

HIGHLIGHTS

[Ethiopian and Eritrean Military Delegates in Agreement](#)

An agreement was reached between the Ethiopian and Eritrean delegations to move forward with the establishment of the Temporary Security Zone (TSZ).

[Meningitis Outbreaks Reported in Five Regions](#)

Meningococcal meningitis outbreaks in the country began in late January.

[Wild Food Plants in Ethiopia](#)

An intensive study was undertaken on famine and wild foods in Ethiopia.

[MSF-Holland Assists IDPs and Drought-Affected](#)

Since the beginning of the hostilities between Ethiopia and Eritrea, MSF-Holland has been providing support to refugees and IDPs.

[NMSA Forecasts Normal Rainfall](#)

NMSA forecasts a normal rainfall to slightly above normal rainfall in belt producing areas.

[Logistics-Record Dispatch in Late January](#)

Following a relatively quiet period of port activity, a record discharge/dispatch occurred in late January.

[Focus on HIV/AIDS](#)

Today, the number of adults and children infected with HIV in Ethiopia is estimated to be about 2.6 million. This section highlights a number of key players in the country helping to fight the HIV/AIDS epidemic.



20 February 2001

NEWS AND DEVELOPMENTS

Government Issues 2001 Emergency Appeal

The Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC) launched its "Assistance Requirement for Emergency Relief, Recovery, Rehabilitation and Preparedness in 2001" Appeal on 22 January. Within the appeal, the DPPC confirms that there will still be considerable relief needs in 2001, although the challenge will not be confined to relief alone but will also include recovery and rehabilitation assistance especially in the areas of health, nutrition, water supply and agriculture. The appeal also outlines the need to improve the country's preparedness with the support of employment generation schemes (EGS) and the build up of the Non-food Emergency Contingency Stock. The appeal requests a total of 470,658 MT for relief food assistance; US\$ 21.4 million for recovery, rehabilitation and preparedness assistance; US\$ 1.3 for the Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit; and a total of US\$ 16 million for capacity building. For more information, see the feature article on the [Government 2001 Emergency Appeal](#).

UN Launches Appeal to Support Government Priorities

In early February, the UN launched their "2001 United Nations Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Ethiopia" to complement the recent DPPC appeal and to support the Government's priorities. The two major objectives for UN humanitarian action in 2001 are to maintain an adequate level of food and non-food assistance to populations still in crisis and to support and reinforce the transition from relief to recovery. The geographic focus for the coming year will include mainly pastoral lowlands of the south and southeast and chronically food-insecure agricultural areas of the country including Welo, Tigray, North Shewa, Haraghe and Wolaita. The UN will seek a total of US\$203 million for food and non-food assistance for drought-affected, internally displaced persons and refugees. For more information, see the feature article on [2001 UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal](#).

ERP Follow-up Mission to Finalize PIP

A World Bank Emergency Rehabilitation Programme (ERP) follow-up mission travelled to Addis Ababa and Tigray from 22 January to 2 February in order to assist the Government of Ethiopia in finalizing a detailed Programme Implementation Plan (PIP) prepared as part of the World Bank's assistance to the Government in post-war recovery. The PIP, which outlines the sectoral activities, projects, contributing partners and delivery mechanisms of the ERP, has enabled the World Bank to declare credit effectiveness.

The mission, whose primary focus was on the US\$30 million humanitarian demining component of the PIP, acted as a point of convergence for several key stakeholders in humanitarian mine action. Participants included Ethiopian

Fire Destroys Houses in Dolo Bay Town

On January 17, a fire in Dolo Bay Town destroyed about 60 houses/huts and damaged another 30. UNICEF requested the DPPC to investigate the need for providing plastic sheets. In early December UNICEF had procured and pre-positioned 2,000 pieces of plastic sheeting in the DPPC as part of a contingency strategy for the pre-positioning of emergency materials throughout 2001. In response, WFP sent monitors to investigate the situation while at the same time food was sent from the DDPC store.

demining and UNDP mine action specialists, MEDaC and World Bank representatives and Tigrayan authorities.

The Government of Ethiopia has expressed their desire that loan funds target support for operating costs for national demining and the provision of equipment. The strategy will be to combine these funds with bilateral/multilateral grant funds to cover international technical assistance and additional equipment. The USA has already pledged US\$1.6 million to begin training/retraining of deminers.

The timing of the mission coincided with the Council of Ministers decision to initiate a series of legal regulations including the establishment of a civilian humanitarian demining capacity. This capacity will culminate in the establishment of The Ethiopian Mine Action Office (EMAO) as an autonomous legal entity taking over the mandate from the former Ethiopian demining project.

Ethiopian and Eritrean Military Delegates in Agreement

The third meeting of the Military Coordination Commission (MCC) of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) was held in Nairobi, Kenya on Tuesday, 6 February 2001. An agreement was reached between the Ethiopian and Eritrean delegations to move forward with the establishment of the Temporary Security Zone (TSZ), a 25-km-deep buffer zone separating the two armies. Accordingly, Ethiopia began to redeploy its force from high ground positions starting from 12 February to 26 February. Eritrea began to redeploy its force to the northern boundary on 17 February and will finish on 3 March.

