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UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY TEAM ETHIOPIA



Harvest Prospects In Arsi Promising Except some Pocket Areas

End of September, the crop situation appears generally good, particularly in the low lands in Dodota Sire, Gololcha, Merti and Ziway Dugda Woredas, which have been hardest hit last year. Farmers already are worried about the collapse of grain market prices if the harvest is going to be plenty. ▶

Innovative Approaches to Emergency Response

Alternative solutions to improve Coordination and emergency action in Ethiopia



Business as usual for coordination and response mechanisms would not have been enough to meet the needs of the 13.2 million affected people in the country. The nutrition and health emergency, has required large investments in non-food resources in addition to basic food aid, which have been critical to save lives and alleviate suffering. These efforts have been necessary because of the severity of the present crisis and to ensure that health, agriculture and water activities reach the masses similarly to food aid. Coordination has been strengthened and the government, United Nations, donor and NGO community have united as never before to more effectively attack the complex outcomes associated with the emergency. Innovative approaches have improved targeting (for example with community-based therapeutic care), supported market solutions (seed fairs) and increased self-reliance solutions (through cash for relief and seed vouchers). We are definitely still on the cusp of a major health crisis and millions are still expected to need aid in 2004, but improvements in the humanitarian response will undoubtedly help save lives and livelihoods and ease the transition to longer-term development.

Coordination Mechanisms Stronger At All Levels

Humanitarian actors have joined forces and significantly strengthened and expanded coordination mechanisms within Ethiopia at all levels. Food and non-food taskforces were reactivated and new ones formed

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Nutritional Situation Slightly Improved Since August But Still Nearly 3,000 Severely Mal-nourished Children In TFCs Countrywide

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Food Security Prospect Of East Wellega Zone Not Promising

Apparently 24,217 animals died from May to August. Many cattle are still weak and emaciated and more cattle deaths are anticipated in the coming weeks. ▶

WFP's Food Aid Use And Impact Survey Under Way In 6 Regions

WFP's Food Aid Use and Impact Survey started on Friday 26 September. The survey will cover 6 regions, visit around 380 communities and interview more than 3,700 households over one month. ▶

World Vision Ethiopia Winds Up Water Trucking Operations in Afar

WV distributed 35,460 cubic metres of water up to 31 August 2003 and the water trucking service benefited more than 20,000 people for more than a year. ▶

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German Agro Action distributed 850 tonnes of certified chickpea-seeds to 40,000 households in Ibnat, and East and West Belessa in August and September. ▶

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for health/nutrition, agriculture/livestock and water/sanitation sectors. These emergency taskforces meet regularly pulling together focal points from the government, NGO and donor community and United Nations greatly improving planning and management of emergency activities for the present crisis.

At the federal level, the Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (ENCU), formed after the 2000 crisis, was tested during the current emergency. The formation of the ENCU has allowed the establishment of standard methodologies (cluster sampling) and the coordination and comparison of nutrition surveys. The ENCU chairs a monthly "Multi-agency Nutrition Taskforce Meeting" with various participants from the humanitarian community where all nutrition surveys are presented and critically evaluated and if sufficient then accepted by the Unit. Dr. Girma, a health expert from UNICEF seconded to DPPC and chairing the ENCU notes that the Unit has had "substantial impact during this emergency, making the response easier for decision makers and allowing donors to fund on the basis of nutritional surveys. In the past emergency, the process was subjective and difficult and duplication was a waste of efforts."

An Emergency Malaria Taskforce, a sub group of the existing Malaria Country Support Team (MCST) was activated at the Ministry of Health due to the current threat of a malaria epidemic in the country. Task force members in addition to members of the MCST are to meet on 7th October in the Ministry of Health to review the available information on the scope of the emergency, discuss appropriate strategies to address the emergency, map partners' areas of activity and potential response and identification of key gaps. Meanwhile, a group of experts drawn from the Ministry of Health, UNICEF, WHO and USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), meet on a weekly basis. They are currently compiling information on anti-malarial drug availability and supply, on available epidemiological data from 4 regions, assessing mosquito nets availability and distribution plans and identifying mechanisms for collaboration between the Regional Health Bureaus and NGOs to enable a rapid response. An international epidemiologist is scheduled to arrive mid-October to assist with quantitative assessment of the epidemic and with the health and nutrition assessment exercise for the 2004 appeal.

