



Handwritten notes:
- 17/12/04
- Addis Ababa
- ... he needs to ...
- ... copy ...
- ... / ENO ...
- ...

Date: 17 December 2004
Ref: AA/GR/443/2004

To:

Head, DPPB Afar Region - Samara
Head, Pastoral and Agro Pastoral Bureau - Samara
UNOCHA - Addis Ababa

Dear Sirs,

Action Contre la Faim (ACF) and Oxfam have both made recent assessments in various parts of the Afar Region. The information gained from these assessments highlights a worsening situation. Most of the major food security indicators (pasture and water availability, livestock morbidity and mortality, market access, use of coping mechanisms) are acute at this time.

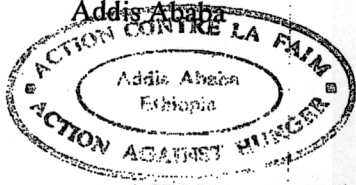
The past two rainy seasons have both been diminished and the population is experiencing accumulated stress, leading to increasing suffering among the people of Afar. Already livestock are engaged in unusual migration out of their traditional patterns. As the *Sugum* season is at least four months away, the situation in some parts of Afar is worrisome and is clearly only going to quickly degrade, possibly leading to humanitarian emergency.

In light of these developments, ACF and Oxfam have been frequently exchanging information. However, it is clear that this coordination needs to be expanded to a wider audience to include all interested stakeholders. We, therefore, request an immediate coordination meeting in Semera to exchange information and to discuss contingency plans that will deal with the issues facing the Afar population. We request that the regional authorities take the leading role in such a forum with the assistance of UNOCHA. We would also like to highlight that we advocate for interventions that will combine responses to the current needs with the chronic needs of the region (i.e. linking emergency response and sustainable development programming).

Thank you in advance for your immediate attention to the request. We remain open to discussion. You may contact Gwenael Rebillon, country representative of ACF at (0) 9 21 40 44 and Kifle Lemma of Oxfam Great Britain at 09-213982 or 613344.

Regards,

Gwenael Rebillon
Country Representative
Action Contre la Faim
Addis Ababa



Abera Tola
(On behalf of Oxfam International)
Oxfam
Addis Ababa



America

ACTION CONTRE LA FAIM - P.O. Box 2357 - Tel. 61 05 34 / 62 65 34 - Fax 61 05 19

E-Mail: aicf@telecom.net.et Addis Ababa

ACTION INTERNATIONALE CONTRE LA FAIM (AICF) is now called ACTION CONTRE LA FAIM