



MID MEHER ASSESSMENT

The Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC) published its mid-season assessment report of the main or 'meher' season, highlighting the food supply prospect for 2005. Teams of the multi-agency assessment collected information from district level officials which included estimates of numbers in need in 2005. The estimated number of beneficiaries is additional to those that make up the Government's Safety Net Program estimated at 5.1 million, due to be in place at the start of 2005. The report estimates an additional 3.7 million emergency beneficiaries under the most probable case scenario and at worst 7.4 million, dependent on the results of the November 'meher' assessment. The report provides the basis for the upcoming 2005 Contingency Plan for Ethiopia, which is expected to be launched on 13 October 2004 and includes results of the non-food needs. Full report is available at: www.dppc.gov.et

RELIEF FOOD STATUS UPDATE

The relief food aid needs remain relatively high for the time of year. The mid-year assessment of the "belg" and "gu" seasons increased the requirements for the second half of 2004. The targeted population for relief food assistance is 5.3 million in October, 3.7 million in November and 2.8 million in December, with the corresponding food requirements being 101,000 tonnes, 70,000 tonnes and 57,000 tonnes respectively. Further contributions have been made against the increased needs from the mid-year assessment and there is a relatively minor shortfall for November-December. Taking into account available stocks and recently-announced pledges, the uncovered requirement to the end of the year is around 20,000 tonnes of cereals.

A MULTI-DONOR MISSION MEETS TO APPRAISE THE SAFETY NET PROGRAM

A multi-donor mission met in Ethiopia from 13-20 September to appraise the Government's Safety Net Program. The objectives were to assist the Government in assessing readiness for implementation, finalizing program implementation details and clarifying key issues that need further work, including strategy and timeline. A follow up final readiness assessment is scheduled for December. The program is expected to start in January 2005 and features multi-annual funding, a transition towards cash-based programming, scaled-up public/community works, transfers for health interventions, targeted supplementary feeding, linkages with broader food security programs and harmonized budgeting, monitoring and evaluation.

UNICEF-SUPPORTED RESPONSE IN SOMALI REGION

In response to the very acute situation in Somali region, UNICEF has finalized within the regional coordination mechanism an emergency plan of action for immediate life saving activities giving immediate priority to emergency water supply. Water tankering is planned for October in Adadle, East Imi and Danan districts of Gode zone, in Fik, Sagag, Garbo and Dahun of Fik zone, in Aware of Deghabur zone, in Galadi of Warder zone and in Shillabo of Qorahay zone, implemented by indigenous NGOs (MCDO, OWDA and AWDS). An extension of water tankering will be considered after the first month depending on the seasonal rain patterns of the next 4-5 weeks. Nutrition surveys are urgently required to get reliable data on the actual situation and plan adequate emergency response. Members of the regional nutrition taskforce have discussed possible methodologies to evaluate the nutritional situation in several areas of Somali, where physical accessibility and Government / NGO capacity are still of concern. Urgent nutritional assessments are needed in: Gashamo and Aware districts, Denan of Gode zone, Bokh and Galadi of Warder zone and Sheygoosh of Korahe zone. In addition, UNICEF plans to continue Emergency Mobile Clinics service in 12 districts of the region.

JOINT UN RAPID ASSESSMENT MISSION IN SOMALI REGION

An OCHA/UNICEF/WFP team will conduct a rapid assessment mission to Somali region from 2-11 October. The team will assess the humanitarian situation in areas recently opened up by the UNSECOORD security assessment mission. Upon return, the team will share information with concerned humanitarian agencies, donors and government authorities in order to guide planning and appropriate responses.

FAO AND WFP TO START JOINT SCHOOL GARDENING ACTIVITIES

FAO and WFP are starting a collaborative activity for supplying vegetable seeds and hand tools, as well as providing training in garden management to 14,000 students, out of which 47% are girls, in 16 schools in Tigray Region. An emphasis will be placed on improving the quality of their diet with nutritional education. The program is supported by contributions from WFP (US\$ 135,000) and FAO (US\$ 95,000).

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

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