

## HIGHLIGHTS

### DPPC-led emergency needs assessment

17 teams taking part in the annual government-led Year 2001 *Meher* pre-harvest and pastoral area food needs assessment left Addis Ababa for the field since November 21<sup>st</sup>.

### FAO/WFP assessment mission

The FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM) is a joint effort by FAO and WFP working with MoA to predict the annual crop and food supply situation in Ethiopia.

### Food pipeline

WFP food assistance to IDPs and Ethiopian returnees from Eritrea affected by the recent border conflict is expected to continue beyond November, but reduced in scale.

### Weather

Even though the rains for the main (*meher*) cropping areas were generally favorable, the lowlands of East Tigray, North Shewa, Oromiya, East Harerge, West Harerge and Bale received poor rain.

### CARE Ethiopia conducted nutritional survey

CARE Ethiopia in collaboration with Dire, Yabello and Teltele Woreda Health Bureaus conducted a nutritional survey in the pastoral and agro-pastoral areas of Borana Zone.



November 2001

## NEWS AND DEVELOPMENTS

### **UNCT Ethiopia issues 2002 intervention strategy**

To address the lingering effects of drought and war; shock disasters such as flooding; and years of declining or limited access to means of adequate productivity, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) has issued a humanitarian intervention strategy for Ethiopia for 2002 on 27 November. For more information click link: [The Humanitarian Intervention Strategy for Ethiopia.](#)

### **10<sup>th</sup> MCC meeting held on Mereb River bridge**

The tenth meeting of the Military Coordination Commission (MCC) was held on 28<sup>th</sup> November on the Mereb River Bridge. The meeting was chaired by the Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE), Major-General Patrick Cammaert. Brigadier-General Peter Augustine Blay represented the Organization of African Unity (OAU). Ethiopia's military delegation was led by Brigadier-General Yohannes Gebremeskel, and Eritrea's military delegation was led by Brigadier-General Abrahaley Kifle.

The commission received a briefing on the military situation in all three sectors of the TSZ and adjacent areas. The Force Commander appealed to both parties to refrain in the period ahead from words or deeds that might be construed as provocative. He warned against the potential volatility of small incidents or escalating behavior and urged that both parties live up to the letter but also to the spirit of the Agreements they had entered into. The current military situation including the disposition of Ethiopian and Eritrean forces, mine incidents that have recently occurred in the western sector and the UNMEE checkpoint at Serha (Central Sector), were discussed at length. Finally, the commission agreed that in the case of future allegations or problems, an investigation team comprising of a representative of UNMEE, the OAU, and either Ethiopia or Eritrea [depending on the location in question], could be dispatched unhindered to investigate. The eleventh session of the MCC meeting is scheduled for 8 January 2002.

### **UNMEE confirmed situation in TSZ stable and calm**

The Ethiopian Government alleged that Eritrea has "begun to build-up its armed forces along the common border" and that Eritrea has "deployed nearly 30,000 regular troops in the Temporary Security Zone (TSZ)", on the UN 56<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and Security Council meeting that was held in New York on November 15 and 16 respectively. However, the Special Representative for the Secretary General Legwaila Joseph Legwaila, stated on UNMEE weekly briefing on 23 November that UNMEE has undertaken immediate investigations including ground and air reconnaissance patrols in all three sectors of the TSZ and found no indication of an Eritrean military buildup. The TSZ remains stable and calm.

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### **Ethiopia and ADB sign over US\$ 135 million agreement**

The government of Ethiopia and the African Development Bank (ADB) have signed over US\$ 135 loan and grant agreement providing for the execution of projects, including the upgrading of the Butajira-Hossaena-Sodo road and master plan study of the Genale-Dawa integrated Natural Resource Development. Part of the stated sum will go to support the civil service reform program of the country.

### **Repatriation of Ethiopians from Eritrea**

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) repatriated 172 and 189 Ethiopians from Eritrea via the Mereb River and Rama, on 2 and 23 November respectively. Upon crossing the border the volunteer returnees received support provided by the ICRC and the Ethiopian Red Cross Society.