Meanwhile, some 3,700 UNMEE peace keeping troops and military observers have been deployed in the mission area as of February 2001.

Meningitis Outbreaks Reported in Five Regions

Reports reaching WHO Ethiopia confirmed that another cycle of sporadic meningococcal meningitis outbreaks in the country began in late January. At least five regions (Tigray, Amhara, SNNP, Gambella, Benshangul Gumuz) are reported affected. The majority of the reports are from Amhara Region in the northern part of the country along the main highway. Kobo *wereda* in North Wollo Zone, Amhara region was hardest hit with 104 cases and nine deaths over a period of eight weeks followed by Alamata *wereda* in South Tigray Zone with 81 cases and seven deaths over a similar period. The outbreak is reported to have complicated the life of refugees in Sherkolie refugee camp in Benshangul Gumuz Region. Meningococcal meningitis is also reported in the western part of the country (Gambella), along the Sudan border and also from the eastern part of the country close to Somalia.

Immunizations were carried out in Kemissie, Quarit, and Shinile districts and Dessie town. The Ministry of Health with WHO and other partners have taken measures to revitalize and strengthen regional and national epidemic committees. A preparedness plan has been compiled and urgent requests have been sent to all partners to assist in the implementation of the plan.

It is hoped that a minimal stock of drugs will not jeopardize the effort. In response, UNICEF procured 10,000 vials of meningitis vaccines and AD syringes which are expected in country this week.

Wild Food Plants in Ethiopia

Dr. Yves Guinand and Dechassa Lemessa from the UN Emergencies Unit for Ethiopia (UN-EUE) undertook an intensive study on famine and wild foods in Ethiopia throughout the year 2000. Their study was designed to document

Leishmaniasis (kala azar)

Transmitted by the bite of the infected female phlebotomine sandfly, the leishmaniasis are a globally widespread group of parasitic diseases. The sandfly vector is usually infected with one species of flagellate protozoa belonging to the genus *Leishmania*. About 30 species of sandflies can become infected when taking a blood meal from a reservoir host. Most leishmaniasis are zoonotic (transmitted to humans from animals), and humans become infected only when accidentally exposed to the natural transmission cycle. However, in the anthroponotic forms (those transmitted from human to human through the sandfly vector), humans are the sole reservoir host.

Leishmaniasis presents itself in humans in four different forms with a broad range of clinical manifestations. All forms can have devastating consequences. Visceral leishmaniasis (VL), also known as *kala azar*, is the most severe form of the disease, which, if untreated, has a mortality rate of almost 100%. It is characterized by irregular bouts of fever, substantial weight loss, swelling of the spleen and liver, and anaemia. AIDS and other immunosuppressive conditions increase the risk of *Leishmania*-infected people developing visceral illness. (source: WHO)

indigenous knowledge on wild-foods and, more particularly, on 'famine-foods', to identify and better understand the importance of wild-food plants in the survival strategies adopted by rural people in food insecure areas of the country.

Their extensive research has culminated in the article "**Wild-food Plants in Ethiopia**" providing a reflection on the role of 'wild-foods' and 'famine-foods' during drought periods. In addition, as a result of their research, they have prepared a **Famine Food Field Guide** that has been developed into a web site for easy accessibility. This web site and the article are available off the UN-EUE home page at <http://www.telecom.net.et/~undp-eue/faminefoodweb/index.htm>

MSF – Holland Assists IDPs and Drought-Affected

MSF-Holland has been working in Ethiopia since 1988 implementing various projects ranging from emergency nutrition programmes during the food crisis in 1992 to providing access to primary health care through to the present. When hostilities between Ethiopia and Eritrea started, MSF-Holland began providing support to refugees and IDPs in Tigray. In Adigrat Hospital, MSF-Holland has a surgical team on site ensuring that 88,000 IDPs and the town's population have access to surgical services.

A long term Kala-azar programme (See [Leishmaniasis \(kala azar\)](#) article) has been set up in Karat Health Centre in Konso, Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR), which benefits 200,000 inhabitants by supplying medicine and equipment, improving diagnosis and treatment facilities and training medical staff. In Humera, MSF-Holland started an HIV/AIDS project in May 2000 for the many suspected Kala-azar cases who were later diagnosed with HIV/AIDS. The MSF-Holland team advised and trained local healthcare workers in providing counseling and testing blood samples for HIV, and trained staff in managing the disease and providing health care. An Emergency Drought Response Project in Arero, Oromia region was launched in June 2000, which assisted severely malnourished children.

In Tigray MSF-Holland is also monitoring land-mine accidents, training first-aid attendants and delivering first aid kits to high-risk locations, targeting 50,000. MSF-Holland also plans to provide psychosocial support to Ethiopian returnees from Eritrea.

