



APPEAL FOR USD\$ 4.2 MILLION FOR FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR REFUGEES

On November 5, the Government of Ethiopia's Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA), WFP and UNHCR launched an appeal to donors in Ethiopia on behalf of the 116,000 refugees who depend on WFP's food assistance for their subsistence. The appeal is for US\$4.2 million worth of cereals, oil, pulses, salt and blended foods. WFP will face a cereal shortfall as early as February, followed by oil, pulses and blended foods in March and April 2005. Apart from the very negative consequences this will have on the nutritional status of refugees in Ethiopia, the food shortfall will also paralyze all current efforts to repatriate over 6,000 Somali refugees and close the eastern refugee camp in Aysha in 2005, as Somali refugees normally receive a repatriation food package to enable them to return to their areas of origin. For more information: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

NUTRITIONAL SCREENING IN GAMBELLA REGION REFUGEE CAMPS

Joint nutritional screening is currently being undertaken in 3 refugee camps hosting Sudanese refugees in the Gambella Region (16th – 25th November). Between June and July annual joint UNHCR/WFP/ARRA nutrition surveys were conducted in most refugee camps but because of the insecurity and the subsequent closure of the Gambella sub-office, screenings in Fugnido, Bonga and Dimma were delayed. With relative stability returned in Gambella Region and the re-opening of the sub-office in mid-October nutritional screening will resume in the three camps. For more information: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

NATIONAL 'WASH' MOVEMENT KICKS OFF THROUGHOUT ETHIOPIA

Acknowledging that water and hygiene go hand-in-hand, the WASH Movement in Ethiopia will be launched on November 20 in Meskel Square, Addis Ababa. The movement will be the flagship of action for behaviour change and hopes to create awareness among teachers, children and their parents in hygiene, water, sanitation and health, using hand-washing as a key step to reducing mortality and morbidity. The WASH Movement which is a coalition of key government ministries, NGO's, the private sector, faith based organisations and UN Agencies, recognises that everyone has the right to the highest quality of health and environmental sanitation. Under the umbrella of this year's motto "**Your Health is in your Hands**", the launch will spotlight proper hand washing using soap or ash at critical times like before eating or preparing food and after using the toilet. In Ethiopia, over half a million children under five die every year from diarrhoea. For more information contact UNICEF at: bkaranja@unicef.org

AFRICA'S FIRST UNDAC TEAM

A disaster management training course was completed in Addis Ababa with the aim of establishing the first African United Nation's Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) Team. 34 participants from 14 different African nations took part in the two-week training course, organised by OCHA Geneva and Ethiopia. Participants included the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC) and the Ethiopian Red Cross Society. The UNDAC Team is permanently on stand-by to deploy to relief missions following disasters and humanitarian emergencies anywhere in the world. For more information ocha-eth@un.org

CHILD SURVIVAL INITIATIVE IN SNNPR

The Child Survival Initiative (CSI) continues to gather momentum in Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region (SNNPR), where it is being implemented. Key achievements to date across the 48 participating woredas include: identification of 568 food distribution centres; 2,520 people trained in food management and nutrition education delivery techniques; contracts with transporters to enable small amounts of food to be moved to a large number of sites; and most importantly, since June, 106,000 beneficiaries have received 2,000 MT of CSB and 300 MT of oil. For more information: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

WATER FOR FOOD AND ECOSYSTEMS CONFERENCE

From the 4th – 6th November a conference in Addis Ababa titled "**Water for Food and Ecosystems: Make it Happen!**" was jointly organised by the Governments of Ethiopia and the Netherlands, the African Union and FAO. The focus of the conference was on practical lessons learned in relation to sustainable water management for food production and ecosystem functions in the African context. The results of the African conference will be presented at the international conference in The Hague, The Netherlands in early 2005, and will serve as a basis for its further discussions. For more details: www.fao.org/ag/wfe2005