



2003 EMERGENCY RESPONSE EVALUATION IN ETHIOPIA

Evaluation of the 2003 emergency response is underway to assess the government and international community response to the humanitarian crisis of last year, review the effectiveness of coordination, preparedness and response mechanisms, and draw lessons learned from this emergency. The evaluation is overseen by DPPC, supported by the UN Country Team, CIDA, OFDA, and Save the Children UK. The evaluation is being carried out by an experienced team, led by Mr. Peter Simkin with technical and secretariat support by OCHA. On June 1 and 2, a meeting was organized to provide the team with insights from NGO and Donor partners on the response to the emergency in 2003. The results of the evaluation will be available by the first week in July at the time of the African Union Summit, where a one-day high-level meeting on the MGD on hunger and poverty reduction will be addressed. The meeting will be attended by the UN Secretary General, Heads of State and several UN Organization Directors.

WFP REQUIRES MORE DONOR SUPPORT FOR IDPS

WFP has been providing emergency food assistance to persons displaced by the Ethiopia-Eritrea border conflict since April 1999. While most internally displaced persons (IDPs) returned to their areas of origin after the Ethiopia-Eritrea Cessation of Hostilities Agreement in June 2000 and subsequent Peace Agreement in December 2000, there remain 62,000 IDPs still in need of relief food assistance. These people were unable to rebuild their livelihoods due to the proximity of their homes to the border, or the presence of landmines. War-displaced IDPs are now included in Employment Generation Schemes (EGS i.e., food-for-work) for their food entitlements. Hence, relief food distribution to the IDPs is now linked to community development activities in Tigray Region. WFP's gross requirements for the current phase of its Emergency Operation (May 2004 - January 2005) are 9,700 tons, valued at US\$3 million, and further donor contributions are urgently needed to avoid food pipeline breaks for the IDPs.

PASTORALIST COMMUNITIES PLAN MEETING TO DISCUSS ISSUES IN PASTORAL AREA

The pastoralist communities of southern Oromiya, the Borana, Guji, Gabra and Karrayu are planning a large meeting of pastoral community representatives between 7 and 14 June 2004, in Yabello. The meeting will consider important issues facing pastoralist communities, specifically the problem of growing poverty in pastoral areas. The customary leaders of the various groups have joined together to organise the event and community members have raised the majority of the resources required for it. The meeting will include initial deliberations among some 200 pastoralist delegates, followed by a three day period starting on 10th June, to which members of government, Federal parliamentarians, international community and local NGOs will be invited. The Pastoralist Communication Initiative at UNOCHA has been invited by the organisers to assist with facilitation, to contribute to the ability of all the delegates to learn from each other and to come to satisfactory conclusions. This is a unique event seeking productive engagement with government and outside organisations towards resolution of problems of poverty and under-development for pastoralists.

UNICEF PROCURES MENINGITIS VACCINE TO AID GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO QUELL CASES

The Federal Ministry of Health reported a total of 3,159 meningococcal meningitis cases with 184 deaths between September 2003 and 25 May 2004. The attack rate was 4.6/100,000 with a case fatality rate of 5.3%. Over 3 million people among drought-affected and resettled populations were vaccinated during the period with bivalent vaccine, leaving less than 500,000 doses pre-positioned. Oromiya reported the highest caseload of meningitis with 1,024 cases. Amhara, Tigray, SNNP, Somali and Benishangul were also affected by the outbreaks. UNICEF had previously contributed to the national stock with 2 million doses, and is currently procuring nearly 2 million more with contributions from the Netherlands Government. The national strategic contingency stock is expected to be 5 million doses since Meningitis has been a recurrent cyclical threat in Ethiopia.

FAO OPENED OFFICE IN AWASH

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has opened an office in Awash, carrying out two projects at present. The recovery project, its main objective is to improve food security and enhance recovery of livelihoods of pastoralists in Zone 3 of Afar National Regional State (ANRS) and farmers in west wollega zone. The second project addresses problems related with livestock export from Ethiopia and helps in assisting with the establishment of an improved certification system for live animal export.

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

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