



USAID/FOOD FOR PEACE PROGRAM COVERS WFP'S EXPECTED REFUGEE OPERATION FOOD PIPELINE BREAK

WFP reported that the refugee operation food pipeline which was expected to break in October is now covered by USAID/Food for Peace Program. The pledge that amounts to US\$ 2.5 million will cover needs for the total of 118,000 refugees in the country until end of 2004. For further information contact WFP: patrizia.patinutti@wfp.org

WHO/UNICEF REPORT ALERTS ETHIOPIA HAS LOWEST SANITATION COVERAGE IN THE WORLD

More than 2.6 billion people—over 40 % of the world's population—do not have basic sanitation, and more than one billion people still use unsafe sources of drinking water, warns a recent major report by WHO and UNICEF. According to the report, entitled *Meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) drinking water and sanitation target-A mid-term assessment of progress*, Ethiopia ranks number one with the lowest sanitation coverage in the world coming in at six percent. Ethiopia has the second lowest coverage on access to clean drinking water at 22 %. The report details the progress of individual countries, regions, and the world as a whole between the MDG baseline year of 1990 and the half-way mark of 2002. Eight MDGs were agreed by the Member States of the United Nations at the Millennium Summit in 2000. The targets state that the proportion of people worldwide not having access to an improved water source, and the proportion of people worldwide not having access to adequate sanitation facilities, should be halved between the baseline year of 1990 and 2015. The report makes two significant predictions on reaching the 2015 goals. Based on progress to date, the global sanitation target will be missed by a staggering half a billion people—most of them in rural Africa and Asia—allowing waste and disease to spread, killing millions of children and leaving millions more on the brink of survival. The world is on track to meet the drinking water target, but population growth may outstrip improvements, with 800 million people still drinking unsafe water by 2015. For further information contact UNICEF: awalker@unicef.org

WHO - TRADITIONAL MEDICINE, ITS CONTRIBUTION TO PRIMARY HEALTH CARE AND THE CHALLENGES

On August 31st 2004, the Second African Traditional Medicine Day was commemorated in Addis Ababa, in the presence of representatives from UN agencies, AU, MoH, the Ethiopian Traditional Medicine Practitioners Association, research institutes etc under the theme "Moving African Health Agenda Forward with Traditional Medicine". To day more than 80% of the population in the African Region uses traditional medicine. Traditional medicine has demonstrated its contribution to the reduction of excess mortality, morbidity, and disability due to diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, sickle cell anemia, diabetes and mental disorders. Traditional medicine reduces poverty by increasing the economic well-being of communities and develops health systems by increasing health-care coverage. WHO has developed various Guidelines for the development and delivery of quality traditional medicine services. A major challenge in the field is that scientifically-based evidence on traditional medicine, quality standards and regulations are not being developed at the same pace as the demands for the medicines. In addition, environmental degradation and drought also pose serious challenges. In Ethiopia, 22-25% of medicinal plants are threatened for extinction. For further information contact WHO: who-wro@et.afro.who.int

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES/ETHIOPIA IMPLEMENTS LIVELIHOOD FAIRS

The Seed Fair and Voucher Approach of Catholic Relief Services/Ethiopia (CRS/ET) was established during the 2003 drought emergency in the country with a grant obtained from OFDA/USAID. The approach empowered farmers to purchase good quality seed of their choice with the seed vouchers (coupons) they received. Building on this success, CRS/ET has begun implementation of Livelihood Fairs in all of its partners' operational areas in 2004. The Livelihood Fair is more broad and diverse than seed fairs, as they include other inputs such as small ruminants, poultry, farm tools and other productive assets in addition to seed. With the support of CRS's partners, Livelihood Fairs are organized by local committees, which are made up of Woreda officials, kebele leaders and line departments. To date, CRS/ET and its partners have conducted 54 Fairs in 14 woredas in which 17,514 households and 683 vendors participated. These fairs included productive assets such as crop and vegetable seeds, sheep, goats, chickens, farm tools, jerry cans, mosquito nets and rope. For further information contact CRS: crs@telecom.net.et

SPHERE TRAINING OF TRAINERS CONDUCTED FOR WORLD VISION OFFICES

SPHERE Training of Trainers was conducted in Kenya from 9-13 August 2004, with 22 participants (two from Ethiopia) from different World Vision offices. The training focused on two basic pillars of the SPHERE project; minimum standards and the humanitarian charter. The objective of the training was to equip participants with the knowledge of minimum standards and humanitarian charter in humanitarian interventions. Participants of the training are expected to conduct similar training and will work towards the institutionalization of SPHERE minimum standards in their respective National Offices. For further information contact World Vision: wveth@telecom.net.et

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