### **Italy to write off Ethiopia's US\$ 375 million debt**

The Government of Italy announced the cancellation of Ethiopia's US\$ 375 million debt. The debt relief would be effective in line with the decision point reached under the heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) initiative as outlined by IMF and the World Bank.

### **Free HIV/AIDS testing and counseling laboratory inaugurated**

St. Mary's HIV/AIDS voluntary testing and counseling service laboratory constructed by the Ethiopian Catholic Church was inaugurated on 20 November, to offer laboratory and counseling service to those who could not afford to pay for HIV/AIDS testing services.

### **Ethiopia releases 23 Eritrean POWs**

23 Eritrean prisoners of war (POWs) were repatriated from Ethiopia on 3 November for health reasons under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). A press release by the ICRC said the operation took place between the towns of Rama (Ethiopia) and Adi Quala (Eritrea) at the Mereb River bridge.

### **CRDA and British Council launch web-site**

The Christian Relief and Development Association (CRDA) and the British Council launched a web-based gateway to development information on Ethiopia dubbed as the Development Information Network of Ethiopia (DEVINET) on 6 November. The DEVINET provides major databases which include directories of NGOs working in Ethiopia, existing development projects, research undertakings and outcomes, and key documents that are issues of concern to the development sector. It further would enable all development partners to engage in more enhanced and fruitful development activities and also encourage communication and information sharing and support development actors to develop their own web-sites and utilize internet. To this end, all NGOs, Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and key government departments are invited to DEVINET membership. The web-site can be accessed at <http://www.devinet.org/>

### **Meningitis outbreak reported**

Following the last meningitis outbreak which occurred between October 2000 and July 2001 with a total of 6,964 cases and 330 deaths that equals 4.7% case fatality rate, the Ministry of Health is now receiving reports of meningitis outbreaks from three regions starting early September. SNNPR, Afar and Gambella Regions have reported 180 cases and 20 deaths since the second week of September, of which 140 cases and 16 deaths were reported from the SNNPR. Similarly, over the last three months 131 cases and 12 deaths in Sidama zone, 8 cases in Oromia Region, 3 cases in Addis Ababa and 8 cases in Tigray were reported.

To date selected immunization for school children and other high risk groups have been given in Gambella Region, Dale wereda (Sidama Zone, SNNPR) and Asayita wereda (Afar Region).

A meeting of the Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) Technical Advisory Committee was held on 26 Nov to review the situation. Main recommendations were to strengthen surveillance in regions and zones and to ensure weekly reporting including zero reporting and use of line lists. Furthermore, additional copies of the revised national guideline on meningitis should be distributed and cooperating partners should receive regularly surveillance data.

### **AIDS resource center to be created in Ethiopia**

A new resource center with accurate and up-to-date information on HIV/AIDS will be established by the John Hopkins University Center for Communication Programs (JHU/CCP) in Ethiopia. The new center is financed through a US\$ 300,000 cooperative agreement between JHU/CCP and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). CDC is responsible for HIV/AIDS prevention in the United States and also assists other countries in developing, implementing and evaluating HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment programs. The Ethiopia AIDS Resource Center that is going to be located in Addis Ababa, will provide journalists, healthcare workers, government officials and HIV/AIDS organizations

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with the latest information and materials on HIV/AIDS, other sexually transmitted diseases and tuberculosis. The center plans to include print and web-based resources, and support a local AIDS telephone hotline that provides HIV/AIDS information and counseling services. The center will also provide training and resource material for Ethiopian journalists to enhance their reporting on the epidemic.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> international scientific conference on HIV/AIDS conducted**

The Second International Ethio-Netherlands AIDS Research Project (ENARP) Scientific Conference that deliberates on the current development of HIV/AIDS related researches in Ethiopia opened on 26 November. The conference was organized under the theme 'Anti-retroviral Drugs and Treatment of Opportunistic Infections in Patients with HIV/AIDS'. The conference could also be used as a useful forum to come up with valuable recommendations that would enable to enhance ENARP's new commitment to HIV/AIDS related research in Ethiopia.