In response to the grave and complex situation in Southern Nations and Nationality People's Region (SNNPR), a regular bi-monthly "Regional Emergency Partners' Coordination Forum", chaired by the Head of the regional Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Office (DPPO) was initiated. The federal level taskforces were emulated at regional level in the same four sectors: for food, health/nutrition, agriculture/livestock and water/sanitation sectors to undertake emergency related tasks in their respective specialized operations. All taskforces are chaired by the Heads of their respective Bureaus except the Food and Logistics taskforce, which is chaired by the Head of DPPO.

At Zonal and Special Woreda levels, regular Zonal/Special Woreda Partners' Emergency Coordination Forum meetings are held bi-monthly and chaired by the Heads of the Rural Development Coordination Main Departments. Participants in these meetings are relevant government line departments and desks, all NGOs operating in the respective zones, and UN agencies. Minutes of the meetings are distributed to the participants, and also reach the region and woreda levels.

Humanitarian actors have joined forces and significantly strengthened and expanded coordination mechanisms within Ethiopia at all levels.

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As a result of the consolidated efforts of all participating partners at the regional and zonal levels in SNNPR, significant improvements have been achieved in the institutionalisation of effective coordination, enhanced information exchange and strengthening decision-making capacities. From the meetings, partners were enabled to formulate action plans on key problems identified and move forward to meet needs. To better support the government in its efforts to meet the crisis in SNNPR, the United Nations Country Team opened a Support Office in Awassa. This office has proved invaluable in providing extra capacity to help manage the overwhelming needs in the region.

It is worthwhile notice that the enhanced UN Staff deployment and presence has created a new awareness at zonal and woreda levels, with involvement of the rural administrative staff in local assessment of the emergency situation allowing the development of zonal Emergency Plans of Action for Health, Nutrition, Water and HIV/AIDS.

Although these coordination mechanisms were enhanced in the south, efforts could be emulated if necessary in other geographic areas of major concern.

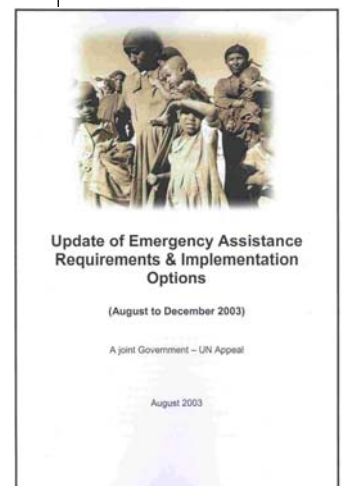
Emergence Of A More Effective Appeal Process

A dramatic transformation has also occurred in the existing process developed to build emergency appeals within Ethiopia. With the lead from the government, all actors including government, United Nations, donors and NGOs work together collectively at various levels to assess food and non-food needs and contribute to the identification of regional and ultimately national requirements and the development of an inclusive document. Assessments were initiated to specifically review non-food sectors to provide more accurate information on the number of beneficiaries and areas in need. These assessments were analysed and brought together by special sub-groups from all sector taskforces to assist with the appeal preparation. These sub-groups work together to prepare draft documents that are then presented to an Editorial Committee comprised of technical and senior members of the humanitarian community to synthesize the parts into one cohesive product. The draft appeal is then shared with executive level government officials for final adjustments and approval. For both the December 2002 Joint Government-United Nations Appeal and subsequent August 2003 Update, this holistic process has resulted in more comprehensive and concise publications.

