

## **RAINFALL UPDATE**

Substantial "Belg" (short season) rains have been falling in most parts of the country in the past weeks, with heavy rain reported in recent days. In Afar Region in the east, floods have been reported along the Awash River. Regional authorities will assess the situation as soon as they can access the flooded areas. Good rains are reported in the nearby eastern highlands of East and West Hararghe, where there had been some concern about the late start of the "Belg" rains. Heavy "Gu" rain has also been reported in Jijiga and surrounding parts of Somali Region. However, the southern locations of Mustahil and Kelafo in Gode zone have reported not receiving any of the rain that the northern parts were benefiting from. In Belg-crop producing parts of the country, such as North and South Wollo in Amhara Region and much of the Southern Nations, Nationalities and peoples Region (SNNPR), the rains of the past two weeks have been helping to revive crops which had been wilting due to an earlier dry spell, though there are still dry pocket areas remaining.

## **RELIEF FOOD STATUS**

Relief food operations continue to be undertaken by the government, WFP and NGOs. The overall relief food requirements for April-December 2004 total 697,000 tons. This comprises of 551,000 tons of cereals, 70,000 tons of micronutrient-fortified blended food, 55,000 tons of pulses, 19,000 tons of vegetable oil and 1,500 tons of iodized salt (this includes commodities for emergency school feeding). Against these requirements, confirmed commodities in-country and in transit currently total 372,000 tons; these commodities can cover the requirements for cereals until mid-June, vegetable oil until early-August, and pulses and blended food until mid-September. The current shortfall for April-December is 325,000 tons. However, there are substantial contributions under negotiation that are anticipated to cover a significant part of this shortfall. Total food allocated for distributions in March covered 85 percent of needs, at 71,600 tons compared to the planned 84,700 tons. Planned beneficiaries for March were 4.4 million people. In April, planned beneficiaries increased to 6.7 million, requiring 126,000 tons of food aid. During 2004, WFP aims to cover approximately half of the needs.

## **JOINT GOVERNMENT, UN AND DONORS TEAM TO ASSESS RESETTLEMENT SITES**

The Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Commission (DPPC) along with UNOCHA, WFP, UNICEF and donors will begin an immediate joint assessment of resettlement sites that the recent Multi-Stakeholder Working Group identified as having humanitarian concerns.

## **MINE RISK EDUCATION TRAINING TO BE HELD IN MEKELLE**

The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) will hold a Mine Risk Education (MRE) training workshop for all MRE actors in Ethiopia from 19 to 23 April in Mekelle. Participants at the workshop will include the Ethiopian Mine Action Office (EMAO), the Office for Rehabilitation and Social Affairs (ORSA, Tigray), Disaster Prevention and Food Security Board (DPFSB, Afar), and the indigenous NGO Rehabilitation and Development Organisation (RaDO). UNICEF is facilitating the training through its Government counterparts EMAO and ORSA.

## **WORLD VISION COMPLETED NUTRITIONAL SURVEY IN THREE WOREDAS, SNNPR**

World Vision conducted a Nutrition Survey in March 2004 in three woredas: Omo Sheleko, Soddo Zuria and Humbo woredas of Kambata Tambaro and Wolayita zones, SNNPR. The objective of the survey was to assess the impact of different interventions made in the woredas in collaboration with other partners in response to the 2003 drought and famine situation. According to the survey, Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) levels were identified to be 10%, 7.34% and 3.34% whereas Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) levels were 1.8%, 1.17 and 0.56 for Omo Sheleko, Soddo and Humbo woredas respectively. The result as compared to the previous year reveals significant improvements in Humbo and Soddo woredas whereas the situation in Omo Sheleko still needs general ration and supplementary food intervention. Reasons for improvement in the two woredas are mainly the synergetic effects of relief intervention (Therapeutic Feeding Center, Targeted Supplementary Feeding Program and general ration distribution) and improved 'Meher' harvests.