ENARP, established in 1994, is a bilateral Ethio-Netherlands project, which aims at strengthening the capacities of the Ethiopian Health and Nutrition Research Institute in HIV/AIDS-related research.

### **UNFPA allocates US\$ 24.5 million for programs in Ethiopia**

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Country Office has allocated a US\$ 24.5 million budget for activities in Ethiopia during the next five years. It is disclosed that, US\$ 16.5 million of the amount will go to finance reproductive health activities, while another US\$ 2 million will go for population development efforts. UNFPA will provide a significant contribution to the government's efforts to strike the balance between population size and natural resources by controlling population growth, and for the judicious utilization of resources without causing environmental degradation.

### **6,389 Somalis repatriated from Ethiopia**

The Administration of Refugees and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) disclosed that some 6,389 Somalis who had been at the Darur Refugees Center for the past twelve years were repatriated during this month in accordance with their wish to return to their country. Another group of 6,503 Somali refugees in the center are also registered to be repatriated for the next round. Meanwhile, preparations are under way to repatriate the remaining refugees from five refugee centers before the end of the year.

## **UP COMING AND ON GOING MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS**

### **ORHC/FAO conducted a workshop**

A workshop on Appropriate Livestock Related Emergency Intervention in Drought Situations for Pastoral areas of Ethiopia was held in Addis Ababa from 30 October to 1 November. The workshop was organized by ORHC/FAO with the support of EU and USAID. National and regional representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, NGOs operating in pastoralist areas, from UN Agencies and from donor organizations attended. The objectives of the workshop were to identify livestock related interventions in response to drought emergencies and develop implementation guidelines for each of the activities. Furthermore, requirements for baseline data, early warning information and indicators as well as implementation capacity required for each of the identified activities were discussed. Workshop participants identified policy issues in relation to short-term emergency responses and longer-term recovery and rehabilitation activities that need to be addressed and initiated a planning process for emergency livestock interventions in the pastoral areas of Ethiopia. The workshop coincided with a

FAO consultancy mission that prepared guidelines for appropriate livestock related emergency interventions in drought situations. The mission's recommendations will be published in mid-December. For further information contact François Flanagan, FAO Regional Livestock Animal Health Specialist, Tel: 251 -1- 444161, email: vantklooster@unocha.org.

### **Workshop on community based animal health services**

A workshop to examine the establishment of a veterinary supervised and sustainable community-based animal health worker's delivery system in the pastoral areas of Ethiopia was held at the Queen of Sheba Hotel from 27 to 29 November. The workshop intended to start an experience sharing process on community-based animal health systems, to streamline approaches and to identify the roles of rural communities, NGOs, the private sector and the government. The Community-based Animal Health and Participatory Epidemiology (CAPE) Unit and ORHC/FAO organized the workshop jointly. For further information contact François Flanagan, FAO Regional Livestock Animal Health Specialist, Tel: 251 - 1- 444161, email: vantklooster@unocha.org.

## **OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

### **Mine action in action**

The Prime Minister approved the structure and budget of the Ethiopian Mine Action Office (EMAO). This step allows EMAO to hire staff, a process that began with advertisements for 23 key posts in national newspapers including senior professional staff to be hired over the next three months.

The training of two demining companies including specialized leadership and survey training has been completed through US government support. These companies are awaiting demobilization followed by certification and rostering by EMAO. Both companies will deploy to the Tigray region within the next two weeks where they will start conducting demining activities in priority areas determined as essential for the reconstruction program in the region.

Contracts for the deminers deployment, camp setup, equipment trails and testing, and general survey will be signed between the EMAO and the Ethiopian Recovery Program Management Unit (ERPMU) of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development within the next two weeks.