Scenario Development More In Depth And Collective

Scenario development is progressively more in depth and collective. Key organizations are currently working together to develop humanitarian requirement scenarios for 2004. The Federal Emergency Task Forces are refining initial drafts in cooperation with their respective line ministries and UN agencies under the auspices of DPPC. To enhance the process, the United Nations Country Team and the DPPC have identified a robust non-food coordination process led by DPPC through the task forces that will operate with similar rigor as the food needs assessment process to develop a common approach for scenario development and contingency plans for 2004. To further develop and improve the process, a Famine Early Warning System

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Participants at the Contingency Planning Workshop, Friday 19 September 2003

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(FEWS) contingency planning specialist in cooperation with UN OCHA Ethiopia organized a half-day workshop for Government and UN Emergency Focal Points and additional select government and UN officials on 19 September.

Donors And NGOs Initiate Creative Solutions To Face And Mitigate Humanitarian Crisis

Donors and NGOs are finding creative solutions to age-old problems in Ethiopia such as cash-for-relief programs, seed fairs, voucher-based seed programs, small-scale water harvesting, community based therapeutic care (CTC), the provision of basic health care services and health education at relief food distribution sites, and finally the development of a regional early warning and food security monitoring system for the Somali region. All these initiatives are excellent examples to illustrate the effort made to seek and find creative, effective and better adapted solutions to face and mitigate the humanitarian crisis in Ethiopia.

Donors are now supporting **cash-for-relief** programs, a more cost effective emergency intervention, that provides small cash grants directly to households in need. Cash-for-relief interventions are beneficial because cash is cheaper to distribute than food aid, improves purchasing power and supports local markets. Many more people are helped from cash-for-relief programs than just the recipient including the local traders, small-scale and petty traders and larger external traders who profit from importing products into the area as effective demand is created. The program also supports buying and selling from local surplus areas bringing products to local deficit areas. Cash-for-relief empowers the beneficiary allowing them to make their own decisions, enabling households to meet more of the

nutritional needs as they can purchase a variety of food items and also use the cash for other household needs like medical support, livestock drugs or school feeding. USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) has committed funds through Save the Children UK (SC-UK) in South Wollo, World Vision for SNNPR, CARE in West Hararghe and the Ethiopian Orthodox Church in SNNPR to support cash-for-relief interventions to reach over 1 million beneficiaries. The Netherlands is supporting a nine-month cash-for-relief pilot project through SC-UK in North Wollo in Amhara Region. This project is anticipated to improve the local economy by injecting cash into the local market and encouraging suppliers to bring goods into the area. Cash is given freely to the elderly and disabled (20% of the beneficiaries) and the remaining target population (80% of the beneficiaries) will work to support activities like Eco-tourism.

For the past year Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and World Vision (WV), through OFDA and private funding, were providing agricultural inputs through the use of **seed fairs**, a one-day event providing vouchers to needy farmers, in selected areas in five regions. A similar approach was tested by FAO in selected woredas in South Wollo Zone. CARE is managing another unique **voucher-based seed program** in East and West Hararghe, also funded by OFDA, which issues a voucher to farmers giving them the flexibility to procure their preferred seeds from selected suppliers of their choice and allows

Donors and NGOs are finding creative solutions to age-old problems in Ethiopia.



Cash-for-Relief rural road construction in Northern Ethiopia

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them to select the timeframe for planting. CARE reports that initial indications suggest that the project has been very successful. 99.5% of vouchers were reimbursed, suggesting almost total utilization of the vouchers by the 86,000 households, which received them. Each household received three vouchers, each worth 20 ETB. Seed germination rates were very high and the program enabled participants to obtain access to seed in a very timely way. Prior to this emergency, seed distributions were used to supply seeds to farmers, disturbing local markets and not allowing farmers to select the types of crops to grow from distributors they trusted. With seed fairs and vouchers, farmers are empowered to make their own decisions, to diversify fields and stimulate the local economy. Seed fairs and vouchers address the problem of accessibility for those farmers who do not have the resources to buy seeds when seeds are available on the local markets.