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND WEATHER

NMSA Forecasts Normal Rainfall

As weakening La Nina conditions and Pacific Ocean surface temperatures are returning to a more normal state the National Meteorological Service Agency (NMSA) forecasts a normal to slightly above normal season rainfall in the main *belg* producing areas and notes that only areas of the extreme north and northwest may have below average rainfall. These conditions are expected to extend into the *Meher* season starting in June. The areas with below average rainfall are expected to have little impact on agricultural production, as they are not *belg* cropping areas. The NMSA emphasized, however, that erratic rainfall could occur in pocket areas in Ethiopia.

WFP Monitors Report Unseasonal Rainfall in South/Southwest Ethiopia

WFP monitors have reported unseasonal rainfall in parts of the South and Southwest of Ethiopia, which bodes well for livestock dependant populations, with mixed impact on crop dependant populations as currently, crops are being

Trafficking of Human Beings Workshop

IOM is organizing a national workshop on 21 and 22 February 2001 on trafficking of human beings in Ethiopia, including discussions on HIV/AIDS. Trafficking occurs when a migrant is illicitly recruited and or moved by means of deception or coercion for the purpose of economically or otherwise exploiting the migrant under conditions that violate fundamental human rights. Participants include government officials, inter-governmental, regional and international organisations and NGOs.

RaDO/UNICEF to Implement Mine Awareness Education in Afar

A joint RaDO/UNICEF assessment mission was undertaken to investigate the possibility of implementing a Land Mine Awareness (LMA) education program in Afar region. The mission will be carried out in collaboration with local authorities and possibly the Afar Pastoral Development Association, a local NGO.

harvested. WFP monitors will continue to follow the situation closely on the ground and their feedback, combined with forecasts from the Drought Monitoring Centre Nairobi, satellite imagery and other sources, will be regularly compiled and analyzed by WFP's VAM Unit.

IOM Programmes Contribute to the Fight Against HIV/AIDS

The Addis Ababa office of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has ongoing activities for medical screening, HIV/AIDS testing with pre- and post-counseling services in refugee camps. This program provides care for refugees intending to resettle in host countries. By the end of 2000 participants in this program reached some 550 and for 2001 it is expected to go beyond 3,000. IOM is also implementing two projects on prevention through voluntary testing and counseling (VCT), the first focusing on the mobile, migrants and the population living around the main trucking routes in Ethiopia, the second dealing with HIV/AIDS prevention and reintegration of demobilized soldiers in different settings.

UNICEF Programme in Tigray Assists Over 400 Vulnerable Families with Shelter Assistance

Substantial progress has been made in Gulomehda woreda in Eastern Tigray, where UNICEF, supported by the US State Department's Office for Population, Refugees and Migration, is engaged in a multi-sectoral programme aimed at the construction of shelter, the rehabilitation of water points and support to basic health services. In Gulomehda, UNICEF has initiated the shift from emergency assistance to rehabilitation activities. As of today, over 400 most vulnerable households have been provided with wood poles, corrugated iron sheets, nails and wire to assist in rehabilitation of damaged or destroyed houses. 10 sites for the construction of wells have been selected and four wells are being drilled. Drugs from a previous stock are being distributed to mobile health services and will be replenished as soon as new drug kits are available.

RELIEF FOOD AND PLEDGES

WFP Reports Food Supply Situation Stabilized in Somali Region

WFP monitors report that the food supply situation has stabilized in many parts of Somali Region, due to both substantial distributions over the past few months, and, in areas south and west of Jijiga zone, to extensive Deyr rains which fell from mid-September to November (continuing into early December in some areas). Relief needs will be on-going until the pastoralists' herds recover further. Throughout the region, the physical condition of livestock is improving; in some areas livestock prices are slightly lower than last month due to higher supply and little demand as herders sell some of their animals at this time of the dry season. As is also usual during this long hot dry season (Jilaal) which the region will experience until the Gu rains, due in late March/April, milk supply decreases until camels and other livestock give birth during the Gu season.

Pockets of severe needs continue among drought displaced and security-affected IDPs even in areas of declining overall food aid needs, such as Afder and Liben zones. Destitute IDPs, as a result of recent tensions between Somalis and Oromos have gathered in various areas of Filtu in Liben zone especially need attention along with those in Hi-Suftu and Hudet. Significant numbers of drought displaced are still present in Denan town in Gode zone, and elsewhere in the Region.

WFP and World Bank Discussions

Discussions took place last month between WFP and the World Bank to explore

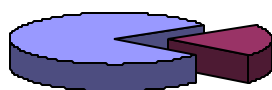
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areas of complementarity between WFP's IDP programme and the US\$ 230 million Emergency Recovery Project of the World Bank.