Personnel from the Washington DC-based Survey Action Center and Norwegian Peoples Aid are currently visiting EMAO to carry out preliminary discussions on a possible Landmine Impact Survey for Ethiopia in the near future. This pre-survey assessment mission, funded by the German Government, should lay the framework for the extensive nationwide survey to be completed within a year. The Governments of Norway and the Netherlands have contributed, through UNDP, approximately US\$ 750,000 of the estimated US\$ 1.5 million that will be necessary to complete the survey. This survey will assist the country in understanding the socio-economic impact of landmines on impacted communities and will provide assistance in determining priorities for mine clearance activities as well as development activities.

The next procurement of equipment for the mine action program is at hand through a UNDP and United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) partnership with the government of Ethiopia, using World Bank loan funds. Personnel of EMAO and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development are visiting New York at the beginning of December to attend the opening and reviewing of tenders for the procurement of this mine clearance equipment. This

equipment will complete the outfitting of the existing deminers and supply some of the equipments needed for the next trainees, expected in early 2002.

So far UNDP has received more than US\$ 2 million in cost sharing from the Governments of Canada, Norway and the Netherlands who have formed a core group of donors preparing to assist the Ethiopian Government in building a national Mine Action capacity.

### **SNRS Task Force in progress**

Following the 8 September 2001 Consultative Meeting held in Jijiga between the UNCT, donors, DPPC and the Regional Government of the Somali Region (SNRS), a task force was created representing the UN-EUE, UNICEF, WFP, WHO and the appropriate regional ministries. The Task Force has agreed to undertake its activities through two working groups: One to work on IDP programs and projects and another to elaborate a contingency plan for the region.

The contingency planning group was formed to plan in case of a *deyr* rain failure. During late October and early November, field assessments were made in Geshamo, Warder, Shelabo, Kebridehar and Gode. The team comprised DPPB, DPPC, Regional Water Bureau, WFP staff and the Regional Health Bureau with a UNICEF nutritionist. The multi-agency field team assessed rainfall, pasture and water conditions and evaluated health and nutritional status of local populations in order to estimate emergency needs and requirements.

Although the final report is pending, the team observed good rains across most of the locations visited, giving a slightly different picture to the situation. Movement of people in search of water and pasture has been curtailed (for domestic and livestock use). Those people who migrated previously have returned to their areas of origin. Vegetation has been replenished, and as a result there is an increase in milk production and a drop in milk price in all settlements visited. Physical conditions of livestock have also greatly improved.

Nevertheless, the mission concluded that, despite the generally positive impact of good *deyr* rains in most parts of the region, many people of SNRS are still suffering from the past drought and the livestock ban. The on-going national needs assessment missions are going to determine the number of people needing assistance next year. Generally, food beneficiary figures for next year are expected to be lower than in previous years with the exception of the most vulnerable groups, including IDP populations who will need continued assistance.

The IDP working group is finalizing its report on strategies on a project proposal for proper screening and registration of an estimated 91,820 IDPs in the SNRS. Preliminary estimations indicate that some US\$ 53,000 will be required to do the screening and registration exercise with the participation of regional DPPB, local administrations, NGOs, community elders and IDP representatives.

### **Accelerated assistance for IDPs in Tigray**

With funds received from the Dutch Government, UNICEF is providing over 3,590 families with shelter materials, blankets and plastic sheeting in Gulomekeda, Erob, Ahferom, Mereb-Lek, T/Adiabo and L/Adiabo woredas of Tigray. The distribution follows a similar program that UNICEF, with US State Department funds, undertook in Gulomekeda helping 400 families to build temporary houses.



Meanwhile, the UNICEF-sponsored Mine Risk Education (MRE) project implemented by the NGO, RaDO continues in three woredas of Afar with high contamination levels of landmines and Unexploded Ordnances (UXOs). In these 3 woredas, data has been gathered on land mine/UXO victims. Accordingly, a ceiling figure of 35 incidents has been established subject to further verification and screening. The 5<sup>th</sup> Data Report on the project, is being released next week. Copies are available through UNICEF (tel: 251-1-44 41 71) or RaDO (tel: 251-1-62 72 96/97).

