

## **JOINT UN/DONOR/WORLD BANK RESETTLEMENT WORKING GROUP RETURN FROM AN ASSESSMENT MISSION**

The UN/Donor/World Bank resettlement working group has returned from an assessment mission in four regions (SNNPR, Amhara, Oromiya and Tigray). The preliminary findings of the mission were shared with heads of donors and UN agencies on Friday 26 March. The team expects to brief government officials on Monday 29 March and afterwards there will be debriefing for UN technical personnel and NGOs at USAID, 1500hrs.

## **UN AND SOMALI REGIONAL GOVERNMENT ISSUE A SPECIAL ALERT ON IDPS IN SOMALI REGION**

The UN and regional authorities of Somali Region have issued a special alert to highlight the deteriorating situation of 15,000 internally displaced persons living in Fafen and Hartisheik camps in Jijiga zone. Funds are sought from donors to assist these drought-displaced populations to return to their home areas. Under the coordination of UNDP, the return of IDPs from the camps will be managed by IOM, with WFP and UNICEF providing support with food and non-food items in the return sites. To cover immediate needs of the first return movement of 6,000 IDPs to areas of origin, UNDP requires an additional US\$180,000 to supplement a previous allocation of US\$150,000. Further resources will be required to return the remaining IDPs from Fafen and Hartisheik camps.

## **ENHANCED JOINT ACTION FOR CHILD SURVIVAL, SNNPR**

The "pilot phase" for the joint WFP-UNICEF project "Integrating Food Assistance in the UNICEF-Enhanced Outreach Strategy for Child Survival" will link supplementary feeding with Maternal Child Health (MCH) activities in 54 affected woredas in Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR). The programme will kick off this May in 14 woredas expanding to 54 woredas by December. The targeted group for supplementary rations will be malnourished children between 6 and 59 months of age and malnourished pregnant women and nursing mothers. A total of 163,000 children and 139,000 women will benefit from the programme. Total food requirements in 2004 are 23,000 tonnes of fortified blended food and 3,600 tonnes of vegetable oil. The Expanded Outreach will take place twice a year in each community. UNICEF will carry out vitamin A supplementation, de-worming, catch-up measles vaccination, IEC (information, education and communication activities on hygiene promotion, health and nutrition and HIV/AIDS prevention) and screening for malnutrition. It is expected health extension worker trainees will participate in these activities. This field experience will strengthen their capacity to implement key child survival activities. The Health Extension Package is the new MoH strategy to expand access using a minimal package of key interventions focusing on women and children. WFP, in collaboration with the DPPC, will make fortified blended food and oil for malnourished children under the age of five and pregnant women available on a quarterly basis. UNICEF and WFP will actively promote the dissemination of key health and nutrition messages through community women "food agents" based at the distribution sites. Priority areas for education will include basic nutrition information, breastfeeding, complementary feeding, blended food recipes, environmental hygiene and HIV/AIDS.

## **MAIN SEASON "GU" RAINS STARTS IN THE PASTORALIST AREAS OF SOMALI REGION**

Reports of the start of main season "gu" rains in the pastoralist areas of Somali Region have been received from the badly drought-affected area of Shinile zone in the north of the region. Other areas of concern, waiting for "gu" rains to arrive later in the month, are Fik, Warder, and Korahe zones, and parts of Gode zone. Dispatch of food for March distributions is being speeded up, to compensate for delays in some distributions earlier in the year in parts of the region. WFP locally purchased maize in Gode is being used for cereal distributions for Gode zone and nearby zones, while blended food and pulses are being sent from Dire Dawa. Other areas will receive cereals from stocks in Dire Dawa and Nazareth as usual. Reports of malnutrition in pocket areas are being checked by WFP and UNICEF.

## **WORLD VISION HANDED OVER COMPLETED WATER SCHEMES**

World Vision Ethiopia handed over 14 shallow wells to the end-users and local government a week ago in the water stressed woredas (Assaita, Dubti and Afambo) of Afar National Regional State. The water schemes were constructed at the cost of ~ US\$ 109,000 financed by UNICEF and CIDA. The schemes will address the needs of 17,500 beneficiaries and many cattle. The completion of the schemes is believed to raise potable water coverage for people in the three woredas substantially.