Seed fairs and voucher programs are good options for those farmers whose assets are so depleted that they cannot afford to purchase seeds. However, seed fairs and voucher-based seed programs are time-consuming and require a good network on the ground to be able to quickly address the problem of seed availability and quality. The capacity of NGOs here in Ethiopia varies with their respective experience, capacity and local networking abilities. CRS for example developed enough capacity to quickly respond and proved it by conducting 135 seed fairs in 19 woredas throughout Ethiopia, whereby the NGO provided nearly 1,700 tonnes of seed to over 50,000 households. Neither seed availability nor quality at each of the CRS-conducted seed fairs posed a problem because enough traders participated and quality inspections as well as post-fair germination test were conducted.

The Relief Society of Tigray (REST) is successfully undertaking **small-scale water harvesting** in Tigray to make water available during dry periods through supplemental irrigation for increased production and diversification of food and cash crops, the production of seedlings for environmental recovery and for livestock watering. By capturing or diverting rainwater or stream flow during the wet season directly onto agricultural fields or through the shallow underground water supplies, a well constructed small-scale pond or hand dug well can provide adequate water for a household for three to four months. Both the food and cash that will be generated from the ponds will reduce household food shortages in times of crisis and hence work towards reducing vulnerability by protecting assets and livelihoods. The schemes will be built using Employment Generation Schemes and are combined with appropriate anti-malarial measures.

As mentioned in last month's *Focus on Ethiopia*, **community based therapeutic care (CTC)** is being used during this emergency in some areas to supplement therapeutic feeding centres. Although it is under study nationally, and has advantages and disadvantages, this new approach is a good strategy that brings treatment out of the centre to



Seed fair in South Wollo, Kalu & Kelala Woredas. FAO in collaboration with CRS and the Woreda Agriculture Office are assisting during a seed fair in March 2003.



Water harvesting tanks in construction near Shashemene town in Oromiya, May 2003

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peripheral areas. For more detailed information please refer to the August 2003 *Focus on Ethiopia* page 7 at www.uneue.org/Archive/2003ArchiveFOE.htm. Concern, SC-UK and Save the Children United States (SC-US) have programs in SNNPR.

NGOs, like GOAL and SC-US, are also being resourceful and taking advantage of **food distribution sites to provide basic health care services and health education** to beneficiaries. GOAL is utilizing its supplementary feeding programs in SNNP and Oromiya Regions to help prevent malaria during this critical post rains period in Sidama and West Haraghe through the distribution of insecticide treated mosquito nets along with basic health treatments. HIV/AIDS messages through stage dramas and anti-AIDS clubs are also being offered at distribution sites.

The SC-UK project on the development of a regional **early warning and food security monitoring system for the Somali region** is an excellent example of a creative solution. The initiative was specifically designed to enhance early warning systems in the region tailored to the pastoralist livelihoods practiced widely in the region. The project has so far mapped out baseline data on the food economy zones (FEZs) of all administrative units of the region. Relevant indicators that are capable of predicting changes have also been defined for monitoring the food supply situations in the region. The reporting format compatible with the federal DPPC monitoring system used in crop growing areas has been developed in collaboration with NGOs, UN agencies, appropriate regional bureaus with the full participation of community elders and the private sector. Training was conducted for food security teams at zonal level for data collection and improving communication facilities for transmitting information to Jijiga for processing, analysis and reporting. The need for drawing up a phasing out strategy of the project with a realistic timetable is also being contemplated. This is to ensure proper integration of the system being developed into the regional DPPB structure so that the regional DPPB could assume full responsibility for effective management and sustained operations of the system.