Logistics- Record Dispatch in Late January

Following a relatively quiet period of port activity, the situation changed in the latter half of January, with a record discharge/dispatch on a direct delivery basis of over 9,200 mt on 22 January. Between 18-31 January, some 68,000 mt food aid was transported under FATS from Djibouti Port to primary hubs in Ethiopia. WFP discharged/dispatched some 64,660 mt of food from Djibouti Port in the first two weeks of February against a total of over 85,000 mt scheduled to arrive at the Port in the month. At present, 1,500 FATS long-haul trucks are involved in this operation. Permission for the use of the WFP helicopter until end March 2001 for logistic purposes has been received from the relevant government authorities. WFP logistics has been given an allocation plan by DPPC for the short-haul truck fleet, covering deliveries for food distributions in seven zones of Somali Region, using the new DPPC appeal figures

Review: Non-Food Pledges to the Ethiopia June 2000 Regional Drought Appeal (US\$)



■ Requirements 37.3 million
 ■ Pledges 9.3 million

Review of Donor Response to 2000 UN Drought and IDP Appeal

In review, the donor community responded favourably to the UN Country Team appeal for the drought-affected issued in June 2000. Pledges in response to the Ethiopia portion of the June UN Emergency Regional Appeal for the Drought in the Horn of Africa amounted to some US\$ 126 million out of a total requirement of US\$190 million, over 66 % of total needs. Although the overall response was positive, non-food contributions towards this amounted to only US\$9.3 million. For the August Updated Appeal for Rehabilitation and Recovery Programmes for the Internally Displaced Persons, donor response was less encouraging with pledges of only US\$11.7 million out of a total requirement of US\$30.4 million, some 38%.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Government 2001 Emergency Appeal

Relief Food Assistance

The DPPC states that the overall food situation in 2001 will be characterized by self-sufficiency with a possible surplus in the western half of the country, but continuing reliance on relief in many areas of the rest of the country. Where they occur, surpluses will make the local purchase of food for relief possible. The total number of people expected to need relief assistance in 2001 due to natural disasters is estimated at 6.24 million, while the food situation of an additional 3.1 million people still needs close monitoring. Food will be distributed to a minimum of 3.2 million beneficiaries in February. Relief food requirements for 2001 are estimated at 639,246 MT. Taking into account carry over stocks and undelivered pledges of some 168,588 MT, the total net relief food requirements for 2001 are 470,658 MT.

Relief Food Assistance Requirements (MT)	
Total	470,658

Recovery, Rehabilitation and Preparedness

The Government appeal stresses that the emergency response should go beyond the provision of food, covering the technical, material and financial needs for the key non-food sectors. The health and water infrastructure in drought-affected pastoral areas is weak. Fast-onset disasters such as floods need to be addressed in a timely manner. Emergency stocks of food and non-food supplies need setting-up, strengthening and managing.

<u>Recovery, Rehabilitation and Preparedness Requirements (US\$)</u>	
Total	21,436,714

Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (ENCU)

In order to monitor the extent of malnutrition and identify appropriate targeting, funding is needed to make the central ENCU fully operational and to establish others at regional and zonal levels.

<u>Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (US\$)</u>	
Total	1,300,361

Capacity Building

Capacity building is vital for undertaking effective emergency operations and prevention measures. To ensure that capacity constraints both at Federal and Regional levels do not hamper relief operations, the Government is requesting:

<u>Capacity Building Requirements (US\$)</u>	
Total	16,079,000

2001 UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal

Drought-affected

Although there is currently a more favourable crop production outlook, the purchasing power of many impoverished rural communities remains very weak, limiting their access to food even when markets are reasonably well supplied. Moreover, recovery in drought-affected pastoral areas will take a number of years, necessitating the continuation of a basic humanitarian safety net.

Of the 2001 net relief food aid requirements of 476,658 to support 6.24 million drought-affected persons indicated by the Government, WFP is requesting 206,200 MT of food to assist an estimated 2.5 million of these beneficiaries and funding to strengthen logistics. Other priorities will include communicable disease prevention and provision of basic health services by UNICEF and WHO. UNICEF also plans the provision of safe drinking water and sanitation, shelter and education assistance. FAO activities will stress the revitalization of agricultural and livestock production. Funding requirements are as follows:

<u>Drought-affected Requirements (US\$)</u>	
Total	138,995,501

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

The estimated 395,366 IDPs, returnees and deportees in Tigray and Afar will be given priority especially in terms of continuing relief assistance where needed, facilitating a safe return home and restoring a minimum level of self-sufficiency. Special attention will be paid to providing a bridge to the World Bank Emergency Recovery Programme, humanitarian mine action (UNDP/UNICEF/WHO), preventing HIV/AIDS transmission (UNAIDS), re-establishment of basic health, water and education services (UNICEF/WHO) and continued food assistance (WFP). Funding requirements are as follows:

<u>Internally Displaced Persons Requirements (US\$)</u>	
Total	35,756,013

Refugees

Ethiopia is currently hosting a caseload of 206,879 refugees. UNHCR's priorities will include the provision of essential services to camp-based populations and the voluntary repatriation of those who wish to go home. WFP's Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation has planned for a caseload of 238,000 persons, translating to 42,711 mts for the year 2001.

