



DPPC PRESENTS THE FINDINGS OF THE RECENT MULTI-AGENCY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

On 11 August, the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC) presented the findings of the recent multi-agency needs assessment to a meeting of humanitarian partners. In a report entitled "Impact of the 2004 Belg Harvest and the Gu Rain in the Pastoral Areas on Food Availability", results are presented for parts of Tigray, Amhara, Oromiya and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR), and for the pastoralist regions of Somali, Afar and southern Oromiya. Due to the failure of rains in some areas and poor rains in many others, the food availability has deteriorated significantly. As a result, 1.65 million of the 2004 beneficiaries who were expected to graduate from assistance after July will continue to need food aid until the end of the year. An additional 1.35 million new beneficiaries have also been added to the beneficiary list due to the deteriorating situation in many parts of the country. This means 3 million additional beneficiaries for this period and an increase of total population receiving assistance in 2004 from 7.1 million to approximately 8.5 million. A total of 507,000 metric tons of food (cereal, CSB, oil and pulses) are therefore required to the end of the year to meet the needs, which is an additional 241,000 metric tons over original estimates for this period. There is currently a shortfall of approximately 100,000 tonnes of cereals and 26,000 tonnes of pulses, for which donor response is required. Non-food assistance is funded less than 50%, and approximately an additional US\$ 7 million is needed for new malaria drugs as the malaria season proceeds. The hardest hit areas requiring immediate intervention are Somali Region and SNNPR. OCHA convened a meeting of key donors, UN, and several NGOs active in the Somali region on 12 August to discuss how best to respond to the crisis in that region, given the complicated issues there (of security, pastoral population, insufficiency of a food-aid only approach).

MOH AND WHO ORGANIZE ASSESSMENT ON THE STATUS OF MALARIA OUTBREAK IN THE COUNTRY

Ministry of Health (MoH) in collaboration with WHO has organized an assessment on the status of malaria outbreak preparedness in the country. Eight teams are deployed to gather information from the field by visiting 16 zones and at least two woredas from each zone. Experts from MoH, USAID/OFDA, and Merlin are participating in the assessment. The assessment is expected to examine the prevailing risk for possible outbreak of malaria during the major epidemic period (October-November) and the preparedness in place and forward recommendations for its possible early detection and control.

TASK FORCES TO DEVELOP CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR 2005

The agriculture, water and health Task Forces are developing a draft contingency plan for different sectoral interventions for the year 2005. A detailed action plan and methodology of the contingency plan is endorsed and contingency planning exercise is currently being conducted by Federal and Regional sectoral experts. The output will form the basis of the 2005 humanitarian appeal.

UNICEF JOINS 120 COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD TO CELEBRATE WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK

UNICEF joined 120 countries around the world to celebrate World Breastfeeding Week, which began on 1 August with the goal to support infant and young child feeding, by enabling women: to choose and succeed in breastfeeding in the early hours after birth and exclusively for six months, and to continue breastfeeding with safe, appropriate and adequate complementary food into the second year and beyond. Breastfeeding is the perfect way to provide the best food for a baby's first six months of life. The milk also protects babies against potential killers such as diarrhoea. If every baby was exclusively breastfed from birth for six months, an estimated 1.3 million lives could be saved each year.

WORLD VISION REVEALS RESULTS OF NUTRITION SURVEY IN TENTA WOREDA, AMHARA REGION

World Vision has conducted a nutrition survey in Tenta woreda, Amhara National Regional State from 30 June - 08 July 2004. Without aggravating factors, the nutritional status of children under five are at a critical stage with Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) of 15.44% and Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) 2.88% in the woreda the nutritional status of the children has significantly deteriorated compared to the previous survey results of June 2003 when GAM was 11.88%. According to the survey, main causes of the problem are depleted food stock at household level, failure of Belg crop production due to insufficient rain during the season, physical deterioration and mass death of livestock, exhausted coping mechanisms resulting from recurrent drought, and suspension of general food ration distributions for chronically food insecure areas of the woreda by local officials. Consequently the survey recommended continuation of the full general food distribution; inclusion of micronutrient rich foods such as fortified blended foods, iodized salt, etc on a regular basis; temporary blanket supplementary food distribution; ongoing vitamin A distribution and measles immunization for children; and monitoring of the overall food security situation and follow up nutrition survey in October.

Contributions are welcomed. Please submit to UN OCHA-Eth by COB Thursday, berhanem@un.org