Information Exchange Progresses Considerably

Information exchange has progressed considerably within Ethiopia. At the start of the emergency, the Crisis Management Committee (CMC) dispatched multi-disciplinary teams from the DPPC, Ministries of Health, Agriculture and Water Resources to drought affected regions to give daily updates of the situation, enhancing information flow considerably within the early days of the crisis. The *Technical Information Management Exchange* forum was established to provide a bi-weekly update by the sector taskforces to the humanitarian community.

Critical Information System Being Developed Within DPPC

Although not yet officially launched, the DPPC Information Centre was established to improve information systems and to act as a focal point for providing and obtaining information on the crisis. The Information Centre is currently in the process of developing and implementing a data framework that allows DPPC and all stakeholders to manage emergency activities more efficiently. At the same time, this allows better transparency, targeting and more effective use of aid resources between implementing partners. To date,



Treated children in one of the first community-based therapeutic feeding centres in Bedessa, Damot Woyte Woreda in SNNPR opened and managed by Concern, September 2003

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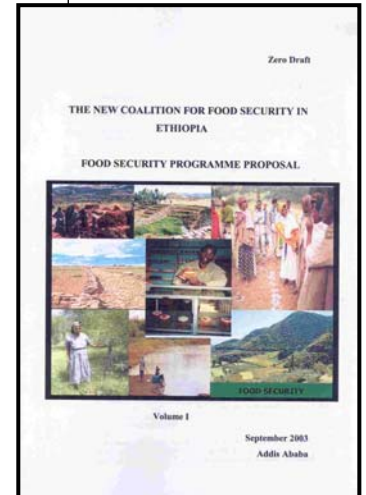
the following systems have been developed and are in the process of being implemented: 1) food and non-food contribution tracking system, 2) automation of the food allocation process, and 3) integration of the WFP Compass logistics system within DPPC. Additional initiatives that the Information Centre is currently involved with include the modernization of DPPC's computer network, the enhancement of DPPC's Geographic Information Systems (GIS), outreach to stakeholders through a soon to be released DPPC website, and provision of e-mail services to all DPPC staff. The Centre has just published the first addition of the "Administrative Atlas and Thematic Maps" which provides Administrative maps of all regions in the country, as well as special maps related to the current emergency, showing affected areas as well as response, such as location of all therapeutic feeding centres.

Leading The Way Towards Longer-term Development

Leading the way towards longer-term development address chronic food insecurity is the newly formed "New Coalition for Food Security". The Coalition's technical group has already developed two documents on "The new partnership agenda on food security in Ethiopia (Volume I) and Voluntary resettlement program or access to improved land (Volume II)." These documents were discussed in a workshop organized by the Ministry of Rural Development held on 26 and 27 September 2003.

Continuation Of Creative Efforts Will Lead To Significant Gains

Although the above article is not exhaustive, it does provide a sampling of the fresh coordination efforts and innovative programs utilized to respond to the crisis in Ethiopia. As future climatic shocks are likely to continue to strike Ethiopia, innovative approaches are needed to avert and reduce the impact of a crisis and improve the relief response. Innovative approaches to improve emergency response, however, must be backed up by a monumental effort to address root causes of livelihood insecurity in Ethiopia, which include among others, the continuing rapid population growth and rapid land and environmental degradation.