Refugee Requirements (US\$)	
Total	28,585,992

Guardian-SERRO Begins Beyond Relief Programme in Somali Region

The local NGO Guardian-Somali Ethiopian Relief and Rehabilitation Organization (SERRO) has prepared a program aiming to alleviate drought and improve the socio-economics of the population living around the Shabelli river basin in Gode, Kelafo, Mustahil and Ferfer districts. Their Beyond Relief Programme is based on preliminary surveys conducted recently in Gode zone and is designed to support activities that link relief to development.

As part of their Beyond Relief Programme, Guardian-SERRO has started a school-feeding project for Kelafo and Mustahil district primary schools for a ten-month period. The project is benefiting 1,320 school children with the aim of improving their nutritional status. Pending funding, Guardian-SERRO plans to extend their school-feeding programme to Ferfer and Shilaabo district schools.

Other Guardian-SERRO planned projects linking relief to development are the rehabilitation of wells and water reservoir, health education for the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS, reforestation, and small-scale irrigation.

FOCUS ON HIV/AIDS

With the second largest population in Sub-Saharan Africa, the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Ethiopia is expected to take a very heavy toll on socio-economic development in the country. Although Ethiopia has been hit by the HIV/AIDS epidemic later than many East African countries, the Ministry of Health recently estimated according to sentinel surveillance results that the current rate of infection for adults is around 7.3%. Care International reports that 750 individuals in Ethiopia are newly infected with the HIV/AIDS virus each day. The National AIDS Council also underscores that one of every 11 people living with HIV/AIDS today is Ethiopian.

The HIV/AIDS epidemic has added to the poverty burden of the country. Scarce human resources, limited access to basic services and a high dependency rate are further eroded by worsening trends on most demographic, health and socio-economic indicators. All signs indicate that the epidemic is escalating very fast.

Over 80% of the cases of HIV/AIDS are found in persons between the ages of 20 and 49 -- the most economically productive age group of the population. HIV has now spread throughout the country, and cases are reported from every region in Ethiopia with a greater concentration in urban centers. The current adult prevalence in urban Ethiopia is estimated to be much higher at 13.4% (16.8% in Addis Ababa) than in rural areas, where current adult prevalence is estimated to be 5%. (15) Today the number of adults and children infected with HIV is estimated to be about 2.6 million, out of which 250,000 HIV infections are among children under the age of five years.

One of the worst impacts of the death of adults from AIDS is the dramatic increase in the number of orphaned children. It is estimated that 1,200,000 children have lost their mother or both parents to AIDS in Ethiopia since the beginning of the epidemic. (source: UNICEF)

National AIDS Council to Meet in Early March

With the HIV/AIDS crisis worsening, the Government established a comprehensive policy for national mobilization in 1998 and formed the National HIV/AIDS Council (NAC) in early 2000 with the primary objective of providing an enabling environment for the prevention and mitigation of HIV/AIDS. The Council is composed of members from the government, sector ministries, religious organizations, non-governmental organizations, community based organizations, the private sector, individuals and people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). The President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia chairs the Council, which meets once every four months. HIV/AIDS councils are also formulated at all levels in every region. The third session of the NAC is scheduled for 3 March with an agenda focusing on the evaluation of what has been accomplished thus far and the strategic plan for the country. The government's strategy is to take the lead in confronting HIV/AIDS and to expand a multi-sectoral response to the epidemic in a sustainable manner. Additionally, on 19 February, the head of the NAC Secretariat updated Parliament on the current status of operations.

The Program Coordination Unit (PCU) works under the authority of the NAC Secretariat. The role of this unit is coordination. It does not implement specific projects, but manages the Ethiopian Multi Sectoral HIV/AIDS Project (EMSAP) implemented by various local and international NGOs, government, community based, religious and private organizations, and PLWHA associations. The project objective is to reduce the spread of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, alleviate its impact, and increase access to treatment, care and support for those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. In this project other members of international partnerships are participating through in kind donations and technical assistance. Among those participating are UNAIDS, USAID and the Korean Embassy. The project funds interventions that aim at building the institutional, financial and technical capacity of the governmental HIV/AIDS bodies with the context of controlling the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Currently, the EMSAP has received some 40 proposals, which are being evaluated by the National Review Board. Additionally, UNAIDS, PLWHA have offices within NAC Secretariat compound in order to have close interaction.

OSSA Provides AIDS Education Through Anti-AIDS Clubs

The Organization for Social Services for AIDS (OSSA) was planned and founded in 1989/90 to care and support the direct and indirect victims of HIV/AIDS while also teaching and informing the public about the disease. Since Ethiopia has only one available hospital bed for nearly every 5,000 citizens, OSSA has developed and implemented a Home Based Care System to provide the best care possible for AIDS patients in their homes and near their communities. This care extends not only to the patients but also to their relatives and dependents.

