



FAO/WFP CROP AND FOOD SUPPLY ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

The findings from the FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission conducted in November and December 2004 forecasts cereal and pulse production to be 14.27 million tonnes. This is a 24 percent increase from the previous year's revised estimates and 21 percent above the average of the past five years. The mission comprising six teams visited 50 zones and woredas over a 20-day period, in all the grain producing regions of Ethiopia. The mission also assessed the overall food supply situation and estimated cereal import requirements including food aid needs for 2005. The report found that the extended rainfall, increased fertilizer use (up by 20 percent) and a 30 percent increase in the use of improved seeds, especially maize and wheat, has boosted average yields in key production areas. Despite the good harvest, some 2.2 million acutely food-insecure people will require emergency food assistance to meet minimum food requirements in 2005 (in addition to the 5 million chronically food-insecure people who will be covered under the Government's Productive Safety Net Programme). Therefore, emergency food aid requirements are estimated at about 387 500 tonnes. Targeted supplementary food distributions to 700,000 children under five and 300,000 pregnant and nursing women will require 89,000 tonnes of fortified blended food and vegetable oil. The full report is available:

www.fao.org/docrep/007/J3958e/J3958e00.htm

AFAR SITUATION UPDATE

The Afar Region's Crisis Management Committee met this week and finalised the regional government's Emergency Action Plan. The plan was submitted to the Federal Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Committee (DPPC) on 27 January and requests US\$14.5 million for emergency needs for the next six months, as well as developmental activities. The plan includes food assistance for up to 560,000 people.

Several NGOs are conducting assessments in the region at the moment and OCHA is in the process of consolidating this information. OCHA has convened a humanitarian coordination meeting for the 31 January in Addis Ababa to exchange information and better coordinate action among its partners.

Oxfam has announced it will allocate US\$ 200,000 as part of the Appeal to the local NGO, Afar Pastoralist Development Association for emergency livestock health prevention, environmental sanitation and water tankering. Because of the high risk of disease outbreaks in the region, FAO plans an emergency intervention that will target about 1.5 million livestock owned by 86,580 households at the cost of US\$ 729,414. Starting the first week of February, UNICEF and the Regional Water Bureau will assess the water needs in the most affected woredas and update the 2003 emergency needs database. Meanwhile UNICEF support to water tankering activities in 7 woredas is being extended and the newly donated drilling rig is now fully operational, thus able to effectively contribute with long-term solutions to water needs.

Latest reports from the field indicate unusual rain was received in some parts of the region and rivers have flooded in zone 4. It is hoped the rain will improve the situation in the long term for pasture and water availability but it also likely to result in the death of livestock too weak to survive the drop in temperatures.

WORLD VISION UNDERTAKES NUTRITION SURVEY IN ASSAITA, AFAR

World Vision conducted a nutritional survey in Assayita woreda, Afar in early January 2005 with the aim of assessing the current situation and as a follow-up to their last survey. The results reveal that the nutritional status of children is at a serious stage. Aggravating factors include poor household food availability due to insufficient pasture for livestock, a low level of vaccination coverage and inadequate safe water supplies as well as poor health services. The survey recommends close monitoring of the situation, a resumption of the general ration and supplementary feeding programs, water tankering and strengthening of vaccination and vitamin A supplementation. For more information contact:

wveth@telecom.net.et

IDPS IN EAST & WEST HARARGHE

As a result of the referendum last year between Oromiya and Somali Regions there has been an increase in ethnic clashes in disputed woredas in East and West Hararghe. In November 2004 IDPs began arriving in Mieso town and there are now more than 2,100 people living in temporary shelter. There are now new reports of ethnic clashes in West and East Hararghe. The Doba woreda authorities have requested immediate relief support from NGOs for 12,000 newly displaced people. Reports from the region indicate that five people were killed, 12 others wounded and 447 houses burnt during an outbreak of violence in the last fortnight. Another NGO, Catholic Relief Service has received an urgent request for assistance from the Goro Gutu woreda administration for immediate humanitarian needs such as food, shelter and clothing for 324 displaced persons. The IDPs originally from Erer woreda have fled to Karamille town as result of the violence. For more information contact: ocha-eth@un.org