

DPPC/UN Launches Non-Food Appeal

In response to the developing crisis in the country, the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC) and the United Nations launched a “Situation Update and Joint Flash Appeal” on Tuesday, 3 September appealing for US\$12 million in non-food requirements. Representatives from the donor community, NGOs, government and UN officials attended and expressed their commitment and support. The appeal can be accessed on <http://www.telecom.net.et/~undp-eue/latest.htm>

Mid-Meher Assessment Teams Return

Nine government-led mid-meher assessment teams returned from various regions in the country where they were assessing the overall situation in the country. The team leaders briefed DPPC, regional officials, UN agencies, and donors on their initial findings on 3 September. The information gained will help DPPC prepare the food portion of the appeal aimed to be issued in the coming weeks. The teams will issue a field report shortly.

Water Supply for Afar Region

Following an agreement signed between World Vision Ethiopia (WVE) and UNICEF to provide water to Gahertu kebele in Assaita woreda and Guyah kebele in Dubti woreda, WVE was able to supply water for 18,000 people starting from 26 August. UNICEF can extend the agreement for two more months if necessary. Similarly, an agreement was signed between Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and UNICEF on 28 August to provide water to Erebtu woreda in zone 2. As per the agreement the LWF has started water tankering from 31 August for some 27,000 people.

Health Interventions in Shinile and Fik zones of Somali Region

The Regional Health Bureau (RHB) in Somali Region in collaboration with the Ministry of Health is carrying out health interventions for the drought-affected in Shinile and Fik zones. Furthermore, in response to the current emergency health needs, the RHB has received 20 emergency drug kits and nine packages of emergency drugs for Fik and Imi woredas donated by UNICEF which can be used for immediate and future emergency health needs in the region. UNICEF drug kits have already been dispatched to Shinile and Fik zones.

Care Distributing Food to West Hararge

In line with its plan to provide food for two months in Hararghe, Care has distributed food aid through Employment Generation Schemes (EGS) and free food distributions to Bedeno, Meyu, and Kurfachele woredas of East Hararghe and free food for Meso, Kuni, Chiro, Gubakoricha and Anchara woredas of West Hararghe for the month of August. The total beneficiaries in East Hararge are 61,500 beneficiaries according to the DPPC January Assistance Requirements and the amount of food distributed by CARE is 1,638 mts of maize. For West Hararghe 2,512 mts of wheat was distributed to a portion of the 100,400 total beneficiaries.

Fortified Blended Food Mobilized for East and West Hararge in Oromiya Region

In response to deteriorating nutrition status of children in these areas, WFP has borrowed 1,200 mt of Corn Soya Blend from its school feeding programme to supplement ongoing distributions of cereals to the affected populations. The flexibility to borrow food from development activities in an emergency operation is an important facility to address urgent needs. From February to August 2002, 7,000 mt of relief food (cereals) has been distributed in East and West Hararge through WFP.

WHO To Purchase Emergency Health Kits and Public Health Professional Reports on Afar

WHO country office finalized its preparation for the purchase of fifty (50) emergency health kits for drought affected regions, particularly Afar, Amhara, Oromiya and Somali Regions. Additionally, a WHO public health professional who visited Afar reports that contamination of water sources has aggravated the already existing shortage of water, distribution of drugs and medical supplies is not coordinated, and there is lack of public health activities such as immunization.

FAO Livestock Emergency Coordination Meeting in Assaita

On 27 August, FAO and the Regional Pastoralist and Agro-pastoralist Bureau organized a Livestock Emergency Coordination Meeting in Asaita. 29 participants attended the meeting, representing Regional and Zonal officials and veterinary experts, as well as most of the NGO's that are intervening in the area. The result of the workshop is a common action plan specified for all Zones and agreements on responsibilities, approaches and future collaboration.