Recognizing that caring for patients is not enough, OSSA is intensively involved in teaching and informing the population about the disease with the goal to create awareness and change sexual behavior, especially of the younger population. The backbone of OSSA's awareness strategy is hundreds of volunteer counselors, trained by OSSA, who not only care for all of the physical needs of patients, but also provide a connection to the community. One of OSSA's main approaches for information, education and communication (IEC) programmes in the field with the assistance of these volunteer counselors, is through "Anti-AIDS



UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and Mrs. Annan at the OSSA office in Addis Ababa with HIV/AIDS orphans.

ISAPSO Works Towards Prevention of HIV/AIDS

Integrated Service for AIDS Prevention and Support Organization (ISAPSO) was established as a local NGO being converted from a former FHI/AIDSCAP Country Office in 1997. One of its major objectives is to support the government's efforts being made to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS.

In addition to training programs for peer educators and field workers, ISAPSO has over the past few years started orientation and sensitization programs. Supporting these programs, ISAPSO has reached an estimated 500,000 people through information, education and communication (IEC) materials both printed and recorded on cassettes with songs by professional singers containing lyrics with HIV/AIDS messages. Another major area of activity includes baseline surveys focusing on Addis Ababa University students, bus transport and construction workers, housewives and single women headed households. These surveys are designed to gather baseline data on demographic characteristics, knowledge and attitude towards HIV/AIDS and on sexual behavior practices. ISAPSO's HIV/AIDS prevention activities also include the distribution of condoms.

Clubs" that motivate interested people to get involved in protecting themselves and the community, particularly youth. These clubs use innovative avenues of music, drama, the circus and videos to educate members on HIV/AIDS. OSSA supports 664 clubs with 48,000 members throughout Ethiopia with the objective of eventually ensuring that these clubs are self-sustaining.

Orphans are of special concern to OSSA. Thus far, OSSA has supported over 3,200 orphans who lost their parents due to AIDS. Psychosocial support is provided to grown up orphans, remaining families and caregivers. OSSA promotes alternatives to orphanages like extended families, foster families, child sponsorship and family houses. They provide skills training like sewing and carpentry and focus on keeping AIDS orphans in school.

MSF Belgium Programme Assists 1,500 Women in Prostitution

Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) is a private, non-profit, international humanitarian organization whose objective is to provide medical aid to populations in crisis.

MSF Belgium started its operation in Ethiopia in 1992 in order to assist with medical crises in the country. In 1996 MSF Belgium launched STD and HIV prevention programs in four health centres of Addis Ababa. This project engaged in the dissemination of information communication and education materials, the provision of medicine for STDs with minimum amounts of funds and trainings on syndromic case management (also known as the sign and symptom method), which refers to investigating STD problems through interviews. From 1998 onwards the project expanded its program to all health centres of Addis Ababa.

As part of this project, MSF is now also working on a self-help and empowerment program for women in prostitution (WIP). The project mainly works on creating awareness, disseminating information and giving counseling HIV, STD and family planning. It also has an income generating mechanism that provides different kinds of trainings for peer educators and members including savings and credit schemes for the WIP. The project addresses 1,500 WIP in the target areas of Addis Ababa (Arat Kilo, Kasanchis, Merkato and Cherkos).

DKT Ethiopia Distributes More Than 200 Million Condoms in Ten Years

Dhendra K. Tyagi (DKT) International is a Washington based NGO that has over 20 years of experience in more than 30 countries. It uses commercial marketing techniques to make primary health care products accessible and affordable to people uncovered by the public health system and the commercial sector.

DKT Ethiopia started its operations in Ethiopia with a tripartite agreement with the Ministry of Health and the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC). It is committed to assisting the people and the Government of Ethiopia in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Accordingly, DKT's main objective is reducing sexual transmission of HIV/AIDS and other STDs by making good quality condoms accessible at an affordable price and by increasing contraceptive prevalence through continuous supply of contraceptives. Its major areas of activities include a Social Marketing Program (SMP), an awareness campaign using mass media, health education and training, information education and communication (IEC) and distribution of promotional material and product sales and distribution.

DKT started to implement SMP throughout the country in February 1990. The main components of SMP include training of health care providers of the public and private health sectors, ensuring media communication in order to create and

Dawn of Hope Supports HIV/AIDS Victims through Counseling

Dawn of Hope – Ethiopia (DH-E) is an association founded by people living with HIV/AIDS and HIV/AIDS orphans. It has been working in Addis Ababa since May 1999 on awareness creation, prevention and control of HIV/AIDS. DHE's main objectives are assisting people with HIV/AIDS in the protection of their human rights, creating an enabling environment whereby the members can play a frontal role in the prevention of HIV/AIDS and actively participate to save future generations from HIV/AIDS. It also provides counseling to people who want to test for HIV and also supports the needy living with HIV/AIDS and HIV/AIDS orphans. Currently DH-E assists 270 adult, 149 children in one parent families, 206 orphans directly, 362 HIV positive people through counseling and 198,428 people through information, education and communication (IEC) services.