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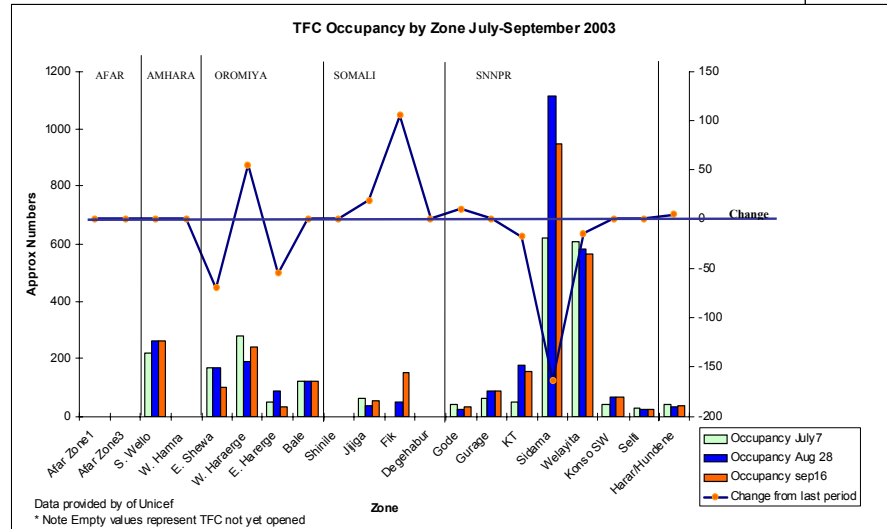
Nutritional Situation Slightly Improved Since August But Still Nearly 3,000 Severely Malnourished Children In TFCs Countrywide

Thanks to food aid rations and the first short-rain harvest, the nutritional situation has slightly improved in several areas. Nevertheless UNICEF reports that as of 1st October 44 Therapeutic Feeding Centres, of which 25 are in the SNNP Region, are still operative, with nearly 3,000 severely malnourished children admitted countrywide. Where admissions are considerably reduced, the TFCs special units may close, but in this case the nutritional screening and therapeutic feeding services become part of the standard treatment offered by the competent Health Unit. This new step, which will allow a better nutritional service capacity throughout the year and not only in critical emergencies, is part of the standard protocol developed by UNICEF with the Ministry of Health, and officially adopted in June 2003.

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The highest number of malnourished children residing in therapeutic feeding centres is still found in SNNPR in particular in Sidama (949 as of 16th Sept.) and Wolayita (565 as of 16th Sept.) Zones. TFC occupancy between 7th July and 16th September 2003 shows discrepancies between regions and also between zones as shown in



the chart below. In SNNPR the picture looks more or less unchanged with the exception of Sidama Zone where admissions during August increased drastically but started to decrease in September but still with a high occupancy rate. In Wolayita Zone one can only notice a slight reduction in occupancy of TFCs whereas in the TFCs of the other affected zones the situation remained unchanged. In Oromiya Region the situation changed to the better in East Shewa and East Hararghe where the number of malnourished patients is dropping since August. But the situation became worse in West Hararghe with an increase in TFC patient admissions since August. In Bale Zone the number of TFC patients remained unchanged. For Somali Region figures indicate a rise in patient admissions to TFCs in Jijiga, Degehabur and Gode Zones since August.

Food Security Prospect Of East Wellega Zone Not Promising

UN OCHA Ethiopia undertook an assessment mission from 30 August to 11 September 2003 to assess the food security situation of East Wellega zone (Ebantu, Jimma Ganati, Horro, Jarte Jardaga, Abay Chomen and Guduru districts). Due to unfavourable climatic conditions in 2002, currently 64,000 people from six woredas are receiving relief food since March to end of October 2003. Zonal officials claim the beneficiary figure to be much higher and hence an assessment team has already been deployed to the zone for verification. This year *Keremt* rains were delayed by 6-8 weeks in the zone and consequently regeneration of pasture was poor and led to critical feed shortage in the area. Many natural springs dried up and water resources failed to replenish and led to critical water shortage.



Horses replacing oxen in ploughing after mass death of cattle in Horro District of East Wellega Zone, September 2003

