



WEATHER UPDATE

The main season *kiremt* (or *meher*) rains have started in the central highlands, the western and north-western parts of the country and in Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR). In the eastern highlands, rain is reported in highland but not yet in midland or lowland areas. The rains have not yet started in the north-eastern part of the country, where several areas which depend on *belg* or secondary rains experienced insufficient and interrupted *belg* rains earlier in the year. The *belg* season needs assessment mission, which will also be looking at crop conditions, will begin shortly. In parts of the north-east, livestock condition is reported to be deteriorating as a result of the poor *belg* rains. The main season rains traditionally start later in this part of the country than in the central highlands. In the two northern districts of Somali region, there are early signs of the coming *karan* rains which fall in July/August. In the southern part of Somali Region there is concern about stress signs appearing earlier than usual during the current *hagaa* dry season, which lasts until October. There is pasture and water scarcity in some areas following an early end of the main *gu* rains, as no rain was reported in May. However, untimely rains in southern Afder and Liben districts were recently reported; the extent of the rains, which also reached into neighbouring parts of Somalia, is still to be established. The National Meteorological Services Agency (NMSA) is predicting a generally normal *kiremt* or *meher* season, but the eastern half of the country is expected to experience below average rains.

JOINT 2003 EMERGENCY EVALUATION TEAM CONDUCTS DIFFERENT WORKSHOPS

The Joint 2003 Emergency Evaluation team has been involved this week in different workshops focusing on Early Warning and Need Assessment, Food and Logistics, Health and Nutrition and Water and Sanitation. In these workshops senior technical staff of the Government, Donors, NGOs and UN Agencies consulted on response to the 2003 drought crisis and discussed lessons learned for the future. For further information contact OCHA:

ocha-eth@un.org

DROUGHT INDUCED LIVESTOCK EPIDEMIC KILLS MANY ANIMALS IN TENTA WOREDA

Tenta woreda, South Wollo Zone, Amhara Region, is one of the *belg* dependent woredas seriously affected by the poor *belg* rains this year. While the district has not recovered from the effects of the 2003 drought, the poor performance of the *belg* rains has aggravated the prevailing shortage of livestock feed. As a result, World Vision (WV) reports that there has been epidemic with pasturelosis as the major disease in the area. To date a total of 1,773 cattle; 12,515 shoats; 1,153 equines have been reported dead due to the epidemic. WV has already taken action to procure drug supplies to mitigate the problem. For further information contact World Vision: shimelis_abate@wvi.org

OVER 720 GIRLS FROM 62 HIGH SCHOOLS PARTICIPATE IN THE FIRST ADDIS ABABA GIRLS' FORUM

Over 720 girls aged 14-19 years from 62 high schools participated in the first Addis Ababa Girls' Forum addressing the vulnerability of secondary schoolgirls to HIV/AIDS and laying the foundation for legislative intervention against sexual abuse. The one-day event, held at the United Nations Conference Center on 19 June 2004, marked the culmination of three weeks of discussion held in all ten sub-cities of Addis Ababa. This was followed by a two-day consultation between 100 school representatives from the 62 schools with high-level officials of the City Government, including the Mayor. Discussions centered on HIV/AIDS and communication, sexual harassment in and around school, sex education in school, open dialogue regarding sex between parents and children, and guidance and counseling services in school. The forum was organized by the Addis Ababa Women's Affairs Office in collaboration with the Addis Ababa City Government Mayor's Office, Addis Ababa HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Office, the Economic Commission for Africa's African Center for Gender and Development and UNICEF. For further information contact UNICEF: awalker@unicef.org.

CARE ETHIOPIA CTC PROJECT IN EAST HARARGHE

In early March, CARE Ethiopia, using an initial startup stock of Plumpy'nut Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) provided by Save the Children US and BP100 from UNICEF, launched a Community-based Therapeutic Care (CTC) pilot project in Bedeno and Kurfechelle Woredas of East Hararghe. The CTC is currently operational in 13 outpatient therapeutic program (OTP) sites in both Woredas. As of mid-June, 600 children have been treated and discharged as cured in the OTPs and 23 children who required inpatient care were transferred to the Stabilization Center in Bedeno. For further information contact CARE: derejea@careet.org