DH-E plans to expand its activities and open branch offices throughout all the regions of Ethiopia in the near future.

increase awareness in family planning and HIV/AIDS prevention, designing, developing, producing and distributing IEC materials, creating familiarity with DKT's health products and distributing sales products (condoms, pills etc). Sales of condoms increased from 699,506 in 1990 to 49,919,649 in 2000 adding up to a total of 236,239,603 in ten years.

SYGA Targets and Involves Ethiopian Youth

Save Your Generation Association (SYGA) was established in 1991 by a few young men and women who wished to contribute towards the prevention of HIV/AIDS and implementation of reproductive health status of young people. The group evolved from an informal setting to a formal organization, which at present plays a crucial role in creating awareness and behavioural change on adolescent sexual and reproductive health issues and HIV/AIDS. Since its inception, SYGA has been actively involved in bringing about behavioural and attitudinal changes among Ethiopian youth targeting out of school youth. Thus, SYGA has designed strategies that include edutainment, peer education, advocacy and information materials production and distribution. Edutainment refers to creating awareness through entertainment programs such as drama, music and sport. Peer education on the other hand is creating a horizontal information flow where young people discuss with each other and provide trainings for trainers among the youth who in turn disseminate the information to a large number of youth in their respective areas. Currently there are 105 peer educators who reach 5-10 youth at a time. SYGA provides the peer educators with basic trainings in computers, carpentry and tailoring. It also organizes entertaining events twice a month on Saturdays, which as many as 800 youth attend. These events always include an awareness creation component on HIV/AIDS prevention and adolescent sexuality and reproductive health.

SYGA has branch offices in Nazreth and Debrezait. In addition it provides technical and financial support to ten self-help initiative clubs in these areas. Currently different clubs are also working under the network of SYGA in different parts of the country: Agaro, Asela, Ambo, Dila, Shashemene, Sebeta, Debrebrhan and Ziway.

Mekdim to Implement Pre-test Counseling

Mekdim HIV positive Persons and AIDS Orphans National Association is an organization comprised of HIV positive persons and orphans whose parents have died as a result of the HIV/AIDS. It was established in 1997 to contribute its share to fight against HIV/AIDS, with the objective of promoting public awareness, providing support and protecting the rights of HIV positive people and orphans, and providing counseling service. The main targets of its project are high school students, university students, military camps and factory workers.

Mekdim currently has an active project with four components. The first includes information education and communication (IEC) services, personal testimony by HIV positive people, different drama and musical shows and door-to-door education which is to be implemented in the coming two months. The second program provides home based care for critically sick bed ridden AIDS patients. Care is given by well trained HIV positive people and health professionals as necessary. Treatment includes massage, reflexology and dressing wounds. Mekdim also provides basic medicine and covers hospital expenses for patients if needed. This program benefits thirty patients on average monthly. The third program provides counseling service to fifty people per month by giving pretests and ongoing and/or post test counseling services. Mekdim is also planning to initiate pre-testing counseling services in test centers and hospitals as these services are non-existent in Ethiopia. The ongoing counseling on how to live with

CCF Supports AIDS orphans in Addis Ababa
Christian Children's Fund provides comprehensive support to 505 AIDS orphans living with relatives and guardians by covering the cost of feeding, clothing, school fees and medical treatment. These 505 orphans are supported through area projects located in different parts of Addis Ababa. HIV/AIDS awareness efforts are made through Anti-AIDS youth clubs, youth drama and song clubs organized through CCF projects. Quarterly sensitization events are held through youth symposiums with dramas, poems and art and hobby exhibitions. At these events, people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) share their life experiences with the public. Moreover, education on reproductive health is given to beneficiary families on a regular basis through home visits by youth and women peer educators.

the virus, will also continue for those who test positive. Counseling will also be provided to those who are negative. The Social Support Project is the forth program in which critically sick patients, needy families and AIDS orphans are given financial and medical support. This project supported by Save the Children Sweden covers house rent, school fees and other expenses of the patients and the family. Mekdim in collaboration with Concern Ethiopia has designed a new program to strengthen the care and support project for the year 2001. This program will focus on provision of medicine, clothes, blankets and other home based care materials and on building the over all capacity of the association.

UNAIDS Acts as a Coordinating Body for the UN on HIV/AIDS Issues

UNAIDS brings together the efforts and resources of UN system organizations to help prevent new HIV infections, care for those already infected and to mitigate the impact of the epidemic. Its aim is to help mount and support an expanded response--- one that engages the efforts of many sectors and partners from government and civil society.

Currently, a primary emphasis for UNAIDS is on providing support to the National AIDS Council and the Secretariat. Additionally, due to the number of players with HIV/AIDS programmes in Ethiopia, UNAIDS is focusing on researching stakeholders and compiling an extensive matrix to identify gaps and overlaps in activities. This matrix will allow the government to develop linkages between organizations working in similar areas. The UN theme group on HIV/AIDS supported by UNAIDS is also reviewing modalities of coordination between the Secretariat and the UN, focusing on how they can best complement each other.

