UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA-Ethiopia)

WEEKLY HUMANITARIAN HIGHLIGHTS IN ETHIOPIA

7 May 2004

WFP NEW EMOP TO ADDRESS SMALL SCALE FARMERS AND DROUGHT-AFFECTED PASTORALISTS

A new expansion of the WFP Emergency Operation (EMOP) for Relief Food Assistance to Small Scale Farmers and Drought-Affected Pastoralists, was approved on 5 May. The EMOP is based on the "2004 Humanitarian Appeal for Ethiopia, a Joint Government and Humanitarian Partners' Appeal", released in late 2003, a collaborative effort by the Government of Ethiopia, concerned UN organizations, international and national NGOs and donors. The population requiring relief to meet minimum food requirements in 2004 is 7 million people. Some 5 million of the total are considered to be chronically food insecure. The adjusted overall food requirement in 2004 for Ethiopia is around 867,000 tonnes. WFP aims to cover part (up to 50 percent) of the overall relief food requirements, with the remainder met from bilateral donations to the Government's Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC) or to NGOs. Thus WFP is to provide for up to 3.44 million beneficiaries (peak monthly figure). Among these, the intention is that 1.5 million are to receive supplementary rations and 400,000 children would receive emergency school feeding. WFP food requirements total almost 464,000 tons for 2004: 186,000 tons from the previous EMOP (January-May) and 278,000 tonnes from this new EMOP (June-December). For further information contact WFP, paul.turnbull@wfp.org

AMBASSADOR TOM VRAALSEN COMES TO ETHIOPIA

Ambassador Tom Vraalsen, Special Envoy of the Secretary General on Humanitarian Affairs for the Sudan, was in Addis Ababa on 7 May to brief the African Union (AU) on the findings of the recent high-level mission to Darfur (West Sudan) and to stress the importance of a quick deployment by the AU of ceasefire monitors in Darfur. He also met with the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and members of the diplomatic community. For further information contact UN OCHA-Ethiopia, ocha-eth@un.org

ENHANCED OUTREACH STRATEGY FOR CHILD SURVIVAL

As part of its recovery programme, UNICEF is now launching the "Enhanced Outreach Strategy for Child Survival Intervention (EOS)". This is a three years project. The target population is 6,779,867 children from 6 to 59 months of age living the 325 most food insecure and worst drought affected districts (woredas) in the country. The overall objective is to enhance child survival by reducing mortality and morbidity in children under 5 years of age. The specific objective is to ensure access twice a year by children 6-59 months to the following key child survival interventions in the targeted woredas: vitamin A supplementation; de-worming; screening for acute malnutrition and referral to the nearest feeding centre when appropriate; social mobilisation for routine immunisation and immunisation against measles for children under one year old; Information, Education and Communication (IEC) on infant and young child feeding, promotion of hand washing and HIV/AIDS prevention. The EOS project is currently being piloted in 14 districts of Sidama and Wolaita zones in SNNPR, where WFP is also participating, providing a supplementary food component. The UNICEF project will be expanded to the other regions in the second semester of the year. The above project is linking with the longer term plan of the Ministry of Health of offering a minimum Health package to every child. For further information contact UNICEF, awalker@unicef.org

FAO CONDUCTS A WORKSHOP IN AWASSA, SNNPR

FAO in collaboration with the SNNPR Bureau of Agriculture is to provide an Emergency Seed Supply to 18 woredas. The project aims at addressing the seed shortfalls in these 18 woredas, benefiting 23,918 seed insecure households through provision of emergency seeds (long and short-cycle crops) for the 2004 meher planting season. The impact of the project on the crop production includes cultivation of 11,959 hectares and a total production of 14,940 tonnes. In line with that, an 'awareness creation workshop' was conducted on 30 April, 2004 in Awassa to introduce the objective as well as implementation strategy of the project to government partners in the region. The workshop covered various issues, including community-based seed supply approaches, participatory planning, seed quality control, as well as monitoring and evaluation. For further information contact FAO, fao-eth@field.fao.org

WFP EMOP FOR 62,000 CONFLICT-AFFECTED IDP'S APPROVED

WFP reports that an expansion of the WFP EMOP (Emergency Operation Program) for conflict-affected internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ethiopia has been approved. WFP has been assisting Ethiopians internally displaced by the Ethiopia-Eritrea border conflict since 1999. While numbers have decreased, a residual group of 62,000 IDPs are unable to provide for their livelihoods due to their homes being too close to the border, and/or the presence of landmines. The demarcation process has been postponed as there is still no agreement between the two countries. The approved expansion will cover the basic food requirements of the 62,000 residual IDPs for nine months from 1 May 2004 to 31 January 2005. The gross food aid requirement is 9,900 tonnes at a food value of US\$ 2.5 million, and a total cost to WFP of US\$ 3.6 million. For further information contact paul.turnbull@wfp.org

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