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Other setbacks were inadequate and poor land preparation, overlapping of agricultural activities (planting of long cycle crops and land preparation of short cycle crops) very much delayed planting of crops. Therefore, and to enable all late planted crops to mature for a reasonable harvest, the rains should continue to the end of October. If in case like last year the rains cease earlier, the harvest may be poor and people could face food shortage once more next year. Severe shortage of feed and water supply in the zone caused emaciation and deaths of animals. There is also a critical shortage of oxen in the eastern highland woredas. The animals were even consuming unpalatable and indigestible things such as plastic bags dumped recklessly everywhere. The change in feeding habits might have negatively affected physiological metabolism and rumen activity of the animals and led to complication of intestinal digestion. Apparently 24,217 animals died since May until the end of August 2003. And still today many cattle are weak and emaciated and more cattle deaths are anticipated in the coming weeks. The UN OCHA mission only observed very few cattle that look physically healthy and strong but found numerous carcasses in the fields and along roads. Due to the heavy losses of draft oxen, EFDA (Education for Development Association), a local NGO funded by the Swiss Government, started to train farmers in using horses for traction in two woredas (Horro and Jimma Ganati). Many farmers have, for the first time, started to use horses as draught animals for ploughing and hence, more fallowing of useful farmland could be prevented. Generally, the zone does not foresee a promising *meher* harvest and even anticipates the forthcoming harvest to be lower than last year. The numerous animal deaths have not received adequate attention even at regional, zonal and woreda levels, largely due to lack of information on the issue at all levels. Thus taking the zone as one of the sensitive areas and giving it better attention and making regular monitoring and close follow up of the food security situation of the zone is crucial. An important lesson learned for farmers who lost substantial numbers of livestock during the current crisis, is that they realised the importance of keeping their herds at a manageable size in order to lose less animals and money in future and similar such crisis. This was a lesson farmers drew from observing households with fewer animals who managed to better house, feed and care for their animals and hence reported fewer deaths.

An important lesson learned for farmers who lost substantial numbers of livestock during the current crisis, is that they realised the importance of keeping their herds at a manageable size in order to lose less animals and money in future and similar such crisis.

Harvest Prospects In Arsi Zone Are Promising With The Exception Of Pocket Areas

Arsi Zone of Oromiya Region is known as a surplus crop producing area and despite had faced drought and food insecurity in 2002. In 2003, the *Keremt* rains improved compared to last year and rain distribution has been good and all cultivated land is currently under crop. End of September, the crop situation appears generally good, particularly in the low lands in Dodota Sire, Gololcha, Merti and Ziway Dugda Woredas, which have been hardest hit last year. Farmers already are worried about the collapse of grain market prices if the harvest is going to be plenty. They fear that if grain prices are going to collapse once more, the entire grain surplus and the good weather conditions will be annihilated. Hence, similarly to the situation in 2000 and 2001, two bumper harvest years, when hundreds of thousand of farmers failed to pay back farm input credits. Many



Maize intercropped with indigenous cabbage (*Brassica carinata* – “Abashow Gomen” in Ziway Dugda Woreda, Arsi, September 2003

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also lost crucial farm assets that they never managed to replace because grain prices on the local markets were at times as low as half of the production price. However, problems are still affecting some pocket areas in Merti, Gololcha and Dodota Sire Woredas, with maize mostly affected by interruption of rain during growing stage and some pest attacks. After the failure of early maize crops in Timuga (Gololcha Woreda), farmers shifted to sorghum in July. All over the zone, rains are expected until mid-October to assure normal crop maturation. In the highlands, excess of rain and hail storms have affected some crops in Chole, Diksis, Robe and Seru Woredas. In all visited woredas, farmers received seeds from Meki Catholic Secretariat, FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture through its extension package system. Moreover, the Oromiya Agriculture Bureau had decided to freeze paybacks for extension package loans received in 2002 and also for land taxes. In 2002, cattle in the lowlands suffered from lack of pasture and scarce water and hence the mortality rate was high. Many farmers in the lowlands lost their draft animals forcing them into crop sharing, leading to ploughing and sowing delays. But currently, livestock condition has improved and livestock market prices are mostly back to pre-drought average. Unfortunately, activities on the main livestock market in Dera (Dodota Sire) remain low scale and local, compared to previous activities when livestock from Arsi, Bale and West Hararghe was offered on the market. DPPC food distributions will cease starting from October for the lowlands. NGOs and also woreda officials are worried about the Corn-Soya-Blend (CSB) supplementary food distributions because these will also be stopped and could cause malnutrition in children under five in three to four months' time. Malaria and water born diseases are currently the main health concerns. The NGO "Medical Emergency Relief International" (MERLIN) is currently involved in health and water programmes, particularly in Dodota Sire Woreda and has planned to extend water and sanitation activities to Gololcha and Merti Woredas. In some locations, lack of safe water supply affected health and nutritional status, particularly among small children, even if MERLIN's recent nutritional surveys in Dodota Sire (less than 5% GAM) and Merti (8% GAM) Woredas show improvements. A quick assessment on humanitarian needs is actually ongoing in Aseko Woreda, where MERLIN has planned to screen about 1,000 children.