WHO Efforts to Combat HIV/AIDS in Ethiopia

The WHO Country Office in Ethiopia has been providing technical backstopping services in the formulation of national health policy and guidelines in addition to actively participating in the development of a framework of multi-sectoral response and plans in priority interventions.

WHO has joined hands with government partners to undertake regular epidemiological surveillance on the spread of the pandemic. With the establishment in April 2000 of the National AIDS Council (NAC), WHO Ethiopia has been working to help make this crucial step in the creation of strong national coordination a reality.

The country office has supported the MOH in revising and elaborating the 2001 Plan of Action on HIV/AIDS/STI prevention and control, and is now in the process of mobilizing resources for its implementation. In collaboration with the MOH and other partners, it has played an active role in facilitating the establishment and running of the majority of the existing 75 HIV testing laboratories in the country. Together with the ministry, it has organized a national workshop on the clinical management of AIDS, which is now compiled and ready for implementation. The recent national workshop on Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) was jointly supported by WHO, UNICEF, USAID and other stakeholders. The latter culminated in the development of a National VCT Guideline under the National AIDS Council Secretariat (NACS).

WHO Ethiopia is facilitating activities including the conduct of antenatal sentinel surveillance at 21 sites along with behavioral surveys at selected sites for monitoring trends, providing technical guidelines, training and orientation of staff in HIV/AIDS/STD prevention, care and support. Currently, the Country Office is promoting blood safety, vaccine development and home care with a strong team of experts to handle the epidemiology, care and support (including home based

UNICEF Launches New HIV/AIDS Programme

In 2000, UNICEF launched a new HIV/AIDS programme in cooperation with the Government of Ethiopia. UNICEF started the program with the National AIDS Council and in four regions - Addis Ababa, Dire Dawa, Tigray and Amhara with plans to expand to the remaining regions throughout the country this year.

UNICEF added a US\$3,850,843 multi-sectoral HIV/AIDS youth prevention, care and support program to the Bridging Programme cycle 2000-2001. A much larger US\$30 million five-year programme will be included in the next UNICEF Country Programme (2002-2006). The counterparts for the programme are the National AIDS Council for policy level activities, and the Regional AIDS Council for programme implementation. Major support will be provided for building the capacity of the government counterparts and other partners to involve youth and implement youth programming HIV/AIDS prevention at the regional level.

The overall objective of UNICEF's activities is to assist the government and communities to implement multi-sectoral interventions to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS among youth, women, infants and other vulnerable groups; alleviate its impact; and increase access to care and support for those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

care) and demographic aspects of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The Country Office has also seconded a public health specialist to the Ministry of Health to strengthen the HIV/AIDS/STD Team.

WHO/AFRO recently launched an initiative that provided 50 home based care kits and allocated USD 20,000 for purchase of basic drugs for the treatment of persons living with HIV/AIDS on a pilot scale in collaboration with Christian Relief and Development Association (CRDA), an umbrella for almost all NGOs in Ethiopia. Experience gained from such an initiative together with that of OSSA is expected to help improve care and support.

WHO is closely working with CDC, Atlanta for the effective implementation of the LIFE Initiative to fight the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa, in which Ethiopia has been identified as one of the beneficiaries.

WFP AND HIV/AIDS

The World Food Programme Ethiopia Country Office, in co-operation with other UN agencies and NGOs has been very active in the prevention of HIV/AIDS through training and education programmes in all WFP assisted emergency and development projects. WFP programmes target women attending MCH clinics and through family planning clinics to cover both men and women clients. There are several HIV/AIDS awareness generation volunteers and peer volunteers who conduct awareness generation programmes in communities. Some NGO partners also conduct street plays for awareness generation. UNICEF is also using WFP food distributions for internally displaced people as fora for HIV/AIDS information/awareness sessions. In 2000, WFP, UNHCR and DKT jointly sponsored a training undertaken by DKT for 50 HIV/AIDS activists to cover a population of over 70,000 refugees. Thousands of HIV/AIDS prevention pamphlets were distributed.

As a member of the UN Thematic Working Group (UNTWG) on HIV/AIDS, WFP has played a co-leadership role (WFP, UNAIDS and UNICEF) in having recruited a team of consultants and closely monitoring their activity on the preparation of a joint UN Country Team working document on "HIV/AIDS and Development" in Ethiopia. As per the UNTWG activities for the year 2000, WFP would contribute US\$ 20,000 to carry out: 1) Reproduction and distribution of HIV/AIDS Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials, as well as adaptation of the materials where appropriate, to suit internally displaced people needs. 2) Establishing a foundation for the provision of HIV/AIDS peer voluntary counselling.

WFP is encouraging other UN partners and NGOs to use its food distribution sites in all food assistance projects for HIV/AIDS awareness and other HIV/AIDS training venues.

WFP conducted a training course entitled "HIV/AIDS in the work place" for staff members in the Country office and as well as separate sessions for family members in January 2001.

A WFP HIV/AIDS mission has just concluded their visit to Ethiopia in January 2001 to assist the Country Office to integrate and expand its current activities for HIV/AIDS prevention and education.