### **UNICEF's measles/vitamin A campaign targets over 82% children**

Preliminary results on the coverage rate of the UNICEF supported measles/vitamin A campaign in Somali region have been reported. Although, figures need to be confirmed, the overall coverage for over 500,000 children 6-59 months is 82.0%. Although beset by numerous constraints, this year's campaign has achieved higher levels of coverage over last year's based on better planning and logistics, more involvement of NGOs and especially a major commitment by the regional administration.

### **Survey confirmed 22% GAM in Hartisheik IDPs camp**

An anthropometric nutrition survey, conducted with funds and technical assistance from UNICEF, was undertaken in Hartisheik IDP camp from 12 to 15 November 2001. The survey team measured 3,961 persons, with 308 children between 65 and 110 cm of height. The results show that the Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) in Hartisheik IDP camp is 22%, down from just over 29% since the last survey in May 2001. The rate of acute malnutrition, though showing a significant decrease, remains well above the recommended cut off point (10%). Survey recommendations stated that though there is some improvement, the Therapeutic Feeding Center (TFC) in Hartisheik should remain open for another 3 months.

## **AGRICULTURE AND WEATHER**

### **Rainfall status of the main (*meher*) cropping areas**

Even though the rains for the main (*meher*) cropping areas have generally been favorable, the lowlands of East Tigray, North Shewa, Oromiya, East Harerge, West Harerge and Bale received poor rain, therefore close monitoring is needed. For the south and southeast, the current rainfall season (*deyr*) that normally lasts from October to December, continued rainfall will be crucial in the coming weeks for recovery of the pastoralists in some areas for whom the *gu* rains earlier this year failed. The *deyr* rains have been partly favorable so far in Jijiga, Degehabur, Warder, and northern Liben and Gode zones. Poor rains are reported in southern Borena and parts of Afder.

### ***Deyr* rains in Somali Region**

Between the last week of September and first week of November food security conditions in the Somali Region had raised deep concerns caused by the late start of *deyr* rains, following the poor *gu* rains of 2001. Nevertheless, according to the report of the regional Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Bureau (DPPB)-led team that visited many parts of the Somali Region from October 24 to November 4, *deyr* rains started late in most of the Region, except in Degehabur Zone where they started prematurely in early September. Despite the late onset of rains, abundant, evenly distributed rains have fallen except in some locations in Korahe, Afder and Liben Zones. For further information see Food Security Monthly Update of Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS Net) at <http://www.fews.net/ethiopia/>

### **FAO launches a seed security project**

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) launched a 3-year seed security project in eastern and western Hararge zones of Oromiya Region with US\$ 1.5 million donation obtained from the government of Norway.

The project which is essentially formulated to assist the efforts of the government of Ethiopia to increase seed security of farmers in drought-prone areas, will be implemented to restore and strengthen farmers seed production and access to production inputs supply system; to secure good quality seeds of wide range of crops and varieties; to increase the agro bio-diversity and productivity of the farms and to increase and support the involvement of women in seed production and food security activities in the project areas.

The project plans to implement its activities at village level with direct farmer participation that will be developed into economically attractive seed multiplication ventures, using a market oriented approach. FAO plans to implement the project in three phases - preparatory phase, pilot phase and expansion phase - to enable implementation and the increase of activities while learning from experiences.

FAO in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Oromiya Region Agricultural Bureau along with zonal and woreda agricultural offices and other institutions involved in seed security related activities, will implement the project.

## **RELIEF FOOD**

### **Food pipeline**

WFP food assistance to IDPs and Ethiopians returning from Eritrea is expected to continue beyond November, but reduced in scale. Extensive field work has confirmed that a residual population of IDPs will continue to need food assistance in 2002. While a majority of IDPs in Tigray have resettled and have resumed farming activities after the peace agreement, a minority of IDPs will not achieve any degree of self-sufficiency in the immediate future. Some IDPs resettled but have had little access to farmland and pasture. Other IDPs have not been able to return to their homes because of landmines or other security concerns.

