidama, Wolayita, Kembata and Hadiya zones have relocated to Dawro, Keffa, Bench Maji and Sheka zones in SNNPR. Further information on resettlement is being compiled and will be circulated soon.

UNICEF Reports Response to Malaria Epidemic to Date

UNICEF's response to the malaria epidemic has been based on micro-plans and official requests received from the regions. The response has included: The distribution of anti-malarial drugs worth US\$ 1.2 million (as well as anti-malarial drugs for the routine programme); the supply of 780 emergency health kits (which contain quinine and sulphadoxine-pyrimethamine as well as chloroquine for the treatment of Vivax malaria); the financial support of operational costs (including that required for indoor residual spraying) as well as training and social mobilisation; and the distribution of insecticide-treated nets already in-country, free of charge, to the worst affected and most vulnerable populations. An additional 156,000 Insecticide Treated Nets were also ordered by UNICEF and are presently being distributed. To date, UNICEF has received a total of US\$ 7.2 million from July – November 2003 in response to the Appeal for support to the malaria epidemic. Donors include the US Government (USAID/OFDA), DFID, Netherlands Government, Norwegian Government, SIDA and the Belgian Government.

Measles and Vitamin-A Campaign Completed in Tigray Region

A measles campaign in Tigray Region, with technical and financial support from UNICEF and WHO completed in December. This month's campaign, which started 25 December, covered children between the ages of 6 months to 15 years of age at 1,561 vaccination sites throughout the region. A total of 1,561 health professionals, 4,683 assistant vaccinators and 224 supervisors were assigned to vaccinate an estimated two million children. Vitamin A supplementation was also provided for all previously vaccinated and non-vaccinated children. Vaccines and syringes were distributed to regional health bureaus, zonal satellite centres and woreda health centres for the campaign.