Full water pond near Meki town, September 2003

WFP's Food Aid Use And Impact Survey Under Way In 6 Regions

WFP's Food Aid Use and Impact Survey entered its data collection phase on Friday 26 September. The survey will cover six regions (Afar, Amhara, Oromia, SNNPR, Somali and Tigray), visit approximately 380 communities and interview more than 3,700 households over one month. Leading this exercise are WFP food aid monitors, with an additional 80 people recruited to facilitate data collection in the six regions. Assessment teams will use Participatory Rapid Appraisal techniques to gather information through interviewing communities and households on their perception of food aid distributions and on how they cope with the shortage of food. The assessment tool, the Coping Strategies Index (CSI), was jointly developed by CARE and WFP in Kenya and was pilot-tested in May-June 2003 by the two agencies in West Hararghe zone of Oromiya Region. The survey findings will help WFP and its government counterpart (DPPC) to strengthen both the targeting of food aid and

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the management of the current emergency operation. Ultimately, this survey will also contribute to the design of more appropriate and effective projects in Ethiopia.

World Vision Ethiopia Winds Up Water Trucking Operations In Afar

As a result of shortage of *Sugum* and *Karma* rains in 2002 and prevailing water supply problems, Afar Region experienced one of the worst drought and severe water shortage in 2002 and 2003. Rapid assessments conducted last year in August indicated that 63% of the total population living in seven woredas of the Region were critically affected by water shortage. Water shortage caused migration of population in some woredas and school drop out in others. Both people and livestock suffered from the acute shortage of water. World Vision Ethiopia implemented different water interventions to address the problem. Emergency water trucking formed an integral part. The service was delivered to four woredas, namely; Assaita and Dubti (Zone 1), Semu Robi (Zone 5) and Berahle (Zone 2) in different phases since August 2002. The total amount of water distributed up to 31 August 2003 is 35,460 cubic metres. Approximately 20,000 human beneficiaries were addressed for more than a year by the water trucking service. Taking an average requirement of 5 litres per person per day, the amount of water distributed could address seven million people. A total of 1.62 million ETB was secured for the water trucking operations from UNICEF and the Ministry of Water Resources. The water trucking service provided in the region undoubtedly has saved human and animal lives. Although the impact study of the water trucking service could tell more, it can fairly be concluded that the sustenance of lives would not have been possible without these interventions. The program phased out due to improved water availability in Afar Region and rehabilitation of water points and additional new water schemes in Assaita woreda.

The water trucking service provided in the region undoubtedly has saved human and animal lives.

German Agro Action Implements Emergency Seed Supply Program In 3 Woredas Of Amhara

German Agro Action (GAA) with the Organization for Relief and Development in Amhara (ORDA) have executed a seed supply program in Ibnat, East and West Belessa woredas of Amhara Region in August and September. 850 tonnes of certified chickpea-seeds (*Cicer arietinum*) are distributed to 40,000 households. Financed by USAID/OFDA with US\$ 435,000 around 8,000 hectares of land are cropped with a valuable short-term protein-food plant. Under normal climatic conditions a local production of around 5,000 tonnes can be expected. The woredas were severely affected by the 2002 drought.

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