The exact targeted population figures are being finalized, and it is estimated that WFP's food assistance for these IDPs will amount to approximately US\$ 800,000 per month from December 2001 onwards. A good response from donors in 2001 enabled the pipeline to be full for most of the year; however, vegetable oil is already exhausted while the stocks and expected arrivals of other commodities will only cover food distributions until the end of January. Donor contributions are urgently required to ensure food supplies to the most vulnerable people still suffering as a consequence of the border conflict.

For drought-affected people, there are insufficient relief food stocks to meet outstanding requirements until the end of the year. These needs are mainly for people in the pastoral areas.

## **SPECIAL REPORTS**

### **CARE Ethiopia conducted nutritional survey in Borana Zone**

CARE Ethiopia in collaboration with Dire, Yabello and Teltele Woredas Health Bureau conducted a nutritional survey in the pastoral and agro-pastoral areas of Borana Zone from 12 to 19 October to quantify the malnutrition level of children under five, adults aged between 20 and 55 years and elderly aged above 55.

A two stage 30-cluster survey was also conducted, based on a population-sampling frame of 77 Peasant Associations (PAs), 32 in Dire Woreda, 30 in Yabello Woreda and 15 in Teltele Woreda. Standard UNHCR/WFP/MSF methodology was followed.

The results of the survey showed that the prevalence of global acute malnutrition for children under five years of age is estimated to be 4.9%. 0.4% of the surveyed people were severely malnourished. This shows no significant changes from the surveys that were carried out in March 2001 by GOAL and in December 2000 by CARE.

Food aid is indicated as the main source of food by 34.8% of the interviewed households. 54.7% of the households planted their land mainly with cereal and legume crops. Farmers reported that the initial growth performance of crops was good and normal almost for all types of crops until flowering and tussling stage. However, due to early cessation of this years' *gana* rain (March - May), and the prolonged dry spell has resulted in abortion of several varieties of crops.

The survey finally recommended that the prevalence of malnutrition in children under 5 years and elderly people needs to be monitored since the general food ration assistance has stopped and the *hagaya* rain (October - November) was late by five weeks which will have an implication on the availability of food at the household level. Moreover, the pasture situation may deteriorate due to the uneven distribution and coverage of *hagaya* rains, thus close follow-up on the livestock condition and close monitoring of cattle migration to avoid further deterioration of existing potential grazing land is crucial. As the current household food security is still poor, there is a need to closely monitor the situation before it reaches a state of emergency. According to the survey result, many people caught malaria. Therefore, the Ministry of Health in collaboration with other mandated organizations should consider prevention and curative methods for minimizing disease in the area. Furthermore, maize seeds (A-511 variety) distributed by CARE for the *gana* season performed well in some of the PAs. However, further investigations are needed to evaluate impact on household food production. Based on forthcoming results, further dissemination of the A-511 maize variety may be envisaged. The full document is available at CARE Ethiopia, Dereje Adugna, Tel: 251-1-46 34 22, Email: [care.eth@telecom.net.et](mailto:care.eth@telecom.net.et)

## **FOCUS SERIES**

### **UNCT issues 2002 intervention strategy paper for Ethiopia**

While making preparations for 2002, the UN Country Team took into consideration a number of issues before electing to prepare a strategy rather than a Consolidated Appeal, as it had done for 2001. Although the UNCT anticipates a continuing need for humanitarian assistance, early indications on weather patterns in 2001 and the results of the *meher* harvest in 2000 suggested that 2002 would not be a year of crisis of 2000 proportions. Additionally, the UN Country Team felt a need to work more closely with Government in the preparation of its relief and recovery programs for 2002 and felt that confusion in having both a Government and UN appeal could be avoided by providing its full support to Government in its preparations for 2002. Acknowledging that the address of humanitarian needs had over time saved lives, it was also felt that a more comprehensive approach to dealing with immediate and longer term needs simultaneously would reduce future humanitarian needs and the vulnerability of



at risk populations and provide them with improved access to sustainable livelihoods.

The Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission has taken the lead in ongoing discussions on relief and recovery programs for 2002 and established a technical committee comprising representatives from the donor, NGO and UN communities. Working groups have also been set up to look at 2000 and 2001 in perspective and to bring together the results of the current needs assessment, to look at the broad policy implications of food insecurity and to examine implementation arrangements for activities for 2002 and beyond.

#### The strategy paper, highlights

Ethiopia, one of the world's poorest countries, is subject to drastic weather patterns. Due to overpopulation and other factors hampering sustainability of the agro-ecological environment, certain areas and populations immediately fall into the poverty trap as soon as harvests are endangered by inadequate rainfall. The combination of natural factors with high population growth, limited land availability, poor land management practices, fractured road infrastructure and low industrial employment levels present major impediments to developmental growth.

Furthermore, the recent border conflict with Eritrea had a negative effect on economic and overall development efforts resulting in a perpetually high level of vulnerability characterized by high infant mortality and low life expectancy rates among a significant portion of the population. Vulnerable populations in Ethiopia are those affected by: (1) the lingering effects drought and war; (2) shock disasters such as flooding and drought; and (3) years of declining or limited access to means of adequate productivity, leading to chronic structural deficiencies.

Interrelated strategies are needed to address these different vulnerable and affected populations effectively. Short-term interventions have to be designed and conducted in harmonized with medium and longer-term strategies under the poverty reduction and food security strategy framework.

While a significant part of the war- affected in the North were able to return home, the drought affected population, notably the estimated 80,000 drought-displaced and the disperses from the refugee program in Somali Region still require further assistance. Therefore, the major part of humanitarian action in 2000 will most likely pertain to rehabilitation and recovery assistance to war and drought victims. Not all of the 80% of IDPs in northern Ethiopia who returned to home areas have been able to re-engage fully in their normal livelihoods. Gap-bridging activities will be required for families at least in early 2002 until the World Bank's Emergency Recovery Project (ERP) support will be disbursed. In other areas of the country assistance to sustain and help IDPs reintegrated into the community is needed where displacement has occurred due to conflict or drought.

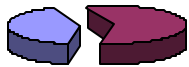
Ethiopia is expecting normal to above normal crop yields from the upcoming *meher* (main agricultural season) harvest that starts in November. Nevertheless, some parts of the country are still recovering from the past drought and, are experiencing a slow but sliding deterioration with localized emergency interventions already foreseen in a number of areas. Weather forecasts for the southern part of Ethiopia and adjacent areas in Kenya and Somalia predict below-normal rainfall for the upcoming seasonal cycle. Therefore, it is possible

that the influx of drought affected people and their livestock from Kenya and Somalia may significantly increase.

Given the frequency of drought across most of the country it is questionable whether rural populations can fully recover before the next drought strikes and this calls for the preparation of an emergency intervention strategy. Contingency planning is one way to increase the effectiveness of preparation and response.

Close to 6.2 million people were defined as food insecure in Ethiopia in 2001, despite high levels of emergency assistance. Without appropriate interventions, Ethiopia's chronically food insecure population is likely to increase as annual population growth of 2.7% outstrips the average annual 2.4% increase in agricultural production. Food insecurity in Ethiopia is predominantly chronic in nature, resulting from a substantial structural deficit in many rural areas with the exception of crisis years such as in 1999 and 2000.

