



MISSION TO ASSESS RESETTLEMENT SITES IN OROMIYA REGION

UN and Regional/Federal Government agencies will undertake a joint humanitarian situation assessment in resettlement areas of Oromiya Region from 9 to 26 November. The mission will assess the overall situation with particular attention to issues of humanitarian concern and will also determine the effectiveness of past assistance provided by UN agencies. So far, around 265 thousand people were resettled in the region.

SOMALI REGION UPDATE

Following rainfall reports from last week, parts of Somali Region have continued to receive *Deyr* rains. Gode Zone and Adadle district of Warder Zone have reportedly received rain over the last few days, while rains were also reported in Kalafo and Charati districts of Afder Zone. The current *Deyr* rains, which started two weeks later than expected, are needed to improve pasture and water conditions in parts of the region. However, concerns of poor rainfall persist in some areas, particularly in Boh and Geladin districts of Warder and Gashamo district of Dagahbur Zone which remains dry. The NGO Hope for the Horn working in the area reports emergency assistance in food, water and health is urgently needed. The most vulnerable it reports are suffering from malnutrition and diarrhea. The Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC) is considering conducting a rapid assessment in areas of concern.

RELIEF FOOD STATUS

Overall emergency requirements for Ethiopia in November and December stands at 70,000 tonnes and 57,000 tonnes respectively, serving a total number of 3.7 and 2.8 million beneficiaries. October allocations are currently being dispatched to the various regions, where a food basket containing cereals, pulses, vegetable oil will be distributed to the beneficiary population. Fortified blended food (corn soya blend) is targeted to the worst-affected districts for blanket distributions to particularly vulnerable groups or to malnourished children and women where nutrition screening exists. In the Southern Nations and Nationalities People Region (SNNPR), 43 out of 49 districts with ongoing food distributions received targeted supplementary food from WFP in support of the UNICEF/Bureau of Health Extended Outreach Strategy for Child Survival Initiatives in October. The 6 remaining districts have access problems for the transporters and are in the process of receiving food. The WFP activity provides a three-month fortified supplementary food ration to children between 6-59 months old and pregnant and nursing women identified as malnourished. The pilot ten districts have received supplementary rations for the second time since the programme started in mid-2004.

WFP'S REFUGEE PROGRAMME IN GAMBELLA SEVERELY UNDER FUNDED

WFP reports the refugee programme in Gambella Region is severely under-funded and is projected to run out of food stocks in March 2005 unless additional donor pledges are confirmed by the end of November 2004. In spite of the relocation earlier this year, WFP continued to provide food assistance to refugees in Gambella and Dimma through its Government counterpart, the Administration for Refugees and Returnee Affairs (ARRA).

RECENT VISITS TO ETHIOPIA

USAID Assistant Administrator, Roger Winter, will visit Ethiopia, Somali and Gambella Regions to assess the current situation starting 6 November. In addition the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation/Humanitarian Aid Desk Officer, Ms. Segolene Adam will be visiting Ethiopia, 6-11 November. The mission will assess the humanitarian situation in the eastern parts of the country.

CRS/ET ADOPTS NEW APPROACH

Catholic Relief Services/Ethiopia (CRS/ET) has begun implementation of a Livelihoods approach in all its operational areas which recognises that the poor are managers of complex asset portfolios. It looks at diversities of people's income, skills, access to financial and physical resources and services. The approach provides development agents and communities a means to define their overall livelihood strategies given their specific resources. This framework can serve as a guide to micro-policies concerned with poverty reduction in rural areas as well as identifying macro-policy issues, which contribute towards household and community impoverishment. In Dire Dawa, a Livelihood Training Workshop was conducted for CRS/ET and Ethiopian Catholic Church staff. A Livelihood study was also conducted that will be used as a learning tool to determine a practical way in which the new approach can lead to the empowerment of communities through the development of action plans.