

## Government Launches Food Appeal

The Government of Ethiopia launched an "Appeal for Immediate Food Needs and Scenarios of Likely Emergency Needs in 2003" which identifies more than 6 million people currently in need (October - December 2002) of urgent assistance and highlights the possibility that between 10-14 million people could need humanitarian assistance in 2003. Participating in the launch of the government's food appeal was the Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator of the United Nations, Mr. Kenzo Oshima, who was on mission in the country to raise awareness of the current crisis. During the launching, Mr. Oshima stressed, "The need to act fast cannot be overemphasized. We must move now to minimize the impact of the drought and to provide those in need with enough food, water, medicines and other essentials to weather these most difficult times".

## Netherlands Government Contributes To a Cash-for-Work Programme in Wollo

The Netherlands government contributed Euro 793,000 cash for a relief programme to help needy people in the Wollo area. This innovative activity substitutes cash instead of food in a food-for-work programme, allowing beneficiaries to use cash to purchase food or other necessities. The programme, which is run through the DPPC by Save the Children (UK) was designed to benefit about 50,000 beneficiaries in both North and South Wollo for a period of four months.

## Oxfam Provides Water Rehabilitation and Environmental Sanitation to Afar Region

Oxfam (OI) is currently operational in emergency water rehabilitation and environmental sanitation works in 4 woredas of zone 3, Afar region (Awash Fentale, Amibara, Buro Modayitu and Gewane). So far, Oxfam has carried out maintenance work on 7 motorized deep borehole water supply systems to bring them back to operation. An incineration operation was also carried out in the above 4 woredas at 136 incineration spots. An estimated 11,633 livestock carcasses were incinerated benefiting an estimated 67,420 people.

## Nutritional Survey Undertaken in West Hararghe

In response to the emerging food crisis in West Hararghe Zone, a team composed of DPPC/CARE/WFP/SCF-UK and the Zonal DPPD and Health Department conducted a nutrition survey from 20 - 30 September to quantitatively assess the health and nutritional status of the affected population. In the dry midlands and lowlands the survey results indicate that the global acute malnutrition is 15.1% (with severe malnutrition 3.6%).

## North-Eastern Lowlands of Amhara and Tigray Regions Will Face Substantial Crop Reduction

According to the findings of the joint USAID/UN-EUE field mission to North-Eastern Lowlands of Amhara and Tigray regions, due to delayed meher rainfall this year and erratic characteristics after its start, significant numbers of farmers in the lowlands were forced to shift from long cycle crops to short cycle crops. In some areas of Tigray particularly South and Eastern Tigray, large areas of land are left either unplanted or the crops are also stunted they are being used for animal feed.

## Measles and Vitamin A Campaign to Begin in Afar Region

UNICEF, WHO and partner agencies have announced that a measles and Vitamin A campaign will begin next month in Afar Region for children between the ages of 9 months and 15 years. Measles vaccine and injection equipment has been procured this week for the campaign, which will be conducted in conjunction with the polio National Immunization Days (NIDs). Measles and Vitamin A are considered a priority issue in any drought-affected emergency.

## Mission Visits South Omo Zone and Konso Special Woreda

The DPPC, UN-EUE and WFP undertook a joint field assessment to South Omo zone and Konso Special Woreda. During the main belg season this year in Konso Special Woreda, delayed, erratic and small amounts of rain coupled with no rainfall during the flowering stage of the growth period have ensured a crop failure of about 70%. Where fields along the Konso-Weyto road have provided good results, more remote fields have failed to produce. Out of an estimated total coverage of 53,000 hectares, only about 20,000 have produced adequate yields. The lack of rain also affects water availability in the ponds and livestock condition. In South Omo flood recession agriculture production along the Omo River in December 2001 was exceptional, providing for a buffer stock. The 2002 flood recession agriculture production expectation is very poor since reduced rain quantities have vastly diminished flooded areas. WFP will continue to monitor the situation.