Decades of relief interventions through emergency aid have saved lives but have not been able to address underlying causes of food insecurity and the general nutritional and economic status of a great number of vulnerable people has not improved. This suggests a different approach to face food insecurity, which requires separating chronic, and acute food insecurity, though it's not easy to draw the line given the shifting vulnerability. Such a distinction is vital in the long term to systematically program food aid within a development framework, as well as for improvement in the use of food aid in the short term. For more information and the full document of the Strategy see <http://www.reliefweb.int/appeals/> <http://www.reliefweb.int/appeals/2002/presskit.html>



Available resources (41%)  
Unmet Requirement (59%)

#### Review of UN consolidate inter-agency appeal for Ethiopia 2001

In review, the total resources that were made available in 2001 in response to the UN Country Team appeal for the Drought Affected and IDPs amounts to US\$ 103,809,676 out of a total estimated initial requirement of US\$ 250,845,095 i.e. over all 41% of the total originally requested resources were finally provided (OCHA, 2002)<sup>1</sup>.

#### **Annual national needs assessments**

Multi-agency assessment led by the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC) and FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply assessment missions are underway. The first group does an in-depth and detailed study on assessing emergency needs and identifying beneficiaries, while the later focuses on predicting the annual crop and food supply status in the country. The FAO/WFP CFSAM will incorporate some of the findings of the DPPC led missions. The aim and objectives of the missions are described below.

#### DPPC-led multi-agency emergency needs assessment

17 teams taking part in the annual government-led harvest and pastoral area needs assessment left Addis Ababa for the field since 24 November. Assessments are organised by the Early Warning Department of the DPPC with participants from government line departments, UN agencies, NGOs and the donor community. Unlike the previous years, most of the western and southwestern regions that usually produce surplus crops will not be covered by this assessment. Instead, the assessment will focus only on the traditionally marginal rainfall and vulnerable areas in the east, the northeast and the southeast of the country. The objectives of the assessment are 1) to evaluate

<sup>1</sup> OCHA 2002, Strategy Paper for Ethiopia, UN Office for the Humanitarian Affairs, New York and Geneva.

crop yields and its impact on food security, 2) to evaluate livestock condition, other sources of income and the food security situation in pastoral areas, 3) to evaluate the extent to which households could cope with food shortage problems and 4) to identify beneficiaries and areas where relief assistance might be needed in 2002 due to acute and chronic problems. The survey report should present reasonable estimates of the size of the population needing relief assistance and the duration of assistance. As food emergency in Ethiopia is presently less acute, assessment teams have been also assigned to explore the possible modalities of assistance for those needy populations mainly due to chronic structural problems.

Teams travel by road and air to different regions and cover all vulnerable areas throughout Ethiopia, briefing regional and zonal government officials, undertaking more detailed field assessments in most affected woredas in their survey areas. Teams will collect production data, interview households, groups and individuals, undertake field observations and form conclusion together with local officials.

This year's assessment will use the same approach as in previous years that does not separate chronic from acute or structural from shock deficits. Meanwhile a pilot study is ongoing to test a different approach that hopefully will be used in next year's assessments. The methodology and its tools are presently being tested in North Wollo and Showa.

The national needs assessment reports will be submitted to DPPC's Early Warning Department, where a national report and appeal will be issued end of January 2002 to address next year's humanitarian needs in Ethiopia.

#### FAO/WFP crop and food supply assessment mission to Ethiopia

The FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM) is a joint effort by FAO and WFP working with Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) to predict the annual food supply and production situation in the country. This mission started the assessment in mid November covering the whole country. The result of the assessment is expected to be issued in January. The objectives of the CFSAM are to conduct a thorough examination of the available information concerning cropped areas, yields and production forecast of the 2001 *meher* cereal crops, to appraise at first hand the state of the 2001 main season food crops in the main growing areas and use the information to forecast the 2002 cereal production. Furthermore, food reserves in the country are assessed, including availability of food assistance and carryover stocks. The mission will prepare a supply-demand balance for cereal crops for the 2002 marketing year including needs for food consumption and other uses, as well as import requirements, including food aid. The food situation in the country will also be assessed, particularly the impact of the recent sharp fall in cereal prices on agricultural households as well as the performance of the recent *belg* season. It further reviews the capacity of reception, handling and forwarding of commodities, including roads, ports and storage capacity. Finally, the mission will brief donor representatives and international agencies working in Ethiopia on the findings and prepare a consolidated technical report on findings and recommendations.